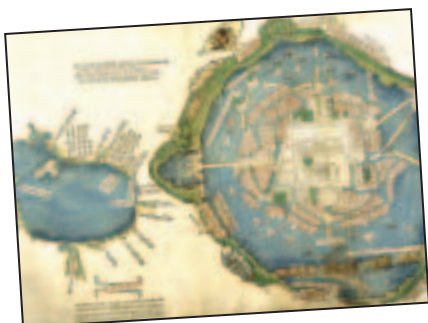


# Everything in its Place

Map exhibit at Field Museum opens up new worlds, **GO, C1**



## Gayle force performer

Crystal Gayle brings her classic country sound to Paramount, **GO, C1**



## Death probe

Aurora police questioning 'person of interest' in woman's death, **Our Towns, A3**

**TODAY'S WEATHER BY:**  
CYNTHIA RIOS  
BEAUPRE SCHOOL  
AURORA

**HIGH 55, LOW 31**

**MOSTLY SUNNY**

# The Aurora Beacon News

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## NOT GUILTY

Prosecutors have no regrets about case, but will look for lessons, tactics to apply in 30 other murder trials yet to come



**George Torres, 30, not guilty in 1997 murder**

# JURY QUICK TO ACQUIT MAN IN FIRST COLD-CASE TRIAL

**By Matt Hanley**  
STAFF WRITER

The trial for the first of 31 cold-case Aurora murders ended with a jury finding George Torres not guilty Wednesday after less than two hours of deliberation.

Torres was charged with the 1997 murder of 21-year-old Fernando Dieppa

as part of a massive cold-case sweep dubbed "Operation First Degree Burn." This is the only case from that sweep to go to trial so far.

When the verdict was announced, Torres, 30, stood up from his chair and was thrilled, according to his attorney.

"He's just ecstatic and praying to whatever God he prays to," said defense attorney John Paul Carroll.

The jury's decision rested on whether they believed Jose Hernandez, a former gang member who testified against Torres in exchange for leniency on federal drug charges.

Hernandez said on Nov. 4, 1997, he got a call from his sister, saying Dieppa had threatened her.

Hernandez said that he, Torres and two other gang members went to find

Dieppa. Torres shot Dieppa as a way to prove his gang loyalty, Hernandez said.

"I think I got 'em," Hernandez testified that Torres told him. "I got him in the head."

But Carroll said this wasn't a gang killing. Instead, Carroll argued, it actually was Hernandez who killed Dieppa

❖ Turn to **VERDICT, A2**

## SOME SWEET, SOME SCARY

No trouble surfaced as area youths took to sidewalks Wednesday to fill their bags and buckets with goodies. Predicted showers held off, and the parade of pretty princesses and ghouly ghouls made their Halloween rounds.



CRAIG WATSON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

**ABOVE: Opal Hartman watches as students from Lincoln Elementary School make their way along Woodlawn Avenue in Aurora during a Halloween costume parade on Wednesday.**



**LEFT: Keith Smith passes out candy to trick-or-treaters Wednesday at his home in the Edgebrook Estates subdivision in Aurora.**

TRAVIS HAUGHTON / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Want more spooky shots from area Halloween festivities? Our online photo gallery has more kids in costume at: [www.beaconnewsline.com](http://www.beaconnewsline.com)



## BASHING BRITNEY

**Model Nicole Narain, an Aurora native and Playboy Playmate**

BEACON NEWS FILE PHOTO



## Aurora native dishes about her boyfriend's ex — Britney Spears

BEACON NEWS STAFF

An Aurora native, known for her Playboy magazine spreads and sex tape with actor Colin Farrell, is back in the news again, dishing about the erratic behavior of her current boyfriend's ex — Britney Spears.

Nicole Narain, who attended West Aurora High School until her junior year, is the newest girlfriend of rapper-wannabe Kevin Federline, who is best known for hooking up with famous women and spending their money drinking and clubbing with friends.

But 34-year-old Narain, who once dated Nicholas Cage, sticks by her new man. In a recent interview with British tabloid The Sun, she insisted K-Fed's not a party boy, but rather a doting father.

"Kevin has made a point of surrounding himself with genuine and pleasant people," she told the

❖ Turn to **BRITNEY, A2**

## Custody of kids still in court for mom, dad stars



**Kevin Federline, the former "Mr. Spears" and father figure to pair's boys, Sean and Jayden.**



**Britney Spears, much-maligned superstar mama and in-again, out-again rehab resident**

**CUSTODY UPDATE:** California Superior Court Commissioner Scott Gordon ruled Tuesday that Britney Spears can have overnight visits with her two sons — if she has regular drug and alcohol tests, childproofs her home and buckles the kids into car seats when driving. Spears, who is seeking to regain shared custody, also must continue sessions with a parenting coach. — *The Associated Press*

❖ Turn to **COPLEY, A2**

## Oak Brook doc owns old Copley site

**By Andre Salles**  
STAFF WRITER

AURORA — Public records reveal an Oak Brook doctor and his wife are the true owners of the old Copley hospital on the city's near East Side.

Dr. Raghuvveer Nayak and his wife, Anita, are listed on public records as the purchasers of the property, not McHenry County-based Revere

Healthcare, as previously reported.

Revere remains a development consultant on the property, but it actually was the Nayaks who paid \$1.25 million in February to acquire the complex, which has sat vacant for more than 10 years.

Mayor Tom Weisner helped to broker the deal between the Nayaks and Guiding Light Community Development Corporation, the former owners. The Nayaks own the Rogers Park

One Day Surgical Center in Chicago, and through that center they contributed \$5,000 to Weisner's mayoral campaign in April of 2005.

The identity of the owners remained secret at first, hidden in a trust since the deal was announced in April of 2006. The Nayaks finally listed their names on the warranty deed, filed earlier this year, and they are also listed as owners on the Aurora Township Assessor's

❖ Turn to **COPLEY, A2**



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