1st ID soldier sentenced for refusing to join unit in Iraq Page 4

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Tutu stars in play critical of Gitmo prison

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Cardinals trounce Dodgers to open baseball playoffs

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Space pioneer Gordon Cooper dead at 77

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Volume 63, No. 172 © EPSS 2004 G WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2004 50¢

Bremer: Not enough troops were in Iraq

Former administrator criticizes U.S. levels after Baghdad fell Page 7

Remembering Samarra

Members of 1st ID recall the enemy assault that followed July bombing

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTIKOE Stars and Stripes

The rhythm is gonna get you

MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Carlos Garcia, singer with Orquestra Latino, shows some students at Wiesbaden Middle School in Germany a few steps Tuesday during the band's performance at the school to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Orquestra Latino will perform Wednesday in Baumholder, Thursday in Spangdahlem, and Friday in Hanau. See more photos on Page 6.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Range of Iran's missiles: Iran said Tuesday its missiles now have a range of more than 1,200 miles, a substantial extension of their previously declared range.

The old version of Iran's Shahab-3 missile had a range of 810 miles, capable of reaching Israel and various U.S. military bases in the Middle East.

Fugitive war crimes suspects: The newly appointed Bosnian Serb interior minister announced Tuesday he had formed a special police unit to hunt down all fugitive war crimes suspects.

He did not reveal any details about the unit but said it was "looking for all persons indicted for war crimes."

EU consideration of Turkey: The European Union's executive commission is expected to recommend on Wednesday that Turkey begin entry talks for membership in the bloc, but with stringent and long-term conditions attached.

A draft report on the issue says that while Turkey has made progress, "deficiencies remain and it is clear that political reform needs to be further consolidated and broadened." The study, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, urged that Turkey be given the goal of joining the EU so reforms there can forge ahead.

Croatia/Slovenia border dispute: The European Union's top foreign policy official on Tuesday urged Croatia and its former Yugoslav federation partner Slovenia to settle a border dispute in "the European spirit of dialogue."

The EU envoy, Javier Solana, also offered the services of the bloc and his own personally to help resolve the simmering conflict between the two otherwise friendly nations.

Tensions between Croatia and Slovenia soared two weeks ago, during Slovenia's election campaign, when Croatian police briefly detained 12 members of Slovenia's People's Party, who had gone to visit a party member living in a disputed strip of land.

Afghanistan election violence: Afghan soldiers and police raided a hideout where Taliban militants were suspected of preparing attacks to disrupt this weekend's presidential elections, prompting a three-hour battle that left seven insurgents dead, officials said Tuesday.

Seven police officers were also reported killed when their patrol car struck a mine close to the Pakistani border, and police said gunmen shot at a U.N. vehicle, injuring three Afghan election workers.

States

Great white shark in Massachusetts: The 15-foot great white shark that patrolled a Cape Cod lagoon for nearly two weeks finally left for open waters Monday.

The 1,700-pound female shark swam through the inlet and into open ocean early Monday afternoon. The state's Division of Marine Fisheries had tried for days to coax the shark out of the lagoon, stringing a series of nets and electronic repellant devices in the water.

Robert Blake case: The presence of a book author at the search of Robert Blake's home violated the actor's privacy rights and constitutional protection against unreasonable search and seizure, his attorney argued in a motion to throw out all evidence seized in the search.

Attorney M. Gerald Schwartzbach said the decision of homicide detectives to allow author Miles Corwin to go along on the search of Blake's San Fernando Valley home was a clear violation of law and requires suppression of all evidence obtained during the May 5, 2001, search.

Michael Jackson case: Michael Jackson's lawyers filed a motion Monday to remove the Santa Barbara County district attorney's office from his child molestation case, but the reasons were kept secret.

The motion was one of several filed under seal by attorney Robert Sanger. Sanger said sealing the motion was necessary because "the content of the motion includes reference to details in under-seal material including discovery materials, grand jury transcripts, investigative reports, exhibits and identities of witnesses."

Aryan Nations leadership: The neo-Nazi Aryan Nations has apparently moved its headquarters to Alabama.

After the Sept. 8 death of founder Richard Butler, the group's post office box was moved from Hayden to a post office box in Lincoln, Ala., according to the group's Web site. A four-member "leadership council" will be named to succeed Butler, a plan worked out at last summer's Aryan World Congress in northern Idaho, said Laslo Patterson, of Talladega, Ala.

Fla. right-to-die case: Gov. Jeb Bush will ask the Florida Supreme Court to reconsider its 7-0 ruling against a law designed to keep a brain-damaged woman alive, a spokesman said Monday.

Florida's high court ruled two weeks ago that Bush and state lawmakers overstepped their authority with the year-old law ordering that Terri Schiavo's feeding tube be reinserted six days after her husband had it removed so she could die.

Business

Parmalat scandal: Two former auditors at Parmalat were ordered to stand trial for false accounting and market rigging, the first indictments since the massive fraud scandal surfaced at the Italian-based dairy giant.

The two former auditors, Maurizio Bianchi and Lorenzo Penca, both worked at Grant Thornton's former Italian office.

Stories and photos from wire services

Released hostages: Simona Pari, Simona Torretta and their relatives pose with Pope John Paul II on Tuesday at the Vatican. The pontiff, who has called for the release of all kidnapping victims in Iraq, met Tuesday with the two Italian aid workers freed a week ago by their abductors in Baghdad. The two women were held for three weeks after being seized at gunpoint from their humanitarian organization in Baghdad. They were released amid reports that a $1 million ransom was paid. They asked to visit the pope to thank him for his appeal.

Correction

A story and photo caption in Tuesday's editions about the expiration of gas coupons in Italy included some incorrect material. The Navy Exchange does not operate service stations on bases, and the coupons expired Sept. 30.

Comics, horoscopes and advice every day in Stars and Stripes

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After the attack

Soldiers in July blast remember enemy assault as they scrambled to return fire, rescue injured

Editor's Note: This is the final installment of a three-part series.

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

The injured men of the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment's mortar platoon sat dazed and thirsty in the baking sun.

Their world had exploded around them. A suicide car bomber had sped toward the concrete barracks where the U.S. soldiers slept and detonated a bomb, leaving a smoking crater of rubble.

The mortar platoon, whose men had slept in the front of the two-room building, had borne the brunt of the blast. Of the 14 mortarmen present that day, four would die and five were seriously wounded. Only one other U.S. soldier died in the attack.

But the car bomb was only the first shock in a coordinated attack on the base. Now enemy mortars began raining down in the neighborhood, and rifle-toting guerrillas could be seen firing from a couple hundred meters away.

"They knew we were there," Spc. Kevin Terry, 22, a mortarman injured in the blast, said bitterly weeks later. "They were planning the [attack], and they finally got brave enough to do it."

Pfc. Travis Wright, a junior member of the platoon, had escaped the blast because he'd been outside manning the radio. He was the only member of his seven-man squad not dead or injured.

Normally four-man teams run each counter-mortar gun: a pair of gunners to sight and aim the weapon like property surveyors, an ammo bearer to unwrap and carry the mortar rounds, and a team leader to direct fire.

Sunni Triangle
The Sunni Triangle is the 100-mile area west and north of Baghdad between Ramadi and Tikrit.

Source: KRT Stars and Stripes

That morning, Wright did all four jobs. He aimed one mortar shell after another at targets directed by his injured squad leader, Staff Sgt. Michael Broner. Broner had recovered enough to watch the platoon's radar screen.

"He was a one-man mortar team," said Spc. Matthew Campbell, 21, who had left the barracks to shave just three minutes before the explosion.

From the sandbagged crow's nest on the roof of the main building, Pfc. Miguel Jauregui and Spc. Craig Guilbault fired away at the enemy troops they could see a few blocks away. They'd seen the suicide bomber drive onto the base but hadn't been unable to kill him because of the steep downward firing angle.

When he wasn't digging dead and injured buddies out of the wrecked barracks, Campbell was hauling ammunition to the roof so they could keep firing.

Reinforcements from the 1-26 Infantry and the 9th Engineer Battalion from Brassfield-Mora rushed in to help the besieged base and run missions into the city. Teams of Apache and Kiowa Warrior attack helicopters flew cover. One of the Kiowa Warriors launched a Hellfire missile into a house where four insurgents hid, killing all of them.

By late afternoon, the fighting ended with the Americans and their Iraqi allies still in charge of the base. But the rebels controlled the city. Three months later, they still do.

Recovery and return

The injured men sweltered until everyone had been dug out. A convoy carried them to an aid station at their nearby base camp, Brassfield-Mora, the beginning of a trip that would take them to hospitals in Tikrit, Balad, Landstuhl and finally to Schweinfurt over the next four days.

Not until that night did they learn how bad the attack had been. Five U.S. soldiers and two Iraqis had been killed, and about two dozen Americans injured. The 27-man mortar platoon suffered four dead — Sgt. Robert E. Colvill, Spc. William R. Emanuel IV, Spc. Joseph M. Garmback Jr. and Spc. Sonny G. Sampler — and five injured badly enough to be sent home: Broner, Terry, Spc. Owen Fulsome, Spc. Damon Le, and Spc. R.C. Greene.

Greene, who his friends said was partially paralyzed, ended up in a stateside hospital. The others went to Würzburg Army Hospital in Germany for stays of varying lengths, where U.S. Army Europe commander Gen. B.B. Bell greeted them July 19 and pinned on Purple Hearts.

Fulsome suffered a broken ankle and shrapnel wounds from head to toe. Broner's eardrums were punctured and his wrist broken. Le's body was lacerated with shrapnel wounds. One piece nicked his intestine, which prevented him from eating for a few weeks, and some wounds that refused to heal stretched his stay into August.

Terry's jaw was dislocated, his eardrum blown out, and he was temporarily blinded but has recovered his sight. He remembers nothing from the time he fell asleep that morning until he woke up in the hospital next day. He still pulls pieces of shrapnel from his chest, his legs and even his eyelids.

Back in Samarra, Campbell's adrenaline kept him going all that day, with only short breaks in an air-conditioned Humvee.

"As soon as the casualties were gone, that's when I sat down and relaxed," he said. "I was so dizzy, and exhausted as hell."

He slept long and hard that evening, but for the next few days, he got no rest. Even Valium offered little help.

"I could still see everyone's face," he said.

Campbell and Wright now room together, along with two soldiers who transferred from the mortar platoon of the Schweinfurt-based 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment — replacements for the dead and injured.

"We did whatever we could to make them feel comfortable," Campbell said, "but it was definitely very uneasy."

He came home to Schweinfurt in early August and spent two weeks of mid-tour leave with his German girlfriend. He flew back to Iraq on Aug. 17.

Campbell says three years of Army discipline — and one day of horror — have changed him from a sullen delinquent (he describes himself then as "a little thug") into someone quite different.

Before his close call, he thought of war as thrilling, an adrenaline rush.

SEE SAMARRA ON PAGE 4

Spc. Kevin Terry

"They knew we were there. They were planning the [attack], and they finally got brave enough to do it."

A Heavy Loss

Spc. Collier E. Barcus

Sniper assigned to HHC 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment.
Age: 21
Home: McHenry, Ill.
Family: Parents, Gregory and Sandra Barcus; one sister, one brother.
Enjoyed fishing and horseback riding after spending his last two high-school years at a boys' ranch in Wyoming. Friends said he longed for adventure and hoped some day to run his own ranch in the West.

Spc. Sonny G. Sampler

Assistant gunner in mortar platoon, HHC 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment.
Age: 23
Home: Oklahoma City
Family: Parents, Gene and Kim Sampler; one brother, two sisters.
Joined the Army after high school to save money and help support his family. Sold some of his goods to surprise his family with a visit home last Christmas. Described by friends as happy-go-lucky and a joker.

Sgt. Robert E. Colvill

Mortar platoon squad leader.
Age: 31
Home: Anderson, Ind.
Family: Wife, Christine; children, Zachary and Savannah.
Spent eight years in the Marine Corps, joined Army in 2001 because he didn't like civilian life. Hoped to open a sports bar back home in Indiana so he could give free drinks to friends and family.

Spc. William R. Emanuel IV

Carrier driver for mortar platoon.
Age: 19
Home: Stockton, Calif.
Family: Parents, William, III and Jane Emanuel; one sister.
Enjoyed "adventure" of serving in Iraq. Played football at traditional Easter family gatherings, champion at family's Christmastime pancake-eating contests — last Christmas he ate 16, all loaded with syrup and peanut butter.

Spc. Joseph M. Garmback Jr.

Mortar carrier driver on mortar platoon.
Age: 24
Home: Cleveland
Family: Parents, Joseph, Sr. and Marlyon Garmback; three sisters.
Helped care for elderly people, including his grandmothers. During and after high school, worked as a cook for a caterer in his home time. Dreamed of being a paratrooper like his father, who served in Vietnam.

Remembering Samarra

On July 8, a suicide bomber disguised as an Iraqi policeman drove an SUV packed with explosives onto an Iraqi National Guard base in Samarra. He crashed the car into the side of a concrete building housing U.S. Army troops and detonated the bomb.

Five soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment died along with two Iraqi soldiers. At least two dozen others suffered injuries during the blast and the ensuing daylong battle with Iraqi insurgents.

It is the deadliest attack against Germany-based 1st ID troops in Iraq since the Big Red One deployed in February.

Citing its heavy staff workload, the division's press office in Tikrit declined to answer Stars and Stripes queries about the attack. But, with the help of 1-26 Infantry's rear detachment, five of the soldiers who survived the blast and returned to Germany to recuperate agreed to tell what happened that day.

Here is their story.

1st ID soldier gets 11 months in AWOL case

Former Israeli sniper refused to join unit in Iraq, believed troops were unprepared

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — An Israeli combat veteran serving in the 1st Infantry Division was sentenced Monday to 11 months in prison for smoking marijuana and for twice refusing to join his unit in Iraq because he felt it wasn't properly trained for combat, attorneys in the case said.

Pfc. Tomehr Jochnowitz, 25, of the Schweinfurt-based 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, pleaded guilty to two counts of desertion as well as one count each of leaving his duty post, missing a troop movement and use of marijuana. He was acquitted of failing to obey an order.

In addition to the prison term, Judge (Lt. Col.) Robin Hall ordered him to forfeit all pay, reduced him to the lowest enlisted rank, and handed him a bad-conduct discharge, said the military prosecutor, Capt. Jonathan Larcomb.

Jochnowitz grew up in Israel with dual citizenship after his American-born Jewish parents emigrated in the 1970s, said his civilian attorney, David Court.

In the late 1990s, Court said, he served three years in the Israeli Defense Forces as a sniper combating Palestinian insurgents in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon. After his tour ended, he moved to the United States and went from job to job until he enlisted in the Army as an infantryman May 2003.

Four months later, Jochnowitz arrived in Schweinfurt to join the 1-26 Infantry, just as that unit was preparing for a one-year deployment to Iraq that would begin in February 2004.

But according to a court document, Jochnowitz quit his unit without permission Feb. 12 and traveled to the Netherlands, where he smoked marijuana. He returned five days later just as his unit was leaving for Iraq, but he failed a drug test. Given a second chance to deploy Feb. 23, he fled a second time and turned himself in the next day.

Court argued that Jochnowitz believed his unit wasn't fully prepared for war, and that he had said so to his chain of command.

"He's not somebody who doesn't understand military service," Court said. "He realized they weren't cognizant of what they were doing or getting into."

But, he added, Jochnowitz later realized he'd been wrong to abandon his unit and pleaded guilty to most of the charges.

His fellow soldiers in the 1-26 Infantry have patrolled since early March in the troubled city of Samarra. Five of the battalion's troops died and about two dozen were injured in a car-bomb attack against the Iraqi National Guard headquarters there July 8. The unit also reportedly was a big part of a successful counter-insurgency assault in Samarra late last week.

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A memorial service was held in Schweinfurt, Germany, shortly after the July 8 suicide attack on U.S. Army troops in Samarra for the five soldiers with the 1st Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment who were killed in the attack.

MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

Memorial services set for 3 in 1st ID

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — Memorial services will be held in Germany on Wednesday for three 1st Infantry Division soldiers killed in the line of duty last week in Iraq.

A service is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Leighton Barracks chapel in Würzburg for Staff Sgt. Mike Dennie, 31, of the 106th Finance Battalion. Dennie died Sept. 29 of injuries sustained a week earlier when the driver of his military vehicle pulled off the road and lost control, causing it to roll over.

A double service is scheduled for 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Ledward Barracks chapel in Schweinfurt for two soldiers killed Sept. 27 in Balad.

Spc. Gregory Cox, 21, of the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, died when his military vehicle was unintentionally run off the road by an Iraqi civilian vehicle. Sgt. 1st Class Joselito Villanueva, 36, of the 9th Engineer Battalion, was killed by a sniper while on duty at an observation post.

In addition, a service was held Tuesday in the Rose Barracks chapel at Vilseck for Sgt. Tyler Prewitt, 22, of the 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment. Prewitt died Sept. 28 in Landstuhl, Germany, of injuries sustained four days earlier in a rocket-propelled grenade attack against his vehicle in Baquoba.

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From left, Lt. Gen. William Ward, the deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and the 7th Army, watches Area Support Group Eagle's Command Sgt. Maj. Rocky Shapla and its commander, Col. Joe Croom, fold the ASG Eagle flag at a ceremony at Eagle Base, Bosnia-Herzegovina, on Monday.

Changing face of Bosnia mission

Left: Eagle Base soldiers join Ward doing impromptu push-ups right after a ceremony during which Area Support Group Eagle transitioned to a lower-level Area Support Team Bosnia. AST Bosnia will continue maintaining the camps that are still left — Eagle Base, Butmir and Camp Morgan — as until their turnover to the European Union. Col. Joe Croom, the last of six ASG Eagle commanders, departed Bosnia on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY IVANA AVRAMOVIC
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Samarra: Targeted by enemy, GIs reflect

SAMARRA, FROM PAGE 3

Now, Campbell said, "I still want to go out there, but I'm a little more scared. I'm twice as cautious."

He's not a religious man, but he's spent a lot of time puzzling over why he left the barracks just a few minutes before the blast. His cot lay second from the front, next to Spc. Collier E. Barcus — the fifth fatality — and just a few feet from where the truck exploded.

"There's got to be something out there," he said. "It could be God, it could not be."

Fulsome and Terry have both gone to the States to visit families. Le's mother and sister flew to Germany, but he plans to see them later in California. Broner has been spending time with his wife, Cassandra, and four children, ages 9, 6, 4 and eight months.

All have shed blood in this war, and no one would accuse any of them of shirking. Yet all feel a nagging sense of guilt about being at home instead of Iraq.

"I can't help my platoon. I feel helpless," Broner said, holding up the cast on his arm. "If I could get this off today, I'd go back tomorrow."

Losing so many friends has given them a different feeling about sacrifice. Even after his hard work on that hot, bloody July morning, Campbell is not quite sure he deserves the looks of respect he sometimes gets from other soldiers who weren't there that day.

"Whatever you do," he says, "don't make it like I'm a hero."

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Number of applications for military academies down

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Maybe it's the near-daily grim reports of U.S. troops dying in Iraq, or maybe today's high school students aren't feeling the patriotism that flooded the U.S. military service academies with recruits three years ago. Whatever the reason, the academies have seen a dip in the number of applications for the coming school year, officials said.

The U.S. Naval Academy has noted a 20 percent drop in applicants compared with this time last year, and the Army's West Point recorded a drop of 8.7 percent, officials said.

The Air Force Academy, which as of Tuesday has received 6,823 applications for the Class of 2009, is down from the 7,652 applications it received at this time last year.

Yet officials aren't concerned by the slump, said representatives from the three schools.

Students applying for the Class of 2009 were eighth- or ninth-graders when terrorists attacked the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, and they might not feel the urgency to join the military that high school seniors did three years ago, said Maj. Dale Smith, admissions officer for the U.S. Military Academy, better known as West Point.

"The perspective of eighth-graders is far different from high school seniors. [The younger] group was impacted differently, and that might account for some of the decline.

"And the war in Iraq is front-page news every day, and it's a hard business," Smith said.

All three service academies are still receiving more applications than they did before the attacks.

"It's a decline from last year, but we still are well above pre-9/11 numbers, and that's the important thing," Smith said.

As of Thursday, West Point had received 8,306 applications, down from 9,100 this time last year, he said. Throughout the 1990s and up until the fall of 2001, the academy averaged between 7,500 and 8,000 applications a year. After the terrorist attacks, it averaged some 11,000, he said. "There's a patriotic fervor when something like that happens," he said of the "spike."

From the pool, admissions officials will pick about 1,100 cadets who have passed the rigorous application process that includes meeting academic and physical standards and supplying a nominating letter from the White House or a member of the U.S. Congress.

While West Point isn't worried about the drop in applications, the academy is not taking a lackadaisical view, Smith said.

"We're very concerned and very focused on getting best pool of candidates we can get," he said. Efforts include an extensive recruiting campaign, with recruiters traveling the country to meet candidates and tapping their "field force" of about 1,100 people who are former students, parents of students, or "those who love West Point," who seek out candidates, Smith said. "Last year, we sent out 1.5 million pieces of mail to high students, and we'll do the same this year, if not a little more."

At the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., the drop in applications is the first dip since the attacks, but it's not a cause for concern, spokeswoman Judy Campbell said.

"We are still choosing around 1,500 students from a pool of more than 10,000," Col. David Vetter, dean of admissions, told the Baltimore Sun. "And we're seeing the quality of the applicants improve every year, so I can't say this is at all a worry."

The academy attracted more than 14,000 applications for its Class of 2006, the highest number in 12 years, Vetter told the Sun.

The applications numbers have fluctuated recently for the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., with 9,552 applications for the Class of 2005, 16,508 for the Class of 2006, 10,780 for the Class of 2007 and 12,430 for the Class of 2008, spokesman John Van Winkle said.

With that many applicants, the academy isn't hurting to pull out about 1,000 of the best and brightest to make up the freshman class of the coming school year, Van Winkle said.

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

Where to apply

■ U.S. Air Force Academy
Online: **www.academyadmissions.com**
Mail: Director of Admissions
2304 Cadet Drive, Suite 200
USAF Academy, CO 80840
Call: 1-800-443-9266 or DSN 312-333-2520

■ U.S. Military Academy
Online: **www.usma.edu**
Mail: Director of Admissions
606 Thayer Road
West Point, NY 10996
Call: 800-822-ARMY (800-822-2769)

■ U.S. Naval Academy
Online: **www.usna.edu/admissions**
Mail: Candidate Guidance Office
U.S. Naval Academy
117 Decatur Road
Annapolis, MD 21402-5018
Call: 410-293-4361

Keeping it all together

JONATHAN R. KULP/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 2nd Class DeAndre Haywood, an electrician mate assigned to the USS Emory S. Land's motor rewind shop, heat-shrinks protective rubber coating to a set of shore power cables. Once completed, the power cables will be used to supply power to submarines being tended to by the ship. The ship is a forward-deployed submarine tender based in La Maddalena, Italy.

Save your soles!

Nike seeks sneakers for recycling program

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Don't ditch those ratty, stinky sneakers in the closet.

The Environmental Office in Rota wants them.

The office will hold its first-ever athletic shoe drive starting Oct. 13. They hope to collect as many 200 pairs of old cross trainers, tennis shoes and high-tops and send them to Nike for recycling.

The athletic apparel giant's Reuse-A-Shoe program grinds the shoes and uses the material to make sports surfaces such as artificial turf, basketball courts and running tracks. They will accept any brand of shoe, including those tattered Chuck Taylor All Stars.

Camille Naaktgeboren, the office's environmental protection assistant, said recycling the shoes helps out communities and is good for the environment. Athletic shoes are not biodegradable.

"You put a shoe in a landfill and it's going to last, whereas if you do something like this you're saving landfill space," she said.

Last year, Nike teamed up with the National Recycling Coalition — a non-profit environmental organization — to boost participation in the United States. Nike has similar shoe recycling programs in the United Kingdom, Japan and Australia.

The Reuse-A-Shoe program started in 1993. Since its inception, the corporation has donated 170 sports surfaces to communities around the world, according to the company's Web site. More than 16 million pairs have been recycled so far.

The Environmental Office in Rota will have drop-off points for shoes at the base's Fitness Center, Video Mart, Housing Quick Stop and the elementary school playground.

The drive ends Oct. 27.

Those interested in more information on the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program or in starting a collection should see the Web site **www.nikereuseashoe.com.**

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

> *"You put a shoe in a landfill and it's going to last, whereas if you do something like this you're saving landfill space."*
>
> **Camille Naaktgeboren**
> Environmental Office, Rota

Survey: AF cadets more accepting of women

BY DICK FOSTER
Scripps Howard News Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — More than a year and a half after the Air Force Academy's sexual-assault scandal, a record number of male cadets now believe women belong at the school, and more female cadets say they don't fear reporting sexual assaults and harassment.

The improved numbers reflected in a survey have buoyed academy leaders' hopes that they have begun changing attitudes that enabled a climate of sexual hostility and assault to endure at the service academy.

"We are making some progress," said Col. Debra Gray, the academy's vice commandant of cadets.

"Sexual assault was the lightning-rod incident here, but it has provided the opportunity to look across the board because there are many factors that contribute to a culture in which those behaviors are tolerated," Gray said.

The survey was administered Aug. 31 to all cadets, with 83 percent, or 3,529, participating. Responses were measured against last year's survey, the first after the scandal that emerged in February 2003.

Dozens of present and former female cadets came forward to say they had been sexually assaulted and that administrators had either failed to pursue their complaints or actually discouraged victims from reporting.

The scandal led the Air Force to oust the school's administrators.

New leaders implemented an "Agenda for Change" that toughened sexual-assault reporting and investigation and cracked down and sexual harassment, drinking and other behaviors the Air Force considered as fostering the culture of permissiveness and sexual abuse.

Academy officials cited an underlying adjustment in male cadets' attitude toward women at the academy. A record 84 percent of male cadets agreed with the statement that "women belong at the Air Force Academy."

That was the first time in the seven-year survey history the percentage surpassed 80 percent. The academy made substantial progress against sexual assault last academic year.

Schook taking command of Bosnia's SFOR

BY AIDA CERKEZ-ROBINSON

The Associated Press

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — U.S. Brig. Gen. Steven P. Schook was to take command of the NATO-led peace force in Bosnia on Tuesday for the final months before the mission is handed over to the European Union Force, NATO officials said.

Schook, taking over from U.S. Maj. Gen Virgil L. Packett II, will be the ninth and last commander of the force, known by its abbreviation SFOR. EUFOR, the European Union Force, takes over by the end of the year.

The ceremony in Sarajevo for Tuesday's change of command was to be presided over by Adm. Gregory G. Johnson, the commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Joint Forces Command, Naples.

Schook has served as Chief of Staff of KFOR, the NATO-led peacekeeping force in Kosovo, since July 2003.

Packett, has commanded the peacekeepers in Bosnia since October 2003, will be assigned as deputy commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps in the United States.

"The change of SFOR Command at this stage will help a smooth transition to the new NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo at the end of this year," which also will be headed by Schook, a statement from SFOR said.

More than 60,000 NATO-led troops from more than 40 countries were deployed to Bosnia in late 1995 to enforce the so-called Dayton peace agreement, which ended the 3½ year war among the country's Serbs, Muslims and Croats, in which 260,000 people were killed and 1.8 million turned into refugees.

The security situation has improved over the years, allowing NATO to decrease the number of troops to the current level of 7,000.

At year's end, NATO will hand over the mission to EUFOR with the same mandate — to provide a safe environment in Bosnia.

However, some NATO units will stay behind to assist local authorities adopt defense reforms and to help hunt down war crimes suspects.

Moved by music

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Above: Orquestra Latino singer Carlos Garcia, center, dances with Wiesbaden Middle School teacher Melody Fountain, second from left, and other members of the faculty during the band's performance at the school on Tuesday. The students took their turn earlier. Left: Garcia, left, and Denis Bermudez Castillo, center, of Orquestra Latino dance a few steps as band mate Frederico Saint-Hilaire pounds out the rhythm during the band's Hispanic Heritage Month performance at the middle school. Orquestra Latino will perform in Baumholder on Wednesday, Spangdahlem on Thursday, and Hanau on Friday.

Man sues government for release of flag-draped coffin photographs

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A journalism professor sued the U.S. government Monday to force the Defense Department to release pictures of flag-draped coffins of soldiers arriving in the United States from wars overseas.

Ralph Begleiter, a professor at the University of Delaware and a former world affairs correspondent for CNN, filed suit under the Freedom of Information Act for the release of government photos and video of coffins arriving at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

The Pentagon has refused to release those photos, saying it has begun enforcing a policy installed in 1991 intended to respect the privacy of the families of the dead soldiers.

Critics counter the government is trying to hide the human cost of the war from the public.

"They're public records," Begleiter's attorney, Daniel Mach, said in a telephone interview. "This is about the public's right to know the implications of U.S. foreign policy and to assess the price of war."

Begleiter's lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, lists the Defense Department and the Air Force as defendants. A Pentagon spokeswoman declined comment on the lawsuit.

Last April, the Air Force released scores of photos taken at Dover in response to a FOIA request. The pictures includes shots of the some of the coffins of the astronauts who died last year on the space shuttle Columbia. The Pentagon later called that release a mistake.

Begleiter filed a FOIA request and the Pentagon has acknowledged receiving it but has not responded further, Mach said. The lack of response enables Begleiter to sue, he said.

'Memphis Belle' moving to Ohio

ARLINGTON, Va. — World War II's B-17 "Memphis Belle," perhaps the most famous aircraft to have flowin in that war, will be moving from Memphis, Tenn., to the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force near Dayton, Ohio.

The bomber has been located in Memphis since 1946, when it was on loan from the Air Force first to volunteers and aviation enthusiasts, and then, in 1980 to the Memphis Belle Memorial Association, which became its leaseholder.

Air Force officials, who announced the decision Sunday, said the Memphis Belle should be in its new home by the end of the year.

Once in Ohio, work will begin to fully restore the bomber, a project expected to take several years, officials said. Once the restoration is completed, the aircraft will become one of the centerpieces of the museum's 350-aircraft collection, officials said.

From staff reports

AP

Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, second from left, is greeted Tuesday by Ayatollah Mohammed Baher al-Ulum, a member of Iraq's interim parliament, in Baghdad. Allawi said negotiators hammered out the basis for an agreement to end fighting with followers of radical Shiite Muslim cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

U.S. warplanes target Sadr City

BY FISNIK ABRASHI
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. warplanes pounded the vast Baghdad slum of Sadr City overnight after an American patrol came under gunfire, the military said Tuesday. In the Sunni Triangle city of Ramadi, a car bomb explosion was followed by clashes between U.S. troops and insurgents.

The violence comes as U.S. and Iraqi forces step up efforts to suppress an array of insurgent groups ahead of elections slated for January.

An Associated Press photographer saw two dead bodies and four wounded Iraqis at the scene of the clashes in the largely industrial al-Ziyout area of Ramadi.

U.S. troops and rebels exchanged gunfire following an explosion which police Capt. Nassir Hassan said was a car bomb. The Ramadi General Hospital confirmed two people were killed and four injured in the fighting. The military had no information on the clashes.

Later, a homemade bomb exploded as a U.S. military convoy was passing through the city, injuring one soldier and seven Iraqi civilians, said Marine spokesman 1st Lt. Lyle Gilbert.

Four Iraqis driving near the convoy were killed in the blast, said Dr. Diaa al-Haity at Ramadi General Hospital, which treated two of the wounded. But Gilbert had no reports of civilians killed.

A mangled vehicle could be seen near the bomb crater. The attack occurred near the Grand Mosque in the eastern section of the city.

In Sadr City, hospital officials said at least one person was killed and two injured when their car came under fire in overnight skirmishes between U.S. troops and fighters loyal to renegade Shiite Muslim cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

U.S. soldiers were fired on late Monday during a routine patrol of the slum, which is home to more than 2 million people, said Capt. Brian O'Malley, spokesman for the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division.

They returned fire as U.S. AC-130 planes targeted insurgent machine gun crews on the ground, he said.

Residents said they continued to hear loud explosions until dawn.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said the basis of an agreement to end the fighting was hammered out Tuesday.

"I met with some brothers in Sadr City and we laid the basis for an agreement to end all their armed manifestations and to give up all their arms," Allawi said in a speech to the National Council, which acts as a watchdog for his government.

He provided no details, saying talks were still going on.

In other violence Tuesday, a car bomb exploded as the Iraqi National Guard was conducting raids in the central city of Youssifiyah, said police Lt. Abbas Shechati. One civilian bystander was killed and four wounded in the blast, which also injured nine National Guard members, he said.

Another car bomb targeted a U.S. convoy at a traffic circle in the northern city of Mosul, wounding four American soldiers, said Capt. Angela Bowman, a military spokeswoman. Three Iraqi civilians driving behind the convoy were killed in the same blast, the military said in a later statement.

After the explosion, the convoy was engaged with a rocket propelled grenade and small arms fire, the statement said. At least three Iraqis were wounded in the incident, a nearby hospital said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, 1,058 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 803 died as a result of hostile action and 255 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 920 U.S. military members have died — 694 as a result of hostile action and 226 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Monday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two U.S. soldiers were killed Sunday by small arms fire at a traffic control point near Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. Russell L. Collier, 48, Harrison, Ark.; killed Sunday while manning a traffic control checkpoint in Taji, north of Baghdad; assigned to Arkansas National Guard, 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery Regiment, Russellville, Ark.

■ Army Sgt. Jack T. Hennessy, 21, Naperville, Ill.; killed Friday by small arms fire at a checkpoint in Baghdad; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Sgt. Christopher Potts, 38, Tiverton, R.I.; killed Sunday while manning a traffic control checkpoint in Taji, north of Baghdad; Rhode Island National Guard, Alpha Battery, 1st Battalion, 103rd Field Artillery, Providence, R.I.

■ Army Sgt. Michael A. Uvanni, 27, Rome, N.Y.; killed Friday in Samarra, Iraq, by a sniper; assigned to the Army National Guard, 2nd Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, Morrisonville, N.Y.

Too few troops in Iraq after Baghdad fell, Bremer says

White House refuses to say if request came from official to counter looting

BY SCOTT LINDLAW
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House refused to say Tuesday whether the top U.S. civilian official in Iraq after Saddam Hussein's ouster had asked the president for more troops to deal with the rapid descent of postwar Iraq into chaos.

In remarks published Tuesday, the official, L. Paul Bremer, said he arrived in Iraq on May 6, 2003, to find "horrid" looting and a very unstable situation — throwing new fuel onto the presidential campaign issue of whether the United States had sufficiently planned for the postwar situation in Iraq.

"We paid a big price for not stopping it because it established an atmosphere of lawlessness," Bremer said during an address to an insurance group in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va. The group released a summary of his remarks in Washington.

"We never had enough troops on the ground," Bremer said, while insisting that he was "more convinced than ever that regime change was the right thing to do."

White House spokesman Scott McClellan refused to say whether Bremer had pleaded with Bush for more troops. "We never get into reading out all the conversations they had," McClellan said.

Later, in an unusual public acknowledgment of internal dissent, the Bush campaign said that Bremer and the military brass had clashed on troop levels.

"Ambassador Bremer differed with the commanders in the field," said campaign spokesman Brian Jones. "That is his right, but the president has always said that he will listen to his commanders on the ground and give them the support they need for victory."

Kerry said Tuesday that Vice President Dick Cheney should acknowledge mistakes made in Iraq, pointing to remarks by Bremer that more troops had been needed in the aftermath of war.

"I hope tonight Mr. Cheney can acknowledge those mistakes," the Democratic presidential candidate said, referring to the debate between the vice president and Kerry's running mate Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C. "I hope Mr. Cheney can take responsibility."

Kerry said there was a "long list of mistakes" that the Bush administration had made in Iraq.

"I'm glad that Paul Bremer has finally admitted at least two of them, and the president of the United States needs to tell the truth to the American people,"

L. Paul Bremer

See related story on Page 11

Kerry said. The other mistake, Kerry said, was a failure to contain postwar mayhem and violence.

In a statement Monday night to The Washington Post, Bremer said he fully supported the Bush administration's strategy in Iraq.

"I believe that we currently have sufficient troop levels in Iraq," he said in the e-mailed statement, according to Tuesday's edition of the Post. He said references to troops levels related to the situation when he first arrived in Baghdad "when I believed we needed either more coalition troops or Iraqi security forces to address the looting."

Bremer addressed the Insurance Leadership Forum, at The Greenbrier resort in West Virginia. Portions of the speech were made available Monday night through a press release from the Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers.

In an earlier speech Sept. 17 at DePauw University, Bremer said he frequently raised the issue of too few troops within the Bush administration and "should have been even more insistent" when his advice was rejected. "The single most important change — the one thing that would have improved the situation — would have been having more troops in Iraq at the beginning and throughout" the occupation, Bremer said, according to the Banner-Graphic in Greencastle, Ind.

The final report by the American weapons inspector in Iraq — Charles Duelfer — will come out this week. In drafts, Duelfer found that Saddam did not have stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, but left signs that he had idle programs he someday hoped to revive.

September was 2nd-deadliest month in Iraq

BY ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — September was the second-deadliest month of the year for U.S. forces in Iraq and brought to nearly 500 the number who have died since the insurgency escalated in late March.

The Pentagon announced Sunday evening that two soldiers died late last week of injuries suffered earlier in the month, and another was killed Sept. 30 by a roadside bomb. That brought the month's death toll to 80, up from 65 in August and equal to the 80 who died in May.

The worst month of the year for U.S. troops in Iraq was April, when 135 died in a wave of insurgent attacks.

Some had hoped the violence would decrease after an interim Iraqi government was given sovereignty June 28, but the death toll has risen steadily since then.

Forty-two U.S. military deaths were recorded in June and 54 in July.

In remarks Monday to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the U.S. military death toll since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, exceeds 1,000.

He did not specify the number of deaths in Iraq, but said "it is in freedom's defense" that U.S. troops are fighting there as well as in Afghanistan.

"Amid the losses, the ugliness, the car bombings, the beheadings, the task is to remain steadfast," he said.

"Picture the kind of world we would have if the extremists were to prevail."

Rumsfeld: No hard evidence links Saddam with al-Qaida

Defense secretary later says his remarks misunderstood

BY RICHARD PYLE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in a speech that he knew of no clear link between the al-Qaida terror network and Saddam Hussein, although he later backed off the statement and said he was misunderstood.

Asked to describe the connection between the former Iraqi leader and the al-Qaida terror network at an appearance Monday at the Council on Foreign Relations, the Pentagon chief first refused to answer, then said: "To my knowledge, I have not seen any strong, hard evidence that links the two."

Several hours after his appearance, Rumsfeld issued a statement from the Pentagon saying his comment "regrettably was misunderstood" by some. He said he has said since September 2002 that there were ties between Osama bin Laden's terror group and Iraq.

"This assessment was based upon points provided to me by then-CIA Director George Tenet to describe the CIA's understanding of the al-Qaida relationship," he said. This included "solid evidence of the presence in Iraq of al-Qaida members, including some that have been in Baghdad," he said.

In his New York remarks, Rumsfeld said he had seen intelligence on the Saddam-al-Qaida question "migrate in amazing ways" in the past year, adding that there were "many differences of opinion in the intelligence community." He did not elaborate on that but said relationships among terrorists "evolve and change over time."

On whether Iraq had weapons of mass destruction before the war, Rumsfeld told the New York audience flatly that intelligence about such weapons before the invasion was faulty — a markedly different statement than what he told a television interviewer just a day earlier.

"It turns out that we have not found weapons of mass destruction," Rumsfeld said Monday in the speech. "Why the intelligence proved wrong, I'm not in a position to say, but the world is a lot better off with Saddam Hussein in jail."

In an interview aired Sunday on the Fox News Channel, Rumsfeld had said he believed Saddam, the deposed Iraqi president, had weapons of mass destruction before the war, and the truth may unfold over months or years.

"I believe they were there, and I'm surprised we have not found them yet," Rumsfeld said. "He has either hidden them so well or moved them somewhere else, or decided to destroy them ... in event of a conflict but kept the capability of developing them rapidly."

Rumsfeld also said he does not expect civil war in Iraq and pointed to the recent retaking of the former insurgent stronghold of Samarra as evidence of progress in stabilizing the country before elections in January.

"I don't think it's going to happen," he said. "But what has to be done in that country is what basically was done in Samarra over the last 48 hours."

Rumsfeld credited a process of first trying diplomacy, then threatening force and finally using it.

In response to other questions, Rumsfeld said Iran was engaged in "a lot of meddling" in Iraq, and Syria has been "notably unhelpful" by refusing to release frozen Iraqi assets and by allowing foreign terrorist movements across its border with Iraq.

AP

U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld fields questions Monday after his address to the Council on Foreign Relations in New York. Rumsfeld said time will tell if Saddam ever had weapons of mass destruction.

Influential Muslim clerics seek inclusive Iraq elections

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD— An influential Muslim Sunni cleric group said Tuesday that not holding elections in some areas of Iraq would be tantamount to fragmenting the country.

Fears have been raised that January's elections may not be possible in rebel-held areas of the Sunni Triangle unless they are cleared of anti-government forces through force or diplomacy.

Conflicting statements have come from Washington whether partial elections could be regarded as valid, but in recent days U.S. and Iraqi authorities in Baghdad have indicated all Iraqis must be given a chance to cast their ballots.

"We think that if some areas were excluded from the January election, then this could be a bad omen for the unity of the country because this means that (the excluded areas) would be separated from the rest of Iraq," said Mohammed Bashar al-Faidhi, a spokesman for the Association of Muslim Scholars.

"Such elections would be unfair because many people in some areas would not be able to vote and their opinions would be neglected. This would affect the credibility of the elections," he said.

Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said in an interview with Al-Arabiya TV on Sept. 27, that residents who might not be able to vote in such areas in the January elections would be able to cast their ballots elsewhere. He did not elaborate.

"Everybody without exception will have the right to vote. We will provide them as much security and stability for proper elections as we can," he said. "This election will not be ideal, but it will be a beginning."

The association wields strong influence among Iraq's Sunni minority, from which the staunchest opponents of the U.S. occupation have emerged. The group has also been instrumental in negotiating the release of several Western hostages kidnapped in Iraq.

In a separate development, U.S. troops arrested one member of the association, Sheik Fa'iq Mohan, after raiding his house 25 miles south of Baghdad, said the group's spokesman Hassan an-Ani.

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told the U.S. Congress last month that elections must be held throughout the country, including areas gripped by violence. But Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said that if insurgents prevent Iraqis from voting in some areas, a partial vote would be better than none at all.

Asked about Rumsfeld's comments, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell repeated the State Department's assertion that all Iraqis must have the chance to vote if the election is to be credible.

Marines distribute condolence, repair payments in Najaf

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. Marines have distributed $367,300 in condolence and damage repair payments in the holy city of Najaf since three weeks of fighting ended there in late August, the military said in a statement Tuesday.

In the second round of payments, more than $200,300 were distributed Monday to residents who were caught in the crossfire, the statement said. Payments will continue as long as needed to meet each valid case, it said.

The statement did not specify how many families have benefited from the payments.

U.S. and Iraqi troops fought for three weeks with followers of renegade Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in Najaf, 100 miles south of Baghdad. The clashes ended with a peace deal brokered by Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani.

> *"We are working hard to demonstrate goodwill to the people of Najaf who incurred loses during fighting in August."*
>
> **Col. Anthony Haslam**
> Commander of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit

"We are working hard to demonstrate goodwill to the people of Najaf who incurred loses during fighting in August," said Col. Anthony Haslam, commander of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"Now that Najaf is stable and under control of Iraqi security forces, we're working with the local government around the clock to rebuild and revitalize this city for its people."

Condolence payments are made to express sympathy to those who were injured or lost family members during the fighting. Collateral damage payments are intended for Iraqis who suffered damage to their homes, businesses or other property.

Marines are also spending millions of dollars to contract Iraqis to repair infrastructure damaged in the fighting, the military said.

IN THE WORLD

Three Americans win Nobel Prize in physics

BY MATT MOORE
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Americans David J. Gross, H. David Politzer and Frank Wilczek won the 2004 Nobel Prize in physics on Tuesday for their explanation of the force that binds particles inside the atomic nucleus.

Their work has helped science get closer to "a theory for everything," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in awarding the physics prize.

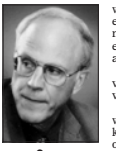
It was a 1973 breakthrough by the trio — researchers at the University of California, Santa Barbara, the California Institute of Technology and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology — that explained how the so-called "strong force" works. The force keeps quarks, the building blocks of protons and neutrons, tightly bound to one another even though the positive electromagnetic charge of protons in the nucleus would break them apart.

The three physicists came by their discovery through a brilliant and nonintuitive insight. They showed that unlike forces such as electromagnetism and gravity, which grow more powerful as two particles get closer to one another, the strong force actually gets weaker as two quarks converge. It is as if the particles were connected by a rubber band that pulls them together more tightly as it stretches.

Wilczek and Politzer, 55, were still graduate students at the time of the discovery; Gross, now 63, was a young professor.

Politzer

Wilczek


Gross

Their achievement cemented the theory of quantum chromodynamics, which describes the interactions of quarks and other subatomic particles inside the atomic nucleus. It also filled a critical remaining gap in what physicists refer to as the Standard Model, the theory that governs physics at the microscopic scale. It accounts for the behavior of three out of nature's four fundamental forces — electromagnetism, the strong force and the weak force, which governs radioactive decay.

The ultimate goal of physics would be to unify the Standard Model with Einstein's theory of general relativity, which describes how gravity works and predicts the existence of black holes, wormholes and other far-out phenomena. The work of Wilczek, Gross and Politzer brought science one step closer to that "grand dream," the Swedish academy noted.

Alfred Nobel, the wealthy Swedish industrialist and inventor of dynamite who endowed the prizes, left only vague guidelines for the selection committee.

In his will, he said the prize should be given to those who "shall have conferred the greatest benefit on mankind" and "shall have made the most important discovery or invention within the field of physics."

The academy, which also chooses the chemistry and economics winners, invited nominations from previous recipients and experts in the fields before cutting down its choices.

The winner of the Nobel Prize in chemistry will be named Wednesday and the literature prize will be announced Thursday. The Bank of Sweden Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel will be announced Oct. 11.

The winner of the coveted peace prize — the only one not awarded in Sweden — will be announced Friday in Oslo, Norway.

The prizes, which include a $1.3 million check, a gold medal and a diploma, are presented on Dec. 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death in 1896.

Afghan leader makes rare campaign stop

The Associated Press

GHAZNI, Afghanistan — Afghan President Hamid Karzai made only his second successful campaign stop outside the safety of the capital on Tuesday, telling a crowd of 10,000 people that historic elections this weekend will deliver them from a quarter-century of war.

Security was extremely tight, with U.S. bodyguards — machine guns strapped around their shoulders and wraparound sunglasses covering their eyes — and hundreds of Afghan security forces on hand. American helicopters flew overhead and every participant in the rally had to pass through security checkpoints.

Karzai said the election was a golden opportunity to build a new future for a country that has known nothing but war, drought and poverty for more than two decades.

"Brothers and sisters of Afghanistan, I ask you to vote for me freely, with no pressure," Karzai told the crowd in Ghazni, about 75 miles south of Kabul. "We want a proud Afghanistan, a stable Afghanistan, a peaceful Afghanistan."

Karzai, the overwhelming favorite to beat 17 rivals and win Saturday's vote, has largely remained ensconced in his heavily guarded palace since he survived a rocket attack on his helicopter at a campaign stop in eastern Afghanistan in September. His vice presidential running mate was targeted later, surviving a bomb attack on his convoy in northeastern Afghanistan.

But after the rally on Tuesday, the president mingled with the enormous crowd, shaking hands with an old man who pressed closer to meet him.

AP

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, far left, waves to supporters Tuesday during a campaign stop in Ghazni, Afghanistan. Afghans will go to the polls Saturday in the country's first-ever direct elections.

"Don't push him! Don't push him!" Karzai told his security detail as they tried to keep the man away. "This is democracy. This is emotion!"

Tuesday was by far the most active day in a presidential campaign that had previously been conducted largely behind closed doors, with candidates quietly courting the support of tribal elders who can influence whole villages to vote along with them.

In Pakistan, an estimated 740,000 Afghan refugees signed up to vote during a four-day registration drive, said a spokesman for the International Organization for Migration.

Israel: Talks to end conflict

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — An Israeli missile strike killed a leader of Islamic Jihad and another member of the violent group Tuesday, a week into an Israeli military offensive aimed at ending Palestinian rocket fire on Israeli towns.

In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell said he hoped the Israeli campaign in northern Gaza — the deadliest in the strip in four years of Israeli-Palestinian fighting — would end soon.

Nearly half the 70 Palestinians killed and 60 percent of the more than 400 wounded in the campaign were civilians, Palestinian hospital officials said. Israeli troops have also demolished dozens of houses to carve out paths for tanks, mainly in the Jebaliya refugee camp, scene of the heaviest fighting.

An Israeli military official said Palestinian security officials have delivered messages through mediators, offering to try to prevent rocket fire on Israeli towns if Israel ends the operation. However, Israel appears to be in no rush to pull back.

From wire reports

Spanish troops will not return to Iraq, defense minister says

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Defense Minister Jose Bono on Tuesday backed away from his statement that Spain would consider sending troops back to Iraq if requested by the United Nations, explaining that he misspoke.

"Spain is in no way willing to send troops to Iraq," Bono insisted in an interview with the private Cope radio station.

Referring to remarks to the contrary he made Monday on the private Telecinco television channel, he added, "I didn't get it right, I expressed myself inadequately."

Bono raised eyebrows when he told Telecinco that "if the U.N. asked us to go to cover the elections, as in Afghanistan, we would consider it, and we would take it to Parliament."

The comment contradicted repeated government statements that troops would not be sent back to Iraq under any condition.

Fulfilling an election pledge, Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero withdrew Spain's 1,300 troops from Iraq as soon as he won elections on March 14. The decision was criticized by many who supported the Iraq invasion led by the United States and Britain.

Aristide followers behead Haitian policemen

BY AMY BRACKEN
The Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Machete-wielding supporters of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide are turning their wrath on Haiti's demoralized police force, beheading some of their victims in a campaign imitative of the insurgency in Iraq.

Seven of at least 18 people killed in the turmoil in Port-au-Prince have been police officers, judicial police chief Michael Lucius said Monday. He said an eighth officer remains hospitalized in serious condition with a gunshot wound to the head.

Three of the slain policemen were decapitated after being shot during clashes with pro-Aristide demonstrators last week.

Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue, who is leading a U.S.-backed transitional government installed after Aristide's ouster in February, has said the police killings were part of an offensive by pro-Aristide gangs dubbed "Operation Baghdad."

Deadly clashes continued Monday between street gangs in Cite Soleil, a Port-au-Prince shantytown teeming with Aristide supporters where police shot and killed two gang leaders last week.

"I don't know how many or who was killed, but people were killed," said Cite Soleil Mayor Corneille Jean-Jorel, speaking by telephone from the seaside slum.

The violence in Port-au-Prince, in southern Haiti, has coincided with the chaotic aftermath of Tropical Storm Jeanne in the northwest.

As rescuers recovered more bodies from the devastating floods and mudslides around Gonaives, the official toll rose Monday to 1,870 with another 884 people reported missing and most presumed dead.

About 150 Aristide supporters used torched cars and rocks to block roads into the downtown Port-Au-Prince slum of Bel Air on Monday, accusing police of night-time raids. Police fired in the air in an effort to disperse the mob as U.N. peacekeepers guarded the nearby National Palace.

"We'll be in the streets until death or Aristide comes back," said Milo Fenelon, 24. "We won't stop. If they come in here, we're going to cut off their heads. It's going to be just like Baghdad."

Some of the demonstrators carried machetes and rocks. At least two had guns — a rifle and a homemade shotgun. Some wore masks, others covered their faces with T-shirts. A burning tire lit in the middle of a road sent acrid smoke into the air.

"We will fight until the return of Aristide," said Georges Jean, a 33-year-old mechanic. "We can also cut off Latortue's head."

AP

Torched cars, rocks and other debris are used Monday to block a main entrance to the pro-Aristide slum of Bel-Air in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Powell confident Brazil won't build nuclear weapons

BY STAN LEHMAN
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO , Brazil — U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, opening a two-day visit Tuesday, said Tuesday he is confident Brazil has no intention of becoming a nuclear weapons power, but he called on Brazil to work out differences with the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency over inspections.

"Brazil is a nation the U.S. values as a close partner in advancing prosperity, democracy, and security, not only in the hemisphere but around the globe," he said shortly after arriving in Brazil's biggest city.

"The U.S. welcomes Brazil's growing leadership in the Americas and on the world stage," he said.

Powell

Powell arrived here on his first visit to Brazil as secretary of state less than two weeks ahead of a visit by a team of International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors to Brazil. The IAEA wants unimpeded access to a factory that produces nuclear fuel.

Brazil has indicated that it wants less stringent standards than the IAEA is seeking.

"The IAEA has worked out these kinds of differences in the past; I expect they will work it out this time with Brazil," Powell told reporterssaid while en route Monday night.

"It's a question of how much visibility they get in certain technical aspects of their facilities but that's something to be worked out."

"I hope they find a solution," he said.

Powell praised the cooperative efforts Brazil is making internationally in a number of areas. He offered no hint of concern about Brazil's move to the left under President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva.

Silva has been seeking greater power and influence for Brazil on the world stage, but he is no longer using the harsh rhetoric of two years ago when he was a candidate for the presidency.

Powell spoke kindly of Brazil Monday night, praising the "tremendous work" of Brazilian peacekeepers in Haiti who are trying to help bring stability to the country as it moves toward the election of a new president.

Powell also said Brazil was helpful in bringing about a peaceful outcome to political tensions in Venezuela.

Brazilian officials were expected to tell Powell of their interest in obtaining a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. Powell was noncommittal on that subject during the flight here.

Powell plans a stop to hurricane-ravaged Grenada while en route home on Wednesday.

AP

Britain's Conservative Party leader Michael Howard delivers a speech Tuesday at his party's annual conference in Bournemouth, England.

British leader: Blair's credibility destroyed

BY ED JOHNSON
The Associated Press

BOURNEMOUTH, England — Conservative leader Michael Howard, struggling to convince voters he and his party are electable, said Tuesday the Iraq war had destroyed Prime Minister Tony Blair's credibility.

Howard, who supported the U.S.-led offensive, said he still believed the world was safer without Saddam Hussein in power. But he accused Blair of being untruthful and misusing intelligence on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

"In the run-up to the war, Tony Blair did not tell the truth," said Howard, in his first speech to the party's annual conference since becoming leader.

"He did not give a truthful account of the intelligence he received. He did not behave as a British prime minister should," Howard said to loud applause from delegates. "I hope we will not face another war. But the world is a very dangerous place, and you can never be sure. What if this prime minister asks people to trust him again? Could the British people trust him a second time?"

Howard, who took the helm 11 months ago, has given the party renewed energy and vigor. His sharp wit, uncompromising leadership and experience — having served as a minister under former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her successor John Major — appear to have halted internal squabbling in the party.

But a new poll suggests he faces a battle to convince voters he is electable. Only 12 percent of respondents to a survey for the British Broadcasting Corp. thought Howard would ever be prime minister, while 78 percent said he would never hold the country's top job. Even among Conservative voters, 65 percent said Howard would never be premier.

Pollster ICM interviewed 1,004 people from Oct. 1-3. The margin of error was three percentage points.

Howard hopes a raft of new policies floated during the four day conference in Bournemouth, southern England, will win support for him and the party.

Chechnya's president sworn in

GROZNY, Russia — Nearly five months after his predecessor was assassinated, Maj. Gen. Alu Alkhanov was sworn in Tuesday as Chechnya's president in a heavily guarded ceremony seen as another step in the Kremlin's strategy to undermine rebels in the war-ravaged region.

Russian and Chechen officials took unprecedented security measures to safeguard Alkhanov's inauguration, including flooding the streets of the capital Grozny with hundreds of heavily armed police and security officials and keeping the location of the event secret until just before it was due to start.

Alkhanov, who was the head of the region's police, was elected Aug. 29 in a vote widely criticized as rigged.

"Today we open a new page in the history of our people," said Alkhanov. "Only together may we be victorious over evil and do away with terrorism on our land."

Authorities are concerned that Chechen rebels and their supporters are increasingly turning to terrorism. Three weeks of terror attacks in August and September — culminating in the bloody hostage-taking at School No. 1 in Beslan — killed more than 430 people.

Violations in election claimed

TBILISI, Georgia — Opposition candidate Sergei Bagapsh led the race to become president of the breakaway Georgian region of Abkhazia, according to preliminary results released Tuesday, but his main challenger charged there were many violations.

The uncertainty surrounding Abkhazia's first openly contested presidential election has fueled tensions in the Black sea province, which has run its own affairs since driving out Georgian government troops in 1993. The region's independence is unrecognized anywhere in the world.

Sergei Smyr, chairman of the regional Central Election Commission, did not release vote totals but said Bagapsh led in all districts except for one region that has a large ethnic Georgian population.

Bagapsh had claimed victory earlier Tuesday, but his main rival, Prime Minister Raul Khadzhimba, had called for Sunday's vote to be voided and for new elections to be held.

"We have presented a mass of breaches registered by the observers to the prosecutors' office and to the court," Khadzhimba was quoted as saying by Russia's ITAR-Tass news agency.

From The Associated Press

IN THE STATES

Analysts: Anti-terror plan will cost $15 billion to implement

BY JESSE J. HOLLAND
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A House Republican bill to implement the Sept. 11 panel's recommendations could cost almost $15 billion over five years, congressional budget officials said, as the Senate moved Tuesday to finish its version of the legislation.

The Congressional Budget Office — Congress's nonpartisan budget analysts — estimated that the House bill, which creates a national intelligence director as well as increases anti-terrorism, identity theft, illegal immigration and border security powers, could cost $14.9 billion between 2005-2009.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said it would be worth it.

"What does it cost us to have a 9/11 event? What would it cost us to have another 9/11 event?" he asked Tuesday.

The speaker said he thinks "$15 billion is a — and I don't even know if that's correct — sound insurance policy to ensure that we protect the people in this country."

House leaders plan to have their bill up for a final vote later this week. The Senate moved Tuesday to also get a final vote on its bill before the end of the week.

Senators, on a 85-10 vote, decided to limit debate and amendments on their legislation. That makes it more likely that the bill could be finished before the Senate's proposed adjournment date of Friday.

The Senate bill — which the CBO said would cost $700 million before adding the cost of the amendments that senators have added in the last few days — does not contain the various additional powers in the House version.

If the two bills do not match after final passage, the House and Senate must come together in a negotiating committee to hammer out a version that can be sent to the White House for the president's signature.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, the chief GOP sponsor of the Senate bill, said Monday that she and chief Democratic sponsor Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn., already are meeting with House Intelligence members to try and work out some of the issues.

"I hope that we can complete action this week," Collins said. "If not, then I think we could complete action in October and come back later this month for a day to vote on the conference report."

Some Democrats say the job would be easier if the White House would help.

"The president can pick up the phone and tell Tom DeLay and Hastert and say, 'Look, I want the bill and quit fooling around and get this thing narrowed down,' and it's done," Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., told The Associated Press in an interview Monday.

"So, there's no mystery here," Dodd said. "It seems quite clear to me the administration is hostile to the idea."

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry is greeted Tuesday before speaking at a town hall meeting in Tipton, Iowa.

Kerry says Bush, Cheney should admit Iraq errors

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

See related story on Page 7

TIPTON, Iowa — Sen. John Kerry said Tuesday that Vice President Dick Cheney should acknowledge mistakes made in Iraq, pointing to remarks by the former head of the U.S. occupation that more troops had been needed in the aftermath of war.

"I hope tonight Mr. Cheney can acknowledge those mistakes," the Democratic presidential candidate said. "I hope Mr. Cheney can take responsibility."

Cheney faced Kerry's running mate, North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, in the vice presidential debate Tuesday night in Cleveland.

Kerry said there was a "long list of mistakes" that the Bush administration had made in Iraq.

"I'm glad that Paul Bremer has finally admitted at least two of them, and the president of the United States needs to tell the truth to the American people," Kerry said.

The United States did not have enough troops in Iraq after ousting Saddam Hussein, failed to stop widespread looting and "paid a big price for not stopping it because it established an atmosphere of lawlessness," Bremer said Monday in an address to an insurance group in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.

Bremer returned to the United States after Iraqi leaders retook political control in June.

Bush-Cheney spokesman Brian Jones said in response to Kerry's remarks, "The president has consistently said he will listen to the commanders on the ground for military advice. He did so at the beginning of the war, and he will continue to do so until the Iraqi people have achieved a free and democratic nation of their own. John Kerry's second-guessing of commanders on the ground and his constant attempts to undermine our effort in Iraq sends the wrong message to our troops, our allies and our enemies."

Kerry said voters should consider the fact that the president hasn't admitted mistakes in Iraq as a reflection of his judgment.

The Massachusetts senator said the question was whether the president was "constitutionally incapable of acknowledging the truth" or "just so stubborn."

Telemarketing fraud probe nabs 135

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An international investigation of telemarketing fraud schemes has resulted in the arrests of more than 135 people in cases involving more than 5 million victims, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced Tuesday.

The fraud cost victims an estimated $1 billion and included such schemes as bogus lotteries, fake sweepstakes and credit cards, offers of nonexistent investments and tax fraud, prosecutors said.

Some cases involved so-called "recovery rooms" in which people posing as law enforcement officials offer to help victims recover losses for a fee.

Many of those victimized are elderly. One recent study by AARP of one lottery scheme showed that victims had an average age of 74.

"These cases show how ruthless criminal telemarketers can be in victimizing members of the public, especially the most vulnerable segments of our society," Ashcroft said.

The initiative, dubbed "Operation Roaming Charge," has resulted in the arrests of about 100 people in the United States and 35 in several other countries since it began in January. About 70 people have been convicted on fraud charges so far in the United States and Canada.

In addition to the criminal charges, the Federal Trade Commission has brought 27 civil complaints against deceptive or unfair telemarketing practices. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission and U.S. Postal Inspection Service also took civil actions against people accused of telemarketing fraud.

About 190 search warrants have been executed in the United States and Canada.

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Lead contamination

WASHINGTON — Dozens of the nation's largest drinking water utilities have tried to hide lead contamination and failed to correct problems, it was reported Tuesday.

An examination of 65 of the 3,000 largest utilities found cities such as Philadelphia, Boston, New York City, Providence, R.I., and Portland, Ore., are "manipulating the results of tests used to detect lead in water, violating federal law and putting millions of Americans at risk," The Washington Post said.

State and federal regulators helped utilities avoid expensive ways of reducing lead in drinking water, the paper said.

The Environmental Protection Agency has required drinking water utilities since 1991 to reduce contamination if lead concentrations exceed 15 parts per billion in more than 10 percent of taps sampled.

From The Associated Press

U.S.: Briton plotted shoe bombings with Reid

Conspiracy with man sentenced for trying to blow up plane alleged

BY CURT ANDERSON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. authorities brought charges Monday against a British man they contend conspired with admitted al-Qaida member Richard Reid to use shoe bombs to blow up planes in midair.

A seven-count federal grand jury indictment unsealed in Boston charges Saajid Badat, 25, with attempted murder, trying to destroy an aircraft and other charges related to the alleged conspiracy with Reid, who also is a British citizen and Muslim convert.

Reid's attempt to blow up an American Airlines Paris-to-Miami flight on Dec. 22, 2001, was thwarted by attendants and passengers after he tried to light a fuse leading to the concealed plastic explosives in his sneakers.

The indictment says Badat "admitted that he was asked to conduct a shoe bombing like Reid" when he was arrested in Britain last November. Bomb components similar to Reid's — including an explosive compound known as TATP — were found at his home, the indictment said.

"The alert passengers and crew of Flight 63 prevented Richard Reid from carrying out his deadly mission," said Attorney General John Ashcroft. "The resulting investigation led us and our British colleagues to Badat."

The indictment indicates Badat was assisting Reid while plotting his own separate attack. Like Reid on another date, he went to the British Embassy in Brussels, Belgium, on Sept. 11, 2001, falsely claiming his passport had been stolen and getting a replacement.

Badat allegedly got his "custom-made" shoe bombs in Afghanistan, where al-Qaida had training camps.

Badat, a British citizen, pleaded innocent last month to similar British charges and faces trial there beginning Feb. 28. Ashcroft said the United States has "a keen interest" in seeking Badat's eventual extradition to stand trial in this country but also recognized the British intend to put him on trial first.

Reid is serving a life prison sentence in the United States after pleading guilty in Boston federal court to the airline bomb plot. The flight, carrying 184 passengers and 14 crewmembers, was diverted to Boston after Reid was subdued. No one was hurt.

Badat also faces a potential life sentence if convicted on all U.S. charges.

The grand jury returned the indictment Sept. 1 but it was kept under seal for more than a month. Democrats have accused President Bush of using the war on terror to boost his re-election campaign — including the timing of Justice Department terrorism cases — but Ashcroft rejected that.

The "sole consideration," Ashcroft told a news conference Monday, is to "maximize the security and safety of America."

After Badat's arrest, the Homeland Security Department and FBI each issued warnings that al-Qaida remained interested in using personal items to bomb aircraft. It is now commonplace for U.S. travelers to remove their shoes for screening before boarding a commercial flight.

AP

An artist's drawing depicts Saajid Badat as he appeared at Bow Street Magistrate's Court in central London on Dec. 4, 2003.

AP

Astronaut Gordon Cooper breaks into a broad grin after his 22-orbit earth flight aboard his spacecraft, Faith 7, in May 1963. Cooper, one of the original Mercury astronauts who were pioneers in human space exploration, has died. He was 77.

Astronaut Cooper dies

Member of Mercury program first to nap in space

BY PAUL CHAVEZ
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Gordon Cooper, who was the youngest and perhaps cockiest member of the original seven Mercury astronauts and set the space endurance record that helped clear the way for the first moon landing, has died. He was 77.

Cooper died Monday at his home in Ventura, NASA officials said in a statement. He died of natural causes, said Mitch Breese, of the county medical examiner's office.

Cooper had been suffering from heart problems and showed symptoms of heart failure on Saturday and Sunday, former Mercury astronaut Wally Schirra said.

"We were probably the most bonded seven men in the history of aviation and space and mankind, and to lose another one is pretty tough for us," Schirra told Associated Press Radio.

As one of the nation's first astronauts, Cooper became a hero to a generation of Americans in the early 1960s as the country tried to catch the Soviet Union in the space race.

On May 15, 1963, Cooper piloted Faith 7, the Mercury program's last flight, circling the globe 22 times in 34 hours and 20 minutes. The mission made him the last astronaut to orbit Earth alone and the first to take a nap during the journey.

Cooper became the first man to make a second orbital flight two years later during the Gemini 5 mission, when he and Charles Conrad established a space endurance record by traveling more than 3.3 million miles in 190 hours, 56 minutes.

Cooper's rambunctious attitude was immortalized in Tom Wolfe's book "The Right Stuff" and the 1983 movie of the same name.

Three of the original Mercury astronauts are still alive — John Glenn, Scott Carpenter and Schirra.

Virgil "Gus" Grissom died in the 1967 Apollo 1 fire; Donald K. "Deke" Slayton died of brain cancer in 1993; and Alan Shepard Jr., died of leukemia in 1998.

Cooper, born March 6, 1927, in Shawnee, Okla., joined the Marines during World War II and transferred to the Air Force in 1949.

Gordon is survived by his wife, Suzan, and their children.

CIA nominee says no

WASHINGTON — CIA Director Porter Goss' choice for the agency's No. 3 position said Monday he has turned down the job after a news report revealed he had resigned from the CIA under pressure 23 years ago after a shoplifting arrest.

But Michael V. Kostiw will remain with the agency, serving as senior adviser to Goss, who took office last month.

The Washington Post, citing unidentified sources, reported Sunday that Kostiw, then a case officer, had been caught shoplifting in late 1981. After Kostiw took a polygraph test, the agency placed him on administrative leave for several weeks, it said.

Agency officials then arranged for misdemeanor theft charges to be dropped in return for his resignation and agreement to get counseling, the newspaper said.

In a statement issued by the CIA, Kostiw cited the "recent press articles and attendant speculation" in his decision to turn down the executive director job Goss has offered him.

FEC seeks ruling

WASHINGTON — Federal election officials have asked a judge to stay a ruling striking down several government regulations on political fund-raising, arguing that rules interpreting the nation's campaign finance law are crucial as the election approaches.

The Federal Election Commission also asked U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly to make it clear that the rules she overturned will remain in effect while the FEC appeals her September decision.

At issue are FEC rules spelling out how the commission interprets a 2002 campaign finance law that bars national party committees and federal candidates from raising corporate, union and unlimited donations and broadly bans the use of such "soft money" in federal elections.

From The Associated Press

Report shows how FBI shifted agents after 9/11

BY CURT ANDERSON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When the FBI shifted its focus to anti-terrorism efforts, investigations targeting illegal drugs, organized crime and white-collar crime took the biggest hit, according to a Justice Department report Monday.

The report by Glenn A. Fine, the department's inspector general, provides the first detailed look at where the FBI moved resources following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Fine said the review, which drew no conclusions about the wisdom of the changes, did show that the FBI's changes "generally were in line with its post-Sept. 11 priorities."

The greatest reduction occurred in the FBI's organized crime and drug program, which lost 758 agents to counterterrorism matters between 2000 and 2003. The largest cuts took place in investigations involving Mexican drug organizations, primarily in the Southwest, the report said.

Another 321 agents were shifted from white-collar crime investigations — especially health care fraud — and 286 were moved from violent crime programs such as tracking down fugitives.

The report found that the FBI opened about 17,000 fewer cases in the programs most affected by the shift in priorities. Of those, the biggest change was the 11,600 fewer fugitive cases opened by the FBI.

However, even though the FBI reduced by 26 percent the number of agents working bank robberies, there were 485 more such cases opened in 2003 compared with 2000.

Other federal agencies are picking up the slack in some areas, such as the Drug Enforcement Administration, which is increasing its focus on drug investigations.

The report also found that in 2003 the FBI used more agents for terrorism investigations than were allocated for that purpose by its budget. More than 3,600 agents worked terrorism matters last year, compared with 2,811 set by the budget.

The FBI had no immediate comment on the report, which was released publicly in edited form to remove classified material.

Diversity on the ticket in Senate elections

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Voters this fall could take small steps toward increased diversity in the Senate.

After the election, the chamber will have its first black member in six years, and the possibility exists that one or two Hispanic candidates could end a quarter-century absence of Latino representation.

Five female senators are up for re-election in November, and three women are running for open seats. The current composition of the Senate includes a record 14 women, a number unlikely to get bigger.

Three current senators are of a minority background, including Hawaii's two 80-year-old Democrats: Daniel Inouye, son of Japanese immigrants, is up for re-election; and Daniel Akaka, who is of Chinese and Native Hawaiian descent.

The third is retiring Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., the son of a Portuguese immigrant mother and an American Indian father.

The Democrat looking to replace him is state attorney general Ken Salazar, a Hispanic-American locked in a tight race with beer baron Pete Coors, the GOP nominee.

At least one of the 34 Senate races this year is guaranteed to send a minority candidate to Washington. In Illinois, two black candidates — Democratic state legislator Barack Obama and former ambassador Alan Keyes, a Republican — hope to replace GOP Sen. Peter Fitzgerald, who is not seeking a second term. Most polls show Obama with a wide lead.

Obama's keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in July put him on the path to a bright political future, says University of Maryland political scientist Ron Walters, who worked on the presidential campaigns of Jesse Jackson Sr.

Assuming Republicans retain control, "it's going to be very, very difficult for [Obama] to get things done in the Senate," Walters said. "White Democrats in the Senate are virtually shut out in policy-making as it is."

The last black senator was Carol Moseley Braun, who represented Illinois from 1993 to 1999 and ran for the Democratic presidential nomination this year.

Rep. Brad Carson, D-Okla., a member of the Cherokee tribe, could replace Campbell as the Senate's only American Indian if he should defeat Republican Tom Coburn.

There have been three Hispanic members in the Senate's history, all from New Mexico. The last was Democrat Joseph Montoya from 1964 to 1977.

Colorado's Salazar could break through, hailing from a state with a growing Latino population.

In Florida, Republicans are banking on Cuban-born lawyer and former Bush cabinet member Mel Martinez to succeed retiring Sen. Bob Graham, a Democrat.

Former state education commissioner Betty Castor is Martinez's Democratic opponent in the tough Florida Senate race. Castor and Majette are two of three Democratic women contending for open Senate seats. The other is Inez Tenenbaum in South Carolina.

Among female incumbents up for re-election are Sens. Barbara Boxer of California, Blanche Lincoln of Arkansas and Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, each popular Democrats in their respective states.

One certainty will not change: The Senate will continue to be dominated overwhelmingly by white males.

"It's the most exclusive white men's club in the world, and that power is given up very reluctantly," said Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Woman and Politics at Rutgers University. "That and the presidency are the two hardest nuts to crack."

AP photos

The Illinois race between Republican Alan Keyes, left, and Democrat Barack Obama guarantees to send a black member to the U.S. Senate for the first time in six years.

A varied minority

The Associated Press

Female and minority members currently in the U.S. Senate, and the year they began serving:

Women:

Barbara Mikulski, D-Md. (1987)
Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. (1993)
Barbara Boxer, D-Calif. (1993)
Patty Murray, D-Wash. (1993)
Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas (1993)
Olympia Snowe, R-Maine (1995)
Mary Landrieu, D-La. (1997)
Susan Collins, R-Maine (1997)
Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark. (1999)
Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y. (2001)
Deborah Stabenow, D-Mich. (2001)
Maria Cantwell, D-Wash. (2001)
Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska (2002)
Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C. (2003)

Asian-American:

Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii (1963) Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii (1990)

American Indian:

Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo. (1993)

Source: U.S. Senate Historical Office

Coroner: Live man's organs removed

DENVER — A western Colorado coroner said Monday that two hospitals allowed vital organs to be removed from a man before they had proven he was brain dead, and he declared the death a homicide.

The cause of William Rardin's death was "removal of his internal organs by an organ recovery team," Montrose County Coroner Mark Young said. He said he did not believe the case should be a criminal matter, but that it "should lead to a clarification of what the accepted standard is."

Young said Montrose Memorial Hospital in Montrose and St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction did not follow "accepted medical standards" or meet state guidelines in determining that Rardin, 31, was brain dead after he shot himself last month.

Rardin's heart, liver, pancreas and two kidneys were transplanted into waiting patients.

Officials with St. Mary's and the organization that coordinates organ donation in Colorado and Wyoming insisted the surgeons followed rules.

Dan Prinster, a vice president at St. Mary's, said the hospital was willing to have a third party evaluate how Rardin's case was handled.

From The Associated Press

Tutu makes stand off-Broadway

BY VERENA DOBNIK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Moving from the pulpit to the stage, Desmond Tutu is appearing off-Broadway in a drama blasting the Bush administration's handling of Guantanamo Bay detainees.

The retired South African prelate and Nobel laureate appeared Saturday night at a tiny theater in lower Manhattan, playing a judge in "Guantanamo: Honor Bound To Defend Freedom." The play portrays the plight of British detainees at the U.S. naval base in Cuba.

Tutu's engagement is limited to two performances; the second is on Sunday afternoon.

Standing onstage before a scene resembling holding pens at the detention camp, Tutu said he chose to appear in the play to highlight concerns about the treatment of the prisoners.

Tutu

"I hope this will help to put this particular issue in the public arena unambiguously so [the American] people can say, 'Is this what we want to support?' " Tutu told reporters before the play began.

Weeks before the presidential election, Tutu is drawing attention to the treatment of hundreds of suspected terrorists being held by the United States. Last week, a Briton at Guantanamo said he was tortured and held in solitary confinement for almost two years by the American military — a fate also alleged by other detainees.

The Pentagon says its policy is to treat all prisoners humanely.

Tutu, 73, retired from office as Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town in 1996 and was named archbishop emeritus shortly after. He is viewed as an authority on human rights, having spent decades challenging South Africa's apartheid regime — activism for which he won a Nobel Peace Prize.

Tutu compared the Pentagon's treatment of the Guantanamo prisoners to that of blacks under the racist apartheid regime.

"They are using the same kind of methods used under apartheid. For me, it's déjà vu," he said.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send reservists home first

I am a reservist serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and want to comment on the letter "Make deployments equal" and the article "Report: Army could shorten combat tours" (both Sept. 28).

The soldier's letter is correct. I have seen active-duty units leave after six to seven months while the reservists do tours in excess of 12 months. We are all soldiers, and this really does not affect me (as I will be returning to full-time duty when my deployment ends), but it is unfair to the reservists who are losing out on promotions and pay raises with their career jobs back home.

The government needs to think of some better incentives to protect the soldiers, or attempt to reimburse them in some better way. But also the Army should make sure that, in fairness, that if there are all these extra soldiers around that it should be the reservists going back to their careers and not the soldiers, whose careers *are* being soldiers. This might also help to retain Reserve and National Guard soldiers.

Which brings me to the article. It said that the generals say it is a bad idea to maintain numbers in country for long rotations. But per above, the military is sending soldiers home early, so what numbers are they referring too? Also as stated above, creating better incentives may help retention. With this, they will have a much easier time maintaining the numbers they say they need.

Sgt. James Yeiser
Camp Buehring, Kuwait

All serve long deployments

The writer of the Sept. 28 letter "Make deployments equal," a National Guardsman, needs to check his facts. He stated that he was going to do a 13-month tour in Iraq while active-duty troops were doing tours half of that. I do not know of any active-duty units that have not done the full year. I have recently returned from a tour in Iraq with the 1st Armored Division. Our tour was 15-16 months. Last time I checked, 15 was not half of 13.

Next, the writer said that he and others like him had left civilian jobs and people had put their education on hold. Who is paying for that education? It's not like active-duty soldiers don't have wives and children behind. Contrary to the belief of some Guardsmen, we too have lives and responsibilities.

In closing, I would like to reiterate that the National Guard signed a contract just as we did. It is not just free college money. There are times that you have to suck it up and do your duty.

Staff Sgt. Raymond Dolbow
Baumholder, Germany

1st AD gone 15 months

This is in response to the Sept. 28 letter "Make deployments equal," in which the writer asks "Why do the part-time soldiers have to fulfill the entire tour while the active-duty components serve half that time?" The writer should know that this is not true. Maybe some active-duty components are only serving half the time or less than he is but, if he recalls correctly, the 1st Armored Division got extended in Iraq. My husband was in Iraq for 15 months, and he is active-duty.

I agree that all deployments should be the same regardless of branch or component, especially since the Army is the one with the longest deployments. But next time, the letter writer should please be more specific about his facts, instead of making it sound like none of the active-duty components are "fulfilling their entire tour."

Jayme Folmar
Hanau, Germany

Proud of Peters' stand

I want to comment on the recent articles regarding retired Army Lt. Col. Ralph Peters being boycotted by the Germans at the Land Combat Expo (Sept. 23-24). As an American, I am proud he has taken a stand against Germany's escalating anti-American sentiments. Peters was only speaking the truth as he and many Americans see it. If that is too much for our German "allies," maybe we need to make a further review of troop allocations in Germany. As Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld put it so succinctly, "We want to base our troops where they are wanted."

Gavin Kirk
San Francisco

Free speech not the issue

In reference to the Sept. 23 Stars and Stripes article on the New York Post column by Ralph Peters ("Germany pulls out of military expo over retired Army officer's column"), I want to make one thing clear upfront: I am one of those local nationals labeled by the author as "lazy, arrogant and corrupt."

As in the United States, freedom of opinion and freedom of speech is guaranteed and understood in Germany (Article 5, Basic Law). I believe that is one of the principles so often cited as a common value among NATO nations during the last 50 years. So this whole affair is not a freedom-of-speech issue. A lot of junk is written and published and everybody lives with it. Nor does anybody in Germany or elsewhere have a problem with a sound and professional analysis of the pros and cons of troop withdrawal.

What is at issue is the appearance of the author of this slanderous and unfair column at a command-sponsored event. The U.S. Army Europe's Land Combat Expo is not an open forum where any author or journalist can speak and offer his books for sale. I doubt that Michael Moore, for example, will be handed an invitation any time soon.

How is it possible that the author of that column (not his first of this nature, by the way) was given a stage by the U.S. Army here in Germany, when he should have been given the distinct recommendation to make an appearance in "more civilized countries, such as the United Kingdom, Italy or Poland"? If the U.S. Army — as a government instrumentally obligated to prevent all forms of bias — would uphold an invitation to appear at an event sponsored by the Army on an Army installation to a person who had publicly made such generalizing, slanderous remarks about any other ethnic group of employees, I am sure it would be all over the U.S. media, and legal action to counter such defamation would follow swiftly.

I am very grateful to the German army leadership for canceling its participation at the expo. After all, how could they feel welcome?

Elisabeth Moeller
Heidelberg, Germany

Who's behind Peters' talk?

I've been following the saga of Ralph Peters with considerable interest. I find it almost incredible that an individual so prejudiced and biased was even invited to speak at an official function in Germany with invited German guests and participation.

OK, I thought, some junior officer screwed up or this was approved, even instigated, at a very high level in our government as a deliberate slap in the face but using Peters as a "deniable." That the invitation was not withdrawn supports the latter explanation.

That Gen. B.B. Bell is quoted as saying he invited Peters and that Peters' anti-terrorist expertise/knowledge his contribution of such value it overshadowed the harm in German-American relations more strongly supports the second explanation. Unless he's looking forward to imminent retirement, I think Bell is too smart a guy to be the real instigator.

Frank Leitnaker
Miesau, Germany

'Absolutely right' is wrong

I never thought that I would write to Stars and Stripes, but the letter "Peters 'absolutely right' " (Oct. 2) asks for some correction. The church the writer is referring to is, first of all, in Ulm, not in Neu Uelm. It is called the Muenster. Construction started on it on June 30, 1377. The Muenster is made from sandstone and therefore very sensitive to pollution. That is the reason why it is under constant construction. It is very expensive and difficult to fix all the delicate figurines. I suggest people should inform themselves before making statements.

Marion Richgruber
Wiesbden, Germany

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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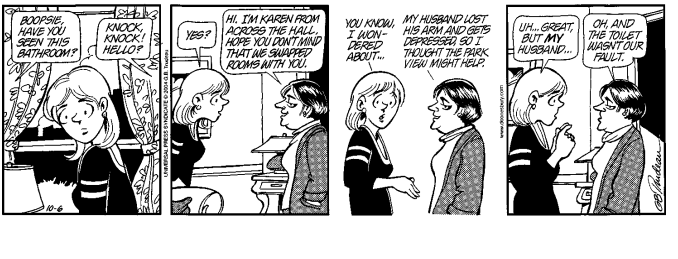
Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

Nuclear threat tops list. Now what do we do?

Daniel Sneider

The presidential debate on foreign policy was dominated by one issue — the war in Iraq. Yet when the candidates were asked to name the single most serious threat to the national security of the United States, neither mentioned Iraq.

Sen. John Kerry responded without a moment's hesitation — nuclear proliferation. The president agreed, broadening the threat to weapons of mass destruction in the hands of a terrorist network.

That was the correct answer from both men. Nobody pointed out the obvious — that the administration went to war in Iraq allegedly because of this threat and was completely wrong.

So where does this threat really exist? Kerry pointed in the right direction — to North Korea and Iran, which are pursuing nuclear weapons, and to Russia's unsecured stockpiles of nuclear materials and weapons.

That much was clear. But when the debate moved deeper into discussing what to do about North Korea and Iran, it was so full of mistakes and obscure references that only a handful of experts could follow it. Let me do some translation.

President Bush and Kerry seemed to agree that diplomacy can resolve the nuclear problems with North Korea and Iran. But that was as far as it went.

Kerry argued that the administration delayed any talks with the North Koreans for two years, during which time they built between four and seven nuclear weapons. He called for direct negotiations with North Korea, talks that could cover everything from a formal treaty to end the Korean War to troop deployments along the zone separating North and South Korea. Kerry talked vaguely about a nuclear deal with Iran, faulting the administration for doing "nothing."

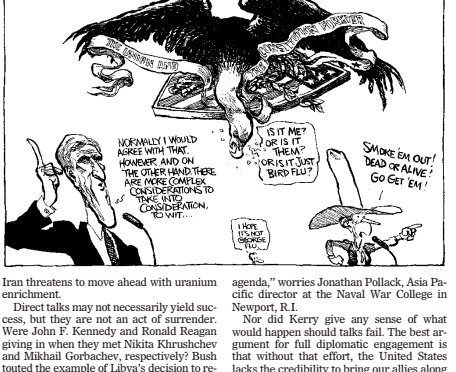
The president argued that direct talks do the bidding of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il. They would collapse the ongoing six-party negotiations organized by China that include Japan, South Korea and Russia. On Iran, Bush backed European-led talks with Iran and the efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency to curb Iran's nuclear program.

The debate over direct vs. multilateral talks is misleading. The Chinese and the other participants have pushed the United States to talk directly with North Korea. And American negotiators have met with their North Korean counterparts, though under very severe restrictions from the White House. Unfortunately Kerry failed to point this out.

Similarly, our European allies, led by the British, have also urged direct dialogue between Washington and Tehran. Preliminary steps in this direction by Secretary of State Colin Powell were beaten back by more-conservative voices inside the administration.

The president apparently believes that meeting the North Korean or Iranian leadership is a declaration of American weakness and would lead to a bad deal.

The president's logic is flawed. The current talks with North Korea have reached a stalemate, allowing it to possibly build bombs and drive wedges between the United States and its allies. The Iran negotiations are also rapidly reaching a crisis point as



Iran threatens to move ahead with uranium enrichment.

Direct talks may not necessarily yield success, but they are not an act of surrender. Were John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan giving in when they met Nikita Khrushchev and Mikhail Gorbachev, respectively? Bush touted the example of Libya's decision to renounce its weapons program, but that, too, came out of years of direct talks by Britain and the United States.

Kerry's advocacy of a "grand bargain" type deal to get North Korea and Iran to renounce their nuclear ambitions is less convincing.

Such talks could end up "overloading the agenda," worries Jonathan Pollack, Asia Pacific director at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

Nor did Kerry give any sense of what would happen should talks fail. The best argument for full diplomatic engagement is that without that effort, the United States lacks the credibility to bring our allies along with us if we have to escalate pressure, such as imposing economic sanctions.

Let's hope that in the remaining weeks, the campaign clarifies — even sharpens — the real differences between these two men on national security.

Daniel Sneider is foreign affairs columnist for the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News.

Kerry's view of economy under Bush not on money

BY JAMES K. GLASSMAN
Scripps Howard

Iraq won't win the election for Sen. John Kerry. He has to convince voters that President Bush has botched the economy. That's a tall order right now, with the unemployment rate down from 6.3 percent to 5.4 percent in a year. It's back where it was when Bill Clinton was re-elected in 1996.

Kerry has another problem. His debate with Bush on Friday comes the same day as a report that will almost certainly show powerful employment gains, including upward revisions from earlier this year. Still, Kerry is trying hard, and two main themes will be on display during the debating to come.

Kerry says Bush is "the first president to lose jobs in our country in 72 years." This statement is both false and disingenuous. Franklin Roosevelt lost lots of jobs; so did Ronald Reagan. Both inherited bad economies from their predecessors — as did Bush.

The president was faced in his first year with a tech bubble that had burst, a terrorist attack that had killed 3,000 Americans and the worst corporate accounting scandals in history. None was Bush's fault; Clinton deserves at least some blame for all three.

The real question is how Bush handled the cards he was dealt. He did what any economist (Keynesian or supply-sider) would prescribe: cut taxes, increase spending and loosen monetary policy (really, the job of the Fed). All steps were taken quickly, and the economy has turned around.

The big job losses occurred at the start of the administration. The big gains have occurred in the past year.

The second theme that Kerry will push is the hiring of foreigners by American companies. This accusation makes Kerry the first major-party presidential candidate in decades to spout a protectionist line on trade.

Outsourcing is a nonproblem. The latest statistics show that of the 1.5 million jobs lost last year in mass layoffs, less than 1 percent were sent abroad. Daniel Drezner of the University of Chicago also points out that while 4,633 workers were laid off from offshoring in the first quarter, Kodak laid off 15,000 because of the growth of digital photography.

It is technology and competition that are costing — and gaining — jobs for Americans. When we have an edge over the rest of the world — as we do in many sectors, from entertainment to financial services — we gain from trade. When other countries have an edge over us — as they do in textiles, for instance — then we gain as well, as nearly 300 million Americans pay lower prices. That's the way trade works. It benefits both parties. Obstructing it would be a disaster.

My guess is that the emotional and cynical appeals that Kerry is making won't work — for the simple reason that the real economy is alive and well and getting better. "The U.S. will probably grow more in the second half than in the first," says David Malpass, chief economist for Bear Stearns. I agree.

The unemployment rate today is lower than the average of the past three decades. Household wealth has soared to a new record, and 69 percent of Americans own a home, the highest proportion ever.

Last week, final figures for Gross Domestic Product in the second quarter were announced. GDP grew nearly 5 percent for the year. That's greater than in any 12-month period during the Clinton administration. Personal income is up 5 percent in the past year, and business spending is strong.

Inflation is tame, and interest rates are low. Compare the United States with Kerry paragons abroad: France's unemployment is 9.9 percent; Germany's, 10.6 percent.

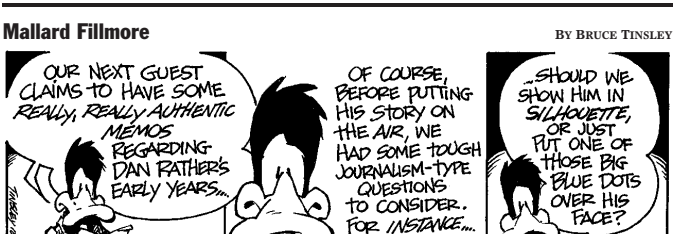
On Friday, statistics on employment will be released. August showed a gain of 144,000 jobs but, because of the hurricanes, the increase could be smaller for September. But there should be a dramatic upward revision for past months as the Bureau of Labor Statistics reconciles the payroll survey, which shows a net loss of about 800,000 jobs during Bush's term, with the household survey, which shows a gain of 2 million jobs.

Kerry, through distortions and obfuscations, will try mightily to convince Americans that Bush has messed up the economy. If reality counts, he won't get away with it.

James K. Glassman is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and host of the Web site TechCentralStation.com.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



YOUR MONEY

Quick fix for slow PC

Q. My computer has slowed down to a crawl. It also pauses in the middle of my Internet work and the hourglass will appear. It then requires me to wait a couple of minutes in order to continue writing e-mail.

I have no antivirus. What items are required in the start-up menu? The computer is slow starting up also. I have a lot of accounting data on my PC, but never had a problem with speed until recently.

— William Klein@yahoo.com

A. First of all, Mr. K., insufficient memory creates these terrible slowdowns far more often than any other variable. This includes having a huge number of programs set to start automatically on bootup.

Second, there always is a chance that you have acquired some form of worm that is using your computer's Web connection to send stuff you don't even know about.

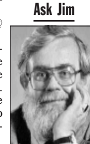
I'll go out on a limb and insist that everybody must have 512 megabytes of memory to run Windows XP smoothly and urge you to upgrade if you're not there. Chips are all but dirt-cheap and can either be installed by an amateur or done by a shop.

Next, point your browser to **www.lavasoft.de** and download and then run the free version of Ad-Aware Personal SE, which most likely will find the kind of worm that causes slowdowns, should it exist on your PC.

Only after the memory is added and a worm scan completed should you consider shutting down startup garbage. Irritating as they are, most startup routines use only dollops of memory.

To get a look at these startup items, use the Microsoft Configuration utility in Windows by clicking on Start and then Run and typing msconfig in the Run box. The list of tabs that this summons includes one for Startup.

Ask Jim



Jim Coates

You should look at the list of bootup items there and remove the checks from the boxes alongside each you want to try doing without.

There even is a "Disable All" option. It's best to experiment a bit by removing likely looking boxes in small groups at a time.

Startups obviously go faster when the machine doesn't need to pause to load these applications one at a time, so cutbacks here do help.

But again, these background startup tasks probably are not your culprit.

A final bit of tinkering can be done by tapping Control + Alt + Delete and clicking on the Processes tab in the box that comes up.

This shows exactly what is running. The items are listed alphabetically and show the memory usage of each. Click on the Memory column heading and the display will be sorted by how much memory each program is taking.

Contact Jim Coates via e-mail at: **jcoates@tribune.com** or via snail mail at the Chicago Tribune, Room 400, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago IL 60611. Questions can be answered only through this column. Add your point of view at: **www.chicagotribune.com/askjim.**

Group seeks to educate young blacks on money

BY AKWELI PARKER
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Turn on BET or one of the MTVs and displays of conspicuous consumption abound — jewel-encrusted rappers brag about their wealth, celebrities show off luxury homes on shows such as "MTV Cribs," and athletes tool about in dwelling-sized SUVs.

For the target audience — young people, particularly blacks, the idea is that they, too, should be enjoying the bling-bling lifestyle — even if they're living on just a so-so income.

The National Urban League Young Professionals is attempting to re-educate them with more sensible financial strategies. This weekend, the group is to begin its annual Know Your Money seminars in Philadelphia, Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Washington, D.C.

"We'll look at budgeting and lifestyle changes, which sometimes can be very painful," said Valerie V. Gay, a former portfolio manager at PNC Financial Services Corp. and moderator/instructor for the program in Philadelphia.

Gay, now director of development at Temple University's College of Education, also directed the first Know Your Money program in Philadelphia last year.

The young professionals group is the youth-oriented division of The National Urban League, a 94-year-old nonprofit that seeks economic parity and civil rights for blacks. The financial literacy project is a joint venutre with Altria Group Inc. — parent company of Kraft Foods Inc. and Philip Morris International.

Another personal financial education effort is America Saves, which is coordinated by the Consumer Federation of America. That program and its local offshoot gives consumers free advice and support for establishing a personal savings regimen.

"One of the primary barriers to saving among most people who don't save is that they think they can't do it," said Nancy Register, associate director for the Consumer Federation of America.

She lamented the low U.S. savings rate, just more than 1 percent of disposable income in August, but said programs such as hers and Know Your Money could increase it by changing people's definition of wealth.

"We have a lot of work to do," she said.

The Know Your Money course, more interactive in nature than lecture, is aimed at African-American professionals 21 to 40 years old who possess varying levels of familiarity with personal finance, Gay said.

While the gap in income, saving and investing has been narrowing between blacks and whites, statistics still paint a disturbing picture of blacks' overall financial health.

For instance, 68 percent of black households with income of more than $50,000 invest in the stock market compared to 80 percent of white households, according to a 2004 Ariel Mutual Funds/Charles Schwab & Co. survey.

The average black household's "net wealth," or what's left over after debts and expenses, is about $16,000, compared to $72,000 for the average American household, a study released in September by BET.com and the Consumer Federation of America found.

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week High	52-week Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
10,753.63	9,230.47	Dow Jones Industrials	10,216.54	+23.89	+.23	-2.27	+6.48
3,301.87	2,660.66	Dow Jones Transportation	3,318.62	+19.82	+.60	+10.36	+18.66
298.35	243.26	Dow Jones Utilities	299.18	+.86	+.29	+12.09	+17.86
6,798.12	5,614.48	NYSE Composite	6,677.75	+14.57	+.22	+3.69	+13.99
1,280.19	984.38	Amex Index	1,276.34	-2.93	-.23	+8.76	+26.06
2,153.83	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	1,952.40	+10.20	+.53	-2.54	+3.11
1,163.23	990.36	S&P 500	1,135.17	+3.67	+.32	+2.09	+9.75
618.46	507.99	S&P MidCap	603.62	+1.83	+.30	+4.79	+13.27
606.42	482.13	Russell 2000	589.09	+4.06	+.69	+5.78	+14.01
11,371.14	9,595.20	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,099.85	+41.15	+.37	+2.78	+10.55

NYSE
MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Lucent	429650	3.17	+.01
Merck	351278	34.23	+.92
Agere	221069	1.26	+.18
ViacomB	216134	35.55	+.96
NortelN lf	207716	3.60	+.12
EMC Cp	207664	12.41	+.39
Pfizer	201974	31.30	+.33
Motorola	166154	19.01	+.24
NokiaCp	157160	14.45	+.06
GenElec	154987	34.12	+.15

AMEX
MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Nasd100Tr	1053764	36.28	+.18
SPDR	318599	113.81	+.16
SemiHTr	230484	31.90	+.21
iShRs2000	64302	117.38	+.66
WheatR g	57050	3.03	-.14
DJIA Diam	52069	102.31	+.15
iShJapan	46162	9.98	+.06
BemaGold	34600	3.03	-.15
SP Fncl	26231	28.98	+.04
RetailHT	24448	92.65	+.76

NASDAQ
MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Intel	727307	21.13	+.28
Oracle	653166	11.87	-.03
SiriusS	632671	3.24	+.10
Microsoft	600741	28.12	-.13
Cisco	518280	18.96	+.03
SiebelSys	398287	9.34	+1.15
ApldMatl	359691	17.16	-.14
SunMicro	327867	4.24	+.05
Yahoo s	209920	34.91	-.12
DellInc	197830	35.66	-.35

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Alliant Technosystem	...	14	59.68	-.13	+3.3
Armor Holdings	...	42	43.81	+.57	+66.5
Boeing	.80	16	52.32	-.16	+24.2
Computer Sciences	...	17	49.46	+1.13	+11.8
Engineered Sup Sys	.04	19	47.45	+1.10	-13.8
General Dynamics	1.44	18	102.61	-.14	+13.5
General Electric	.80	23	34.12	+.15	+10.1
Halliburton	.50	...	33.87	-.53	+30.3
Harris Corp.	.48	28	56.33	+.21	+48.4
Allied Signal	.75	22	36.61	-.15	+9.5
L-3 Communications	.40	21	67.89	-.52	+32.2
Lockheed Martin	1.00	22	56.60	+.28	+10.1
NorthrpG s	.92	21	52.93	-.77	+10.7
Raytheon	.80	82	37.77	-.21	+25.7
Rockwell Intl.	.66	23	39.93	+.45	+12.2
Sequa Corp.	...	41	53.68	+.69	+9.6
Texas Instruments	.10	23	23.04	+.38	-21.6
Textron Inc.	1.30	34	65.53	+.06	+14.8
United Technologies	1.40	18	94.55	-.28	-.2

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	NAV	Chg.	YTD %Ret.
Fidelity Invest: GroInc	36.43	+.11	+3.2
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	50.79	+.39	+1.4
Amer Century Inv: Ultra	27.26	+.08	+2.3
Fidelity Spartan: EqIdx	40.43	+.14	+3.3
Putnam Funds A: GrInA p	18.20	+.05	+3.7
Fidelity Invest: A Mgr	15.75	+.04	+.9
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	30.98	+.30	+2.5
AIM Investments A: Const p	21.24	+.12	-1.3
Fidelity Invest: USBI	11.14	...	+3.1
Fidelity Invest: Ovrsea	32.07	+.23	+2.0
Fidelity Advisor T: GrOppT	28.59	+.16	-.2
Fidelity Advisor T: EqInT	27.06	+.11	+4.9
Scudder Funds S: GroIncS	20.57	+.06	+2.6
Putnam Funds A: GlbEqty p	7.71	+.01	+3.4
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	12.23	+.04	+2.9
AIM Investments A: WeingA p	12.05	+.06	-.2
Merrill Lynch I: BalCapI	27.08	+.07	+3.3
Scudder Funds S: Intl FdS	39.74	+.01	+3.5
Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT	16.03	+.12	+1.5
Lord Abbett A: DevGtA p	14.63	+.08	-2.5
Scudder Funds S: Income S	12.95	+.02	+3.7
Merrill Lynch I: USGvtMtg	10.29	+.01	+2.4
Scudder Funds S: Devel	17.88	+.14	-5.1
Putnam Funds A: GlGvA p	12.36	-.07	+1.4

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro	$1.2629
British pound	$1.83
Japanese yen (Oct. 6)	108.00
South Korean won (Oct. 5)	1,120.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37698
British pound	$1.7844
Canada (Dollar)	1.2703
Denmark (Krone)	5.71
Egypt (Pound)	6.2352
Euro	$1.2287
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7978
Hungary (Forint)	200.09
Iceland (Krona)	71.44
Israel (Shekel)	4.4743
Japan (Yen)	110.87
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.29460
Norway (Krone)	6.36
Philippines (Peso)	56.27
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.59
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6872
South Korea (Won)	1,149.50
Switzerland (Franc)	1.19
Thailand (Baht)	41.36
Turkey (Lira)	1,506,500.00

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc close

Gold	$414.00
Silver	$6.74

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.75
3-month bill	1.68
30-year bond	4.93

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Register to vote

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — This column is about assets, and your right to vote is your greatest asset.

The presidential election on Nov. 2 is fast approaching, and many states require new voters to register 30 days in advance.

The Federal Election Commission reports that first-time voters can register at many locations. You can fill out forms at the following:

- Your county or city board of elections
- Your state driver's licensing office
- State offices for public assistance
- Armed forces recruitment offices
- You may also be able to register during voter drives at your local library, post office or college.
- Check out voter registration outreach programs, such as Rock the Vote (**www.rockthevote.com**), the League of Women Voters programs (**www.lwv.org**), the Youth Vote Coalition (**www.youthvote.org**) and others.

You may be required to show a photo ID when you register. Bring your ID with you again on Election Day, since some states may require you to show it a second time.

The FEC also provides voter registration forms on its Web site at **www.fec.gov**.

The pamphlets can be printed out and mailed to your state registration office. Guidelines, deadlines and mailing addresses for each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia are included. Only New Hampshire, Wyoming and North Dakota will not accept a mailed-in FEC form when registering voters.

If you choose to mail in your voter registration card, be sure to leave ample time for your information to arrive and be processed before your state's deadline.

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers and gusty winds. Highs will be in the mid 60s, with Thursday lows in the low 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers along the Irish coast and gusty winds. Highs will be in the upper 50s to low 60s, with Thursday lows in the 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with morning fog. Highs will be in the low 70s, with Thursday lows in the upper 40s to low 50s.

France: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers in the north. Highs will be in the upper 50s to upper 70s, with Thursday lows in the low 40s to low 60s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs will be in the mid 60s, with Thusday lows in the low to mid 50s.

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs will be in the low 70s, with Thursday lows in the low to mid 50s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs will be in the low 70s, with Thursday lows in the low 50s.

Northern Italy: Mostly to partly cloudy. Highs will be in the low to mid 70s, with Thursday lows in the mid to upper 50s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs will be in the mid to upper 70s, with Thursday lows in the upper 50s.

Kosovo: Partly to mostly cloudy morning fog. Highs will be in the upper 60s to low 70s, with Thursday lows in the 40s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs will be in the low 50s, with Thursday lows in the upper 30s to mid 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Mostly cloudy. Highs will be in the mid 70s to low 90s, with Thursday lows in the mid 50s to mid 60s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 70s to mid 80s, with Thursday lows in the mid to upper 50s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home page at:
https://ows.sembach.af.mil
http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

AFRICA

	Hi	LO		Hi	LO
Cape Town	63	42	Mogadishu	87	76
Dakar	95	80	Nairobi	79	49
Freetown	88	75	Rabat	83	65
Kinshasa	85	72	Tripoli	88	62

MIDEAST

THE WORLD

	Hi	LO		Hi	LO
Amsterdam	59	49	Manila	88	78
Bahrain	97	83	Mexico City	68	54
Beijing	79	58	Montreal	57	44
Beirut	82	67	Riyadh	98	73
Bermuda	79	68	Rio de. Jan	71	59
Caracas	78	61	Seoul	72	51
Helsinki	56	44	Sofia	64	42
Hong Kong	84	68	Sydney	75	50
Lisbon	74	55	Tokyo	72	69

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:07 AM	6:08 AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:34 AM	7:35 AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	6:41 PM	6:40 PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	6:53 PM	6:51 PM

New moon Oct 14 · First qtr. Oct 20 · Full moon Oct 28 · Last qtr. Oct 6

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

	Hi	Lo	Otlk
Abilene,Tex.	73	61	Rain
Akron,Ohio	66	44	Clr
Albany,N.Y.	60	44	Clr
Albuquerque	72	49	Cldy
Allentown,Pa.	63	44	Clr
Amarillo	63	52	Rain
Anchorage	45	36	Cldy
Asheville	66	44	PCldy
Atlanta	72	54	PCldy
Atlantic City	65	47	Clr
Austin	77	57	Rain
Baltimore	67	45	Clr
Baton Rouge	91	69	PCldy
Billings	79	49	Clr
Birmingham	79	55	PCldy
Bismarck	83	47	Clr
Boise	74	48	Clr
Boston	63	50	Clr
Bridgeport	62	47	Clr
Brownsville	85	74	Rain
Buffalo	64	49	PCldy
Burlington,Vt.	60	47	Cldy
Caribou,Maine	49	35	Rain
Casper	75	38	PCldy
Charleston,S.C.	78	58	PCldy
Charleston,W.Va.	69	42	Clr
Charlotte,N.C.	67	47	PCldy
Chattanooga	78	51	Clr
Cheyenne	64	41	Cldy
Chicago	71	48	Clr
Cincinnati	70	46	Clr
Cleveland	65	47	Clr
Colorado Springs	65	42	Cldy
Columbia,S.C.	70	52	Cldy
Columbus,Ga.	82	57	PCldy
Columbus,Ohio	69	46	Clr
Concord,N.H.	63	38	PCldy
Corpus Christi	84	72	Rain
Dallas-Ft Worth	76	65	Rain
Dayton	69	47	Clr
Daytona Beach	85	75	PCldy
Denver	72	44	Cldy
Des Moines	74	53	PCldy
Detroit	70	49	PCldy
Duluth	57	50	Clr
El Paso	80	58	PCldy
Elkins	64	31	Clr
Erie	64	47	PCldy
Eugene	69	46	PCldy
Evansville	74	46	Clr
Fairbanks	43	30	Cldy
Fargo	77	53	PCldy
Flagstaff	68	34	Clr
Flint	70	45	PCldy
Fort Smith	82	57	PCldy
Fort Wayne	70	47	Clr
Fresno	88	58	Clr
Gaylord	68	41	Cldy
Grand Junction	73	44	PCldy
Grand Rapids	73	50	PCldy
Great Falls	76	41	Cldy
Green Bay	72	45	PCldy
Greensboro,N.C.	68	46	Clr
Harrisburg	67	45	Clr
Hartford Spgfld	62	42	Clr
Helena	74	40	PCldy
Honolulu	88	74	Clr
Houston	84	69	Rain
Huntsville	80	52	Clr
Indianapolis	71	48	Clr
Jackson,Miss.	83	62	PCldy
Jacksonville	82	63	PCldy
Juneau	53	42	Rain
Kansas City	75	53	PCldy
Key West	88	79	PCldy
Knoxville	75	49	Clr
Lake Charles	84	72	Rain
Lansing	74	48	PCldy
Las Vegas	81	62	Clr
Lexington	71	47	Clr
Lincoln	73	52	Cldy
Little Rock	75	54	PCldy
Los Angeles	84	61	Clr
Louisville	72	47	Clr
Lubbock	68	57	Rain
Macon	76	54	PCldy
Madison	73	50	Clr
Medford	77	49	Cldy
Memphis	79	60	PCldy
Miami Beach	87	79	Clr
Midland Odessa	73	58	Rain
Milwaukee	72	52	Clr
Mpls-St Paul	78	53	Clr
Mobile	86	68	PCldy
Montgomery	84	59	PCldy
Nashville	76	52	Clr
New Orleans	89	73	PCldy
New York City	64	53	Clr
Newark	66	50	Clr
Norfolk,Va.	68	50	Clr
North Platte	71	46	Cldy
Oklahoma City	69	61	Rain
Omaha	73	46	Cldy
Orlando	87	70	PCldy
Peducah	77	46	Clr
Pendleton	70	46	PCldy
Peoria	72	48	Clr
Philadelphia	65	51	Clr
Phoenix	96	69	Clr
Pittsburgh	64	43	Clr
Portland,Me.	76	40	PCldy
Portland,Ore.	60	41	PCldy
Providence	63	45	Clr
Pueblo	69	42	Cldy
Raleigh-Durham	70	45	Clr
Rapid City	82	47	Clr
Reno	80	44	Clr
Richmond	70	47	Clr
Roanoke	67	44	Clr
Rochester	65	48	PCldy
Rockford	76	48	PCldy
Sacramento	84	55	Clr
St Louis	75	53	PCldy
St Thomas	87	77	Rain
Salem,Ore.	68	48	Rain
Salt Lake City	75	47	PCldy
San Angelo	74	62	Rain
San Antonio	78	70	Rain
San Diego	75	63	PCldy
San Francisco	73	55	PCldy
San Jose	73	55	PCldy
San Juan,P.R.	89	77	Rain
Santa Fe	66	42	Cldy
St Ste Marie	64	50	PCldy
Savannah	78	60	PCldy
Seattle	63	49	Rain
Shreveport	79	64	Cldy
Sioux City	73	55	PCldy
Sioux Falls	73	55	PCldy
South Bend	71	49	Clr
Spokane	67	43	PCldy
Springfield,Ill.	87	70	PCldy
Springfield,Mo.	76	54	PCldy
Syracuse	67	48	PCldy
Tallahassee	87	63	PCldy
Tampa-St Pbsbg	87	70	PCldy
Toledo	68	44	Clr
Topeka	74	53	Cldy
Tucson	90	59	Clr
Tulsa	82	60	PCldy
Tupelo	81	55	PCldy
Waco	78	64	Rain
Washington,D.C.	69	51	Clr
W.Palm Beach	85	76	PCldy
Wichita	68	58	Rain
Wichita Falls	68	63	Rain
Wilkes-Barre	64	47	Clr
Wilmington,Del.	65	47	Clr
Yakima	71	40	PCldy

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Day care homicide

NY NEW YORK — A 7-month-old boy suffocated in his crib at a Queens day care facility on the same day health department inspectors visited the center but left without acting on several serious violations, officials said.

The infant, Matthew Perilli, was discovered unconscious at the Forest Hills facility shortly after the inspectors finished investigating a complaint that the center was not licensed, officials said. The death was ruled a homicide.

The inspectors found that the facility did have a license. But the center's operator did not have every child within her line of sight, as required, and it appeared that she didn't have the required number of staff members, Health Commissioner Thomas Frieden said.

The cause of the baby's death was determined to be compression of the body by foreign objects, according to Ellen Borakove, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner's office. No criminal charges had been filed against the facility's operator, who was cited two weeks before Perilli's death for running another day care facility without a license, Frieden said.

Black bear killed

CA LOS OLIVOS — A 340-pound black bear was captured and killed after it ambled across a private school campus in Southern California.

The bear wandered onto the Dunn School campus. When state Fish and Game wardens arrived, they found the bear sitting in a tree 20 feet above the ground.

The animal was tranquilized, then taken to the forest and killed with a single gunshot to the head. "If it hadn't been bear season, I would have anesthetized the bear and moved it," said Lt. Roland Takayama of the state Department of Fish and Game. "It's unfortunate that this happened. No one wanted to kill this bear."

The only other option would have been to allow the bear to wander back to the forest on its own, Takayama said, adding that game wardens felt that could endanger drivers on a nearby highway.

Costly pay mistake

PA BLOOMSBURG — A man who applied for a temporary position at a nuclear power plant but was not hired has been convicted of theft for refusing to return $2,194 in wages that were accidentally mailed to him because of a paperwork mistake.

Edward Woodland Jr., 34, faces up to seven years in prison after being convicted. He maintained that he worked at the Susquehanna nuclear plant throughout the disputed period in 2003.

Officials testified that Woodland attended only three days of screening and testing for a position as a temporary cleanup worker. He failed to pass a background investigation and was told he could not be employed, arrest papers said.

Officials at the plant sent the Danville man a registered letter asking him to return the money after the payroll error was discovered. He acknowledged getting the letter, but didn't respond, even when he was threatened with arrest, according to prosecutors.

Jet crash site found

ND BISMARCK — Relying on research and math skills, members of a land surveyors' group located parts of an Air Force fighter plane that crashed in a lake more than 35 years ago.

Members of the state's Professional Society of Land Surveyors located the wreckage of the F-106 Delta Dart interceptor fighter in Lake Sakakawea, ending a 13-year search.

The plane crashed March 10, 1969, plunging through ice and sinking to the bottom of the lake. Its pilot, Capt. Merlin Riley, who was on a training mission from Minot Air Force Base, parachuted to safety..

Marijuana applications

VT MONTPELIER — Vermont will begin taking applications next month from people who want to legally use marijuana to cope with serious medical ailments.

Last spring, the Legislature passed a "medical marijuana bill." Gov. Jim Douglas allowed it to become law without his signature.

Under the new law, Vermonters won't face prosecution for using or possessing small amounts of marijuana if they have state identity cards certifying they meet certain eligibility standards.

To qualify for the protection, an individual must have terminal cancer or AIDS, or debilitating and intractable symptoms caused by AIDS, cancer, HIV, multiple sclerosis or the treatments for any of these diseases.

Fire control

A firefighter battles a blaze at a shopping center on Sunday in Moore, Okla. Several businesses were destroyed in the fire.

Poker craze trouble

LA NEW ORLEANS — The poker craze triggered by cable TV's coverage of the game has led some Louisiana bars to host "Texas Holdem" tournaments, putting them on a collision course with state liquor regulators.

Both sides say the dispute, which turns on the question of whether the bars are profiting from unlicensed, illegal gambling, likely will have to be settled in court.

The bars contend their "Texas Holdem" events are legal because bar owners are not taking a cut of the pots. But the state Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control contends that because the bars sell more drinks during the tournaments, they are, in essence, engaged in a gambling business.

Racial profiling claims

MN BEMIDJI — In this neck of northern Minnesota, some Indians complain of being stopped for DWI — meaning "Driving While Indian" — a sly way of saying they were pulled over for no good reason.

Behind the humor is anger over what they say is racial profiling of Indians by police and sheriff's deputies. Though authorities deny any discrimination, the American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota has opened its first office outside the Twin Cities, solely to gather profiling complaints.

"This is a situation that stinks in Minnesota," said Charles Samuelson, executive director of the Minnesota ACLU. "They get stopped at a little higher percentage than whites, searched at a higher percentage, arrested at a little higher percentage. At every opportunity where discretion can enter into it, the people of color lose."

Law officers across the region say they simply ticket or arrest people who break the law.

Help for handicapped

PA TAMAQUA — After four years of protests, advocates for the disabled have persuaded the Tamaqua post office to provide better handicapped access to the building.

The pact, signed by Earl E. Kennedy of the Anthracite Regional Center for Independent Living and Tamaqua Post Master Richard J. Maranki, calls for a bell at a rear door near the building's loading dock, a partial roof over the rear access door, a handicapped parking space next to the rear loading dock, and a customer service counter at ground level.

The agreement, reached two hours after protesters began demonstrating in front of the Tamaqua post office, gives the post office 60 days to comply.

"It's about time. I wish we could have accomplished this four years ago, but it's done," Kennedy said.

Hang on, cowgirl

Victoria Whitted, 6, rides a mechanical bull at the Southern New Mexico State Fair and Rodeo near Las Cruces, N.M.

Colorful musicians

Michael Priest, of Fayetteville, N.C., leads the Cross Creek Pipes and Drums band through the campus of the former Flora MacDonald College during the Highland Games in Red Springs, N.C.

Pumpkin heads

Lanterns of President George Bush, left, and Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, right, are seen during the Topsfield Fair in Topsfield, Mass.

I need some candy!

Aaron Poppert, 5, of Geneva, Neb., waits for candy to be thrown from one of the floats in the Harvest of Harmony Parade in Grand Island, Neb.

Wave sliding

Dalton Howerton, 8, of Pocola, Okla., slides past a trough among waves on an inflatable slide at the 19th annual Spiro Chamber of Commerce Car Show and Arts and Crafts Festival in Spiro, Okla.

Stylish pooch

Pudge sports a Razorback shirt from a pet store for Dogs, Cats and People Too in Fort Smith, Ark.

Work those muscles

An unidetified biker competes in the Gatorman Triathlon in Lake Charles, La. The 1,000-meter swim, 21-mile bike ride and 6-kilometer run served as the National Sprint Championship. Male and female riders from 24 states competed in the event.

FBI to interview Muslims

AZ PHOENIX — With the final presidential debate in Tempe less than two weeks away, the FBI is increasing efforts to interview Phoenix-area residents, including Muslims, as part of a nationwide plan to prevent a terrorist attack before the Nov. 2 election, agents said.

Susan Hershovits, the FBI's spokeswoman in Phoenix, said this latest push "isn't really targeting any group" but is aimed to increase intelligence by contacting as many people as possible — not just Muslims.

Deedra Abboud, executive director of the local chapter of the Council of American-Islamic Relations, disagreed, saying Muslims obviously are a focus of the FBI effort. "They are contacting Muslims they've already contacted, and contacting ones they haven't met," Abboud said. "They tell us they are not using ethnic profiling — we tend to disagree, but we won't deny they are interviewing other people."

Great white surviving

CA MONTEREY — A young great white shark reached a milestone as it began its 17th day on exhibit at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Notorious for their inability to thrive in captivity, no other great whites are currently on display anywhere in the world — and none has ever been kept on exhibit for more than 16 days.

Commercial halibut fishermen inadvertently snagged the young female shark off the coast of Huntington Beach in late August. It had been kept in a 4 million-gallon pen off the Southern California coast until Sept. 14, when it headed north by truck — an unmarked, 3,000-gallon shark tank on wheels — to its new home.

The aquarium is keeping the shark on long-term exhibit in its 1 million-gallon Outer Bay tank, which contains 75 other large fish and turtles. The tank is a little larger than one Olympic-size swimming pool. More than 80,000 people have already seen the shark at its new home.

Tall woman has a ride

IN SHELBYVILLE — Sandy Allen now has enough money to buy her dream van — one big enough to accommodate the 7-foot, 7¼ inch frame she has as the world's tallest woman.

Less than a week after an announcement of an effort to raise the $5,200 needed to buy the used van, donations have reached about $7,000, said Bonnie Shehan, a friend of Allen's.

Shehan had been Allen's unofficial chauffeur, using her minivan to drive Allen places, until the van was stolen. But while Allen said she was glad to leave the nursing home where she lives from time to time, Shehan's van was cramped.

Shehan said the van account would remain open and that any extra money will be used for the van's insurance and upkeep.

Gas drilling banned

MT HELENA — The federal government will no longer consider letting companies drill for natural gas along Montana's Rocky Mountain Front, the Bureau of Land Management confirmed, quieting for now one of the state's hottest environmental debates.

The Front, which stretches about 100 miles along the eastern crags of the Rockies south of Glacier National Park, is home to grizzly bears, elk, bighorn sheep and other wildlife.

BLM suspended work on an environmental impact study for the Front's Blackleaf area, where a Canadian company wanted to drill for gas. The decision to shelve drilling came at the "highest levels" of the Interior Department, said Marty Ott, state BLM director.

WWII rocket detonated

FL VERO BEACH — An unexploded rocket from World War II, unearthed by Hurricane Jeanne in a residential driveway, was safely detonated by Army munitions experts.

The warhead from the 10-foot-long "Tiny Tim" rocket was found and of, said Sgt. 1st Class Jake Holland.

"This area used to be a preparation and rehearsal ground for the D-Day invasion, so this ammunition was probably used in (U.S.Army) training," he said.

The partially exposed bomb was dug up and carried in a sand-filled truck to a disposal site.

Controversial pick

TX CRAWFORD — The editor of the Crawford, Texas, weekly that bills itself as President George W. Bush's hometown newspaper says he has no regrets about endorsing Bush's Democratic opponent, John Kerry, even after a dozen business pulled their advertising from the publication.

"I'd do it again," Leon Smith, publisher of the Lone Star Iconoclast, told the Waco Tribune-Herald in Sunday's editions.

The Iconoclast, which endorsed Bush in 2000, said it now supports the Democrat because of disillusionment with the war and Bush's actions on Social Security, the economy and other issues.

Chain saw attack

RI NARRAGANSETT — A Richmond, R.I., man has been charged with attacking a fishing partner with a chain saw on a boat in Narragansett.

Benjamin Troyer sawed through a bathroom door where Frederic Tedeschi was hiding on a fishing vessel and sliced his partner on the arm, police said.

Police investigators believe Troyer was seeking retribution from an earlier altercation.

Alcohol killed student

OK NORMAN — A 19-year-old student whose body was found the morning after a party in a fraternity house died from alcohol poisoning, officials said.

Blake Adam Hammontree had a blood alcohol level of 0.42 when he died, or five times the legal limit for drunken driving, said Kevin Rowland, chief investigator for the state medical examiner.

University President David Boren has said he will shut down the fraternity's operations immediately and close the house for the rest of the academic year.

Photos and stories from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2004

	AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00	Stanley	Movie ★ "Changes" (1991) Cheryl Ladd, Michael Nouri. A top TV correspondent falls in love with a heart surgeon.	Dr. Phil	Popular Mechanics for Kids	Nightline	Motorcycle Racing MotoGP.	30-Minute Meals	Popular Mechanics for Kids
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat			Strange Days-Blake Holsey	Nightly Business Report		Food 911	Strange Days-Blake Holsey
10:00	Arthur (EI)		Oprah Winfrey	Jeopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Motorcycle Racing MotoGP.	Sensible Chic	Jeopardy!
10:30	Between the Lions (EI)		Guiding Light	Headline News			Fashion File	Headline News
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Movie ★★★ "Gorillas in the Mist" (1988, Drama) Sigourney Weaver. Based on the life of anthropologist Dian Fossey.		ESPNews	CNN Daybreak	SportsCenter	E! News Live	ESPNews
11:30	Stanley "Little Dog Lost"		General Hospital	Advisory Block			The King of Queens	Pacific Report
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	The Parkers	The O'Reilly Factor	MLB Baseball Playoffs.	That '70s Show	The Parkers
12:30	The Wiggles "Safety"		Judge Judy	The Simple Life			Girlfriends "Just Say No"	The Simple Life
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie ★★★ "The Pelican Brief" (1993) Julia Roberts. An inquisitive law student becomes the target of assassins.	Today "Today Throws a Wedding"; Shane West.	America's Next Top Model	Good Morning America		Charmed "Magic Hour"	America's Next Top Model
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)			Las Vegas "Things That Go Jump in the Night"			Ally McBeal "The Real World"	Las Vegas "Things That Go Jump in the Night"
14:00	Blue's Clues							
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)							
15:00	Amer. Funniest Home Videos	Movie ★★★ "The Mask" (1994) Jim Carrey, Cameron Diaz. A mask transforms a mild-mannered into a mighty man.	Sylvester & Tweety	Pacific Report	Headline News	SportsCenter	Any Day Now "You Really Believe in That Stuff?"	Pacific Report
15:30	Full House		Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	Vice Presidential Debate	Channel One			Vice Presidential Debate
16:00	Pokémon		Popular Mechanics for Kids		The Early Show	NFL Total Access	ER "Sand and Water"	
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! "Face Off"		Strange Days-Blake Holsey					
17:00	Hey Arnold! "School Play"	Inside the Actors Studio "Charlize Theron" Charlize Theron.	Jeopardy!			SportsCenter	Law & Order "Causa Mortis"	
17:30	Rocket Power		Headline News	Access Hollywood				Access Hollywood
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Coming Attractions	ESPNews	Headline News	FOX News	Baseball Tonight	The Simpsons	Headline News
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	The Late Late Show			Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
19:00	Even Stevens	Movie ★★★ "Selena" (1997, Biography) Jennifer Lopez. Edward James Olmos, Jon Seda. Based on the life and brief career of the murdered singer.	The Parkers		FOX News	MLB Baseball Playoffs. (Live)	The Amazing Race	
19:30	Kenan & Kel		The Simple Life	Dennis Miller				Dennis Miller
20:00	Gilmore Girls "Cinnamon's Wake"		America's Next Top Model		FOX News		Andromeda "The Prince"	
20:30				Countdown With Keith Olbermann				Countdown With Keith Olbermann
21:00	Degrassi: Next		Las Vegas "Things That Go Jump in the Night"		Inside Politics		Junkyard Mega-Wars "Visionless Valets"	
21:30	Degrassi: Next	Movie ★★ "Get Over It" (2001, Comedy) Kirsten Dunst, Ben Foster, Melissa Sagemiller.		Entertainment Studios.com				Entertainment Studios.com
22:00	The Cosby Show		Headline News	The Hot List		MLB Baseball Playoffs. (Live)	Friends	The Hot List
22:30	Home Improvement		Vice Presidential Debate	Headline News	Headline News		Seinfeld "The Raincoats"	Headline News
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Til We Meet Again"	Movie ★★ "Nick of Time" (1995) Johnny Depp.		Today "Today Throws a Wedding"; Shane West.	Lester Holt Live		The Daily Show	Today "Today Throws a Wedding"; Shane West.
23:30							Blind Date	

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2004

00:00	Hey Arnold!	(11:00) Movie "Nick of Time"	Vice Presidential Debate	(11:00) Today "Today Throws a Wedding"; Shane West.	Headline News	(10:00) MLB Baseball Playoffs. (Live)	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	(11:00) Today "Today Throws a Wedding"; Shane West.
00:30	Rocket Power	Movie ★★★ "Ride the High Country" (1962, Western) Randolph Scott, Joel McCrea, Mariette Hartley.	Access Hollywood		NBC Nightly News			
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants		4 Qtrs	Sesame Street (EI)	ABC World News Tonight	SportsCenter	The Amazing Race	Sesame Street (EI)
1:30	Rugrats				CBS Evening News			
2:00	Even Stevens		MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced. (Live)	Play With Me Sesame	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Boxing Ricardo Mayorga vs. Felix Trinidad. (Taped)	Andromeda "The Prince"	Play With Me Sesame
2:30	Kenan & Kel	Coming Attractions		Wheel of Fortune				Wheel of Fortune
3:00	Gilmore Girls "Cinnamon's Wake"	Movie ★★★ "Selena" (1997, Biography) Jennifer Lopez. Edward James Olmos, Jon Seda. Based on the life and brief career of the murdered singer.		Dr. Phil	Hannity & Colmes			Dr. Phil
3:30							Junkyard Mega-Wars "Visionless Valets"	
4:00	Degrassi: Next			Oprah Winfrey	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Fishing FLW Tour.	Friends	Oprah Winfrey
4:30	Degrassi: Next						Seinfeld "The Raincoats"	
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)		Headline News	NBC Nightly News	Lou Dobbs Tonight	SportsCenter	Breathingspace Yoga	NBC Nightly News
5:30		Movie ★★ "Get Over It" (2001, Comedy) Kirsten Dunst, Ben Foster, Melissa Sagemiller.	ESPNews	Judge Judy			Caribbean Workout	Judge Judy
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)		Headline News	Access Hollywood	Larry King Live	ESPNews	Body Shaping	Access Hollywood
6:30	Blue's Clues Colds.		Headline News	Guiding Light		Baseball Tonight	TIPical Mary Ellen	Guiding Light
7:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	Inside the Actors Studio "Charlize Theron" Charlize Theron.	Sesame Street (EI)		NewsNight With Aaron Brown	NFL Total Access	The View	
7:30	Bob the Builder			General Hospital				General Hospital
8:00	The Wiggles "Hygiene"	Coming Attractions	Play With Me Sesame	60 Minutes	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	Aaahh! Real Monsters
8:30	Dora the Explorer	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune		Tavis Smiley			The Weekenders (EI)
9:00	Stanley "The Pond Couple"	Movie "In My Sister's Shadow" (1999) Nancy McKeon. Janet Leigh. A florist begins dating her sister's unstable ex-lover.	Dr. Phil	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 5)	Nightline	MLB Baseball Playoffs.	30-Minute Meals	Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 5)
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat			Jumanji	Nightly Business Report		Low Carb & Lovin It	Mucha Lucha
10:00	Arthur (EI)		Oprah Winfrey	Jeopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews		Design on a Dime	Jeopardy!
10:30	Between the Lions (EI)		Guiding Light	Headline News			Style Star	Headline News
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Movie ★★★★ "Terms of Endearment" (1983, Drama) Shirley MacLaine, Debra Winger, Jack Nicholson.		ESPNews	60 Minutes II		E! News Live	ESPNews
11:30	Stanley "The Big Spill"		General Hospital	Advisory Block			The King of Queens	Pacific Report
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	Everybody Loves Raymond	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	That '70s Show	Everybody Loves Raymond
12:30	The Wiggles "Story Telling"		Judge Judy	Will & Grace			Girlfriends	Will & Grace
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie "For Hope" (1996, Drama) Dana Delany, Henry Czerny, Polly Bergen. A single parent learns she has scleroderma.	Today Bill O'Reilly.	The Bachelor	Good Morning America	College Football Teams to Be Announced.	Charmed "Once Upon a Time"	The Bachelor
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)							
14:00	Blue's Clues			CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Jackpot"			Ally McBeal "They Eat Horses, Don't They?"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Jackpot"
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)							
15:00	Funniest Home Videos		Aaahh! Real Monsters	Pacific Report	Headline News	SportsCenter	Any Day Now Rene and Bill decide to buy a house together.	Pacific Report
15:30	Full House	Movie ★★ "Entrapment" (1999, Suspense) Sean Connery, Catherine Zeta-Jones.	The Weekenders (EI)	The Tonight Show	Channel One			The Tonight Show
16:00	Pokémon "Xatu the Future"		Yu-Gi-Oh! (Part 1 of 5)		The Early Show	NFL Live	ER "Mars Attacks"	
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!		Mucha Lucha	Late Show		Totally NASCAR		Late Show
17:00	Hey Arnold!	Scream Play	Jeopardy!			SportsCenter	Law & Order McCoy and Ross battle a vindictive judge.	
17:30	Rocket Power		Headline News	Access Hollywood				Access Hollywood
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Ebert-Movies	Destinations	Headline News	FOX News	ESPNews	The Simpsons	Headline News
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	AFN Evening News	The Late Late Show		Baseball Tonight	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
19:00	That's So Raven	Movie ★★ "Behind Enemy Lines" (2001) Owen Wilson. An American flight navigator is stranded in war-torn Bosnia.	Everybody Loves Raymond		60 Minutes II	Bull Riding PBR.	One Tree Hill "How Can You Be Sure"	
19:30	All That		Will & Grace	Dennis Miller				Dennis Miller
20:00	7th Heaven "Heart of the Matter"		The Bachelor		FOX News		The Practice "Of Thee I Sing"	
20:30				Countdown With Keith Olbermann				Countdown With Keith Olbermann
21:00	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Movie ★★ "Lethal Weapon 4" (1998, Action) Mel Gibson. Detectives Riggs and Murtaugh battle Chinese mercenaries.	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Jackpot"	Inside Politics	Baseball Tonight	Frontline "China in the Red"		
21:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch			Entertainment Studios.com				Entertainment Studios.com
22:00	The Cosby Show		Headline News	The Hot List		MLB Baseball Playoffs. (Live)	Friends	The Hot List
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show	Headline News	Air Force TV News		Seinfeld (Part 1 of 2)	Headline News
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Rock n' Roll Dad"	Movie ★★★★ "Chinatown" (1974) Jack Nicholson.		Today Bill O'Reilly.	Lester Holt Live		The Daily Show	Today Bill O'Reilly.
23:30			Late Show				Blind Date	

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FACES

Film star goes behind the curtain

Harris

Ed Harris, known for movies such as "The Right Stuff" and "A Beautiful Mind," will make his debut as a Broadway director next year with a production of Sam Shepard's "Fool for Love."

"Fool for Love" is the story of two lovers holed up in a seedy Mojave Desert motel. Harris won an Obie Award for his portrayal of Eddie in the 1983 off-Broadway premiere of the drama. That same year, he and Shepard played astronauts in "The Right Stuff."

The production will open Feb. 10 at the American Airlines Theatre, the Roundabout Theatre Company announced. The cast will be announced later.

Fields acts for a Caribbean cause

Fields

Kim Fields, who recently learned that she has roots in the Caribbean, is enlisting other celebrities to help the region recover from the hurricanes.

Fields is producing public service announcements for television and radio in which actors such as Blair Underwood ask viewers to support an aid campaign sponsored by the Caribbean Tourism Organization and its Web site, **www.onecaribbean.org.**

The actress, who starred in the TV series "The Facts of Life" and "Living Single," also plans to organize a series of concerts to benefit those islands hit hardest by the storms.

British mag names singer best artist

Czech mezzo-soprano **Magdalena Kozena** has been named artist of the year by Britain's Gramophone magazine.

Kozena

Editor James Jolly said Kozena "has a wonderfully inquisitive approach to music, and her programming demonstrates that she won't compromise or accept the everyday — and her public follow her loyally."

"Her disc of 20th-century songs from earlier this year, on which she performs in five different languages, is a perfect example of her imagination and courage."

The publication's annual Gramophone Awards are decided by readers. They are regarded by some as the Oscars of classical music. They are now in their 27th year.

Not quite a highway for AC/DC

A downtown road in Melbourne, Australia, has been renamed **ACDC** Lane in honor of the Australian band, AC/DC, who sang the rock anthem "Highway to Hell."

"I say this is a lane to heaven. Let us rock," said the city's Lord Mayor John So, as he erected the sign to cheers and bagpipes playing the band's hit "Long Way to the Top."

AC/DC recorded one of their most famous videos in a nearby street and called Melbourne home when they were in Australia.

City officials have had several copies of the street signs made in case fans steal the original as a souvenir.

Warhol's work exhibited in Germany

A retrospective of **Andy Warhol** self-portraits spanning decades of the artist's work is on exhibit at a museum in western Germany.

Warhol

The show at the Sprengel Museum in Hanoverbrought together more than 50 paintings, along with 45 drawings, photographs, collages and films. Some of the portraits have been hung on walls papered with Warhol's image.

The self-portraits "mark the intersection between Andy Warhol, the media figure, and his artistic work," the museum said. Curator Dietmar Eiger, who prepared the exhibition over the past four years, said Warhol's self-portraits span a 43-year period.

Stories and photos from wire services.

It pays to listen to your kids

AP

Actress and children's book author Jamie Lee Curtis has a new book out titled "It's Hard To Be Five."

BY SAMANTHA CRITCHELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Be careful what you say around Jamie Lee Curtis.

She's a very sharp listener, and the conversations she overhears are the basis for her best-selling children's books. Her newest, "It's Hard to Be Five: Learning How to Work My Control Panel" (Joanna Cotler/HarperCollins) was inspired by her 5-year-old son's frustration as a castle he built tumbled over.

Meanwhile, her first book, "When I Was Little," was about her daughter's boasting about "the good old days" when she was 4, and "Where Do Balloons Go?" was a question Curtis overheard at a birthday party.

The star of "Trading Places," "True Lies" and "Freaky Friday" isn't leaving film behind. She co-stars with Tim Allen and Dan Aykroyd in the holiday release "Christmas With the Kranks" — after all, as the daughter of actors Janet Leigh and Tony Curtis, acting is literally in her blood.

But right now she's focused on her role as an author. Curtis spent a rare day away from her children, who were at home in Los Angeles, so she could promote her books on the "Today Show" and "The Tony Danza Show" in New York.

She gave a lot of thought to her outfits — and changed between the two tapings — in an effort to appeal to the audiences: a professional blouse for Katie Couric and crew, and a pink sweater draped over the shoulders of her crisp white shirt for Danza.

Her Manolo Blahniks, however, never left her feet. She's clearly proud that she got the fashionable, pricey shoes dirt-cheap by calling the store and asking what they had in her size (a 9½) that was on sale.

Salmon pumps? No problem. She bought them "at like an 89-percent discount," took them to a shoemaker and dyed them black for a few bucks.

AP: What's so hard about being 5 versus 6 — or 45?

Curtis: 'It's Hard to Be Five' is not a book about 5. It's a book about self-control, it's a book about teaching children about what it means to have self-control, to have their own knowledge about right and wrong. Five is the age when they start school, and 5 is the age when all that self-control comes into play. It's because they're expected to have it ... and therefore, it's a book for birth to 8, because it's about the development of self-control, or a book for birth from 80 because there isn't an adult I know — not one — who doesn't have a form of a self-control issue or a myriad of self-control issues.

AP: Are six of your children's books entertaining storybooks or morality tales?

Curtis: Someone referred to them the other day as self-help books for kids. It would be obnoxious if I coined the phrase, but it was a lovely compliment and I took it.

AP: Was becoming an author a conscious career change?

Curtis: I sat down and wrote something that I didn't know was a book until I finished it. As soon as I finished it I knew it was a book because it made me cry. I thought 'Wow!' ... I had no delusions or illusions that I was an author — I'm a well-educated uneducated person or an uneducated well-educated person, one of the two. And it was not my intention when I started this 12 years ago that this was a career path. It was not an attempt for attention, it was not an attempt for money, it was the first pure expression that I've ever been able to tap into.

AP: What do you think of the whole celebrity kid-die-book author phenomenon?

Curtis: [When I started] I hadn't done 'True Lies' yet, so the biggest success I'd had at that point was 'A Fish Called Wanda,' and although it was a big success, I was not a big celebrity or a media darling on any level; I was a very low-level movie actor who'd had a little success.

AP: Do your kids, 17-year-old Annie and 8-year-old Thomas, think you're cool because you're famous?

Curtis: They don't care; maybe when they're older they'll care. Maybe when they're older they'll take some pride that they were the catalyst for all this creativity.

Horoscope

Joyce Jillson

The solace of the Cancer moon is featured along with the inclination to place layers of comfort between ourselves and everyone out there. Like a bird building a nest with twigs, feathers and tree fluff, we build our own personal space with the things that make us feel calm — familiar music, a filling hot dish or an entertaining television show.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (October 6). The year ahead finds you speaking up more often about things you usually keep to yourself, such as your personal life and your spirituality. There's a possibility that you might receive an inheritance from someone you haven't spoken to in years. A career change is followed by a romantic shift in December. Lucky love signs are Gemini and Scorpio.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're chock-full of good ideas. Think of a way to turn those flashes of inspiration into gold. It's a big world; someone out there is sure to be looking for what you've got. Do your research, or hire someone to do it for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you were making a movie about your life, would it be an action adventure, comedy, drama or romance? What would you edit out? How would the story end? Every day, you are writing your own script.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Slow down, and make time for touch. When was the last time you slept on satin sheets, walked barefoot on a dewy lawn, or let a cat lick you with its sandpaper tongue? There is a world of sensation waiting for you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Give up the guilt complex. Your empathy is one of your most endearing qualities, but it opens you up to all manner of emotional manipulation. You are not responsible for anyone else's happiness but your own.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Of course, you can have it all! You just can't have it all of the time. That's why you need to fully appreciate your good fortune whenever it happens and for however long it lasts. Everything in life is temporary.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Splurge on something frivolous. It doesn't have to be expensive, just completely unnecessary and absolutely desired. It's admirable to be careful with your money, but holding onto anything too tightly is counterproductive.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Take a tour through the mind of a loved one. Are you on the same page when it comes to what's sexy? Body image? Artistic expression? You'll be amazed at what you can discover with a casual conversation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Growing up means giving up choices for the sake of other choices. Search your soul, Scorpio. Your wisdom lies in the knowledge that there are no true losses in life — only gains. Stop keeping score.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Entering into a situation with a preconceived notion will leave you still hoping. That's because then there is no room for the unexpected to occur. Perhaps the universe had something even better than you imagined in store.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Rituals create a sense of stability and security. Think about the rituals you already use. Perhaps there is a way to incorporate them into your daily interaction with others so you can call upon them in times of stress.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You are always in search of the most up-to-the-minute, cutting-edge gadget. But newer is not always better. There's something to be said for the old reliable and the tried and true. Get in touch with your nostalgic side.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're a smooth operator and a master negotiator. That's because fish are remarkably adaptable. So what are you waiting for? Go be the life of the party. You were born to schmooze.

Creators Syndicate

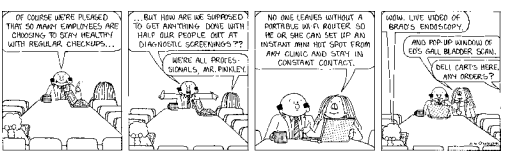
Peanuts

Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

Zits

Cathy



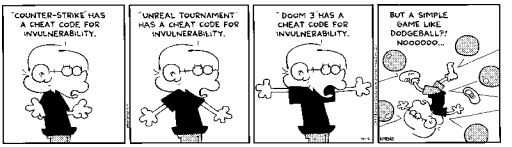
Hi and Lois

Beetle Bailey

Red and Rover

Better or Worse

Foxtrot



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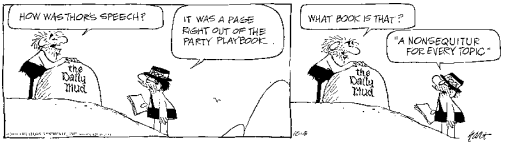
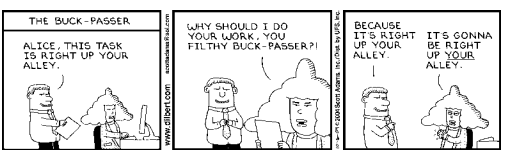


Baby Blues

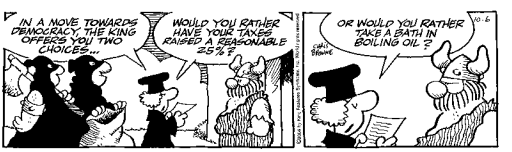
Spider Man

Blondie

Dilbert

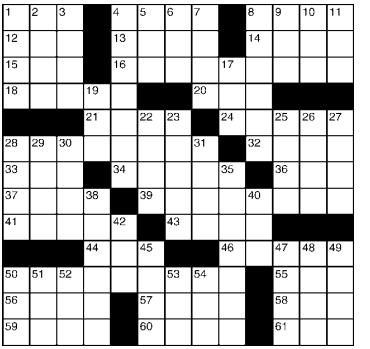


Hagar



Garfield

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Vegas transaction
4 "Twister" actress Helen
8 Information
12 Wish undone
13 Lab aide?
14 On in years
15 "— You Lonesome Tonight"
16 Doorsill
18 Mountain air?
20 Slithery swimmer
21 Regimen
24 Department store section
28 Jet engine, e.g.
32 "Hi, sailor"
33 Hasten
34 Unspoken
36 Leading lady
37 Speedy steed
39 Michael Jackson album
41 Drive away
43 Faxed
44 Sweet potato
46 Despots
50 Discard
55 Female rabbit
56 Gradually kick a habit
57 Overly theatrical
58 Mimic
59 Outstanding
60 One of HOMES
61 Club —

Down

1 Hee-haw
2 Modern-day money
3 Prepared to drive
4 Target roster
5 "This tastes terrible!"
6 Postal Creed word
7 Genealogy chart
8 Ornamental flower
9 Way back when
10 Aviv preceder
11 Throw into the mix
17 Vast expanse
19 School's Internet domain
22 Coup d'—
23 Georgia and Cal
25 Writer Silverstein
26 2003 Toni Morrison novel
27 Watchful one
28 "— she blows!"
29 Take on
30 Harvest
31 To laugh, in Lyons
35 Old photograph
38 Past
40 USCG officers
42 Ally McBeal's specialty
45 Nutmeg derivative
47 36-Across' mate
48 "Clue" weapon
49 Burpee buy
50 Seesaw quorum
51 Chop
52 "Norma —"
53 1940s headline word
54 "— my brother's keeper?"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	E	T	H		B	A	A	L		V	A	T
A	M	O	I		E	R	G	O		E	L	I
P	U	R	P	L	E	C	O	W		N	E	E
			P	A	T	H		L	A	G	E	R
A	T	T	I	C			B	A	B	E		
H	A	R	E		M	O	O	N	C	A	L	F
A	B	E		S	I	R	E	D		N	E	O
B	U	M	S	T	E	E	R		I	C	A	N
		B	E	E	N			S	C	E	N	T
M	E	L	E	E		O	B	O	E			
A	L	I		P	A	P	A	L	B	U	L	L
C	A	N		L	I	A	R		A	S	I	A
E	N	G		E	L	L	S		G	E	E	S

10-6 **CRYPTOQUIP**

Z S P K H C G F V Q P V D G D F M F O O L V Z M P D H Q Z D J P S Z G J , Z G L K K F G H J H M F L W R R C F K Z D P W Z V H .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A MOVIE CONCERNING A BIG AIR-CIRCULATION CONDUIT MIGHT BE CALLED "THE MAIN VENT."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

French connection at crossroads

Dear Abby: I am fluent in French and English. I want my daughter, "Chantal," to speak both languages. I am in a relationship with a man ("Clark") who has three children who live with him full time. I am wondering if speaking French to Chantal in front of Clark and his children is rude. My daughter's first language is French, and I have always conversed with her in French.

This has been a point of contention for some time now.

I have asked Clark to make an effort to learn French, but he has no desire to, nor do his children.

There is a "closeness" factor, I believe, in sharing my mother's language (my mother is French, my father American) with my daughter, and I would like to carry it down the generations. Clark says I can talk to Chantal in French when we're alone, but that wouldn't be often. What do you think? Is this worth ending the relationship?

— Franco-Fille in the U.S.A.

Dear Fille: It's interesting that you have framed your question in black-and-white. Surely your daughter can remain fluent in French without excluding Clark and his children from your conversations. If you love him and care about his children's feelings, you can enroll your daughter in French language and literature classes, and send her to visit her French-speaking grandmother, and — if it's affordable — take her someplace where French is the dominant language for a vacation. (If Clark and his children went along, it might inspire them to learn.) This, in addition to spending one-on-one time with your daughter, would keep her French from getting rusty, without sacrificing a relationship with someone you care about.

P.S. Even if you end the relationship, there is no guarantee that your daughter would continue to pass her French along to her own children.

Dear Abby

Dear Abby: My ex-wife, "Misty," is now dating my father (who is still married to my mom, but separated). Mom blames me. She says it's all my fault because I brought Misty into the family. We have two kids. What can I do to get past all the hurt and pain? I'm depressed all the time, and it has reached the point that it is affecting my work and everyone around me. Please help.

— Destroyed in Kentucky

Dear Destroyed: Your father's misbehavior and your wife's was not your fault.

Your mother blames you because she is unable to project her anger where it really belongs, which is on your father.

Both you and your mom could use counseling to work through this soap opera.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at **http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby**

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PYNOH

GEDEW

DRYBAN

BADOUN

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www.jumble.com

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIEF HOIST THRIVE DISARM
Answer: What the tennis fans said when he aced the obnoxious favorite – "SERVES" HIM RIGHT

Sister upends life for online lover

Dear Annie: My sister, "Carol," whom I love dearly, is self-destructing. She has been having an online affair with a guy in another state. She ditched her husband of 15 years for this guy, and the divorce was final last month.

Carol's 11-year-old daughter is not taking this well. My niece has reverted to babyish behavior. She's been throwing continual snit fits and is generally being a pill.

Carol is now making arrangements to move to another state, where her online lover is located, and plans to sue for sole custody of her daughter, despite the fact that the little girl loves her dad dearly, and all her relatives and friends live here.

My sister is a successful attorney who is very attractive and very poised. Is this some kind of midlife crisis? Why isn't she thinking of her daughter's emotional health? I'm stressing out about it — it's like seeing a train wreck coming that I can't prevent. I've tried speaking to Carol, but she just gets angry and won't listen. Any advice for me? Or is it best to stay out of it?

— Worried Sister in the South

Dear Worried: It sounds as if Carol has thrown caution to the wind.

It's too bad she can't think clearly enough to put her daughter's needs before her own. There is nothing you can do to force Carol to behave rationally, but it might help to tell her how much you love her and that you are concerned. No matter the outcome, try to be a source of support for your niece. She is going to need people to look out for her.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: I read the letter from "Anonymous Minister," who asked you to stop referring people to their clergy when they need counseling. He said the clergy isn't trained to provide such assistance. That minister needs to speak for himself.

I attended two very prestigious seminaries, have served as an ordained church pastor and am now a military chaplain. I have an extra year of graduate education in pastoral counseling and two years of hospital residence as a chaplain.

Many ministers specialize in particular areas such as marriage, parenting, divorce, addiction recovery and other forms of counseling.

Ministers, priests and rabbis are a tremendous resource in seeking comfort and confronting problems. Please help me set the record straight for my humble colleague.

— Chaplain Phil King, Lieutenant, USNR, Okinawa

Dear Chaplain King: You did a fine job on your own.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to **anniesmailbox@comcast.net**, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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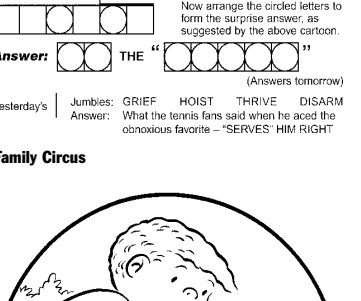

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"Hey! That ant looks familiar!"

Dennis the Menace

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"DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TIME OL' RUFF GOT MARRIED, SO WE CAN HAVE SOME PUPPIES?"

The Far Side

"Hey, Thak. ... You know you move lips when you look at pictures?"

Non Sequitur

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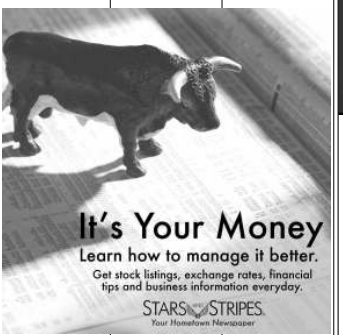

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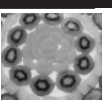

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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — Motorcycle racing: MotoGP World Championships, Qatar (dld).

AFN-Sports, noon — Baseball: AL Division Series, Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, Game 1 (dld).

AFN-Sports, 3 p.m. — College football: Ohio St. at Northwestern (dld).

AFN-Sports, AFN-Radio, 10 p.m. — Baseball: NL Division Series, Houston at Atlanta, Game 1.

Thursday

AFN-Sports, AFN-Radio, 1 a.m. — Baseball: AL Division Series, Minnesota at N.Y. Yankees, Game 2.

AFN-Sports, AFN-Radio, 4 a.m. — Baseball: AL Division Series, Boston at Anaheim, Game 2.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — Boxing: Felix Trinidad (41-1) vs. Ricardo Mayorga (27-4), middleweights (dld).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m. — College football: West Virginia at Virginia Tech (dld).

AFN-Sports, AFN-Radio, 10 p.m. — Baseball: NL Division Series, Houston at Atlanta, Game 2.

Friday

AFN-Atlantic, 1:30 a.m. — College football: Clemson at Virginia.

All times Central European Time; dld indicates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit **www.myafn.net** for more information.

College football

AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 2, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Southern Cal (48)	4-0	1,604	1
2. Oklahoma (15)	4-0	1,560	2
3. Georgia (2)	4-0	1,491	3
4. Miami	4-0	1,409	4
5. Texas	4-0	1,358	5
6. Auburn	5-0	1,305	6
7. California	3-0	1,180	10
8. Florida St.	3-1	1,149	9
9. Purdue	4-0	1,047	15
10. Virginia	4-0	1,036	12
11. Utah	5-0	937	14
12. Florida	3-1	866	16
13. Minnesota	5-0	723	18
14. Michigan	4-1	666	19
15. Wisconsin	5-0	650	20
16. West Virginia	4-1	604	6
17. Tennessee	3-1	551	10
18. Ohio St.	3-1	547	7
19. Arizona St.	5-0	507	21
20. Louisville	4-0	478	22
21. Boise St.	5-0	396	23
22. Oklahoma St.	4-0	360	25
23. Maryland	3-1	263	24
24. LSU	3-2	191	13
25. South Carolina	4-1	60	—

Others receiving votes: Southern Miss. 50, N.C. State 28, Missouri 24, Fresno St. 17, Virginia Tech 17, Navy 15, Stanford 15, Texas A&M 12, Boston College 5, Notre Dame 2, Kansas St. 1, Nebraska 1, Texas Tech 1.

AP Top 25 schedule

Thursday, Oct. 7
No. 10 Virginia vs. Clemson

Saturday, Oct. 9
No. 1 Southern Cal vs. No. 7 California
No. 2 Oklahoma vs. No. 5 Texas
No. 3 Georgia vs. No. 17 Tennessee
No. 6 Auburn vs. Louisiana Tech
No. 8 Florida State at Syracuse
No. 9 Purdue at Penn State
No. 12 Florida vs. No. 24 LSU
No. 13 Minnesota at No. 14 Michigan
No. 15 Wisconsin at No. 18 Ohio State
No. 20 Oklahoma State at Colorado
No. 23 Maryland vs. Georgia Tech
No. 25 South Carolina vs. Mississippi

Division I-AA Top 25

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The top 25 teams in the Sports Network Division I-AA football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 3 and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Southern Illinois (66)	4-1	2,344	1
2. Furman (18)	4-1	2,275	2
3. Georgia Southern (6)	4-1	2,188	3
4. Delaware	4-1	2,040	4
5. Stephen F. Austin (5)	4-0	1,977	5
6. Western Kentucky (1)	3-1	1,905	6
7. Montana	4-1	1,794	7
8. Wofford	3-1	1,611	9
9. New Hampshire	4-1	1,583	12
10. Cal Poly-SLO	4-0	1,417	13
11. Northwestern State	4-1	1,350	14
12. Maine	2-2	1,292	8
13. Sam Houston State	3-1	1,006	18
14. Villanova	3-2	932	10
15. Jacksonville State	4-0	856	22
16. Northern Arizona	2-2	811	20
17. Lehigh	3-1	690	21
18. William & Mary	3-1	682	NR
19. James Madison	3-1	577	25
20. Colgate	2-2	561	11
21. Appalachian State	3-2	532	24
22. Northern Iowa	1-3	521	15
23. Northeastern	2-2	333	16
24. UC Davis	4-0	286	NR
25. Hampton	4-1	282	17

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
x-Columbus	11	5	11	44	37	30
x-MetroStars	11	11	6	39	44	45
D.C. United	9	10	9	36	39	40
Chicago	8	11	9	33	35	41
New England	7	12	9	30	40	41
Western Conference						
x-Kansas City	13	9	6	45	37	30
x-Los Angeles	10	8	10	40	40	39
x-Colorado	9	10	10	40	28	31
San Jose	9	10	9	36	39	33
Dallas	10	13	5	35	32	41

x-clinched playoff spot
NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's game
Columbus at Chicago

Saturday's games
Columbus at MetroStars
New England at D.C. United
Dallas at Los Angeles
Kansas City at San Jose

Saturday, Oct. 16
Chicago at New England
San Jose at Dallas
Los Angeles at Kansas City
Columbus at Colorado

Sunday, Oct. 17
MetroStars at D.C. United
End of Regular Season

Pro basketball

WNBA playoffs

CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-three)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Connecticut vs. New York
Friday, Oct. 1
Connecticut 61, New York 51
Sunday, Oct. 3
Connecticut 60, New York 57, Connecticut wins series 2-0

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Seattle vs. Sacramento
Friday, Oct. 1
Sacramento 74, Seattle 72
Sunday, Oct. 3
Seattle 66, Sacramento 54, series tied 1-1
Tuesday, Oct. 5
Sacramento at Seattle

FINALS
(Best-of-three)
Connecticut vs. Sacramento-Seattle winner
Friday, Oct. 8
Sacramento-Seattle winner at Connecticut

Sunday, Oct. 10
Connecticut at Sacramento-Seattle winner, if necessary

Tuesday, Oct. 12
Connecticut at Sacramento-Seattle winner, if necessary

Tennis

Lyon Open

Monday
At Palais des Sports de Lyon
Lyon, France
Purse: $982,000 (Intl. Series)
Surface: Carpet-Indoor
Singles
First Round
Feliciano Lopez, Spain, def. Nikolay Davydenko, Russia, 6-3, 6-7 (3), 6-3.
Xavier Malisse, Belgium, def. Dominik Hrbaty (6), Slovakia, 6-4, 7-6 (4).
Ivan Ljubicic, Croatia, def. Arnaud Clement, France, 6-4, 7-6 (1).
Jonas Bjorkman, Sweden, def. Albert Costa, Spain, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (6), 6-4.

Porsche Grand Prix

Monday
At Tennissporthalle Filderstadt
Filderstadt, Germany
Purse: $650,000 (Tier II)
Surface: Hard-Indoor
Singles
First Round
Anna Smashnova-Pistolesi, Israel, def. Ai Sugiyama (8), Japan, 6-3, 7-6 (3).
Alicia Molik, Australia, def. Francesca Schiavone, Italy, 6-2, 6-3.
Silvia Farina Elia, Italy, def. Karolina Sprem, Croatia, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Golf

World ranking

Through Oct. 3

1. Vijay Singh	Fiji	14.14
2. Ernie Els	SAf	12.66
3. Tiger Woods	USA	11.54
4. Phil Mickelson	USA	8.55
5. Retief Goosen	SAf	7.26
6. David Love III	USA	7.04
7. Mike Weir	Can	6.77
8. Padraig Harrington	Ire	5.98
9. Stewart Cink	USA	5.33
10. Sergio Garcia	Spn	4.96
11. Adam Scott	Aus	4.95
12. Jim Furyk	USA	4.68
13. Darren Clarke	NIr	4.64
14. Chris DiMarco	USA	4.48
15. Stuart Appleby	Aus	4.48
16. Chad Campbell	USA	4.38
17. Kenny Perry	USA	4.27
18. Todd Hamilton	USA	4.24
19. Miguel Angel Jimenez	Spn	3.95
20. Stephen Ames	T&T	3.85

Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Agreed to terms with RHP Cliff Politte on a one-year contract extension.
SEATTLE MARINERS—Fired Bob Melvin, manager.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Promoted interim manager John Gibbons to manager. Announced Mike Barnett, hitting coach, Brian Butterfield, third base coach, and Bruce Walton, bullpen coach, will return next season. Named Ernie Whitt bench coach and Brad Arnsberg pitching coach.
National League
CINCINNATI REDS—Assigned LHP Mike Matthews, RHP Aaron Moyette and INF Juan Padilla outright to Louisville of the IL. Announced C Corky Miller has been claimed off waivers by Milwaukee.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
CHICAGO BULLS—Waived F Chris Jefferies.
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS—Signed G Matt Carroll, G Brandon Armstrong and F Ansu Sesay.
LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS—Signed G Trajan Langdon and F Kaniel Dickens. Exercised their fourth-year contract option on F Chris Wilcox.
LOS ANGELES LAKERS—Signed F Jerry Dupree and G Tierre Brown.
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES—Agreed to terms with F Jackie Butler, G Anthony Carter, G Anthony Goldwire, F Kasib Powell and F John Thomas. Signed F Rick Rickert and G Blake Stepp.
NEW YORK KNICKS—Signed C Mengke Bateer, G Andre Barrett, F Tracy Murray and F Brent Wright.
ORLANDO MAGIC—Signed C Earl Barron, F Corsley Edwards, G Jemiel Rich and F-C Ajanii Williams.
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Signed F Kirk Haston and G Nate James.
TORONTO RAPTORS—Signed F Ousmane Cisse and G Norm Richardson.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
DALLAS COWBOYS—Signed TE Brett Pierce. Released WR Patrick Crayton from the active roster and signed him to the practice squad. Dropped TE Landon Trusty from the practice squad.
GREEN BAY PACKERS—Traded CB Mike McKenzie and a future conditional draft pick to New Orleans for a 2005 second-round draft pick and QB J.T. O'Sullivan.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Signed CB Deandre Elland to the practice squad. Waived WR John Standeford from the practice squad.
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS—Activated C Jason Ball from the exempt list. Released G Phil Bogle.
COLLEGE
BENTLEY—Named Brian Sherry assistant ice hockey coach.
BUFFALO—Suspended sophomores Braden Byler, Brandon Foley and Erik Jaannsagi from the men's soccer team following a hazing episode that put a freshman player in the hospital.
GEORGE WASHINGTON—Named Jim Mason pitching coach.

TANK MCNAMARA

AP

Dale Earnhardt Jr. was penalized 25 points for swearing during an interview after winning Sunday's EA Sports 500 in Talladega, Ala. The penalty cost Earnhardt the lead in the NASCAR Nextel Cup standings.

Earnhardt penalty erases points lead

By Mike Harris
The Associated Press

NASCAR star Dale Earnhardt Jr. was knocked out of first place in the Nextel Cup by a slip of the tongue.

Earnhardt was docked 25 points and fined $10,000 by NASCAR on Tuesday for cursing during a TV interview after his victory at Talladega Superspeedway.

Asked Sunday by NASCAR broadcaster NBC about the significance of his fifth victory at Talladega, Earnhardt said, "It don't mean [expletive] right now. Daddy's won here 10 times."

Now, instead of leading Kurt Busch by 13 points in the Nextel Cup standings, Earnhardt, the son of the late seven-time series champion Dale Earnhardt, trails by 12 with seven races left in the season.

Richie Gilmore, director of competition for Dale Earnhardt Inc., said the team will appeal NASCAR's decision.

"This is a huge setback for the entire company," Gilmore said.

"We're in a sport that focuses its primary attention on the final 10 races of the season and we're racing against formidable teams for a championship. We're facing a setback from a competition standpoint for something that should be considered a personal foul. We have no choice but to appeal the points portion of the penalty.

"I think we're the only sport that takes points off of the board after they've been scored. The popularity of this sport is based on colorful personalities and the fact that everyone can relate to these drivers and their emotions. Now, it seems like that's a detriment."

Appeals are heard by a three-person panel selected by NASCAR from the National Stock Car Racing Commission. No date has been set for the appeal.

Earnhardt will still be credited with the 14th victory of his career and fifth at Talladega but, with the points penalty, it's as if he finished fifth on Sunday. Still, he has plenty of time to make up the deficit on Busch, with up to 190 points available at each of the last seven events.

In February, NASCAR President Mike Helton told drivers to watch their language on radio and television. Less than a month later, he showed he meant it: Johnny Sauter was fined and lost 25 points for swearing during a radio interview following a Busch Series race in Las Vegas.

> *"I think we're the only sport that takes points off of the board after they've been scored."*
>
> **Richie Gilmore**
> Dale Earnhardt, Inc.

Ron Hornaday Jr. also was hit with a fine and the loss of 25 points after cursing during a live radio interview in June during a Busch race at Dover.

Since Janet Jackson's breast-bearing halftime show at the Super Bowl on Feb. 1, the FCC has cracked down on objectionable content on TV. Last month, CBS was fined a record $550,000 by federal regulators for the halftime show.

Junior, who will turn 30 next Sunday, could not immediately be reached. Minutes after the TV interview, however, he knew that his comment was going to mean trouble.

He was visibly uncomfortable during the winner's interview in the pressbox, defending his use of what NASCAR has deemed inappropriate language.

"I hope they understand that it was in jubilation and I know me and those other guys that got fined let it slip, but it's two different circumstances," Earnhardt said. "I think that when you're happy and joyous about something and it happens, I think it's different than being angry and cursing in anger."

No telling who'll be the Marlins of 2004

By Mike Berardino
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Chad Fox was sitting home in Houston 14 months ago, weighing offers from several different teams, when he made a choice that proved uncommonly wise.

Commentary

The journeyman reliever opted to sign with the Florida Marlins, he said, because every time he turned on the late-night highlights, they were the ones jumping around in celebration. They seemed to be leading the league in fun.

A couple of months later, Fox and the rest of his new friends were riding in multiple World Series parades after improbable upsets of the Giants, Cubs and Yankees. They weren't just leading the league in fun anymore; they were leading the whole flippin' world.

Which brings us to the present and the start of baseball's annual month-long crapshoot. The Marlins won't get a chance to defend their unlikely title, thanks to a confluence of injury, natural disaster and a sluggish middle third of the season.

But that doesn't mean, as I gaze into my cloudier-than-ever crystal ball, we shouldn't try to pick the Marlins' championship successors by trying to identify which team is most Marlins-like among the eight that remain.

Trouble is, as you keep turning the prism, the clues keep coming from different directions.

At first blush, it could be the Houston Astros. After all, they are the National League wild-card representative, just like last year's Marlins. Three of the last four NL pennant winners took the wild-card route, and the last two World Series titles have gone to non-division winners (2002 Angels were the other).

Plus, they've got that whole fill-in manager thing going. You think Jack McKeon did strong work turning the Marlins' season around after taking over in mid-May. How about Houston's Phil Garner, who didn't replace dour Jimy Williams until the All-Star break.

All the Astros did was go 36-10 down the stretch, and they're working on a ridiculous streak of 18 straight wins at Minute Maid Park. Imagine how good they'd be if Andy Petttte and Wade Miller hadn't gotten hurt.

The '03 Marlins battled through injuries and had one of the game's best home records as well, but they also found a way to master the art of the comeback. That means maybe we should look a little closer at the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Talk about game-ending celebrations. This is Team Walk-off.

Fifty-three — count 'em — comeback victories so far for a Dodgers team that seems to be slam-dancing atop home plate every night. No lead is safe against these guys.

Just ask the Rockies' bullpen, which imploded on cue against the bluebloods several times in the last few weeks.

The Dodgers may have given the Marlins three players for next to nothing back in July, but at least they flipped minor league lefty Bill Murphy on to Arizona for the ageless Steve Finley.

Speaking of age, it was Josh Beckett who famously suggested on the eve of last year's playoffs that the Marlins just might be "young and stupid enough" to win it all. Along those lines, meet the Minnesota Twins.

Specifically, say hello to Johan Santana, the 25-year-old lefty who came from nowhere to dominate the second half. Not even Beckett reeled off 13 straight wins the way Santana did after the break.

Young talent beats experienced mediocrity every time, so we'd better not disregard a team that counts Canadian slugger Justin Morneau, slick shortstop Cristian Guzman and first-year closer Joe Nathan among its arsenal.

Plus, unlike last year's Marlins, these Twins have the benefit of making their third straight playoff trip. They might have reached the World Series two years ago if they hadn't run into the Anaheim Angels, which brings us to our next Marlins-type indicator.

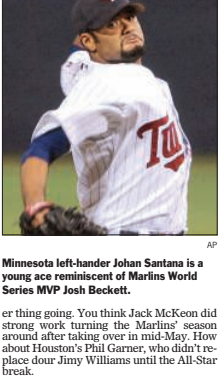
Have you seen that Angels bullpen lately? Who's out there? Who isn't? It's not just veteran closer Troy Percival and setup man Frankie "K-Rod" Rodriguez, Thunder and Lightning, respectively. The second-ranked bullpen in the league also gets first-quality work from Scot Shields, Brendan Donnelly, Kevin Gregg and Ramon Ortiz, who was one of their starters when they won it all in 2002.

Last year's Marlins reminded us that, just as much as a sage manager and a taste for comebacks and the fearlessness of youth, winning in October is often as simple as shortening games. Against the Angels, if you're trailing after six innings, you're in big trouble.

Having said all that, this thing could still come down to the Yankees and Cardinals, baseball's only 100-win juggernauts. Or maybe I should just stick with my preseason pick to win it all, the Boston Red Sox.

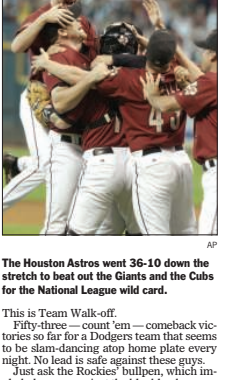
Let's say the Sox, with their $120 million payroll, will survive another death match with the Yankees for the American League pennant and then slip past the Astros in a curse-crushing World Series.

Hey, that Cinderella Marlins stuff can't happen every year.



AP

Minnesota left-hander Johan Santana is a young ace reminiscent of Marlins World Series MVP Josh Beckett.



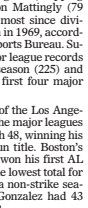
AP

The Houston Astros went 36-10 down the stretch to beat out the Giants and the Cubs for the National League wild card.

It all adds up to great year for Bonds

By Ronald Blum
The Associated Press

Bonds



Suzuki

Barry Bonds won his second National League batting title in three seasons and shattered the on-base percentage and walks records he set two years ago.

The 40-year-old outfielder hit .362 for the San Francisco Giants and finished with a .609 on-base percentage, topping his old mark of .582. Bonds walked 232 times, 34 more than the previous record, and his 120 intentional walks obliterated the old mark of 68, also set by Bonds in 2002.

Bonds' .812 slugging percentage led the major leagues for the fourth straight season but fell short of the record he set at .863 in 2001. With 45 homers this season, Bonds raised his career total to 703, trailing only Hank Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714). Bonds matched Aaron's NL record of eight 40-homer seasons, trailing only Ruth's major league mark of 11. He also became the first player in major league history with 13 consecutive 30-homer seasons.

Cincinnati's Adam Dunn struck out 195 times, breaking the previous record of 189 set in 1970 by Bonds' father, Bobby.

Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki won his second AL batting title in four years with a .372 average, and his 262 hits broke the old record of 257, set by George Sisler with the 1920 St. Louis Browns. Suzuki had 80 mulithit games, topping the Yankees' Don Mattingly (79 in 1986) for the most since divisional play began in 1969, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Suzuki also set major league records for singles in a season (225) and hits (924) in his first four major league seasons.

Adrian Beltre of the Los Angeles Dodgers led the major leagues in home runs with 48, winning his first NL home run title. Boston's Manny Ramirez won his first AL crown with 43, the lowest total for an AL leader in a non-strike season since Juan Gonzalez had 43 for Texas in 1992.

Ramirez led the AL in slugging percentage at .613, and Baltimore's Melvin Mora led in on-base percentage at .419.

Baltimore's Miguel Tejada had 150 RBIs, the highest total in the AL since Gonzalez had 157 in 1998. Colorado's Vinny Castilla led the NL at 131. Milwaukee's Scott Podsednik led the NL with 70 stolen bases, and Tampa Bay's Carl Crawford topped the AL with 59.

Boston's Curt Schilling (21-6) led the AL in wins, Houston's Roy Oswalt (20-10) topped the NL and the Chicago Cubs' Greg Maddux (16-11) extended his major league record with his 17th straight season of 15 or more wins. San Diego's Jake Peavy (2.27) and Minnesota's Johan Santana (2.61) won ERA titles for the first time.

Arizona's Randy Johnson (290), who turned 41 last month, led the major leagues in strikeouts for the 10th time, topping the NL for the fifth time in six seasons. Santana won his first AL strikeout title with 265.

The Yankees' Mariano Rivera led the AL for the third time in saves with 53. Armando Benitez of Florida and Jason Isringhausen of St. Louis shared the NL lead with 47 each.

Milwaukee (67-94) and Pittsburgh (72-89) had their 12th straight losing seasons, four shy of the record set by the Philadelphia Phillies from 1933-48. Detroit had its 11th losing season in a row.

Baseball playoffs

DIVISION SERIES
American League
New York vs. Minnesota
Tuesday, Oct. 5
Minnesota (Santana 20-6) at New York (Mussina 12-9)
Wednesday, Oct. 6
Minnesota (Radke 11-8) at New York (Lieber 14-8)
Friday, Oct. 8
New York (Hernandez 8-2 or Brown 10-6) at Minnesota (Silva 14-8).
Saturday, Oct. 9
New York at Minnesota, if necessary
Sunday, Oct. 10
Minnesota at New York, if necessary
Anaheim vs. Boston
Tuesday, Oct. 5
Boston (Schilling 21-6) at Anaheim (Washburn 11-8)
Wednesday, Oct. 6
Boston (Martinez 16-9) at Anaheim (Colon 18-12)
Friday, Oct. 8
Anaheim (Escobar 11-12) at Boston (Arroyo 10-9 or Wakefield 12-10)
Saturday, Oct. 9
Anaheim at Boston, if necessary
Sunday, Oct. 10
Boston at Anaheim, if necessary
National League
St. Louis vs. Los Angeles
Tuesday, Oct. 5
Los Angeles (Perez 7-6) at St. Louis (W.Williams 11-8)
Thursday, Oct. 7
Los Angeles (Weaver 13-13) at St. Louis (Marquis 15-7)
Saturday, Oct. 9
St. Louis (Morris 15-10) at Los Angeles (Lima 13-5)
Sunday, Oct. 10
St. Louis (Suppan 16-9) at Los Angeles (Perez 7-6), if necessary
Monday, Oct. 11
Los Angeles at St. Louis, if necessary
Atlanta vs. Houston
Wednesday, Oct. 6
Houston (Clemens 18-4) at Atlanta (Wright 15-8)
Thursday, Oct. 7
Houston (Oswalt 20-10) at Atlanta (Hampton 13-9)
Saturday, Oct. 9
Atlanta (Thomson 14-8) at Houston
Sunday, Oct. 10
Atlanta at Houston, if necessary
Monday, Oct. 11
Houston at Atlanta, if necessary

Rocket: Luck helps Astros set rotation

ROCKET, FROM BACK PAGE

"For him, it was a matter of, I think, being away from his family. Staying in Houston, he had a chance to do both."

Fans returned to Minute Maid Park in droves to see Clemens, a Houston native. The Astros set a franchise record for attendance (3,087,872).

The Astros are now counting on Clemens, who has two World Series rings and years of postseason experience, to help them end a humiliating string of October failures: Houston has never won a postseason series in 42 years of existence.

"I don't think anyone left has more World Series experience than Roger Clemens," Garner said Sunday. "Our pitching rotation has been set up nicely because of Roger's illness."

Said McLane: "I think the odds are in our favor. It's our turn."

Maybe it is. The addition of Clemens has clearly made a difference on a club that once scared no one in the fall.

"He's the same guy he always was," Braves third baseman Chipper Jones said. "Hopefully, that stomach virus will affect him. But I doubt it."

With Melvin out, Mariners looking for a new skipper

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Don't ask Seattle Mariners General Manager Bill Bavasi what — or who — he wants in a new manager.

Don't bother asking why he fired the previous one, either.

Bavasi refused to answer those questions Monday when he announced that Bob Melvin won't return next season.

Strangely, the GM insisted the Mariners still love Melvin.

Bavasi gave the impression that Melvin simply wasn't the right fit any longer.

"I have absolutely nothing negative to say about Bob," Bavasi said. "He's a real good man. He works hard. He cares about his players."

Melvin was fired one day after Seattle ended its worst season in 12 years with 99 losses. He got the news during what was described as a congenial meeting, in which Bavasi said tears were shed but disclosed little more.

Melvin, who led the Mariners to a 93-69 record in 2003 after Lou Piniella left for Tampa Bay, wasn't available for comment.

When Bavasi addressed the media later, he praised Melvin for his hard work and commitment to players. But he left reporters puzzled because he wouldn't say why the move was necessary.

Bavasi said the decision "crystalized in my mind" over the past five or six days, and that team chairman Howard Lincoln and president Chuck Armstrong supported the move.

Bavasi said he'd even called another undisclosed team to suggest Melvin for that organization's managerial vacancy.

"To the untrained eye, I'm talking out of both sides of my mouth," Bavasi said. "We just let him go, but I'm recommending him. In this crazy business, that fits because he will do things differently the second time. He had some bad luck here."

MLB briefs

Bavasi had no timetable for hiring a successor, nor would he say what the front office wants in the next manager. He refused to discuss names, saying only that he hopes to work quickly.

"We'll probably target somebody, go after them, and go from there," he said.

Potential candidates include Angels bench coach Joe Maddon, who was in Anaheim when Bavasi was general manager there. Maddon handled the team for the final 29 games in 1999 after Terry Collins resigned.

The Mariners quietly hired Jimy Williams to evaluate their minor league system after he was fired by Houston this season. He was among the candidates interviewed when Collins got the Angels' job in 1997.

Blue Jays keep Gibbons as manager

TORONTO — John Gibbons is getting one chance to turn the Toronto Blue Jays around, and he's happy to have it.

Gibbons was given a one-year contract Monday to return as manager after guiding the last-place Blue Jays to a 20-30 record during the final eight weeks of the season.

"I haven't accomplished anything at this level. It gives me an opportunity. There was no way I was going to do turn it down," Gibbons said. "Everybody likes security, but you know what? They thought enough of me to at least give me a year to try it, it says a lot."

Gibbons took over as interim manager on Aug. 8, when Carlos Tosca was fired with the team at 47-64. General manager J.P. Ricciardi liked Gibbons' upbeat attitude and the way he handled the bullpen.

The team also hired former Blue Jays catcher Ernie Whitt as bench coach Monday, and Brad Arnsberg was hired as pitching coach.

AP

Mariners General Manager Bill Bavasi, above, praised fired manager Bob Melvin but said, "He had some bad luck here." Seattle finished with 99 losses, its worst season in 12 years.

Arnsberg had been a pitching coach for the Florida Marlins and Montreal Expos.

Toronto finished 67-94 this season, its most losses since 1980 (67-95).

"I don't think we'll be knocking on the door next year," said Ricciardi, in the third year of a five-year rebuilding plan. "We're going to build this through player development and scouting. It may take five years, it may take seven years."

New Brewers owner plans few changes

MILWAUKEE — The buyer of the Milwaukee Brewers said Monday he doesn't plan any major changes to the ballclub — in the field or the front office.

After days of speculation, the Brewers officially introduced Mark Attanasio, the Los Angeles investor who reputedly offered $220 million for the team.

Attanasio said that after meetings with staff and exhaustive reviews of the team's finances, he believes the Brewers are already on the right track to a winning season, despite coming off their 12th consecutive losing season.

"Now it's our job to start winning more games. Everything we do is going to be directed to winning more games," the 47-year-old said.

Yanks leave Giambi off playoff roster

NEW YORK — Jason Giambi was dropped Tuesday from the New York Yankees' roster for their first-round playoff series against the Minnesota Twins.

New York will carry 11 pitchers for the best-of-five series, including Orlando Hernandez and Kevin Brown, candidates to start Games 3 or 4, along with Javier Vazquez.

Giambi tried to play himself back into shape following treatment for a benign tumor, but he went 4-for-33 (.121) after he was activated from the disabled list on Sept. 14. He hit a career-low .208 this season with 12 homers and 40 RBIs.

Missouri-Kansas game no longer a 'Border War'

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Out of respect for U.S. troops fighting overseas, Missouri and Kansas are changing the name of their sports rivalry from "Border War" to "Border Showdown."

"We feel that in the aftermath of Sept. 11, 2001, and the ensuing events around the world, it is inappropriate to use the term 'war' to describe intercollegiate athletics events," Kansas athletic director Lew Perkins said Monday. "We need to be more sensitive to the men and women who defend our country for real."

The schools have competed in sports for more than a century.

"Our rivalry with Kansas is a very important thing to many people, but it certainly pales in comparison with what is taking place overseas, and this is the right thing to do," Missouri athletic director Mike Alden said.

Unlike other college rivalries referred to as wars, the Missouri-Kansas competition actually traces its roots to armed conflict. In the 1860s, tensions between Missouri, a slave state, and Kansas, a free state, led to bloody clashes along the border.

In the most celebrated confrontation, Confederate sympathizers led by William Quantrill sacked Lawrence and burned most of the town to the ground.

Sports briefs

News accounts from earliest football games between the schools recount fights breaking out in the crowd between descendants of Union and Confederate soldiers.

Oklahoma St. football coach defends alleged rapist Morency

STILLWATER, Okla. — Oklahoma State football coach Les Miles said Monday there is no need for further disciplinary action regarding rape allegations against Vernand Morency, the nation's third-leading rusher.

Miles said he was aware of the allegations last season and he took action at the time, although there was no public announcement.

Morency was never charged with rape.

Morency, who has averaged 176 yards for the 22nd-ranked Cowboys (4-0), was suspended during spring and summer workouts last year as a result of a misdemeanor charge of knowingly receiving stolen property filed after a university police officer arrested him while riding a stolen bicycle.

Payne County District Attorney Rob Hudson said university police conducted a thorough investigation into the rape allegations and prosecutors also sought DNA tests through the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. Hudson said prosecutors believed the strength of the evidence was not enough to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Morency was guilty.

Hudson said one factor was Morency's willingness to submit to a lie-detector test and the fact that he passed the test while describing his account of what happened.

The rape allegations emerged again Monday after the university's student newspaper, The Daily O'Collegian, reported on records of the allegations.

Buffalo suspends soccer players for hazing incident

AMHERST, N.Y. — The University at Buffalo has suspended three soccer players following a hazing episode that put a freshman player in the hospital, officials said Monday.

The incident involving sophomores Braden Byler, Brandon Foley and Erik Jaanimagi and the unidentified freshman allegedly took place at a campus party on Sept. 25. The university declined to release details but said the three students were suspended on alcohol and hazing charges.

The freshman was hospitalized for several hours on Sept. 26.

Other students face possible disciplinary action, according to the university, which continues to investigate.

Campus police said the incident was being handled administratively and that the students involved in the alleged hazing would not face criminal charges.

Smashnova-Pistolesi upsets Sugiyama in Germany

FILDERSTADT, Germany — Anna Smashnova-Pistolesi upset eighth-seeded Ai Sugiyama of Japan 6-3, 7-6 (3) in the opening round Monday of the Porsche Grand Prix, an event in which the field has been decimated by injuries.

The $650,000 tournament, which usually has a stellar field, still boasts nine of the world's top 15 but has lost four former No. 1 players.

Defending champion Kim Clijsters, fighting her recurring wrist injury, became the latest to pull out on Sunday, following Serena Williams, Jennifer Capriati and Justine Henin-Hardenne.

N.M. State basketball coach fights viral infection

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — New Mexico State basketball coach Lou Henson has been in the hospital for six days after coming down with what his wife described as a viral infection.

The 72-year-old Henson, who has 775 victories in 41 seasons of coaching in Division I, was admitted to the hospital on Sept. 28.

School spokesman Sean Johnson said Monday he could not release Henson's condition for privacy reasons. The university, however, said he was expected to make a full recovery and hoped to be back on the bench in time for the start of the season.

Assistant head coach Tony Stubblefield said Monday evening he had visited Henson and that he was doing well. Stubblefield has been appointed interim head coach until Henson returns.

The athletics department said Henson's condition is not related to the lymphoma form of cancer he was diagnosed with in the summer of 2003.

Walker, Cardinals jump all over Dodgers

AP

St. Louis' Larry Walker watches his solo home run in the third inning against the Cardinals' 8-3 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 1 of the National League Division Series on Tuesday in St. Louis.

St. Louis hits five homers in Game 1 rout

BY R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Larry Walker and the St. Louis Cardinals turned Game 1 into a slugfest, and that was big trouble for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Walker homered twice and the Cardinals tied a postseason record by hitting five home runs, overwhelming Odalis Perez and the Dodgers in an 8-3 blowout Tuesday in the opener of their NL playoff series.

Albert Pujols, Jim Edmonds and Mike Matheny also connected. Add in a strong six-inning performance from Woody Williams and the Cardinals looked every bit as dominating as they did in leading the majors with 105 wins.

The Dodgers, who set a franchise record with 53 come-from-behind victories, fell so far behind they couldn't recover with a huge rally.

Los Angeles still hasn't won a postseason game since it beat the Oakland Athletics, managed by Tony La Russa, in the 1988 World Series. The Dodgers were swept in the first round by Atlanta in 1996 and Cincinnati in 1995.

Game 2 of the best-of-five series is Thursday night at Busch Stadium, where the Cardinals also swept the Dodgers in a three-game series in early September. Jason Marquis pitches for St. Louis against Jeff Weaver.

The Cardinals clinched the NL Central on Sept. 18 before ending the season on cruise control, going 8-7 while La Russa seldom used his regular lineup. The finish featured the team's only four-game losing streak of the year, causing some consternation among its fans.

When they again got to play a game that mattered, they pulled away quickly, hammering Perez for three homers in $2^2/_3$ innings.

Matheny connected off Elmer Dessens in the fourth to make it 7-0, giving the Cardinals a chance to cruise a bit again. After the Dodgers cut the deficit to 7-2, Walker homered again off Giovanni Carrara in the seventh.

The Cardinals are one of four teams to hit five homers in a postseason game, joining the 1984 Cubs (NLCS), the 1928 Yankees (World Series) and the 1989 Athletics (World Series).

A slugest was one thing that Dodgers manager Jim Tracy feared.

And Perez, who has complained about the lack of run support, couldn't complain this time.

Two of the biggest hits came on consecutive at-bats from players whose performance dragged at the finish.

Edgar Renteria, 3-for-21 in his past six games, had a two-run double in the five-run third that broke open the game. Edmonds, who entered the postseason in a 1-for-29 slump, followed with a two-run homer to chase Perez.

Walker, who was 1-for-15 against Perez in the regular season, got the two-out, third-inning rally started with his two-out homer on the first pitch. Edmonds also connected on the first pitch.

Perez, making his first career postseason start, faced a tall order since the Cardinals had the three best hitters against left-handed pitching, including Pujols (.379), Scott Rolen (.371) and Renteria (.366). Plus, Pujols was 6-for-10 against him in the regular season with two homers, two doubles and seven RBIs.

Perez's bottom line — six runs on five hits in $2^2/_3$ innings — was even worse than his spotty past record against the Cardinals. In four career regular-season starts, none of them this season, he's 2-1 with a 9.64 ERA.

Williams was a compromise pick as St. Louis' Game 1 starter after an injury to 15-game winner Chris Carpenter and season-long inconsistency by opening-day starter Matt Morris.

Carpenter was lost for at least the first round of the playoffs because of nerve irritation in his right biceps on Sept. 18, and Morris, who had been in line for Game 1, limped in with a 4.72 ERA and lasted only four innings in his final regular-season start.

Williams, whose 11 victories trailed the staff in the regular season, labored somewhat and threw 116 pitches with two strikeouts and one walk. The Dodgers scored in the fifth on consecutive doubles by Cesar Izturis and Jayson Werth, and added a run in the sixth on Adrian Beltre's leadoff single and Alex Cora's two-out triple.

Tom Wilson hit a two-out homer in the ninth for Los Angeles.

Williams, who is 4-2 with a 2.65 ERA in his career against the Dodgers, also would pitch in Game 5, if necessary, in La Russa's four-man playoff rotation.

Athletics will ponder late-season collapse all winter

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Oakland Athletics are baffled by their late-season collapse. It's so completely out of character.

The A's are headed home for an even longer winter this year thanks to their problematic pitching in crunch time and a sputtering offense that caused this club to miss the playoffs for the first time in five years.

"It's no secret that the secret to our success has been our pitching," first baseman Scott Hatteberg said. "It has always carried us. It didn't do that as it's capable of, and our bats went cold."

General Manager Billy Beane suddenly has time on his hands to ponder just what went wrong. After a rare September of struggles, the A's entered the final weekend tied with Anaheim for first place in the division, needing to win two of three games at home to win their fourth division title in five seasons.

Instead, the playoff-bound Angels pounded Mark Mulder in Friday's 10-0 victory, then rallied Saturday to win 5-4 after Barry Zito shut them down for seven innings.

"I think this is a lesson we're going to learn only once and keep it on our heart in the future," Zito said. "We will remember it next year."

Now, there are plenty of questions surrounding the franchise.

Perhaps the most perplexing is what's the matter with Mulder? The lanky left-hander, the AL starter in the All-Star Game, seemed destined for AL Cy Young award consideration less than two months ago, but went winless in his last seven starts — 0-4 with a 7.27 ERA.

On Aug. 24, he became the first 17-game winner in the majors, then didn't win again. There's much speculation he's hurt and not telling anyone — Mulder missed the end of last season with a stress fracture in his right leg near the hip, then pitched a team-high $225^2/_3$ innings this season.

He has said he's healthy despite the fact his velocity was down.

Manager Ken Macha said Monday that Mulder probably did become worn down by his heavy work load.

Mulder (17-8) pitched so poorly during the playoff push the A's briefly considered skipping his turn and using September callup Joe Blanton instead on Friday. Mulder was knocked out after two innings, his shortest outing of the season.

"He's a young guy. He's got to be able to come back and throw the ball like he did in the past," Macha said. "I stood behind him and I'm going to stand behind him."

The other two members of the "Big Three" pitchers — Tim Hudson and Zito — had their issues as well. Hudson missed more than a month with a strained stomach muscle and finished with 12 wins.

Zito gradually improved but was inconsistent and looked nothing like the pitcher who won the Cy Young award two years ago. He finished a disappointing 11-11.

"Obviously, the core of our team has been here for a while," Hudson said. "Everybody knows what the strength of our team has been, and I think the strength of our team kind of let us down this year, especially down the stretch."

The small-market A's aren't likely to keep right fielder Jermaine Dye, who has a $14 million mutual option for 2005. While he'd like to stay in Oakland, Dye has said he doesn't want to take a big pay cut to do it.

The A's already have a solid replacement in rookie Nick Swisher, who showed what he can do during the season's final month. Swisher also will get work at first base during spring training so he could play that position to give Hatteberg an occasional day off.

Hudson's contract is up after next season, while Mulder and Zito have club options for 2006.

So, the A's might only have one more shot with their three star pitchers. Breaking them up could be a possibility. There was talk at the All-Star break that Oakland was trying to swap Zito.

It would be strange, since these three have been the face of this franchise for so long.

Hudson wants to stay with the A's, and is hopeful that negotiations will begin promptly.

The A's lost Miguel Tejada and Keith Foulke to free agency last offseason, so Oakland's players are used to frequent goodbyes. But the club signed Gold Glove third baseman Eric Chavez to a six-year, $66 million contract in spring training.

"With every year it's something they're going to have to do," Hudson said. "A few years ago they were getting by and winning with a lot of young guys. Now, those guys are getting older and their salaries are going up."

For now, the players packed up and left town wondering how baseball's best team in September the last four years had flopped.

"It's weird," Chavez said. "I really don't have anything else to say about it. I guess it really hasn't sunk in yet."

Said outfielder Eric Byrnes: "We didn't play well. That's it. We didn't play well when we had to. It's too bad. The bottom line, if we had a good September we'd be going to the playoffs."

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Shaq, Kobe happy on their own

The Associated Press

Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant seemed happy campers 3,000 miles apart, Baron Davis drew the ire of Hornets ownership, and Jason Kidd acknowledged he subconsciously wonders about leaving the Nets.

The majority of training camps opened Tuesday around the NBA after an offseason of many trade requests — not all of which were fulfilled.

O'Neal is starting anew in Miami, Tracy McGrady has gone to Houston, Steve Nash to Phoenix, Antoine Walker to Atlanta and Steve Francis to Orlando, Davis is stuck in New Orleans, Vince Carter remains a Raptor and Kidd is still with the vastly depleted Nets.

"I dream about it, but I haven't asked to be traded. Do I desire to be traded? No, I don't think so," Kidd said Monday, breaking a summerlong public silence and offering his first comments on the trades of Kenyon Martin and Kerry Kittles.

O'Neal's public statements were an assortment of one-liners.

"I weigh 330,000 pounds. ... I'm the NBA's best NFL player, and I've always been the sexiest 7-footer in the NBA — for 12 years running."

His strength?

"I'll beat you up right now if you want me to."

And regarding Heat coach Stan Van Gundy: "Who's that?"

The comedy routine helped illustrate how relaxed and content the 7-foot-1, 335-pound O'Neal is on the eve of his 13th NBA season.

Bryant is refreshed, too, after a summer that included the removal of coach Phil Jackson, the trade of O'Neal and the departures of Gary Payton, Karl Malone and Derek Fisher.

"This is my team to lead," Bryant said. "Shaq was the focal point of the team. Now it's different. Guys are looking to me for leadership, so it's important that I establish what type of team we're going to be."

Bryant got a jump on that by phoning each of his teammates, a group including nine new players, during the summer. Most of the team has been working out together informally for the last few weeks.

AP

His days of sharing the spotlight with Kobe Bryant over, Shaquille O'Neal, above, will be the unquestioned leader of the Miami Heat.

"He has done a great job with his leadership. He's been a connector of the team," said new Lakers coach Rudy Tomjanovich.

In New Orleans, Hornets owner George Shinn called Davis "immature" and "a prima donna" for asking for a trade. But he also said he loves his All-Star point guard like a son and is counting on him to make the franchise successful.

"Here we are trying to fill the arena ... and you make a dumb statement like that," Shinn said, recalling a phone conversation he had with Davis shortly after the trade comments.

Davis said he had no regrets about expressing his opinion that the Hornets did too little to adjust to their move to the Western Conference and a new division that includes San Antonio, Dallas, Houston and Memphis.

Carter said he plans to play hard for the Raptors, even though he still wants out of Toronto.

"It's stupid for me to come up here, and just because I want a trade I'm going to mope and pout. That's dumb," Carter said.

Carter asked during the summer to be traded but the Raptors are hoping the All-Star guard changes his mind.

"I have a job to do. I'm coming here to play and win for whatever it says on my jersey," said Carter, who will earn $12 million this season. "It says Toronto Raptors, well then I'm going to perform for the Toronto Raptors."

Contradicting himself at times, Kidd often sounded like someone who wouldn't mind being traded but didn't want to admit it. He also wouldn't say when he expects to return from offseason surgery on his left knee, indicating he'll be cautious in his recovery.

NBA camps

"We know we're not going to win a championship this year or next year, not with the caliber of guys we have now," Kidd said.

"What can I do? I'm an employee. You can be a disgruntled employee or a happy employee, and I'm choosing to be a happy employee," Kidd said.

A likely scenario would have Kidd returning sometime before the Feb. 24 trade deadline, giving other teams an opportunity to gauge whether one of the game's best point guards is still capable of playing at his usual level under a contract that will pay him $90 million over the next five years.

New Jersey will use Travis Best, Jacque Vaughn and Zoran Plananic at point guard until Kidd is ready to return. Optimism for the upcoming season was in short supply at media day for a team that made it to the NBA Finals in 2002 and 2003 before losing to the eventual champion Detroit Pistons in the second round of the playoffs last season.

The Nets changed ownership groups during the summer, and incoming boss Bruce Ratner was behind the cost-cutting moves that sent Martin to the Denver Nuggets for three first-round draft picks, and Kittles to the Los Angeles Clippers for a second-round pick.

Milwaukee Bucks point guard T.J. Ford isn't fully recovered from spinal surgery and will miss training camp.

Ford was leading rookies in assists and was ninth overall in the NBA on Feb. 24 when he landed on his tailbone. He missed the rest of the season and underwent surgery in May.

Gary Payton, the veteran guard the Boston Celtics acquired in an offseason trade with the Los Angeles Lakers, reported to training camp on Monday.

Payton, 36, had said he didn't want to play in Boston or move his family from the West Coast. He missed an Aug. 13 deadline for his physical.

Bryant lawyers want accuser identified for civil case

The Associated Press

DENVER — Attorneys for Kobe Bryant urged a federal judge on Monday to lift the anonymity of the woman accusing the Los Angeles Lakers star of rape, saying she should not be able to bring a "false accusation" in her civil lawsuit without being identified.

"The plaintiff's desire to have it both ways — preserving her anonymity while exposing the intimate details of her sexual encounter with Mr. Bryant and requiring him to bear alone the burden of constant public scrutiny" suggests that her lawsuit is more about putting pressure on the basketball star than anything else, the attorneys wrote.

Prosecutors dropped a felony sexual assault charge against Bryant last month after the woman, now 20, refused to participate in the trial. Her pending civil lawsuit in federal court in Denver seeks unspecified damages for pain and suffering since the alleged attack at a Vail-area resort last summer.

Her attorneys want her anonymity protected.

The filing came on the same day Bryant, 26, prepared for training camp with the rest of the Lakers in California. He did not discuss the case or an allegation he told investigators that former teammate Shaquille O'Neal paid up to $1 million in hush money to various women to keep quiet about similar situations.

There have been few public court filings in the civil case, which was filed in August and is now before U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch. But on Monday, the defense confirmed Bryant has again hired attorneys including Pamela Mackey, who was behind some of the blistering court filings and arguments in the criminal case.

It was Mackey who repeatedly named the woman in open court last year, bringing an admonishment from the pretrial hearing judge. In the latest filing, the defense said the woman has no legitimate claim to push her civil lawsuit anonymously and there was no point because her name has been posted on the Internet and was mistakenly published by courthouse staff during the criminal proceeding.

"Her anonymity, such as it is, is in the hands of the media," the defense said in its filing, which also claimed the woman has moved to the East Coast.

Attorneys for a dozen news organizations have objected to requests by the woman's attorneys to seal documents in the civil case. On Monday, the Rocky Mountain News called for keeping the proceedings open.

"The News and most other media organizations to date have exercised their editorial judgment and not published her name," the newspaper's attorneys wrote. "However, in continuing to report on the plaintiff's civil claim against Mr. Bryant, the News may determine to use the parties' names as it would in other civil proceedings."

Source: Pippen to retire

The Associated Press

DEERFIELD, Ill. — Scottie Pippen, who teamed with Michael Jordan to form a tandem that drove the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles in the 1990s, is expected to retire after 17 seasons, an NBA source said Monday.

The source, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Pippen is scheduled to make the announcement Tuesday on the Bulls' first day of training camp practice. The team held its media day Monday and Pippen was not present.

NBA briefs

His agent, Jimmy Sexton, did not immediately return a call for comment Monday night.

Pippen was brought back last season to give leadership and experience to a young Bulls team, but he had knee surgery in December and played in only 23 games as the Bulls went 23-59. It was the first time in his career the seven-time All-Star missed the playoffs.

Pippen, 39, was voted one of the NBA's 50 greatest players. He is known for his all-around play, especially his long-armed defense against some of the league's best scorers.

He was traded to Houston in 1999 after the lockout, played one season with the Rockets and then spent four years in Portland. He signed a two-year, $10 million deal to return to Chicago in the offseason and averaged 5.9 points.

"I would have liked an opportunity to coach him because I liked having Scottie around last year," Bulls coach Scott Skiles said Monday.

"The few days he did practice and play in games he kind of took it to another level and set a good example."

Griffin says he will sign with Timberwolves

HOUSTON — Former Houston Rockets and New Jersey Nets forward Eddie Griffin says his next team will be the Minnesota Timberwolves.

"I've got to make this work," the troubled player told Houston television station KRIV on Monday before catching a flight to Minneapolis. "They are a good team and the best fit out there."

Representatives of at least two teams, including the Timberwolves, had been in Houston last week to watch Griffin work out.

Griffin, the seventh pick overall in the 2001 NBA Draft, missed the entire 2003-04 season because of ongoing legal battles and substance abuse issues. He has been working with former NBA coach John Lucas, who overcame his own substance abuse issues.

Defense behind Falcons' surprising rise

Jaguars, Giants, Jets also enjoying startling success through Week 4

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

The Atlanta Falcons were 5-11 last season and allowed 452 points, most in the NFL. They've allowed 49 in four games this year, the reason they're 4-0. Yes, Michael Vick's return to health after last year's broken right leg obviously helps, but . . .

"People understand that Mike is a great player," Warrick Dunn said after the Falcons' 27-10 win Sunday at NFC champion Carolina. "He's the quarterback. He's going to get all the attention. But it takes a team to win a football game."

These days, there are always surprises. After four weeks, the pleasant ones are the Falcons, Giants, Jaguars and Jets. The Packers, Titans, Bucs and Chiefs are the unpleasant ones.

And the Redskins are just as dismal under Joe Gibbs as under Steve Spurrier and Marty Schottenheimer, the other big-name coaches brought to Washington by Dan "The Fan" Snyder.

Atlanta (4-0)

Patrick Kerney has seven sacks; he had 6½ all of last season.

That's a measure of the defense coach Jim Mora installed. Yes, the Falcons made the playoffs two years ago, then plummeted when Vick missed the first 11 games last season, but the defense always was a weak link.

Vick has rushed for 222 yards, second on the team to Warrick Dunn's 299.

New York Giants (3-1)

A playoff team two years ago, they were done in last season by a horrible offensive line, injuries and attitude — the team quit in the second half of the season. That's why rigid disciplinarian Tom Coughlin was hired to replace Jim Fassel.

The offensive line is improved, and Kurt Warner, supposedly a stopgap while Eli Manning learns how to play in the NFL, has been outstanding. But they're winning because they lead the league with a plus-10 turnover margin a year after tying for last at minus-16.

Tiki Barber, whose 35 fumbles (17 lost) in the past four years were most in the league, has yet to drop the ball and leads the NFL with 455 yards rushing.

Jacksonville (3-1)

The Jaguars played the Colts even until the final minutes Sunday and controlled Peyton Manning. The biggest failing is at wide receiver, where Jimmy Smith is too old and Troy Edwards very average.

Their best hope is second-year QB Byron Leftwich continuing to improve along with No. 1 pick Reggie Williams, who has just seven catches in four games.

The defense can't be faulted for allowing 24 points against the NFL's top offense. Manning's 220 yards passing were 79 below his average entering the game.

New York Jets (3-0)

Chad Pennington is healthy, and usually slow-starting Curtis Martin is off to his best start after getting more work in preseason. The defense gave up points and yards to Cincinnati and San Diego, but the added speed, especially at linebacker with Victor Hobson and Jonathan Vilma, made for an upgrade.

Just as the Giants are unlikely to really challenge the Eagles in the NFC East, the Jets probably won't get by New England in the AFC East. But they're a solid wild-card choice.

Green Bay (1-3)

After barely missing last year's NFC title game, then beating Carolina in Week 1, the Packers looked like a serious contender.

But losses to the Bears and Giants at home hurt.

Sunday's loss to the Giants demonstrated the effect of injuries to Grady Jackson, the 350-pound run-stopper in the middle, and center Mike Flanagan. New York ran for 245 yards through the undersized defensive line, and Brett Favre's concussion came on a hit by William Joseph, who plays over center.

Tennessee (1-3)

The Titans might be in a salary-cap-caused down period — Jevon Kearse, Robaire Smith and Justin McCareins left or were traded in the offseason.

It's not wise to write off the Titans. They started 1-4 in 2002 and made it to the AFC title game by winning 10 of 11. The difference this year is that the AFC South might be the strongest division.

Tampa Bay (0-4)

Did Jon Gruden deconstruct a Super Bowl winner? Gruden won a title two seasons ago with a team assembled primarily by Rich McKay. But he ran off McKay, who landed in Atlanta in time to hire Mora.

The Bucs began the season with nine starters on offense 30 or older. Two older guys Gruden let go, John Lynch and Warren Sapp, were key defensive leaders.

Kansas City (1-3)

The defense was bad last year and isn't any better. But the offense has regressed — it went into Monday night's game in Baltimore averaging 20 points, 10 fewer than last season. The receivers are average, and returned Dante Hall has been contained.

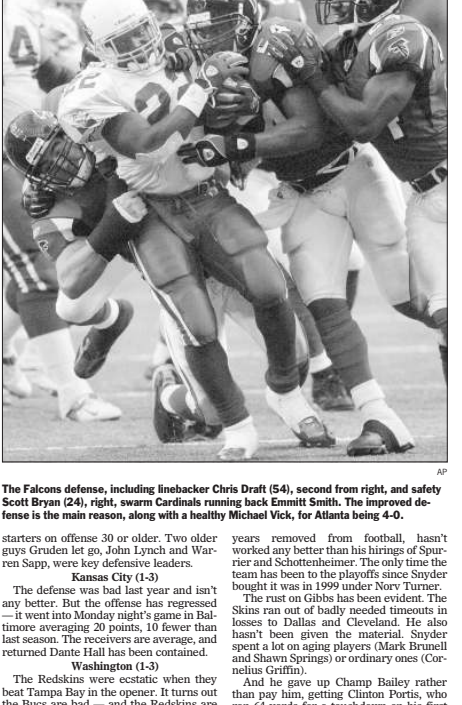
Washington (1-3)

The Redskins were ecstatic when they beat Tampa Bay in the opener. It turns out the Bucs are bad — and the Redskins are not much better.

Snyder's decision to hire Joe Gibbs, 12 years removed from football, hasn't worked any better than his hirings of Spurrier and Schottenheimer. The only time the team has been to the playoffs since Snyder bought it was in 1999 under Norv Turner.

The rust on Gibbs has been evident. The Skins ran out of badly needed timeouts in losses to Dallas and Cleveland. He also hasn't been given the material. Snyder spent a lot on aging players (Mark Brunell and Shawn Springs) or ordinary ones (Cornelius Griffin).

And he gave up Champ Bailey rather than pay him, getting Clinton Portis, who ran 64 yards for a touchdown on his first carry as a Redskin, but hasn't gone over 100 yards in a game since.



AP

The Falcons defense, including linebacker Chris Draft (54), second from right, and safety Scott Bryan (24), right, swarm Cardinals running back Emmitt Smith. The improved defense is the main reason, along with a healthy Michael Vick, for Atlanta being 4-0.

Broncos find ways to make up for struggling offense

BY EDDIE PELLS
The Associated Press

DENVER — Nobody said this was going to be easy. Or pretty. Or very much fun to watch.

Still, the Denver Broncos found themselves alone in first place in the AFC West on Monday, thanks to a defense that keeps people out of the end zone and an offense that has traded in glitz for grit, at least for the time being.

"You do what you need to do to win," coach Mike Shanahan said the day after Denver's 16-13 victory over Tampa Bay.

The defense-first displays Denver has put on the past three weeks are something of a change for a franchise that made five Super Bowls between 1986-97 on the strength of John Elway's arm, and later, a big-play running game led by Terrell Davis.

The 2004 team, at least so far, is more reminiscent of the 1977 Super Bowl team, the one that featured the Orange Crush defense with guys such as Randy Gradishar and Lyle Alzado, who made a habit of holding Denver's so-so offense in games.

"Sometimes you just get down in the dirt and pull one out," cornerback Champ Bailey said Sunday after the win. "That's how it has to be sometimes."

That the Broncos are winning with defense shouldn't come as a surprise, considering Shanahan's focus in the offseason. He traded his top running back, Clinton Portis, for a top cornerback, Bailey.

Shanahan also used a first-round draft pick on linebacker D.J. Williams, who immediately cracked the starting lineup. He brought in free agents John Lynch and Raylee Johnson and just two weeks ago traded an undisclosed draft pick for veteran defensive tackle Ellis Johnson (eight sacks last year), who played for the first time Sunday.

So far, the statistics are showing that the moves were worth it.

Through four games, the Broncos lead the AFC in yards allowed, and lead the league in first downs allowed per game and third-down conversion percentage allowed. Another impressive number: The Broncos have given up only three points in the fourth quarter this year, tied for the league best with Seattle, which has played one fewer game.

Of course, it's easier to keep opponents at bay when they don't have the ball. On Sunday, the Broncos held the ball for 7:23 of the final 7:26 during an impressive fourth-quarter drive that salted away the game even though it didn't produce points. The Broncos held the ball for a total of 13:20 in the fourth quarter.

"We've had a few like that over the years," Shanahan said. "Any time you get the ball with seven-plus minutes left and give it back with 3 seconds left, you feel like you did what you needed to do to win the game."

Shanahan gave a game ball to Quentin Griffin, who ran 21 times for 66 yards, carving out lots of 3- and 4-yard gains and, just as importantly, not coughing up the ball as he had in the first three games.

After an exciting 34-24 win over Kansas City to open the season, the Broncos have now played in three straight ugly games with scores of 7-6, 23-13 and 16-13. It seems like a trend, although Shanahan said he's not resigned to that.

"You never know. It depends on how good people are," he said. "You look at what you think their strengths and weaknesses are, and you do what you need to do to win."

McKenzie sent packing

Disgruntled Green Bay cornerback traded to Saints

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Mike McKenzie got his wish Monday, seven months after asking out of Green Bay.

The Packers sent the disruptive cornerback to the New Orleans Saints for a second-round draft pick in 2005 and a backup quarterback.

"It's time to move on," Packers coach-general manager Mike Sherman said.

Since ending his holdout without retracting his trade request three weeks ago, McKenzie had been paid more than $485,000, but played just nine snaps, all against Chicago, because of a puzzling hamstring injury that led fans and some teammates to wonder whether he was still holding out, but getting paid anyway.

Saints General Manager Mickey Loomis said the hamstring wasn't a serious issue.

"Yeah, we're not going to trade for a guy who's going to be on the shelf," he said.

McKenzie declined comment at the Green Bay airport, saying only, "Y'all have a good day."

"Mission accomplished," said McKenzie's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, who had been seeking a deal since mid-May. "It's important to relay that there's no hard feelings on Mike's behalf. He's obviously grateful they were able to work out a deal and there's certainly not going to be any backbiting or any negativity on our behalf."

Rosenhaus said McKenzie will play under the terms of his current contract, but hopes to have talks with Loomis soon about an upgrade.

AP

Mike McKenzie, who asked the Packers for a trade in May, was traded Monday to New Orleans for a second-round draft pick and quarterback J.T. O'Sullivan.

"We're not going to do that this year," Loomis said.

The Packers acquired quarterback J.T. O'Sullivan and the pick for McKenzie and a future conditional sixth-round draft choice. The Packers have been interested in O'Sullivan since the Saints took him in the sixth round of the 2002 draft out of UC-Davis.

Their interest was heightened when Brett Favre (concussion) and backup Doug Pederson (ribs) were injured Sunday.

Loomis said it was hard to lose O'Sullivan, but "it's a chance to get a good player at a position that is hard to find in the NFL.

"You don't get the opportunity to get good players very often through trades."

The deal is the Packers' first midseason trade in 23 years involving active players from both teams.

McKenzie is earning $2.75 million this year in the middle season of a five-year, $17.1 million deal. He became upset when several lesser cornerbacks surpassed him in compensation this offseason.

McKenzie instructed agent Brian Parker to seek a contract renegotiation in February, converting a $200,000 workout bonus into two $100,000 roster bonuses due in April and June and removing a de-escalator clause from the contract he signed in 2002.

As the Packers worked to comply with the request, McKenzie said he wanted to be traded. Green Bay denied his plea on April 6. Parker terminated his working relationship with McKenzie in May and the sixth-year cornerback hired Rosenhaus, his fifth representative in his six-year NFL career.

McKenzie, a starter for Green Bay since his rookie year, has 15 career interceptions. He comes off one of his most productive seasons with four interceptions, 58 tackles (55 solo) and 20 passes broken up.

McKenzie's replacement at left cornerback, Michael Hawthorne, and nose tackle Grady Jackson, both left what they considered a bad situation in New Orleans last year for a second shot in Green Bay.

"The only thing I can say is the grass ain't always greener," Jackson said. "Best of luck to him."

Concussed Favre likely to play

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Green Bay Packers are confident quarterback Brett Favre's first concussion in nine seasons was mild and won't prevent him from starting Monday against the Tennessee Titans.

NFL briefs

"He's fine. I may hold him back on Wednesday but he'll practice on Thursday," coach Mike Sherman said. "He has been looked at by the doctors and they feel pretty confident he's OK to go."

The status of backup Doug Pederson, however, isn't as positive.

Offensive coordinator Tom Rossley said Pederson has a broken rib and "he's still hurting pretty bad today."

Without Pederson, Craig Nall would back up Favre with newcomer J.T. O'Sullivan serving as the No. 3 quarterback.

O'Sullivan was part of the deal that sent recalcitrant cornerback Mike McKenzie to the New Orleans Saints on Monday for a second-round draft choice.

Favre has started 212 straight games, counting playoffs, since becoming a starter on Sept. 13, 1992. It's the longest streak for a quarterback in NFL history. During that time, 175 quarterbacks have made their NFL debuts.

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Friday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league):

Buccaneers: KR Frank Murphy (ruptured Achilles' tendon) out for season.

Chargers: C Nick Hardwick (torn knee cartilage) out 2-4 weeks.

49ers: CB Mike Rumph (broken arm) 8-12 weeks; DE Andre Carter (back) doubtful for Sunday; LB Derek Smith (leg) doubtful.

Jaguars: OT Mike Pearson (torn knee ligaments) out for season.

Packers: QB Doug Pederson (broken rib) status unclear.

Vikings: RB Michael Bennett (torn meniscus in knee) out 2-4 weeks.

Bills CB Vincent out two weeks with knee injury

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Cornerback Troy Vincent will miss at least two weeks with a right knee injury, further depleting the Buffalo Bills' secondary.

Coach Mike Mularkey on Monday said Vincent had arthroscopic surgery earlier in the day, but did not reveal the extent of the player's injury.

Vincent was hurt during the opening drive in Buffalo's 31-17 loss to New England on Sunday. While pushing Bethel Johnson out of bounds following a 17-yard reception, Vincent's right leg got twisted under him as the two players tumbled at the sideline.

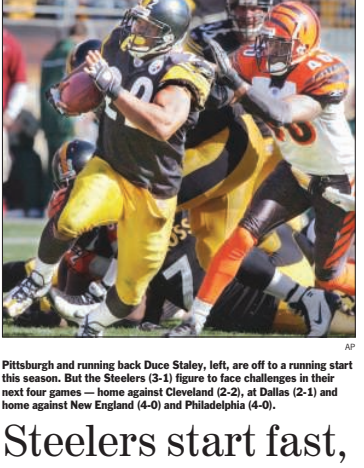
Mularkey said he did not yet know the results of tests center Trey Teague had on his injured left knee. Teague did not return after he was hurt early in the second quarter.

Saints coach downplays shouting match on team flight

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans coach Jim Haslett downplayed an altercation between quarterback Aaron Brooks and defensive end Charles Grant that took place on the team plane from Arizona.

"What I saw was two passionate guys getting in a verbal match," Haslett said during Monday's news conference. "It was not bad. It was nothing more than (linebackers coach) Winston Moss and I got into during the game. Both guys are passionate about winning and they were both upset at the way they played and the way we played, and that was it."

Grant said he would talk later in the week, and Brooks was not in the locker room during the interview period Monday.



AP

Pittsburgh and running back Duce Staley, left, are off to a running start this season. But the Steelers (3-1) figure to face challenges in their next four games — home against Cleveland (2-2), at Dallas (2-1) and home against New England (4-0) and Philadelphia (4-0).

Steelers start fast, but see roadblocks

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers are 3-1, certainly a passable record for a team that has gone through two quarterbacks, a hurricane and a makeover of the offense and defense.

The next month might give them a much better indication of whether they are a playoff team, or if the excellent start was just another of those common NFL early season anomalies brought about by a favorable schedule.

The Steelers have half as many victories as last season (6-10), but have yet to beat a team with a winning record. The combined record of their beaten opponents — the Raiders (2-2), Dolphins (0-4) and Bengals (1-3) — is 3-9.

The schedule gets tougher, with the Browns (2-2) at home Sunday, followed by the Cowboys (2-1) on the road and the Patriots (4-0) and Eagles (4-0) at home. They get a break by playing two of their toughest opponents at home but, because they do, will have only three home games during the second half of the season.

"We've got a lot of work to do," linebacker James Farrior said Monday. "It's still early in the season and anything can happen, but we like where we're at right now."

They also got off to a good start last season, going 2-1, only to see their season fall apart as they lost five in a row and six of seven.

Farrior doesn't see anything like that happening, even with rookie quarterback Ben Roethlisberger still learning the league and his own offense.

Roethlisberger has only one turnover — an interception on his first throw last week in windy Miami — in winning his first two starts in place of injured Tommy Maddox. At the same time, a defense that forced only 25 turnovers last season already has 11 in four games, a pace that would give the Steelers 44 for the season.

The key, according to Steelers safety Chris Hope, is being in position to create turnovers.

"We're just playing aggressive and everybody is getting to the ball — it's been our strongest point thus far," Hope said. "When you get to the ball and everybody plays aggressive and plays fast, good things happen for you."

Especially against teams such as the Dolphins and Bengals that have struggled mightily on offense.

Despite Rudi Johnson's 123 yards rushing, the Bengals twice failed to score on drives that reached the Pittsburgh 40 with Cincinnati up 17-14 in the second half. Two late Cincinnati drives ended with interceptions by Carson Palmer.

"He (Johnson) was patient and hard to tackle at times," Hope said. "We also missed a few tackles here and there."

According to Farrior, that's a few more than the Steelers can afford to miss Sunday against the Browns' Lee Suggs, who ran for 82 yards and a touchdown to help beat the Redskins 17-13 Sunday.

Suggs, the former Virginia Tech star, played after missing three games with a neck injury.

"They're definitely going to try to come out and power the ball, seeing what they saw (the Bengals do)," Farrior said. "We're going to be prepared for it. He (Suggs) looks like a good, gifted back, and I think he has a little more speed than Rudi."

The Steelers are encouraged by winning two close games, also rallying in the fourth quarter to beat Oakland 24-21. The two fourth-quarter comebacks are a turnaround from last season, when they were 0-5 in games decided by seven or fewer points.

"When we need to make plays and score touchdowns, we are," wide receiver Hines Ward said.

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
New England	3	0	0	1.000	81	53
N.Y. Jets	3	0	0	1.000	82	61
Buffalo	0	3	0	.000	37	57
Miami	0	4	0	.000	32	63
South						
Indianapolis	3	1	0	.750	124	92
Jacksonville	3	1	0	.750	52	52
Houston	2	2	0	.500	90	93
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	63	91
North						
Pittsburgh	3	1	0	.750	78	71
Baltimore	2	2	0	.500	80	69
Cleveland	2	2	0	.500	59	62
Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250	66	95
West						
Denver	3	1	0	.750	79	57
Oakland	2	2	0	.500	81	84
San Diego	2	2	0	.500	106	94
Kansas City	1	3	0	.250	89	110

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
East						
Philadelphia	4	0	0	1.000	107	55
N.Y. Giants	3	1	0	.750	78	62
Dallas	2	1	0	.667	57	65
Washington	1	3	0	.250	61	68
South						
Atlanta	4	0	0	1.000	49	
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	75	107
Carolina	1	2	0	.333	52	68
Tampa Bay	0	4	0	.000	49	72
North						
Detroit	2	1	0	.667	61	62
Minnesota	2	1	0	.667	78	66
Chicago	1	3	0	.250	68	76
Green Bay	1	3	0	.250	72	94
West						
Seattle	3	0	0	1.000	65	13
St. Louis	2	2	0	.500	83	86
Arizona	1	3	0	.250	59	56
San Francisco	0	4	0	.000	60	109

Sunday's games

Houston 30, Oakland 17
Philadelphia 19, Chicago 9
N.Y. Giants 14, Green Bay 7
Pittsburgh 28, Cincinnati 17
New England 31, Buffalo 17
Indianapolis 24, Jacksonville 17
Cleveland 17, Washington 13
Arizona 34, New Orleans 10
Atlanta 27, Carolina 10
N.Y. Jets 17, Miami 9
San Diego 38, Tennessee 17
Denver 16, Tampa Bay 13
St. Louis 24, San Francisco 14
Open: Seattle, Dallas, Detroit, Minnesota

Monday's game

Kansas City 27, Baltimore 24

Sunday, Oct. 10

Detroit at Atlanta
N.Y. Giants at Dallas
Oakland at Indianapolis
Minnesota at Houston
Miami at New England
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets
Jacksonville at San Diego
St. Louis at Seattle
Arizona at San Francisco
Carolina at Denver
Baltimore at Washington
Open: Cincinnati, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Chicago

Monday, Oct. 11

Tennessee at Green Bay

Monday
Chiefs 27, Ravens 24

Kansas City	10	7	3	7—27
Baltimore	3	14	0	7—24

First Quarter

Bal—FG Stover 50, 1:09.
KC—Dunn 3 pass from T.Green (Tynes kick), 6:13.
KC—FG Tynes 42, :15.

Second Quarter

Bal—Hymes 57 pass from Boller (Stover kick), 11:50.
KC—Holmes 4 run (Tynes kick), 3:42.
Bal—Sams 58 punt return (Stover kick), 1:30.

Third Quarter

KC—FG Tynes 38, 8:19.

Fourth Quarter

KC—Holmes 1 run (Tynes kick), 14:57.
Bal—J.Lewis 1 run (Stover kick), 9:14.
A—69,827.

	KC	Bal
First downs	25	13
Total Net Yards	398	207
Rushes-yards	46-178	20-80
Passing	220	127
Punt Returns	0-0	2-67
Kickoff Returns	2-44	6-183
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	21-31-0	10-17-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-3	4-27
Punts	5-36.2	5-38.4
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	10-72	6-54
Time of Possession	39:43	20:17

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Kansas City, Holmes 33-125, Blaylock 6-28, Green 5-17, Morton 1-4, Richardson 1-4. **Baltimore**, J.Lewis 15-73, Boller 3-3, Taylor 1-4, K.Johnson 1-0.

Passing—Kansas City, Green 21-31-0-223. **Baltimore**, Boller 10-17-0-134.

Receiving—Kansas City, Morton 5-64, Horn 5-60, Gonzalez 4-42, Dunn 3-23, Hall 2-24, Richardson 2-10. **Baltimore**, Jones 3-38, Hymes 2-68, K.Johnson 2-28, Taylor 2-9, Moore 1-11.

NFL calendar

Oct. 19 — Trading deadline.
Jan. 2 — Regular season ends.
Jan. 8-9 — Wild-card playoffs.
Jan. 15-16 — Divisional playoffs.
Jan. 23 — Conference Championships.
Feb. 6 — Super Bowl, Jacksonville, Fla.
Feb. 13 — Pro Bowl, Honolulu.
Feb. 23-March 1 — Scouting combine, Indianapolis.
April 23-24 — NFL Draft, New York.

Chiefs dominate Ravens, end skid

By David Ginsburg
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Now that they've got that elusive first win out of the way, the Kansas City Chiefs should find life quite a bit more tolerable.

After going through the torment and ridicule associated with being 0-3, the Chiefs righted themselves Monday night by beating the Baltimore Ravens 27-24.

"This doesn't get us into the playoffs, but it gets us going," coach Dick Vermeil said. "To come in here and win when you've already lost three and people have written you off and took a lot of sarcastic shots at us, to do what they did, I respect them and love them for it."

The Chiefs dominated a highly touted Baltimore defense with a formidable display of ball control. Priest Holmes ran for 125 yards and two touchdowns, and Kansas City nearly doubled the Ravens' numbers in yardage and time of possession.

"To think that we would be able to control the clock like we did, that's incredible," said quarterback Trent Green, who went 21-for-31 for 223 yards and a touchdown.

By holding the ball for 39 minutes, 43 seconds, the Chiefs effectively kept Baltimore running back Jamal Lewis off the field.

Lewis finished with 73 yards on only 15 carries.

"If you're the Kansas City Chiefs, what would you do? You'd keep our offense off the field so we don't run it down their throats," Lewis said.

After going 13-3 a year ago, the Chiefs were off to their worst start since 1980. Now they can attempt to build on their first win since Dec. 28.

"We had to come in here and earn respect, and I think we did," defensive tackle Lional Dalton said.

Kansas City finished with a 398-207 advantage in total net yards. Were it not for a trick play that resulted in a touchdown pass and a 58-yard punt return for a score by rookie B.J. Sams, Baltimore (2-2) wouldn't have even been close.

"It's very disappointing to not play as physical as we're capable of," Ravens coach Brian Billick said. "They were more physical in every facet of it, which is something unique for us. We are not going to win too many games when we're not playing our game, if they out-physical us."

Through three quarters, Kansas City had 22 first downs and limited the Ravens to just four. A 1-yard touchdown run by Holmes on the first play of the fourth quarter put the Chiefs up 27-17, and that proved to be enough to end the Ravens' seven-game home winning streak.

"We were fortunate to do it in Raven-esque fashion," Chiefs defensive end Eric Hicks said. "People have been talking and putting us down, but we're making a turnaround."

AP

Chiefs running back Priest Holmes leaps into the end zone for a second-quarter touchdown.

Holmes, who played for Baltimore from 1997-00, became the first player in 10 games to run for 100 yards against the Ravens. He carried 33 times, 22 in the first half.

Baltimore's last loss at home was last year to the Chiefs by a 17-10 score. On Monday night, Kansas City had 17 points by halftime.

"They came out, had a nice rhythm and made plays," Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis said.

After Baltimore closed to 27-24 on Jamal Lewis' 1-yard touchdown run with 9:14 to go, the Chiefs methodically moved downfield in seven plays before a punt left the Ravens at their own 14 with 5:50 left.

Baltimore went nowhere, but got the ball back on its own 27 with 2:33 remaining. The Ravens advanced to their own 40 before a fourth-down pass slipped off the fingers of wide receiver Kevin Johnson.

Ravens quarterback Kyle Boller went 10-for-17 for 154 yards. His lone touchdown pass came after Jamal Lewis tossed him a lateral, and Boller hit Randy Hymes in stride for a 57-yard first-half score.

"We have to hit those third-down passes and run the ball," Boller said. "It's our job to give our defense a rest. We have to have long drives to do that."

Baltimore did not have a drive that lasted more than nine plays.

The Chiefs had four possessions of 10 plays or more.

"We will have days like this," Ray Lewis said. "We need to move on and get better."

J. Lewis faces NFL discipline after guilty plea

By Ken Murray
The Baltimore Sun

Ravens running back Jamal Lewis has agreed to plead guilty Thursday in federal court in Atlanta on the charge of using a cell phone to facilitate a drug transaction, a violation of the NFL's substance-abuse program that will trigger disciplinary action from the league.

Terms of the plea deal, first reported by the Baltimore Sun on Saturday, could become public as early as Tuesday pending a decision from U.S. District Judge Orinda D. Evans.

The attorney for Lewis' co-defendant in a drug conspiracy case, Angelo Jackson, petitioned the court yesterday to unseal details of the agreement.

"There's great public interest in what's going on in Jamal Lewis' case," said Atlanta attorney Steve Sadow, "and there is no compelling reason for the government to keep it secret."

An aide to Evans said Monday that if there was no opposition, the judge more than likely would grant the request.

Prosecutors in the U.S. attorney's office in Atlanta declined comment.

The aide confirmed the plea hearing was on the court docket for 4 p.m. Thursday, a procedure that might take only 30 minutes but will require Lewis' presence.

The deal must be agreed to by both the prosecution and the defense, and be approved by Evans.

Lewis, 25 and Offensive Player of the Year in 2003, then will be subject to discipline from the NFL as a three-time violator of the substance-abuse program. The NFL's Management Council administers the program and, with Commissioner Paul Tagliabue's approval, will take punitive measures that could include a fine, suspension or combination of the two.

Several reports were broadcast Monday night speculating the length of the suspension might be two to four games.

If Lewis were sentenced to prison, the sentence almost certainly would not be served until after the season, although the NFL's punishment might come much more quickly. Lewis will have the right to appeal the league's discipline.

The appeals' process could take several weeks.

SPORTS

Shaq, Kobe say they're happier on opposite sides of the country, Page 32

Recharged Rocket

Healthy Clemens to start Game 1 vs. Braves

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — A few hours before the Houston Astros' regular-season finale, Roger Clemens was sick to his stomach and hooked up to an IV tube.

Astros owner Drayton McLane was overcome with disappointment until manager Phil Garner sidled up to him in the clubhouse.

"I was absolutely crushed. Roger still wanted to pitch but … I knew he was in no condition to go," McLane recalled later in a champagne-soaked clubhouse. "But Phil was telling me, 'Don't worry. This could work out perfectly for us.' "

It sure did.

Brandon Backe took the mound in Clemens' place Sunday and delivered a clutch performance to help the Astros cap an incredible turnaround, clinching the wild card with a win over Colorado. Back in the playoffs for the first time since 2001, they begin a best-of-five series Wednesday at NL East-champion Atlanta.

And in a magnificent stroke of timing and luck, the Rocket will start for the Astros on extra rest in Game 1.

"Maybe it's part of a script," general manager Gerry Hunsicker said with a wry smile. "We're confident that it's one of those 12-hour viruses."

Such a storybook scenario appeared farfetched when the struggling Astros fired manager Jimy Williams during the All-Star break. Garner made little immediate impact, and Houston was 56-60 on Aug. 14.

Four days later the Astros lost star pitcher Andy Pettitte to season-ending elbow surgery. Disappointed by the team's struggles following such preseason promise, Clemens called the year a "nightmare."

Then the Astros went on a major league-best 36-10 run to win an exciting stretch duel with San Francisco, Chicago, San Diego and Florida.

And Houston is in great shape going into the postseason: Clemens will pitch on six days' rest as long as he's recovered from his stomach virus, and 20-game winner Roy Oswalt will be ready to follow.

"It just so happens that our rotation is going to be set up for the playoffs," Houston outfielder Lance Berkman said. "We weren't even trying to do it that way. It's a break for us and we just hope that Rocket can get back to full strength."

Clemens was lured out of his 78-day retirement for moments just like this.

At 42, he is an improbable Cy Young Award candidate: His winning percentage of .818 led the majors, he tied for second in the NL with 18 wins and was fifth with a 2.98 ERA. He's also been the same power pitcher he was with Boston, Toronto and the Yankees.

"It doesn't surprise me," former Yankees teammate Derek Jeter said. "When he retired, or supposedly retired last year, it was never a question of his stuff. He was throwing 95, 96 the last game when he so-called retired.

SEE ROCKET ON PAGE 29

DIVISION SERIES

Atlanta		Houston
96-66	REC	92-70
.270	BA	.267
803	RUNS	803
178	HR	187
3.74	ERA	4.05
48	SV	47
116	ERRORS	101

Andruw Jones — Roger Clemens

Schedule (CET)

Wednesday • 10 p.m. (AFN-Sports)
Houston (Clemens 18-4) at Atlanta (Wright 15-8)

Thursday • 10 p.m. (AFN-Sports)
Houston (Oswalt 20-10) at Atlanta (Hampton 13-9)

Saturday • Atlanta (Thomson 14-8) at Houston

Sunday • at Houston* — Monday • at Atlanta*

* if necessary

AP

Astros starter Roger Clemens
AP

Roger Clemens' playoff statistics

ALDS (Red Sox 1995, Yankees 1999-2003)

W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO
2	3	4.50	8	46.0	43	23	23	4	19	34

ALCS (Red Sox '86, '88, '90, Yankees '99-2001, '03)

W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO
3	3	3.90	11	62.1	54	29	27	5	22	61

World Series (Red Sox '86, Yankees '99-2001, '03)

W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	R	ER	HR	BB	SO
3	0	1.90	7	47.1	33	11	10	1	12	48

Source: MLB.com

Cardinals open playoffs with rout of Dodgers
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Chiefs shake winless tag, push around touted Ravens 'D'
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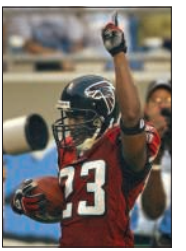

Unbeaten Falcons No. 1 on list of NFL surprises after Week 4
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Penalty for swearing on TV costs Earnhardt points lead
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