

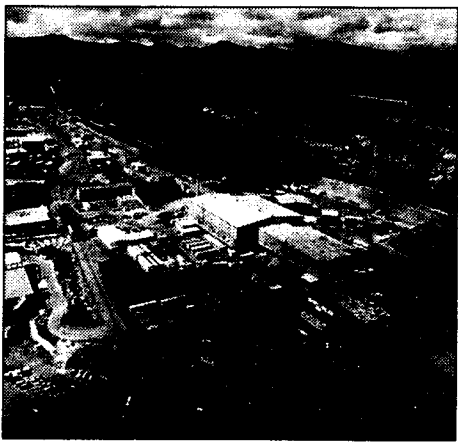
# Suspected spy set free in nuclear secrets case

By Richard Benke  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — After nine months in solitary confinement, Wen Ho Lee struck a deal to get out of jail a free man yesterday as federal prosecutors all but abandoned their tattered case against the former Los Alamos nuclear scientist.

Once vilified as a suspected spy but never charged with espionage, Lee agreed to plead guilty before U.S. District Judge James Parker to only one of 59 counts accusing him of violating national security. His sentence: the nine months already served. In exchange for his freedom, Lee agreed to explain what he knows about seven computer tapes he was accused of downloading. Lee — whose defense contended he was targeted only because he is ethnic Chinese — has insisted the tapes were destroyed at the lab. His willingness to explain in more detail what happened was the turning point in plea discussions.

The three-year case began as an offshoot of a Chinese espionage case and led to accusations that Lee had downloaded the "crown jewels" of U.S. nuclear weaponry and might be poised to hand them over to a foreign power. The government has since backed down from nearly all those charges. Government sources said Lee agreed to plead guilty to one count of unlawful gather-



Associated Press

The Los Alamos National Laboratory is the former employer of Wen Ho Lee.

ing of national defense information, aid federal investigators over the next six months and drop claims that prosecutors went after him because he is Chinese-American. Lee is a naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in Taiwan.

"He deserves a national apology," said John Vance, a safety engineer at Los Alamos National Laboratory. "The president of the United States should call him in and apologize on national television for the damage that's done."

# 'West Wing' sets Emmy record

NBC's drama won nine Emmys and nearly shut out HBO's *The Sopranos*.

By David Bauder  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES — Once again, crime didn't pay.

Weeks before the election of a new U.S. president, the Emmy Awards elbowed aside the mob-focused *The Sopranos* to shower honors on the White House drama *The West Wing*.

NBC's freshman series won a record-setting nine Emmys on Sunday, including best drama. Only James Gandolfini's best acting trophy prevented a shutout for *The Sopranos* after 18 nominations.

"I wish we had done a little better," Gandolfini said after the show. It was the second straight year *The Sopranos* met mostly with Emmy disappointment.

He suggested the surreal drama may be a little too dark and violent for many Emmy voters. Some of Hollywood's old guard also may be reluctant to vote for a cable show instead of one on the broadcast networks, he said.

*West Wing* is an uplifting look at political life not weighed down with cynicism. Its characters try to do the right thing, even if they don't always succeed. Real Washington



Mark Terrill/Associated Press

James Gandolfini embraces Sarah Jessica Parker after winning the Emmy for best actor in a drama series for his work on *The Sopranos*.

leaders are constantly thanking producers for their portrayal.

"By and large in movies and television shows, the country's leaders are portrayed as either dolts or Machiavellian," series creator Aaron Sorkin said. "Here, they are neither. They're very bright, committed and energetic people."

Sorkin won an Emmy for his writing; Thomas Schlamme for directing. Richard

Schiff, who plays the grim aide Toby Ziegler, and Allison Janney, who plays the White House's tough press secretary, won supporting actor awards. The show won four other technical awards.

Asked whether *The West Wing* educates viewers about politics, Sorkin replied: "We're not asking anyone to eat their vegetables." Martin Sheen, President Josiah Bartlet in *The West Wing*, was dead-on walking into the Emmys with his prediction that Gandolfini would beat him for best actor, but his show would win best series.

"James was selected MVP, but we won the game," Sheen said. "That's the most important thing."

Emmy voters showed their sentimental sides Sunday. Michael J. Fox won best actor in a comedy for his final performance in *Spin City* before retiring because of Parkinson's disease. Jack Lemmon won best actor in a miniseries or movie for Oprah Winfrey Presents: *Tuesdays With Morrie*.

Both veteran actors drew standing ovations. *Will & Grace* was selected best comedy, boosting the show as it moves to Thursday nights. Its supporting actors, Sean Hayes and Megan Mullally, each won their first Emmys. For the third year in a row, David Letterman's *Late Show* won the award for best variety series. It came during a year Letterman had to take a break for a quintuple bypass operation in January.

"Dave, if you're watching at home, it looks like the fake heart surgery paid off," said the show's executive producer, Rob Burnett.

# 'Cats' says final goodbye to Broadway

By Michael Kuchwara  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK — *Cats*, Broadway's longest running show, has become as much a "Memory" as the song that was its most persistent refrain.

After a nearly 18-year run, the extremely popular Andrew Lloyd Webber musical closed with a roar Sunday at the Winter Garden Theater before an invited audience of friends and fans.

They cheered, screamed and even cried during an emotional, confetti-strewn final performance — number 7,485 — that was interrupted by several standing ovations.

"Tonight is the last night of *Cats* first life on Broadway," Lloyd Webber said after the exuberant cast and orchestra players took their bows.

"So I wouldn't get too excited. I don't quite know what the fuss is about."

Among the people called on stage by

Lloyd Webber were director Trevor Nunn, choreographer Gillian Lynne and producer Cameron Mackintosh.

As they waved goodbye, a shower of yellow, white and silver confetti filled the theater, covering the cast and still-applauding theatergoers.

*Cats* was based on *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*, a collection of poems by T.S. Eliot.

The St. Louis-born poet was praised by Nunn as "the greatest English and American poet of the 20th century and who was my unwitting collaborator in writing the words for 'Memory' — probably unwillingly, if he had known."

The poems by Eliot, who died in 1965, also provided the lyrics for the other numbers in *Cats*.

Now for the first time since 1982, the Winter Garden, one of the few Broadway theaters actually on Broadway, will be dark.

However, there will be still be one more



Stephen Chemin/Associated Press

Andrew Lloyd Webber speaks on stage following *Cats*' final performance.

*Cats* related event held in the Garden.

Next Saturday, props, costumes and other mementos from the musical will be put on sale in a giant theatrical garage sale. It will be a benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS.

# Station spacewalk goes smoothly

By Marcia Dunn  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Spacewalkers sped through six hours of work outside the international space station yesterday, hooking up cables, installing a navigation tool and dislodging a jammed piece of equipment.

The astronauts and cosmonauts next turned their attention to the inside of the space station.

"Basically, it's a cabin we have that we're trying to get some furniture into and get it ready to move into," said mission operations director Milt Heflin.

The crew of space shuttle *Atlantis* planned to enter the space station late yesterday.

It was expected to take a few hours for the seven men to make their way through the 140-foot-long complex and all 12 hatches.

The space station is almost double the

size it was the last time astronauts visited in May. Zvezda, the Russia-made control module, was added in late July. With only four days inside the station before *Atlantis* undocks this weekend, the astronauts and cosmonauts had to work fast. One of their first chores was to unload 1,300 pounds of gear from a Russian cargo ship that arrived in August.

NASA was cheered by the success of yesterday morning's spacewalk by Edward Lu and Yuri Malenchenko.

About 20 spacewalks are planned outside the station over the next year and a half alone.

By contrast, yesterday's outing was only the 50th in almost 20 years of space shuttle flight.

"We're going to really start getting into the assembly of the space station in very short order here, and I feel like this spacewalk set the tone for what's about to come," said Mike Hess, the lead spacewalk officer inside Mission Control.

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