

# am New York

■ MOSTLY  
SUNNY  
74° | 63°



INTERNATIONAL  
8

**35 KIDS KILLED**  
■ BAGHDAD BLAST  
MURDERS IRAQI CHILDREN



MONEY  
10

**VIOXX RECALLED**  
■ STUDY FINDS DRUG DOUBLES  
RISK OF HEART ATTACK & STROKE



## weekend

### 'SHARK TALE'

■ JAY CARR'S  
REVIEW



MOVIES  
14

### RENEE ZELLWEGER

■ amNewYork's  
EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW

MOVIES  
15



### MARISA TOMEI

■ & OTHER  
CELEBS

PM'S NEW YORK  
19



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York**  
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**\$1,000**  
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P19

## WEBPOLL

www.am-ny.com

Who do you think won the first  
Presidential debate, Bush or Kerry?

## ANIMAL REPORT

### Whale of a ride

The swell a surfer was riding on a recent trip turned out to be more than just a wave — it was a whale. Sylvia Vasquez, a 60-year-old San Clemente therapist, felt the ocean swell under him and was lifted up by the giant mammal. Vasquez had no idea how big the whale was. Others on the beach guessed between 15 feet to 30 feet long, meaning it was likely a juvenile.



Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry (D) and Republican incumbent President George W. Bush (R) face off in the first Presidential debate last night in Florida.

# Battle over Iraq

## Heated exchange over war is focus of first debate

By Ann Stransky  
amNewYork follow us @NYC

Sen. John Kerry accused President George Bush last night of committing a "colossal error in judgment" for diverting American troops to go after Saddam Hussein rather than after Osama Bin Laden. "Saddam Hussein didn't attack us, Osama Bin Laden attacked us," Kerry said.

Bush retaliated. "What my opponent wants you to forget is that he voted to authorize the use of force and now says it's the wrong war at the wrong time at the wrong place. I don't see how you

can lead this country to succeed in Iraq if you say wrong war, wrong time, wrong place. What message does that send our troops?"

The Republican President said Kerry keeps "changing his position on the war," and that "the only thing consistent about my opponent's position is that he has been inconsistent."

Kerry replied, "I have had one consistent position on Iraq, that Saddam was a threat and that there was a right way, and a wrong way to disarm him, and the president chose the wrong way."

The Democratic challenger pointed out that the President's

father, former President Bush, wrote in his book that he did not send U.S. troops into Baghdad during the first Gulf War because "there was no exit strategy."

Kerry said, "Iraq was not even close to the center of the war on terror before the president invaded it. The president made the judgment to divert forces from under General Tommy Franks from Afghanistan.... He rushed the war in Iraq without a plan to win the peace."

The debate was crucial for Kerry, who is trailing by several points in the polls less than five weeks before the election.

Bush and Kerry battled for 70 minutes over Iraq and other international policy.

More than 1,000 Americans have been killed in Iraq since the U.S. and yesterday's debate took place on the same day that bombings in Baghdad killed 25 children.

Outside the closed-off University of Miami campus, where the debate was held, hundreds of protesters marched, some carrying flag-draped coffins, and others with signs that read, "What's to debate? Bush led, bin Laden." The protesters carried 76 coffins, which they said represented each soldier killed in Iraq this month.

VIRGINIE SOMMET  
HUMANITY



By ALEXANDRA MORRA  
Special to amNewYork

**In this time of political activism, "Humanity" is sure to get your banner waving.**

World Food Day is Oct. 5 and artist Virginie Sommet has risen to the occasion. She created the prestigious Spoon Award that will be presented to President Nelson Mandela honoring his work with Action Against Hunger, which helps 4 million severely malnourished people in 40 countries every year. The World Food

# Art for the hungry

Day gala will also benefit the fight against hunger.

Sommet's pro-bono generosity in designing the Spoon Award inspired her upcoming exhibit "Humanity." Beneath the surface of kitchen utensils, sequin gongs, dime store toys, faux birds and Indian foodstuffs, critical social themes such as child exploitation, hunger, politics, and the power of money tell a story of humanity.

## "Humanity"

NEXUS Projects Gallery, Oct. 7-29. The gallery will donate 25% of art sale proceeds to Action Against Hunger. 24 W 57th St

## Fight Hunger. Eat out.

Dine at participating Restaurants Against Hunger on Oct. 19. Up to 20% of sales go to children, women and men suffering in areas of war or natural disaster. Visit [www.actionagainsthunger.org](http://www.actionagainsthunger.org) for details.