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You are here: LAT Home > California | Local News



### California/Local

- » Los Angeles
- » Orange County
- » S.F. Valley
- » Ventura County
- » Inland Empire
- » Crime&Courts
- » Politics
- » Education

#### Columnists:

- » Steve Lopez
- » Sandy Banks
- » Patt Morrison
- » George Skelton
- » Dana Parsons
- » Steve Harvey

#### Community Papers:

- » Burbank
- » Newport Beach
- » Laguna Beach
- » Huntington Beach
- » Glendale

### News

- California | Local
- National
- World
- Entertainment
- Business
- Sports
- Campaign '08
- Science
- Environment
- Opinion
- Columnists
- Print Edition
- Readers' Rep
- Corrections

- The Guide NEW
- The Envelope
- Travel
- Magazine
- Home & Garden
- Health
- Food
- Autos
- Books
- Image
- Arts & Culture
- Living Green
- Video
- Photography
- Obituaries
- Crossword, Sudoku
- Your Scene



Allen J. Schaben / Los Angeles Times

With new allegations and evidence, including at least one alleged molestation caught on videotape, Beltran could be facing more charges, police say.

## Santa Monica teacher held in abuse case was investigated in '06

**The educator was not charged at the time because of insufficient evidence, officials say.**

By Tami Abdollah, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer  
May 8, 2008

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A Santa Monica middle school teacher who allegedly molested five of his female students was investigated by

police, but not charged, in connection with the same crime in 2006, officials said Wednesday.

"There was a lack of evidence at the time to file charges," said Jane Robison, spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office. "But based on new allegations, new victims and more evidence, sufficient evidence was developed to include the previous alleged victim" in this case.



School reacts to Santa Monica teacher's arrest

» Teacher charged with molesting 5 girls; D.A. says there's videotape

Lincoln Middle School teacher Thomas Arthur Beltran, 60, pleaded not guilty Tuesday to 14 felony counts of sexual molestation, including eight counts of a lewd act on a child, three counts of continuous sexual abuse and three counts of sexual penetration with a foreign object on a child

under 14.

According to court documents, the alleged abuse of the students took place between Dec. 1, 2004, and April 30 of this year. Police said at least one of the alleged molestations had been recorded on a videotape obtained in a search during the investigation.

On Wednesday, officials of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District released a letter dated March 14, 2006, written by then-Principal Kathy Scott to police detailing her response to the earlier complaint. Police gave district officials a copy of the letter this week, said Mike Matthews, district assistant superintendent for human resources.

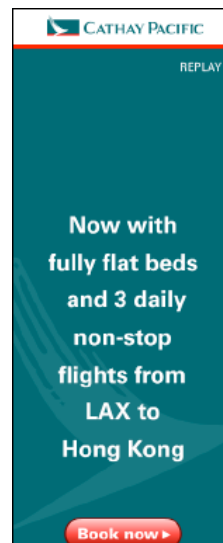
The letter states that a female student reported to a school official that she "felt uncomfortable being in Mr. Beltran's class because of the way he touched her." Scott's response was to have her removed from the class and to talk to Beltran about the incident, the letter says.

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