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St. Louis Cardinals' Albert Pujols

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Main opposition candidate agrees to drop protest of election results Page 8

From 'Superman' to real-life super hero

Christopher Reeve went from actor to activist after being paralyzed in a 1995 equestrian accident. Reeve, 52, died Sunday.

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY HOUSTON RUCK/Stars and Stripes

STARS AND STRIPES

COMING SOON

Scene on Sunday

Beastie Boys are back

Scene on Sunday

Latifah still reigns as queen

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

Mount St. Helens activity: The Staeffler family of Rainier, Ore., stop by the roadside at Hoffstadt Bluffs to view the steam venting from the crater of Mount St. Helens near Toutle, Wash., on Sunday. The volcano gave off more steam Monday morning, with a small cloud drifting up from the crater as the sun started to rise. Seismic activity remained relatively low at the mountain, said Jeff Wynn, chief scientist for volcano hazards at the U.S. Geological Survey's Cascades Volcano Observatory. Scientists believe the steam was created when part of the swelling on the south side of the dome broke off, taking some of the glacier with it.

States

Book on Moxley murder: A new book on convicted killer Michael Skakel says the Kennedy cousin described being covered in blood the night of his neighbor's murder.

Skakel, who was convicted in 2002 of Martha Moxley's 1975 murder, allegedly made the incriminating comment to a counselor at Elan School, a reform school in Poland, Maine, where he was sent in the late 1970s. Skakel, like his victim, was 15 at the time of the killing.

In the book "Conviction: Solving the Moxley Murder" by Leonard Levitt, the unnamed counselor describes a conversation he had with Skakel's father, priest and attorney after Skakel allegedly told him about being covered in blood.

Skakel later denied making the remark to the counselor, the book says.

Flu vaccine shortage: The crisis in the flu vaccine supply in the United States has led to renewed calls to modernize a half-century-old manufacturing system that relies on millions of chicken eggs and a lot of educated guesswork.

Because it takes at least six months to produce the annual flu vaccine, no manufacturer can replace the 46 million shots Chiron Corp. won't ship this season.

Citing manufacturing problems, British regulators last week shut down Chiron's factory in England where roughly 46 million doses destined for the United States had been made.

Business

Enron trial: Former Enron Corp. finance chief Andrew Fastow and the man who replaced him when he was forced out are among roughly 50 potential witnesses for the defense phase of the fraud and conspiracy trial regarding the energy company's alleged sham sale of several barges to the brokerage Merrill Lynch & Co. at the end of 1999.

The defense phase of the trial began Monday after the judge decided it was unnecessary to present entire transcripts of a defendant's grand jury testimony to jurors. Prosecutors rested their case last week, pending the judge's decision.

World

N. Korea talks: North Korea on Monday blamed the United States for the stalemate in talks on its nuclear weapons programs, and warned it would use a "war deterrent force" if Washington brought the nuclear dispute before the U.N. Security Council.

The United States, North and South Korea, Japan, China and Russia have met for three rounds of talks aimed at getting the North to give up its nuclear ambitions, but little progress has been made. A fourth round slated for September never took place because the North refused to attend.

West Bank proposal: Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday he will present his contentious plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank to parliament for approval on Oct. 25.

Sharon

In a speech opening parliament's winter session, Sharon laid out a timetable for legislative action on the plan, which many members of his own Likud party strongly oppose.

If the withdrawal timetable is approved, Sharon will introduce a law into the Knesset in the first week of November to compensate the thousands of settlers who will be displaced in the evacuation, he said.

Stolen Renaissance figurine: The theft from a Vienna museum of a Renaissance figurine is a mystery more than a year after it was stolen, despite a new book by a British art detective, police said Monday.

Wilfried Seipel, who heads the city of Vienna's criminal investigations division, told the Austria Press Agency that the book by Charles Hill uncovered nothing that investigators don't already know about the case.

Police have worked to track down the 16th century, gold-plated "saliera," or salt cellar sculpture, by Florentine master Benvenuto Cellini since it was stolen from a showcase at Vienna's Art History Museum in May 2003.

Helicopter crash: Forensic experts on Monday examined remains recovered from a Sept. 11 helicopter crash in Greece that killed the head of the Orthodox church in Africa and 16 other people, authorities said.

The body parts were found in wreckage from the army CH-47D Chinook which was raised nearly 3,000 feet from the seabed Sunday with the help of a submersible which attached balloons to parts of the helicopter.

Patriarch Petros VII of Alexandria was killed along with several members of the church's senior clergy in Africa when the helicopter crashed into the Aegean Sea while traveling to the monastic enclave of Mount Athos in northern Greece.

Jailed Saudi-American freed: Yaser Esam Hamdi, a Saudi-American citizen who was captured on the Afghanistan battlefield and held without charges for nearly three years, has been freed and returned Monday to Saudi Arabia.

Interior Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Mansour al-Turki confirmed Hamdi arrived in Riyadh about noon Monday.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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AAFES to raise theater prices

BY JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

The cost of seeing a movie at many overseas U.S. military installations is going up Friday.

Adults will have to pay 50 cents more to see a film at Reel Time Army and Air Force Exchange Service theaters, while children 6 to 11 will have to pay an extra quarter.

"I know we haven't raised the prices since 1994," said Debra L. Byerly, an AAFES spokeswoman. "However, prices remain significantly lower than stateside and off-post movie theaters."

The ticket increase is a result of a rise in business expenses, Jack Morris, AAFES Europe senior vice president, said in a press release.

Among the expenses is the decline of the dollar compared to the euro, according to Maj. David Accetta, AAFES spokesman. The cost of doing business overseas, as well as paying local nationals in euros, has made expenses higher for AAFES Europe.

Beginning Friday, new prices will be:

- First-run movies — $4 for adults, $2 for children;
- Regular releases — $3.50 for adults, $1.75 for children;
- Repeat showings — $3 for adults, and $1.50 for children.

The prices are 33 percent below the 2003 average stateside prices posted on the National Association of Theater Owners Web site, according to AAFES officials. The average ticket price in the States is more than $6, with many theaters charging significantly more for first-run movies.

"When it comes right down to it, the price is going up 50 cents, but that's still about half of what you would pay for a first-run movie in a large cinema complex in the United States," Accetta said.

The price increase does not affect the free facilities at AAFES theaters on Army installations in South Korea or deployed sites in the Balkans and Southwest Asia, Accetta said. Those facilities have special memorandums of agreement and cost is picked up by morale, welfare and recreation detachments.

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Sweet visit from U.S. soldiers

Above: Children in the remote village of Thar Thar, Iraq, gather around U.S. soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-26 to receive free gifts of toys and candy. The soldiers, from Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora, stopped at the village, about a mile from a hydroelectric dam included in their regular patrol. Right: Kids of various ages flocked to the soldiers, yelling loudly in broken English and Arabic while trying to shake their hands, as adults watched from a distance. Soon, the soldiers began to hand out toys to all the children, which prompted more kids to emerge from their former hiding area around the village.

PHOTOS BY LEE HARSHMAN
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Army post set to close historic officers' club

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — An officers' club at a Central Texas military post with ties to Dwight D. Eisenhower has a role in the new Army as a family-focused community center after its scheduled year-end closing.

Some retired officers lament the expected change for the two-story Fort Sam Houston Officers Club that had a bar on each floor, with lavish meals and parties around an outdoor swimming pool.

But the club has lost $225,000 over three years and now needs $5 million in renovations, including repairs to its roof and ventilation systems, said Col. Garry Atkins, garrison commander.

Atkins said the club, although not nationally registered as a historic structure, is in a historic district and is a part of U.S. military lore.

"To me, what's most important is that people like the Eisenhowers ate lunch and dinner there," he told the San Antonio Express-News in Monday's editions.

Built in 1935 in Spanish Colonial Revival style, the club was a focus for Eisenhower before he became Allied commander in Europe during World War II. Eisenhower, who later became president, first met wife Mamie at Fort Sam Houston in 1915. They are said to have dined at the club while living nearby from 1939-41.

"It was sort of the social center of the installation," said John Manguso, Fort Sam Houston Museum director.

Mamie Eisenhower lived briefly in an upstairs suite in the club when her husband was called to Washington after the Dec. 7, 1941, bombing of Pearl Harbor, said Manguso.

Atkins said that only a handful of the many Army officers clubs that once existed remain.

At the year's end, the Sam Houston club is scheduled to close for conversion into a community center under a 50-year, $1.37 billion contract with Lincoln Military Housing. Lincoln will build or renovate more than 1,300 homes on the Army post and create family-friendly communities, with pools, running tracks and playgrounds.

At the club, soldiers from Fort Sam's medical detachments have been officially welcomed home from duty in Iraq. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld dined there last year. But as more officers have moved off post and the Army stopped requiring them to pay monthly club dues, activity has fallen.

"Compared to the 1950s, the club is dead," said Alfred Michaud, a retired colonel.

Navy bases seeing changes in services due to standardization

BY JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

Navy bases throughout the world are seeing a change in janitorial services and facility maintenance as a result of a standardization effort begun Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year.

The standardization was ordered by Commander, Navy Installations to cut costs at shore bases, with the saved money going for the modernization of ships, aircraft and weapons systems.

The changes come from long-standing variations in funding and services throughout Navy regions and a desire to better manage costs, according to Rachelle Logan, spokeswoman for the commander.

"It is the Chief of Naval Operations' goal to provide the appropriate level of base operating support," Logan wrote in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes.

Logan stated that before the 2002 establishment of CNI, for example, the "true costs of facility support services were not known.

"CNI was created in part to address these issues and reduce shore installation management costs through efficiencies," she wrote.

To meet this requirement, Naval Support Activity Naples, Italy, for example, is cutting back services for offices, bachelor quarters, child-care centers and fitness centers.

The child-care center, which is the least affected facility on base, will now have its floors mopped twice per week instead of the previous three times per week, and the cleaning of walls and "low horizontal surfaces" will be done weekly instead of daily, according to a recent article in base newspaper Panorama.

Last year Naval Forces in Europe, which includes Naples, were funded at one "capability level," but were receiving services at the next higher level, Logan wrote.

"To execute the [Chief of Naval Operations'] goal, CNI uses capability levels which measure the [level of service] for a given funding level," she wrote.

Capability level 1 is the highest level of service, and consequently most expensive, and level 4 provides the least amount of service. Naval installations will now all be funded at level 3, the second lowest level, with the exception of utilities, which will remain funded at level 2.

In a "stockholders report" put out by CNI for Fiscal Year 2003, about $180 million was budgeted for facility support services. Facility support services include janitorial, pest control, refuse collection/recycling, grounds maintenance and street sweeping/snow removal.

Janitorial services accounted for $59 million of the $180 million in 2003.

Logan wrote that CNI does not yet have figures for fiscal year 2004.

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Shiite militia fighters start turning in weapons

BY SINAN SALAHEDDIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Followers of radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr trickled in to police stations in Baghdad's Sadr City district to hand in weapons Monday in a first step toward bringing peace to the Shiite militant stronghold after weeks of fighting with U.S. forces.

In western Mosul, meanwhile, a suicide car bomb exploded as an American military convoy was passing by, killing at least two Iraqis and wounding 18, witnesses said. Initial reports indicated there also were military casualties, a U.S. statement said, without providing figures.

Also Monday, an Islamist Web site showed the beheading of two hostages — one a Kurdish translator and the other a Turkish contractor wearing a badge of the Titan security company.

A statement said the two were captured in Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad by the Ansar al-Sunnah Army.

An Arabic language television station also broadcast a video Monday showing three hooded gunmen threatening to behead another Turkish hostage within three days unless the Americans release all Iraqi prisoners and all Turks leave Iraq.

One of the gunmen identified the kidnappers as members of Tawhid and Jihad, Iraq's most feared terror group that has been responsible for beheading several foreign hostages in Iraq.

However, the tape did not feature the group's banner, which has always appeared in Tawhid and Jihad video statements.

AP

Soldiers from the Iraqi National Guard show off mortars after militia members delivered sacks of the rounds to Iraqi security forces in the Sadr City neighborhood of Baghdad on Monday.

In preparation for the turnover of weapons, checkpoints were set up along the roads to three Sadr City police stations, and Iraqi National Guard members took up positions on surrounding rooftops.

At al-Nasr station, police Maj. Kadhim Salman said fighters had turned in machine guns, TNT paste, land mines and other explosives.

Many of the weapons appeared old and rusted. Nonetheless, the government was hopeful the process would spell the end of the Shiite revolt and enable the Americans and their Iraqi allies to shift attention to the more extensive Sunni Muslim insurgency.

"Until that process is completed and until [the] Iraqi government itself is satisfied, it is way too early to characterize it as a success," Lt. Col. James Hutton of the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division said.

Fighters are supposed to be compensated for the weapons, but Salman said those responsible for the payments hadn't turned up yet. Instead, receipts were issued.

The rates ranged from $5 for a hand grenade to $1,000 for a heavy-caliber machine gun, police said.

Malik Jomaa walked up to the station with a white bag containing two grenade launchers slung over his shoulder.

"God willing, there will be no more fighting and Sadr City will live in peace," the 20-year-old fighter said.

Outside a police station, a pickup truck offloaded some 20 grenade launchers and dozens of mortar rounds, Associated Press Television News footage showed. Guns and explosives were spread out on the ground. U.S. soldiers supervised the process from a distance.

Al-Sadr's Mahdi Army agreed over the weekend to hand in its medium and heavy weapons in Sadr City. The arms transfer is supposed to last five days, after which Iraqi police and National Guardsmen will assume security responsibility for the slum, home to more than 2 million people.

In return, the government has promised to start releasing detained al-Sadr followers, provided they did not commit crimes. It has also suspended raids in the northeastern Baghdad district.

Vice President Ibrahim al-Jaafari welcomed the handover as a "good and positive initiative," telling APTN that he hoped other insurgent enclaves would follow Sadr City's example.

Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's interim administration has committed more than $500 million to rebuilding Sadr City, scene of heavy clashes between U.S. troops and al-Sadr's militia.

Source: White House to delay major Iraqi assaults

BY MARK MAZZETTI
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration plans to delay major assaults on rebel-held cities in Iraq until after U.S. elections in November, say administration officials, mindful that large-scale military offensives could affect the U.S. presidential race.

Although American commanders in Iraq have been buoyed by recent successes in insurgent-held towns such as Samarra and Tall Afar, administration and Pentagon officials say they will not try to retake cities such as Fallujah and Ramadi — where insurgents' grip is strongest and U.S. military casualties could be the greatest — until after Americans vote in what is likely to be a close election.

"When this election's over, you'll see us move very vigorously," said one senior administration official involved in strategic planning, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"Once you're past the election, it changes the political ramifications" of a large-scale offensive, the official said.

"We're not on hold right now. We're just not as aggressive."

Any delay in pacifying Iraq's most troublesome cities, however, could alter the dynamics of a different election — the one in January, when Iraqis are to elect members of a national assembly.

With only four months remaining, U.S. commanders are scrambling to enable voting in as many Iraqi cities as possible to shore up the poll's legitimacy.

U.S. officials point out that there have been no direct orders to commanders in the field to pause operations in the weeks before the Nov. 2 election.

Top administration officials in Washington are simply reluctant to sign off on a major offensive in Iraq at the height of the political season.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,064 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, 809 died as a result of hostile action and 255 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians. There was no update over the weekend.

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, 926 U.S. military members have died — 700 as a result of hostile action and 226 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A U.S. soldier died Sunday from injuries suffered from a car bomb attack in east Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. Andrew W. Brown, 22, Pleasant Mount, Pa.; died Friday in Baghdad, of injuries sustained on Oct. 1 when his patrol vehicle was hit by an explosive; assigned to 1st Battalion, 509th Infantry; Fort Polk, La.

■ Marine Pfc. Andrew Halverson, 19, Grant, Wis.; died Saturday in gunfire in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force; Camp Pendleton.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Michael S. Voss, 35, Aberdeen, N.C.; died Friday near Tikrit, Iraq, when his convoy vehicle was hit by an explosive and small arms fire; assigned to the National Guard 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry Regiment; Wilmington, N.C.

Rumsfeld praises Afghan vote

Secretary of Defense says Iraq will follow

The Associated Press

SKOPJE, Macedonia — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld on Monday praised the Afghan presidential elections as an "enormous accomplishment" and voiced his hope that the January vote in Iraq will be an equal success.

"The elections in Afghanistan have been an enormous accomplishment," Rumsfeld said in Macedonia during his brief stopover from Iraq to Romania.

See related story on Page 8

Despite a boycott by some opposition candidates, the Afghan election observers and U.S.-backed interim President Hamid Karzai have sought to put the best face possible on Saturday's vote, noting that Taliban rebels were mostly silent and that turnout was high in a nation that has never before tasted democracy.

Rumsfeld said that only three years ago, Afghanistan was the scene of massive terrorist attacks and "the Taliban were using the soccer stadium in Kabul to chop off people's heads instead of playing soccer."

He said that since then, Afghanistan "made a great leap ... for freedom."

> *"It is not an easy task to turn the dictatorship, as in the case of Afghanistan, and it won't be an easy task in Iraq. But Afghanistan is making it. Iraq is making a terrific effort of making it as well."*
>
> **Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld**

"We see that in Afghanistan, and let there be no doubt, we will see that in Iraq," Rumsfeld said.

He said that despite the deteriorating security situation in Iraq and continuing insurgent attacks, the elections scheduled for January "will happen."

"It is not an easy task to turn the dictatorship, as in the case of Afghanistan, and it won't be an easy task in Iraq," Rumsfeld said. "But Afghanistan is making it. Iraq is making a terrific effort of making it as well."

Soldiers targeting illegal traders in Iraq

BY JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes

CONVOY SUPPORT CENTER SCANIA, Iraq — The big smiles don't fool soldiers on perimeter security outside Camp Scania, a major convoy stopping point 150 miles south of Baghdad.

The soldiers say the smiling Iraqi children lingering outside the concertina wire separating them from convoy trucks might have hashish, whiskey or the prescription drug Viagra stashed in the shrubs as they wait for a possible sale.

"Whenever there are trucks along the wire, they'll be working," said Staff Sgt. Jeffrey King, part of the perimeter security force.

"You can have kids from, like, 4 years to 30-year-old men up on the wire."

The sales and any contact with the makeshift wire fence by someone outside it are prohibited, and security details take the problem seriously.

They want to make sure the trickle of vendors does not become a flood of traders that could include potential terrorists.

> *"Whenever there are trucks along the wire, they'll be working. You can have kids from, like, 4 years to 30-year-old men up on the wire."*
>
> **Staff Sgt. Jeffrey King**
> perimeter security force

As a result, at least every few days someone is caught selling to convoy drivers on the base side of the fence, King said.

"We pop them all the time," said Lt. Col. James B. Sayers, commander of the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment of the California National Guard and the acting camp commander.

While any contact along the fence line is a concern, security officials believe the risk to U.S. forces, living a distance from the convoy waiting areas, is minimal. Most of the traders are poor locals from nearby homes.

"It's common all over Iraq," Sayers said. "These are petty criminals. They're not real bad people, [they're] just trying to make a buck."

Though few in number, they are persistent.

"You can arrest one and come back five minutes later and there will be more out there," King said.

Traders are turned over to the Iraqi police and then imprisoned briefly and fined. Their goods are taken away.

"You'd think that would be an incentive not to do this stuff," Sayers adds.

To make sure there's no ambiguity, large red signs in English and Arabic warn: "No Trading with Locals" at the base gates and the same message is spray-painted on concrete barriers.

Security is the key issue, but, Sayers adds, having drunk or stoned convoy drivers endangers soldiers who accompany them on the road.

Truck drivers caught buying goods have also been arrested and are turned over to their companies, who generally dismiss them, Sayers said.

The traders have an interesting array of goods, soldiers say, from the outright illegal, such as hashish, to the surprising, such as Viagra.

The most common is cigarettes, followed by anything from chickens to decorative knives.

Many of the traders are familiar faces. Soldiers know one so well he waves when he sees them in town and has started providing some intelligence to police.

Patrols have also arrested suppliers who provide the goods to the traders. Soldiers say a recent bust netted several trucks of Viagra.

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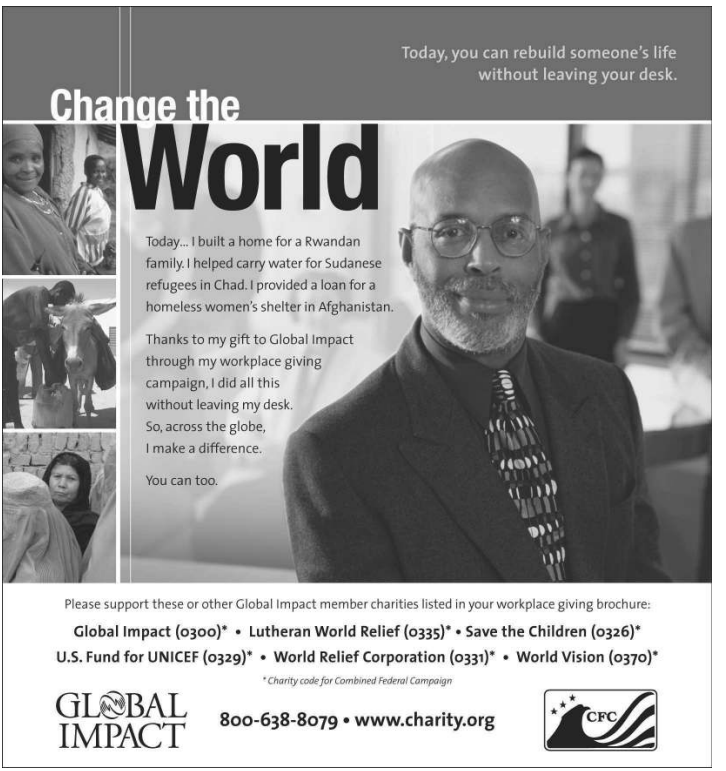


Suspected kidnappers arrested in Kirkuk

The Associated Press

KIRKUK, Iraq — Seven men believed to belong to one of this northern city's largest kidnapping gangs were arrested in a dawn raid Monday that freed two Iraqi hostages, police said.

A large cache of weapons — including mortars, automatic rifles and grenades — was also seized in the raid on a home in southern Kirkuk, said police Col. Monis Saeed al-Hamdani.

The gang, among the city's most notorious, is accused of scores of kidnappings for ransom, he said.

While the abduction of foreigners has grabbed international headlines, Iraqis have faced their own epidemic of kidnappings since Saddam Hussein's fall last year, in most cases for money.

More than 150 foreigners have also been seized, some for ransoms and others as leverage against the United States and its allies.

At least 28 foreign hostages have been killed.

The Kirkuk gang targeted Iraqis, al-Hamdani said, and it was not immediately clear whether they also seized foreigners.

Members would dress in Iraqi National Guard uniforms and raid houses, pretending to be make arrests, he said.

Police and guard uniforms were recovered during the raid, along with fake identification cards, he said.

Deserters find mixed reception in Canada

BY DOUG STRUCK
The Washington Post

TORONTO — Jeremy Hinzman enlisted in the Army in Boston, did a tour in Afghanistan and prepared for elite Ranger school. Then came orders to go to Iraq. He neatly piled his Army gear in his living room at Fort Bragg, N.C., and fled to Canada with his wife and baby.

"No matter how much I wanted to, I could not convince myself that killing someone was ever right," Hinzman, 25, said in an interview here.

Spc. Hinzman is a deserter, one of at least four who have followed the path of Vietnam War resisters a generation ago to seek refuge in Canada. Here, they have been embraced by many from that time — former peaceniks who are now pillars of the community.

The government is less welcoming. Despite Canada's opposition to the Iraq war, the government also is opposing the deserters' refugee applications, saying the soldiers are not persecuted. It is resisting the argument that the Iraq war is illegal.

"Canada is worried if they grant us refugee status, others would come up," said Hinzman.

The deserters in Canada provoke anger in the United States among people who argue they are shirking a duty to which they willingly agreed. "There's no draft. These people volunteered for the military," said Jerry Newberry, a spokesman of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in St. Louis. "These people want to have their cake and eat it, too."

Hinzman, a slender, studious young man, accepts the criticisms. He replies that his objections to the military evolved after he enlisted.

Well before he was ordered to Iraq, he applied for noncombatant duty.

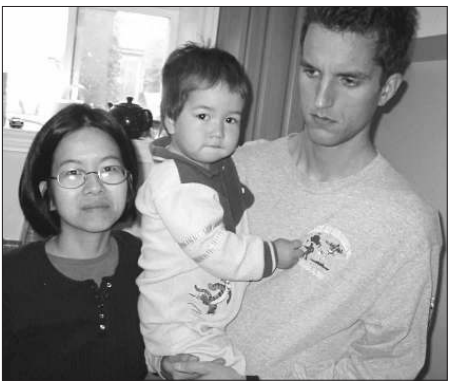
Had that been granted, he said, he would have served his obligation, would even have gone to Iraq as a medic or cook or anything that did not involve offensive operations.

"If I was in a situation where bullets were whizzing by, I'd be fine with that," he said. "I'm not saying I wouldn't be scared, but I would have soldiered on — as long as I wasn't pulling a trigger."

Hinzman spends his days reading and taking care of Liam, his 2½-year-old son, in the small back yard of the family's basement apartment in downtown Toronto. He and his wife, Nga Nguyen, a biologist and social worker who was barely 3 when her family fled Laos after the Vietnam War, take turns cooking vegetarian meals.

They are in legal limbo while Hinzman's case works its way through the Immigration and Refugee Board, which has scheduled a hearing for Dec. 6. They hope to get work permits and find jobs, but until then, as they pay for rent, food and lawyers' fees, their savings from Jeremy's three years in the Army dwindles.

"I told Jeremy I would support his decision, whether he left or he went to prison," said Nguyen, 31. "At least we are together as a family, and alive."



The Washington Post

Jeremy Hinzman, with his wife, Nga Nguyen, and son, Liam, are in limbo in Toronto while Canada considers Hinzman's refugee application after deserting the U.S. military.

Hinzman makes occasional speeches along with two other U.S. deserters who have gone public, Pvt. Brandon Hughey, 19, and David Sanders, a Navy enlistee. At least one other deserter is in Canada, according to Jeffrey House, an attorney for the Americans, but has remained out of sight.

House, 57, said he felt a chill of recognition when Hinzman first came to his office. Thirty-four years earlier, House had crossed the border from Wisconsin rather than obey a draft notice during the Vietnam War.

Estimates of how many Americans came to Canada in those times to avoid service in the war range from 30,000 to 90,000. They were invited by the prime minister at the time, Pierre Trudeau, who in 1969 declared Canada to be "a refuge from militarism."

On taking office in 1977, President Jimmy Carter pardoned the draft dodgers and allowed deserters to apply for resolution of their cases.

Many of the Americans went home. Others stayed in Canada, and many flourished. Today they include several judges, scores of university professors, a popular radio host, a music promoter, politicians and a film critic.

"It's a big decision," House said of his client's action. "I respect and admire his decision."

House has argued to the refugee board that Hinzman is fleeing an illegal war. The lawyer said he is prepared to argue that the Iraq war has produced a pattern of war crimes — he says the abuse at Abu Ghraib prison is exhibit number one — that justifies a soldier's refusal to serve.

The government responded that the legality of the war was not an issue, and that anyway, the U.S. presence in Iraq had been sanctioned by the United Nations by the time Hinzman fled Fort Bragg in January.

The government's lawyer declined to discuss the case, as did spokesmen for the board and the Citizenship and Immigration Agency.

Others, however, have taken up the Americans' cause. A music promoter organized a concert in June to raise funds for them. A public relations firm in western Canada set up a Web site, now brimming with messages of support.

"There's a very strong feeling against the war in Iraq here," said Carolyn Egan, president of the United Steelworkers' local council, which voted to support Hinzman. Unlike the Vietnam resisters, she said, these deserters "are not coming off college campuses filled with a political ideology. They seem to be honest young men who have made very personal decisions that they cannot support the war."

Hinzman was raised in Rapid City, S.D., finished high school and worked as a baker for a while. Through mutual friends, he met and dated Nguyen, whose family had fled Laos in 1975.

They moved to Boston, got married, and Hinzman enlisted in the Army in January 2001 because, he said, it seemed an honorable vocation, steady, and with college benefits. He was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division and made 17 parachute jumps in training.

"The Army did give me focus and structure in my life," he said.

"When I enlisted, I figured I would be deployed. I thought if I was called up to do it, I could do it. But I was ignorant, probably stupidly, of an ingrained inhibition to killing another human being."

Hinzman said he was repelled by the chants of "Kill! Kill!" in basic training and was more drawn to his readings of Buddhism.

"I was on the verge of going to Ranger school," he said. "But the flip side of that was I was going through internal debate about whether I could do this. I finally decided no."

In 2002, he applied for a conscientious objector status that would have kept him in the Army, but as a noncombatant. While his request was pending, his unit shipped out to Afghanistan. Hinzman went and was assigned to duties as a dishwasher and cook while his unit was in Kandahar from December 2002 to July 2003. In Afghanistan, a first lieutenant denied his application, saying the claimed reasons were "not congruent with the definition of conscientious objector."

Hinzman returned with his unit to Fort Bragg. But in late 2003, he was told they were being sent to Iraq. He and Nguyen talked at length, and "it became more and more obvious" he would refuse to go, he said. "It is an illegal war. I wasn't going to kill or be killed to subsidize gas for someone to drive their SUVs."

Last New Year's Day, Hinzman helped install scopes on Army tanks.

The next night, with a three-day leave ahead, he and his family quietly put belongings in their Chevrolet Prism and drove toward Canada.

They crossed at Niagara Falls at 6 p.m. Jan. 3, telling the border officer they were "visiting friends." It was a bit of a pun. Hinzman had been in touch with the Quakers — the Religious Society of Friends — and was headed for sanctuary in a Quaker meeting house in Toronto.

They called their parents. "Everyone has been very supportive," Hinzman said. "With the only exception being my grandpa. He has some issues with it, even though he thinks the war is wrong. I think he has a different concept of duty."

"I think the U.S. is a great country," Hinzman said. "But the direction that it's heading now is not a good one. I don't want to be a part of it. There is something to be said for staying and being a voice of opposition. But I wasn't called for that.

"Some people have put us as cowards, others have put us as victims," he mused. "I would say neither is true. I chose to do this. I feel I exhausted all the options I had."

Blair reportedly said coalition couldn't wait for Saddam to die

The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Malaysia's former leader claimed Monday that British Prime Minister Tony Blair had told him that ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had to be removed from power because the U.S.-led coalition was unwilling to wait for him to die naturally.

Mahathir Mohamad, a fierce critic of the war in Iraq, said he spoke with the British leader before the U.S.-led invasion of the Middle Eastern country, adding that he urged Blair to be patient and wait for Hussein, 67, to die.

"But Blair said, 'Well Saddam Hussein is too young. He's not going to die soon enough,' " Mahathir said in a speech delivered in Singapore.

In London, a Downing Street spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, had no immediate comment on Mahathir's claim, though he said of Blair's alleged remark: "I don't recognize it as you describe it."

Mahathir didn't give further details about his conversation with Blair — President Bush's strongest ally.

His comments came as a new AP poll showed nearly two thirds of people in Britain disapprove of how Blair's government has been handling the war on terrorism.

The poll also revealed that three-fourths of Britons say they believe military action in Iraq has increased the threat of terrorism around the world.

Mahathir, who stepped down after 22 years as Malaysia's prime minister in October last year, again sharply criticized the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

"The state of affairs today cannot truly be said to be better than when it was not democratic," he said, adding the situation in Iraq would just turn other Arab nations away from democracy.

"There is literally a civil war going on," he said, referring to the U.S.-led coalition as "invaders."

"Killing men, women and children, the old and the infirm is justified. Starving and depriving them of medical treatment is justified because their death would bring about democracy," he said.

When asked about other ways to bring about political change, Mahathir said: "Assassination is one of them ... If you're patient enough, leaders die some times."

"One way is ask a foreign friend to remove your leader, that's the second way," he said to subdued laughter from the 2,000-strong crowd.

Iraq's women seek means to fulfill election mandate

BY SCHEHEREZADE FARAMARZI
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Salama al-Khafaji, a deeply religious woman who dons the all-enveloping black abaya, says she has "bright Islamic thoughts" that she will employ if she's elected to the legislature next year. Wijdan al-Khuzaei wants to keep religion out of politics.

What the two women and many other potential candidates have in common is a desire to ensure that the female Iraqi electorate, especially the illiterate, take advantage of the opportunity presented in January — and are not intimidated into voting according to their husbands' wishes.

"We want … to have our own voice, our own choice and our own vote," said Salam Smeisem, 45, an economic adviser in the interim government who is thinking about running too.

They have been encouraged by a clause in the interim constitution guaranteeing that at least 25 percent of the 275 seats in Iraq's new National Assembly go to women.

It remains to be seen, however, whether they can convince women to go it alone in this extremely conservative and deeply religious society where more than 50 percent of women are illiterate.

Al-Khafaji, 46, says she has her way to get through to these women.

"We have to tell women that … Islam says you have the right to choose what you like," she said.

Al-Khafaji, who survived an assassination attempt in May that killed her 17-year-old son, was one of only three women on the 25-member U.S.-appointed Governing Council until the formal handover of power to a transitional Iraqi government in June. She now has a seat in a national council that oversees the work of government.

She plans to run in the upcoming elections as an independent Islamist. That doesn't mean, however, that she wants to see Sharia, or Islamic law, imposed in Iraq.

"We can make laws and see if they suit Sharia but not have Sharia as our law," she said.

Secular candidates such as al-Khuzaei concede they will have a harder time penetrating Iraq's impoverished, tradition-bound grass roots due to what she describes as the strict social and religious curbs imposed on women.

"Seculars need a powerful hand to help them win, they need economic support and support from the media," said al-Khuzaei, a 40-year-old mother of two who heads the Democratic Iraqi Women's Society and Iraqi Society of Businesswomen.

> *"We are determined to reach our goal — to empower women to live their own lives and not be subservient to their husbands."*
>
> **Wijdan al-Khuzaei**
> Leader of the Democratic Iraqi Women's Society and Iraqi Society of Businesswomen

"But all this will not deter us," said al-Khuzaei, in a lavender pants suit and bleached blond hair. "We are determined to reach our goal — to empower women to live their own lives and not be subservient to their husbands."

To that end, she said, if she wins a seat in the assembly, she will "help women to travel this difficult road ahead and become economically self-reliant" by providing them with small projects and loans.

Al-Khafaji, on the other hand, will turn her attention to the poorest of the poor, where she says she draws most of her support.

She wants to improve their health and provide them with education.

Al-Khuzaei's journalist husband is fully behind her. However, al-Khafaji has a harder time convincing her husband, an architect, to support her.

"Until now, Iraqi men cannot believe that women can be active," she said. "He likes to see me as a woman doing everything in the house, like other Iraqi women."

AP

Soldiers from the Iraqi National Guard prepare to patrol the streets of Baghdad on Saturday. American forces have been training the new troops to provide more public security, yet most of the Iraqi soldiers cover their faces for fear of insurgent reprisals.

Danger palpable for Iraq recruits

Some police hopefuls deterred

BY MARIAM FAM
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — With no work and five children to feed, Salah Abbas ignored his family's pleas not to join the Iraqi National Guard, a job where the paycheck comes with a deadly risk.

But a suicide bomber who blew himself up last month near where Abbas and others were lining up to apply for the force changed his mind.

"How can anyone volunteer after this disaster?" he said from his hospital bed after the blast left him with shrapnel wounds to the back and legs. "I won't join. I'd rather live on bare bread."

Insurgents are increasingly targeting men like Abbas along with those who have already entered the ranks of security forces, and appear to have raised the level of planning and sophistication of operations to work around security measures.

A wave of bombings, mortar attacks and shootings of police and potential recruits — viewed by guerrillas as collaborators with U.S.-led forces — have left areas around many police stations and recruiting centers littered with mangled body parts and teeming with dazed men in bloodied uniforms.

On Sunday, a suicide attacker detonated a minibus packed with explosives near an east Baghdad police academy, killing at least three of the school's students and a female officer.

Interior Ministry officials say there are no comprehensive figures for security forces killed in attacks across the country.

Maj. Gen. Samir al-Waeli, an Interior Ministry official, said nearly 1,000 policemen have been killed since April 2003. But the figure doesn't include volunteers killed in attacks on recruitment centers or members of other security services, such as the national guard and army.

Baghdad's police commander, Maj. Gen. Abdul Razzaq Abdul Wahhab, said police would review security procedures and work on erecting more roadblocks and checking the identity of drivers approaching possible targets.

Officials say they are also trying to limit the number of assembled applicants by asking them not to show up on the same day.

Some of the survivors of the Sept. 22 bombing that wounded Abbas said those waiting to join the national guard were asked to spread out in a nearby street rather than line up outside the recruiting center and present attackers with an easy target.

But the militants knew exactly where to strike.

Instead of exploding the car at the center, the driver blew it up on the street where the recruits were photocopying documents, eating ice cream and chatting with each other. At least six people were killed and another 54 wounded.

"They are better organized than before," Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammed Amin of the Iraqi National Guard in the northern city of Kirkuk said of the insurgents. "They wait for a chance, stake out targets and get thorough information."

Despite the carnage, Iraqi officials say the attacks have failed to demoralize troops or drive away volunteers, with applications continuing to pour in. Some policemen say the attacks only increase their determination to serve their country and fight the militants.

Interim Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said he visited a police recruitment center one day after at least 40 people were killed in an attack there.

"I found hundreds of people coming to volunteer to the police and to the army," he said in a recent news conference with President Bush. "They are all upbeat. They are resolved to beat terrorism and to defeat the insurgents."

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IN THE WORLD

Poll: Karzai wins Afghan vote

Main opposition candidate backs off boycott of election results

BY AMIR SHAH
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An exit poll conducted by an American nonprofit group projected interim President Hamid Karzai would win Afghanistan's presidential election as the main opposition candidate backed off a boycott of the vote on Monday.

Ethnic Tajik candidate Yunus Qanooni, considered the likely runner-up to Karzai, made the announcement at his Kabul home on Monday, a day after two other candidates also peeled away from the boycott. He said he would accept the findings of an independent commission to look into alleged cheating. He said he had made his decision after a meeting with U.N. representative Jean Arnault and U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad.

"I don't want to be against the election and I appreciate the good will of the people of Afghanistan," Qanooni said. "I want to prove to the people of Afghanistan that the national interest is my highest interest."

The announcement was a huge victory for election organizers, who agreed to set up the panel on Sunday in hopes it would end the crisis that emerged when all 15 opposition candidates announced the boycott — in the middle of Saturday's voting.

Massooda Jalal, the only female candidate, and ethnic Hazara candidate Mohammed Mohaqeq said Sunday they would end their boycott in favor of setting up the panel.

The survey by the International Republican Institute, which is closely tied to the U.S. Republican Party although it has no direct affiliation with the GOP, said the U.S.-backed Karzai would finish ahead of Qanooni by an overwhelming 43 percentage points.

The group, which sent a 13-member observer team to monitor the elections, said that Karzai was well over the 50 percent mark necessary to avoid a runoff. But it did not give a breakdown of support for all the candidates nor did it release supporting data.

A senior Western official who met with some of the 15 candidates on Sunday said many had decided to back down and support the investigative team.

"Some of the candidates say they made that statement [the boycott] in too much of a rush," the official said on condition of anonymity. "They are now looking for a way out that allows them to save face."

Election observers, the U.S. Embassy and Karzai have all sought to put the best face possible on the vote, noting that Taliban rebels were mostly silent and that turnout was high in a nation that has never before tasted democracy.

AP

Exit polls released Monday indicated Afghan President Hamid Karzai retained his office in historic weekend elections.

Egypt shuts hotel bombing site to investigate

BY SARAH EL DEEB
The Associated Press

TABA, Egypt — With Israeli rescue workers gone, the Egyptian military closed off the scene of a luxury hotel bombing that targeted Israeli tourists to clear more debris Monday and collect evidence for investigators tracing the explosives and vehicles.

Egyptian security officials said Sunday that a Bedouin tribesman has confessed to selling explosives that might have been used in the three Sinai resort car bombings that killed at least 34 people.

They said investigators also were looking into Palestinian militant involvement.

In Israel, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom reiterated Monday his government believes responsibility lies with the al-Qaida terror network led by Osama bin Laden, although it was not "100 percent" sure.

The deadliest of the three attacks was at the Taba Hilton, where the front rooms on a 10-story wing of the hotel were sheared off.

Three car bombs, each packed with 440 pounds of explosives, exploded Thursday night, one at the Taba Hilton just south of the Egypt-Israel border and two at Ras Shitan.

Egypt's Interior Ministry put the death toll at 34, including 11 Israelis, eight Egyptians, one Russian, two Italians and 12 victims whose identities and nationalities remained unconfirmed. The dead also were believed to include eastern Europeans.

Israeli Maj. Gen. Yair Naveh said that in addition to the Isuzu pickup truck that exploded at the hotel, a suicide bomber inside detonated another bomb.

"To our relief, the bomber who entered the hotel did not enter the hotel restaurants, something which would have brought down at least half the hotel," he said.

An Egyptian investigator said the Bedouin tribesman who was cooperating with police said he had sold explosives to buyers assuming they would be sent to the Palestinian territories.

Egyptian security officials said some of the dozens of Bedouins detained for questioning after the attacks have been cooperating.

U.S. and Norwegian men win Nobel economy prize

BY MATT MOORE
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Norwegian Finn E. Kydland and American Edward C. Prescott received the 2004 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences on Monday for shedding light on how government policies and actions affect economies worldwide.

The work in macroeconomics, which examines inflation, changes in production and unemployment, has been used to chart how countries, including New Zealand, Sweden and Great Britain, among others, chart their monetary policy decisions through independent central banks and adapting to unexpected market fluctuations such as rising oil prices or a drop in worker productivity, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said.

The 60-year-old Kydland teaches at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa., and the University of California at Santa Barbara, while Prescott, 63, is at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz., and part of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minn.

Both laureates published their work in joint papers in 1977 and 1982.

In the 1970s, many Western countries had problems with high inflation because their central banks didn't keep a consistent monetary policy, but accepted rising inflation for a short-term decrease in unemployment, said Per Krusell, a member of the Nobel Committee for Economics.

Kydland and Prescott's 1977 article highlighted this problem, which led to many countries forcing their central banks to stick to certain policies, regardless of what forces on the market wanted.

The idea was groundbreaking, but the concept is as old as Greek mythology, Krusell said. "It's a bit like Odysseus tying himself to the mast of his ship" to resist the temptations of the sirens, he said. "People realized that rules that tie the central banks can be in everyone's interest."

This year's prize is worth $1.3 million.

Asked if the application of theories he and Prescott formulated were immediately noticeable, he said they wouldn't be, if they work.

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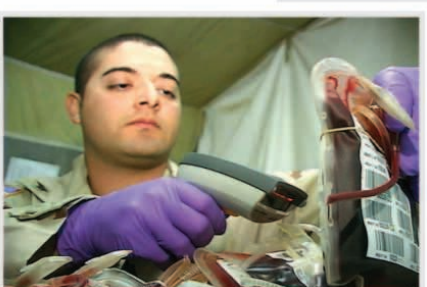

ABOVE Sgt. 1st Class Louis Rickers, center, 1st Platoon, Company C, 168th Infantry (Light Assault), leads members on a foot patrol through the streets of Qalat, Afghanistan. Rickers unit is at the Qalat Provincial Reconstruction Team compound where duties include providing base security and armed escorts for convoys.
Claudia K. Bullard/U.S. Army

LEFT Sgt. Ruben Ramirez of the 312th Medical Logistics Unit (Blood Support) at the 325th Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, scans units of blood as they are sent to different medical facilities throughout the country and used to supply coalition forces with enough blood to support current combat operations throughout the theater.
Dijon Rolle/U.S. Army

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EU lifts Libya sanctions

LUXEMBOURG — The European Union on Monday ended 11 years of sanctions against Libya and eased an arms embargo to reward the North African country for giving up plans to develop weapons of mass destruction.

The move reflected a significant warming of relations in recent months.

The decision by the 25 EU foreign ministers followed last year's decision by the United Nations Security Council to lift 11-year U.N. sanctions against Tripoli.

Britain was pushing for a complete normalization of relations between the EU and Libya and a full lifting of the arms embargo, according to a senior British official in London.

But trade restrictions, including an arms embargo, remain on the books.

Euro gets high marks

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — European financial policy-makers, assessing the euro five years after its creation, gave the currency high marks Monday, but said governments need to reinvigorate their commitment to cutting deficits and making their economies more dynamic.

"The euro is firmly established as the second most important currency on the international market," said EU finance commissioner Joaquin Almunia, addressing a two-day conference reviewing the common currency's progress after being introduced in 1999.

Almunia said the high value of the euro in relation to the dollar should not impair economic recovery.

The "excessive volatility" of the exchange rate "seems to have declined" but still warrants close watching, he said.

Kurds hail EU decision

ISTANBUL, Turkey — For Kurds like Mevlut Cetinkaya, the European Union's green light for Turkish entry is a bittersweet victory, a sign that Turkey is moving toward granting greater Kurdish rights, but only at the insistence of the European Union.

Turkish Kurds are hailing the historic EU recommendation to put Turkey on the road for membership, saying the bloc will help guarantee the cultural rights that they hope for and promote economic development in the impoverished overwhelmingly Kurdish southeast.

"I wish the changes had been made long ago and by Turkey's free will ... and not because the EU wanted Turkey to make them," said Cetinkaya, the director of one of six new government-approved centers for teaching Kurdish, a language that was banned until 1991. The Istanbul center begins its first classes on Tuesday.

No budging on embargo

LUXEMBOURG — European Union foreign ministers were unlikely to reach agreement on lifting the bloc's 15-year-old arms embargo on China despite strong French pressure, officials said Monday.

A majority of EU nations remain against lifting the ban, arguing Beijing has not done enough to improve the human rights situation since it was imposed in 1989 after Beijing's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square.

France has tried hard to get the EU-wide ban lifted. French President Jacques Chirac reiterated his call for the embargo to be dropped during his high-profile visit to China last week.

French efforts to convince EU partners to drop the ban hit a wall last week, when U.S. officials warned EU governments it could curtail transfers of sensitive defense technology to EU countries if they lifted the embargo.

Washington argues that lifting the European ban could undermine stability in east Asia and hurt efforts to improve human rights in China. EU officials said U.S. lobbying had made unanimous support needed for lifting the ban unlikely.

EU to boost India ties

LUXEMBOURG — The European Union on Monday pledged to boost ties with India, saying it sees "great potential" for more cooperation on issues ranging from nuclear nonproliferation to poverty and reform of the United Nations.

The EU foreign ministers endorsed a "strategic partnership" that sees "a great potential for developing the substance of the EU-India relationship in several key areas."

The Europeans had hoped to formally present their strategy paper this week to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at an EU-India summit in The Hague, the Netherlands. But last week, New Delhi canceled the event citing "pressing domestic circumstances" after attacks by suspected separatist rebels killed at least 63 people in India's northeast.

No new date has been set for the summit.

From The Associated Press

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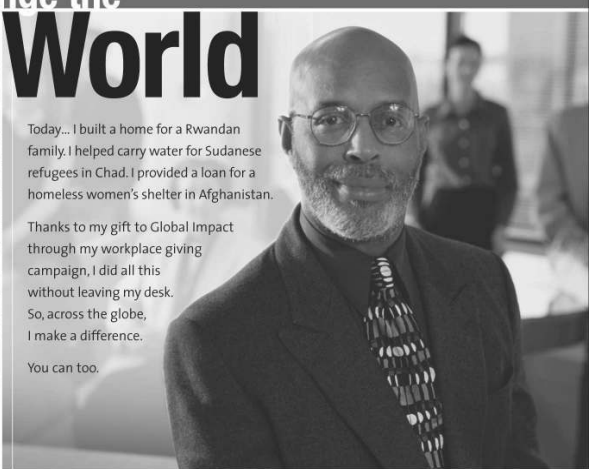

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IN THE STATES

Actor, activist Christopher Reeve dead at 52

BY JIM FITZGERALD
The Associated Press

MOUNT KISCO, N.Y. — "Superman" actor Christopher Reeve, who turned personal tragedy into a public crusade and from his wheelchair became the nation's most recognizable spokesman for spinal cord research, has died. He was 52.

Reeve went into cardiac arrest Saturday at his Pound Ridge home, then fell into a coma and died Sunday at a hospital surrounded by his family, his publicist said.

His advocacy for stem cell research helped it emerge as a major campaign issue between President Bush and his Democratic opponent, Sen. John Kerry.

In the last week, Reeve had developed a serious systemic infection from a pressure wound, a common complication for people living with paralysis. He entered the hospital Saturday.

Dana Reeve thanked her husband's personal staff of nurses and aides, "as well as the millions of fans from around the world."

Before the 1995 accident, his athletic, 6-foot-4-inch frame and love of adventure made him a natural, if largely unknown, choice for the title role in the first "Superman" movie in 1978.

Reeve's life changed after he broke his neck in May 1995 when he was thrown from his horse during an equestrian competition in Culpeper, Va.

Enduring months of therapy to allow him to breathe for longer and longer periods without a respirator, Reeve emerged to lobby Congress for better insurance protection against catastrophic injury. He moved an Academy Award audience to tears with a call for more films about social issues.

AP

Christopher Reeve and wife Dana arrive at the 2003 Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation gala event in New York.

"Hollywood needs to do more," he said in the 1996 Oscar awards appearance. "Let's continue to take risks. Let's tackle the issues. In many ways our film community can do it better than anyone else."

He returned to directing, and even returned to acting in a 1998 production of "Rear Window," a modern update of the Hitchcock thriller about a man in a wheelchair who becomes convinced a neighbor has been murdered. Reeve won a Screen Actors Guild award for best actor in a TV movie or miniseries.

In 2000, Reeve was able to move his index finger, and a specialized workout regimen made his legs and arms stronger. With rigorous therapy, involving repeated electrical stimulation of the muscles, he also regained sensation in other parts of his body. He vowed to walk again.

"I refuse to allow a disability to determine how I live my life. I don't mean to be reckless, but setting a goal that seems a bit daunting actually is very helpful toward recovery," Reeve said.

Dr. John McDonald treated Reeve as director of the Spinal Cord Injury Program at Washington University in St. Louis.

"Before him there was really no hope," McDonald said. "If you had a spinal cord injury like his there was not much that could be done, but he's changed all that. He's demonstrated that there is hope and that there are things that can be done."

Reeve was born Sept. 25, 1952, in New York City, son of a novelist and a newspaper reporter. About the age of 10, he made his first stage appearance — in Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Yeoman of the Guard" at a theater in Princeton, N.J.

While filming "Superman" in London, Reeve met modeling agency co-founder Gae Exton, and the two began a relationship that lasted several years. The couple had a son and a daughter, but never wed.

Reeve later married Dana Morosini; they had one son, Will, 12.

Reeve also is survived by his mother, Barbara Johnson; his father, Franklin Reeve; his brother, Benjamin Reeve; and his two children from his relationship with Exton, Matthew, 25, and Alexandra, 21.

Plans for a funeral were not immediately announced.

Reeve's filmography

Some of Christopher Reeve's film credits:

"A Step Toward Tomorrow" 1996
"Village of the Damned" 1995
"Speechless" 1994
"The Remains of the Day" 1993
"Noises Off" 1992
"Switching Channels" 1988
"Superman IV: The Quest for Peace" 1987
"Street Smart" 1987
"The Aviator" 1985
"The Bostonians" 1984
"Superman III" 1983
"Monsignor" 1982
"Deathtrap" 1982
"Somewhere in Time" 1980
"Superman II" 1980
"Superman" 1978
"Gray Lady Down" 1978

From The Associated Press

Families mourn Ark. crash victims

BY CARYN ROUSSEAU
The Associated Press

WEST MEMPHIS, Ark. — While relatives kept vigil at hospitals and church parishioners prayed for the dead, investigators scoured the crash site where a bus packed with gamblers overturned, killing 14 passengers.

Thirty people were aboard the Mississippi-bound charter bus from Chicago when it flipped over early Saturday on Interstate 55, 25 miles north of Memphis. Sixteen people were injured.

The twice-a-year trip had become a tradition for the passengers, as much about visiting, laughing and reminiscing as it was about trying to strike it rich at a casino in Tunica, Miss.

"It's just neighborhood and community," Brenda Clay said Sunday in a hospital waiting room. "There's still good old American communities where people get together and do things together."

Clay kept vigil at the Regional Medical Center in Memphis because her relative, 62-year-old Herbert Redmond, was taken there after the accident. She had nothing but gratitude for those who helped on the scene and at the hospital.

Investigators planned to create computer models of the accident in their search for a cause.

On Sunday, they combed through the grass, looking for clues to why the bus drifted off the road. A reconstruction of the accident was under way. But officials cautioned that a final police report would not be ready for a week.

The owner of the mom-and-pop tour operation, Roosevelt Walters of Chicago, lost his wife and brother, both 67, in the crash.

Walters' wife, Mareen, arranged the trip; his brother, Herbert, was the driver.

"In one instant, he lost it all," the Rev. James Meeks told his congregation at Salem Baptist Church on Chicago's South Side.

Police said they interviewed some motorists who were driving behind the bus when the crash happened, as well as some survivors.

"After the trauma and shock and they come to themselves, they may remember more," state police Lt. Tommy Wicker said.

AP

Linda McCormick is comforted by longtime friend Terry Bell on Sunday, one day after Linda's mother was killed in a tour bus accident.

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Gas, crude oil prices still rising

BY TIM MOLLOY
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — High crude oil futures prices are being blamed for a spike in the cost of gasoline, which has gone up nearly 8 cents a gallon over the past two weeks.

From Sept. 24 through Friday, the combined national average for all grades of gas rose to $2.02 a gallon, according to Trilby Lundberg, who publishes the semi-monthly Lundberg Survey of 7,000 gas stations across the country.

Self-serve regular, the biggest seller, now costs $1.99 a gallon; midgrade is $2.09, and premium is $2.18, Lundberg said.

Lundberg blamed the increase on the rising cost of crude, which hit $53.31 a barrel on Friday, and said prices are likely to continue to climb in the short term. But they may begin to come down as hurricane-damaged petroleum facilities in the Gulf of Mexico are repaired, she said.

"That is, unless we have a new event such as an especially cold winter, in the U.S. or internationally, snapping up home heating supplies and prices, which would add to the value of crude oil," Lundberg said Sunday.

While crude oil futures prices are about 79 percent higher than a year ago, they are $27 below the peak inflation-adjusted price reached in 1981.

Meanwhile, the nation's most expensive gas during the past two weeks was sold in San Diego, where self-serve regular was $2.35 a gallon. The cheapest was in Houston, where self-serve regular was $1.84.

Gas prices have gone up more than 13 cents since Sept. 10, when the combined national average for all grades was $1.89 a gallon.

Before then, pump prices had been sliding since May 21, when they reached a peak of $2.10 a gallon.

Senate passes $136B corporate tax bill

BY JIM ABRAMS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate passed a far-reaching, $136 billion corporate tax package Monday that cuts taxes for businesses ranging from film companies to bow and arrow makers while closing tax loopholes and bringing U.S. exporters in line with international trade rules.

With the 69-17 vote, the legislation that was two years in the making and required a rare weekend session in the Senate to complete, goes to President Bush for his signature.

"About 200,000 American manufacturers will receive a benefit to help create jobs," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont.

Senators also passed by voice vote two spending bills for 2005, a $33 billion homeland security bill and another including $14.5 billion in relief for Florida hurricane victims and drought-ravaged farmers in the Plains states, before their belated departure for the campaign trail.

The House adjourned on Saturday after finishing its actions on the three bills.

Monday's vote was made possible by a Sunday night agreement to satisfy the concerns of several Democrats threatening to immobilize the Senate with a weeklong filibuster.

Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., sought to protect measures left out of the corporate tax bill, while Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, objected to a cut in spending for a farm conservation program linked to drought assistance.

In the settlement, the three senators were promised mostly symbolic votes in which the Senate will reaffirm positions it has taken in the past, but which have been opposed by House Republican leaders.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, blamed politics for the difficulties in getting the bill through Congress.

"Certain members of this body don't want a Republican president signing a jobs bill a few days before the election," he said.

Harkin held up action on the hurricane aid, attached to a $10 billion military construction spending bill, to protest the decision to pay for the $2.9 billion in drought relief by cutting a farm conservation program that he has championed.

The hurricane money, intended mostly for the election battleground state of Florida, is not budgeted and will increase the federal deficit.

Landrieu won agreement for a vote on a measure giving a 50 percent tax credit to employers who compensate workers up to $30,000 in lost pay when military Reservists or National Guard members are called to active duty.

It was estimated to have a $2.5 billion cost over 10 years.

Her proposal had been in the Senate version of the corporate tax bill but was taken out when House Republicans opposed it. Given that opposition, it was unlikely to win House passage.

Harkin got a vote Monday on a Senate resolution to instruct members of an upcoming budget conference committee that the Senate wants funding restored for the agriculture conservation program.

The corporate tax bill grew out of the need for Congress to respond to a World Trade Organization ruling that a $5 billion annual subsidy for U.S. exporters was illegal.

As a result, 1,600 American exports to Europe are being hit by penalty tariffs that now stand at 12 percent and are rising by one percentage point a month.

On the issues

Do you support a federal cap on medical malpractice awards as a way to restrain health insurance costs?

President Bush

"Yes. My proposal would ensure that injured persons are fully compensated for their economic losses, while reasonably limiting noneconomic damages to $250,000. It would also reserve punitive damages for cases in which actions are justified, ensure that old cases cannot be brought years after an event, and provide that defendants should pay judgments in proportion to their fault."

Sen. John Kerry

"I will require that a qualified specialist certifies a medical malpractice case's merit before it is allowed to move forward. I will also work with states so we have nonbinding mediation in all malpractice claims before cases proceed to trial. Lawyers who file frivolous cases would face tough, mandatory sanctions, including a 'three strikes and you're out' provision. I also oppose punitive damages — unless intentional misconduct, gross negligence, or reckless indifference to life can be established."

AP

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro (Oct. 12)	$1.2669
British pound (Oct. 12)	$1.83
Japanese yen (Oct. 12)	109.00
South Korean won (Oct. 9)	1,121.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	$1.7931
Canada (Dollar)	1.2520
Denmark (Krone)	6.0173
Egypt (Pound)	6.2352
Euro	$1.2418
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7824
Hungary (Forint)	200.12
Iceland (Krona)	69.26
Israel (Shekel)	4.4643
Japan (Yen)	109.42
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2946
Norway (Krone)	6.7162
Philippines (Peso)	55.32
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7500
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6799
South Korea (Won)	1147.90
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2494
Thailand (Baht)	41.37
Turkey (Lira)	1,492,537.00

(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

London close	
Gold	$421.00
Silver	$7.16

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.75
3-month bill	1.69
30-year bond	4.91

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

College aid change

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is ending a promise to banks that has allowed them to reap billions of dollars in profits from a federal college aid program.

Legislation halting the federal guarantee of a 9.5 percent rate of return to lenders of certain student loans was passed Saturday by the Senate and sent to President Bush. The bill, endorsed by the White House, won approval Thursday in the House.

The 9.5 percent interest rate on many loans will be replaced with an adjustable rate reflecting the market. The guarantee to banks has long been a profit-maker because the government has had to pay them whatever amount of interest students do not, and students now pay under 3.4 percent.

Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., chairman of the Health, Education and Labor Committee, said the bill "essentially saves the taxpayers from paying out a $100 million windfall to people who give loans to students."

The money will be diverted to forgiving up to $17,000 in student loans for teachers who spend five years in poor schools and in the fields of math, science and special education.

The change would last one year, with sponsors promising a permanent fix when Congress renews the nation's higher education law next year.

Bush attacks Kerry remarks, Kerry faults energy policies

The Associated Press

HOBBS, New Mexico — Two days before the final presidential debate, President Bush criticized Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry for suggesting that the anti-terror battle should reduce terrorists to "a nuisance" from the cunt full-time crisis.

"I couldn't disagree more," Bush said Monday. "Our goal is not to reduce terror to some acceptable level of nuisance. Our goal is to defeat terror by staying on the offensive, destroying terrorist networks and spreading freedom and liberty around the world."

Kerry said in an interview in The New York Times Magazine on Sunday that "we have to get back to the place we were, where terrorists are not the focus of our lives but they're a nuisance."

Campaigning across New Mexico on Monday, Kerry accused Bush of choosing to help big energy companies instead of consumers, and said higher gas prices mean bigger profits for "this president's friends in the oil industry."

"When it comes to developing a real energy policy, George Bush has run out of gas," Kerry said. "The money that you're paying at the pump is going directly from your wallets straight into the hands of the oil companies and the oil producers."

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Quick Trips

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

The castle in Hirschhorn, Germany, towers over the town and the Neckar river. At center is the bell tower, once the city gate.

Lovely, and often overlooked

Germany's Hirschhorn sits in Heidelberg's shadow

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

Hirschhorn is one of those charming German towns popular with tourists. It is on a river, it has half-timbered houses, cobblestone streets, an age-old church and a castle towering above it.

The town has just one problem. A little more than a dozen miles downstream, there is another town with the same attributes, which just happens to be one of the most visited places in Germany: Heidelberg.

So many people never make the journey up the Neckar to visit Hirschhorn. But they should. If you want to escape the crowds of Heidelberg, add another castle town to your itinerary, or spend a romantic day (and maybe night) somewhere, Hirschhorn is a good candidate.

The town dates to 1391, but the family of nobles who founded it was first mentioned more than 100 years earlier. Under the von Hirschhorns, and the protection of the castle, the town grew prosperous through commercial fishing and rafting on the Neckar. After the death of the last of the line, Friedrich von Hirschhorn in 1632, the town changed hands many times until it fell to the counts of Hesse Darmstadt in 1802. It still is in Hesse, near the most southern tip of the state.

The castle, Burg Hirschhorn, towers over the town, and is its most popular sight. But on a stroll through the town and up to the castle, you pass other places worth a look. Some are on the main street, Hauptstrasse, and others are along the city wall on the river.

In the market place is the Marktkirche (market church). Built in 1628 as a Protestant church, it was closed during the Counter-Reformation and turned into a Catholic church in 1730, which it remains. An interesting aspect of the church is its bell tower. Built in the 14th century, it was once the city gate.

Pass through it and look for signs for Klosterkirche and Schloss. You now begin the climb to the castle. Halfway up is the Klosterkirche, the church of a former Carmelite cloister.

There are bigger and grander churches, but the Klosterkirche is beautiful in its simplicity. It has an ornate altar, and faded frescoes decorate the walls. At the rear are gravestones of the knights of Hirschhorn.

On the south side is the Saint-Anna-Chapel added to the church in 1513. Note on the altar, the statue of St. Anna sitting on Mary's lap, and the knights' coat of arms on the ceiling.

Outside, the path continues up to Burg Hirschhorn. Construction of the castle dates to the mid-13th century, and the Knights of Hirschhorn ruled over the countryside from here. It was expanded in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. The castle walls still run down to where they meet the walls of the city.

Today it is a restaurant and hotel. From its terrace and tower there are scenic views of the town and the Neckar valley below. The hotel is a romantic retreat for couples.

Back down the hill, cross the Neckar for a beautiful glimpse of Hirschhorn. You'll be glad you made the journey.

E-mail Michael Abrams at:
abramsm@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Hirschhorn's pedestrian main street, Hauptstrasse, is lined with cafés and half-timbered houses. The charming town is a nice place to spend a romantic day and night.

PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

On the QT

Directions

Hirschhorn is on the Neckar River, 15 miles east of Heidelberg, Germany, on highway B37.

Times

The Klosterkirche and the Marktkirche are open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, April through October. The castle is open daily except Monday, and closed from mid-December to the end of January.

Costs

Entrance to the churches is free, but a donation for the upkeep is welcome. Prices for a double room at the castle start at 58 euros for one person and 88 euros for two. It costs 2 euros to climb the castle tower.

Food

There are good restaurants and cafés in Hirschhorn. The best is the restaurant in the castle, with a great view over the town and the Neckar — but it is also the most expensive.

Information

The tourist office is open 8 a.m. to noon and 2-5 p.m. weekdays from now through March. During the rest of the year it is open from 2-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. on Saturdays.

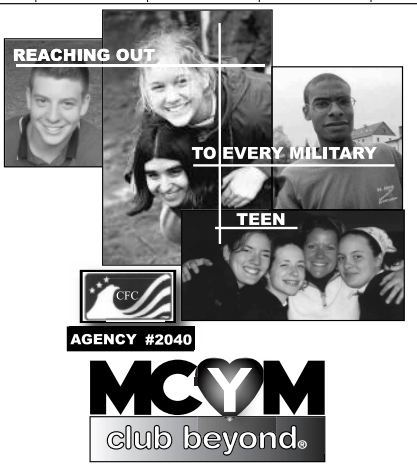
The city Web site is **www.hirschhorn.de**.

For the castle-hotel, go to **www.german-castles-road.com/schlosshotel-hirschhorn/ index.htm**.

— MICHAEL ABRAMS

Giving for America

The 2004 Combined Federal Campaign



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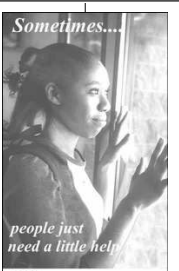

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AFRTS Television Schedule

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/

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2004

	AFN-FAMILY	AFN-MOVIE	AFN-EUROPE	AFN-KOREA	AFN-NEWS	AFN-SPORTS	SPECTRUM	AFN-PACIFIC
9:00	Stanley	Movie "Sudden Terror: The Hijacking of School Bus No. 17" (1996) Marcy Walker	Dr. Phil	Braceface "The Doctor Is In"	Nightline	Fishing FLW Tour. From Lake Okeechobee, Fla.	30-Minute Meals	Braceface "The Doctor Is In"
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat			Teen Kids News (EI)	Nightly Business Report	Sweet Dreams	Sweet Dreams	Teen Kids News (EI)
10:00	Arthur Arthur starts a club.		Oprah Winfrey	Jeopardy!	Hardball With Chris Matthews	Fishing FLW Tour -- Atchafalaya Basin.	Best for Less	Jeopardy!
10:30	Between the Lions (EI)	Movie ★★½ "Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home" (1986) William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy. The Enterprise crew travels to 20th-century San Francisco.	Guiding Light	Headline News			Stripped	Headline News
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat			ESPNews	CNN Daybreak	Fishing FLW Tour -- Atchafalaya Basin.	E News	ESPNews
11:30	Stanley		General Hospital	Advisory Block			The King of Queens	Pacific Report
12:00	Dora the Explorer "Te Amo"		Headline News	NFL Football Tennessee Titans at Green Bay Packers. From Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wis. (Live)	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	That '70s Show	NFL Football Tennessee Titans at Green Bay Packers. From Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wis. (Live)
12:30	The Wiggles		Judge Judy				Girlfriends	
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie ★★★ "Clueless" (1995) Alicia Silverstone, Stacey Dash. Spoiled Beverly Hills teens career through the good life.	Today Organization; Anita Shreve.		Good Morning America	Pardon the Interruption	Charmed "Primrose Empath"	
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)					NASCAR Racing Nextel Cup Series -- Banquet 400. From Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kan. (Taped)		
14:00	Blue's Clues						Ally McBeal "Story of Love" (Part 2 of 2)	
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)							
15:00	Funniest Home Videos	Movie ★★★ "Life Is Beautiful" (1998) Roberto Benigni. A man turns concentration-camp life into a game for his son.	Zoboomafoo (EI)	ESPNews	Headline News		Any Day Now "So This Is Intimacy"	ESPNews
15:30	Full House "Star Search"		Animaniacs	Pacific Report	Channel One			Pacific Report
16:00	Pokémon		Braceface "The Doctor Is In"	The Tonight Show	The Early Show		ER "The Visit"	The Tonight Show
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh!		Teen Kids News (EI)					
17:00	Hey Arnold!	The Entertainers	Jeopardy!	Late Show		SportsCenter	Law & Order "Corruption"	Late Show
17:30	Rocket Power		Headline News					
18:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Behind the Scenes	ESPNews	Headline News	FOX News	NFL Films Presents	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	The Proud Family	Movie ★½ "Girl, Interrupted" (1999, Drama) Winona Ryder, Angelina Jolie, Clea DuVall. A troubled young woman checks into a psychiatric hospital.	Smallville A killer shoots Clark with a kryptonite bullet.		FOX News	NFL Football Tennessee Titans at Green Bay Packers. From Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wis.	Ed "Best Wishes"	
19:30	The Amanda Show			Dennis Miller				Dennis Miller
20:00	Everwood "The Doctor Is In"	Movie ★★½ "U-571" (2000) Matthew McConaughey. Allied sailors hatch a dangerous plan to capture a Nazi sub.			FOX News		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	
20:30				Countdown With Keith Olbermann				Countdown With Keith Olbermann
21:00	Sister, Sister				Inside Politics		Biography "Emeril Lagasse: Bam!"	
21:30	Sister, Sister "The Concert"			Entertainment Studios.com				Entertainment Studios.com
22:00	The Cosby Show		Headline News	The Hot List		Totally NASCAR	Friends	The Hot List
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show	Headline News	Navy/Marine Corps News	NFL Live	Seinfeld "The Pledge Drive"	Headline News
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Out of the Darkness"	Movie ★★ "John Paul Jones" (1959) Robert Stack.		Today Organization; Anita Shreve.	Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	The Daily Show	Today Organization; Anita Shreve.
23:30			Late Show			Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2004

00:00	Hey Arnold!	(11:00) Movie ★★ "John Paul Jones" (1959, Biography) Robert Stack, Marisa Pavan.	(11:30) Late Show	(11:00) Today Organization; Anita Shreve.	Headline News	SportsCenter	Late Night With Conan O'Brien	(11:00) Today Organization; Anita Shreve.
00:30	Rocket Power		Access Hollywood		NBC Nightly News			
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants		(:10) NFL Live (Live)	Sesame Street (EI)	ABC World News Tonight	4 Qtrs	Ed "Best Wishes"	Sesame Street (EI)
1:30	Rugrats	Movie ★★ "The Specialist" (1994, Drama) Sylvester Stallone, Sharon Stone.	WNBA Shootaround (Live)		CBS Evening News			
2:00	The Proud Family		WNBA Basketball Finals Game 3 -- Connecticut Sun at Sacramento Monarchs or Seattle Storm. If necessary. (Live)	Blue's Clues	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	MLB Baseball American League Championship Series Game 1 -- Teams TBA. (Live)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Blue's Clues
2:30	The Amanda Show			Wheel of Fortune				Wheel of Fortune
3:00	Everwood "The Doctor Is In"	Movie ★ "Mr. Deeds" (2002) Adam Sandler, Winona Ryder. A pizza maker inherits a fortune from a distant relative.		Dr. Phil	Hannity & Colmes		Biography "Emeril Lagasse: Bam!"	Dr. Phil
3:30								
4:00	Sister, Sister		ESPNews	Oprah Winfrey	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer		Friends	Oprah Winfrey
4:30	Sister, Sister "The Concert"		ESPNews				Seinfeld "The Pledge Drive"	
5:00	Sesame Street (EI)	Movie ★½ "Girl, Interrupted" (1999) Winona Ryder. A troubled young woman checks into a psychiatric hospital.	Headline News	NBC Nightly News	Lou Dobbs Tonight	SportsCenter	Breathingspace Yoga	NBC Nightly News
5:30			ESPNews	Judge Judy			Caribbean Workout	Judge Judy
6:00	Barney & Friends "E-I-E-I-O"		Headline News	Access Hollywood	Larry King Live	Baseball Tonight	Body Shaping	Access Hollywood
6:30	Blue's Clues "Blue's ABCs"		Headline News	Guiding Light		NFL Live	TIPical Mary Ellen	Guiding Light
7:00	Dragon Tales (EI)	The Entertainers	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 "Movement"	Behind the Scenes	Blue's Clues	Larry King Live	BET Nightly News	SportsCenter	Emeril Live	Sylvester & Tweety
8:30	Dora the Explorer (EI)	Entertainment Tonight	Wheel of Fortune		Tavis Smiley			Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius
9:00	Stanley	Movie "Never Say Never: The Deidre Hall Story" (1995) Deidre Hall, Daniel Hugh Kelly.	Dr. Phil	Popular Mechanics for Kids	Nightline	College Football Teams to Be Announced. (Taped)	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		Sensible Chic	Jeopardy!
10:30	Between the Lions (EI)	Movie ★½ "Double Indemnity" (1973) Richard Crenna. A woman plots to kill her spouse and collect his insurance.	Guiding Light	Headline News			Fashion File	Headline News
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat			ESPNews	CNN Daybreak		E! News Live	ESPNews
11:30	Stanley		General Hospital	Advisory Block			The King of Queens	Pacific Report
12:00	Dora the Explorer		Headline News	The Parkers	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	That '70s Show	The Parkers
12:30	The Wiggles "Hygiene"	Coming Attractions	Judge Judy	The Simple Life			Girlfriends "Trick or Truth"	The Simple Life
13:00	Bob the Builder	Movie ★★★★ "The Crying Game" (1992, Drama) Stephen Rea, Jaye Davidson.	Today Debate preview; wedding plans; Emma Roberts.	America's Next Top Model	Good Morning America	Baseball Tonight	Charmed "Power Outage"	America's Next Top Model
13:30	Dragon Tales (EI)					NFL Live		
14:00	Blue's Clues "Dramatic Play"			Las Vegas "Die Fast, Die Furious"		Fishing FLW Tour -- Atchafalaya Basin.	Ally McBeal "World's Without Love"	Las Vegas "Die Fast, Die Furious"
14:30	Barney & Friends (EI)	Movie ★ "Last Action Hero" (1993, Adventure) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Austin O'Brien. A magic movie ticket plunges a boy into on-screen action.						
15:00	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Sylvester & Tweety	Pacific Report	Headline News	SportsCenter	Any Day Now "It's Not You, It's Me"	Pacific Report
15:30	Full House		Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius	The Tonight Show	Channel One			The Tonight Show
16:00	Pokémon "Nice Pryce Baby!"		Popular Mechanics for Kids		The Early Show	Fishing FLW Tour.	ER "Rescue Me"	
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! "Duel Identity"		Strange Days-Blake Holsey	Late Show				Late Show
17:00	Hey Arnold! Cheese festival.	Inside the Actors Studio "Diane Lane" Diane Lane.	Jeopardy!			SportsCenter	Law & Order "Double Blind"	
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		NFL Total Access	Everybody Loves Raymond	The Late Late Show
19:00	Even Stevens	Movie ★★★ "My Best Friend's Wedding" (1997) Julia Roberts. A food critic seeks to sabotage her buddy's nuptials.	The Parkers		FOX News		To Be Announced	
19:30	Kenan & Kel		The Simple Life	Dennis Miller		College Football Purdue at Penn State.		Dennis Miller
20:00	Gilmore Girls "Rory's Birthday Parties"		America's Next Top Model		FOX News		Andromeda "The Prince"	
20:30				Countdown With Keith Olbermann				Countdown With Keith Olbermann
21:00	Degrassi: Next	Movie ★★ "Signs" (2002) Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix. Aliens invade a former clergyman's Pennsylvania farm.	Las Vegas "Die Fast, Die Furious"		Inside Politics		Junkyard Mega-Wars "Rock Crawlers"	
21:30	Degrassi: Next			Entertainment Studios.com		The Hot List		Entertainment Studios.com
22:00	The Cosby Show		Headline News	The Hot List		Baseball Tonight	Friends	The Hot List
22:30	Home Improvement		The Tonight Show	Headline News	Headline News	NFL Live	Seinfeld	Headline News
23:00	Touched by an Angel "Lost & Found"	Movie ★★★ "Tora! Tora! Tora!" (1970) Jason Robards.		Today Debate preview; wedding plans; Emma Roberts.	Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	The Daily Show	Today Debate preview; wedding plans; Emma Roberts.
23:30			Late Show			Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	

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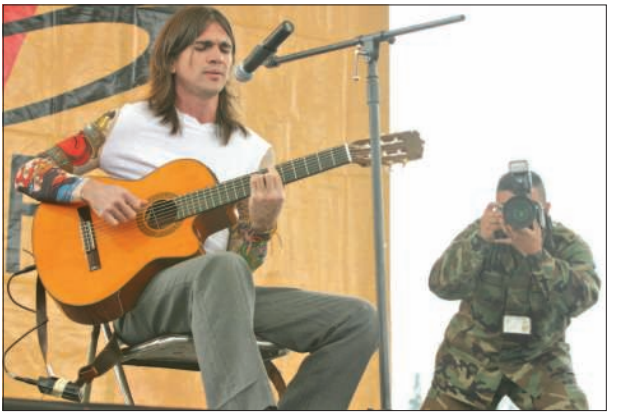
FACES

Latin singer explores Colombia's dark side

Grammy winner Juanes' new album reflects on his country's guerrilla war



AP

A Colombian soldier takes a photograph of singer-songwriter Juanes during a concert for wounded soldiers at an army medical battalion in Bogota, Colombia. Juanes' new album, which hit stores Sept. 28, confronts the suffering and bloodshed of Colombia's protracted guerrilla war.

BY ANDREW SELSKY
The Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia

For a musician with nine Latin Grammies and a new single topping the charts, Juanes is a laid-back guy, with none of a rock star's brashness.

But underneath that mellow exterior is a man on a mission — just listen to his new album.

"Mi Sangre" ("My Blood"), which came out Sept. 28, confronts the suffering and bloodshed in Colombia's protracted guerrilla war.

During a conversation in a Bogota hotel, Juanes said his nation's dark side must be explored: "Colombia is a country which is suffering, and we must move ahead," the lanky, long-haired singer said. "To make a flowery record would not be telling the truth."

While conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan grab headlines, Colombia's war kills 3,500 people — mostly civilians — every year.

Another 3,000 Colombians are kidnapped each year. And the conflict is seemingly endless: two Marxist rebel groups, funded by drug trafficking, extortion and kidnapping, have been battling a succession of elected governments for 40 years.

Juanes, a 32-year-old Miami resident, has found a huge international audience with his heartfelt lyrics mixed with flowing guitar riffs. On his previous two albums, he sang often of love and betrayal, and a little about the Colombian conflict. Now that ratio has been reversed on his new album, as he hopes for better days for his South American homeland.

"I dream that all the hostages who are held today in the middle of the jungle are free," Juanes sings in "Suenos" ("Dreams").

"I dream that my bleeding people live in peace and this senseless war is over."

Before the album's release, Juanes performed for wounded Colombian soldiers at a Bogota military hospital. One soldier, who lost an arm in combat, presented Juanes with a clay cup made at the hospital's occupational training program.

"It was a very emotional encounter for me," Juanes said. "I respect and admire them."

Some of his new songs were inspired by tales of soldiers separated from their loved ones while pulling one- or two-year tours of duty from the cold of the Andes Mountains to Colombia's steamy jungles.

"When they're in the field, what keeps them going is their desire to return to their families," Juanes said.

The single "Nada Valgo Sin Tu Amor" ("I'm Worthless Without Your Love"), which was released weeks ahead of the album and is now the most-played Latin song in the United States, poignantly addresses the theme: "I want to take back all the nights I've lost, to beat back this overpowering fear of death, to be eternal with you."

Juanes, whose given name is Juan Esteban Aristizabal, has come a long way since he fronted a heavy metal band called Ekhymosis in his hometown of Medellin in the 1990s.

"I wanted to be the James Hetfield of Medellin," Juanes recalled with a laugh, referring to the lead singer of Metallica, a band he still admires. "But I realized that wasn't me and that I wouldn't get far."

Juanes, who began learning guitar at 5, said he decided when he left Ekhymosis and moved to the United States that he didn't want to copy other bands, no matter how cool they were, but instead to find his own voice.

Unlike fellow Colombian superstar musician Shakira, whose album "Laundry Service" is mostly in English, Juanes said he will stick to Spanish — even if many fans don't always understand the words.

"In London, when I sang 'A Dios Le Pido' ('I Ask God'), some people thought I was saying 'Adios Lepido' ('Goodbye Lepido')," Juanes said with a grin. "But it doesn't matter — even if people don't understand 100 percent of the words, the music still connects."

Walken at the Chinese Theater

Academy Award-winning actor **Christopher Walken** has left his hand and foot prints at Hollywood's fabled Grauman's Chinese Theater.

Walken

"This is a thrill, a big day for me," Walken said at the ceremony Friday. "I'm not sure how I arrived at this place today, but one sure thing: I've been lucky. Thank you for this day."

Walken, 61, stamped prints of dancing shoes into the cement outside the theater, recalling his childhood training as a dancer.

"These are my favorite shoes," Walken said. Though the dancing shoes were crusted with cement, Walken joked that he might hang them off his car's rearview mirror.

The ceremony coincided with the opening of Walken's latest film, "Around the Bend," about four generations of men in a broken family who reunite.

Pryor doesn't find animal cruelty funny

Comedian **Richard Pryor** and former "Friends" star **Matthew Perry** are adding to the reward for information leading to the arrest of the person who drowned a golden retriever in the surf on the Massachusetts coast.

The dog, which police said had been tied up, muzzled and stuffed inside a burlap bag, was found on Sept. 21 by a person walking on the beach in Nahant, Mass.

Pryor heard about the incident through a network of fellow animal lovers, said **Linda Horsley**, a pet sitter from Nahant, who is helping to organize the reward efforts with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Rod Stewart kicks off new tour

Singer **Rod Stewart** is heading to Harlem's Apollo Theater for a concert to kick off the release of his latest CD, "Stardust ... The Great American Songbook: Volume III."

Stewart

The invitation-only concert on Oct. 18 will be broadcast live on the Internet and will feature songs from the new album.

His first and second volumes of "The Great American Songbook" — released in 2002 and 2003 — were both Grammy nominees, together selling more than 10 million copies.

Stewart sings duets on the third volume with **Dolly Parton** and **Bette Midler**. **Eric Clapton** accompanies him on one track with his guitar, and **Stevie Wonder** plays harmonica on another.

"Singing these amazing songs has moved me deeply," Stewart said.

Indian-born filmmaker wins award

When Indian-born filmmaker **Mira Nair** heard that she had been selected to receive the Honorary Maverick Award at the Woodstock Film Festival, she felt confused before she felt honored.

"I had to look it up in the dictionary," Nair said, "but I like what I saw."

The Maverick Award is given to an individual whose life and work is based on independent vision and social activism. Past recipients include **Woody Harrelson**, **Tim Robbins**, **D.A. Pennebaker**, **Chris Hegedus** and **Les Blank**.

"We are so proud to honor the work of Mira Nair, who fearlessly combines independence and risk-taking with social consciousness and continues the tradition of those who make feelings visible, who make sense out of sensations, who shine light into darkness," said festival director and co-founder **Meira Blaustein**.

She most recently directed the big-screen adaptation of "Vanity Fair," starring **Reese Witherspoon**. Her 1988 film, "Salaam Bombay!" was nominated for an Academy Award for best foreign language film. Her other movies include "Mississippi Masala" and "Monsoon Wedding."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Active-duty lie

IL CHICAGO — A police officer was accused of pretending she was on active duty with the Army National Guard so the department would put her on military leave, authorities said.

Police allege that 30-year-old Jacqueline Williams submitted forged U.S. Army documents to the department that said she had been called to duty on July 25.

Police said department inspectors launched an investigation after becoming suspicious of the documents, and Army officials confirmed they were not authentic. The Army also confirmed to police that Williams had not been called to active duty.

Prosecutors have charged Williams with felony theft and forgery, said Pat Camden, a spokesman for the Chicago Police Department. She remained jailed on $40,000 bond, Camden said.

The department has stripped Williams of her police powers and is moving to fire her.

Porn offer for troops

OR SPRINGFIELD — An adult pornography store here is offering a 10 percent discount on its merchandise for U.S. troops fighting in Iraq. But U.S. government rules ban the possession of pornography by any military members serving in the Middle East. The penalty for violation is at the discretion of the commanding officer but may include extra duty, a cut in pay or restricted movements, said Maj. Elizabeth Robbins at the Pentagon.

Political sign theft

VA CHESAPEAKE — A former Chesapeake mayoral candidate was fined $100 for stealing campaign signs of fellow candidates before the May 4 city election.

Circuit Court Judge John Daffron fined T.J. "Cowboy" Carawan $50 each on two counts of petty larceny. Carawan, 61, had been convicted of 10 counts of petty larceny in July and fined $500 in a lower court but appealed. His appeal ended with the lesser fine.

Earlier this year, various political candidates began to notice their signs vanishing. During a search of Carawan's home, police discovered about 35 campaign signs in his trash bin, truck and dog pen.

A mowing mistake

OH PERRYSBURG — It was a clear-cut error: A state worker mowed down 28,000 young trees that had been planted as part of a $33,000 highway beautification project.

The only thing left behind were signs that read "Do not mow or spray."

"Shame on us. We wasted all that effort," Joe Rutherford, a spokesman with the Ohio Transportation Department, said.

The oaks, ash, birches, maples and sycamores were planted in 2002 and 2003 at the interchange of Interstate 75 and I-475 near this Toledo suburb. The city, county and state paid for the seedlings, and volunteers put in more than 700 hours planting them.

Rutherford said the seedlings, which were no more than 2 feet tall, were cut down earlier this week. He said that many of the seedlings were dead and that someone got the idea it would be OK to mow them down.

Lottery winner murdered

MA PITTSFIELD — A Pittsfield man was convicted of first-degree murder for the slaying of a 62-year-old hardware store manager whom he targeted for his lottery winnings.

Frank P. Lebeau Jr., 36, was sentenced to life in prison after a Berkshire Superior Court jury found him guilty of killing Robert L. Vincent, a Pittsfield man who had recently won close to $500 playing Keno.

LeBeau used a metal rod to beat Vincent to death in August 2002 and steal what was left of the victim's winnings, prosecutors said.

The slaying took place in Vincent's apartment.

Judge John A. Agostini issued the mandatory life sentence without the possibility of parole on the murder conviction, the Berkshire Eagle reported.

Swamp is swampy again

GA ALBANY — The Okefenokee Swamp, so dry only three months ago that canoe trails had to be closed, is wetter than it has been in years because of heavy rain from the recent hurricanes.

Hurricanes Bonnie, Frances and Jeanne have dumped 17 to 20 inches of rain since August, forcing wildlife to move to higher ground and giving visitors more to see.

Workers are taking advantage of the high water to improve canoe trails. During recent drought years, workers could only trim foliage with chain saws, but now they can float a larger trail-cutting machine into previously inaccessible areas.

Happy dance

Jason Stevenson, 3, of Dayton, Nev., dances during the Carson City Library Foundation's sixth annual Oktoberfest fund-raiser at the Pony Express Pavilion at Mills Park in Carson City, Nev.

Boy drives 200 miles

MO INDEPENDENCE — An 11-year-old boy who told authorities he was upset about being bullied at school took off in the family car on an odyssey that ended more than 200 miles away on the other side of the state.

Sgt. Michael Johnston of the Macon County Sheriff's Department said he got a call from the Callao postmaster, who reported that a boy was locked out of his car and wanted to talk.

The relieved parents, who had filed a missing person report in Independence noting that their car and keys were also gone, picked up their son. He was back in school the next day.

Adopted twins reunited

AZ TUCSON — Two families who adopted Chinese children and brought them to separate homes in Arizona and Alabama have discovered that the toddlers are siblings and almost certainly twins.

Three-year-olds XiMei and TaoTao were reunited when TaoTao and his adoptive mother arrived at Tucson International Airport to spend the weekend. XiMei (pronounced shee-may) was adopted by a Tucson couple, and an Alabama family adopted TaoTao.

The two families found each other when Rose Veneklasen and Jutta Walters linked up on a Web site offering support for families who adopted children from China.

As they talked, they realized their children were estimated to be about the same age, were found abandoned the same day, and both had cleft palates. They were both taken to the same orphanage and both were afraid of the dark, according to their adoption profiles.

DNA tests confirmed with 98 percent accuracy that the toddlers share at least one parent, most likely their mother.

Showdown over bison

MT BILLINGS — On a spring day in 1990, there was chaos near the border of Yellowstone National Park.

Bison were running. Hunters were facing off with activists who were trying to keep them from killing the bison. And D.J. Schubert was in the thick of it, leading the protesters.

Cameras captured it all, igniting a public outrage that Schubert believes ultimately led the state to halt bison hunting a year later. Today, the wildlife biologist and his fellow activists promise the same craziness — including more bad publicity for Montana — if the state allows hunting to resume this winter, as planned.

The controversy heats up each winter when the bison leave Yellowstone in search of food. Ranchers in Montana worry the bison will transmit brucellosis, which can cause cattle to abort.

Sandy surroundings

Brad Goll of Sandscapes based out of Los Osos, Calif., works on a sand sculpture at the 2004 Down East Festival in downtown Rocky Mount, N.C.

Humorous hound

Michele Carlin, of Ferndale, Mich., holds her dog, Bubbles, after winning the funniest costume during the Michigan Humane Society Mutt March at Orion Oaks Bark Park in Orion Township, Mich.

Look what I got

Jose Carlos Munoz, left, Makala Smith, both 4, Skyla Manning, 3, and Monique Lopez-Flores, 4, watch with wide eyes as Valerie Coomes, aka the "The Balloon Lady," gives Mikala a dog-shaped balloon during their Lincoln Elementary School Head Start class in Corvallis, Ore.

Three on a ledge

Brigid Lally, 4, of Rochester Hills, Mich., peeks over a stone wall toward her mother who was trying to get a photo of her during The Stonewall Pumpkin Festival at the historical Van Hoosen Farm in Rochester Hills, Mich.

Dancing queens

The dance group "Too Cute" from the Nebula Dance Company out of Hanover, Pa., performs for the crowd at the 7th annual Women's Show at the York Expo Center in York, Pa.

Wait up, mommy

Zach Glazier, 3, hustles to catch up to his mom, Ann, while pulling his wagon at The Pumpkin Patch of Albert Lea, Minn.

City wants beer shrine

MO ST. LOUIS — The city is bellying up to the bar in its bid to be the host town of a planned shrine to beer. The Gateway City is among six finalists for the so-called Beer Hall of Fame. The idea for a shrine is being sold by a Maryland-based company. Its vision of the hall of fame includes theme restaurants, a microbrewery, brew pub and what's touted as a beer "education center." Other cities in the running are Milwaukee, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, San Diego and Frankenmuth, Mich.

Brawl on the bus

FL YALAHA — A woman allegedly choked a 13-year-old girl for fighting with her daughter on a bus. The brawl began when the girls exchanged racial insults on their way home from middle school. Rita Gooden, 38, of Yalaha, near Orlando, was charged with attempted murder. Gooden's 12-year-old daughter is black; the other girl is white.

Geyser burns hiker

WY YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — A tourist who wandered off a trail broke through fragile ground near a geyser, scalding his legs up to his knees. He received second-degree burns.

The man and a friend were hiking when they decided to leave the boardwalk in the park's Firehole Lake area of Lower Geyser Basin, rangers said. He stepped through the thin layer of earth in thermal areas that covers water near or above the boiling point.

He was pulled from the water by the friend, who drove him to Old Faithful Inn at the park. There, emergency workers stabilized the man and transported him to Old Faithful Clinic. He was flown later to the Idaho hospital.

Rangers reminded visitors for their own safety to stay on designated trails.

Crane games removed

MS JACKSON — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has removed crane games from its Mississippi stores pending an opinion from the state attorney general on whether they are gambling devices. The games, which cost a quarter each, let players use a toy crane to try to grab a stuffed animal or toy locked in a glass box.

Commandments to stay

PA PHILADELPHIA — A plaque of the Ten Commandments that has hung for 86 years on a wall outside the Allegheny County courthouse in Pittsburgh can remain, a federal appeals court ruled. The court upheld a lower court's ruling that the plaque didn't endorse any religion. Americans United for Separation of Church and State sued Allegheny County four years ago on behalf of two county residents who said they were offended by the plaque.

Joint project considered

TN MEMPHIS — The Shelby County school board president asked the separately run city schools to consider jointly building three schools in fast-growing areas. The county schools draw students from mostly white, affluent suburbs while the city schools have pupils from the mostly black, poorer inner city. Previous talk about merging the systems has drawn sharp protest.

Likely nurses shortage

MI DETROIT — The state's nursing work force is getting older, a trend that could exacerbate Michigan's shortage of nurses over the next 10 years, according a survey by the Michigan Center for Nursing. A third of the state's 110,000 active nurses say they plan to retire within a decade. In Michigan, 17 percent of working registered nurses are older than 55, compared with 14 percent in 1992. And 24 percent of working, licensed practical nurses are older than 55, compared with 14 percent in 1992.

Pumpkin catapult

WA BURLINGTON — Want to see a pumpkin hurled more than a half mile? A group of friends who are metal fabricators built a 56-foot-tall wooden catapult for this weekend's Harvest Festival.

Their goal is to break the world record of 1,145 feet for pumpkin-tossing.

"This particular machine was designed not just to beat the world record. We want to decimate it," said Wes Frank, team leader.

Frank believes this year's device, officially called a trebuchet, can throw a pumpkin upward of 3,000 feet.

The group created the monster machine after a crudely built one made from several alder trees hurled a pumpkin 500 feet at last year's festival.

This year's machine was cut from two 100-foot Douglas firs.

Bargain land questioned

MA BOSTON — A city council member called for an investigation into how a Muslim organization building a $22 million mosque acquired property at a bargain price. Councilor Jerry McDermott ordered a hearing into why the city sold the two-acre parcel for $175,000 to the Islamic Society of Boston, which has been accused of having ties to extremist Muslims. The land was assessed at $401,000.

Police: Girl shot mom

TX DALLAS — A 12-year-old girl upset about being grounded by her mother fatally shot the woman in the face while she slept, police said.

Elvira Marion Walton, 48, was discovered in her bed by her son. The 10-year-old boy called police around 1 a.m.

"Apparently the motive is because the daughter was upset that the mother disciplined her," police Sgt. Gary Kirkpatrick told The Dallas Morning News.

The girl has been charged with murder. Police found a gun in the house, but investigators did not immediately say whether it was the weapon used in the shooting or who owned it.

An older daughter, Thanica Derrick, said her mother had been having trouble with the girl. Walton had six children and lived in a converted garage used as the family home.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Circulation: DSN 349-8437; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601437
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Printed in Italy by Editrice Telestampa

Stars and Stripes (USPS 017252) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and $1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C. Postmaster: Send address changes to European Stars and Stripes, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

Check before writing

The writer of "Peters 'absolutely right' " (Oct. 2) should have done some checking and opened her eyes before she wrote. I wonder if the writer asked the people in Neu Ulm why it takes so long to repair the church. I bet it has to do with money and restoring the church to its original condition, which is not easy.

Now about the Germans working on base: If the writer had done some checking, she would have found out that under the U.S.-German agreement a certain percent of jobs on base will go to local nationals. About being unable to understand German: I wonder how long she has been in Germany? Has she attempted to learn German? If she is like some Americans, probably not. Or does she think that when a German goes the United States that Americans should speak German?

Germany may not have sent troops down to Iraq during the war, however if the writer had driven off base, she would have realized that for the longest time German military were at the gates checking IDs and protecting her — while she sat home and complained about them.

If she feels so strongly about her standpoint, then I have one suggestion. Frankfurt airport has daily flights to the States.

Dirk Gavin
Düsseldorf, Germany

Reason behind UCMJ verbiage

I would like to correct inaccuracies in the letter "Re-check UCMJ article" (Oct. 7). As a senior paralegal noncommissioned officer, I can assure you that Article 140, UCMJ is the last article in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, not Article 134 as stated by the author. He would have been correct if he had stated that it was the last punitive article in the UCMJ.

Also, each punitive article lists the maximum authorized punishment for each specification charged under that article. The phrase "or as a court-martial may direct" is the legal verbiage necessary to authorize any lesser punishment.

The author states he is "pretty sure" that it takes a special court-martial to "award" a general court-martial. These two levels of courts-martial are separate and distinct. For those unfamiliar with courts-martial there are three levels: summary court-martial being the lowest; special court-martial being the midlevel court at which a bad-conduct discharge may be adjudged; and general court-martial, the highest-level court that may impose the maximum punishment, authorized as stated above.

I can see the military going to the trouble if the acts bring discredit upon the service, or are contrary to good order and discipline.

There is one thing people seem to let slip by here: There is a reason for each article of the UCMJ. If there were a reason or need to add, change or remove any article, the smart guys with law degrees who advise Congress every year on modifying the UCMJ will submit those for action.

Set the standard, and maintain that standard. If it is too high for some, then they should be removed so that those who can meet the standard can better serve.

Sgt. 1st Class Jerome D. Klein
Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force
Arabian Peninsula

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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Uniforms not real issue

I have read letters, from both servicemembers and civilians, concerning civilians in uniforms, and I am appalled. Since when, in a combat zone, is the issue of uniform appearance one of the biggest issues? Even here in a remote relay station in Iraq, we get hammered about being in "proper" uniform. I remember hearing stories from my grandfather about fighting in World War II sometimes in his underwear, depending on the time of the attack.

I think the soldiers and civilians in this "combat zone" should be more thankful that they have someone — especially civilians — supporting them, rather than worrying about the condition of those people's uniforms. After all it is a soldier's responsibility to be here, not a civilian's. Most of them volunteered to come and support us.

I thank all of the civilians working and supporting us, whether in proper uniform or not.

Sgt. Barry Edwards
Camp Buccca, Iraq

A Nobel laureate's ignoble detention

The Washington Post

Kenyan environmentalist and feminist Wangari Maathai, who won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, joins an eminent list of men and women who have campaigned tirelessly against long odds and stood up courageously to cruel dictators. For some, winning the prize was an affirmation of success already achieved; for others, the prize conveyed a kind of protection and provided a spur to the cause. But one woman on the list — one of the most courageous — remains a prisoner today.

At a time of celebration, Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma has, 13 years after becoming a Nobel Peace laureate, very little to celebrate. Her continuing imprisonment should be taken as a rebuke by everyone in the "international community" who claims to care about freedom, democracy and human rights.

Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of the hero of Burma's independence, is herself a reluctant heroine. She assumed the role of pro-democracy leader in 1988, when demonstrating students and others resisting Burma's dictatorship demanded it. In 1990, her party won four out of every five parliamentary seats in a national election, even though she was already under house arrest. But Burma's dictators never honored the people's wishes, and many leaders of the National League for Democracy remain in prison today. Many more have been tortured and killed, and Aung San Suu Kyi herself is under house arrest. ...

Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma has, 13 years after becoming a Nobel Peace laureate, very little to celebrate.

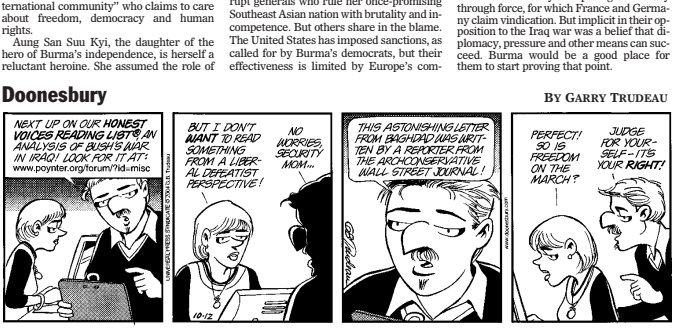
Directly responsible for this are the corrupt generals who rule her once-promising Southeast Asian nation with brutality and incompetence. But others share in the blame. The United States has imposed sanctions, as called for by Burma's democrats, but their effectiveness is limited by Europe's commerce-motivated reluctance to follow suit.

The European Council, after a number of false starts, has threatened to take action this week. We'll see. Burma's neighbors believed that "engagement" would begin to civilize Burma's junta, but so far the only result of their policy has been to make them look weak. Meanwhile U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's personal representative to Burma has failed to achieve anything; it's time for Annan to get more involved.

U.S. and British troubles in Iraq have shown the difficulty of imposing democracy through force, for which France and Germany claim vindication. But implicit in their opposition to the Iraq war was a belief that diplomacy, pressure and other means can succeed. Burma would be a good place for them to start proving that point.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

One state that's not majority-Jewish will fail

Los Angeles Times

The second intifada, or Palestinian war on Israel, is 4 years old. Although it has featured guns and suicide bombs, it has failed just like the first intifada, in 1987-93, which featured rocks and Molotov cocktails. For every dead Israeli, there are three dead Palestinians. Thousands have been injured. Thousands more have been turned into refugees by Israel's unsubtle policy of avenging suicide bombs by destroying the houses of the bombers' relatives. The Palestinian economy — near totally dependent on wages from jobs in Israel — is a shambles, as Israel quite understandably has become choosier about who it lets in.

The headlines have obscured one remarkable positive development: Israel's acceptance in principle of a Palestinian state. Even Prime Minister Ariel Sharon — the most anti-Arab of all Israeli politicians — accepts it, in principle. In fact, he is building a barrier that looks like his idea about where Israel's border with this state should be.

Palestinian leaders are flummoxed. And some of them are abandoning the two-state solution — Israel and Palestine, side by side — in favor of a one-state solution: a single, secular state in which Jews and Arabs would live in democratic harmony. This idea is percolating through the Western intelligentsia and even into left-wing circles in Israel.

So what is the problem? It's that such a state would not be Jewish. The premise of Zionism — the premise of Israel — is that Jews need and deserve their own state. Israel has always been slightly disingenuous about this, boasting that Arabs living in Israel proper (i.e., not the disputed territories) enjoy full civil equality. This is possible only because so many Arabs fled or were driven out when the Jewish state was declared in 1948.

A single state encompassing Israel and the disputed territories would reinvent this problem. It would bring the descendants of many 1948 refugees back into the fold, along with other Arabs. The higher Arab birthrate would make Jews a shrinking minority.

Many Americans might ask, so what? The United States prides itself on being a melting pot of different races, ethnicities and religions. But most countries are more like Israel. They define themselves ethnically or religiously or (like the surprising new states that popped up out of the dying Soviet empire) by some ancient and long-suppressed geographical chauvinism. Nations are, in political scientist Benedict Anderson's memorable phrase, "imagined communities," and the imagination takes many forms.

Good fences make good neighbors, as Robert Frost famously put it. In 1947, the same year Britain abandoned Palestine, it also left the Indian subcontinent. But first Britain divided the area into two nations: India for Hindus and Pakistan for Muslims. The result hasn't been blissful. But there hasn't been an all-out war for 33 years. A one-state solution would have been nastier.

Israel must remain a Jewish state, and to do that and be a democracy as well, it must always have a Jewish majority. That has been a limit on the imperial ambitions of some of Israel's less-attractive leaders. It is also a limit on what the world and the Palestinians can expect Israel to accept.

It took the Israelis decades to accept the idea of a Palestinian state next door. They saw it as a staging ground for conquest and elimination of the Jewish state. The "single-state" solution would achieve that same illegitimate goal by more decorous means.

Candidates eye our health care wants, not needs

BY M. GREGG BLOCHE

WASHINGTON

It's time to cut George W. Bush and John F. Kerry a break on health care costs. We the people are the "flip-flop-pers." We're the ones sending "mixed messages." And we expect Bush and Kerry to suffer us gladly.

We've been telling pollsters that we're angry about soaring health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket payments — and afraid that our employers will drop our coverage. But we want our brie, our Big Macs and our Lipitor too. We covet breakthrough drugs and high-resolution scans. We bemoan their cost, but we're willing to pay.

Candidates watch what we do, not what we say. So it's no surprise that neither Bush's nor Kerry's health plans will lower medical spending below current levels. Both candidates defer to our preferences for pricey technologies that inspire hope.

It's a myth that medical advances trim health care spending. New treatments typically cost more than those they supplant. There are dramatic exceptions: Breakthroughs in research sometimes open the way to elegant, simple therapies that are cheap. The antibiotic revolution of the mid-20th century is an example. …

We may now be at an equally decisive therapeutic moment. Published studies suggest that wide use of statins, a new class of cholesterol-lowering drugs, could greatly reduce the incidence of cardiovascular disease. And stem-cell research promises large advances on many fronts.

But long term, such developments would raise health care spending. …

As we age, our bodies fail us in ways that doctors can't cure, and we expect high-tech rescue efforts that cause medical spending to soar. These last-ditch measures … often fail to yield benefits that justify their costs. But we're loath to abandon hope. … Any political push for spending limits that renounce this hope would arouse popular ire.

Neither Bush nor Kerry is pressing for such limits. … Yet there are sharp differences between their approaches. …

The president would aggressively employ the government to motivate consumers to weigh the costs and benefits of care and coverage options. [Bush] contends that Americans who do so will forgo low-value services and high-priced coverage.

But making medical care a matter of consumer choice is, for Bush, a goal in itself. To this end, the president would radically reduce the role of medical insurance in health care decision-making outside the hospital. He would use tax incentives to encourage employees to set up "health care savings accounts" for out-of-pocket purchase of care; insurance would be limited to "catastrophic" coverage for expenses exceeding several thousand dollars a year. This would accelerate the trend toward greater patient cost-sharing, through higher co-payments and deductibles.

But this strategy has only limited potential to control costs. Making routine care into an out-of-pocket expense discourages people, especially the least well-off, from obtaining services — close management of diabetes and high blood pressure, for example — that offer long-term health benefits. That, in turn, could boost inpatient spending, the main factor behind rising health care costs.

For Medicare, Bush still urges privatization, despite evidence that private health plans spend no less than Medicare's fee-for-service program. …

As does Bush, Kerry takes a permissive stance toward the high-tech, rescue-oriented spending that is the main force behind rising costs. To control health care spending, the Democratic nominee would use the government to group patients together to enhance their bargaining power in order to get better deals from doctors, hospitals and drug companies.

One way to illustrate the philosophical difference between the two candidates is to revisit the debate over Medicare's new prescription drug program. Bush and his allies insisted on a provision that forbids the government to use the buying power of Medicare's 40 million beneficiaries to bargain for lower prices. As a result, private health plans act as middlemen, striking separate deals (which makes for higher prices) with drug makers and sellers.

Kerry would roll back the ban on use of the government's bargaining power. He'd do something similar for the private sector, by allowing states to use their buying power under Medicaid to obtain lower drug prices for all purchasers. The same vision animates Kerry's approach to employment-based medical coverage. He would enable businesses, large and small, to buy in to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, thereby combining their purchasing power to obtain lower rates. Tax credits would help the smallest employers buy in, extending coverage to uninsured Americans.

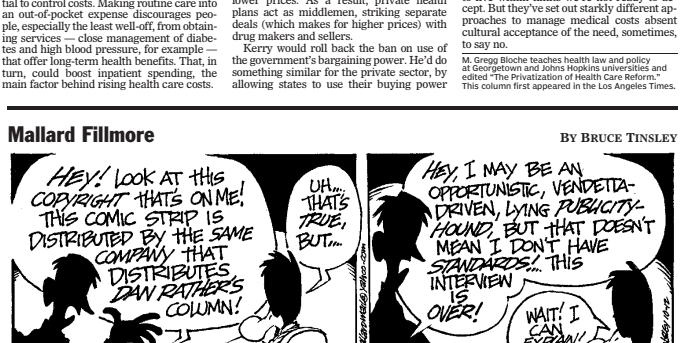
Kerry … would make the federal government responsible for a small number of high-cost cases that consume an outsized share of health care resources. By picking up three-quarters of the cost of all episodes of care that exceed $50,000, government could cut premiums by 10 percent or more. …

Neither Bush nor Kerry is challenging us to live within limits we're not ready to accept. But they've set out starkly different approaches to manage medical costs absent cultural acceptance of the need, sometimes, to say no.

M. Gregg Bloche teaches health law and policy at Georgetown and Johns Hopkins universities and edited "The Privatization of Health Care Reform." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Horoscope

Joyce Jillson

The moon resides in Libra, and Mercury, Mars and Jupiter are there, too, not to mention the center of our solar system. Cooperation is essential to feeling good about your various roles in life. No man is an island, but if he were, he would be much happier in a group of islands like the Channel Islands or the Hawaiian Islands. Depend on friends.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (October 12). This year, you are able to forge ahead with projects and plans. Business associates may initially drag their feet, but any delays are only temporary. If single, you may find love while keeping fit, either at the gym or in your neighborhood. Married Libras may face a few bumps in the road, but love and perseverance will win the day.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Love blooms anew, and it's better this time around than you dared to hope. This is your reward for past struggles. The universe is really working in your favor now, even if it's not exactly moving according to your schedule.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Keeping up appearances for the sake of others closes you off to any help or comfort they may have to offer. Be honest with yourself, and you will reap great personal rewards. Sweep things under the carpet, and you'll just get ants.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Good partners are open and willing to learn. So really listen to what your partner is sharing with you. Don't rely on what you think you hear. That's only half the story. Ask for specifics. Don't miss this opportunity for real intimacy.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Your mood affects everyone around you. Taking good care of yourself is the most selfless and loving act you can do. Feel confident that your loved one is safe. This protects him or her much better than fretting ever will.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You are remarkably resilient. Remember this when the one who loves you the most risks losing you by telling you the truth. Sometimes, the things that are most important to hear are also the most painful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're one of the most independent signs in the zodiac, but are you willing to give up a little bit of your freedom for the sake of love? Be sure you and your mate are in accord over how much space each of you needs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Someone — perhaps a child, parent or friend — may be pulling away. Consider it an act of kindness. It's not because that person doesn't love you but because that person loves you so much, he or she is afraid of overpowering you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Rather than attempting to make your loved one feel jealous, try a more honest approach, and admit that you need some assurances that he or she still finds you desirable. It takes maturity and self-confidence for you to pull this off.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The universe cannot say no to you. It can only limit how much it says yes. The question is, how far do you really want to go? Getting what you want out of life requires a great deal of personal courage, stamina and vision.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You may find yourself in a moral dilemma. If you see an injustice in the workplace or on the street, are you obligated to take a stand against it? There's a fine line between protecting yourself and serving your own interests.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're an agent of change, which is why you always find yourself in the midst of conflict. Doing good in the world is bound to sometimes cause personal discomfort. If it were easy, more people would do it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Be prepared for delays, particularly regarding money. The check could be lost in the mail, or it may bounce, so be sure it clears the bank before paying your bills with it. But don't worry. Someone's looking out for you.

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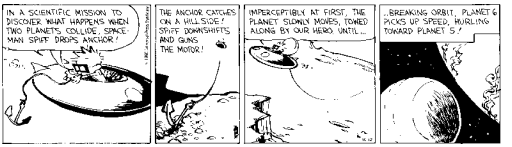
Peanuts

Calvin and Hobbes

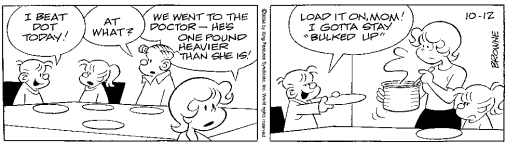


Jump Start

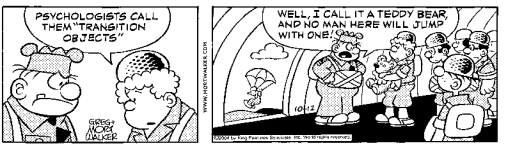
Zits

Cathy

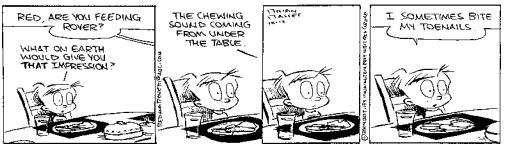
Hi and Lois



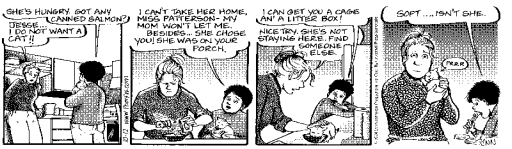
Beetle Bailey



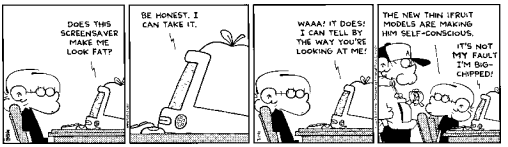
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Foxtrot

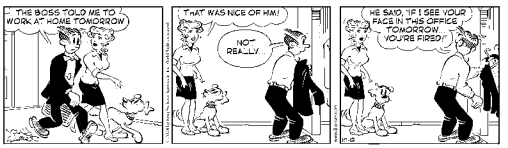


B.C.

Baby Blues

Spider Man

Blondie

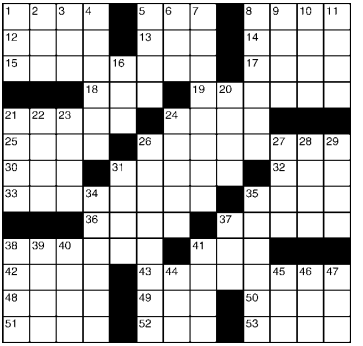


Dilbert

Hagar

Garfield

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Aiken of "American Idol"
5 Possesses
8 Venom dispenser
12 Pepsi rival
13 With 35-Across, thieves' thwarter
14 Maleficence
15 Frightened mildly
17 Wedding shower?
18 Youngster
19 A natural in Vegas
21 Curtain material
24 Read cursorily
25 Reed instrument
26 Carbohydrates
30 Orator's asset
31 Damocles' worry
32 Right angle
33 Racetrack officials
35 See 13-Across
36 Nephew of Donald Duck
37 Incursion
38 Despotic one
41 Promptly
42 Time of prosperity
43 Pesky bird
48 Malaria symptom
49 Bran provider
50 Pennsylvania port
51 Charlie Brown expletive
52 Expert
53 Engrossed

Down

1 Medicinal meas.
2 Realtor's offering
3 Alias (Abbr.)
4 Dr. Seuss' turtle
5 Sentry's call
6 Pub mugful
7 Passengers' accommodations
8 "Liliom" author Molnar
9 Tel —
10 Pleasant
11 Secluded valley
16 Pirouette pivot
20 Fat
21 Pledges
22 Last writes?
23 Greek vowel
24 Narrative
26 Sugar apple
27 Get wind of
28 Exile isle
29 Dispatch a dragon
31 Bedazzle
34 "Pulp Fiction" actor Ving
35 One who earns pin money?
37 Supporting
38 Slope transport
39 Meditation exercise
40 Major defeat
41 Post-WWII alliance
44 Pitch
45 George's brother
46 Pinch
47 Comprehend

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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10-12 CRYPTOQUIP

O M O SPV RBUCL JWL NPKLNPHH UMMOSOPH DPXL P NHYVXLB, OK JWPJ YDROBOSPH LCOXLVSL?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE MONARCH MAKES UP SO MANY UNTRUE TALES, PEOPLE ARE CALLING HIM THE LYIN' KING.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals L

Submission not always best move

Dear Abby: Your advice to "Bound and Gagged in Pennsylvania" would have been considered correct in the past. As a retired police captain, I would have given similar advice years ago. However, today, with information gained primarily from carjackings, as well as situations like the armed robbery described in your column, advice has changed.

Too often, victims who permit themselves to be tied up or abducted are assaulted or killed.

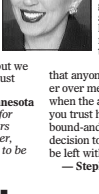
Every case is different, but perhaps the woman could have taken the opportunity when the girl struck out to attempt an escape or to raise an alarm. You have to play any incident as you see it, but we no longer advise people to just give in.

— Bill P. in Minnesota

Dear Bill P.: Thank you for writing. A number of readers took exception to my answer, and their opinions deserve to be aired. Read on:

Dear Abby: As a former police officer, I feel you did a disservice in judging the young robbery victim's reaction to the threat as wrong. It seems clear to me that she was acting on her strong instincts of self-preservation. I would be loath to characterize her response as improper. In fact, I think she displayed tremendous courage.

Dear Abby



That robber had given neither woman any reason to trust him. There have been numerous instances in which victims were bound and gagged prior to being shot in the back of the head, execution-style, for no other reason than to prevent witnesses.

I would never suggest that anyone fight an armed attacker over mere money. However, when the attacker demands that you trust him with your bound-and-gagged life, I'd say the decision to fight or submit must be left with the person threatened.

— Stephanie M. Bremen, Ohio

Dear Stephanie: I bow to your expertise. You have witnessed violence and its aftermath more than I.

Dear Abby: Remember Flight 93 on 9/11? If the passengers on that plane had taken your advice, the plane would have either crashed into the White House or the Capitol. And remember the shoe bomber? If those passengers had taken your advice, they all would have died. Remember the advice they used to give to women who were about to be raped? "Don't fight back; you might get hurt." Wrong! You usually get hurt anyway, often killed after being tortured.

— Bill M., Garrison, Mont.

Dear Bill M.: In the cases you have cited, the choice was clear-cut — fight or die. Not every situation is this way. How does one know when to take the risk?

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**

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JUMBLE

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

DYNOS

SABIN

REPTIL

SEXOUD

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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: ○○○○○ "○○○○○○○○"

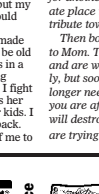
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PECAN GAMUT ALIGHT POPLIN
Answer: When the recruit was assigned a top bunk he was — "UP" ALL NIGHT

Mom-in-law wearing out welcome

Dear Annie: A few years ago, I asked my mother-in-law to come live with my husband and me in order to help care for my children. Mom had a dead-end job and shared a room at a boarding house. Day-care costs were expensive, and I offered to pay my mother-in-law a small amount each month to watch the kids. I figured it would be a win-win situation.

Annie's Mailbox



I was wrong. As time went on, I grew to dislike having my mother-in-law here. She oversteps her boundaries when it comes to my kids, and we don't get along at all. I'd like to ask her to leave, but my husband is furious that I would consider it.

This whole situation has made me depressed. My kids will be old enough to watch themselves in a year, and I can't keep paying Mom for nothing. Mom and I fight constantly. She thinks this is her house, her husband and her kids. I want my home and family back.

Do you think it's wrong of me to ask her to leave?

— Wilted Lily

Dear Lily: It's perfectly understandable that you want to regain your authority as the "woman of the house." First, have a talk with your husband. If his mother is able-bodied, there is no reason he should place her happiness above yours. Explain that the situation makes you depressed and you are worried about the long-term effect on your marriage. He needs to support your decision. You both can help Mom search for another job and an appropriate place to live, and even contribute toward her rent.

Then both of you need to talk to Mom. Tell her you love her and are willing to help financially, but soon the children will no longer need the extra care and you are afraid the circumstances will destroy the close bond you are trying to preserve.

Dear Annie: I am engaged to "Tim," a wonderful man, and I soon will be visiting his parents for the first time. However, I am more apprehensive than I should be due to the fact that Tim has a 16-year-old mentally disabled brother, "Burt."

I am not prejudiced in any way against the mentally disabled, but I have absolutely no experience in that area and have no idea how to act around Burt. I don't want to treat Burt like a child, or do anything inappropriate. But I don't know what the best approach is.

— Uncomfortable in New York

Dear N.Y.: Being "mentally disabled" covers a lot of ground, and there is no way for us to know how capable Burt is. But you already have an expert nearby — Tim.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to **annies-mailbox@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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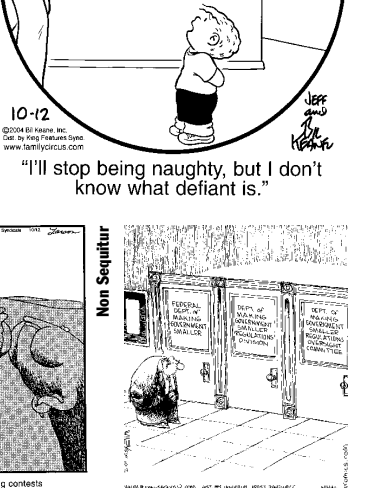
Family Circus



"I'll stop being naughty, but I don't know what defiant is."

GRAFFITI

Dennis the Menace

"SO, YOUNG MAN...YOU SAY YOUR MOM KISSED IT, BUT IT STILL DIDN'T GET ANY BETTER?"

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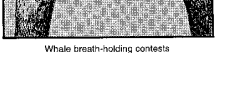
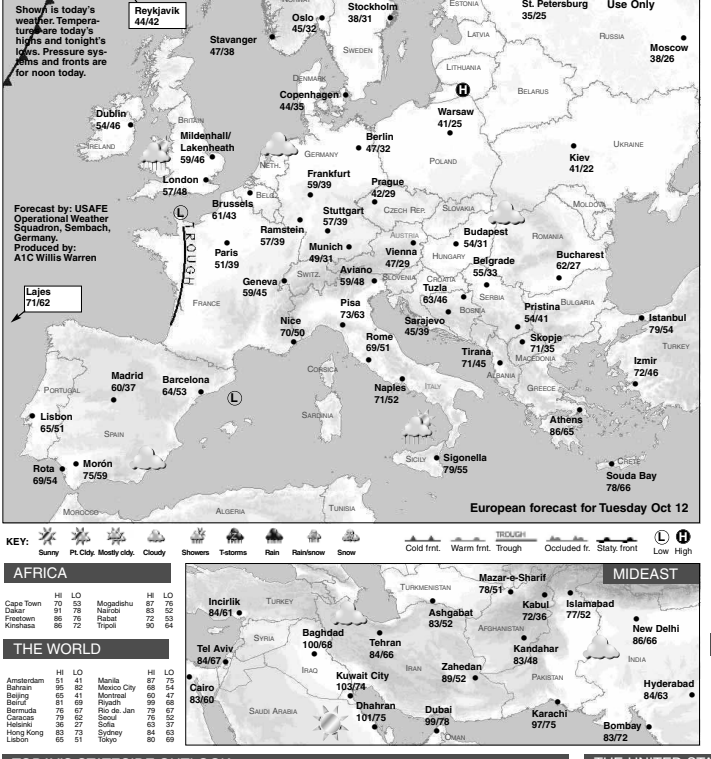
The Far Side



Whale breath-holding contests

Non Sequitur



KEY: Sunny, Pt. Cldy, Mostly cldy, Cloudy, Showers, T-storms, Rain, Rain/snow, Snow, Cold frnt, Warm frnt, Trough, Occluded fr, Stnary. front, Low, High

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy with gusty winds. Highs in the low 60s, with Wednesday lows in the low 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and gusty winds. Highs in the mid to upper 50s, with Wednesday lows in the upper 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid 40s to low 60s, with Wednesday lows in the upper 30s and upper 40s.

France: Cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the low 50s to low 70s, with Wednesday lows in the upper 30s to low 50s.

Northern Germany: Partly cloudy with gusty winds. Highs in the upper 50s, with Wednesday lows in the low to upper 30s to low 40s.

Southern Germany: Partly cloudy with gusty winds. Highs in the mid to upper 40s to upper 50s, with Wednesday lows in the low to upper 30s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs will be in the mid 50s, with Wednesday lows in the low 30s.

Northern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s to low 70s, with Wednesday lows in the upper 40s to low 60s.

Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 60s to upper 70s, with Wednesday lows in the low to mid 50s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 50s, with Wednesday lows in the low 40s.

Norway: Partly cloudy. Highs in 40s, with Wednesday lows in the low to upper 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the low 60s to mid 70s, with Wednesday lows in the upper 30s to upper 50s.

Turkey: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the low 70s to mid 80s, with Wednesday lows in the upper 40s to low 60s.

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AFRICA

	Hi	LO		Hi	LO
Cape Town	70	53	Mogadishu	87	76
Dakar	91	78	Nairobi	83	52
Freetown	86	76	Pretoria	82	53
Kinshasa	86	72	Tripoli	90	64

THE WORLD

	Hi	LO		Hi	LO
Amsterdam	51	41	Manila	87	75
Bahrain	95	82	Mexico City	68	54
Beijing	65	41	Montreal	60	47
Beirut	81	69	Riyadh	99	68
Bermuda	76	67	Rio de. Jan	79	67
Caracas	79	62	Seoul	76	52
Helsinki	36	27	Sofia	63	37
Hong Kong	83	73	Sydney	84	63
Lisbon	65	51	Tokyo	80	69

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	7:05 AM	7:06 AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:43 AM	7:45 AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	6:33 PM	6:32 PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	6:40 PM	6:38 PM

New moon	First qtr.	Full moon	Last qtr.
Oct 14	Oct 20	Oct 28	Nov 5

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

	Hi	Lo	Otlk
Abilene,Tex.	74	51	Cldy
Akron,Ohio	64	44	Clr
Albany,N.Y.	62	43	PCldy
Albuquerque	67	46	PCldy
Allentown,Pa.	66	44	PCldy
Amarillo	69	48	PCldy
Anchorage	48	38	Rain
Asheville	67	54	Cldy
Atlanta	73	58	Cldy
Atlantic City	68	51	Clr
Austin	76	56	Pcldy
Baltimore	69	44	Clr
Baton Rouge	81	60	PCldy
Billings	69	41	PCldy
Birmingham	75	59	PCldy
Bismarck	75	40	PCldy
Boise	70	43	Clr
Boston	57	49	Rain
Bridgeport	62	50	PCldy
Brownsville	86	67	Clr
Buffalo	62	44	Clr
Burlington,Vt.	59	43	Cldy
Caribou,Maine	50	42	Rain
Casper	65	35	PCldy
Charleston,S.C.	75	62	PCldy
Charleston,W.Va.	70	48	Clr
Charlotte,N.C.	70	57	Cldy
Chattanooga	70	57	Cldy
Cheyenne	70	42	PCldy
Chicago	65	46	PCldy
Cincinnati	70	49	PCldy
Cleveland	64	47	Clr
Colorado Springs	60	37	PCldy
Columbia,S.C.	74	58	Cldy
Columbus,Ga.	77	60	Cldy
Columbus,Ohio	70	48	PCldy
Concord,N.H.	57	38	Cldy
Corpus Christi	88	63	Clr
Dallas-Ft Worth	73	57	PCldy
Dayton	69	47	PCldy
Daytona Beach	84	68	Cldy
Denver	66	41	PCldy
Des Moines	67	45	Cldy
Detroit	67	45	PCldy
Duluth	65	43	PCldy
El Paso	76	55	PCldy
Elkins	69	35	Clr
Erie	59	45	Clr
Eugene	73	43	Clr
Evansville	68	49	Rain
Fairbanks	41	23	Cldy
Fargo	71	43	PCldy
Flagstaff	62	31	PCldy
Flint	65	41	PCldy
Fort Smith	65	47	Cldy
Fort Wayne	66	45	PCldy
Fresno	83	59	Clr
Goodland	69	35	PCldy
Grand Junction	71	41	PCldy
Grand Rapids	67	43	PCldy
Great Falls	66	37	PCldy
Green Bay	66	47	PCldy
Greensboro,N.C.	72	51	Clr
Harrisburg	69	48	PCldy
Hartford Spgfld	65	44	Cldy
Helena	69	38	PCldy
Honolulu	90	72	PCldy
Houston	84	59	PCldy
Huntsville	73	55	Cldy
Indianapolis	68	48	PCldy
Jackson,Miss.	75	57	Cldy
Jacksonville	82	66	Cldy
Juneau	50	45	Rain
Kansas City	64	48	Cldy
Key West	88	76	Cldy
Knoxville	70	55	Cldy
Lake Charles	80	59	PCldy
Lansing	67	43	PCldy
Las Vegas	83	62	PCldy
Lexington	67	49	Cldy
Lincoln	70	45	Cldy
Little Rock	67	53	Cldy
Los Angeles	77	58	Clr
Louisville	68	51	Cldy
Lubbock	71	51	PCldy
Macon	74	60	Cldy
Madison	66	44	PCldy
Medford	83	46	Clr
Memphis	70	55	Rain
Miami Beach	86	73	Rain
Midland-Odessa	73	52	PCldy
Milwaukee	63	47	PCldy
Mpls-St Paul	70	47	PCldy
Mobile	82	67	PCldy
Montgomery	79	61	PCldy
Nashville	69	53	Rain
New Orleans	82	62	PCldy
New York City	65	54	PCldy
Newark	67	50	PCldy
Norfolk,Va.	69	51	Clr
North Platte	69	41	PCldy
Oklahoma City	68	51	Cldy
Omaha	66	45	Cldy
Orlando	85	69	Cldy
Paducah	64	50	Cldy
Pendleton	71	44	Clr
Peoria	67	46	PCldy
Philadelphia	68	50	Clr
Phoenix	90	67	Clr
Pittsburgh	66	46	PCldy
Portland,Me.	70	37	Clr
Portland,Ore.	57	45	Rain
Providence	60	46	Rain
Pueblo	65	39	Cldy
Raleigh-Durham	73	50	Clr
Rapid City	77	43	PCldy
Reno	76	41	Clr
Richmond	72	46	Clr
Roanoke	75	52	Clr
Rochester	65	42	Clr
Rockford	65	44	PCldy
Sacramento	87	51	Clr
St Louis	63	49	Rain
St Thomas	88	79	Rain
Salem,Ore.	74	45	Clr
Salt Lake City	70	47	Clr
San Angelo	76	53	Cldy
San Antonio	80	59	Clr
San Diego	73	62	PCldy
San Francisco	81	55	Clr
San Jose	87	56	Clr
San Juan,P.R.	89	78	Rain
Santa Fe	66	37	PCldy
St Ste Marie	64	45	PCldy
Savannah	76	61	Cldy
Seattle	64	48	Clr
Shreveport	74	58	Cldy
Sioux City	71	47	PCldy
Sioux Falls	71	47	PCldy
South Bend	67	44	PCldy
Spokane	65	40	PCldy
Springfield,Ill.	65	47	Cldy
Springfield,Mo.	62	49	Cldy
Syracuse	62	44	PCldy
Tallahassee	85	63	PCldy
Tampa-St Pbsbg	85	72	Cldy
Toledo	66	43	PCldy
Topeka	65	48	Cldy
Tucson	85	59	PCldy
Tulsa	66	52	Cldy
Tupelo	73	55	Rain
Waco	77	55	PCldy
Washington,D.C.	69	51	Clr
W.Palm Beach	86	70	Rain
Wichita	67	49	Cldy
Wichita Falls	72	53	Cldy
Wilkes-Barre	62	42	PCldy
Wilmington,Del.	68	48	Clr
Yakima	73	41	Clr

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As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

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No. 2 Oklahoma gains ground on No. 1 USC

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

The gap between No. 1 USC and No. 2 Oklahoma is smaller than it's been all season.

The Sooners' 12-0 shutout of Texas and Southern California's close call against California persuaded some voters in The Associated Press Top 25 released Sunday to change their first-place vote.

USC received 41 first-place votes, a season low, and 1,601 points in the media voting. Oklahoma got a season-high 23 first-place votes and 1,582 points, leaving the Sooners 19 points behind the Trojans with the Bowl Championship Series standings just a week from their 2004 debut.

The BCS will release its newly formulated standings on Oct. 18.

The AP poll will count for one-third of a team's BCS points this year. The ESPN/USA Today coaches poll will also count for a third and a compilation of computer rankings will make up the remaining one-third.

In the latest coaches poll, USC is No. 1, followed by Oklahoma, Miami, Auburn and Purdue.

USC and Oklahoma have been 1-2 in the AP and coaches polls since the preseason, but before the Trojans' 23-17 victory over Cal on Saturday the points differential between the teams was more than double what it is now.

Voters may have been impressed by the performance of Sooners freshman running back Adrian Peterson, who proved himself a more-than-capable complement to Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Jason White by rushing for 225 yards against the Longhorns.

"We expected to be able to run the football, and it wasn't just Adrian," Stoops said. "I think our offensive line and the way they played are all part of running the ball. We're improving with it."

Georgia had been No. 3, but a 19-14 loss at home to Tennessee on Saturday dropped the Bulldogs to No. 12.

Idle Miami moved up one spot to No. 3. No. 4 Auburn received the remaining first-place vote and Purdue moved up four spots to No. 5.

Auburn's ranking is the Tigers best since Nov. 6, 1994. Purdue hasn't been ranked this high in 25 years. On Sept. 10, 1979, the Boilermakers were ranked fifth in the country.

Unbeaten Virginia is No. 6 and No. 7 is Florida State. The Cavaliers and Seminoles will play in Tallahassee on Saturday.

Cal slipped one spot to No. 8; Texas dropped four spots to No. 9; and undefeated Wisconsin is 10th.

The second 10 starts with No. 11 Utah, followed by Georgia, Tennessee, Michigan and No. 15 Arizona State. The unbeaten Sun Devils get their chance to break USC's 14-game winning streak on Saturday in Los Angeles.

"Every weekend we know we've got that bull's-eye on our back," USC defensive end Shaun Cody said after Saturday's win. "It's awesome, it's fun. Every team is going to get after you and it makes you focus on every play."

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Nebraska moving on after lopsided defeat

BY ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — One day after the most lopsided loss in the 115 years of Nebraska football, the coaching staff told the Cornhuskers to forget about it.

The fans, to be sure, won't soon forget Saturday's 70-10 flogging at the hands of Texas Tech.

But the players must, because wallowing in the past won't help the players get ready for this week's game against Baylor, according to defensive coordinator Kevin Cosgrove.

"The one thing you have to do is put it behind you. There's nothing you can do about it," Cosgrove said Sunday. "The coaches hurt, the players hurt, the fans hurt, you guys [the media] hurt. We all hurt. But we also know what we can do. Just correct what was wrong, show them why things happened and move on."

What happened was dizzying.

The Cornhuskers went into Lubbock, Texas, with a defense that was ranked No. 1 in the Big 12 and No. 5 in the nation.

But Tech quarterback Sonny Cumbie threw for 436 yards and five touchdowns, and the Red Raiders scored the final 49 points after Nebraska had pulled within 21-10 in the third quarter.

Tech's offense benefited from having a short field much of the game. The Huskers (3-2, 1-1 Big 12) had seven turnovers in the game, including six in the second half.

Joe Dailey threw his 12th interception of the season in the first half, and backup Beau Davis threw four in the second half.

The 16 interceptions in five games are the most Nebraska has thrown since the 1972 team threw 20 in 12 games.

Nebraska's total of 23 turnovers is one off last year's 13-game total.

Defensively, Nebraska missed a lot of tackles, failed to get enough pressure on Cumbie and had too many soft spots in its zone coverages.

"It's obvious from watching the tape what went wrong," Cosgrove said. "Corrections need to be made, and we have to make sure it doesn't happen again. It was a great learning experience for all of us."

Cosgrove didn't think his players gave up as the score began to spiral out of control.

"I can't say we had bad effort," he said. "We had guys playing with effort. Could we have played better? Absolutely."

Defensive tackle Titus Adams said he did not think Tech deliberately ran up the score to embarrass Nebraska.

"They were just playing the game. It's our job to stop them," Adams said.

Adams doesn't see any sign that the loss might splinter the team and said he and his teammates heed the coaches' instructions to learn from the experience and move on.

"If you dwell on a game like that, it can be devastating to the team and program because it would be hard to play that next game," he said. "We've got a lot of football left."

Nebraska's fans — and former players — took the loss hard.

Rob Zatechka, who played on the famed "Pipeline" offensive line that paved the way to Nebraska's 1994 national championship, believes many things about the program have changed.

"There was always a sense of determination and pride within that program that has been lost," Zatechka said. "In the past, getting blown out meant that Oklahoma put up 40 points on us.

"Now, it's a mid-tier Big 12 South team putting 70 on you. There is a sense of urgency that needs to be present down in Lincoln. Just as an observer, I don't see it."

Fan Grady Hansen feels no ill will toward Tech coach Mike Leach for running up the score.

"The last time we played down there, we beat 'em 56-3," Hansen said. "What goes around comes around."

Longtime booster Irv Veitzer of Omaha said he remains optimistic that the system of new coach Bill Callahan will work — once the right players are recruited and in place.

"I'm disappointed, but I was at Oklahoma when we lost 47-0 (in 1968), and we bounced back from that and won a national championship two years later," Veitzer said. "We'll bounce back this time, too."

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AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. — Baseball: NL Division Series, Houston at Atlanta, Game 5.
AFN-Atlantic, AFN-Radio, 3 a.m. — NFL: Tennessee at Green Bay.
AFN-Sports, 5 a.m. — Motorcycle racing: MotoGP World Championship, Malaysia (dld).
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — Outdoors: Wal-Mart FLW Tour (dld).
AFN-Pacific, noon — NFL: Tennessee at Green Bay (dld).
AFN-Sports, 1:30 pm. — Auto racing: Nextel Cup Banquet 400 (dld).
AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. — NFL: Tennessee at Green Bay (dld).

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, AFN-Radio, 2 a.m. — Baseball: AL Championship Series, Boston at N.Y. Yankees, Game 1.
AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m. — WNBA Finals: Seattle at Connecticut, Game 3.
AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — College football: Stanford at Notre Dame (dld).
AFN-Sports, 2 p.m. — Outdoors: Wal-Mart FLW Tour (dld).
AFN-Sports, 7:30 pm. — College football: Purdue at Penn St. (dld).

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. 9, 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 (41)	5-0	1600	1
2. Oklahoma (23)	5-0	1582	2
3. Miami	4-0	1464	3
4. Auburn (1)	6-0	1450	6
5. Purdue	6-0	1347	7
6. Virginia	5-0	1219	10
7. Florida St.	4-1	1208	4
8. California	3-1	1094	7
9. Texas	4-0	1092	11
10. Wisconsin	6-0	993	15
11. Utah	5-0	979	13
12. Georgia	4-1	963	3
13. Tennessee	4-1	913	14
14. Michigan	5-1	813	17
15. Arizona St.	5-0	631	19
16. Oklahoma St.	5-0	608	22
17. West Virginia	4-1	574	16
18. Louisville	4-0	566	20
19. Minnesota	5-1	482	13
20. LSU	4-2	460	12
21. Boise St.	5-0	413	21
22. Florida	3-2	324	9
23. Texas A&M	4-1	106	—
24. Southern Miss.	4-0	87	—
25. Ohio St.	3-2	90	18

Others receiving votes: Missouri 62, Virginia Tech 62, UCLA 56, Navy 41, Texas Tech 18, Notre Dame 13, Boston College 10, Maryland 2, N. Illinois 1, Wyoming 1.

USA Today/ESPN Top 25

The top 25 teams in the USA Today-ESPN college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 9, 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 California (45)	5-0	1509	1
2. Oklahoma (15)	5-0	1476	2
3. Miami (1)	4-0	1390	3
4. Auburn	6-0	1341	6
5. Purdue	6-0	1268	7
6. Virginia	5-0	1142	9
7. Florida State	4-1	1132	8
8. Georgia	4-1	1078	3
9. California	3-1	942	11
10. Utah	5-0	931	14
11. Texas	4-1	911	5
12. Wisconsin	6-0	868	16
13. Michigan	5-1	862	14
14. Tennessee	4-1	730	13
15. Oklahoma State	5-0	570	21
16. West Virginia	4-1	527	17
17. Louisville	4-0	512	20
18. Boise State	5-0	488	19
19. Arizona State	5-0	486	22
20. Minnesota	5-1	423	13
21. LSU	4-2	385	24
22. Florida	3-2	299	12
23. Ohio State	3-2	157	25
24. Missouri	4-1	99	—
25. Southern Mississippi	4-0	88	—

Others receiving votes: Virginia Tech 85; Texas A&M 77; Texas Tech 44; UCLA 40; Maryland 36; Boston College 28; North Carolina State 10; Notre Dame 16; Navy 7; Georgia Tech 6; Memphis 6; Alabama 5; Northern Illinois 5; Bowling Green 4; Fresno State 4; Stanford 4; Arkansas 3; Colorado 2; South Carolina 2; Alabama Birmingham 1; Wyoming 1.

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2. (17) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 267, $177,840.
3. (6) Greg Biffle, Ford, 267, $147,825.
4. (11) Elliott Sadler, Ford, 267, $120,875.
5. (7) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 267, $110,675.
6. (22) Kurt Busch, Ford, 267, $91,825.
7. (10) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 267, $88,800.
8. (9) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 267, $84,800.
9. (8) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 267, $88,500.
10. (13) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge, 267, $82,375.
11. (26) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 267, $79,075.
12. (2) Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 267, $76,575.
13. (30) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 267, $81,700.
14. (24) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 267, $74,450.
15. (17) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 267, $74,950.
16. (5) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 267, $73,650.
17. (15) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 267, $77,650.
18. (36) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 267, $72,050.
19. (25) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 267, $71,450.
20. (18) Mark Martin, Ford, 267, $72,800.
21. (19) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 267, $70,250.
22. (21) Carl Edwards, Ford, 267, $69,650.
23. (31) Bobby Hamilton Jr., Chevrolet, 267, $69,975.
24. (38) Shane Hmiel, Dodge, 265, $68,450.
25. (33) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet, 265, $68,250.
26. (14) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 265, $67,250.
27. (32) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 265, $66,650.
28. (23) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 265, $66,050.
29. (27) Jeff Green, Dodge, 262, $65,850.
30. (35) Ward Burton, Chevrolet, 255, $66,100.
31. (21) Casey Mears, Dodge, 243, $65,400.
32. (4) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 239, accident, $65,200.
33. (7) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 223, accident, $65,000.
34. (28) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 216, accident, $65,725.
35. (29) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 160, overheating, $64,600.
36. (37) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 146, overheating, $64,400.
37. (34) Kyle Busch, Chevrolet, 136, accident, $64,175.
38. (39) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 88, handling, $63,975.
39. (20) Todd Bodine, Dodge, 66, steering box, $63,765.
40. (41) Hermie Sadler, Chevrolet, 38, rear end, $63,550.
41. (43) Stanton Barrett, Ford, Ivy, vibration, $63,355.
42. (40) Larry Gunselman, Ford, 26, suspension, $63,175.
43. (42) Kirk Shelmerdine, Ford, 3, clutch, $63,012.

Race Statistics
Time of race: 3 hours, 32 minutes, 39 seconds.
Margin of victory: 0.081 seconds.
Winner's average speed: 128.058 mph.
Caution flags: 10 for 39 laps.
Lead changes: 24 among 12 drivers.
Lap leaders: J.Nemechek (Pole Winner); J.Mayfield 5-16; K.Kahne 17-25; J.Mayfield 26-62; G.Biffle 63-73; J.Mayfield 74; R.Newman 75-76; R.Rudd 77-78; K.Busch 79; K.Kahne 80-110; G.Biffle 111-130; J.Mayfield 131-138; R.Newman 139-142; K.Kahne 143-146; J.Mayfield 144-158; M.Kenseth 159-172; G.Biffle 173-195; D.Jarrett 196-197; K.Kahne 198; T.Labonte 199; G.Biffle 200-209; J.McMurray 210-228; E.Sadler 229-230; J.Nemechek 231-267.
Series driver standings: 1. K.Busch, 5,685. 2. D.Earnhardt Jr., 5,656. 3. J.Gordon, 5,606. 4. E.Sadler, 5,542. 5. M.Martin, 5,535. 6. T.Stewart, 5,512. 7. M.Kenseth, 5,512. 8. R.Newman, 5,453. 9. T.Johnson, 5,438. 10. J.Mayfield, 5,428.

Golf

Michelin Championship

Sunday
Las Vegas
Purse: $4 million
Played on two courses
TPC at Summerlin; 7,243 yards; Par 72
TPC at The Canyons; 7,107 yards; Par 71
Bear's Best Golf Club; 7,391 yards; Par 72
(Final round played on the TPC at Summerlin)
Final Round

Andre Stolz, $720,000 — 67-67-65-67 —266 -21
Tag Ridings, $298,667 — 67-66-73-61 —267 -20
Ryan Palmer, $298,667 — 67-68-68-64 —267 -20
Tom Lehman, $298,667 — 64-68-66-69 —267 -20
C. Pettersson, $152,000 — 68-68-65-67 —268 -19
Vijay Singh, $152,000 — 66-67-68-67 —268 -19
Lee Janzen, $120,500 — 68-66-70-65 —269 -18
Danny Ellis, $120,500 — 69-67-65-68 —269 -18
Tim Petrovic, $120,500 — 66-66-68-69 —269 -18
David Duval, $120,500 — 69-67-66-67 —269 -18
Jim Furyk, $88,000 — 67-67-70-66 —270 -17
Brian Gay, $88,000 — 69-66-69-66 —270 -17
Duffy Waldorf, $88,000 — 65-66-69-70 —270 -17
Bob Estes, $88,000 — 67-65-68-70 —270 -17
Mark Wilson, $58,100 — 67-68-67-69 —271 -16
Lucas Glover, $58,100 — 68-68-67-68 —271 -16
Joe Ozaki, $58,100 — 68-68-69-66 —271 -16
Jay Williamson, $58,100 — 69-62-74-66 —271 -16
Scott Verplank, $58,100 — 64-72-66-69 —271 -16
Kent Jones, $58,100 — 64-68-70-69 —271 -16
Ben Crane, $58,100 — 68-65-69-69 —271 -16
Greg Chalmers, $58,100 — 69-67-64-71 —271 -16
Trevor Immelman, $42,133 — 67-69-71-65 —272 -15
Danny Briggs, $32,133 — 65-71-68-68 —272 -15
Stuart Appleby, $32,133 — 69-67-69-67 —272 -15
Jason Bohn, $32,133 — 63-70-70-69 —272 -15
Pat Perez, $32,133 — 70-68-66-68 —272 -15
Briny Baird, $32,133 — 72-63-70-67 —272 -15
Justin Leonard, $32,133 — 65-70-67-70 —272 -15
J.J. Lewis, $32,133 — 67-66-69-70 —272 -15
Olin Browne, $32,133 — 67-64-69-72 —272 -15
Dudley Hart, $22,640 — 69-70-65-69 —273 -14
Billy Mayfair, $22,640 — 64-69-71-69 —273 -14
Scott McCarron, $22,640 — 66-71-67-69 —273 -14
Alex Cejka, $22,640 — 65-65-72-71 —273 -14
Tom Byrum, $22,640 — 66-70-65-72 —273 -14
Billy Andrade, $16,680 — 66-67-69-72 —274 -13
Bo Van Pelt, $16,800 — 72-68-65-69 —274 -13
David Duval, $16,800 — 67-68-68-71 —274 -13
Robert Gamez, $16,800 — 65-70-67-72 —274 -13
Paul Azinger, $16,800 — 69-65-71-69 —274 -13
Geoff Ogilvy, $16,800 — 67-70-69-68 —274 -13
Chris Smith, $16,800 — 70-66-67-71 —274 -13
Woody Austin, $16,800 — 66-69-68-71 —274 -13
D. Hartmond, $11,211 — 68-65-71-71 —275 -12
Steve Allan, $11,211 — 67-70-68-70 —275 -12
Robert Allenby, $11,211 — 69-68-68-70 —275 -12
Craig Barlow, $11,211 — 66-71-69-69 —275 -12
Charles Howell, $11,211 — 68-70-68-69 —275 -12
T. Pernice, Jr., $11,211 — 66-72-69-68 —275 -12
Rich Beem, $11,211 — 68-64-72-71 —275 -12
Dean Wilson, $9,104 — 68-64-72-72 —276 -11
Paul Goydos, $9,104 — 68-69-70-69 —276 -11
David Branshaw, $9,104 — 67-66-71-72 —276 -11
Glen Day, $9,104 — 68-64-72-72 —276 -11
Craig Perks, $9,104 — 69-67-70-70 —276 -11
Jonathan Kaye, $9,104 — 65-71-69-71 —276 -11
D. Beckman, $9,104 — 66-69-70-71 —276 -11
R. S. Johnson, $9,104 — 66-69-71-70 —276 -11
Ryan Palmer, $9,104 — 67-67-70-72 —276 -11
Deane Pappas, $9,104 — 74-70-63-69 —276 -11
Jeff Sluman, $9,104 — 69-67-69-71 —276 -11
Daniel Chopra, $8,520 — 72-64-70-72 —278 -9
Ted Purdy, $8,520 — 71-67-69-71 —278 -9
Steve Stricker, $8,520 — 68-67-71-72 —278 -9
John Rollins, $8,320 — 72-65-69-74 —280 -7
Nick Faldo, $8,160 — 66-72-69-74 —281 -6
Spike McRoy, $8,160 — 66-70-70-75 —281 -6
Frank Lickliter II, $8,160 — 66-68-69-78 —281 -6
Kris Cox, $8,000 — 68-71-67-76 —282 -5
Mark Brooks, $7,920 — 70-71-64-76 —283 -4
Vince Phillips, $7,840 — 66-74-75-68 —283 -4

Asahi Ryokuken International Championship

Sunday
At Mount Vintage Plantation Golf Club
North Augusta, S.C.
Purse: $1 million
Yardage: 6,366; Par: 72
Final Round
a-amateur

L. Neumann, $150,000 — 68-68-69-68 —273 -15
Grace Park, $91,993 — 66-74-68-68 —276 -12
Silvia Cavalleri, $53,000 — 70-67-68-69 —274 -14
Kris Tschetter, $53,304 — 69-73-67-69 —278 -10
Laura Davies, $53,304 — 69-69-70-70 —278 -10
Heong Jang, $53,027 — 71-67-73-68 —279 -9
S. Gustafson, $31,227 — 69-73-66-71 —279 -9
Laura Diaz, $31,227 — 73-66-67-73 —279 -9
Cristie Kerr, $23,672 — 70-68-70-72 —280 -8
Candie Kung, $17,259 — 71-67-73-70 —281 -7
Tina Barrett, $17,259 — 70-73-68-70 —281 -7
Beth Bauer, $17,259 — 69-71-69-72 —281 -7
C. Hannemann, $17,259 — 72-71-67-71 —281 -7
D. Andrews, $17,259 — 68-68-73-72 —281 -7
Becky Morgan, $17,259 — 69-70-69-73 —281 -7
Wendy Ward, $12,843 — 71-73-72-66 —282 -6
Suzann Pettersen, $12,843 — 70-69-68-75 —282 -6
A. Stanford, $12,843 — 68-73-69-72 —282 -6
Maggie Will, $12,843 — 71-69-70-72 —282 -6
C. Matthew, $10,980 — 71-70-74-68 —283 -5
Shi Hyun Ahn, $10,980 — 70-74-70-69 —283 -5
Aree Sooji, $10,980 — 69-75-70-69 —283 -5
Katherine Hull, $10,980 — 72-69-73-69 —283 -5
Lorena Ochoa, $9,044 — 72-70-71-70 —283 -5
Johanna Head, $9,444 — 71-71-71-71 —284 -4
Deb Richard, $9,444 — 70-72-70-72 —284 -4
Joanne Morley, $9,444 — 67-72-72-73 —284 -4
Aurie Webb, $7,917 — 72-71-71-71 —285 -3
S. Prmmansuth, $7,917 — 72-72-69-72 —285 -3
Gloria Park, $7,917 — 74-69-68-74 —285 -3
Chris Johnson, $7,917 — 71-71-70-73 —285 -3
Kim Saiki, $7,917 — 66-74-71-74 —285 -3
Angela Jeremias, $6,586 — 72-72-71-71 —286 -2
H. Daly-Donofrio, $6,586 — 68-74-73-71 —286 -2
Mary Hart, $6,586 — 72-72-70-72 —286 -2
D. Ammccapane, $6,586 — 71-72-71-72 —286 -2
a-Ya-Ni Tseng — 71-69-72-74 —286 -2
Dawn Coe-Jones, $5,578 — 71-72-73-71 —287 -1
Riko Higashio, $5,578 — 74-71-70-72 —287 -1
Rosie Jones, $5,578 — 70-74-71-72 —287 -1
S. Young Moon, $5,578 — 69-71-72-75 —287 -1
B.M Chung, $4,315 — 68-69-74-76 —287 -1
Michelle Estill, $4,735 — 67-74-74-73 —288 E
Carin Koch, $4,735 — 70-71-75-72 —288 E
Lorie Kane, $4,735 — 73-68-72-75 —288 E
Nancy Harvey, $4,055 — 69-74-74-72 —289 +1
J. Entrmo Cunanan, $4,055 — 70-70-77-72 —289 +1
Betsy King, $4,055 — 72-71-73-73 —289 +1
Colette Trocolor, $4,055 — 69-73-75-72 —289 +1
Reilley Rankin, $3,435 — 73-72-77-68 —290 +2
Heather Bowie, $3,435 — 69-74-75-72 —290 +2
Marisa Baena, $3,435 — 72-73-71-74 —290 +2
Jen Hanna, $3,435 — 71-74-71-74 —290 +2
Dr. Ammccpane, $3,435 — 71-70-73-76 —290 +2
A. Ackr-Macosko, $2,921 — 72-74-75-70 —291 +3
Kristi Albers, $2,921 — 76-69-75-71 —291 +3
L. Wilkr-Cooper, $2,921 — 74-72-72-73 —291 +3
Nicole Jeray, $2,921 — 74-72-71-74 —291 +3
Miriam Nagl, $2,921 — 69-70-74-78 —291 +3
Amy Hung, $2,921 — 72-73-74-72 —291 +3
Beth Bader, $2,506 — 73-72-76-71 —292 +4
Michele Redman, $2,506 — 72-74-72-74 —292 +4
P. Bxtr-Johnson, $2,506 — 70-75-77-72 —292 +4

Administaff Small Business Classic

Sunday
At Augusta Pines Golf Club
Spring, Texas
Purse: $1.6 million
Yardages: 6,960; Par: 72
Final Round
x-won on first hole of playoff

x-Larry Nelson, $240,000 — 68-70-64-202 -14
Hale Irwin, $140,800 — 67-68-67-202 -14
Peter Jacobsen, $105,600 — 69-67-67—203 -13
Wayne Levi, $105,600 — 64-67-72—203 -13
Morris Hatalsky, $66,133 — 68-69-68—205 -11
Jim Dent, $66,133 — 68-70-67—205 -11
Jim Thorpe, $66,133 — 67-69-69—205 -11
Jess Smyth, $44,000 — 69-68-69—206 -10
David Eger, $44,000 — 68-70-68—206 -10
Tom Kite, $44,000 — 67-70-69—206 -10
Mark Johnson, $44,000 — 70-67-69—206 -10
Bill Rogers, $31,600 — 68-71-68—207 -9
Hale Irwin, $31,600 — 68-70-69—207 -9
Bobby Walzel, $31,600 — 69-69-69—207 -9
Walter Hall, $31,600 — 64-72-71—207 -9
Allen Doyle, $25,600 — 69-70-69—208 -8
Bob Gilder, $25,600 — 68-70-70—208 -8
D.A. Weibring, $25,600 — 68-65-75—208 -8
Tom Jenkins, $20,520 — 69-72-68—209 -7
Rodger Davis, $20,520 — 71-68-70—209 -7
Doug Tewell, $20,520 — 69-70-70—209 -7
Keith Fergus, $20,520 — 73-65-71—209 -7
Mark McNulty, $16,032 — 68-71-70—210 -6
B. Summerhays, $16,032 — 71-70-69—210 -6
Bruce Lietzke, $16,032 — 72-68-70—210 -6
Jim Ahern, $16,032 — 68-70-72—210 -6
James Mason, $16,032 — 70-68-72—210 -6
Tommy Aaron, $12,400 — 70-71-70—211 -5
Mark McCumber, $12,400 — 70-71-70—211 -5
Bruce Fleisher, $12,400 — 70-71-70—211 -5
Craig Stadler, $12,400 — 69-71-71—211 -5
Jerry Pate, $12,400 — 69-70-72—211 -5
John Bland, $12,400 — 71-68-72—211 -5
Gary Koch, $9,632 — 73-68-71—212 -4
Lanny Wadkins, $9,632 — 69-71-72—212 -4
Mark James, $9,632 — 71-68-73—212 -4
Fuzzy Zoeller, $9,632 — 69-70-73—212 -4
Jose M. Canizares, $9,632 — 72-72-68—212 -4
Jim Colbert, $7,840 — 69-73-71—213 -3
Dale Douglass, $7,840 — 71-69-73—213 -3
Lonnie Nielsen, $7,840 — 74-69-70—213 -3
Dave Stockton, $7,840 — 69-70-74—213 -3
Jay Sigel, $7,840 — 68-77-68—213 -3
Leonard Thompson, $6,240 — 71-72-71—214 -2
Ed Fiori, $6,240 — 72-72-70—214 -2
Dana Quigley, $6,240 — 73-69-69—214 -2
Andy Bean, $6,240 — 70-67-77—214 -2
John Harris, $6,240 — 70-69-75—214 -2
J.C. Snead, $5,120 — 72-70-72—215 -1
Tom Wargo, $5,120 — 72-77-66—215 -1

Pro basketball

NBA preseason

Sunday's games
Houston 85, Atlanta 75
Golden State 97, Sacramento 79

Monday's games
Washington vs. Indiana at Muncie, Ind.

Tuesday's games
Chicago vs. Boston at Manchester, N.H.
Memphis at Orlando
Washington vs. Philadelphia at Durham, N.C.
Seattle vs. L.A. Lakers at Anaheim, Calif.

WNBA playoffs

FINALS
(Best-of-3)
Seattle vs. Connecticut
Friday, Oct. 8
Connecticut 62, Seattle 61
Sunday, Oct. 10
Seattle 67, Connecticut 65, series tied 1-1
Tuesday, Oct. 12
Connecticut at Seattle

Soccer

2006 World Cup Qualifying

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN CARIBBEAN ZONE SEMIFINALS
Top two teams advance
GROUP A

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
United States	2	0	2	6	2	8
Jamaica	1	1	2	5	4	5
Panama	1	1	2	5	6	5
El Salvador	0	2	2	2	8	3

Saturday's games
At Panama City, Panama
Panama 1, Jamaica 1, tie
At San Salvador, El Salvador
United States 2, El Salvador 0
Wednesday's games
At Washington
Panama at United States
At Kingston, Jamaica
El Salvador at Jamaica

GROUP B

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Guatemala	2	1	0	6	8	6
Costa Rica	2	2	0	7	6	6
Honduras	1	0	3	9	6	6
Canada	0	2	2	5	5	2

Saturday's games
At San Pedro Sula, Honduras
Honduras 1, Canada 1, tie
At San Jose, Costa Rica
Costa Rica 5, Guatemala 0
Wednesday's games
At Burnaby, British Columbia
Costa Rica at Canada
At Guatemala City, Guatemala
Honduras at Guatemala

GROUP C

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Mexico	3	0	0	11	1	9
Trinidad	3	1	0	10	5	9
Haiti	1	2	0	4	7	3
St. Kitts	0	3	0	2	8	0

Wednesday's games
At Pachuca, Mexico
Mexico 7, St. Vincent and the Grenadines 0
Sunday's games
At Marabella, Trinidad
Trinidad and Tobago 5, St. Kitts and Nevis 1
At Kingstown, St. Vincent
Mexico 1, St. Vincent and the Grenadines 0
Wednesday's games
At Basseterre, St. Kitts
St. Vincent and the Grenadines at St. Kitts and Nevis
At Puebla, Mexico
Trinidad and Tobago at Mexico

United States 2, El Salvador 0

United States		1	1—2
El Salvador		0	0—0

First half: 1-0, United States, Brian McBride (Kerry Zavagnin), 29th minute.
Second Half: — United States, Eddie Johnson (Landon Donovan), 75th minute.
Yellow Cards: — Mauricio Cienfuegos, Gibbs, US, 31st; Centeno, Es, 45th; Zelaya, ES, 85th.
Red Cards: — None.
Referee: — Carlos Batres, Guatemala. Linesmen—Francisco Ortiz, Guatemala; Antonio Alvarado, Guatemala.
A—20,000 (est).

Lineups
United States—Kasey Keller; Frankie Hejduk, Eddie Pope, Oguchi Onyewu, Gregg Berhalter; Kerry Zaviogin, DaMarcus Beasley, Landon Donovan, Clint Mathis (Eddie Lewis, 68th); Brian McBride (Eddie Johnson, 71st), Josh Wolff (Cobi Jones, 88th).
El Salvador—Misael Alfaro; Rafael Tobar, Mario Gonzalez, Victor Velasquez; Denis Umanzor, Victor Moreno, Jorge Rodriguez (Jossue Gallardo, 46th), Saritco Zaldivar (Isaac Zelaya, 80th), Marvin Benitez; Fredy Gonzalez (Jose Martinez, 70th), Ronald Cerritos.

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	GF	GA
y-Columbus	12	5	13	48	39
x-MetroStars	11	11	7	40	45
x-D.C. United	10	10	10	40	40
Chicago	8	13	9	33	35
New England	6	12	12	30	40

Western Conference

	W	L	T	GF	GA
x-Kansas City	13	9	8	46	37
x-Los Angeles	11	8	10	43	42
x-Dallas	11	9	10	39	33
San Jose	9	10	10	37	39
Chivas USA	10	14	6	35	42

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

Saturday's games
Columbus 1, MetroStars 1, tie
D.C. United 1, New England 0
Los Angeles 2, Dallas 0
Kansas City 0, San Jose 0, tie
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

Deals

Weekend transactions

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NEW ORLEANS HORNETS—Waived C Sean Finn and G Ron Young.
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Signed F Alaide Bangura and F Rich Melver.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
BALTIMORE RAVENS—Placed CB Chris McAllister to a seven-year contract.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Signed Matt Bryant. Placed CB Donald Strickland on injured reserve.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
DETROIT RED WINGS—Assigned G Logan Koopmans to Toledo of the ECHL.
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS—Assigned C Chris St. Jacques, D David Turon and G Todd Ford to Pensacola of the ECHL.
American Hockey League
BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS—Released F John Morlang and G David Cann.
GRAND RAPIDS GRIFFINS—Assigned LW Jeff Hutchins to Mississippi of the ECHL.
HARTFORD WOLF PACK—Agreed to terms with F Jeff Hamilton. Assigned D Steve McGinty to Rochester. Assigned F Brandon Bochenski, G Mike Ayers and G Randy Petruk to Charlotte of the ECHL. Assigned Kevin Dupont to Charlotte on loan.
HOUSTON AEROS—Assigned LW David Basaruk to Louisiana of the ECHL. Recalled F Kent Gherson to Quad City of the UHL.
WILKES-BARRE/SCRANTON PENGUINS—Released F Kenny Corupe, F Patrick Foley and F Patrick Levesque. Assigned F Steve Crampton and D Alexandre Rouleau to Wheeling of the ECHL.

ECHL
FRESNO FALCONS—Signed F Shawn Heaphy.
LONG BEACH ICE DOGS—Released G Mike Sherman.
MISSISSIPPI SEA WOLVES—Returned D Kerry-Ellis Toddington to Manitoba of the AHL.
SOUTH CAROLINA STINGRAYS—Signed F Zbynek Novak.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES—Re-signed F Brian Ching to a multiyear contract.

TANK MCNAMARA

Nemechek beats title contenders

Busch pads lead in chase to 29 over Earnhardt

BY MIKE HARRIS
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — As much as Joe Nemechek would like to be part of NASCAR's new championship playoff, he's happy just beating the title contenders.

Nemechek won the Banquet 400 on Sunday to complete a weekend sweep at Kansas Speedway, stealing the spotlight from series leader Kurt Busch and the other drivers in the Chase for the Nextel Cup championship.

"It's kind of cool to see guys outside the top 10 up there leading laps and battling," Nemechek said. "We're giving them everything we can throw at them. The guys in the championship chase have more to lose than we do. We're on the offense, not on defense."

Nemechek's margin was almost as close as his half car-length victory over Greg Biffle in the Busch Series event Saturday. Racing side-by-side and bumping Ricky Rudd once with a lap to go, Nemechek took control and beat Rudd to the finish by 0.081 seconds — about 1¼ car-lengths.

Busch, who gained the series lead when Dale Earnhardt Jr. was docked 25 points last week for cursing during a live TV interview in Victory Lane at Talladega, increased his lead from 12 to 29 points with a sixth-place finish. Earnhardt finished ninth.

AP

Joe Nemechek crosses the finish line ahead of Ricky Rudd to win the Banquet 400 at Kansas Speedway.

Busch wasn't surprised that the top three finishers Sunday were not among the drivers in the championship battle.

"There's a competitive field over 40 cars that can win and it's no different if the guys are locked in (to the championship) or not," Busch said. "You've got to compete against them."

Nemechek did a backward victory lap on the 1½-mile oval to honor the memory of his brother, John, killed in a truck race in Homestead, Fla., in 1997. He was relieved to win after nearly getting too conservative at the end.

"There at the end I was trying to save gas, and here comes Ricky Rudd out of nowhere," Nemechek said. "I was like, 'Holy Moley.' I had to get back on it. He got beside me one time, but I wasn't going to let it happen."

Rudd drove onto the apron and nearly spun out on the late restart before breaking out of the pack to chase down Nemechek.

"I caught him somehow and I got to his door, but my car was slipping and I had to ease off so I didn't take us both out," Rudd said.

Nemechek was among 10 drivers who stayed on the track when cars ahead of them pitted during a caution period late in the race, moving him from 14th to fourth as leaders Biffle and Jeremy Mayfield went to the pits.

"It worked out just perfect for us," Nemechek said.

After another yellow flag on the ensuing restart left him in the same spot, Nemechek, who started from the pole for the second straight event, raced to the front once the green flag waved for lap 218 of the 267-lap event.

He passed Rudd and Jamie McMurray and dueled with Elliott Sadler before grabbing the lead on lap 231, staying out front the rest of the way for his fourth career victory and first since May 2003 at Richmond. He is the first driver other than a title contender to win since the championship began last month at New Hampshire.

Biffle finished third Sunday, followed by Sadler, Mayfield, Busch, McMurray and Dale Jarrett. Among that group, only Sadler, Mayfield and Busch are title contenders.

Stolz plays like vet in Las Vegas

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — When it counted most, Andre Stolz played like a veteran instead of a struggling rookie, shooting a 5-under 67 Sunday to win the Michelin Championship at Las Vegas by a shot over Tom Lehman and two others.

Stolz two-putted from 45 feet on the final hole to win for the first time on the PGA Tour and turn what had been a dismal season into a triumph.

The Australian, who had made only $88,373 all year, made a crucial birdie putt on the 16th hole and then parred the last two holes to collect the $720,000 winner's check and gain a tour exemption for the next two years.

Golf roundup

Tag Ridings, who tied the course record with a final-round 61, tied for second along with Lehman (69) and Harrison Frazar (67).

Stolz, who missed 10 of 11 cuts at one point this season, including eight in a row, began the day a stroke off the lead held by Lehman and took it over himself with a 32 on the front nine.

Dicky Pride, who needed to win to keep his tour card next year, finished two shots back after a 69. Pride hit it into the rocks on the final hole for a bogey that ruined his chances.

Neumann holds off Park

NORTH AUGUSTA, S.C. — Liselotte Neumann won her first LPGA Tour title in six years, holding off a late charge by Grace Park for a three-stroke victory in the LPGA Asahi Ryokuken International Championship.

Neumann, the 1988 U.S. Women's Open champion, closed with a final-round 68 for a 15-under 273 total, for her first victory since the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship in 1998.

Park, who also shot 68, twice cut Neumann's four-shot lead to a stroke on the back nine. But each time, Neumann held off the challenge.

Laura Davies (70), Kris Tschetter (70) and Silvia Cavalleri (66) tied for third at 10 under.

Nelson wins in playoff

SPRING, Texas — Larry Nelson rallied from far off the lead and made a 5-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole to beat Hale Irwin and win the Administaff Small Business Classic.

Nelson, who started the final round seven shots back, closed with an 8-under 64 and tied Irwin (67) at 14-under 202, winning his second senior event of the year and 19th overall.

Peter Jacobsen just missed getting into the playoff. The U.S. Senior Open champion made bogey at the 18th after driving into the water. He finished with a 67 and tied second-round leader Wayne Levi (72) at 203.

Morris Hatalsky (68), Jim Dent (69) and Jim Thorpe (69) finished at 205.

Two die in accident at pitcher's home

The Associated Press

PUERTO CAIMITO, Panama — New York Yankees reliever Mariano Rivera flew home to comfort relatives Monday after two family members were electrocuted in his pool. The player's agent said Rivera planned to be back in New York when the Yankees open their playoff series with the Boston Red Sox.

"I have to comply with my family obligations, and I will return to New York on Tuesday," he told the newspaper La Prensa upon arriving in Panama late Sunday.

Rivera learned of the deaths while celebrating with his teammates in the clubhouse after the Yankees beat the Minnesota Twins 6-5 on Saturday to reach the AL championship series, with Rivera getting the victory.

Victor Dario Avila, a cousin of Rivera's wife, Clara, was killed along with his 14-year-old son on Saturday while cleaning the pool at the pitcher's home in this fishing town 40 miles west of Panama City, police and relatives said.

Rivera's cousin, Irma Rivera, told The Associated Press that the teenager, also named Victor Dario Avila, apparently touched an electrical wire while tending to the pool and his father died trying to save him.

Sports briefs

Henin-Hardenne ends season

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Olympic champion Justine Henin-Hardenne ended her season Monday, saying she was exhausted after two years of relentless effort to become the WTA Tour's top-ranked player.

She said an energy-sapping virus that has weakened her since April was a symptom of a more general malaise caused by a pursuit of titles and the top ranking.

"The last two years, I made a lot of effort to get where I am now, to become the No. 1, to win Grand Slams and the Olympics," she said on her Web site. "It's very logical and understandable that I'm this tired. It's high time I get some rest now."

She added: "The will is still there," she said, adding she hopes a good start next season will return her to the top ranking.

Another former No. 1 player, Belgian countrywoman Kim Clijsters, also has ended her season. Clijsters injured her left wrist again two weeks ago and will rest for at least six weeks.

Australia skips tourney

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Olympic field hockey champion Australia pulled out of a December tournament in Pakistan because of security fears.

The decision Monday came after a suicide bombing at a mosque killed four people in Lahore, where the Champions Trophy will be held Dec. 4-12. The attack was the third this month against a religious target in eastern Punjab province in violence between Shiite and Sunni Muslims.

"[Australia] has pulled out despite the fact that we have given the security assurances of all the participating teams," Musarratullah Khan, secretary of the Pakistan Hockey Federation, told The Associated Press.

Traditionally, the top six countries in the Olympics take part in the Champions Trophy. The Netherlands, Germany, Spain and New Zealand have confirmed they will participate, Khan said. India, seventh in the Athens Games, will replace Australia.

Injured Mauresmo withdraws

MOSCOW — Top-ranked Amelie Mauresmo of France withdrew from the Kremlin Cup on Monday, a day after a thigh injury forced her to quit during a final in Germany against No. 2 Lindsay Davenport.

Davenport trails the Frenchwoman by 15 points in the WTA Tour rankings. Davenport has a first-round bye in Moscow and a second-round victory would push her to No. 1 next week.

Mauresmo aggravated a thigh injury in the Porsche Grand Prix on Sunday. Davenport won the first set 6-2 before Mauresmo stopped because her heavily taped left leg hampered her movement.

In a men's match in the Kremlin Cup, top-seeded Marat Safin survived two match points to beat Max Mirnyi of Belarus 6-7 (10-8), 7-6 (7-2), 7-6 (7-1) to reach the second round. Safin saved two match points in the 10th game of the final set, avoiding a fifth first-round exit in nine appearances in the Moscow event.

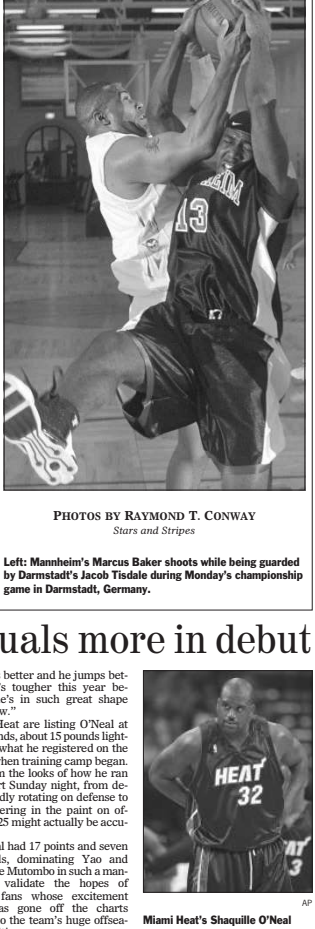
Canas wins in CA event

VIENNA, Austria — Sixth-seeded Guillermo Canas of Argentina beat Austrian wild card Julian Knowle 6-2, 6-4 on Monday to highlight the first day of play in the CA Trophy tournament.

Canas won the Heineken Open in Shanghai eight days ago for his third title this year.

Court back in session

Mannheim's Alki Henry, far right, and Darmstadt's Donnell Warren battle for a rebound during the championship game of a Columbus Day weekend preseason basketball tournament in Darmstadt, Germany, on Monday. Darmstadt defeated Mannheim 79-73. Terrance Smith of Darmstadt was selected most valuable player and was joined by teammates Fred Waddington and Roosevelt Cooper and Mannheim's Eloi Perry and Will Tompkins on the all-tournament team.
In the women's tournament, Mannheim beat Heidelberg 70-57 behind tournament MVP Precious Johnson. She was joined on the all-tournament team by teammates Laura Morant and Cathy Holmes, along with Tiffany Collins and Nina Beaman of Heidelberg.



PHOTOS BY RAYMOND T. CONWAY
Stars and Stripes

Left: Mannheim's Marcus Baker shoots while being guarded by Darmstadt's Jacob Tisdale during Monday's championship game in Darmstadt, Germany.

Less Shaq equals more in debut

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Time for a new nickname for Shaquille O'Neal, perhaps something along the lines of "The Big Lightweight."

A slimmer, swifter O'Neal made his debut in a Miami Heat uniform Sunday night, looking surprisingly nimble and quick for such an early point in the preseason as he got the better of opposing centers Yao Ming and Dikembe Mutombo in an 85-75 loss to the Houston Rockets.

"It felt kind of different, but it's something I'll quickly get adjusted to," O'Neal said. "Change is always good, and it's something I'm used to. If I was born in L.A., raised in L.A. and never left L.A., I would probably be a little sick, but it's just another day at the office for Mr. O'Neal."

That office was far from full, with large swaths of empty seats dotting both end zones of the Toyota Center. Maybe Shaq isn't the draw he was with the Los Angeles Lakers, but the ticket-buying public might start flocking fairly soon once word gets out that O'Neal isn't the man he was a year ago.

He's leaner despite being hungrier.

"He looks real skinny," said Yao Ming, who was outplayed once again by the center who knocked him out of the playoffs last spring. "He's much better. He runs better and he jumps better. He's tougher this year because he's in such great shape right now."

The Heat are listing O'Neal at 325 pounds, about 15 pounds lighter than what he registered on the scales when training camp began. But from the looks of how he ran the court Sunday night, from determinedly rotating on defense to maneuvering in the paint on offense, 325 might actually be accurate.

O'Neal had 17 points and seven rebounds, dominating Yao and Dikembe Mutombo in such a manner to validate the hopes of Miami fans whose excitement level has gone off the charts thanks to the team's huge offseason addition.

"It went cool," O'Neal said. "I was in cruise mode, trying to get used to the system and players. I'm going to slowly pick it up here."

Wearing a new number, 32 instead of 34, and clad in black and red rather than purple and gold, O'Neal gave a hearty handshake to Yao and waved to Yao's parents before the opening tipoff. He then recovered from a shaky start — getting scored on by Yao and losing the ball the first time he touched it on offense — to make three consecutive shots.

One of O'Neal's best moves came in the second quarter when he deftly ducked under Yao's outstretched arm to gently bounce a shot off the backboard. The ball rolled around the rim and off, but O'Neal's timing was perfect as he was right there to tap it back in.

AP

Miami Heat's Shaquille O'Neal adjusts his uniform before the start of a preseason game against the Houston Rockets on Sunday.

O'Neal, who watched the entire fourth quarter from the bench, finished 8-for-14 from the field and 1-for-3 from the line, badly missing a pair of foul shots in the third quarter as the ball came off his hand with a sidespin.

Yao had 10 points and five rebounds for Houston, and Tracy McGrady scored 10 points in 18 minutes in his Rockets debut.

Old-school Cardinals have plenty to teach rest of major leagues

Jim Litke

That was indeed a handshake line you saw moments after the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Dodgers in Los Angeles, three games to one, to settle half the bracket for the National League Championship Series.

Just don't get used to it.

Respect is hard to come by in baseball around playoff time. The last time anybody can remember two teams shaking hands at the end of a playoff series was 1991, after the closest World Series ever, and you definitely won't see the Yankees-Red Sox series end that way in a week or so. Then again, few teams merit respect the way the Cardinals do.

Their opening-day payroll of $75.6 million ranked 11th out of 30 major-league teams, but nobody got more professionalism for the buck. The Cards' lineup is loaded top to bottom with patient, lethal hitters, their pitchers contest every inch of the plate, and they put out a Gold Glover at just about every position. The guy who calls the shots day-to-day, Tony LaRussa, is a lawyer by training, once known as the "Thinking Man's Manager" and "Baseball's Answer Man" because he was using computers long before they fit on a lap. They even celebrate with restraint.

So maybe it wasn't a coincidence that Dodgers manager Jim Tracy described the rare handshake exchange Sunday night as, "a professional show of class between two very classy organizations.

"To play this series the way it was played with the intensity it was played," Tracy added, "it said a lot."

It would have said just as much, however, if the Dodgers carried a white flag out onto the field with them. That's how soundly the Cardinals handled Los Angeles throughout. Their only hiccup came in Game 4, when Los Angeles starter Jose Lima threw a complete-game shutout by nibbling at the corners, and the St. Louis hitters uncharacteristically obliged by biting at too many bad pitches.

On paper, the Yankees and Red Sox both look a little better — and much flashier — but not necessarily smarter.

That trend ended early in the clinching game. Albert Pujols, who had only one RBI in the series up to that point, climbed out of an 0-2 hole against Odalis Perez and drew a walk in the first inning.

Then Scott Rolen, who was hitless in the NLDS, wrangled another walk after Perez just missed with balls three and four.

Their patience wasn't rewarded immediately, but all the walks eventually wore Perez down. Then, in the fourth, Pujols maneuvered reliever Wilson Alvarez into a 3-1 count and smacked the next pitch into the left-field seats for a three-run homer that sealed the Dodgers' fate.

"Albert is a tremendous player, he does amazing things out there," said St. Louis starter and winner Jeff Suppan, who is a pretty good story himself. "With him and everyone else, it's the best team I've been on."

On paper, the Yankees and Red Sox both look a little better — and much flashier — but not necessarily smarter. They spent more at the start of the season — Boston by $50 million and New York by more than $100 million — they keep slush funds for midseason reinforcements and still have enough left over to bury their mistakes. That lavish lifestyle won't fly in St. Louis.

General manager Walt Jocketty makes up some of the deficit simply by being shrewd. In his first season, he fired Joe Torre, who went on to become the best manager in baseball, but replaced him with LaRussa, the only guy who might be his equal. Two years later, he stole Mark McGwire from Oakland for three guys that even the die-hard fans in St. Louis couldn't pick out of a police lineup.

Jocketty needed only one look at Pujols in the Triple-A playoffs in 2000 to know that the youngster who'd spent most of the season playing in Class A was ready for the bigs. In the four years since, Pujols has produced numbers that only Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams bettered at the same stage of their careers. The scary thing is that Pujols had just as much competition from teammates Rolen and Jim Edmonds for MVP honors as he did from the rest of the league.

As a result, St. Louis won a major league-leading 105 games and its first playoff series with very little fuss. It's an old-school team, assembled the old-fashioned way, versatile and intelligent enough to play small ball, long ball or any kind of ball the situation demands. That's what the Dodgers recognized, for at least this one night, by extending their hands in defeat.

With a few sore arms in the rotation and Rolen, among others, dealing with knocks, the Cardinals may not have it as easy against the winner of the Houston-Atlanta draw, and whoever emerges from the AL side of the bracket. But Tracy wouldn't be the least bit surprised if St. Louis did.

"They," he said, with typical understatement, "have a lot of weapons."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@ap.org

Ken Caminiti, 1996 NL MVP, dies at age 41

Gritty third baseman's career tarnished by steroids, drug use

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — On the field, Ken Caminiti's all-out style served him well. Off the field is where it got him in trouble.

The 1996 National League MVP, who later admitted using steroids during his major league career, died Sunday. He was 41.

Caminiti died of a heart attack in the Bronx, his agent-lawyer, Rick Licht, said. The city medical examiner's office said an autopsy would be performed Monday, spokeswoman Ellen Borakove said.

"What we all loved about Cammy was his devotion to the game and his desire for the game. But it went into uncontrollable levels with no discipline," said one of his former coaches, Houston manager Phil Garner.

Caminiti's 15-year big league career ended in 2001, five seasons after he led the San Diego Padres to a division title and was a unanimous pick for MVP. But the three-time All-Star third baseman often was in trouble the last few years.

Just last Tuesday, he admitted in a Houston court that he violated his probation by testing positive for cocaine last month, and was sentenced to 180 days in jail.

State District Judge William Harmon gave Caminiti credit for the 189 days he already served in jail and a treatment facility since he was sentenced to three years probation for a cocaine arrest in March 2001.

"This is the largest mistake I've made in my life," Caminiti said when he pleaded guilty in March 2002. "I had a real good thing going for me and I got sidetracked. It doesn't have to be that way. It doesn't have to be drugs. It doesn't have to be alcohol. That part of my life is over."

In May 2002, Caminiti told Sports Illustrated that he used steroids during his MVP season, when he hit a career-high .326 with 40 home runs and 130 RBIs. He estimated half the players in the big leagues were also using them.

Licht said Caminiti hoped to get back into the game, possibly in a position that would allow him to mentor younger players about avoiding the mistakes he made.

"I'm still in shock," Padres General Manager Kevin Towers said. "He was one of my favorite all-time players."

Caminiti did return to baseball this year, as a spring training instructor with San Diego.

"He didn't look good," Towers said. "The best way to describe him is that he was a warrior in every sense of the word. I can't tell you how many times I remember him hobbling into the manager's office, barely able to walk, and saying, 'Put me in the lineup.' "

Licht said Caminiti was in New York this past weekend to help a friend, but did not go into detail.

"Man, that's just a tough one. I played with him for eight years," Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Steve Finley said Sunday night upon learning of Caminiti's death after St. Louis eliminated Los Angeles from the playoffs.

"He was a great player, but he got mixed up in the wrong things — taking drugs. It's a sad reminder of how bad drugs are and what they can do to your body. It's a loss all of us will feel."

Caminiti batted .272 with 239 homers and 983 RBIs for Houston, San Diego, Texas and Atlanta.

His defining moment during his MVP season came on Aug. 18, 1996, in the oppressive heat of Monterrey, Mexico, as the Padres prepared to face the New York Mets in the finale of the first regular-season series played outside the United States and Canada.

Battling dehydration and an upset stomach, Caminiti took two liters of intravenous fluid, then hit two homers and drove in four runs in an 8-0 victory.

"Becky and I are grief stricken at the premature death of one of the bravest athletes that we have known," Padres owner John Moores said. "We admired Ken tremendously and remained optimistic that he would conquer the personal challenges that he was dealing with."

Ken Caminiti

Caminiti teamed with Tony Gwynn and Greg Vaughn in the middle of the Padres' 1998 lineup, leading them to the World Series, where they were swept by the New York Yankees.

Associated Press sports writers Bernie Wilson and Joel Anderson contributed to this story.

Inevitable matchup just what Yankees, Red Sox wanted

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK

From the instant Aaron Boone's home run cleared the left-field wall last October, the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox have been building to this.

The tug-of-war over Alex Rodriguez, the sniping between owners, the fight on the field fight and the posturing off it. If not inevitable, a rematch seemed fated.

And come Tuesday night, the players, the fans and the sponsors get what they want: New York and Boston, fighting for the AL pennant again.

"Clash of the titans for the pennant," Boone said Sunday. "I think a lot of people wanted to see this. I'm looking forward to following it."

The rivalry brings out the best and worst, on the field and off, leaving baseball's biggest spenders fixated on each other above all else. That's why Pedro Martinez proclaimed after losing to New York last month: "Call the Yankees my daddy. I can't find a way to beat them at this point."

Unless they were in the same ballpark, games were only preludes or postscripts this year. New York's 3-1 victory over the Minnesota Twins in the opening round of the playoffs merely a tease, Boston's three-game sweep of the Anaheim Angels an appetizer before the meat of the main course.

In the long run, Derek Jeter's flying dive into the stands to grab Trot Nixon's popup on July 1 and Nomar Garciaparra's no-show that night will be remembered far longer than either first-round series.

"Idiots worldwide are thrilled. They've never had such great p.r.," Boston General Manager Theo Epstein said, playing off his players' nickname for themselves. "Now that it's here, we can admit that if we're able to win a World Series and go through New York along the way, it will mean that much more."

Last fall's seven-game classic reached its fiercest point in Game 3, when Martinez shoved Yankees coach Don Zimmer to the ground and New York relievers brawled in the bullpen with a groundskeeper.

Then came Boone's 11th-inning, Game 7 homer off Tim Wakefield, a drive replayed in New York more often than any sitcom. Boston, which watched Martinez waste a 4-0 lead in the fourth inning of the final game and a 5-2 advantage in the eighth, fired manager Grady Little and replaced him with Terry Francona.

Red Sox fans could only take solace that the Yankees were so spent they lost 4-2 to Florida in the World Series.

Even this year, the Yankees got so juiced up during a three-game sweep of Boston at midseason that they staggered into Shea Stadium and lost three straight to the crosstown Mets.

Since last fall, Boston added pitchers Curt Schilling and Keith Foulke, then jettisoned Garciaparra at the trade deadline. New York brought in A-Rod, Gary Sheffield and Kevin Brown, among others.

Rodriguez has been at the center. The first spring training meeting of the teams after the AL MVP was traded from Texas to New York was hyped to an absurd level. There were commemorative pins and "Evil Empire" T-shirts being sold that afternoon at City of Palms Park.

When A-Rod went 1-for-17 in a four-game series at Fenway Park, New York fans questioned his fortitude. The Red Sox started 6-1 against the Yankees for the first time since 1913.

But that was April. In Boston and New York, the important number is 1918 — the last year the Red Sox won the World Series. Boston sold Babe Ruth to the Yankees a year later, and since then New York has 26 World Series titles to zero for Boston.

In July, with the Yankees en route to their seventh straight AL East title, Rodriguez was in the middle of the latest New York-Boston brawl, sparked when A-Rod was hit by Bronson Arroyo's pitch and then cursed at Boston catcher Jason Varitek, who responded by shoving him in the face.

"It just shows you how much both teams were hyped up," Rodriguez said. "You can't really control your emotions."

When A-Rod was dealt to New York in February, Boston owner John Henry said the trade showed baseball needed a salary cap. Yankees owner George Steinbrenner called it "sour grapes" and said Henry resembled the Scarecrow in "The Wizard of Oz." Then, Steinbrenner disparaged Red Sox President Larry Lucchino in Sports Illustrated, saying: "I have nothing against him except I wouldn't want him in my foxhole. … He's not my kind of guy. Not a good man."

No wonder the players get so fired up.

Last year, New York took 10 of 19 regular-season games, then won the series for the pennant. Boston went 11-8 against the Yankees this season by pounding New York's struggling starting pitching, leaving the Red Sox ahead 23-22 the last two years.

"It's one of the most intense series that you could ever put your finger on. I know I'll be keeping an eye on it," said Jeff Weaver, who played for the Yankees last year and is now with the Los Angeles Dodgers. "I'm sure there will be some instant classics on ESPN shortly."

Boone, whose offseason knee injury prompted the Yankees to acquire Rodriguez, will watch the series from afar. Having been in the center of the rivalry, his allegiance is clear.

"I've got to go with the Yankees," he said. "I'm sure it will be back and forth. It should be great."

The rivalry brings out the best and worst, on the field and off, leaving baseball's biggest spenders fixated on each other above all else.

ALCS: Who's hot, who's not

The N.Y. Yankees' most productive and least productive hitters in their 3-1 series victory over the Minnesota Twins:

Hot

	Avg.	HR	RBI	OBP
3B Alex Rodriguez	.421	1	3	.476
LF Hideki Matsui	.412	1	3	.476
SS Derek Jeter	.316	1	4	.350

Not

	Avg.	HR	RBI	OBP
2B Miguel Cairo	.214	0	1	.313
C Jorge Posada	.222	0	0	.222
DH Ruben Sierra	.167	1	3	.286

The Boston Red Sox's most productive and least productive hitters in their 3-0 series victory over the Anaheim Angels:

Hot

	Avg.	HR	RBI	OBP
DH David Ortiz	.545	1	4	.688
CF Johnny Damon	.467	0	0	.500
LF Manny Ramirez	.375	1	7	.385

Not

	Avg.	HR	RBI	OBP
C Jason Varitek	.167	1	2	.333
SS Orlando Cabrera	.154	0	3	.267
2B Mark Bellhorn	.091	0	0	.375

ALCS Game 1: Boston (Schilling 21-6) at New York (Mussina 12-9)
2 a.m. Wednesday (CET), AFN-Sports

Cardinals: L.A exits with 'nice touch' of class

CARDINALS, FROM BACK PAGE

It did happen after Minnesota's 1-0, 10-inning win over Atlanta in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series — one of the most exciting postseason matchups in baseball history.

"I think it was a professional show of class between two very classy organizations," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said. "To play this series the way it was played with the intensity it was played, it said a lot."

The Cardinals, a major league-best 105-57 during the regular season, are trying to become the first team with the top regular-season record to win the World Series since the 1998 New York Yankees.

"They're probably going to win the World Series," Dodgers closer Eric Gagne said. "We got beat by the world champions."

Pujols had two hits, a walk and four RBIs. He went 5-for-15 with two homers in the series.

"Albert is a tremendous player, he does amazing things out there," Suppan said. "With him and everyone else, it's the best team I've been on."

The teams were tied 2-2 entering the fourth. Pujols came to the plate with runners at first and second and two outs against reliever Wilson Alvarez.

With the struggling Scott Rolen on deck, Alvarez grooved a 3-1 fastball. Pujols connected, and as his towering fly ball sailed just over left fielder Jayson Werth into the lower left-field stands, the raucous crowd of 56,268 — largest in Dodger Stadium history — went silent.

Rolen, 0-for-12 in the series, grounded out following Pujols' homer.

The Dodgers had only two baserunners after that — Cesar Izturis hit a one-out infield single off Julian Tavarez in the eighth and Milton Bradley walked against Isringhausen with two outs in the ninth.

"It's very difficult to win a baseball game with two runs and three hits," Tracy said. "It's hard to do, especially when you're playing a team like that."

The Cardinals, who led the NL with a .278 team batting average and 855 runs, outscored the Dodgers 22-12 in the series.

Tracy said he spoke with Cardinals manager Tony La Russa before the series concerning the postgame activities.

"Jim Tracy's a first-class guy," Rolen said. "I have never seen that before, but it was a nice touch."

Suppan, who went 10-1 with a 3.55 ERA in 14 road starts this season, allowed two hits and retired the final 14 batters he faced.

He also singled twice in three at-bats — a major surprise after he went 4-for-57 during the season.

"I was taking it pitch by pitch and just kept it very simple," Suppan said. "I did the things I had done during the season, and the offense and defense we have here just made it a lot easier."

Werth, the second batter Suppan faced, homered to give Los Angeles a 1-0 lead. The Cardinals tied it in the second off Odalis Perez on a homer by Reggie Sanders one pitch after Jim Edmonds was thrown out stealing.

St. Louis got another run in the third, when Perez was chased after two walks and a one-out, RBI single by Edgar Renteria.

Alvarez relieved and struck out Edmonds and Sanders.

Perez gave up three hits and five walks in $2^{1}/_{3}$ innings, but only two runs as the Cardinals stranded five and had a runner thrown out at second. He was unhappy about being lifted.

"It took away a lot of my confidence," Perez said. "I don't agree with it. But I don't control those calls."

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No Credit, OK
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Baseball scoreboard

Playoffs

DIVISION SERIES
National League
St. Louis vs. Los Angeles
Tuesday, Oct. 5
St. Louis 8, Los Angeles 3
Thursday, Oct. 7
St. Louis 8, Los Angeles 5
Saturday, Oct. 9
Los Angeles 4, St. Louis 0
Sunday, Oct. 10
St. Louis 6, Los Angeles 2, St. Louis wins series 3-1

Atlanta vs. Houston
Wednesday, Oct. 6
Houston 9, Atlanta 3
Thursday, Oct. 7
Atlanta 4, Houston 2, 11 innings
Saturday, Oct. 9
Houston 8, Atlanta 5
Sunday, Oct. 10
Atlanta 6, Houston 5, series tied 2-2
Monday, Oct. 11
Houston (Oswalt 20-10) at Atlanta (Wright 15-8)

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
American League
Tuesday, Oct. 12
Boston (Schilling 21-8) at New York (Mussina 12-9)
Wednesday, Oct. 13
Boston (Martinez 16-9) at New York (Lieber 14-8)
Friday, Oct. 15
New York at Boston (Arroyo 10-9)
Saturday, Oct. 16
New York at Boston (Wakefield 12-10)
Sunday, Oct. 17
New York at Boston, if necessary
Tuesday, Oct. 19
Boston at New York, if necessary
Wednesday, Oct. 20
Boston at New York, if necessary

National League
Wednesday, Oct. 13
Atlanta-Houston winner at St. Louis
Thursday, Oct. 14
Atlanta-Houston winner at St. Louis
Saturday, Oct. 16
St. Louis at Atlanta-Houston winner
Sunday, Oct. 17
St. Louis at Atlanta-Houston winner
Monday, Oct. 18
St. Louis at Atlanta-Houston winner, if necessary
Wednesday, Oct. 20
Atlanta-Houston winner at St. Louis, if necessary
Thursday, Oct. 21
Atlanta-Houston winner at St. Louis, if necessary

Sunday
Cardinals 6, Dodgers 2

ST. LOUIS	ab	r	h	bi	LOS ANGELES	ab	r	h	bi
Wmack 2b	5	1	0	0	Izturis ss	4	0	1	0
LWalkr rf	3	3	2	0	Werth rf	3	2	1	1
Pujols 1b	4	2	2	4	Finley rf	4	0	1	0
Rolen 3b	3	0	0	0	Beltre 3b	3	0	1	1
Renteria ss	3	0	1	1	JGrnr 1b	4	0	0	0
Edmnd cf	3	0	0	0	Brdley rf	2	0	0	0
Sndrs lf	4	1	1	0	Cstlle 2b	4	0	0	0
Tquchi lf	0	0	0	0	Mayne c	1	0	0	0
Mthny c	4	0	0	0	Repko cf	0	0	0	0
Suppan p	3	0	2	0	Vnafro p	0	0	0	0
Mabry ph	1	0	0	0	Carrar p	0	0	0	0
Tvarez p	0	0	0	0	Grbwsk ph	1	0	0	0
Kinp p	0	0	0	0	Gagne p	0	0	0	0
Isrnghs p	0	0	0	0	OPérez p	1	0	0	0
					WAlvrz p	0	0	0	0
					Rosis c	1	0	0	0
					Vntura ph	1	0	0	0
					TWlsn c	0	0	0	0
Totals	**32**	**6**	**8**	**6**	**Totals**	**29**	**2**	**3**	**2**

St. Louis 011 300 100—6
Los Angeles 101 000 000—2

E—Ross (1). DP—Los Angeles 2. LOB—St. Louis 7, Los Angeles 5. HR—Pujols (2), RSanders (1), Werth (2). SB—LWalker (1), Bradley (2). CS—Edmonds (1), SF—Beltre.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
St. Louis						
Suppan W,1-0	7	2	2	2	3	2
Tavarez	$^{2}/_{3}$	1	0	0	0	1
King	$^{1}/_{3}$	0	0	0	0	0
Isringhausen	1	0	0	0	1	2
Los Angeles						
OPérez	$2^{1}/_{3}$	3	2	2	5	0
WAlvarez L,0-1	$2^{1}/_{3}$	3	3	3	0	2
Brazoban	2	2	1	1	0	2
Venafro	$^{1}/_{3}$	0	0	0	0	1
Carrara	$^{2}/_{3}$	0	0	0	0	0
Gagne	1	0	0	0	0	1

Brazoban pitched to 4 batters in the 7th.
HBP—by Brazoban (Renteria). PB—Ross.
T—3:21. A—56,268 (56,000).

Braves 6, Astros 5

ATLANTA	ab	r	h	bi	HOUSTON	ab	r	h	bi
Furcal ss	4	1	1	0	Biggio lf	4	1	3	3
JDrew rf	4	0	1	1	Gallo p	0	0	0	0
MGiles 2b	5	0	0	0	DMiceli p	0	0	0	0
CJones 3b	4	2	2	0	Lidge p	0	0	0	0
JEstda c	3	1	1	0	OPimro ph	1	0	0	0
NGreen pr	0	0	0	0	Sprger p	0	0	0	0
Smoltz p	0	0	0	0	CBeltrn cf	4	1	1	0
AJones cf	4	1	3	1	Bgwell 1b	4	0	2	1
Lroche 1b	3	1	1	3	AEvrtt pr	0	0	0	0
Mrrero lf	3	0	1	0	Brkmn rf	5	0	2	0
Alfnsca p	0	0	0	0	JKent 2b	5	1	1	0
Hmptn p	0	0	0	0	Ensbrg 3b	4	0	1	0
EddPrz c	1	0	0	0	JVzcnó ss	4	1	1	0
RuOrtiz p	1	0	0	0	Asmus c	2	1	1	0
DWise ph	0	0	0	0	Clemns p	1	0	0	1
Grybsk p	0	0	0	0	Qualls p	0	0	0	0
Tmas lf	2	0	0	0	Lamb ph	1	0	0	1
					Lane rf	1	0	1	0
Totals	**35**	**6**	**10**	**5**	**Totals**	**36**	**5**	**13**	**5**

Atlanta 020 003 001—6
Houston 050 000 000—5

DP—Atlanta 3, Houston 2. LOB—Atlanta 6, Houston 9. 2B—Furcal (1), Biggio (1). 3B—Beltran (2). HR—Laroche (1), Biggio (1). SB—Furcal 2 (3), JDrew (1), AJones (1). SF—Clemens.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Atlanta						
RuOrtiz	3	7	5	5	1	1
Gryboski	2	1	0	0	1	0
Alfonseca	1	1	0	0	1	0
Hampton	1	0	0	0	0	1
Smoltz W,1-0	2	4	0	0	0	1
Houston						
Clemens	5	6	2	2	2	5
Qualls	1	3	3	3	0	1
Gallo	$^{1}/_{3}$	0	0	0	0	0
DMiceli	$^{2}/_{3}$	0	0	0	1	0
Lidge	$^{2}/_{3}$	0	0	0	0	1
Springer L,0-1	1	1	1	1	0	3

HBP—by Springer (Furcal). WP—Clemens.
T—3:24. A—43,336 (40,950).

AP

The Braves' Marcus Giles, right, greets Rafael Furcal after Furcal scored the winning run on J.D. Drew's single in the ninth inning.

Rocket's exit fuels Braves' late charge

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Nothing could discourage the Atlanta Braves — not Roger Clemens, not a three-run deficit, not the frenzied crowd at Minute Maid Park.

The Braves pounced on Houston's bullpen as soon as the Rocket was gone, rallying for a 6-5 victory Sunday that tied the best-of-five NL series at two games apiece.

Adam LaRoche hit a tying, three-run homer in the sixth inning, and J.D. Drew singled home the go-ahead run in the ninth, handing the Astros their latest agonizing loss in October and forcing the series back to Atlanta. It will conclude Monday night at Turner Field.

"The odds were stacked against us on the road, in a dome and in a hostile environment," Braves third baseman Chipper Jones said. "But we never felt like we were ever out of the game."

After two easy wins by Houston and two late-inning comebacks by Atlanta, only one game is left to determine who will advance.

The winner moves on to the NLCS beginning Wednesday at St. Louis. The Cardinals, a major league-best 105-57 during the regular season, beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 6-2 Sunday night to win their first-round series in four games.

Jaret Wright, the Game 1 loser, starts for the Braves against Roy Oswalt, the NL's only 20-game winner. Oswalt didn't get a decision in Game 2 and will pitch on three days' rest.

"It's never easy for this team. So here we go," Clemens said.

Working on short rest himself, Clemens left after five innings with a 5-2 lead, but the Braves rallied to snap Houston's 19-game home winning streak. It was another tough postseason loss for the Astros, still looking to win a playoff series for the first time in their 43-season history.

Houston tried to mount its own comeback in the bottom of the ninth, when Jeff Bagwell and Lance Berkman singled off John Smoltz with one out to put runners at the corners. Smoltz then got his record 14th postseason win when Jeff Kent grounded into a game-ending double play.

"We get to go back home, and the plane ride's a lot easier," Smoltz said. "We worked very hard to get home field advantage, and we need to take care of it."

On the verge of its third consecutive first-round loss, Atlanta made its move right after Chad Qualls replaced Clemens. Chipper Jones singled, Andruw Jones doubled with one out and LaRoche homered into the Astros' bullpen in right.

"It was a little momentum swing, I think, for the guys that were down, thinking this might be our last game," said the 24-year-old rookie, who hit his first postseason homer. "That turned the emotions around and kind of gave guys a boost, I think."

The winning rally began when Russ Springer, who relieved Brad Lidge to start the ninth, hit Rafael Furcal with a pitch with two outs and Furcal stole second.

Drew, hitless in three previous at-bats Sunday and 2-for-15 in the series to that point, singled to right-center, with Furcal scoring easily.

"It feels pretty dad-gum good," Drew said. "Hopefully it gets me going."

Throwing on three days' rest for the first time since April 11, 2002, Clemens clearly wasn't his usual self.

He gave up three straight singles to begin the second, with Andruw Jones driving in Chipper Jones. LaRoche followed by grounding into a double play that scored Johnny Estrada to give Atlanta a 2-0 lead.

But it was Clemens who sparked Houston's five-run rally in the bottom half of the inning with his first postseason RBI, a sacrifice fly that scored Kent.

Craig Biggio followed with a three-run homer that sailed over the left-field fence. Carlos Beltran doubled on the next at-bat and Jeff Bagwell singled him in to give the Astros a 5-2 lead.

It wasn't enough. Houston fell apart when Clemens left, and the sellout crowd of 43,335 got eerily quiet.

"I don't know what else to tell you except I went up there and gave it everything I had," Clemens said.

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	4	0	0	1.000	105	63
N.Y. Jets	4	0	0	1.000	98	75
Buffalo	0	4	0	.000	51	73
Miami	0	5	0	.000	42	87
South						
Indianapolis	4	1	0	.800	159	106
Jacksonville	3	2	0	.600	73	86
Houston	2	3	0	.400	118	127
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	63	91
North						
Pittsburgh	4	1	0	.800	112	94
Baltimore	3	2	0	.600	97	79
Cleveland	2	3	0	.400	82	96
Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250	66	95
West						
Denver	4	1	0	.800	99	74
San Diego	3	2	0	.600	140	115
Oakland	2	3	0	.400	95	119
Kansas City	1	3	0	.250	89	110

National Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	4	0	0	1.000	107	55
N.Y. Giants	4	1	0	.800	104	72
Dallas	2	2	0	.500	67	81
Washington	1	4	0	.200	71	85
South						
Atlanta	4	1	0	.800	98	66
New Orleans	2	3	0	.400	92	127
Carolina	1	3	0	.250	69	88
Tampa Bay	1	4	0	.200	69	89
North						
Detroit	3	1	0	.750	78	72
Minnesota	3	1	0	.750	112	94
Chicago	1	3	0	.250	68	92
Green Bay	1	3	0	.250	72	94
West						
Seattle	3	1	0	.750	92	46
St. Louis	3	2	0	.600	116	113
Arizona	1	4	0	.200	87	87
San Francisco	1	4	0	.200	91	137

Sunday's games

Detroit 17, Atlanta 3
N.Y. Giants 26, Dallas 10
Indianapolis 35, Oakland 14
Minnesota 34, Houston 28, OT
New England 24, Miami 10
Pittsburgh 34, Cleveland 23
Tampa Bay 20, New Orleans 17
N.Y. Jets 16, Buffalo 14
San Diego 34, Jacksonville 21
St. Louis 33, Seattle 27, OT
San Francisco 31, Arizona 28, OT
Denver 20, Carolina 17
Baltimore 17, Washington 10
Open: Cincinnati, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Chicago

Monday's game

Tennessee at Green Bay

Sunday, Oct. 17

Green Bay at Detroit
Miami at Buffalo
Houston at Tennessee
San Diego at Atlanta
Washington at Chicago
San Francisco at N.Y. Jets
Seattle at New England
Kansas City at Jacksonville
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Carolina at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Dallas
Denver at Oakland
Minnesota at New Orleans
Open: Indianapolis, Arizona, N.Y. Giants, Baltimore

Monday, Oct. 18

Tampa Bay at St. Louis

Sunday

Vikings 34, Texans 28 (OT)

Minnesota	0	14	7	6—34
Houston	0	0	7	21—28

Second Quarter

Min—Moss 1 pass from Culpepper (Anderson kick), 14:1.

Min—Robinson 5 pass from Culpepper (Anderson kick), :36.

Third Quarter

Min—Robinson 10 pass from Culpepper (Anderson kick), 10:56.

Hou—A.Johnson 2 pass from Carr (K.Brown kick), 6:52.

Fourth Quarter

Hou—D.Davis 1 run (K.Brown kick), 11:31.

Min—Moss 50 pass from Culpepper (Anderson kick), 6:49.

Hou—Armstrong 11 pass from Carr (K.Brown kick), 3:11.

Hou—A.Johnson 22 pass from Carr (K.Brown kick), 1:53.

Overtime

Min—Robinson 50 pass from Culpepper, 7:05.

A—70,718.

	Min	Hou
First downs	27	19
Total Net Yards	510	410
Rushes-yards	26-122	17-52
Passing	388	358
Punt Returns	2-17	4-46
Kickoff Returns	5-95	5-123
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	36-50-0	27-43-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-8	4-14
Punts	8-40.6	7-46.7
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	10-75	11-88
Time of Possession	38:27	26:28

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Minnesota, Moore 20-92, Culpepper 6-30. **Houston**, D.Davis 14-31, Carr 3-21.

Passing — Minnesota, Culpepper 36-50-0-396. **Houston**, Carr 27-43-0-372.

Receiving — Minnesota, Moore 12-90, Robinson 9-150, Moss 5-90, Owens 3-17, Burleson 3-16, Campbell 2-21, Ned 1-9, Howry 1-3. **Houston**, Art.Johnson 12-170, Armstrong 6-101, D.Davis 4-31, Gaffney 2-30, Bradford 2-13, Brunner 1-27.

Missed field goals — None.

Lions 17, Falcons 10

Detroit	0	14	3	0—17
Atlanta	0	7	0	3—10

Second Quarter

Atl—Dunn 2 run (Feely kick), 6:26.

Det—Hakim 39 pass from Harrington (Hanson kick), 3:20.

Det—Pinner 1 run (Hanson kick), 1:57.

Third Quarter

Det—FG Hanson 23, :23.

Fourth Quarter

Atl—FG Feely 27, 11:23.

A—70,434.

	Det	Atl
First downs	15	17
Total Net Yards	227	279
Rushes-yards	33-101	27-94
Passing	126	185
Punt Returns	2-2	4-66
Kickoff Returns	2-34	3-55
Interceptions Ret.	1-33	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	16-24-0	20-31-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-20	6-35
Punts	7-44.0	5-45.4
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	4-3
Penalties-Yards	12-80	8-74
Time of Possession	32:55	27:05

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Detroit, Pinner 23-68, Bryson 5-31, Harrington 5-2. **Atlanta**, Dunn 18-44, Vick 5-29, Griffith 3-21, Rossum 1-0.

Passing — Detroit, Harrington 16-24-0-146. **Atlanta**, Vick 18-29-1-196, Mohr 2-2-0-24.

Receiving — Detroit, Hakim 3-64, Williams 3-18, Bryson 3-13, Alexander 2-15, Streets 2-7, Pinner 1-11, Trejo 1-11, Erskine 1-7. **Atlanta**, Price 5-84, Dunn 5-31, Finneran 3-45, White 3-26, Crumpler 2-24, Blakley 1-13, Griffith 1-(minus 1), Feely 1-(minus 2).

Missed field goal — Detroit, Hanson 48 (WR).

Giants 26, Cowboys 10

N.Y. Giants	3	3	7	13—26
Dallas	0	10	0	0—10

First Quarter

NYG—FG Christie 31, 5:02.

Second Quarter

Dal—K.Johnson 7 pass from Testaverde (Cundiff kick), 9:24.

Dal—FG Cundiff 41, 1:56.

NYG—FG Christie 51, :02.

Third Quarter

NYG—Shockey 1 pass from Warner (Christie kick), 6:58.

Fourth Quarter

NYG—FG Christie 47, 12:02.

NYG—FG Christie 26, 6:16.

NYG—Barber 3 run (Christie kick), 2:14.

A—64,018.

	NY	Dal
First downs	19	16
Total Net Yards	338	287
Rushes-yards	26-125	30-166
Passing	211	112
Punt Returns	2-4	2-17
Kickoff Returns	3-68	7-144
Interceptions Ret.	1-9	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	18-33-0	15-25-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-6	2-14
Punts	3-42.7	3-37.3
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	9-80	11-74
Time of Possession	32:12	27:48

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — New York, Barber 23-122, Cloud 2-4, Warner 1-(minus 1). **Dallas**, George 15-75, Anderson 9-66, Lee 4-24, Barber 2-7.

Passing — New York, Warner 18-33-0-217. **Dallas**, Testaverde 15-24-1-126, K.Johnson 0-1-0-0.

Receiving — New York, Toomer 6-66, Barber 5-76, Shockey 5-44, Hilliard 1-21, Ballard 1-10. Witten 5-35, K.Johnson 4-43, Glenn 2-24, Anderson 2-9, Bryant 1-15, Barnes 1-0.

Missed field goal — Dallas, Cundiff 52 (SH).

Colts 35, Raiders 14

Oakland	0	7	0	7—14
Indianapolis	7	14	0	14—35

First Quarter

Ind—Mungro 1 pass from Manning (Bryant kick), 8:57.

Second Quarter

Ind—Wayne 35 pass from Manning (Bryant kick), 13:24.

Oak—Fargas 1 run (Janikowski kick), 8:56.

Ind—Clark 4 pass from Manning (Bryant kick), 2:30.

Fourth Quarter

Ind—James 1 run (Bryant kick), 13:29.

Oak—Anderson 21 pass from Collins (Janikowski kick), 6:14.

Ind—David 34 interception return (Bryant kick), 1:48.

A—57,230.

	Oak	Ind
First downs	18	25
Total Net Yards	269	338
Rushes-yards	13-53	40-150
Passing	216	188
Punt Returns	2-13	2-21
Kickoff Returns	6-120	2-56
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	1-34
Comp-Att-Int	28-44-1	16-26-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-29	1-10
Punts	4-55.8	3-52.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	9-59	2-20
Time of Possession	24:59	35:01

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Oakland, Zereoue 10-41, K.Collins 1-6, Redmond 1-5, Fargas 1-1. **Indianapolis**, James 32-136, Rhodes 6-14, Manning 2-0.

Passing — Oakland, K.Collins 28-44-3-245. **Indianapolis**, Manning 16-26-1-198.

Receiving — Oakland, Curry 10-72, Zereoue 7-53, Porter 4-35, C.Anderson 3-38, Redmond 2-11, Gabriel 1-24, Jolley 1-12. **Indianapolis**, Wayne 5-69, Harrison 3-44, Stokley 3-41, James 2-19, Rhodes 1-20, Clark 1-4, Mungro 1-1.

Missed field goal — Indianapolis, Bryant 44 (WL).

Patriots 24, Dolphins 10

Miami	0	7	3	0—10
New England	7	10	7	0—24

First Quarter

NE—Graham 1 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), 6:31.

Second Quarter

NE—FG Vinatieri 40, 13:33.

Mia—Chambers 10 pass from Fiedler (Welker kick), 5:16.

NE—Givens 5 pass from Brady (Vinatieri kick), :36.

Third Quarter

NE—Abdullah 1 run (Vinatieri kick), 8:26.

Mia—FG Welker 29, 1:58.

A—68,756.

	Mia	NE
First downs	18	14
Total Net Yards	295	204
Rushes-yards	26-67	38-135
Passing	228	69
Punt Returns	5-41	2-13
Kickoff Returns	5-101	2-40
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	1-10
Comp-Att-Int	21-43-1	7-19-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-29	1-7
Punts	3-40.0	5-43.2
Fumbles-Lost	3-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	12-86	7-55
Time of Possession	31:02	28:58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Miami, Forsyt 1-5, Henry 5-10, Morris 3-7, Fiedler 3-6, Turk 1-3, Chambers 1-(minus 3). **New England**, Dillon 18-94, Faulk 15-27, Redman 5-4, Faulk 1-2, Brady 4-(minus 1).

Passing — Miami, Fiedler 20-41-1-251, Feeley 1-2-0-6. **New England**, Brady 7-19-1-76.

Receiving — Miami, Bowden 7-123, Chambers 6-37, McMichael 4-62, Thompson 2-23, Gilmore 1-11, Konrad 1-1. **New England**, Givens 4-35, Graham 1-26, Faulk 1-14, Graham 1-1.

Missed field goals — New England, Vinatieri 47 (WR).

Steelers 34, Browns 23

Cleveland	10	3	7	23
Pittsburgh	14	13	7	0—34

First Quarter

Pit—Staley 25 run (Reed kick), 13:40.

Cle—Crocker 20 interception return (Dawson kick), 11:30.

Pit—Roethlisberger 6 run (Reed kick), 7:39.

Cle—FG Dawson 24, 3:49.

Second Quarter

Pit—FG Reed 47, 13:30.

Pit—Burress 37 pass from Roethlisberger (Reed kick), 7:39.

Cle—FG Dawson 34, 2:39.

Pit—FG Reed 26, :00.

Third Quarter

Pit—Bettis 3 run (Reed kick), 8:26.

Cle—FG Dawson 46, 4:42.

Fourth Quarter

Cle—Andre' Davis 7 pass from Garcia (Dawson kick), 7:21.

A—63,609.

	Cle	Pit
First downs	17	21
Total Net Yards	296	401
Rushes-yards	20-98	43-170
Passing	198	231
Punt Returns	2-12	4-12
Kickoff Returns	6-91	6-135
Interceptions Ret.	1-20	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	16-34-0	16-21-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-12	0-0
Punts	4-45.0	4-44.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards	8-54	6-63
Time of Possession	24:17	35:43

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Cleveland, Garcia 5-41, Suggs 11-30, Green 3-27, Northcutt 1-0. **Pittsburgh**, Staley 21-137, Bettis 13-29, Roethlisberger 6-13, Haynes 2-6.

Passing — Cleveland, Garcia 16-34-0-210. **Pittsburgh**, Roethlisberger 16-21-1-231.

Receiving — Cleveland, Andre' Davis 5-101, Northcutt 4-33, Suggs 2-20, Shea 1-26, Aldridge 1-15, Green 1-3, T.Smith 1-3. **Pittsburgh**, Burress 6-136, Ward 6-61, Randle El 2-25, Mays 1-6, Haynes 1-(minus 1).

Missed field goals — None.

Buccaneers 20, Saints 17

Tampa Bay	3	10	7	0—20
New Orleans	0	7	7	3—17

First Quarter

TB—FG Gramatica 22, 7:05.

Second Quarter

NO—Williams, 17 pass from A.Brooks (Carney kick), 7:18.

TB—FG Gramatica 53, 5:08.

TB—Barber, 18 fumble return (Gramatica kick), 6:50.

Third Quarter

TB—Dilger, 45 pass from Griese (Gramatica kick), 11:56.

NO—Horn, 3 pass from A.Brooks (Carney kick), 2:46.

Fourth Quarter

NO—FG Carney 47, 3:43.

A—64,269.

	TB	NO
First downs	16	16
Total Net Yards	319	251
Rushes-yards	26-81	29-145
Passing	238	106
Punt Returns	1-5	3-25
Kickoff Returns	4-100	5-57
Interceptions Ret.	1-10	0-00
Comp-Att-Int	21-27-0	11-22-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-24	0-00
Punts	3-46.3	5-44.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-1
Penalties-Yards	11-65	8-60
Time of Possession	32:13	27:47

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Tampa Bay, Pittman 15-51, Clayton 2-24, Alstott 4-8, Griese 5-(minus 2). **New Orleans**, McAllister 21-102, Stecker 4-27, A.Brooks 3-15, Karney 1-1.

Passing — Tampa Bay, Griese 16-19-0-194, Simms 5-8-0-68. New Orleans, A.Brooks 11-23-1-106.

Receiving — Tampa Bay, Pittman 5-29, Clayton 4-61, Lee 4-76, Dilger 3-60, Alstott 2-7, T.Brown 1-6, Comella 1-12, Heller 1-11. **New Orleans,** Horn 4-40, Stecker 4-15, B.Williams 2-24, Stallworth 1-27.

Missed field goal — Tampa Bay, Gramatica 41 (WL).

Jets 16, Bills 14

Buffalo	0	0	0	14—14
N.Y. Jets	0	10	3	3—16

First Quarter

Second Quarter

NY—Baker 1 pass from Pennington (Brien kick), 7:55.

NY—FG Brien 37, :00.

Third Quarter

NY—FG Brien 36, 5:23.

Fourth Quarter

Buf—Campbell, 16 pass from Bledsoe (Lindell kick), 8:57.

Buf—Evans, 46 pass from Bledsoe (Lindell kick), 5:58.

NY—FG Brien 38, :58.

A—77,976.

	Buf	NY
First downs	14	24
Total Net Yards	252	383
Rushes-yards	22-80	23-88
Passing	172	298
Punt Returns	1-6	3-40
Kickoff Returns	3-69	2-43
Interceptions Ret.	0-00	0-00
Comp-Att-Int	16-29-1	31-42-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-25	2-6
Punts	7-36.6	3-30.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	7-83	8-45
Time of Possession	26:21	33:39

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Buffalo, McGahee 8-42, Henry 12-33, Bledsoe 1-5, Tucker 1-0. **New York**, Martin 22-77, Moss 1-8.

Passing — Buffalo, Bledsoe 16-29-1-197. **New York**, Pennington 31-42-1-304.

Receiving — Buffalo, Moulds 6-54, Shaw 3-27, Schaffer 2-22, Euhus 2-20, Evans 1-46, Campbell 1-16, McGahee 1-2. **New York**, Chrebet 6-90, Sowell 7-31, Martin 6-23, Baker 3-33, Moss 2-62, McCardell 2-32, Bech 2-20, Carter 1-13.

Missed field goal — New York, Brien 29 (WL).

Chargers 34, Jaguars 21

Jacksonville	0	7	0	14—21
San Diego	14	7	6	7—34

First Quarter

SD—Gates 1 pass from Brees (Kaeding kick), 10:14.

SD—Tomlinson 1 run (Kaeding kick), 4:03.

Second Quarter

SD—Gates 11 pass from Brees (Kaeding kick), 9:23.

Jac—Fatmalu-Ma'afala 1 run (Scobee kick), 1:33.

Third Quarter

SD—FG Kaeding 21, 7:15.

SD—FG Kaeding 28, :46.

Fourth Quarter

Jac—Leftwich 2 run (Scobee kick), 10:42.

SD—Chamberlain 41 run (Kaeding kick), 9:54.

Jac—Hankton 7 pass from Leftwich (Scobee kick), 7:21.

A—52,101.

	Jac	SD
First downs	28	18
Total Net Yards	429	386
Rushes-yards	18-80	35-176
Passing	349	210
Punt Returns	1-1	0-0
Kickoff Returns	7-122	4-93
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	36-54-2	17-26-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-8	1-1
Punts	3-38.7	4-41.5
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-33	4-44
Time of Possession	30:02	29:58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Jacksonville, Taylor 11-64, Leftwich 3-10, Fuamatu-Ma'afala 4-6. **San Diego**, Chamberlain 21-103, Tomlinson 19-56, Caldwell 2-13, Neal 1-3, Breed 2-1.

Passing — Jacksonville, Leftwich 36-54-2-357. **San Diego**, Brees 17-26-0-211.

Receiving — Jacksonville, J.Smith 8-113, Hankton 6-64, Edwards 4-46, R.Williams 4-34, Toefield 3-22, Yoder 3-21, Fuamatu-Ma'afala 3-20, Wolford 2-40, B.Jones 1-10, Hankton 1-7, G.Jones 1-1. **San Diego**, Gates 8-93, Tomlinson 4-78, Caldwell 3-20, Chatman 1-17, Neal 1-3.

Missed field goals — None.

Broncos 20, Panthers 17

Carolina	0	10	7	0—17
Denver	6	7	0	7—20

First Quarter

Den—FG Elam 32, 10:43.

Den—FG Elam 33, 5:05.

Second Quarter

Car—Colbert 26 pass from Delhomme (Kasay kick), 5:26.

Car—FG Kasay 53, 2:17.

Den—Droughns 5 pass from Plummer (Elam kick), :52.

Third Quarter

Car—Delhomme 1 run (Kasay kick), 5:03.

Fourth Quarter

Den—Leitie 39 pass from Plummer (Elam kick), 9:54.

A—75,072.

	Car	Den
First downs	12	23
Total Net Yards	227	434
Rushes-yards	26-64	37-210
Passing	173	226
Punt Returns	3-30	2-10
Kickoff Returns	1-16	2-21
Interceptions Ret.	2-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	13-20-0	17-29-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-10	1-7
Punts	5-48.2	3-51.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	9-88	4-37
Time of Possession	26:51	33:09

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Carolina, Goings 12-22, Hoover 5-21, Foster 5-18, Delhomme 4-3. **Denver**, Droughns 30-193, Plummer 4-8, Bell 2-9, Watts 1-4.

Passing — Carolina, Delhomme 13-20-0-173. **Denver**, Plummer 17-29-2-226.

Receiving — Carolina, Colbert 4-115, Proehl 3-35, Gaines 2-18, Foster 2-0, Muhammad 1-9, Goings 1-4. **Denver**, Smith 4-60, Carswell 4-46, Droughns 4-18, Leite 2-52, Johnson 1-31, Watts 1-14, Jackson 1-6.

Missed field goals — Carolina, Kasay 52 (WL).

Rams 33, Seahawks 27 (OT)

St. Louis	0	7	3	17 6—33
Seattle	7	17	0	3 0—27

First Quarter

Sea—Alexander 1 run (Brown kick), 9:52.

Second Quarter

Sea—FG Brown 48, 14:17.

StL—Bulger 9 run (Wilkins kick), 11:29.

Sea—Stevens 1 pass from Hasselbeck (Brown kick), 8:54.

Sea—D.Jackson 56 pass from Hasselbeck (Brown kick), 0:50.

Third Quarter

StL—FG Wilkins 39, 0:56.

Fourth Quarter

Sea—FG Brown 34, 8:42.

StL—Manumaleuna 8 pass from Bulger (Wilkins kick), 6:34.

StL—Curtis 41 pass from Bulger (Wilkins kick), 3:00.

StL—FG Wilkins 36, 0:08.

Overtime

StL—McDonald 52 pass from Bulger, 11:58.

A—66,940.

	StL	Sea
First downs	21	20
Total Net Yards	441	391
Rushes-yards	24-124	30-187
Passing	317	204
Punt Returns	2-39	1-6
Kickoff Returns	7-122	6-113
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	3-5
Comp-Att-Int	24-42-1	20-35-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-8	1-12
Punts	4-40.2	5-34.2
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	5-45	5-40
Time of Possession	31:24	33:11

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — St. Louis, D.Jackson 5-64, M.Faulk 15-51, Bulger 4-9. **Seattle**, Alexander 23-150, Strong 3-15, Hasselbeck 2-13, Morris 2-5.

Passing — St. Louis, Bulger 24-42-3-325. **Seattle**, Hasselbeck 20-35-0-216.

Receiving — St. Louis, Bruce 6-78, Holt 6-53, Manumaleuna 3-33, Curtis 2-45, S.Jackson 2-11, McDonald 2-76, Cleeland 1-6, M.Faulk 1-4, Crockroft 1-4, Looker 1-16. **Seattle**, D.Jackson 5-91, K.Robinson 5-59, Stevens 3-35, Strong 3-5, Mill 2-20, Alexander 1-4, Engram 1-2.

Missed field goal — Seattle, J.Brown 43 (WL).

49ers 31, Cardinals 28 (OT)

Arizona	0	14	0	14—28
San Francisco	0	6	6	16—31

Second Quarter

Ari—F.Jones 16 pass from McCown (Rackers kick), 14:54.

SF—FG Peterson 37, 8:57.

Ari—Hambrick 2 pass from McCown (Rackers kick), :56.

SF—FG Peterson 42, :16.

Third Quarter

SF—Battle 71 punt return (pass failed), 11:32.

Fourth Quarter

Ari—E.Smith 10 run (Rackers kick), 11:47.

Ari—Fitzgerald 24 pass from McCown (Rackers kick), 8:19.

SF—E.Johnson 6 pass from Rattay (Rattay run), 4:35.

Ari—Lloyd 23 pass from Rattay (Lloyd pass from Rattay), 1:07.

Overtime

SF—FG Peterson 32, 11:37.

A—62,838.

	Ari	SF
First downs	19	26
Total Net Yards	320	448
Rushes-yards	29-103	19-57
Passing	217	391
Punt Returns	4-36	4-88
Kickoff Returns	6-100	5-103
Interceptions Ret.	0-00	1-1
Comp-Att-Int	19-34-1	38-51-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-14	5-26
Punts	8-41.1	6-42.3
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	4-2
Penalties-Yards	11-85	11-89
Time of Possession	30:49	32:34

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Arizona, E.Smith 16-63, Hambrick 10-29, McCown 3-11. **San Francisco**, Barlow 14-34, Rattay 3-14, Robertson 2-9.

Passing — Arizona, McCown 19-34-1-231. **San Francisco**, Rattay 38-57-0-417.

Receiving — Arizona, Fitzgerald 5-94, K.Williams 4-38, E.Johnson 3-45, F.Jones 2-20, Hambrick 2-11, Diamond 1-8, Croom 1-8, Ayanbadejo 1-7. **San Francisco**, E.Johnson 13-162, Lloyd 5-56, Conway 5-56, C.Wilson 4-45, A.Walker 3-41, Robertson 3-24, Barlow 3-23, J.Jackson 1-18, Battle 1-2.

Missed field goals — None.

Ravens 17, Redskins 10

Baltimore	0	0	14	3—17
Washington	0	10	0	0—10

Second Quarter

Was—FG Hall 26, 5:42.

Was—Cooley 7 pass from Brunell (Hall kick), :26.

Third Quarter

Bal—Reed 22 fumble return (Stover kick), 8:52.

Bal—Sams 78 punt return (Stover kick), 6:40.

Fourth Quarter

Bal—FG Stover 33, 11:49.

A—90,287.

	Bal	Was
First downs	15	19
Total Net Yards	232	107
Rushes-yards	43-156	26-62
Passing	76	55
Punt Returns	5-101	2-17
Kickoff Returns	3-51	2-29
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	9-18-3	13-29-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-5	3-26
Punts	6-40.5	9-38.1
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	5-33	5-32
Time of Possession	32:05	27:55

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — Baltimore, J.Lewis 28-116, C.Taylor 7-43, Ricard 1-3, Boller 7-(minus 6). **Washington**, Portis 25-53, Betts 1-(minus 1).

Passing — Baltimore, Boller 9-18-3-81. **Washington**, Brunell 13-29-1-83.

Receiving — Baltimore, Hymes 2-34, Moore 2-9, Wilcox 2-9, T.Jones 2-8, K.Johnson 1-21. **Washington**, Portis 4-16, Coles 3-25, Jacobs 2-18, Cooley 2-12, Gardner 1-8, Betts 1-3.

Missed field goals — None.

Culpepper's fifth TD dooms Texans

BY JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Minnesota Vikings would have preferred the easy victory they appeared in line for instead of the stunning overtime win they ended up with.

After blowing a late 21-point lead, Daunte Culpepper threw a 50-yard touchdown pass to Marcus Robinson on the second possession of overtime to give the Vikings a 34-28 victory Sunday.

"I'd rather be in a 38-0 blowout where the line can sit and the cheerleaders can come out and take a couple of snaps," defensive lineman Steve Martin said. "But that's not the game we play anymore. It's stress. The fans love it, but we hate it."

The Vikings (3-1) would have hated their plane ride home if the Texans (2-3) had been able to cap a rally in which David Carr and Andre Johnson wiped out Minnesota leads of 21-0 and 28-14 in the second half.

Instead, they breathed a huge sigh of relief after narrowly avoiding a disastrous collapse.

"It's a great win. We have only 16 chances and we're keeping pace with Detroit," Vikings coach Mike Tice said.

Minnesota defensive end Lance Johnstone said: "We knew they would make a run at us. We definitely wanted to close the door on them."

That didn't happen until Culpepper threw his fifth touchdown of the game, the long toss to Robinson 7:05 into overtime.

Culpepper was 36-for-50 passing for 396 yards. He threw a pair of 50-yard TD strikes to Robinson and Randy Moss.

Carr nearly matched him with a career-high 372 yards and three TDs, two to Johnson, who had a 12 catches for 170 yards.

Carr got perhaps the most famous haircut in Houston when he snipped his long locks after the Texans recorded their first back-to-back wins the previous two weeks.

He nearly turned it into a real winning streak. His second TD pass to Johnson tied the game with less than two minutes left and sent it into overtime.

"We're never going to give up," Carr said. "Once we got into overtime, we thought we had a chance."

A veteran like Culpepper can end that in a hurry, and his game-winning pass to Robinson silenced the home crowd.

AP

Minnesota Vikings' Nate Burleson, right, makes a touchdown catch behind Houston Texans' Aaron Glenn (31) on Sunday in Houston.

"We didn't break," Culpepper said. "When we got our chance, we took it."

It was the kind of play Carr would like to see the Texans make.

"We couldn't finish it off," Carr said. "That's something we're going to have to focus on. We've got to get the killer mentality and take it away, kind of like the Vikings did."

While Culpepper was putting up big numbers through the air, fourth-string tailback Mewelde Moore was grinding out the tough yards on the ground.

Moore pounded out 182 yards total, and his tough running between tackles and his ability to get into the flat for short passes moved the chains in critical situations for the Vikings the entire game.

Moore's 20-yard catch and run moved the ball to midfield before Culpepper hit Robinson with the winning strike.

Moore started only because of injuries and NFL-mandated suspensions to the three players in front of him.

"I love him. He's a gamer," Culpepper said. "He came into training camp not wide-eyed like most rookies do. He came in ready to play."

The Vikings awarded Moore with a game ball for his play.

"When your number is called, you should be ready to perform," Moore said.

Chargers bolt past Jaguars

BY BERNIE WILSON
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — If they keep playing this well, the San Diego Chargers might start regaining some of the respect they've been losing for eight straight seasons.

Using a quick-strike offense and a defense that proved it was tough, too, the Chargers beat Jacksonville 34-21 on Sunday.

The Chargers (3-2) won consecutive games in the same season for the first time since October 2002 (the Chargers did win their final game of last season and their first game this season). A week earlier, they defeated Tennessee 38-17.

"We beat two pretty good ballclubs," running back LaDainian Tomlinson said. "At the same time, we've still got a long way to go. This team can get a lot better."

Drew Brees, the quarterback the front office didn't want after last season's 4-12 nightmare, threw two touchdown passes to Antonio Gates, the tight end who played basketball, not football, at Kent State.

The Chargers, who have preached fast starts in practice, led 21-0 early in the second quarter.

"Hopefully it will just become who we are ... hey, that's the San Diego Chargers, we come out and we score first and we get our team rolling," Brees said. "That's the team who we want to be."

Tomlinson limped off the field late in the third quarter after aggravating a groin injury and sat out the rest of the game. That allowed backup Jesse Chatman to rush for 103 yards and a 41-yard score.

Coach Marty Schottenheimer awarded game balls to the offensive linemen, who sprung the backs for 176 yards against a tough defense anchored by massive tackles John Henderson and Marcus Stroud.

"Those guys won the game for us," Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson lined up at quarterback twice on a drive in the third quarter. He gained 7 yards after taking the snap in the shotgun formation, then lined up at QB again four plays later and was sacked as he scrambled around.

"He tried his Michael Vick impersonation and it didn't work," tackle Roman Oben said. "He should stick to running the ball."

Said Tomlinson: "I was trying to be like Mike."

The Chargers visit Vick's Falcons next Sunday. The players will always be linked because Atlanta took Vick with the top pick in the 2001 draft after obtaining it from San Diego for the fifth pick, which San Diego spent on Tomlinson, along with Tim Dwight and other picks.

Tomlinson gained 56 yards on 19 carries and scored once, and caught four passes for 78 yards.

The Chargers harassed Jags quarterback Byron Leftwich all afternoon and had two interceptions.

Lions hand struggling Vick, Falcons first loss

The Associated Press

NFL roundup

ATLANTA — Michael Vick hasn't figured out the West Coast offense, and he's not sure how long it might take.

This much is clear: The NFL's most exciting player still faces a major learning curve.

Vick turned the ball over three times and the Atlanta Falcons took their first loss of the season, falling 17-10 to the Detroit Lions on Sunday.

"Who knows? Maybe in the 10th or 11th year I'll be comfortable with it," Vick said of the new scheme, which relies on timing and short pass routes. "But for now, I've got to keep working, keep working."

He fumbled three times, losing two of them, and tossed an interception that led to Detroit's go-ahead touchdown.

"I was caught up looking for receivers and got careless with the ball," Vick said. "The bottom line is I should have the ball tucked away."

With a chance to force overtime, Vick completed three passes — including a 24-yarder to Alge Crumpler — and moved the Falcons from their own 29 to the Detroit 21.

But Vick was sacked for a 5-yard loss. Then, as he tried to get away from Jared DeVries, the quarterback's arm hit teammate Todd Weiner and the ball popped free. James Hall gobbled it up with 45 seconds left to seal the victory.

"Those are the situations I love the most," Vick said. "Everybody's watching. The pressure is on. That's when I feel I'm at my best."

Not this time. The Falcons (4-1) were denied the first 5-0 start in franchise history, along with Jim Mora taking the first loss of his head coaching career. The only other time Atlanta began 4-0 was 1986.

After going three years without a road victory, the Lions (3-1) have won two in a row away from home.

Jets 16, Bills 14: Doug Brien kicked a 38-yard field goal with 58 seconds remaining to move the Jets to 4-0 for the second time in franchise history.

Chad Pennington went 31-for-42 for 304 yards with a touchdown and an interception, but his biggest plays came at the end, when the Jets had to rally from a 14-13 deficit. Pennington went 7-for-8 for 51 yards, taking the Jets 60 yards in five minutes to set up the winning score.

Buffalo (0-4) had one final shot from its 48 with 2 seconds left, but Drew Bledsoe was intercepted by Terrell Buckley near the goal line.

Steelers 34, Browns 23: At Pittsburgh, Ben Roethlisberger, becoming more comfortable and more productive with each start, confused Cleveland (2-3) with his running and creativity and the Steelers won their third in a row behind the rookie quarterback.

Duce Staley complemented Roethlisberger by running for 117 yards, his third consecutive 100-yard game, and scoring on a 25-yard run following rookie Richard Colclough's 59-yard return of the opening kickoff.

Roethlisberger is only the sixth rookie quarterback to win his first three starts since the NFL merger in 1970.

Colts 35, Raiders 14: Peyton Manning completed 16 of 26 passes for 198 yards and three touchdowns, while Edgerrin James ran for 136 yards and a score to lead the Colts to their fourth straight win.

Oakland (2-3) fell to its 12th consecutive road loss.

Manning threw three TDs in the first two quarters, giving him eight in the first half in the Colts' (4-1) two home games.

Giants 26, Cowboys 10: Five games into the season, the visiting Giants already matched last year's win total.

Tiki Barber ran for 122 yards and a touchdown and Steve Christie kicked four field goals to give the Giants (4-1) their fourth win in a row.

New York overcame a slow start by taking advantage of mistakes by Dallas (2-2) and making some breaks for itself.

Buccaneers 20, Saints 17: The Buccaneers hoped the son of a former Super Bowl quarterback would help them get their first victory.

They got their wish.

But it was not Chris Simms, son of 1987 Super Bowl MVP Phil Simms, who led the Bucs (1-4) to their first victory of the season.

Simms, making his first NFL start, hurt his throwing shoulder in the first quarter and was replaced by Brian Griese, son of Bob Griese, who played in three Super Bowls.

Griese went 16-for-19 for 194 yards and the decisive touchdown.

Broncos 20, Panthers 17: Backup Reuben Droughns ran for 193 yards for host Denver (4-1) and Jake Plummer threw a 39-yard pass to Ashley Lelie for the winning points.

Julius Peppers had a 101-yard interception return for Carolina (1-3), the longest interception return in NFL history to not result in a touchdown. The 283-pound lineman caught it 4 yards deep in his end zone. Jake Delhomme ran for a 3-yard touchdown three plays later.

Plummer threw two touchdowns — one with each arm. His second 2-handed TD of the season went to Droughns, a full-back-turned-tailback who started in place of the injured Quentin Griffin. He had a career total of 127 yards rushing entering the game.

The Panthers came into the game without injured running back Stephen Davis and lost backup DeShaun Foster in the second quarter with a sprained shoulder.

Rams hold off Seahawks

Bulger's overtime TD pass ends NFC West showdown

BY TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Forget the standings and all the preseason chatter. Matt Hasselbeck and his Seattle teammates know the St. Louis Rams are still the team to beat in the NFC West.

Marc Bulger threw a 52-yard touchdown pass to Shaun McDonald 3 minutes into overtime, leading St. Louis to a thrilling 33-27 victory over the Seattle Seahawks on Sunday.

The Rams (3-2) pulled within a half-game in the division and hung 33 points on a defense that had allowed only 13 in three games. They also silenced forecasters who said the Seahawks (3-1) were ready to take over the NFC West.

"Everybody picked Seattle to run over us," McDonald said. "We might have been the only ones who thought we could win."

The Rams ended Seattle's 10-game home winning streak, with Bulger leading a 17-point rally by throwing two TD passes in the final 5:34 of regulation after the Seahawks seemed to have it in hand.

Jeff Wilkins kicked a 36-yard field goal with 8 seconds left, forcing overtime.

"This team never quits," Bulger said. "We have guys who have been in that situation before, and they know not to quit. They play to the end."

The Seahawks, trying to open 4-0 for the first time, led 24-7 at halftime and 27-10 after Bulger's third interception led to Josh Brown's 34-yard field goal with 8:42 remaining.

That's when Bulger straightened himself out.

He started with an 8-yard TD strike to leaping tight end Brandon Manumaleuna, pulling St. Louis to 27-17 with 5:34 remaining. Then came a 41-yard TD pass to Kevin Curtis to make it 27-24 with 3:30 to play.

"I didn't want to get excited because we still had a lot of work to do," Bulger said. "We just had to keep chipping away."

On Seattle's ensuing series, Rams end Leonard Little sacked Hasselbeck for a 12-yard loss and forced a fumble that center Robbie Tobeck recovered.

It was huge, though, coming when Hasselbeck had Bobby Engram open over the middle on third-and-5. St. Louis was out of timeouts, and a good pass would have allowed Seattle to run out the clock.

"If we complete the ball, the game's over," coach Mike Holmgren said.

Instead, Brown kicked a 35-yard punt because regular punter Tom Rouen sustained a hamstring strain late. The Rams took over at their own 36 with 1:14 to go, and Bulger — who completed 24 of 42 passes for 325 yards — was ready again.

He found Isaac Bruce for a 26-yard gain to Seattle's 37, then added a 16-yarder to Dane Looker that moved the ball out of bounds at the 18. Wilkins tied it at 27 on the next play.

"Marc did a beautiful job, just beautiful," Rams coach Mike Martz said.

Tough as the loss was to swallow, there was no argument in Seattle's locker room that the better team had won this time — and that the Seahawks learned the importance of protecting a big lead.

"You've got to close it out," Tobeck said. "I always compare it to boxing. When you've got a guy on the ropes, you've got to finish him."

Seattle plays at St. Louis on Nov. 14, a game that seems certain to determine the division champ.

"The Rams are the NFC West champions," said Hasselbeck, who was 20-for-35 for 216 yards passing and two TDs. "They won it last year and they won it the year before. They've earned that respect.

"We haven't earned it yet. We had an opportunity to get that done today, and we didn't."

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/KRT

St. Louis Rams offensive lineman Orlando Pace, left, battles with former Ram and current Seattle Seahawks defensive end Grant Wistrom during Sunday's game in Seattle. The Rams won 33-27 in overtime.

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS/AP

San Francisco 49ers receiver Brandon Lloyd reacts after catching a touchdown pass in the fourth quarter against the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday. The 49ers rallied from 16 down and won 31-28 in overtime.

49ers win on a prayer, upend Cardinals in OT

BY GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — When Larry Fitzgerald's first touchdown catch gave the Arizona Cardinals a 16-point lead with 8:19 left, the few San Francisco fans who weren't booing rushed for the exits.

They missed the only good part of the 49ers' season so far — a thrilling finish with big catches, bad defense and a breakout performance by the man who hopes to be the next name in San Francisco's elite quarterback lineage.

Tim Rattay threw two touchdown passes and got two 2-point conversions in the final minutes of regulation, and Todd Peterson kicked a 32-yard field goal with 11:37 left in overtime of the 49ers' 31-28 victory over the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday.

The Niners' (1-4) comeback from a 28-12 deficit was improbable on several counts. Rattay's top two receivers were hurting, San Francisco's running game was nonexistent and Arizona's defense hadn't allowed a touchdown in 13 quarters.

Yet Rattay showed a cool he hasn't earned through experience yet, and his young teammates followed his lead. He finished 38-for-57 for a career-high 417 yards, 169 after the third quarter — and afterward, he claimed the outcome was never in doubt to him.

"We're always thinking that we can win the game," Rattay said.

"You're never out of it, you know? It's happened so much, and this team knows that we have to keep fighting and keep fighting."

Running a no-huddle offense with the flair he learned at run-and-gun Louisiana Tech, Rattay hit tight end Eric Johnson for a score with 4:35 left, then ran for the conversion.

"Tim is amazing in that [offense]," said Johnson, who had another outstanding game with career bests of 13 catches for 162 yards. "He reads the defenses and makes so many great calls. That's really where he shines, where he's at his best."

After Arizona (1-4) punted, the Niners mounted a 72-yard drive.

Brandon Lloyd made a diving 23-yard TD catch with 1:07 left in regulation, then wrestled the ball away from David Macklin for the tying conversion.

Lloyd drew motivation from Arizona rookie defensive tackle Darnell Dockett, who asked the receiver how it will feel to be 0-5 — shortly before San Francisco rallied.

"We didn't win in the preseason, and we didn't win in our first four games, so it's definitely a relief," Lloyd said. "We bounced back. We hung in there, and our leadership really took over. Tim took over."

San Francisco won the overtime coin toss, and Rattay drove 47 more yards before Peterson easily made his third field goal.

The 49ers lost All-Pro linebacker Julian Peterson for the season with a torn Achilles' tendon. They also lost backup fullback Jasen Isom to the same injury.

Sunday's NFL stars:

AP photos

Quarterbacks

■ Daunte Culpepper, Vikings, threw five touchdown passes, the last a 50-yarder to Marcus Robinson on Minnesota's second possession in overtime in a 34-28 victory over Houston. Culpepper completed 36 of 50 passes for 396 yards.

◀ **Tim Rattay, 49ers,** threw two touchdown passes and got two 2-point conversions in the final 4:35 of regulation in San Francisco's 31-28 overtime victory over Arizona. He finished 38-of-57 for 417 yards.

■ Marc Bulger, Rams, threw a 52-yard touchdown pass to Shaun McDonald in overtime after leading a 17-point rally with two TD passes in the final 5:34 of regulation in St. Louis' 33-27 victory over Seattle. Bulger finished 24-of-42 passes for 325 yards.

■ Chad Pennington, Jets, was 31-of-42 for 304 yards and a touchdown in New York's 16-14 victory over Buffalo.

■ David Carr, Texans, was 27-of-43 for 372 yards and three TDs in Houston's overtime loss to Minnesota.

Running backs

▶ **Reuben Droughns, Broncos,** a career backup, ran for 193 yards and caught four passes for 18 yards and a touchdown in Denver's 20-17 victory over Carolina.

■ Tiki Barber, Giants, ran for 122 yards and a touchdown and caught five passes for 76 yards in New York's 26-10 victory over Dallas.

■ Rookie Mewelde Moore, Vikings, finished with 182 total yards in Minnesota's 34-28 overtime victory over Houston. He ran for 92 yards on 20 carries and caught 12 passes for 90 yards.

■ Edgerrin James, Colts, rushed for 136 yards and a touchdown in Indianapolis' 35-14 victory over Oakland.

■ Duce Staley, Steelers, ran for 117 yards — his third consecutive 100-yard game — and scored on a 25-yard run in Pittsburgh's 34-23 victory over Cleveland.

■ Shaun Alexander, Seahawks, ran for 150 yards and a touchdown in Seattle's 33-27 overtime loss to St. Louis.

Receivers

■ Eric Johnson, 49ers, had career bests of 13 catches and 162 yards and scored a touchdown in San Francisco's 31-28 overtime victory over Arizona.

■ Marcus Robinson, Vikings, caught nine passes for 150 yards and two touchdowns, including a 50-yarder in overtime, in Minnesota's 34-28 victory over Houston.

■ Andre Johnson, Texans, had a career-high 12 catches for 170 yards and two touchdowns in Houston's overtime loss to Minnesota.

Patriots set record with 19th straight win

BY HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Bill Belichick let a rare smile crease his face before reminding his New England Patriots what their record winning streak meant.

"He said, 'Congratulations on the streak, great job. Now we've got to think about Seattle,' " safety Rodney Harrison said.

At least their dour coach, who downplayed the streak all season, gave the Patriots some time to savor their NFL record 19th straight victory, 24-10 over the winless Miami Dolphins on Sunday, before they start preparing for their next game against the Seahawks.

"It doesn't mean anything right now because we are still in the middle of the season," cornerback Ty Law said in a very quiet locker room. "The fruit will taste a little bit sweeter if we can give ourselves an opportunity to play for another championship."

The Patriots (4-0) won with two touchdown passes by Tom Brady, who had his worst statistical start as a pro, and two turnovers by offensively inept Miami.

The Dolphins trailed 24-10 before reaching the New England 1-yard line on their last series. But quarterback Jay Fiedler hurt his ribs and back on a 12-yard sack and, two plays later, A.J. Feeley suffered a concussion as he threw a fourth-down incompletion and was hit by Rosevelt Colvin.

This Miami team is nothing like the one that no longer shares the record with five other teams. That one went 17-0 in 1972 and won its opener in 1973.

"As a player, you don't think about what they [the Patriots] are doing," Miami defensive end Jason Taylor said. "We've got our own things to worry about."

Miami fell to 0-5, matching its worst record since the expansion Dolphins were 0-5 in 1966. That team won its sixth game.

New England, which can match its franchise best 5-0 record next Sunday, had shared the 18-game record with Chicago (1933-34; 1941-42), Miami (1972-73), San Francisco (1989-90) and Denver (1997-98).

"They're some great teams and it's nice to be a part of that," linebacker Tedy Bruschi said. "During the season the only milestone that teams want is the Super Bowl."

The Dolphins' problems began before the game when placekicker Olindo Mare left the field on a cart with an injured right calf. They continued until the end when Fiedler and Feeley were hurt.

"We felt good about moving the ball," said Fiedler, who had X-rays and didn't know if he would play next week, "but you look on the scoreboard and you only see 10 points."

Miami added to its NFL-high 14 turnovers and scored just one touchdown to add to its total of two in the first four games. Only its defense, strong all year, kept the game somewhat competitive.

The Patriots played without injured receivers Deion Branch and Troy Brown, and another, Bethel Johnson, was inactive. New England led 10-0 on Brady's 1-yard pass to Daniel Graham in the first quarter and Adam Vinatieri's 40-yard field goal early in the second.

AP

New England Patriots cornerback Randall Gay (21) breaks up a pass intended for Miami Dolphins wide receiver Chris Chambers (84) during the second quarter of Sunday's game.

Still, Brady finished at 7-for-19 for 76 yards and an interception.

"We didn't do the things we set out to do," tackle Matt Light said of the offense. "Defense helped us out a lot."

Miami closed to 10-7 when Fielder threw a 10-yard pass to Chris Chambers.

Then a strange play — punter Matt Turk's failed run for a first down — gave the Patriots the ball at the Dolphins 46. Six plays later, Brady hit David Givens for a 5-yard score 36 seconds before halftime.

"He said the snap was a little bit high, but you need to kick the ball," coach Dave Wannstedt said of Turk. "I don't think anyone was rushing him."

Fiedler's fumble on the first series of the third quarter led to Rabih Abdullah's 1-yard touchdown run, making it 24-7.

Rookie kick returner Wes Welker, Mare's replacement who missed his only extra-point kick in college, added a 29-yard field goal that made it 24-10 late in the quarter.

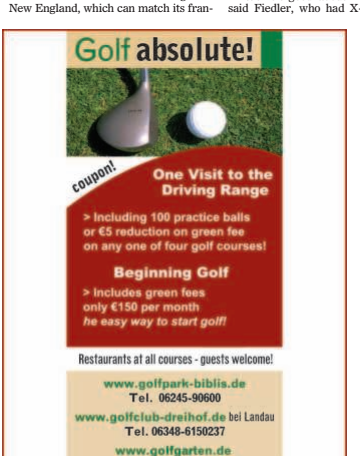
"I played soccer since I was about 4, so that really helped a lot," Welker said.

Miami needed Mare when, facing fourth-and-11 at the New England 21, the Dolphins had to go for a first down and Fiedler threw an incompletion in the end zone with 10:01 left.

If the Patriots beat Seattle, they'll tie the mark of 17 consecutive regular-season victories by the Bears in 1933-34. And if they beat the New York Jets the following Sunday, they'll break that record, too.

But the players weren't thinking about that — not when Belichick actually acknowledged the 19-game record by shaking their hands on the sideline.

"He rarely celebrates anything," Harrison said, "and to lead a team to 19 victories in a row is something to be proud of."



Jamal Lewis carries Ravens

BY JOSEPH WHITE
The Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Playing his last football until November, Jamal Lewis punished would-be tacklers and kept the Baltimore Ravens' offense on the field for nearly the entire fourth quarter.

Lewis ran for 116 yards on 28 carries in a 17-10 victory over the Washington Redskins on Sunday night, an emotionally positive send-off as he prepares to serve a two-game suspension stemming from a guilty plea in a drug case.

"He just took the game on his shoulders," coach Brian Billick said. "That's why we gave him the game ball, and I wanted to remind him we'll be here when he gets back."

Lewis had 90 clock-eating yards on Baltimore's final three possessions and the Ravens held the ball for all but 2:27 of the final quarter. The performance capped a tumultuous week in which Lewis traveled to Atlanta to plead guilty to using a cell phone to facilitate a drug buy four years ago. He will serve a six-month sentence once the season ends.

"The offensive line said, 'Look, this is the last one before you get the suspension. Let's make the best of it,' " said Lewis, who will miss games against Buffalo and Philadelphia following an off day next week.

Meanwhile, the Ravens' defense looks more than capable of holding the fort in Lewis' absence. Baltimore (3-2) limited Washington (1-4) to 107 yards, sending Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs to his fourth straight defeat, his longest losing streak since he was 0-5 as a rookie head coach in 1981.

The Redskins haven't scored more than 18 points in a game since Gibbs returned from retirement. They didn't have a drive longer than 26 yards against the Ravens. They were practically handed three turnovers — interceptions on consecutive possessions in the second quarter — but could only convert the miscues into a field goal and a touchdown.

"It's a miserable situation," Gibbs said. "And it seems like when you make a mistake, it bounces right into somebody else's hands. I told my team that I think we're a good football team. We'll see. We've got to find a way to make some of those things go our way."

Washington quarterback Mark Brunell completed 13 of 29 passes for just 83 yards and was sacked three times.

"I think Mark was a reflection of all of us," Gibbs said. "We didn't play well. That's a good defensive team, but we didn't play well."

Appropriately, it was a defensive player who turned the game's tide. Baltimore safety Ed Reed scored a touchdown on a fumble recovery after stripping the ball from Brunell on a safety blitz, stopped Clinton Portis on a third-and-1 on the next series, then threw a block that sprung rookie free agent B.J. Sams for a 78-yard punt return — all in a 2½-minute span in the third quarter. As a result, the Ravens rallied from a 10-0 halftime deficit to score 14 points without their offense taking the field.

Even Deion Sanders got into the act, getting his first interception since coming out of retirement. The defense's performance served as redemption after it allowed 398 yards and 27 points in a loss Monday night to Kansas City.

For that matter, for Lewis and all the Ravens, the victory was a triumph of determination after a week of distractions.

"It wasn't just me," Lewis said. "This team as a whole knows how to handle adversity and knows how to keep focused and keep it going. We put that behind us. What happened off the field stayed off the field. We just put things together and showed what type of team we are."

SPORTS

Braves rally after Clemens leaves, force decisive game in Atlanta, Page 35

Pujols puts Cardinals in NLCS

St. Louis slugger hits tiebreaking three-run homer to beat Dodgers

By John Nadel
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The St. Louis Cardinals played like champions in their NL division series against Los Angeles. In defeat, the Dodgers displayed the kind of class and sportsmanship seldom seen in professional sports.

Jeff Suppan settled down after a shaky start to pitch seven strong innings, Albert Pujols hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the fourth, and the Cardinals beat the Dodgers 6-2 Sunday night to win the best-of-five series 3-1.

The Cardinals will play in their third NL championship series in five years, starting Wednesday night in St. Louis against Houston or Atlanta, which played Game 5 of their division series on Monday night.

The Dodgers are going home for the winter, having failed in their third attempt to win a postseason series since they beat Oakland in the 1988 World Series.

When it was over, after Jason Isringhausen struck out Alex Cora for the final out, there was no immediate celebration by the Cardinals, and the Dodgers didn't walk back to their clubhouse.

Instead, while the Cardinals were quietly congratulating each other, the Dodgers went out on the field to greet them and shake their hands.

"That's the first time I've seen a team doing that to the other ballclub when they were the losing ballclub, and I think that was very special," Pujols said.

"Everybody just wanted to go out there and just wish them luck," Dodgers star Adrian Beltre said.

While common at the end of NHL playoff series, teams shaking hands on the field after a series is a rarity in baseball.

SEE CARDINALS ON PAGE 35

AP

The St. Louis Cardinals celebrate on the field after beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 6-2 in Game 4 on Sunday night to advance to the National League Championship Series.

Rams rally, drop Seahawks in OT

Seattle Times/AP

Rams receiver Shaun McDonald, left, reaches out to catch the winning touchdown pass in overtime in front of Seahawks defensive back Terreal Bierria. St. Louis rallied from 17 points behind to tie the game and force overtime. See NFL coverage on Pages 36-39.

Patriots win record 19th straight

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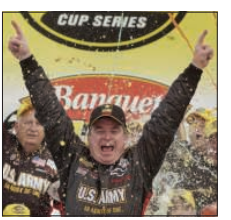

Nemechek sweeps in KC; Busch retains points lead

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Troubled ex-NL MVP Caminiti dies of heart attack Page 34

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