Clinton adviser investigated over missing terrorism memos Page 12

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Lance Armstrong

Armstrong retakes overall lead in Tour de France
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Volume 2, No. 102 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2004

USAFE cuts reflect war-strained budget

Bases axing 'luxuries' to make up for shortfall Page 5

Airman 1st Class Zachary Marquis, of the 81st Aircraft Maintenance Unit in Spangdahlem, Germany, waits as an A-10 Thunderbolt II passes before pushing his tool cart to a hangar. Aircraft maintainers sometimes have to push their tools from hangar to hangar because budget cuts have limited the number of vehicles available to transport them along miles of flight line.

MARNI MCENTEE/Stars and Stripes

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STARS AND STRIPES
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Haiti aid: Secretary of State Colin Powell urged the international community on Tuesday to rally behind Haiti's new government and help its impoverished people build a stable democratic government with a sound economy.

Opening a donors' conference at the World Bank for the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation, Powell said the task of the participants is "to help the people of Haiti build a future of hope."

He said an international assessment team determined that Haiti needed $1.36 billion through 2006.

Amber alert: A new technology debuting in 12 states will significantly extend Amber alerts, reaching cell phones, e-mail and handheld computers, and could also be used to transmit weather and terrorism alerts.

Starting Monday, police officers in Arizona and Washington were able to send Amber alerts — notifications of a child abduction — from a highly encrypted system in their cars, then update them with photos and more detailed descriptions, Warner said. Ten other states are expected to launch the expanded alerts this summer.

Chicken abuse: An investigator for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals captured video showing chickens being kicked, stomped and thrown against a wall by workers at a supplier for Kentucky Fried Chicken, which has been under pressure since last year over the treatment of animals.

Officials from Yum! Brands Inc., which owns the fast-food chain, saw the video Monday. Kentucky Fried Chicken "will require that the employee or employees responsible will be terminated," KFC spokeswoman Bonnie Warchauer told The New York Times for a story in Tuesday editions.

KBR investigation: A former employee of KBR, Halliburton Co.'s engineering and construction arm that performs much of its government contract work, has been subpoenaed by the Justice Department in an investigation of possible overcharges by the company in Iraq.

In a Securities and Exchange Commission filing Monday, Halliburton disclosed word of that subpoena and another seeking information from the company about foreign subsidiaries that do business in Iran.

World

Whale hunting: Japan proposed hunting nearly 3,000 minke whales a year in the Antarctic, saying whale populations in the southern oceans were healthy enough to sustain the losses as it pressed the International Whaling Commission to lift the commercial whaling ban.

Japan has long sought to overturn a 1986 ban on all commercial whaling, and Japan's proposal to allow the hunting of minke whales in the Antarctic came late Monday at the IWC's annual meeting, which, as in past years, has been dominated by the issue.

Ten Commandment monument: A work crew pulls the Ten Commandments monument out of the Alabama Judicial Building in Montgomery, Ala., on Monday. The monument has been out of public view for nearly a year after Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore refused to follow a federal court order to remove it from public view. A federal judge had ruled the prominent public display amounted to an unconstitutional promotion of religion by government. The monument will go on a tour of the United States, ending up in Washington.

AP

Kosovo peacekeeping: NATO will maintain its current level of peacekeeping troops in Kosovo, a top general said Tuesday, calling the ethnically tense province "a top priority" for the Western military alliance.

Gen. Harald Kujat, the chairman of NATO's military committee, said that although the alliance would not be expanding its mission, "Kosovo remains a top priority of our business."

Fischer detainment: The Japanese government is preparing to deport chess legend Bobby Fischer for staying in Japan on an invalid passport, immigration officials said Tuesday.

Fischer was detained at the international airport in Narita just outside of Tokyo last Tuesday after trying to board a flight for Manila, Philippines.

Immigration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that Fischer, 61, has been held in their custody since, and said he was being processed for deportation.

Seminary porn: Moving to contain a scandal that has deeply embarrassed the Roman Catholic church, Pope John Paul II appointed a special inspector Tuesday to investigate an Austrian seminary where authorities uncovered a vast cache of child pornography.

The pope named Bishop Klaus Kueng, who runs the diocese of Feldkirch in southwestern Austria, as an "apostolic visitor" for the embattled diocese of St. Poelten and its seminary.

Whale hunting: The United States has renewed its call on its longtime ally Jordan to extend immunity to American peacekeepers against prosecution for war crimes, officials said from both countries said Tuesday.

The latest American request came Monday from Lincoln Bloomfield, a U.S. assistant secretary of state, in meetings with senior Jordanian officials, including Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher. It echoed similar U.S. requests in recent weeks, Jordanian government spokeswoman Asma Khader told The Associated Press.

Afghan elections: Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Tuesday shifted three of Afghanistan's powerful militia leaders to civilian and police posts in an attempt to keep upcoming elections fair.

The United Nations warns that armed factions could use their guns to sway the outcome of elections, though it says a presidential vote slated for Oct. 9 is less at risk.

Business

Airbus deal: European aircraft maker Airbus signed a deal Tuesday worth more than $7 billion to sell 24 airplanes including four of its new A380 jumbo jets to Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways.

Airbus and Etihad said the deal — the biggest announced so far at this week's Farnborough International Air Show — includes options for the young airline to buy an additional 12 planes.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Correction

In Monday's editions, in an obituary for Charles Sweeney, who flew the plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, The Associated Press described the B-29 bomber, named Bock's Car, as his plane.

Bock's Car was normally commanded by Frederick Bock. For the mission to drop the second atomic bomb on Japan, Sweeney and Bock switched planes. Sweeney flew Bock's Car, and Bock flew The Great Artiste, Sweeney's airplane, according to Sweeney's family and official military histories.

Sweeney piloted The Great Artiste in a support role for the U.S. attack on Hiroshima, the first atomic bombing of Japan.

Stars and Stripes Messages of Support

★ May God Bless you for serving our country and to defend our freedoms that we take for granted. I am praying for you. May you return safely and thank you again for protecting our freedoms. Thanks again, and God Bless America, Harvey A., Juliette, GA

★ You ROCK troops!!!!; Hello, I know it might not be much but I am praying for you everyday and for a safe return home and just wanted to say that we are still thinking about you and that ya'll are the BEST!! We love ya'll and we miss ya'll very much. Keep doing what you are doing because it seems to be working. Again we miss ya'll and hope for a safe return. A. Bailey; Leesburg, GA; 7th grade

Abizaid knocks Syria, Iran on border control, Philippines on pullout

BY ADNAN MALIK
The Associated Press

MANAMA, Bahrain — The top U.S. military commander in the Middle East on Tuesday accused Iraq's neighbors Syria and Iran of tolerating cross-border infiltration and meddling by groups bent on further destabilizing a country wracked by violence.

In Bahrain, Gen. John Abizaid also expressed regret at the Philippines' hasty withdrawal of its peacekeepers from Iraq to comply with the demands of militants who had threatened to kill a Filipino hostage.

Abizaid

He warned decisions to appease terrorists would backfire and dismissed the hostage-takers' success in forcing Manila to pull out of Iraq a month early as a "temporary victory" that would not last.

Abizaid also confirmed for the first time that former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was still in Iraq, being held by U.S. forces.

Abizaid expressed concern that the Syrians were not doing enough to stop border infiltration, a longtime American accusation against Damascus. Syria has said it increased border security but has acknowledged it could not fully secure its long desert border with its eastern neighbor.

"There is too much infiltration of money and foreign fighters that takes place across the Syrian border," said Abizaid, head of the U.S. Central Command.

Abizaid declined comment on whether there were any Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Iraq, but he said he believes there are elements in Iran that are interfering in southern Iraq.

"I do know there are groups within Iran that want to play a destabilizing role in Iraq and I think that would be most unhelpful for Iran and most unhelpful for Iraq."

The Philippines' pullout, while militarily insignificant, was seen as a victory for insurgents and sparked criticism of Manila by its closest allies.

"It is regrettable that countries would make decisions that appear to be appeasing terrorists as opposed to standing up to them," Abizaid told reporters.

"All of us know that if you appease terrorism, you will sooner or later fall victim to it or be taken over by it," Abizaid said.

Abizaid played down the impact of the militants' ability to influence the policies of countries.

"I don't think that the coalition is about to fall apart in Iraq and I don't think we will give in to terrorism," he said.

The general, who arrived in Bahrain on the third leg of the regional tour, discussed security in regional countries before leaving for Kuwait.

4 Iraqis killed in clash with GIs

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. forces engaged in running battles with Iraqi insurgents Tuesday, destroying two homes, the military said.

A hospital official said four Iraqis were killed.

The fighting near Samarra, a hotbed of violence 60 miles north of Baghdad, began Tuesday evening and continued into the night, according to an official from the Tikrit-based 1st Infantry Division, who declined to be identified.

The official said Iraqi insurgents attacked U.S. troops, firing mortars from a house and small arms fire from a nearby mosque.

The American soldiers returned fire and destroyed the house, while a U.S. warplane flattened another house after hitting it with a 500 pound bomb.

It was not immediately clear why the second house was targeted.

The military said there were no U.S. casualties.

Ahmed Jaddo, an emergency department official at Samarra hospital, said four Iraqis were killed in the fighting and another five were wounded.

AP

Former hostage Angelo dela Cruz, center, enters the Philippines embassy Tuesday after he was handed over to the United Arab Emirates embassy in Baghdad. The hostage drama that has gripped the Philippines for two weeks came to a happy ending Tuesday when insurgents in Iraq freed the Filipino driver.

Filipino hostage released

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A Filipino truck driver held hostage in Iraq for nearly two weeks was freed Tuesday, a day after his nation withdrew its final peacekeepers from Iraq — a move that met the kidnappers' demands but angered U.S. and Iraqi officials.

Four U.S. Marines were killed in action in separate incidents in Anbar Province, a Sunni-dominated area west of Baghdad, the military said Tuesday.

Two Marines were killed while conducting "security and stability operations" in the province, the military said.

Another Marine was killed in action Monday and a fourth died of wounds received in action Monday in Anbar, the military said.

In the southern city of Basra, gunmen killed Hazim al-Aynachi, an Iraqi council member running for governor, along with his bodyguard and driver as they were pulling out of his driveway to head to work Tuesday, said council head Abdul Bari Faiyek.

Faiyek blamed the killing on opposition to the gubernatorial elections that were scheduled for Tuesday, but were delayed in response to the shooting.

"Many threats have been directed to the eight council members nominated to the post," Faiyek said, adding that another councilman escaped an assassination attempt Monday.

The Philippines government and the family of Angelo dela Cruz were overjoyed at his release. His wife, Arsenia, burst into tears upon hearing the news in neighboring Jordan. Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo grinned during a televised address in the Philippines.

About 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, dela Cruz was dropped on the steps of the United Arab Emirates Embassy in Baghdad, said UAE officials, who denied there was any coordination between them and the kidnappers. About three hours later, dela Cruz was driven to the Philippines Embassy, where embassy staff members embraced him.

Dela Cruz was to be flown to Abu Dhabi Wednesday for a medical checkup before heading home.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, 890 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 658 died as a result of hostile action and 232 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 60 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 752 U.S. servicemembers have died — 549 as a result of hostile action and 203 of nonhostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Craig S. Frank, 24, Lincoln Park, Mich.; killed in an explosion Saturday near Baghdad; assigned to the Army National Guard, 1775th Military Police Company, Pontiac, Mich.

■ Army Sgt. 1st Class David A. Hartman, 41, Akron, Mich.; was killed Saturday in Beiji, Iraq, in an explosion; assigned to the Army Reserves, 401st Transportation Company, Battle Creek, Mich.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Bryan P. Kelly, 21, Klamath Falls, Ore.; died Friday of injuries received in fighting in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Al-Zarqawi's group threatens Japan if it doesn't withdraw

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — The Islamic militant group blamed for deadly attacks on foreign and local interests in Iraq threatened Japan on Tuesday that car bombs would strike its troops if they were not withdrawn.

"To the government of Japan: do what the Philippines has done. By God, nobody will protect you and we are not going to tolerate anybody," said an online statement signed by the Khalid bin al-Waleed Brigade, the military wing of the Tawhid and Jihad group.

"Lines of cars laden with explosives are awaiting you; we will not stop, God willing," said the statement, carried by an Islamic forum, known as a clearinghouse for statements by extremist groups.

Japan has dispatched about 500 troops to southern Iraq for noncombat duty to rebuild local schools, provide medical supplies and supply clean water. The military mission, begun earlier this year, is controversial in Japan as its first to a combat zone since World War II.

In April, Japan refused to withdraw its troops after three Japanese were kidnapped by Iraqi insurgents. The three were later released.

But the Philippines gave into kidnappers' demands, withdrawing its 51-member contingent after a Filipino truck driver was taken hostage. Manila's acquiescence angered Iraqi and American officials, who said it would only encourage the terrorists.

Tawhid and Jihad is considered one of the most dangerous groups fighting coalition forces in Iraq. The group, led by al-Qaida-linked militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, has claimed responsibility for attacks on U.S. troops and Iraqi police and security forces that have killed hundreds, as well as the beheading of American, Bulgarian and South Korean hostages.

The group's statement also warned Arab and Islamic governments not to deploy troops to Iraq, naming Jordan, Iran, Turkey and Gulf countries.

"We are warning you for the last time: We will hit with a fist of iron all those supporting the Americans or [interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad] Allawi or his cronies," the statement read.

173rd Airborne's quick turnaround

Brigade will head to Afghanistan one year after its return from Iraq

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — It could be easy to get the impression that members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade aren't fond of their home base.

After all, they always seem to be on the go.

"There are guys here who will have a three-year tour with the 173rd and have two years in combat," Col. Kevin Owens, the brigade's new commander, said Monday, referring to the unit's upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

After returning from almost a year in Iraq, Owens said, soldiers will have a year back on Caserma Ederle before heading off again to southwest Asia.

But it'll be close.

Current plans call for the brigade to start deploying in late February or early March. Many of them returned from Iraq during the same time frame this year.

"I had an idea we would be going back," said Spc. Tim Rogers of Battery D, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment. "But I didn't think it was going to be this quick."

Not that Rogers, or four other soldiers interviewed Monday, are complaining.

"It really doesn't bother me," he said.

Pfc. Anthony Orr certainly wouldn't mind more time with his wife, Bridget, or his infant daughter, Halee. She was born just a few months before he deployed to Iraq. The couple had been married only a short time before the deployment.

"It was hard starting off with a new family, not being with them at all," he said. "I'm hoping that this time, it'll be easier."

Don't count on it, Kathy Wooten says.

"It's just getting harder," Wooten says of the fifth time her husband will be deployed during their seven-year marriage.

Asked earlier how many years they've been married, she says: "as long as he's been deployed."

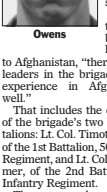
For his part, Charles Wooten, a staff sergeant with the 501st Forward Support Company, looks on the upcoming deployment as a test of his leadership. He said his unit has a lot of new soldiers who joined the brigade after the Iraq deployment. Wooten sums up the Iraq deployment as "challenging. I learned a lot from Iraq."

Owens said the brigade will be counting on such experience.

"It's going to be a squad leadership, platoon leadership fight," he said.

"It is a decentralized fight."

Owens knows a bit about Afghanistan. He served on the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) command staff while the brigade was in Iraq. But before going to Italy, he spent four months in 2002 leading the 2nd Ranger Battalion in Afghanistan.


Owens

He said although the brigade hasn't been to Afghanistan, "there are a lot of leaders in the brigade that have experience in Afghanistan as well."

That includes the commanders of the brigade's two infantry battalions: Lt. Col. Timothy McGuire, of the 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry Regiment, and Lt. Col. Mark Stammer, of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment.

The new members of each battalion — estimated at one-third of the entire force during Owens' assumption of command June 25 — will have a chance to integrate with the old guard very soon.

Owens said each battalion would spend a little more than two weeks training in Hohenfels, Germany, starting at the end of the month. The entire brigade will then travel north and train for about six weeks beginning in late September.

He said soldiers would see similarities between their tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. But they'll see a lot of differences, as well. Iraqis are among the most educated people in the region and — despite massive problems with infrastructure — live in a country that's decades or centuries ahead of their Afghani counterparts in many respects.

"It's a desolate place," Owens said of Afghanistan. "I don't think that place has really changed for centuries."

He said Afghanistan might be relatively safer these days for U.S. soldiers, but it's not exactly a vacation spot.

Still, Wooten says with a smile: "If I had a pick, I'd prefer Afghanistan."

Spc. Charles DeWitt from the 2-503rd smiles when asked about the possibility of hunting for Osama bid Laden. He recalls a lot of similar missions in Iraq looking for high-profile targets, many of which didn't turn up anything.

"I didn't enjoy standing around in blazing sun with 120 pounds of gear for five hours," he says. "But would I do it again? Without question."

Sgt. 1st Class James Litchford, with the 1-508th, said he decided to stay longer with the 173rd, knowing that it would likely be deploying again soon.

"I like the unit," he said. "It's got good leadership and a proud history."

A history that will soon include another long deployment far from home.

E-mail Kent Harris at: harrisk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers with the 173rd Airborne Brigade's Combat Support Company block a road on the outskirts of Kirkuk, Iraq, while experts blow up unexploded ordnance found in the area.

Familiar leadership for this deployment

There won't be much of a transition for the 173rd Airborne Brigade when it comes to working with its higher headquarters during its upcoming deployment.

The 173rd, assigned to the 4th Infantry Division during its previous deployment to Iraq, will fall under the leadership of the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) in Afghanistan this time. The 173rd is normally part of SETAF, with both headquartered in Vicenza.

"Certainly, there are a lot of pluses," said Col. Kevin Owens, the brigade commander. "How could it not be good?"

While SETAF, commanded by Brig. Gen. Jason Kamiya, and the 173rd always share a close working relationship, the current alignment of officers makes it even more so.

Owens took over the brigade in June after a year as the SETAF operations officer. And his 173rd predecessor, Col. Bill Mayville, is now SETAF chief of staff.

While the 173rd was deployed to Iraq, dozens of members of the SETAF headquarters staff spent months off the cost of Liberia, directing U.S. peacekeeping efforts there.

— Kent Harris

Free day care for R&R

ARLINGTON, Va. — National Guard and Reserve troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan on two weeks leave could have access to free hours of day care.

The National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies launched Operation Child Care to put Guard and Reserve troops home on U.S. Central Command's 15-day Rest and Recuperation leave program in touch with more than 5,000 child-care providers nationwide who offer at least four hours of free child-care service, executive director Linda Smith said.

To learn if a community has a provider who offers the free service, troops and families should call (800) 424-2246 (toll-free in the States). More information is available at: **www.childcareaware.org/en/operationchildcare**

GI receives Silver Star

BAGHDAD — A U.S. soldier was awarded the Silver Star on Monday for thwarting an insurgent attack on an Iraqi police station and a governor's residence.

Staff Sgt. Raymond Bittinger was given the medal in a ceremony held on a U.S. base in Baqouba. The medal was given in recognition of "gallantry on the battlefield" during the April 9 attack on the governor's residence in the city and an Iraqi police station.

Bittinger has served three tours in Germany and one in the United States, the military said.

From staff and wire reports

Officials detain kin of Taliban leader

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghan and U.S. forces killed one militant and captured five more, including a brother-in-law of Taliban leader Mullah Omar, officials said Tuesday. An American soldier was reportedly shot and wounded in a separate rebel attack.

Mullah Amanullah, the brother-in-law of the reclusive Taliban leader, was detained early Tuesday morning near Deh Rawod, Omar's home town in Uruzgan province, 250 miles southwest of Kabul, police chief Rozi Khan told The Associated Press.

Khan said Amanullah shot and killed a police commander who stopped his car before he was overwhelmed and arrested.

Three remote-controlled bombs and a satellite telephone as well as an AK-47 assault rifle were found in the vehicle, he said.

It was not immediately clear what role Amanullah held in the Taliban movement or if he had any contact with the one-eyed Omar, who could have a large network of in-laws via his four wives.

Khan said Afghan authorities might hand Amanullah to American forces, but U.S. spokesman Maj. Rick Peat had no information on his arrest.

Uruzgan and neighboring Zabul have been the focus of the stubborn insurgency by Omar's followers since U.S. and Afghan forces routed them in late 2001.

Gov. Khial Mohammed said one militant was killed and four captured in Zabul on Monday when U.S. and Afghan troops were searching villages for guns and rebels.

The American soldier was shot and wounded in Arghandab, another district of Zabul, deputy police chief Ghulam Jailani said.

The American military had no immediate comment.

USAFE under the gun to reduce expenses

Base leaders handling budget shortfalls from war on terrorism by cutting out the fat

BY MARNI MCENTEE
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — At Aviano Air Base, Italy, some airmen have said "*arrivederci*" to cleaning contractors and "*buon giorno*" to sweeping and mopping their office buildings.

At RAF Mildenhall, England, airmen can't take the shuttle bus to the operations side of the base anymore.

And at Spangdahlem Air Base, aircraft maintainers are lugging their tools by foot along miles of flight line instead of riding in a pickup or van.

All these measures are ways that U.S. Air Forces in Europe base leaders are handling budget shortfalls in fiscal 2004.

Although some base public affairs officials say the shortfall has little connection to the global war on terrorism, some USAFE leaders and base commanders say the war is directly affecting their bottom line.

"I have to make due with less because that money is being spent for war-related costs," said Col. Stephen Mueller, commander of the 52nd Fighter Wing at Spangdahlem, which includes 3,600 airmen in three fighter squadrons and numerous support units.

With a bit more than two months to go in fiscal 2004, Spangdahlem's operating budget is 27 percent less than it was last year, Mueller said.

USAFE, with five main operating bases and more than 36,000 active-duty airmen, has a fiscal 2004 budget of $1.5 billion. That's about $136 million below the fiscal 2003 budget, said Col. Anthony Thompson, chief of USAFE's Financial Analysis Division. He expects to enter fiscal 2005 with about the same shortfall.

USAFE leaders are hoping that Congress will appropriate contingency funds later this summer to boost base budgets, but there are no guarantees. And, Thompson said, most of those contingency funds would be line-item specific for war costs, giving base commanders little discretion on how the money is spent.

"The prospect of not getting any additional funding is very real, and that would cause some real hardships," USAFE spokesman Capt. Rich Komurek said.

Meanwhile, bases are scrimping and saving to make it through the fiscal year.

Trimming the fat

Like most USAFE base commanders, Mueller and his troops have found creative ways to stretch their limited dollars.

For example, maintenance or repairs on all but mission-essential vehicles, such as aircraft tugs and pallet loaders, are being postponed.

The policy sometimes puts aircraft maintainers in a bind. Without the passenger vans and pickups they usually rely on to get around the base's lengthy flight line, maintainers have to hoof it, sometimes pushing their heavy tool boxes in front of them.

"We have a lot of folks who end up walking from aircraft to aircraft to do the job," said Tech. Sgt. Paul Pemberton, program manager for the 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, which repairs and maintains all the wing's F-16 and A-10 jets.

"When it's snowing or raining, that can be a real pain," said Pemberton, 37, of Atlanta.

While the unit has been looking for cost savings for some time, Pemberton said the situation has been "critical" for about three months. As of last week, 18 of the unit's 68 vehicles were parked to save on maintenance costs, he said.

Mostly, the maintainers are sucking up the extra exercise, understanding that the war takes precedence over personal comfort. But jobs do take longer, Pemberton said.

"You can't accomplish the efficiency that you'd like," he said. "In essence, it's a burden. But they do overcome."

Some bases, such as Aviano, are axing "luxuries" such as cleaning contractors, leaving airmen to tidy up their work spaces.

Airman 1st Class Daniel Meng, a communications security accountant, just finished his two-week cleaning detail to mop, sweep and take out the trash at Aviano's 31st Fighter Wing headquarters building.

"At first I didn't like it, but after I started doing it I realized it was important," Meng, 20, said. "I treated it like my regular job."

Higher priorities

The cutbacks reflect the price tag of the global war on terrorism, which has forced bases to spend more money on troop deployments, additional supplies and movement of equipment.

In 2004 alone, Congress has approved $126.1 billion for Iraq, with an additional $25 billion headed for congressional approval, according to the Institute for Policy Studies, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank.

"We have focused on the war in Iraq and Afghanistan and getting the very best equipment for the people who are fighting the war," U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, R.-Calif., chairmen of the House Armed Services Committee, said during a June 30 visit to Ramstein.

"Longer term projects that are less relevant to the immediate war fight, some military construction and some things you'd like to have for the comfort of troops in the rear" have been postponed, he said.

"For the time being, we think we can handle that," Hunter said.

In USAFE, that means luxuries that airmen had come to expect during peacetime, such as unlimited towels in the gym or someone to take out the trash, are "pushed aside" when the service is on a war footing, Thompson said.

"It becomes a bare-bones baseline budget," he said. "It's always mission first: fly or fight. These are war-fighting costs."

One Pentagon official said President Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld are fully aware of the base operating budget crunch.

"It is true that those accounts have not been executed to the predicted budget level because of the war," said Raymond DuBois Jr., deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment.

SEE CUTS ON PAGE 6

From left, Airman 1st Class Smith Jeter, Staff Sgt. Patrick Navarette and Airman 1st Class Eley Britton inspect Joint Direct Attack Munitions at a forward-deployed location. The war in Iraq has forced Air Force bases back in Germany to tighten their belts because some funding was diverted for the war on terrorism.
DEMETRIUS LESTER
Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Operating costs

Operating budgets for U.S. Air Forces in Europe's five main operating bases.

AVIANO AIR BASE
Fiscal 2003: $215.1 million
Fiscal 2004 to date: $187.1 million
Shortfall: $28 million or 13 percent

RAF LAKENHEATH
Fiscal 2003: $237 million
Fiscal 2004: $231 million
Shortfall: $6 million or 3 percent.

RAF MILDENHALL
Fiscal 2003: $116.4 million
Fiscal 2004 to date: $87.5 million
Shortfall: $28.9 million or 25 percent

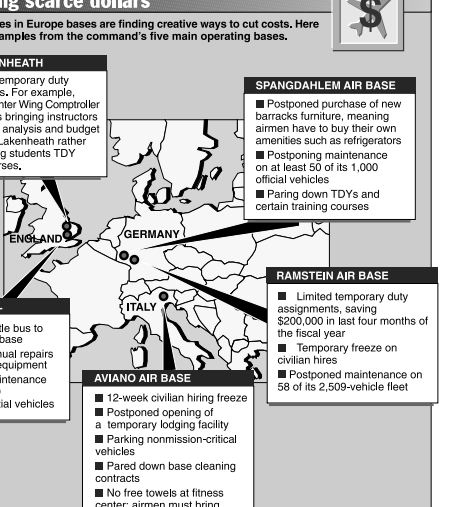
RAMSTEIN AIR BASE
435th Air Base Wing
Fiscal 2004 (Jan.-July): $197.2*
Shortfall: Approximately $3 million or 1 percent
*Ramstein figures do not include fiscal 2003 figures because the 435th AB Wing was formed in January 2004.

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE
Fiscal 2003: $164.5 million
Fiscal 2004 to date: $120.4 million
Shortfall: $44.1 million or 27 percent.

Source: USAFE bases — Stars and Stripes

Stretching scarce dollars

U.S. Air Forces in Europe bases are finding creative ways to cut costs. Here are some examples from the command's five main operating bases.



RAF LAKENHEATH
- Limiting temporary duty assignments. For example, the 48th Fighter Wing Comptroller Squadron is bringing instructors for financial analysis and budget courses to Lakenheath rather than sending students TDY to their courses.

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE
- Postponed purchase of new barracks furniture, meaning airmen have to buy their own amenities such as refrigerators
- Postponing maintenance on at least 50 of its 1,000 official vehicles
- Paring down TDYs and certain training courses

RAF MILDENHALL
- Canceled shuttle bus to operations side of base
- Postponed annual repairs on snow-removal equipment
- Postponed maintenance on about 60 of 720 nonmission-essential vehicles

AVIANO AIR BASE
- 12-week civilian hiring freeze
- Postponed opening of a temporary lodging facility
- Parking nonmission-critical vehicles
- Pared down base cleaning contracts
- No free towels at fitness center; airmen must bring their own

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE
- Limited temporary duty assignments, saving $200,000 in last four months of the fiscal year
- Temporary freeze on civilian hires
- Postponed maintenance on 58 of its 2,509-vehicle fleet

Source: Base public affairs offices

PETER JAEGER/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers' involuntary reassignments to begin

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Some soldiers are about to switch jobs — whether they like it or not.

Under a long-standing authority called "Involuntary Classification," Army officials are about to exercise their right to tell soldiers they need to take a different job in order to "rebalance the force," Army officials said.

Beginning this week, around 140 soldiers will get a letter informing them that they've been reassigned, complete with a date to attend a school for retraining, along with information about whether they will need to pull up stakes and move permanently, or just attend the school in temporary duty status, according to Connie Marche, Chief of the Army's Reclassification Management Branch.

Soldiers should have "at least 90 days notice" of the move.

"But it's not optional," Marche said in a Monday telephone interview. "It's an order."

The involuntary reclassification program is necessary because the Army — like the Navy and Air Force — has too many people doing Cold-War era jobs that aren't relevant to today's missions.

The Air Force and Navy are using programs that give first-term airmen and sailors in overmanned jobs a choice of changing to an area where they is a shortage of personnel when it's time to re-enlist. If the members won't do it, they often aren't allowed to re-up.

But those two services can afford to lose members who don't want to change jobs. The Air Force needs to cut 22,000 airmen by Sept. 31, 2005, because it is beyond its authorized end strength, while the Navy intends to reduce its size by 7,900 by the same time, in order to fund future technologies.

The Army, on the other hand, has primary responsibility for missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

With no end to either in sight, the Army can't spare a soul. In fact, Congress has told the Army it needs to add another 30,000 soldiers over the next couple of years.

Nevertheless, the Army has tried the volunteer route, too.

The Army has not exercised its legal right to tell people to switch without giving them a 90-day volunteer period first since the early 1980s, Marche said.

If enough soldiers don't take the bait, only then has the Army resorted to involuntary assignments.

The problem, Marche said, "is that we've never been too successful with … [asking] for volunteers … . We all get comfortable with what we do and don't want to make changes."

The initial numbers of involuntary reclassifications are small because the Army needs to make its changes in "low-density" MOSs, where you probably have fewer than 1,000 soldiers," Marche said.

Nor are the involuntary reclassification soldiers being asked to switch their basic career fields, just their sub-specialties within that field.

"We're only going to do this if you're going to be in the same career field, the logic being it won't be such a drastic change" for soldiers, Marche said.

In those MOSs, "if you have just one more soldier, you can be over strength," she said.

But the involuntary reclassification program will continue, and not always on a small scale, Marche said.

By the end of the year, as many as 700 intelligence soldiers may be ask to shuffle jobs, although the plans have yet to be finalized, she said.

Moving from an over-stressed field to an under-strength job has its advantages, even if it's not by choice, Marche pointed out.

Overfilled MOSs "have stagnant promotion opportunities … and [a lack] of career-enhancing assignments," which is not the case at all in undermanned areas, she said.

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The first reclassification list

The Army reclassification will begin by focusing on subsets within five Military Occupational Specialties, or MOSs. The number is the career field; the letter is the subspecialty:

21B — Combat engineer, and 21J, general constructions equipment operator, to be reclassified to 21U, topographic analyst. Total affected: 10 soldiers.

74C — Telecommunications Operator — Maintainer, to be reclassified to 25B, information systems operator/analyst. Total affected: 50 soldiers.

88K — Transportation watercraft engineers, to be reclassified to 88K, watercraft operators. Total affected: 15 soldiers.

96H — Common Ground Station Operator, and 96R, Ground Surveillance System Operator. Reclassification MOS and number of affected soldiers unknown.

98H — Communications/Noncommunications Collector. Reclassification MOS and number of affected soldiers unknown.

Note: The Army also needs about 110 soldiers to move from 14S, Air Defense Avenger crewmember, and 14R, Air Defense Bradley Linebacker crewmember, to 14J, Air Defense Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence Tactical Operations Center Operator/Maintainer.

But before the service mandates the moves, soldiers in the J and R Air Defense MOSs will be given a 90-day voluntary period, Army officials said.

— Lisa Burgess

Going for soldier of the year

JASON L. AUSTIN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Spc. Megan Pitts, of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 14th Transportation Battalion, aids a squad of German soldiers across a river during the U.S. Army Europe soldier of the year competition in Grafenwöhr, Germany. The competition consists of a physical fitness test, a written examination, basic soldiering tasks, an M-16 range, land navigation and an oral board. The winners of soldier and noncommissioned officer of the year competitions were to be announced at 6 p.m. Wednesday in Heidelberg.

Cuts: Budget may affect morale

CUTS, FROM PAGE 5

DuBois, who joined Hunter in the June visit to Ramstein, said Pentagon leaders hope to replenish base coffers with the $25 billion supplemental before the August congressional recess, as well as another supplemental next year.

Hearing that news, Pemberton, the Spangdahlem aircraft maintainer, said: "Good grief. I hope so."

Paying the bills

Mildenhall, home of the busy 100th Air Refueling Wing, is spending more money on equipping troops for war or replacing airmen while they are gone. As of June, $6.8 million — more than 7 percent of the base's operating budget — was spent on war-related costs, base officials said.

That includes such things as $270,000 on "personnel and support items" such as clothing, all-purpose bags and travel. An additional $540,000 went to pay for contracted cooks to replace deployed personnel, and $1.5 million was spent to improve force-protection measures, base officials said in an e-mail to Stars and Stripes.

RAF Lakenheath, England, home of the 48th Fighter Wing, has spent roughly $6.5 million to support worldwide contingencies in fiscal 2004, a base spokesman said. Its fighter squadrons recently returned from a three-month tour in Iraq.

At Aviano, about $31.1 million — nearly 17 percent of its operating budget this fiscal year — is going toward war-fighting preparation, equipment, supplies and temporary duty assignments, base officials said.

And at Ramstein Air Base, $31.7 million of the 435th Air Base Wing's $197.2 million budget is being spent on the global war on terrorism, spokeswoman Darlene Cowsert said.

With no end in sight for the war, USAFE leaders do worry about continuing shortfalls back in garrison.

Further cuts may begin to affect troop morale — a concern the Air Force takes seriously.

"We have not reached that point," Thompson said. "We are not there yet. If we go through another year like this in 2005, and get into 2006 and it's like this — then we're building toward impacting quality of life."

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Army bases suffer less from war-induced cuts

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

While Navy and Air Force bases in Europe cope with budget cuts and fee hikes to help pay for the Iraq war, the theater's Army bases haven't suffered much, Army officials say.

U.S. Army Europe did see its budget trimmed from $2.6 billion in 2003 to $2.2 billion this year, said Bob Purtiman, a USAREUR spokesman. But he attributed the reduction almost entirely to the command's reduced commitments in the Balkans.

"The difference should not be construed as a budget cut to USAREUR," he said in a written statement. He also said no training events have been canceled, although some training funds earmarked for deployed units were instead used to help those move to Iraq.

The Installation Management Agency-Europe, which oversees base operations in the theater, suffered a budget shortfall of $30 million this year, about 2 percent of its $1.44 billion budget. Millie Waters, an IMA-Europe spokeswoman, blamed the deficit partly on the demands of the Pentagon's commitments in Iraq and elsewhere.

She said the command has frozen hiring but has so far avoided layoffs of temporary employees as had been expected when IMA-Europe announced the cuts in May. Travel and training also has been reduced and some construction projects delayed until after the 2005 fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

But, Waters said, some of the cuts have been offset by extra funds earmarked for the home bases of units — primarily from the 1st Armored Division — forced to stay in Iraq for more than a year.

The Hanau, Germany-based 104th Area Support Group already has received $2.6 million, she said, and an additional $9.2 million for other units is expected soon.

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ROTC students get first taste of life at sea

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Stripes

ABOARD THE USS ENTERPRISE — In a couple of years, Zach Weinman, 19, will be a naval officer and in charge.

But this summer, he's a petty officer and taking orders.

For two months aboard this aircraft carrier, he has lived and worked like any regular, enlisted sailor — mopping the deck, helping pull lines and manning watches on the bridge. Rank might have its privileges, but for now Weinman said being an enlisted sailor — even if only for the summer — is valuable experience.

"You learn the enlisted side of things and that's what this cruise is all about," said Weinman, a mechanical engineering student at the University of Maine.

Every year, Naval Academy and Reserve Officer Training Corps midshipmen volunteer to join ships and submarines at sea to get a better idea of what sea life is like and get an up-close look at what enlisted sailors do while under way.

Ten college students joined the Enterprise this summer before the carrier deployed to the eastern Atlantic Ocean as part of the Summer Pulse '04 exercise.

Lt. Cmdr. Simonia Blassingame, the carrier's training officer, said the cruises often are an eye-opening and humbling experience for the students, who will become commissioned officers after they graduate. It's not unusual for a few to get lost on the 1,123-foot vessel.

"Some have never been on a ship before," Blassingame said.

This is no pleasure cruise.

Many of the midshipmen are getting an appreciation for the long hours sailors work. They have their own living spaces, but they eat in the general mess with the enlisted sailors.

Two midshipmen aboard the Enterprise are serving as division officers in the ship's deck department because the positions are vacant. Monika Goodrich and Amy Haag are taking on more duties than usual.

Haag, 21, a chemical engineering student from Pennsylvania, said the cruise is a chance to watch officers and department heads in action.

MARCEL A. BARBEAU/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Torpedoman's Mate 3rd Class Marcus Young of Shannon, Miss., gives a safety brief on the M-60 machine gun to Midshipmen 3rd Class Zachary Weinman, of Annapolis, Md., on the fantail aboard USS Enterprise. Enterprise is one of seven aircraft carriers participating in Summer Pulse '04. Weinman is an ROTC student volunteering on the ship.

"You see so many different leadership styles," Haag said. "You've seen effective ones and noneffective ones."

Academy and ROTC students can go on as many as three cruises designed to deliver a better understanding of the at-sea Navy and Marine Corps.

Midshipmen receive a salary equivalent to that of a petty officer second class for the tour, but they do not have the authority that comes with rank. They are sort of in a "gray area," somewhere between and enlisted sailor and a junior officer.

"We're like half of an ensign," said James Cardwell, 22, a psychology major at Auburn University in Alabama.

While the midshipmen aren't recognized as officers, they said the enlisted sailors and the chief petty officers have gone out of their way to help them. It's probably a good idea that they do, Blassingame said.

"You never know," she said. "In a few years, this could be the person they're working for."

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Families of USS Cole victims suing Sudan

BY SONJA BARISIC
The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Virginia — Family members of seven of the 17 sailors killed in the bombing of the USS Cole are suing Sudan for more than $100 million, contending the African nation financed, trained and harbored the terrorists responsible for the attack.

"Those widows and children very much need" the money, John Clodfelter, whose son Kenneth was killed in the Oct. 12, 2000, attack, said Monday.

The lawsuit was filed Friday in federal court in Norfolk. The destroyer is based at Norfolk Naval Station.

Suicide bombers pulled an explosive-packed boat alongside the Cole as the ship refueled in the Yemen port of Aden, blasting a large hole in its side. The attack was blamed on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

The lawsuit alleges Sudan was a haven for bin Laden or his followers in the years before the attack.

A spokesman for the Sudanese Embassy in Washington said the embassy had not seen the lawsuit and had no comment.

Six alleged al-Qaida operatives were charged earlier this month in Yemen with plotting the attack.

Saved by the crew from sinking, the ship was repaired in Pascagoula, Mississippi. It recently completed its first overseas duty since the bombing, returning to Norfolk in May after six months in the Mediterranean Sea.

Pilot who bombed Canadians loses appeal of reprimand

The Associated Press

BARKSDALE AIR FORCE BASE, La. — A U.S. fighter pilot who mistakenly bombed Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan in 2002, killing four and injuring eight, has lost an appeal of his reprimand, officials announced Monday.

Earlier this month, Maj. Harry Schmidt was found guilty of dereliction of duty and was ordered to forfeit more than $5,000 in pay.

Lt. Gen. Bruce Carlson, who handed down the verdict, said in a letter of reprimand that Schmidt "acted shamefully" and exhibited "arrogance and a lack of flight discipline" in the April 17, 2002, bombing.

In his appeal, Schmidt said the reprimand was issued as a "desire to mount a public relations campaign rather than actually attempt to see justice done."

But the Air Force announced Monday that Carlson had rejected Schmidt's appeal. The case will be forwarded to Gen. Hal Homberg, commander of the Air Force combat command, for a final decision, the Air Force said.

Schmidt's attorney, Charles W. Gittins, on Monday said he was not surprised by the ruling and does not expect Homberg to decide the case any differently.

"It's in the Air Force's interest to lay the blame at the lowest possible level, not the appropriate level," Gittins said.

If Homberg rules unfavorably, Gittens said he still could petition the Air Force Board for the Correction of Military Record to clear the pilot's name. He could also seek reimbursement in another venue for the withheld wages.

Search for pellet shooting suspect

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — German police and U.S. Air Force Security Forces are looking for a black BMW with U.S. military license plates in connection with a spate of pellet-gun shootings in the Kaiserslautern area, a Ramstein Air Base spokeswoman confirmed Tuesday.

Three people have been shot since last week by someone riding in a black BMW with U.S. tags starting with the letters "AD," according to an item Tuesday in the German newspaper Die Rheinpfalz.

The latest attack was at 11:25 p.m. Friday on Schneiderstrasse in Kaiserslautern, the newspaper reported. A 64-year-old man's arm was lacerated when he was shot, the paper said. Shortly after that incident, someone shot a pellet gun at a couple on Eisenbahnstrasse, but it missed the couple and hit a shop window.

Witnesses said the vehicle had four occupants and two were in the back seat laughing after shooting at the couple, the newspaper reported.

A cyclist and a 24-year-old woman were shot last week. German police told Die Rheinpfalz that the type of ammunition is customary for air rifles and air pistols.

Reward for V Corps vehicle vandal

The Criminal Investigative Command is offering a $2,000 reward to anyone with information leading to the arrest and conviction of those involved in the vandalism of 15 V Corps unit vehicles between March 20 and April 26.

The vehicles, parked at the Kaiserslautern General Support Center-Europe in Germany, were broken into and their contents, which included military equipment, were stolen.

The estimated cost of loss to the property is $56,000.

Anyone with information is asked to call (+49) 0631-340-6020.

From staff reports

104th ASG organizing cycling race

BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY
Stars and Stripes

It won't be the Tour de France, but a cycling enthusiast from Hanau is setting the stage for a series of bike races in mid-September.

At 53, Larry Bostick's best racing days are behind him, but the former racer, now the manager of the central processing facility in Hanau, Germany, still feels a need to peddle his sport. So he has proposed — and the 104th Area Support Group has agreed to back — the inaugural "Pioneer Criterium."

Aside from the racers, Bostick hopes the event will draw a large crowd.

"You can bring grills," Bostick said, "and you can bring out lawn chairs, sit back and enjoy the races."

A "criterium" is a bicycling event in which participants gather en masse at a starting line and then race around a closed-circuit course, often a half-mile to a mile in length. Typically, a criterium course wends its way through urban or suburban streets.

The five races Bostick and the 104th ASG are organizing will take place on a flat course measuring six-tenths of a mile. In all but one of the races, the total distance covered would be 30 miles, or 50 laps.

The races are scheduled for Sept. 18 at Pioneer Casern in Hanau. Bostick said most of the would-be participants are affiliated with the U.S. military, though German cyclists can race, too. Entrants pay 20 euros to ride.

Riders will be slotted into a particular race depending on age and sex. Women riders may participate in only the last race, one geared to them and to men 50 and above. Bostick said that's because the number of female riders in bicycling events often is quite low.

The first race, starting at 10 a.m., is for 18- to 24-year-olds. It will be followed an hour or so later by 25-29 age race, then the longest race of the day, covering 40 miles and open to men in their 30s. Forty-year-olds cycle in the next, with women and all other men in the final heat.

The event, billed as a Hispanic Heritage month function, also has the support of the U.S. Armed Forces Europe Cycling Team, headquartered at Sembach Air Base, Germany.

Debra Ponzio, who manages the team, said the Hanau heat could become part of the cycling series. Criteriums, which she likens to "going around the block — many times," are worthy events and currently not part of the series.

"We're excited there is another cycling event" for American cyclists in Europe, she said.

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IN THE WORLD

Palestinian power problems

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia told Yasser Arafat on Tuesday he would stay on in his post, but only temporarily in a caretaker capacity, Cabinet ministers said.

In an angry confrontation in the Palestinian leader's office, Qureia insisted his resignation stands unless Arafat yields more power to the Cabinet, Palestinian officials said.

Arafat was equally insistent that he rejected Qureia's resignation, said Saeb Erekat, a senior Cabinet minister.

"President Arafat insisted in rejecting the resignation. Abu Ala insists on his resignation. The crisis goes on," Erekat told The Associated Press, using Qureia's common name.

Qureia exited through a rear door to avoid reporters, leaving it unclear how long he would remain in the post or what his next move will be.

At the stormy Cabinet meeting, some ministers quoted Qureia as saying he accepted Arafat's rejection of his resignation, which he submitted three days ago amid growing chaos in Gaza ahead of a planned Israeli pullout and discontent over disorder in the Palestinian security services.

AP

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, right, and his prime minister, Ahmed Qureia, attend an emergency meeting at Arafat's office Tuesday. Qureia told Arafat he would temporarily stay at his post, Cabinet ministers said.

But Qureia was clearly angry that Arafat refused to yield power over the security forces, and at the lack of authority the Cabinet has to make and carry out decisions.

He told the Cabinet he saw himself only as a caretaker premier, ministers said, indicating that the underlying problems remained unresolved.

Qureia "told Arafat that his government must have real authority, especially over the security branches in order for it to be effective," said Qadoura Fares, a minister without portfolio.

Arafat, who is president of the Palestinian Authority, attended the meeting but made no comment afterward. The session was held in his headquarters, where he has been sequestered for two years in his shell-shattered compound.

The Cabinet crisis exploded after a series of kidnappings and violent demonstrations in Gaza last week, followed by Arafat's reshuffling of top security posts.

31 miners killed in Ukraine mine blast

The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Rescuers flooded a shaft at an eastern Ukrainian coal mine with water and nitrogen gas Tuesday in an effort to extinguish a raging fire and resume searching for survivors from an explosion that killed 31 miners.

Emergency workers recovered the bodies of 31 miners and were seeking five others in the Krasnolimanskaya mine, where a combination of methane and coal dust exploded about 3,180 feet below the surface Monday evening. Officials were still investigating what sparked the blast.

"We will keep searching," said Deputy Prime Minister Andrey Klyuyev.

More than 50 rescue teams struggled all day Tuesday with raging fires, high concentrations of poisonous gases, heavy smoke and temperatures in the mine tunnels that reached up to 120 degrees Fahrenheit, said a rescuer who gave his name only as Volodymyr, speaking by telephone from the Donetsk region mine.

"Rocks and debris make our job incredibly difficult ... it's a complete mess down there," Volodymyr said.

Fire rescuers started pumping thousands of gallons of water and thousands of cubic feet of nitrogen, flooding parts of the shaft in an effort to put out the fires. Officials say it could take more than a day to extinguish the blazes.

Mine officials said 48 miners were changing shifts around 9:30 p.m. Monday when the explosion happened. Twelve miners managed to escape unscathed.

Ukraine's mines are considered to be among the world's most deadly due to high concentrations of methane gas, frequent violations of safety rules and outdated equipment. More than 75 percent of Ukraine's 200 coal mines are classified as "dangerous."

The Krasnolimanskaya mine is considered one of the most perilous mines in Ukraine due to frequent methane leaks; three years ago, nine miners died in a methane blast. The mine is also one of Ukraine's most profitable, producing more than 10,000 tons of high-quality coal daily.

Tuesday's explosion is the deadliest mining incident in Ukraine in two years. In July 2002, 33 miners died in a fire and in 2001, 55 died in a gas explosion.

At least 267 miners died in Ukraine's mines last year, according to the State Labor Protection Committee, and more than 3,700 have been killed since 1991.

AP

Philipp Freiherr von Boeselager, one of the last living people involved in an assassination attempt on Nazi leader Adolf Hitler, arrives Tuesday at Berlin's Ploetzensse memorial site for the victims of the Nazi era. Von Boeselager and his wife, Rosy, were there as part of a commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the failed plot.

Hitler coup plotters honored at Nazi resistance memorial

BY DAVID RISING
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder confronted the lingering demons of the Nazi era Tuesday and honored Germany's oft-forgotten resistance movement 60 years after the most famous plot to kill Adolf Hitler, saying that the army officers, civic leaders and ordinary people who usually paid with their lives were heroes.

Germans should remember not only Col. Claus Graf Schenk von Stauffenberg, the aristocratic Nazi army officer who tried to kill Hitler with a briefcase bomb placed under their conference table on July 20, 1944, Schroeder said at the World War II army headquarters where Stauffenberg was executed by firing squad the same night after Hitler survived the bomb.

"Tens of thousands of them were deported to prisons and concentration camps, driven into exile or killed," he said. They included labor and church leaders, Social Democratic and Communist politicians, and students.

The high-profile commemoration of the plotters came as Germany increasingly sheds the debilitating legacy of the Third Reich, as evidenced by Schroeder's invitation to D-Day ceremonies in France last month.

In his comments, Schroeder — at 60 the first German leader with no personal memory of the war — said those Germans who opposed Hitler from the first were members of the resistance, too.

"Resistance against the dictatorship began already in 1933, when the Nazis had seized power," he told the ceremony.

Schroeder said July 20 is a reminder to Germans to "defend again and again the values of freedom and tolerance that we consider so self-evident today."

But the remembrance also underscored the fact that, unlike in countries such as France or the Netherlands, the German resistance never gained popular support for an uprising against Nazi rule.

German President Horst Koehler laid a wreath during the ceremony at a plaque honoring the July 20 plotters at the Bendlerblock building, now the Defense Ministry. But overnight in the central city of Goettingen, vandals sprayed apparent neo-Nazi slogans on a Stauffenberg memorial, police said.

Schroeder said Germans need to keep on asking themselves: "How could the dictatorship rely for so long on a broad mass base? It was not possible for the resistance to mobilize something of a natural patriotism against the National Socialists."

Some answers, he suggested, lie in the all-encompassing Nazi police state, the fact that Hitler survived repeated attempts to kill him, and that even the army coup plotters and other elites who ultimately became resistors long wavered between loyalty to the Fuehrer and their conscience.

Later Tuesday, Schroeder was to attend the swearing-in of new German army recruits at the site — an annual tradition designed to highlight the importance of the resistance to Hitler from within the military.

Popular culture has given the memory of the German resistance a boost, with a new feature film on Stauffenberg released to coincide with the 60th anniversary, as well as documentaries and books.

New EU leader

STRASBOURG, France — European lawmakers on Tuesday elected a Spaniard to be its next president as the expanded European Parliament met for the first time.

The 732-member assembly chose Josep Borrell, a relatively unknown Spanish Socialist, to its top job.

The 57-year old, who comes from the region of Catalonia in Spain, succeeds outgoing president Pat Cox.

Iran's abortion bill

TEHRAN, Iran— Iran's conservative-dominated parliament approved a draft bill Tuesday that would allow abortion in the first four months of pregnancy if the mother's life is in danger or the fetus is malformed.

The bill requires approval by the Guardian Council, which vets all legislation. However, top conservative lawmakers visited religious leaders last week in Qom, known as Iran's Vatican City, and won their support for the action to avoid controversy in Iran's highly religious society.

N. Ireland drawdown

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Britain has made significant military cutbacks in Northern Ireland over the past five years but needs to do much more to reach a normal level, an international panel of experts reported Tuesday.

Irish Catholics have demanded more base closures and troop withdrawals, but leaders of the province's British Protestant majority complain they've already gone too far.

From The Associated Press

London rail project gets government OK

BY ED JOHNSON
The Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair's government on Tuesday supported a new east-west rail link underneath London, but said that it would be a "huge challenge" to fund and deliver the $18.5 billion plan.

Transport Secretary Alistair Darling said the plans for the Crossrail project "need to be robust and value for money."

London Mayor Ken Livingstone would like the project completed by 2012, to support the city's bid to host the 2012 Olympic games. But the British government has said it does not believe it can be completed before 2013.

Darling told the House of Commons that a good transport infrastructure would be crucial to a successful Olympic bid.

Darling said that the government would introduce legislation "at the earliest opportunity" to allow the rail link to be built.

Apart from the Underground subway network, London currently has just one rail route through the city — the Thameslink line running from King's Cross toward Gatwick airport.

London commuters complain of congestion and frequent delays, and business leaders insist the Crossrail project is vital to support the capital's development as a leading world city and financial center.

If Britain wins the 2012 Olympics, the Games would be held on the poorer, east side of London.

The Crossrail project has been discussed for decades, but plans were shelved in the 1990s over cost concerns.

Under the current plan, Crossrail would provide 24 trains an hour in each direction through central London and be capable of carrying 160,000 morning rush-hour passengers.

The government already has committed $285 million to carry out a feasibility study. Plans must be approved by Parliament before work could begin.

Darling said the government would continue to reorganize the rail system, which was broken up and sold to private owners in the mid-1990s. It is frequently criticized for delays, overcrowding, antiquated equipment and creaky infrastructure.

Miner digs up 182-carat diamond — and trouble

BY PAUL FOURNIER
The Associated Press

CONAKRY, Guinea — There's lucky: Finding a diamond when you're a young miner sweating it out in the West African forests of Guinea.

And then there's too lucky: finding a 182-carat stone that everyone — starting with the government of Guinea — wants a piece of.

Result: the stone, four times the size of the famous Hope diamond, was tucked away Monday deep in the vaults of Guinea's Central Bank. No pictures, please.

And the 25-year-old miner who found it, if not exactly in hiding, was making himself scarce. No interviews, please.

State radio in impoverished, mineral-rich Guinea announced the find Thursday. Guinea mining industry officials confirmed Monday that the newly dug stone — though not flawless — was a fortune in the rough.

"It's a quite brilliant diamond, of good enough quality despite having numerous veins. One thing is certain — it's worth millions of dollars," a top official with the Aredor mining company, Guinea's biggest diamond operation, told The Associated Press.

The Hope diamond, by contrast, is 45.52 carats.

The 25-year-old miner, who was not identified, struck his shovel on the stone at a dig in southeast Guinea, bordering Ivory Coast and Liberia.

Authorities gave few other details of the diamond's first hours and days in the light. It was clear, however, that the rock's time with its discoverer was brief.

Authorities were to inspect the stone later this week and offer an official estimate. The finder — if luck holds — would likely receive an undetermined percentage of that, industry officials said.

AP

Miners pan for diamonds in June near Koidu, Sierra Leone, near the Guinean border. A 25-year-old miner in impoverished Guinea has unearthed a 182-carat diamond worth millions of dollars.

IN THE STATES

Clinton adviser investigated for taking memos

Berger admits taking missing classified documents home for review

BY JOHN SOLOMON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sandy Berger, former President Clinton's national security adviser, is under criminal investigation by the Justice Department after highly classified terrorism documents disappeared while he was reviewing what should be turned over to the Sept. 11 commission.

Berger's home and office were searched earlier this year by FBI agents armed with warrants after the former Clinton adviser voluntarily returned some sensitive documents to the National Archives and admitted he also removed handwritten notes he had made while reviewing the sensitive documents.

However, some drafts of a sensitive after-action report on the Clinton administration's handling of al-Qaida terror threats during the December 1999 millennium celebration are still missing, officials and lawyers told The Associated Press.

Berger

Al Felzenberg, spokesman for the Sept. 11 commission, said Tuesday the Berger investigation will not impact the panel's work in any way. The 10-member bipartisan panel releases its final report on Thursday.

"This is a matter between the government and an individual," he said. "They were not our documents, and we believe we have access to all the materials we need to see to do our report."

Deputy Attorney General James Comey said he could not comment on any ongoing investigation but said prosecutors take "very, very seriously" any allegation of mishandling of classified documents.

"It's our lifeblood, those secrets," Comey told reporters at the Justice Department.

President Bush, walking toward his helicopter on the South Lawn, ignored a shouted question about Berger. White House officials referred questions to the Justice Department.

Berger and his lawyer said Monday night he knowingly removed the handwritten notes by placing them in his jacket and pants, and also inadvertently took copies of actual classified documents in a leather portfolio.

"I deeply regret the sloppiness involved, but I had no intention of withholding documents from the commission, and to the contrary, to my knowledge, every document requested by the commission from the Clinton administration was produced," Berger said in a statement to the AP.

The Archives, which is the nation's repository for presidential papers, is believed to have copies of some of the missing documents.

Lanny Breuer, one of Berger's attorneys, said his client has offered to cooperate fully with the investigation but had not yet been interviewed by the FBI or prosecutors. Berger has been told he is the subject of the criminal investigation, Breuer said.

Berger served as Clinton's national security adviser for all of the president's second term and most recently has been informally advising Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry. Clinton asked Berger last year to review and select the administration documents that would be turned over to the commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Anthrax case continues

FREDERICK, Md. — FBI agents combed laboratory suites at Fort Detrick — home to the Army's biological warfare defense program — on Tuesday, and a source said they were again looking for evidence in the 2001 anthrax attacks.

The labs at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases have been closed since Friday, Fort Detrick spokesman Charles Dasey said.

A law-enforcement source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press the activity is related to the anthrax mailings that killed five people and sickened 17 in autumn 2001.

FBI agents have frequently visited Fort Detrick since the unsolved attacks.

Debra Weierman, spokeswoman for the FBI's Washington field office, said the lab probe was part of "an ongoing criminal investigation."

Flag-burning amendment

WASHINGTON — A Senate panel approved a constitutional amendment Tuesday that would ban the burning of the American flag, but opponents of the measure say there's not enough support in the full, GOP-controlled Senate to push through a change to the Constitution.

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved a one-line change to the Constitution — "The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States" — on an 11-7 vote, which pushes the issue to the full Senate.

"The flag deserves constitutional protection, and legal scholars agree that this amendment is the only way to restore the law as it existed for most of our nation's history," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

Even though some Democrats are joining with the majority Republicans to support the change in the closely divided Senate, there won't be enough support to get the required 67 votes needed to approve a constitutional amendment, said Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., who opposes the change.

Many opponents say such an amendment would limit free speech rights.

The Bush administration supports the flag-burning amendment, while Democratic presidential challenger John Kerry and his running mate John Edwards do not think the Constitution should be amended to add the ban.

From The Associated Press

House panel votes to cut environment, NASA to finance veterans health care

BY ALAN FRAM
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A House panel voted Tuesday to cut space, environment and science programs next year, including giving President Bush 7 percent less than the $16.2 billion he proposed for NASA.

The cuts, including deep reductions in the funds Bush wants to prepare for manned missions to the Moon and Mars, were imposed in a wide-ranging $92.9 billion measure that also finances veterans programs. The savings helped lawmakers finance a $2 billion increase for veterans health care, to $30.3 billion, underscoring Congress' determination to provide such money at a time of war.

"The choices have been brutally fair," said Rep. James Walsh, R-N.Y., chief author of the legislation. Citing federal deficits that have spun to record levels, he added, "We've tried to do the best we could."

Of the 13 annual spending measures lawmakers are writing for 2005, the bill was the most vivid example yet of the budget pressures the Republican-run Congress is confronting. Even lawmakers' coveted earmarks — projects they win for their home districts — were cut by 2 percent from last year's levels, Walsh said.

Walsh is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's subcommittee that oversees veterans, environment, housing and science. The panel approved the measure by voice vote — but not without complaints from Democrats about the spending limits Republicans have voted to impose on Congress.

"This year, I think it's going to be very clear it's becoming excruciating, if not unacceptable," said Rep. Alan Mollohan of West Virginia, top Democrat on the subcommittee.

Even the increase for veterans fell $1.3 billion below the total desired, veterans groups and the GOP-led House Veterans' Affairs Committee said.

"There's very little good that can be said about" the bill, said Rep. David Obey, D-Wis.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration would get $15.1 billion next year, $229 million below this year and $1.1 billion below Bush's request.

Just $372 million was provided out of the $910 million Bush wanted for initial preparations for manned missions to the Moon and Mars.

That included just one-fourth of the $520 million he proposed for the crew exploration vehicle, which NASA envisions as the eventual replacement for the space shuttle.

The space station would get $1.7 billion, $100 million less than the president wanted. The space shuttle would get the full $4.3 billion Bush proposed.

The Environmental Protection Agency would get $7.8 billion next year. That is $600 million below this year's total, and $36 million less than Bush sought.

The Senate has yet to write its version of the bill.

Bush ponders intelligence chief, CIA leader

BY TERENCE HUNT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House reserved judgment Monday about whether to establish a Cabinet-level national intelligence chief.

President Bush said he was "still taking a good, hard look" at candidates to lead the CIA.

A major reorganization of the intelligence community and creation of a Cabinet-level intelligence agency are expected to be among primary recommendations of the independent commission that investigated the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The commission announced it would release its final report Thursday, culmination of nearly 20 months' investigation into the nation's worst terror attack.

"The terrorist threat to the United States has not disappeared since September 11," said Lee Hamilton, the commission's vice chair. "Future attacks are expected. We hope that the president and the Congress study our recommendations with care and act on them quickly."

Bush said he would await the commission's report before commenting.

"Some of the reforms, I think, are necessary: more human intelligence, better ability to listen or to see things and better coordination amongst the variety of intelligence-gathering services," the president said. "And so we'll look at all their recommendations."

He also said he was not ready to nominate a new CIA chief to replace George Tenet, who stepped down earlier this month. "Still thinking about it," the president said. "Let you know when it's going to happen. I know there's intense speculation over time, and people get their hopes built up."

He said he was "still taking a good, hard look."

The commission report also is expected to discuss any relationship between Iraq's neighbor and traditional foe Iran and the al-Qaida terror organization.

Bush said the United States is exploring whether Iran had a role in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Bush noted that Acting CIA Director John McLaughlin has said that there was no direct connection, but Bush said, "We're digging into the facts to see if there was one."

"I have long expressed my concerns about Iran," he said.

"After all, it's a totalitarian society where people are not allowed to exercise their rights as human beings."

The commission said it would release its report, expected to run more than 500 pages, online on the commission's Web site when the news conference begins Thursday. It also is to be available Thursday in bookstores and from the Government Printing Office.

AP

Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. John Edwards jokes Monday with Robin Jones, 6, as her sister, Billie Jones, 7, left, laughs following a "Front Porch Visit" at the home of Durham, N.C., Mayor Bill Bell.

Democrats push porch politics

BY TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — The front porch conjures up images of rocking chairs, lazy summer afternoons and icy drinks. In election-year politics, Democrats John Kerry and John Edwards are using the setting to reach out to voters in choreographed events with miked candidates and hand-picked audiences.

"The most important thing you can do as a political leader is not to talk, but to listen," Edwards said Monday from the front porch of the split-level home of Durham's Democratic mayor, Bill Bell.

It might have looked as though Sen. Edwards just stopped by for a folksy chat in this leafy, upper middle-class neighborhood in his home state.

But the neighbors and friends were hand picked. A large camera stand stood on the lawn. Satellite trucks lined the street.

Electrical cables snaked everywhere. Dozens of reporters and photographers were present. A man pushing a lawnmower was stopped by police from getting any closer.

The format plays to Edwards' strengths, Democratic strategists suggested. From his years of addressing juries directly and without notes as a trial lawyer, Edwards prefers not to speak at podiums or use prepared remarks. It also allows him to emphasize his humble Carolina mill-town roots.

"You go to where voters live and listen to them about what's going on in people's lives," said campaign spokesman Mark Kornblau.

> *"You go to where voters live and listen to them about what's going on in people's lives."*
>
> **Mark Kornblau**
> Democratic presidential campaign spokesman, on porch politics

The Bush campaign distributed a statement from the Republican mayor of Charlotte, N.C., Pat McCrory, denouncing Edwards's front-porch campaigning in a state that offers 15 electoral votes.

"North Carolina has seen a lot of John Edwards on television over the past few weeks, but we have barely seen him at all in our state over the past few years," McCrory said. "It is apparent he has little in common with the values of our state."

Questions from the neighborhood allowed Edwards to discuss some of his favorite subjects, including education, the loss of U.S. jobs overseas and the swelling federal deficit.

"I don't want to over-promise because President Bush has put us in a ditch. But what we've got to do about it is to work our way out of it. It will take some time," he said on the deficit question.

No one asked, but Edwards also defended himself against fresh claims by Vice President Dick Cheney that the Democrats' opposition to legislation limiting jury awards for medical malpractice contributes to rising health care costs.

Edwards, who earned millions as a personal injury attorney before becoming a senator, said Cheney was "dead wrong." Edwards said he and Kerry have a plan to keep cases out of the legal system that don't belong, and to decrease the cost of health care by reducing malpractice costs for doctors.

FDA to consider home defibrillators

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defibrillators that jump-start a stopped heart may save lives in airports and shopping malls, but few people keep them at home, where most cardiac arrests occur.

Now a manufacturer hopes to spur sales by making the devices as easy to buy as a fire extinguisher, asking the government to lift its requirement that at-home defibrillators be sold only with a doctor's prescription.

It's a controversial issue. Would in-home use of the machines, which cost almost $2,000, save many lives, or instead waste precious minutes if distraught relatives hunted the device instead of dialing 911 first?

"People would be better off spending the money on a health club membership," says Dr. Thomas H. Lee, a Harvard Medical School cardiologist and editor of the Harvard Heart Letter.

Philips Medical Systems, maker of the HeartStart home defibrillator, argues that consumers deserve to decide, but physicians often won't prescribe the easy-to-use devices.

Next week, the Food and Drug Administration's scientific advisers will debate Philips' request for over-the-counter sales.

FDA's chief concern is whether ordinary people can figure out proper use on their own.

"I don't view this as a magical cure for the problem," says Dr. Jeremy Ruskin, Massachusetts General Hospital's cardiac arrhythmia chief, a defibrillator proponent helping Philips' push."If five of every 100 cardiac arrest victims are ultimately saved, if there's … widespread availability we will double the existing survival rate," he predicts.

Every year, about 220,000 Americans die of cardiac arrest, where the heart's electrical system goes haywire and heartbeat abruptly stops.

CPR buys some time, but a defibrillator can restart the heart with a jolt of electricity. Every minute the heart is stopped, survival chances drop by 10 percent, and 95 percent of victims die.

Last fall, a study showed that defibrillators in public places can double the chances of surviving cardiac arrest.

Roughly 80 percent of cardiac arrests occur in the home, where there's less chance of a collapse being witnessed.

Campaign funds still keeping up

Both parties have millions left to spend

BY SHARON THEIMER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's record fund raising approached $230 million as July began, leaving him with tens of millions in the bank and several weeks of private donations to come before he accepts a government check for his general election campaign in early September.

Bush spent roughly $160 million on his re-election effort through June, including about $12 million last month, a campaign finance report he filed Tuesday with the Federal Election Commission showed.

Bush's biggest expenses included ads, accounting for roughly $3 million last month and at least $84 million overall; mail-related costs such as printing, postage and mailing lists, about $4 million in June and $32 million overall; and staff pay, consultants and related personnel costs, about $2 million in June and roughly $15 million total.

The campaign spent nearly $1 million last month and close to $3 million overall on "message phone calls."

Bush, who stopped holding fund-raisers for himself last spring, took in about $13 million in contributions last month and started July with $64 million in the bank.

Democratic rival John Kerry's campaign said earlier this month that he had collected at least $34 million in June through events and other fund raising, boosting his party-record total to more than $180 million. Like Bush, Kerry was to detail his contributions and spending in a report to the FEC due at midnight Tuesday.

When Bush and Kerry accept $75 million apiece in public money for the fall campaign, as they are expected to after they are nominated at the party conventions, it will be the only money they can spend on the presidential race from that point on. But it doesn't mean they will be on their own financially.

The Democratic and Republican parties can each spend roughly $16 million in coordination with their presidential nominees, and can pour in unlimited amounts on spending that is independent of the campaigns.

For Democrats, the spending blitz starts after Kerry accepts the party's presidential nomination in Boston on July 29. It begins for Republicans after the convention in New York in early September.

The Republican National Committee has raised at least $217 million this election cycle and started July with $78 million left, while the Democratic National Committee has collected about $125 million and began the month with roughly $63 million on hand. Each plans to rake in millions more before Election Day.

With an eye on making their government checks stretch as far as possible, Bush and Kerry have helped raise tens of millions for their parties over the past several weeks. Their running mates are also lending a hand.

Report: Taxpayer data at risk

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Private contractors revamping Internal Revenue Service computers committed security violations that significantly increased the possibility that taxpayer information might be disclosed, Treasury Department inspectors say.

An investigation by the department's inspector general for tax administration found that employees working for contractors, or an experienced hacker, could use the contractors' computers to gain access to taxpayer data.

"Our concerns were increased when we could not find documentation that all contractor employees had received background investigations as required," the report said.

Other lapses left the IRS computer system vulnerable to viruses and hackers, investigators said.

"In summary, a contractor's employees committed numerous security violations that placed IRS equipment and taxpayer data at risk," the report found. "In some cases, contractors blatantly circumvented IRS policies and procedures even when security personnel identified inappropriate practices."

In response, an IRS official acknowledged security problems but said the agency found no evidence to support contentions that there was a big risk that hackers could gain access to IRS computers or that taxpayer confidentiality would be breached.

"We can find no evidence of contractor activities that resulted in unrestricted access to production systems or taxpayer data," Daniel Galik, chief of IRS mission assurance, wrote to inspectors.

"In the absence of documented incidents, we must conclude that much of your assessment is based on theoretical possibilities."

The report comes as Congress considers giving the IRS authority to hire private contractors to collect overdue tax debts, an effort that has some lawmakers and others worried that taxpayer information won't be protected.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AAFES an anachronism?

The post cold-war military drawdown caused significant reductions in customer numbers for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. The organization lost some of the economies of scale it had enjoyed, prices were perceived to be rising and value-for-money falling.

This triggered discussion of whether the concept of AAFES was outdated and whether AAFES provided the most efficient and cost-effective way of providing merchandise for military and retired personnel. A scheme to replace AAFES with malls anchored by a major retailer was discussed during the early '90s — one such retailer was, allegedly, drooling at the prospect of gaining so many new customers.

The idea was rejected. It was argued, among other things, that a purely commercial enterprise would favor its shareholders rather than all the stakeholders — including the customers — and the military folk might be worse off if AAFES were disbanded. The more cynical might have thought that the real reason for the rejection had more to do with protecting senior jobs at AAFES than ensuring that the customers benefited from an efficient service.

I've learned some AAFES "shopping rules" during 25 years or so on various assignments in Europe, including "If you see it, buy it — it won't be here next time" and "If you don't like our prices, go on the economy and see if you like theirs." Neither has much to do with providing customer satisfaction. While in Europe, customers are stuck with AAFES, but how many shop at AAFES when they return to the States?

The discussion of gasoline prices awakens old memories. AAFES claims that it ties the price of gasoline in Germany to that in the United States. The writer of "Gas pricing policy flawed" (June 12) highlighted some of the ridiculous claims made by AAFES. "It costs money to have the gas coupons printed," "… there's not really a lot AAFES can do about that because the prices have gone so high in the States" and the old explanation "it helps us to offset the price of diapers sold" are some of the more feeble excuses.

Gasoline for U.S. forces in Belgium is not provided by AAFES. We use gas cards "charged" with 200 liters that work in machines at Total Fina gas stations. Printing gas coupons does indeed cost money, but the gas cards aren't free and Total Fina is *not* a charitable institution; the price of the card is included in the price of the gas — which is considerably lower than AAFES' price. The price we pay is the price of the gas in Belgium, without Belgian taxes. Prices rose earlier this year, but when Belgian prices fell, the price of gas cards fell. On the day prices fell in Belgium, AAFES put up the prices (yet again) in Germany.

The argument that gas prices are high to subsidize the price of other items is beyond belief. Any commercial organization in either the United States or in Europe that tried that argument may as well close its doors. Customers would stop coming. "Robbing Peter to pay Paul" does not sit well with the model of free-market enterprise with which we are accustomed.

If AAFES can't compete with commercial organizations — and the massive disparity between Fina gas prices and those of AAFES suggests it can't — then perhaps it's time to revisit the question of the "suitability" of AAFES. Perhaps the next round of defense cuts could start in Dallas — the home of AAFES — and go on to Virginia Beach, Va., headquarters for the Navy Exchange (the government should be able to get a few dollars for that white elephant.)

AAFES appears to be singing from a different sheet of music than that used by commercial retailers, who know that if they don't satisfy customers they will go out of business. If AAFES can't sing a song that appeals to its customers, perhaps it's time to "play it again, Sam."

Paul D. Winder
Chievres, Belgium

The price of gas

I am writing in response to the July 5 article "Military gas prices on the rise in Europe." It mentioned that the price is increased over that paid by AAFES in order to cover operating costs, subsidies to keep the prices of other staple products in its stores lower and to cover payments to the Morale, Welfare and Recreation fund.

I understand the need for operating costs to be covered, as that is part of the cost of doing business. I am interested in the subsidies for other staple products. Where in the AAFES charter does it state that they shall use their monopoly to gouge the vast majority of their customers for the benefit of the few?

I understand the need to help young families out with certain items that they need for their children and so forth, but I fail to see where AAFES needs to steal from the rest of the community to do this. If shoppers are buying staples through AAFES instead of the commissary, where they are much cheaper, then they need to learn to comparison shop. If the money is being used to support the 24-hour shoppettes, then I suggest that the prices charged between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. be increased by 10 percent so that the cost of this "benefit" is borne by those who avail themselves of it and not the entire community.

I know I can take my business elsewhere if I am not happy with AAFES, and I do. The fact that gas is available on the economy is no excuse to charge outlandish prices for a product we all depend on. After all, AAFES is here to serve the entire community, not just selected segments.

Stanley E. Andruszkiewicz
Bindlach, Germany

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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. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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Re-employment blues

With all due respect to the active component, the one problem that they do not have to deal with is the re-employment issue. I am a reservist who is on his fourth deployment in seven years. On the previous deployments, I have had the misfortune of being "terminated" from my job and not offered re-employment upon return from the mission three times. The first time ended with a legal settlement. The second actually had to be filed in the federal court system and along with the financial settlement was the stipulation that I cannot disclose the name of the employer that the suit was filed with. But, since the suit was filed in a court system, that information is public knowledge and can be obtained by anyone.

This brings me to my current situation. I was mobilized for 12 months after the Sept. 11 attacks. Upon release from active duty, I returned to my employer, the Ford Motor Co. in St. Paul, Minn., and applied for re-employment. I was refused and was informed I had been terminated. For more than three months, I was without an income or insurance benefits for myself and my family. I had to request to be remobilized just to have an income and did another year on Operation Enduring Freedom orders.

Upon return from that year of service, Ford did rehire me. However, it has been 1½ years and I am still pursuing the three months of pay that they owe for not rehiring me, plus some additional benefits they had offered such as pay comp for six months for making less money on active duty than I made at the Ford plant. Ford has yet to respond to my attorney, and at this point this case will be filed in federal court in the next few weeks.

At this time, all I can say is "please do not purchase a Ford vehicle, and if you see my UAW representatives, tell them they are worthless."

Chief Warrant Officer 3 M.G. Minnaert
Camp Victory, Iraq

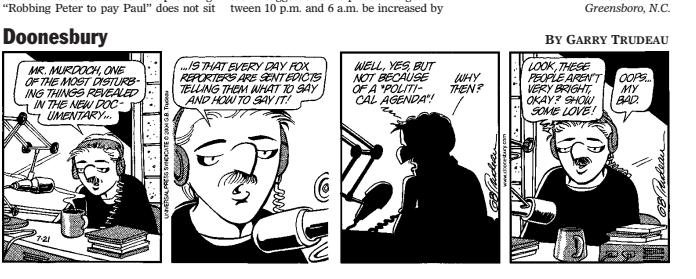
Democracy in Iraq

So, the government of Iraq is bringing back executions. And the prime minister is thinking about postponing elections and imposing martial law. I guess democracy is in the eye of the beholder. At least this version of democracy is better than what Saddam Hussein offered.

Chuck Mann
Greensboro, N.C.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

For Stewart, humility is never in fashion

BY SHERYL MCCARTHY
Newsday

NEW YORK

For a woman as smart and talented as Martha Stewart, it's unfortunate that she never learned the value of being able to admit when she's been wrong, to apologize and walk away.

Instead, after Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum sentenced her to five months in prison and five months under house arrest following her obstruction-of-justice trial, Stewart reacted with righteous indignation.

"This is a shameful day," she said outside the courthouse afterward. "Shameful for me and my family and my beloved company and all its employees and partners. What was a small, personal matter became an almost-fatal circus event of unprecedented proportions."

In other words, shame on the people who prosecuted her, and on the journalists who said nasty things about her, but no shame on herself for thinking she could lie to federal investigators about a stock sale, and get away with it.

"I have been choked and almost suffocated during that time," Stewart continued, professing that, through it all, she was more concerned about the others who were hurt by the scandal than she was about herself.

If I were Stewart, I would have admitted my unfortunate lapse in judgment, apologized for the misery I caused, and gone quietly off to prison. She could have been home by Christmas and about to start serving her five months of cushy house arrest in her mansion.

Instead, she has vowed to fight her conviction. As one Court TV reporter pointed out, even if she wins her appeal, she'll have to stand trial all over again. And because there's ample evidence that she did what she was convicted of, she will have wasted a lot more time and money. Better to just suck it up.

Stewart was right to say that the public latched onto her legal troubles with unseemly glee. But she was wrong to dismiss her offense as only "a small personal matter." It was her own hubris in believing she could get away with concocting a ridiculous alibi that led to the huge financial setbacks to Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia and resulted in the layoffs of 200 employees.

Given Stewart's refusal to take responsibility, I was glad Judge Cedarbaum didn't yield to the suggestion that, instead of going to prison, Stewart be allowed to do community service at a women's center in the Bronx, where low-income women make curtains and other household products. Because Stewart can do that kind of thing with her eyes closed, what kind of punishment would that have been?

Stewart's stockbroker, Peter Bacanovic, drew an identical term for conspiring with her. Which leaves Douglas Faneuil, the young broker's assistant who wound up being a pawn in the conspiracy between the two of them. One of the biggest scandals of this case was how Stewart and Bacanovic tried to pin the responsibility for their actions onto this young man, who became the prosecution's chief witness against them.

Barred for life from ever again working in the financial services industry, Faneuil deserves nothing harsher than probation.

Stewart vowed that she'll "be back." She urged people not to shun her company's products because of what happened to her. And, in fact, after the sentencing, her stock rose 37 percent. I glanced at a stack of "Martha Stewart Living" magazines on a colleague's desk. Sure enough, they were fabulous, filled with photographs of magnificent home furnishings and table settings and food that looked so good I wanted to eat it off the pages.

"Our magazines are great," Stewart had pleaded. "Our products are great. They deserve your support."

They were the truest words she said that day.

Ambassador bears no good will toward president

Jack Kelly

Joseph C. Wilson IV's shattered credibility illustrates much of what is wrong with the CIA, and with "mainstream" journalism.

Wilson's 15 minutes of fame began July 6, 2003, when he accused President Bush of twisting the truth when he said in his State of the Union address that January: "The British government has learned that Saddam [Hussein] recently sought significant quantities of uranium in Africa."

Wilson, a former ambassador to Gabon, said he knew this wasn't true because in February 2002, the CIA had sent him to Niger to determine whether that African country had sold "yellowcake" (lightly enriched uranium ore) to Iraq. After spending eight days "drinking sweet mint tea and talking with dozens of people," he concluded that Niger had not.

Wilson's fame soared when columnist Robert Novak disclosed that a Bush administration official told him that Wilson had been selected for the Niger mission at the recommendation of his wife, CIA officer Valerie Plame. He was a frequent guest on television news shows; the subject of a fawning profile in Vanity Fair magazine; awarded a lucrative book deal, and became an (unpaid) foreign policy adviser to Sen. John Kerry. On July 9, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence issued its report on the CIA's pre-war intelligence on Iraq. The SSCI concluded that:

■ Wilson lied when he denied his wife had gotten him the Niger assignment. "Interviews and documents provided to the Committee indicate that his wife … suggested his name for the trip."

■ Wilson lied when he said his report "debunked" Bush's charge that Saddam Hussein was seeking uranium from Africa. "For most analysts, the information in [Wilson's] report lent more credibility to the original CIA reports on the uranium deal."

■ Wilson lied when he told The Washington Post he knew the Niger intelligence had been based on documents that had been forged. The CIA didn't obtain the document alleged to be a forgery until eight months after Wilson had returned from Niger. "Committee staff asked how the former ambassador could have come to the conclusion that 'the dates were wrong and the names were wrong' when he had never seen the CIA reports and had no knowledge of what names and dates were in the reports."

On July 14, the Butler Commission issued its report on Britain's pre-war intelligence. It concluded there was ample evidence that Saddam tried to buy uranium from Niger and other African countries, and that Bush's statement to that effect in his State of the Union address was "well-founded."

Wilson's charges against President Bush last year were big news. But the fact that government investigations in two countries have concluded that it was Wilson who was lying apparently isn't news at all.

NBC had Wilson on its "Meet the Press" and "Today" programs half a dozen times when he was accusing President Bush of lying but, as of this writing, have done no stories at all since the Senate Intelligence Committee and the Blair Commission have issued their reports. Same for ABC and CBS, according to the Media Research Center.

Wilson graced the cover of Time magazine's Oct. 13, 2003, issue, but Time managed to write a story on the Senate Intelligence Committee report without ever mentioning how it had savaged Wilson's credibility.

The Senate Intelligence Committee criticized the CIA's sloppy work in investigating the Saddam/Africa/uranium connection. All of its information came from foreign intelligence services.

Aside from Wilson's tea-drinking expedition, the CIA itself made little effort to gather information on this potentially critical topic. When the Navy received a report from an African businessman that uranium from Niger was being stored in a warehouse in Cotoneau, Benin, the CIA didn't bother to check it out.

Some in the CIA may have been more interested in dismissing reports of an Iraq/Niger connection than in finding out if they were true. Valerie Plame told Senate investigators she told her husband "there's this crazy report" on a purported deal for Niger to sell uranium to Iraq.

If we're to win the war on terror, we need a CIA that is more interested in finding out what is going on than in reinforcing the prejudices of some analysts, and a news media that is more interested in finding the facts than in shilling for the Democratic Party.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Diamond heist

FL MIAMI — Ten masked gunmen beat and robbed two Israeli salesmen of more than $800,000 in diamonds during a well-organized daytime robbery at a Miami gas station, police said.

The salesmen had finished pumping gas into their car Thursday morning when their exit was blocked by a Ford Mustang, a pickup and a van. Ten men climbed out of the vehicles holding weapons and wearing masks and surrounded the salesmen's car, Miami police said.

The gunmen took several items, including the cache of diamonds, before escaping.

The New York-based salesmen, identified as Efrain Sade, 39, and Shai Barbi, 30, were traveling around Florida delivering diamonds to businesses.

Official pleads innocent

HI HONOLULU — A city wastewater official has pleaded innocent to theft and bribery charges for allegedly ordering city workers to do work at a private residence on city time and using city resources.

Harry Hauck III and Jay Gonsalves were indicted for an incident between July and August 2001. Both are supervisors at the Kailua Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Hauck pleaded not guilty on Thursday.

Several employees from the Kailua plant alleged they were ordered to install or repair a water sprinkler system on two consecutive weekend at the Kailua home of Gonsalves' mother while on city overtime and using supplies from the city storeroom.

Machete attack charges

MA BOSTON — An East Boston man was ordered held on $2,000 bail on Friday after pleading innocent at his arraignment to striking another man several times with a machete, severely cutting the victim's head.

Mario Cruz, 46, was arraigned on charges of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, assault with a dangerous weapon and leaving the scene of an accident for his alleged role in Thursday night's incident.

Police responding to a report of an assault in progress found the victim covered in blood with cuts to his head. He was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital.

The victim's name has not been released.

A witness told police that the suspect hit the victim several times in the head with a machete, then used a baseball bat to threaten two people trying to help the victim, according to the Suffolk district attorney's office.

Glitch means free drugs

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A health maintenance organization is still trying to calculate its losses after a computer programming glitch told pharmacists to give thousands of Minnesota retirees free generic prescriptions.

Retirees accepted the freebie for several days before a retired school librarian pointed out the error.

The problem started when Medica Health Plans gave a one-time offer to any of the 3,501 seniors enrolled in its Medicare-supplement insurance plan, Medica Prime Solution, who also had purchased a prescription drug rider. Starting July 1, Medica agreed to pay for those switching from 21 brand-name drugs to generics.

But with the retirees, a computer programming error mistakenly assured pharmacists that all 28,261 enrollees in Prime Solution qualified for the free generic drugs.

Not really obscene

TX CLEBURNE — An obscenity charge has been dropped against a woman who received nationwide attention when she was arrested for selling two sex toys to undercover police officers posing as a couple.

A judge dismissed the case against Joanne Webb, Johnson County Attorney Bill Moore said Friday in a statement. He said he asked the judge for the dismissal to prevent wasting county resources, but didn't say when the dismissal occurred.

Webb, a former fifth-grade teacher, started selling erotic toys and other adult products last year.

The Passion Parties Inc. consultant hosts what she calls Tupperware-type parties for suburban housewives who feel more comfortable buying marital aids in a private home than at an adult bookstore or on the Internet.

Webb was arrested Nov. 13, about a month after the undercover officers approached her at her husband's business in Burleson, about 10 miles south of Fort Worth, and bought two products. Had she been convicted of violating Texas' obscenity law, she could have been sentenced to a year in jail.

More the terrier

Robert Skipworth of El Paso, Texas, walks the family dogs, from left, Mollie, Gordon, Mazzie, Maggie and Chelsea. Skipworth says he walks the bunch every Sunday morning. The white dogs are West Highland terriers and the black ones are Scottish terriers.

Clearly not an accident

WI TOWN OF WAUKESHA — A prankster tightly wound plastic wrap around traffic poles across a two-lane road, causing a motorcycle accident that injured two people.

Daniel Buckel and his girlfriend, Theresa Brzykcy, were riding south of Waukesha on Tuesday when their motorcycle crashed into the plastic wrap set up about 3 feet to 4 feet above the road — wound thickly from traffic poles on opposite sides.

Buckel, 22, was within 10 feet when he saw the makeshift barricade and hit the brakes.

Buckel was cut above his eye and broke his finger. Brzykcy also suffered scrapes and bruises.

Buckel is offering a $1,000 reward for information leading to a conviction.

Felonious flowers

NJ CLIFTON — Police said they uncovered a ring of heroin smugglers who saturated cardboard flower boxes with $1 million worth of a liquid form of the drug.

After flying the rose-packed boxes into Kennedy International Airport, the smuggler would have extracted the heroin from the cardboard and sold it, authorities said.

"How suspicious are you going to be of boxed flowers?" police Detective Sgt. Patrick Ciser said Thursday.

Two New Jersey men from Colombia, Juan Cortez Arias and John Rivera, were arrested Tuesday and charged with drug offenses. They were being held without bail. Federal authorities were still investigating.

The flowers were shipped from Ecuador; the heroin may have come from Colombia, said Capt. Robert Rowan.

Kindness not repaid

CA CONCORD — Justo Ramirez had a soft spot for the needy.

According to friends, the former San Francisco garbage man was particularly generous with a drifter he allowed to live at his apartment complex and eat at his small *taqueria* across the street in exchange for doing odd jobs.

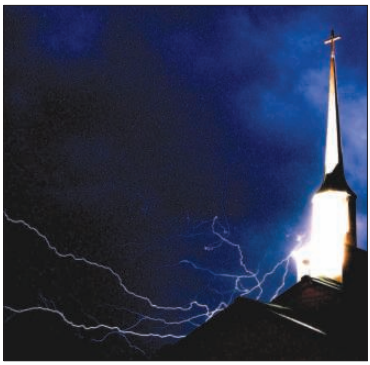
But police said that Ramirez, 53, was stabbed to death by the man he had helped, 38-year-old Aurelio Diaz, after refusing to give him a small amount of money.

Ramirez died on the floor of his newly opened restaurant, Don Justo, as his girlfriend screamed for help. Diaz fled but was soon arrested, police said.

Friends said the dispute was over $25.

Dragon flies

Paul English Azul's dragon balloon sails over Angel Fire, N.M., on Saturday during the Wings Over Angel Fire Balloon and Air Show.



Divine protection

A lightning bolt dances across the sky over West Normandy Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., on Friday. The church was not struck by the bolt as a storm moved through the area.

They call me Baby Driver

Cameron Smith, 10, drives his remote control H2 Hummer past classic cars at the Fort Bragg Custom Car and Motorcycle show at Smith Lake on Saturday in Fayetteville, N.C.

Future Olympian

Patsy Elder, 2, swims in the 5-and-under girls heat of the 25-yard freestyle race at a meet at Mountain Brook Swim and Tennis in Irondale, Ala. Patsy swims competitively for the Mountain Brook Swim and Tennis swim team, which is coached by her father, Cal Elder. Patsy swam the 25-yard freestyle in 1:31.60 to take third place in her heat.

Moving day

A two-story Victorian house in Hartford, Conn., was moved Sunday to make way for a new parking lot for insurance giant Aetna. The company helped defray the $50,000 moving cost and donated the house to a group that promotes home ownership in the city. The house will be restored and sold as a single-family home.

A winery and thou

An unidentified couple lunches at the Millbrook Vineyard & Winery in Millbrook, N.Y. The winery attracts 15,000 to 20,000 tourists a year

What a load of bull

NE MADISON — Are Nebraskans ready for bull fries?

Jackie Williams, of Valentine, is the proprietor of the portable Potato Hut at this year's Madison County Fair and Rodeo. She says even when people find out what the fries really are — bulls' testicles — nine out of 10 fair-goers still want to do a taste test.

True bull-fry lovers can go for a whopping half-pound, 10-piece serving of bull fries included on the menu of the Potato Hut, which Williams co-owns and runs with her husband, Dustin.

And there's more than just novelty to the fries, according to Williams.

"Bull fries are all beef and one of the leanest meats on the market," Williams said. "They're 100 percent cholesterol-free."

Sheepish about selling

IL CHAMPAIGN — It's a little smelly after 89 years of housing sheep, but for anyone intrigued by turning old barns into stylish homes, the University of Illinois has a one-of-a-kind offer.

The school is moving its South Farms agricultural facilities, but it won't be taking along the 1915 sheep barn with its unique gambrel roof.

Rather than demolish it, the university and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency are offering to donate the barn to someone willing to move and rebuild it.

The 90-foot-by-35-foot barn has housed only sheep since 1915, so it stinks a little, admitted Kevin Duff, a UI planner. But it is in good structural shape, and the gambrel roof makes the building an architectural wonder.

The university is taking proposals until Aug. 11 from anyone willing to take the barn down by mid-September and move it to another location, Duff said.

Don't blame the cooks

NC LEXINGTON — Barbecue apparently is not to blame for the polluted air in Davidson County.

Local officials complained after the county was found not to be meeting federal standards for fine particle pollution, saying the location of a monitoring device near a barbecue restaurant and railroad crossing could be to blame.

The state added two air quality monitoring devices in other locations. Tim Mather, spokesman for the Division of Air Quality, said Friday that initial readings show even air that is far away from barbecue joints is too dirty.

Mather said particulate matter in the air could be from a large railroad switchyard in a neighboring county and large power plants in surrounding counties. He also said the area could be getting pollution from Charlotte on prevailing southwest winds.

Cremation mystery

VT BRATTLEBORO — Thirty years after Ray Smith's remains were cremated in Massachusetts, his ashes have shown up at a local cemetery.

"We're just trying to find out where Ray's been for the past 30 years," said Brattleboro Police Capt. Steven Rowell.

The ashes were found Thursday when officials unlocked the cemetery gate. They were in a cardboard box; inside was a death certificate for Smith, who was born in Dover and whose family had a plot at the cemetery.

Smith died in 1974 at the age of 86. Following his death, a service for Smith was held at the now-defunct Allen Funeral Home in Malden, Mass., said Rowell. Smith's body was then taken to the Woodlawn Crematorium in Everett, Mass. His remains were later picked up by an unidentified party.

Investigators don't know where Smith's remains went after his cremation, Rowell said.

Wrong blood type used

FL SARASOTA — A patient died after receiving the wrong blood type during a transfusion, but hospital officials said it has not been determined whether the mistake killed her.

"It was a medical error, but we don't know if it was the cause of death," said Dr. Duncan Finlay, chief executive of Sarasota Memorial Hospital. He blamed the mistake on a mislabeled blood sample.

The woman died late last month, about a day after the transfusion, but the hospital has not released her name, age or her condition.

Hospital spokesman Mike Vizvary said an internal investigation was continuing, but administrators have not taken action against anyone involved. The state also will investigate.

Ticket scam uncovered

NY NEW YORK — A federal airport screener has been charged with stealing more than $55,000 in a ticketing scheme by charging passengers adult fares but reporting them as lower infant prices and pocketing the difference, prosecutors said.

Laura Chico-Moreira, 37, of Ozone Park, Queens, allegedly operated the scheme while working as an independent travel agent for XLJE Tours. Chico-Moreira is also an agent for the Transportation Security Administration.

She was charged with grand larceny and falsifying the business records of Grupo Taca Airlines, a Miami-based airline that serves South and Central America, between December 2002 and June 2003, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said Thursday.

Brown said Chico-Moreira sold dozens of full-fare adult tickets to her customers but reported to the airline that the tickets had been booked for infants.

Pit bull kills infant

TX NACOGDOCHES — An 8-month-old boy was attacked and killed Thursday by his grandmother's pit bull, police said.

Jordan Lee Parker died of massive head injuries at the family's home, said Nacogdoches County Sheriff Thomas Kerss.

The pit bull, which had no history of aggressive behavior, had been tussling with another pet, a smaller terrier, when it attacked the boy, Kerss said.

He said the boy's grandmother was trying to separate the animals when the dog grabbed the child by the head. Kerss said the dog freed the child within seconds, but Jordan was dead by the time authorities arrived.

Photos and stories from wire services

YOUR MONEY

Test-driving your fridge

Retailers reach out to shoppers with in-store testing

BY MICHAEL BARBARO
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Falling in love with the new Jenn-Air convection oven but unsure whether it can handle a 25-pound turkey? Maytag Corp. has a novel idea: Bring in the bird and cook it.

As part of a new program, the company is encouraging consumers to test-drive appliances before buying them. Shoppers can throw in a load of laundry, wash dirty dishes and bake their favorite dinners. There's even a package of cookie dough on hand in case people forget to bring their own.

"Try it before you buy it" used to apply to cars, clothes and sporting goods.

Now it's weaving its way into such major household purchases as refrigerators and TiVo. National retailers, fighting low-priced discounters and the Internet, say the strategy is giving them a much-needed edge.

It's proving a powerful tool in selling appliances and electronics, complex gadgets whose technical-sounding and price-increasing distinctions — higher resolution, extra gigabytes, more pixels — can easily be lost on consumers.

One major target of the effort: women. They make the most household purchases but are more interested in understanding how a product will fit into their lives than hearing a salesman tick off its bells and whistles, executives said.

Maytag has opened 41 stores with the new format and plans 50 more this year. "You don't buy anything else at that price without testing it out, and we don't think an appliance should be any different," said Jill Spiekerman, a company spokeswoman.

Best Buy Co. is rolling out stores featuring mock rooms, each filled with chairs, lamps, rugs and thousands of dollars worth of electronics. Salespeople encourage shoppers to kick off their shoes and watch satellite TV on wide-screen plasma monitors.

James Damian, a senior vice president at Best Buy, said multiple product and service sales have risen sharply in stores with the mock rooms. "It's kind of like going to the Ralph Lauren Polo store," Damian said. "They are selling you a wardrobe, not just a shirt. Before now, big box retailers have never done this."

Retailers say interaction sells. At Whirlpool Corp.'s 12,000-square-foot studio store in Atlanta, shoppers spend an average of two hours each turning knobs and pushing buttons. Afterward, 90 percent of them buy a Whirlpool appliance, the company said.

"I think we are going to see a lot more of this," said Raymond Burke, a professor at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, who predicts the trend will help consumers sift through a crush of nearly identical devices. "This is an overdue way to communicate what makes a product unique."

In a study of 1,000 consumers, the Retail Industry Leaders Association recently found that between 75 and 80 percent leave a store without making a purchase because of an inability to find products or differentiate between them.

Some high-end boutiques, such as Bang & Olufson, have been encouraging consumers to test-drive their goods, but executives credit the success of Ikea, the Swedish purveyor of trendy assemble-your-own rooms, with generating the current interest in this approach. The company devotes about 25 percent of its floor space to fully furnished — and, where electricity is required, functioning — rooms showcasing Ikea products and some non-Ikea appliances. The so-called vignettes encourage sales not only of single products, the company says, but also of entire collections.

To sell Maytag's latest ultra-quiet appliance, Brian Baumgarten, who owns a Maytag Store in Sterling, Va., used to launch into an elaborate explanation of its sound insulation package. Now he just turns it on.

"Isn't that quiet?" he said as he passed one of them.

Watching movies on PC big screen

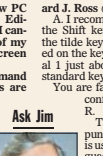
Q. We just bought a new PC with Windows XP Home Edition and, for the life of me, I cannot get it to display any of my home movie files as full-screen showings.

When I click on the command for full screen, the videos are displayed in a window that takes up the whole screen, but it also has silver bars for commands on the top and bottom. Surely, I am missing something.

— Sharon Easton @aol.com

A. Surely, you are missing something, Ms. E. It's a buried command in Windows Media Player that in new machines often isn't properly selected for showing raw movie format like AVI, MPG and so on.

Ask Jim



Jim Coates

Open the Media Player, go to the Tools item and then select the Options command in the menu that appears. Next, in the box this summons, select the Performance tab. Open it and click on the Advanced button. In the display this creates, remove the check from the two boxes on the right-hand side dealing with "full screen" in the title.

I can speculate that Microsoft programmers left that silver command bar on the bottom because it gets used in playing blockbuster-type DVDs that have their own full-screen and letterbox settings. Surely, they goofed.

Q. To get to the spyware repair site that I need to use, you must start the address with a title. How do you create one on the computer keyboard? Richard J. Ross @comcast.net

A. I recommend holding down the Shift key and then tapping the tilde key (~), which is located on the key next to the numeral 1 just above the alphabet on standard keyboards.

You are far from alone in this confusing situation, Mr. R.

The tilde amounts to a punctuation mark that is used commonly in languages including Spanish and Portuguese, but hardly ever employed in English. When it is used in an English expression, like "Coates is ~correct," it would mean that the statement is approximate rather than certain. People in the sciences use it, as do mathematicians, to connote things like ~10 grams or ~750 milliliters.

Precisely because it is rare, the tilde was adopted by the writers of the original Unix hypertext markup language that creates Web sites as a way to reserve part of a larger site to a subgroup.

Many Internet service providers used the tilde to designate a customer's private site, as in **www.serviceprovider.com/~johndoe**.

But too many Web authors use it in the address of subheadings on sites designed for the public, creating no end of confusion.

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

MONDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week High	52-week Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
10,753.63	8,997.11	Dow Jones Industrials	10,094.06	-45.72	-.45	-3.44	+10.95
3,912.45	2,526.38	Dow Jones Transportation	3,105.13	+16.80	+.54	+3.26	+20.70
283.52	229.46	Dow Jones Utilities	283.45	+1.38	+.49	+6.20	+21.36
6,798.12	5,430.77	NYSE Composite	6,446.66	-9.36	-.14	+.10	+17.56
1,278.81	938.73	Amex Index	1,263.45	-9.51	-.75	+7.66	+33.37
2,153.83	1,640.88	Nasdaq Composite	1,883.83	+.68	+.04	-5.97	+12.04
1,163.23	960.84	S&P 500	1,100.90	-.49	-.04	-.99	+12.47
618.46	477.91	S&P MidCap	584.42	+.55	+.09	+1.46	+19.75
686.42	449.97	Russell 2000	554.73	-.75	-.14	-.39	+21.34
11,371.14	9,258.56	DJ Wilshire 5000	10,724.98	-8.19	-.08	-.69	+13.93

NYSE — MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Lucent	321410	3.24	-.10
BostSci s	248047	36.15	-1.25
Motorola	238944	15.44	-.36
Pfizer	211681	20.93	-.21
GenElec	202083	33.23	+.14
NortelN f	181164	4.40	+.31
Corning	153627	11.27	-.44
Pfizer	153077	32.11	-.27
EMC Cp	152088	10.36	+.11
Citigrp	139924	43.99	+.37

AMEX — MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Nasdold0Tr	1043414	34.60	-.07
SPDR	391816	118.24	-.45
SemiHTr	214465	32.18	+.18
DIA Diam	95786	100.56	-.69
iShs2000	95409	118.36	-.14
iShJapan	39479	10.16	+.04
WheatR g	19831	2.83	-.07
BetaWrl f	19161	87.90	-.55
BernaGold	18865	2.64	-.06
BiotechT	16831	136.90	-2.08

NASDAQ — MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Sirius S	771970	2.31	-.16
Microsft	686513	27.95	+.47
Intel	587696	22.91	+.18
Oracle	534630	12.05	+.05
SunMicro	531436	3.94	+.24
Cisco	589704	21.36	-.17
Yahoo s	317274	28.11	-1.08
JDS Unph	260862	3.12	-.04
ApldMatl	258641	16.77	+.12
ClenaCp	221413	3.38	+.22

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Alliant Techsystem	--	16	65.48	-.14	+13.4
Armor Holdings	--	55	35.26	-.89	+14.1
Boeing	.80	22	48.67	-.46	+15.5
Computer Sciences	--	16	47.60	+1.61	+3.2
Engineered Sup Sys	.07	24	54.36	-.30	-1.3
General Dynamics	1.44	19	97.90	+.90	+8.3
General Electric	.80	22	33.23	+.14	+7.3
Halliburton	.50	--	31.26	-.24	+20.2
Harris Corp.	.40	33	47.34	+.85	+24.7
Allied Signal	.75	23	35.86	-.54	+7.3
L-3 Communications	.40	21	60.46	+.19	+17.6
Lockheed Martin	.88	22	54.65	-.85	+6.3
Northrop's	.92	24	53.88	+.10	+12.7
Raytheon	.80	35	32.98	-.02	+9.8
Rockwell Intl.	.66	21	35.71	+.83	+1.7
Sequa Corp.	--	42	55.35	-.54	+13.0
Texas Instruments	.05	26	26.93	-.21	-28.8
Textron Inc.	1.30	35	57.45	-.45	+.7
United Technologies	1.40	19	89.91	-.88	-.51

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	NAV	Chg.	YTD %Ret.
Fidelity Invest: Growinc	35.37	-.03	-.2
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	48.42	-.36	-3.3
Amer Century Inv: Ultra	26.67	-.11	+.1
Fidelity Spartan: EqIdx	39.07	-.02	-.2
Putnam Funds A: Gen a p	17.73	-.02	+.7
Fidelity Invest: A Mgr	15.44	-.01	-1.0
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	20.41	-.21	-2.7
AIM Investments A: Const p	20.48	-.07	-4.8
Fidelity Invest: GSB	11.24	--	+1.3
Fidelity Advisor T: GrOppT	27.59	-.09	-3.7
Fidelity Invest: Overse	30.95	-.19	-1.5
Fidelity Advisor T: EqInT	26.26	--	+1.8
Scudder Funds S: GrowthCS	19.88	-.02	-1.0
AIM Investments A: WeingA p	11.69	-.08	-3.2
Putnam Funds A: GlEcOp p	7.42	--	-.5
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	11.98	+.02	+.8
Merrill Lynch I: BalCapI	26.66	-.01	+.5
Scudder Funds S: Intl FdS	38.65	-.13	+.7
Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT	15.48	-.05	-2.8
Lord Abbett A: DevGtA p	13.93	-.08	-7.1
Scudder Funds S: Income S	12.84	--	-1.7
Merrill Lynch I: USGvMtg	10.21	--	+1.0
Scudder Funds S: Devel	17.29	-.03	-6.2
Putnam Funds A: GlGwA p	12.41	-.02	-1.2

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro	$1.274
British pound	$1.91
Japanese yen (July 22)	106.00
S. Korean won (July 21)	1,132.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	$1.8541
Canada (Dollar)	1.3094
Denmark (Krone)	6.0127
Egypt (Pound)	6.19
Euro	$1.2363
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7995
Hungary (Forint)	200.44
Iceland (Krona)	71.095
Israel (Shekel)	4.4843
Japan (Yen)	108.65
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	6.8574
Philippines (Peso)	55.88
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.7043
S. Korea (Won)	1,159.50
Switzerl (Franc)	1.2392
Thailand (Baht)	40.78
Turkey (Lira)	1,428,571

(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	$399.70
Silver	$6.46

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.25
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.25
3-month bill	1.330
30-year bond	5.11

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

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Finding financial planner

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — As your retirement accounts and savings grow, take care to choose the right financial planner.

The American Association of Retired Persons reports that retirees are often prime targets for self-styled financial planners who are more like salesmen and may not always be working to protect investors and their capital.

The Securities and Exchange Commission recommends you ask the following questions when interviewing a financial planner:

■ What experience do you have, especially with people in my circumstances?

■ Where did you go to school?

■ What is your recent employment history?

■ What licenses do you hold?

■ What financial products and services do you offer?

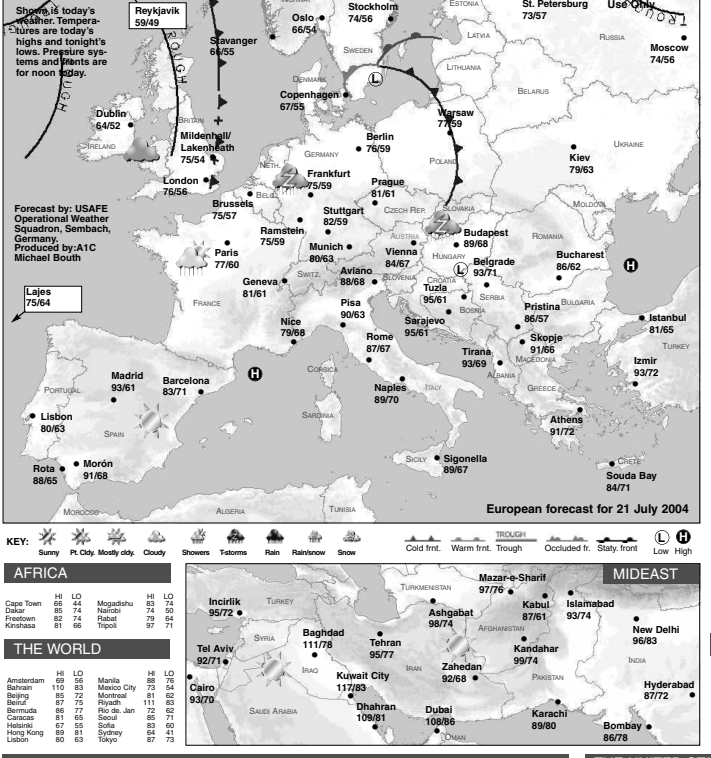
■ What will you be able to recommend?

■ How are you paid for your services? What is your usual hourly rate, flat fee or commission?

■ Have you ever been disciplined by any government regulator for unethical or improper conduct, or been sued by a client?

The AARP also recommends that you interview at least three planners, and ask each to provide references — clients that he or she has worked with for at least three years. Make sure to speak with several of them.

Also be ready to research your broker and his or her firm before handing over your money. You should look into the firm's history, registration and license status, and whether any complaints have been filed against it. To check out your current broker or firm, call the NASD's toll-free BrokerCheck hotline at 1-800-289-9999.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with thunderstorms. Highs in the mid-70s and lows in the upper 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain. Highs in the mid-60s to mid-70s and lows in the lower to mid-50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-90s and lows in the lower 60s.

France: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the 60s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid-70s and lows in the upper 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid-70s to lower 80s and lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the upper 60s.

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 80s to lower 90s and lows in the 60s.

Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the upper 80s and lows in the upper 60s to lower 70s.

Kosovo: Sunny. Highs in the mid-80s and lows in the upper 50s.

Norway: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-60s and lows in the mid-50s.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny. Highs in the lower 90s inland and in the south and 80s elsewhere. Lows in the lower 70s on the eastern coast and 60s elsewhere.

Turkey: Sunny. Highs in the lower 80s inland and on the north coast, lower 90s on the west coast and mid-90s in the south. Lows in the lower 50s inland, mid-60s on the north coast and lower 70s elsewhere.

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

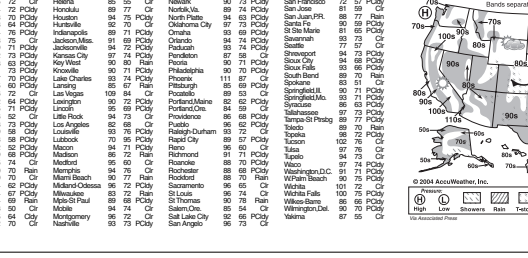
AFRICA

	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo
Cape Town	66	44	Mogadishu	83	74
Dakar	85	74	Nairobi	74	50
Freetown	82	74	Rabat	79	64
Kinshasa	81	66	Tripoli	97	71

THE WORLD

	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo
Amsterdam	69	56	Manila	88	76
Bahrain	110	83	Mexico City	73	54
Beijing	85	72	Montreal	81	62
Beirut	87	75	Moscow	111	83
Bermuda	86	77	Rio de. Jan	72	62
Caracas	81	65	Seoul	85	71
Helsinki	67	55	Sofia	83	60
Hong Kong	89	81	Sydney	64	41
Lisbon	80	63	Tokyo	87	73

MIDEAST



SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (London)	0502	0503
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	0541	0542
Sunset (London)	2106	2104
Sunset (Frankfurt)	2123	2122

New moon 07/17 · First qtr. 07/25 · Full moon 07/31 · Last qtr. 08/07

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

	Hi	Lo	Otlk
Abilene,Tex.	96	74	Clr
Akron,Ohio	86	69	PCldy
Albany,N.Y.	84	67	PCldy
Albuquerque	94	69	PCldy
Allentown,Pa.	87	66	PCldy
Amarillo	94	69	PCldy
Anchorage	65	51	Rain
Asheville	86	64	PCldy
Atlanta	91	73	PCldy
Atlantic City	87	68	PCldy
Austin	95	71	PCldy
Baltimore	88	70	PCldy
Baton Rouge	93	74	Clr
Billings	85	56	Clr
Birmingham	94	71	Clr
Bismarck	92	56	PCldy
Boise	91	62	Clr
Boston	84	67	PCldy
Bridgeport	85	71	PCldy
Brownsville	96	78	PCldy
Buffalo	86	68	PCldy
Burlington,Vt.	87	67	PCldy
Caribou,Maine	81	61	PCldy
Casper	89	52	PCldy
Charleston,S.C.	94	76	Clr
Charleston,W.Va.	88	68	PCldy
Charlotte,N.C.	91	69	Clr
Chattanooga	93	71	PCldy
Cheyenne	86	56	PCldy
Chicago	88	70	Rain
Cincinnati	89	71	PCldy
Cleveland	88	70	PCldy
Colorado Springs	87	59	PCldy
Columbia,S.C.	95	72	Clr
Columbus,Ga.	94	72	PCldy
Columbus,Ohio	88	70	PCldy
Concord,N.H.	88	64	PCldy
Corpus Christi	94	76	PCldy
Dallas-Ft Worth	98	75	Clr
Dayton	89	71	PCldy
Daytona Beach	92	73	PCldy
Denver	93	63	PCldy
Des Moines	91	73	PCldy
Detroit	87	70	PCldy
Duluth	85	60	PCldy
El Paso	96	72	Clr
Elkins	82	64	PCldy
Erie	85	71	PCldy
Eugene	86	52	Clr
Evansville	93	73	PCldy
Fairbanks	69	58	Cldy
Fargo	88	58	PCldy
Flagstaff	82	52	PCldy
Flint	89	68	PCldy
Fort Smith	95	74	Clr
Fort Wayne	90	70	Rain
Fresno	100	70	Clr
Goodland	89	61	PCldy
Grand Junction	94	67	PCldy
Grand Rapids	84	69	Rain
Great Falls	83	50	Clr
Green Bay	85	64	Cldy
Greensboro,N.C.	92	70	Clr
Harrisburg	87	70	PCldy
Hartford Spgfld	89	65	PCldy
Helena	85	55	Clr
Honolulu	89	77	Clr
Houston	94	75	PCldy
Huntsville	92	70	Clr
Indianapolis	89	71	PCldy
Jackson,Miss.	91	69	PCldy
Jacksonville	94	72	PCldy
Kansas City	97	74	PCldy
Key West	90	80	Rain
Knoxville	90	71	PCldy
Lake Charles	93	74	PCldy
Lansing	85	67	Rain
Las Vegas	109	84	Clr
Lexington	95	72	PCldy
Lincoln	95	69	PCldy
Little Rock	94	73	Clr
Los Angeles	82	68	Clr
Louisville	93	76	PCldy
Lubbock	70	95	PCldy
Macon	94	71	PCldy
Madison	86	72	Rain
Medford	95	60	Clr
Memphis	94	76	Clr
Miami Beach	90	77	Rain
Midland Odessa	96	73	PCldy
Milwaukee	83	72	Rain
Mpls-St Paul	89	68	PCldy
Mobile	94	74	Clr
Montgomery	96	72	Clr
Nashville	93	73	PCldy
New Orleans	92	76	Clr
New York City	88	74	PCldy
Newark	90	73	PCldy
Norfolk,Va.	89	74	PCldy
North Platte	94	63	PCldy
Oklahoma City	97	73	PCldy
Omaha	93	69	PCldy
Orlando	94	74	PCldy
Paducah	93	74	PCldy
Pendleton	87	58	Clr
Peoria	90	71	PCldy
Philadelphia	90	70	PCldy
Phoenix	111	87	Clr
Pittsburgh	85	68	PCldy
Pocatello	89	53	Clr
Portland,Maine	82	62	PCldy
Portland,Ore.	84	59	Clr
Providence	86	68	PCldy
Pueblo	96	62	PCldy
Raleigh-Durham	93	72	Clr
Rapid City	89	57	PCldy
Reno	96	60	Clr
Richmond	91	71	PCldy
Roanoke	88	70	PCldy
Rochester	88	68	PCldy
Rockford	88	70	Rain
Sacramento	96	65	Clr
St Louis	96	74	Clr
St Thomas	90	78	Rain
Salem,Ore.	85	54	Clr
Salt Lake City	95	66	PCldy
San Angelo	96	73	Clr
San Antonio	95	74	PCldy
San Diego	79	71	Clr
San Francisco	72	57	PCldy
San Jose	81	59	Clr
San Juan,P.R.	88	77	Rain
Santa Fe	90	59	PCldy
St Ste Marie	81	65	PCldy
Savannah	93	73	Clr
Seattle	77	57	Clr
Shreveport	94	73	PCldy
Sioux City	94	69	Rain
Sioux Falls	93	66	PCldy
South Bend	89	70	Rain
Spokane	83	51	Clr
Springfield,Ill.	90	71	PCldy
Springfield,Mo.	93	71	PCldy
Syracuse	86	63	PCldy
Tallahassee	97	73	PCldy
Tampa-St Pbrsbg	89	77	PCldy
Toledo	89	70	Rain
Topeka	98	72	PCldy
Tucson	102	76	Clr
Tulsa	97	76	Clr
Tupelo	94	73	Clr
Waco	97	74	PCldy
Washington,D.C.	91	71	PCldy
W.Palm Beach	90	75	PCldy
Wichita	97	72	Clr
Wichita Falls	100	75	PCldy
Wilkes-Barre	86	66	PCldy
Wilmington,Del.	90	70	PCldy
Yakima	87	55	Clr

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

Scheduled to ETS or PCS?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

Your Stripes. Your Story. Get it Daily.

STARS AND STRIPES.

FACES 'N' PLACES

The misunderstood world of Ethan Hawke

'Before Sunset' actor speaks candidly, and pays for it

BY PHIL VILLARREAL
Arizona Daily Star

■ Studio makes actor give interview to promote film.
■ Actor breaks from drab-answer mold and unspools honest thought.
■ Press cuts honest thought up into embarrassing sound bite.
■ Sound bite zips around the world and makes actor come off as self-aggrandizing buffoon.

Welcome to the world of Ethan Hawke.

Hawke, open and earnest in a phone interview in support of "Before Sunset," groaned when a reporter brought up his comments from the March issue of Details magazine:

"Martin Luther King Jr. suffered from infidelity; so did John F. Kennedy. You're more likely to find great leadership coming from a man who likes to have sex with a lot of women than one who's monogamous."

The quote became a gossip-column highlight. Even more negative press was heaped on Hawke, who was already suffering in the media because of accusations of infidelity and news of his divorce with Uma Thurman, his wife of six years.

"It was taken out of context, like I was comparing myself to the people I mentioned. MLK and Jack Kennedy, Clinton, all kept their marriages together, for crying out loud," Hawke said. "I know my place. I'm an actor. I'm not comparing myself to these guys. These are cool men, and the idea that we should judge a leader on fidelity is irritating."

Hawke, 33, is a thinker and a talker, and sometimes the talking gets him in trouble.

The talking, though, makes Hawke what he is as an actor. A master at relaying intellectual curiosity and suppressed emotion through the spoken word, Hawke tends to end up in films that feature conversation at the forefront. At the extreme, his movies involve almost all talking and little to no action.

The romantic paragon "Before Sunrise" (1994) features Hawke as Jesse, an American who spends one night getting to know Celine (Julie Delpy), a French student, and begins a spontaneous conversational love affair. The similarly talky "Before Sunset," just out, is a real-time sequel to that film, set nine years later, in which Jesse and Celine have a chance reunion and walk the streets of Paris together for a little more than an hour.

Now that Hawke's divorcing, he's moved into an apartment in New York's art-fueled Chelsea neighborhood.

"It's an attempt for me to reconnect with myself, I think," Hawke said.

Reconnecting, Hawke said, also means spending time with some of his best friends, including Delpy and director Richard Linklater. Hawke co-wrote the screenplay for "Before Sunset" with both of them.

Linklater, who lives in Hawke's birthplace of Austin, Texas, has directed him five times. Hawke needed no persuading to hook up with his favorite director again to make "Before Sunset."

"The movie felt so personal to me. I love Rick and Julie so much, and it felt like a real gift to be able to make it. I tried not to take one moment for granted," he said.

Hawke critiques other fellow members of the "Austin Mafia" — indie filmmakers, including himself, Linklater, Quentin Tarantino and Robert Rodriguez, who have roots there.

"I like those guys perfectly well. If you compare Rick and Robert Rodriguez, they're all in the same generation. 'El Mariachi,' 'Slacker' and 'Reservoir Dogs' all came out within two years of each other. What Rick is interested in and what Quentin and Robert are interested in are polar opposites.

"I know Quentin pretty well. My wife of five years had a collaboration with him, with 'Kill Bill,' that was incomparable."

The "Kill Bill" reference leads to uncomfortable territory, because it was during the making of that project that rumors of Hawke's marriage deteriorating started to arise. British tabloids and American rumor columns reported that Hawke believed Thurman was romantically involved with Tarantino on the set of "Kill Bill" in China, while Hawke's alleged infidelity with model Jen Perzow took place while he was filming "Taking Lives" in Canada.

If Hawke's affair happened — and Hawke has denied that it did — he's got to answer a burning question: Why wait until your wife has undergone extensive samurai sword training to sleep around?

"It's a funny joke and you can use it in your story," Hawke said in a shaky voice, "but that's assuming one thing — that I committed infidelity. … You probably don't know what you're talking about.

"I will say," Hawke continued with a chuckle, "that Uma is a formidable and powerful human being, whether or not she had sword training."

AP

Trump fired as golfer?

Donald Trump may be a billionaire real estate developer with a hot TV show, but that doesn't make him master of the golf course.

Trump finished 56th in his debut Sunday at the $500,000 American Century celebrity golf championship at **Lake Tahoe** in **Nevada**. The mogul said he didn't expect the competition to be so strong.

Trump

Trump, star of "The Apprentice," was joined at the tournament by other celebrities including former basketball star **Michael Jordan**, TV personalities **Maury Povich** and **Ahmad Rashad**, actor **Kevin Sorbo**, and tennis great **Pete Sampras**.

Former NHL star **Dan Quinn**'s birdie on the final hole helped him win the contest.

Springsteen jams at Asbury

Two days after a tribute concert was held for **Bruce Springsteen**, The Boss showed up in **Asbury Park, N.J.**, to offer an authentic taste of his music.

Springsteen

Springsteen joined rocker **Joe Grushecky** onstage for an hour and a half; Grushecky played some of Springsteen's songs earlier in the week.

This time, the two played more than a dozen songs, including "Johnny 99." Most featured extended jams that included blistering solos by Springsteen.

After the concert at the Stone Pony club, where Springsteen is known to occasionally drop in for spontaneous gigs, The Boss spoke briefly about an exhibit featuring him at the **Newark** (N.J.) Museum.

Springsteen said he did not feel any awkwardness in being the subject of a museum exhibit.

"I take it as it comes," he said.

Female aviator honored

Aerobatic champion **Patty Wagstaff** was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in **Dayton, Ohio**, happy to have witnessed women's increased role in aviation.

"I didn't know any women pilots, so I looked up to entertainers like **Peggy Lee**," said Wagstaff, the first woman to win the U.S. National Aerobatic Championships. "Now it's wide open" for women in aviation.

In Saturday night's induction ceremony, Wagstaff joined three others as new inductees: former Apollo astronaut **William Anders**, who circled the moon in 1968; the late **Harriet Quimby**, the first American woman to receive a pilot's license; and the late **Jack Ridley**, who was flight test engineer for **Chuck Yeager**'s record-setting supersonic flight in 1947.

Damon times 2 — times 2

Matt Damon didn't plan to do a movie sequel — much less two back-to-back.

Damon

The actor, who has already begun work opposite **Brad Pitt** and **George Clooney** on "Ocean's Twelve," also stars in "The Bourne Supremacy."

The 33-year-old Academy Award winner hopes both new movies solidify his **Hollywood** stature.

"Right before 'The Bourne Identity' came out, I hadn't been offered a movie in a year because 'The Legend of Bagger Vance' had come out and bombed, and 'All The Pretty Horses' had come out and bombed," he said.

"The performance at the box office at the end of the day is the controlling factor of whether you're working or not as a leading man in high-end movies," he said.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

Joyce Jillson

It's the last full day of the sun's journey through Cancer.

Hopefully, all the cocooning of the past few weeks has been rejuvenating. Home never felt so cozy. Spend some time there, gratefully accepting all those belongings in our surroundings that simulate security and comfort. Of course, the real comfort comes from inside.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 21). Your accomplishments are impressive this year. If you keep working steadily, you'll have your debts paid by October. August features public acknowledgment. Education is part of the fall, and singles will meet a dream partner in a school-like setting. Love starts tenderly but gets wildly passionate as winter rolls near. Lucky love signs are Capricorn and Virgo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're sure of who you are, and everyone wants to be near someone like that! Numerous offers have you feeling like the most popular person on Earth. But at some point, it's more hectic than fun. Plan some time to slow down.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Though you're not usually one to follow any subject considered to many to be frivolous, new interests will surprise you and shake up your usual sensibility. Loved ones bond by venturing into strange territory together.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You're not only in a loving mood; you're in an adoring mood that verges on co-dependency. This is a good day to reinforce to yourself that your future happiness is not hinging on one particular person. Exert your independence.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). It's a day of contradictions. You'll be chuckling inwardly, and your amusement seems to give the world more dimension and life. What you see is probably not what you get, but in time, what you get could prove more useful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The colors of your world may seem to be repeating in an endless bland pattern. It's definitely time to change things. If you've been considering travel, now is the time to do it.

You'll find kindred spirits along your path.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You're tempted to take a leisurely pace, but cementing business alliances before noon will produce a happy bank account! Exercise! The hardest part is the first 10 minutes. Get past that, and you're on your way.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're feeling open minded and not tied to seeing things one way or the other. This is a perfect day to look at art or listen to music — you may have an epiphany! Financially, this is a powerful day when results are immediate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Celebrate your friendships and all they bring to your life. Your tight bonds may produce predictable outcomes, but it's never boring. Open communication brings new trust. Tonight, pen diary notes and random musings.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You magnetize what you want, though you might not consciously know what that is. Do some soul searching! Sagittarius people traditionally want what they can't have, so try to be more realistic and honest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Reality sets in soon enough, so indulge yourself in the creative fluff around the edges of real life.

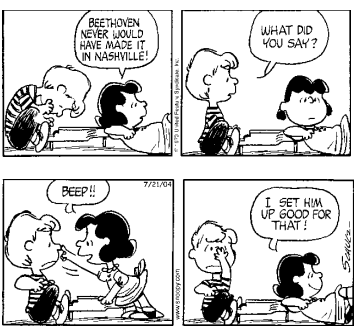
At work, you may feel you're navigating a political obstacle course and having to use your most diplomatic instincts as a guide.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). After a bout of waning motivation, you're ready to kick into a higher productivity bracket. Social participation will be key to getting your drive back. You are marvelous at entertaining, and your talents are in high demand.

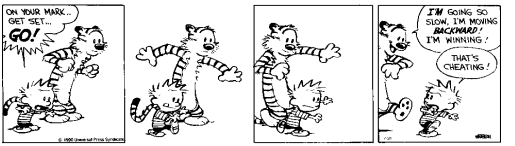
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). It may be easier for you to focus on your fantasies and projections than your reality. When memory clouds and the details fall away, all that remains is a feeling. It's truly a time when you can re-write history.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start

Zits

Cathy

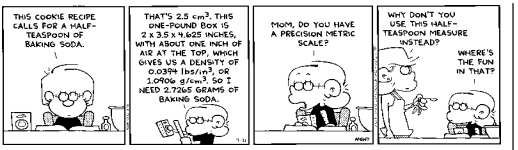
Hi and Lois

Beetle Bailey

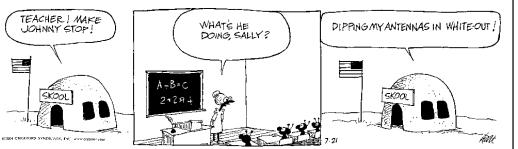
Red and Rover

Better or Worse

Foxtrot



B.C.



Baby Blues

Spider Man

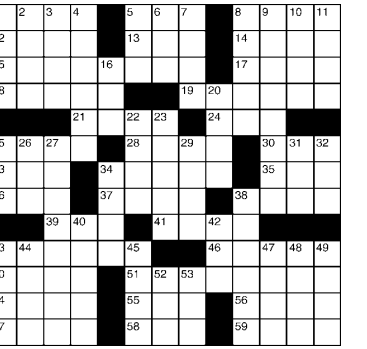
Blondie

Dilbert

Hagar

Garfield

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Freeway problems
5 Snooze
8 Throws into the mix
12 Settled down
13 Lemieux milieu
14 Mother of the Titans
15 His fate hung by a thread
17 "— for All Seasons"
18 Author Segal
19 — sec (orange liqueur)
21 Close friends
24 Inseparable
25 Tramp's love
28 Storytelling dance
30 "Friends" network
33 Actress Merkel
34 Pythias' pal
35 Listening device
36 Workout venue
37 Sartorial woes
38 Nervous
39 "Eureka!"
41 Witnessed
43 Opening remark?
46 Leg bone
50 Curves
51 Injurious
54 Joint ailment
55 Turn red?
56 Options list
57 Existence (Lat.)
58 Nevertheless
59 Shaving-cream additive

Down

1 Figurine material
2 Winglike
3 "La Boheme" heroine
4 Sturdy
5 Goose egg
6 Expert
7 Nuisance
8 One more time
9 Lessened morale
10 Transaction
11 Logical
16 Tai —
20 Reddish steed
22 Bangkok native
23 Rounded protuberances
25 Carry with effort
26 Whatever number
27 Syrian city
29 Speed
31 Satchel
32 Loud call
34 1/8 fluid ounce
38 Poser
40 Dispatch
42 LGA info
43 Wise one
44 Piccadilly statue
45 Vortex
47 Jessica of "7th Heaven"
48 — uncertain terms
49 Malaria symptom
52 Sailor's assent
53 Bumped into

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

7-21 **CRYPTOQUIP**

X L Q P R G ' N R G Q T R G L R G S W J F H T J S S W J H X U H H R G S Y F U J ? Y J E E R F H P R G ' N Y J P L J J H J F H !

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PILOT EJECTS HIMSELF FROM HIS JET PLANE, I GUESS HE'S USING THE FLIER ESCAPE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals D

Psychologist just trying to help

Dear Abby: I have been seeing a psychologist for three years about anxiety and the trauma of my parents' divorce.

Every session has been about how school is and whatnot.

About a year ago, I had my first real relationship. We are still involved.

In a recent session, my psychologist asked me how my sex life is. Mind you, I'm only 18. I felt very embarrassed and told him it was none of his business.

Was this appropriate, or do you think he was coming on to me? I look back and realize the position I was in if he was making advances. There is no receptionist in the office — only he and I in the whole place. I'm concerned about going back. Can you give me some insight?

— Concerned in Massachusetts

Dear Concerned: Considering the fact that you have been in an exclusive relationship for about a year, I'd say the question was legitimate. After three years of therapy, I would assume that by now you had established enough trust to confide just about anything.

Your therapist needs to know that you felt his question was out of line and made you uncomfortable. So, consider telling him that you might feel more at ease if he referred you to a female therapist. Also, your sessions should have gone far beyond making small talk about "school and whatnot."

Dear Abby

Dear Abby: Some friends and I gather for dinner and fellowship about twice a month. The problem is, one woman is a very finicky eater, and she turns up her nose when something is served and makes comments like, "That doesn't even look good — what's in it?" The one we have heard all too often is, "That doesn't even sound good."

Most of the time we try to please her by preparing something she likes, like hot dogs or fried chicken.

Frankly, I'm sick of it. Would it be rude to prepare something scrumptious like coconut shrimp with orange sauce knowing that she won't eat it, but everyone else will, and tell her there are hot dogs in the fridge and buns in the breadbox and to just help herself?

— Had it in Nashville

Dear Had it: No more rude than what she's doing to you. The alternative would be to tell her in advance what you will be serving so she can opt out or bring her own food if she chooses.

P.S. What's your address? If I'm in the neighborhood, I'd love to sample the cuisine.

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

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

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

HICCK

MAULB

REENOC

ERWANS

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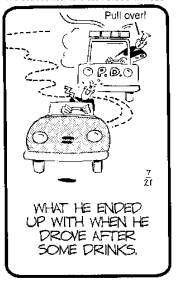
www.jumble.com

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

The 800/900 nos. have been DISCONTINUED.



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

Print answer here: A "( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: OCTET SUAVE FACTOR MALADY
Answer: Why she splurged on the shoes — A SALE WAS AFOOT

Workplace bullies unacceptable

Dear Annie: I just left my job of 16 years after being bullied by two female coworkers for two years. I had items thrown at me, doors slammed in my face, shoulders "accidentally" smacked into mine as they walked by, and all my personal items rearranged while I was sick at home.

The leader of these bullies is in her late 50s, and the other one is over 40. I cannot understand why anyone would want to make the workplace so miserable. I tried turning the other cheek, but when my blood pressure became dangerously elevated, and my blood sugar dropped me into unconsciousness on several occasions, I decided I'd had enough and retired — much sooner than I had planned.

I gave up a nice pension in order to get out with my health and sanity intact. There were at least two written complaints filed and countless verbal complaints made to management, with no results.

I have found new employment, thank goodness, but my question is, how do I recover emotionally from this bullying, and should I go after this large bureaucracy legally for ignoring my pleas for intervention? I am not sure that I am strong enough emotionally for a long, legal battle, but I hate to see them get away with this abuse.

— Ex-Law Enforcement Civilian in Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Sacramento: Are these juvenile women still in grade school? Ask your doctor to refer you to a counselor who will help manage your stress levels, and then talk to a lawyer. Even if you are unable to handle a legal battle, the mere threat of a lawsuit is often enough to get results.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: A few months ago, I celebrated my 19th birthday by inviting a dozen or so people out to dinner. I discussed it with a few close friends, and we decided that everyone would buy their own meal.

I chose a nicer restaurant than we would usually go to, but it wasn't terribly expensive.

I enjoy your column and know that you feel it is inappropriate to invite people out and then hand them a check. And I agree. But we are all college students, and none of us can afford to treat the others. I bought everyone appetizers and supplied the dessert at the end of the evening, but I still wonder if it was enough.

Was I an inconsiderate hostess, or was it appropriate given the age group and casualness?

— Seeking Your Approval in Dallas

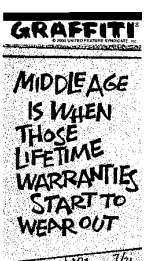
Dear Dallas: Here's the way it works — you don't surprise your guests with an invoice. If they know beforehand that they each will be picking up their own tab, and they agree with the venue, it is perfectly OK to split the bill.

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

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus

"Wish they had something like this between our house and the school."

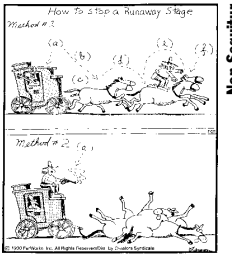


Dennis the Menace

"DON'T WORRY, DENNIS. THERE ARE NO BEARS WITHIN MILES OF THIS PLACE."

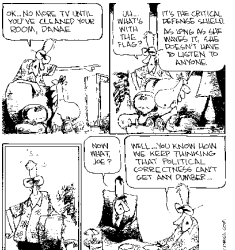
©Gary Larson

The Far Side



From the book *Guide to Western Stuff*

Non Sequitur



SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

(All times central European. AFN-A: AFN-Atlantic; PAC: AFN-Pacific/Korea; SPT: AFN-Sports; dld: delayed; sat: two-hour or 90-minute cut-down. Listings are latest available from AFRTS and subject to change without notice.)

Television

Baseball — Los Angeles at Houston, noon Wednesday (dld), SPT; Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, 8:15 p.m. Wednesday, SPT; Anaheim at Texas, 1 a.m. Thursday, SPT; Milwaukee at St. Louis, 2 a.m. Thursday, AFN-A; San Diego at San Francisco, 4 a.m., Thursday, SPT; Anaheim at Texas, 2 p.m. Thursday (dld), SPT; Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 7 p.m. Thursday, SPT; Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, 1 a.m. Friday, AFN-A; Oakland at Seattle, 4 a.m. Friday, SPT.

Basketball — WNBA, Minnesota at Connecticut, 2 a.m. Friday, SPT.

Cycling — 2004 Tour de France: Stage 15, 9 a.m. Wednesday (dld), SPT; Stage 16, 9 a.m. Thursday (dld), SPT.

Outdoors — ESPN Great Outdoor Games V: 7 a.m. Thursday (dld), SPT.

Radio

(Listings are feeds from AFN in California. Some might not air in all areas)

Baseball — Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 2 a.m. Thursday; Milwaukee at St. Louis, 2 a.m. Friday.

AFN-Europe can be reached at DSN 329-4444 or German civ. 069-15S-88-444. Commercial callers from outside Germany must drop the initial zero after dialing country code 0049. AFN-Atlantic's Web site is **www.afneurope.net**. Click on "television" or "radio" for latest schedules. AFN's parent organization, AFRTS at March Reserve AFB, Calif., can be reached at DSN 1312-168-1319 or commercial (909) 413-2319. Its Web site is **www.myafn.net**.

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
MetroStars	6	6	5	23	29	32
D.C. United	5	6	6	21	23	23
Columbus	5	6	5	20	16	17
Chicago	4	6	7	19	18	20
New England	4	8	3	15	14	20

Western Conference

Los Angeles	9	5	5	32	33	26
Kansas City	9	4	4	31	29	14
Colorado	5	5	7	22	17	17
Dallas	6	6	5	20	17	22
San Jose	5	6	5	20	26	24

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games

Columbus at Colorado
Chicago at MetroStars
D.C. United at Dallas
Los Angeles at Kansas City
New England at San Jose

Wednesday, July 28

Dallas at Columbus
MetroStars at Kansas City
Chicago at Colorado

Saturday, July 31

All-Star Game at Washington

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	12	10	.545	
Charlotte	10	9	.526	1
Connecticut	11	11	.500	1
Detroit	10	11	.476	1½
New York	10	11	.476	1½
Washington	9	11	.450	2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Los Angeles	15	7	.682	
Seattle	13	7	.650	1
Minnesota	12	9	.571	2½
Sacramento	10	11	.476	4½
Houston	10	12	.455	5
Phoenix	8	12	.400	6
San Antonio	6	15	.286	8½

Monday's game

Los Angeles 82, Indiana 51

Tuesday's game

New York at Charlotte

Wednesday's games

Connecticut at Detroit
San Antonio at Phoenix
Washington at Los Angeles

Cycling

Tour de France

Tuesday
At Villard-de-Lans, France
19th Stage
112.6-mile leg from Valreas

1. Lance Armstrong, United States, US Postal-Berry Floor, 4 hours, 40:30 seconds.
2. Ivan Basso, Italy, Team CSC, same time.
3. Jan Ullrich, Germany, T-Mobile Team, 3 seconds behind.
4. Andreas Kloden, Germany, T-Mobile Team, 6 behind.
5. Levi Leipheimer, United States, Rabobank, 13.
6. Richard Virenque, France, Quick Step-Davitamon, 48.
7. Mickael Rasmussen, Denmark, Rabobank, 49.
8. Jose Azevedo, Portugal, US Postal-Berry Floor, 53.
9. Jens Voigt, Germany, Team CSC, 1 minute, 4 seconds behind.
10. Carlos Sastre, Spain, Team CSC, 1:24 behind.
11. Laurent Brochard, France, AG2R Prevoyance, 1:58.
12. Marius Sabaliauskas, Lithuania, Saeco, 2:02.
13. Oscar Pereiro Sio, Spain, Phonak Hearing Systems, 2:10.
14. Christophe Moreau, France, Credit Agricole, 2:11.
15. Gilberto Simoni, Italy, Saeco, 2:13.
16. Georg Totschnig, Austria, Gerolsteiner, same time.
17. Francisco Mancebo, Spain, Illes Balears-B. Santander, same time.
18. Pietro Caucchioli, Italy, Alessio-Bianchi, same time.
19. Marcos Serrano, Spain, Liberty Seguros, same time.
20. Iker Camano, Spain, Euskaltel-Euskadi, 2:24.

Also

21. Jose Luis Rubiera, Spain, US Postal-Berry Floor, same time.
24. George Hincapie, United States, US Postal-Berry Floor, 3:25.
25. Floyd Landis, United States, US Postal-Berry Floor, 4:49.
32. Bobby Julich, United States, Team CSC, 8:42.
37. Manuel Beltran, Spain, US Postal-Berry Floor, same time.
57. Christian Vandevelde, United States, Liberty Seguros, 84.
64. Pavel Padrnos, Czech Republic, US Postal-Berry Floor, 1:02.
86. Roberto Heras, Spain, Liberty Seguros, 23:49.
95. Viatceslav Ekimov, Russia, US Postal-Berry Floor, same time.

Overall Standings
(After 15 Stages)

1. Lance Armstrong, United States, US Postal-Berry Floor, 67 hours, 13 minutes, 43 seconds.
2. Ivan Basso, Italy, Team CSC, 1 minute, 25 seconds behind.
3. Andreas Kloden, Germany, T-Mobile Team, 3:22 behind.
4. Francisco Mancebo, Spain, Illes Balears-B. Santander, 5:39.
5. Jan Ullrich, Germany, T-Mobile Team, 6:54.
6. Jose Azevedo, Portugal, US Postal-Berry Floor, 7:34.
7. Georg Totschnig, Austria, Gerolsteiner, 8:19.
8. Thomas Voeckler, France, Brioches La Boulangere, 9:28.
9. Pietro Caucchioli, Italy, Alessio-Bianchi, 10:18.
10. Levi Leipheimer, United States, Rabobank, 10:58.
11. Carlos Sastre, Spain, Team CSC, 11:25.
12. Gilberto Simoni, Italy, Saeco, 12:01.
13. Oscar Pereiro Sio, Spain, Phonak Hearing Systems, 12:21.
14. Mickael Rasmussen, Denmark, Rabobank, 13:50.
15. Christophe Moreau, France, Credit Agricole, 13:58.

Also

17. Jose Luis Rubiera, Spain, US Postal-Berry Floor, 16:19.
44. Roberto Heras, Spain, Liberty Seguros, 53:12.
33. George Hincapie, United States, US Postal-Berry Floor, 38:45.
35. Floyd Landis, United States, US Postal-Berry Floor, 36:11.
49. Bobby Julich, United States, Team CSC, 56:55.
52. Manuel Beltran, Spain, US Postal-Berry Floor, 1 hour, 2 minutes, 24 seconds behind.
63. Christian Vandevelde, United States, Liberty Seguros, 1:14:58.
72. Benjamin Noval Gonzalez, Spain, US Postal-Berry Floor, 1:26:14.
78. Pavel Padrnos, Czech Republic, US Postal-Berry Floor, 1:33:05.
83. Viatceslav Ekimov, Russia, US Postal-Berry Floor, 1:38:06.

Tennis

RCA Championships

Monday
At The Indianapolis Tennis Center
Indianapolis
Purse: $600,000 (Intl. Series)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
First Round

Thierry Ascione, France, def. Jeff Salzenstein, United States, 7-5, 7-6 (3).
Rajeev Ram, United States, def. Wesley Moodie, South Africa, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 7-6 (5).
Greg Rusedski, Britain, def. Thomas Johansson, Sweden, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (3), 6-4.
Lilia Osterloh, United States, def. Saori Obata, Japan, 7-5, 7-5.
Nathalie Dechy, France, def. Conchita Martinez, Spain, 6-4, 6-4.
Jelena Kostanic, Croatia, def. Martina Sucha, Slovakia, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-2.
Anca Barna, Germany, def. Fabiola Zuluaga (13), Colombia, 6-1, 6-1.
Francesca Schiavone (11), Italy, def. Shenay Perry, United States, 6-0, 6-3.
Chanda Rubin (12), United States, def. Marissa Irvin, United States, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (5).
Arantxa Parra Santonja, Spain, def. Jill Craybas, United States, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (3).

Generali Open

Tuesday
At Kitzbuehler Tennis Club
Kitzbuehl, Austria
Purse: $995,689 (Intl. Gold)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

Singles
First Round

Potito Starace, Italy, def. Marc Lopez, Spain, 7-6 (7), 6-2.
Radek Stepanek, Czech Republic, def. Daniel Gimeno-Traver, Spain, 6-7 (2), 7-5, 7-6 (3).
Stefan Koubek, Austria, def. Marc Rosset, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-0.
Andreas Seppi, Italy, def. Michal Tabara, Czech Republic, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Second Round

Luis Horna (7), Peru, def. Alejandro Falla, Colombia, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2).
Albert Costa (11), Spain, def. Werner Eschauer, Austria, 7-6 (2), 6-1.
Juan Monaco, Argentina, def. David Ferrer (1), Spain, 6-3, 6-2.
Florian Mayer (6), Germany, def. Peter Luczak, Australia, 6-2, 6-4.

Monday
Singles
First Round

Alejandro Falla, Colombia, def. Adrian Garcia, Chile, 6-0, 6-3.
Yuri Schukin, Russia, def. Johannes Ager, Austria, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.
Franco Squillari, Argentina, def. Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, 6-4, 6-2.
Frantisek Cermak, Czech Republic, def. Ivo Heuberger, Switzerland, 7-6 (0), 6-4.
Werner Eschauer, Austria, def. Thomas Schiessling, Austria, 6-3, 6-2.
Martin Vasallo Arguello, Italy, def. Nicolas Thomann, France, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-1.
Santiago Ventura, Spain, def. Stefano Pescosolido, Italy, 7-6 (4), 6-4.
Peter Luczak, Australia, def. Alexander Peya, Austria, 6-2, 7-6 (4).
Juan Monaco, Argentina, def. Juan-Pablo Guzman, Argentina, 7-5, 6-4.
Oscar Hernandez, Spain, def. Albert Portas, Spain, 6-1, 6-4.
Ivo Minar, Czech Republic, def. Gabo Iraoui, France, 6-2, 7-6 (11).
Dick Norman, Belgium, def. Alessio Di Mauro, Italy, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Croatia Open

Monday
At The International Tennis Center
Split, Croatia
Purse: $492,709 (Intl. Series)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

Singles
First Round

Florent Serra, France, def. Bohdan Ulihrach, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4.
Christophe Rochus, Belgium, def. Olivier Mutis, France, 6-0, 6-2.
Zeljko Krajan, Croatia, def. Jiri Vanek, Czech Republic, 6-0, 3-6, 6-3.
Nicolas Almagro, Spain, def. Tomas Behrend, Germany, 7-6 (4), 6-4.
Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, def. Victor Hanescu, Romania, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4.
Olivier Rochus, Belgium, def. Karol Kucera (8), Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.
Fernando Vicente, Spain, def. Sasa Tuksar, Croatia, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-1.

Palermo International

Monday
At Country Time Club
Palermo, Sicily
Purse: $110,000 (Tier V)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

Singles
First Round

Denisa Chladkova (3), Czech Republic, def. Barbara Rittner, Germany, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4.
Yulia Beloklokova, Russia, def. Adriana Serra Zanetti, Italy, 4-6, 6-2, 6-0.
Katarina Srebotnik (4), Slovenia, def. Sofia Arvidsson, Sweden, 6-3, 6-4.
Anabel Medina Garrigues (2), Spain, def. Julia Vakulenko, Ukraine, 7-5, 6-3.

Military

Army-Europe golf championships

OFTERSHEIM, Germany — Results Tuesday after the first round of the 54-hole, medal-play Army-Europe golf championships on the par-72 Heidelberg Golf Club course. Men's open distance is 6,357 yards; men's senior's is 5,517 yards and women's is 5,181 yards:

Men's open

Jeffrey Hallauer	34-37—71
Tyler Jose	33-38—71
Michael Stanley	36-35—71
Jeffrey Woodward	35-39—74
Kevin Sickinger	39-36—75
Guadalupe Vasquez	37-39—76
Shaun Walz	38-38—76
Ray Leist	41-36—77
Christopher Barti	38-39—77
Ronald Black	35-42—77
Timothy Arsett	39-39—78
William Joiner	37-41—78
Brian Prokes	39-40—79
Robert Magnussen	39-41—80
Edward Willder	36-44—80
Jamie Long	37-43—80
Bradley Sutera	39-42—81
Jason Hart	40-41—81
Larry Baricuatro	41-41—82
Kevin Kauffman	43-39—82
Jonathan James	40-43—83
Michael Lauander	42-41—83
Duncan Hardcastle	42-43—85
Jeffrey Green	39-50—89
Barry Mielenhof	43-46—89
Robert White	46-45—91
Thomas White	43-48—91
Richard Goodwin	43-48—91
Jonathan Bunkner	44-48—92
Andre Roy	40-54—94
Rickie Holmes	47-48—95
Antonio Margez	45-50—95
Christopher Baker	45-56—101
Kevin Wanshon	47-54—101
Kenneth Richards	49-56—105
Gabriel Dishrow	55-52—107
Charles Parten	54-57—111

Men's seniors (55 years and older)

Earl Goins	33-42—75
Thomas Saxen	38-44—82
Thomas Sloan	42-42—84
Jack Gaynor	42-43—85
Joe Estores	42-44—86

Women

Ingrid Estores	44-46—90

Golf

World ranking

Through July 18

1. Tiger Woods	USA	12.24
2. Ernie Els	SAf	11.30
3. Vijay Singh	Fiji	10.20
4. Phil Mickelson	USA	8.78
5. David Love III	USA	8.31
6. Retief Goosen	SAf	7.53
7. Mike Weir	Can	6.80
8. Padraig Harrington	Ire	5.75
9. Ian Poulter	USA	5.47
10. Sergio Garcia	Spn	4.97
11. Adam Scott	Aus	4.90
12. Kenny Perry	USA	4.86
13. Chad Campbell	USA	4.71
14. Darren Clarke	Nir	4.48
15. Stuart Appleby	Aus	4.42
16. Todd Hamilton	USA	4.07
17. David Toms	USA	4.06
18. Scott Verplank	USA	3.99
19. Stephen Ames	T&T	3.93
20. Fred Couples	USA	3.87
21. Jay Haas	USA	3.60
22. Choi Kyung-Ju	Kor	3.57
23. Mark Price	Eng	3.22
24. Shigeki Maruyama	Jpn	3.42
25. Scott Gutschewski	USA	3.42
26. Chris DiMarco	USA	3.34
27. Jonathan Kaye	USA	3.31
28. Fredrik Jacobson	Swe	3.26
29. Stewart Cink	USA	3.26
30. Paul Casey	Eng	3.24
31. Robert Allenby	Aus	3.16
32. Miguel Angel Jimenez	Spn	2.93
33. Stephen Leaney	Aus	2.88
34. Charles Howell III	USA	2.87
35. Jerry Kelly	USA	2.85
36. Angel Cabrera	Arg	2.83
37. Thomas Bjorn	Den	2.70
38. Trevor Immelman	SAf	2.60
39. Chris Riley	USA	2.60
40. Kirk Triplett	USA	2.58
41. Rory Sabbatini	SAf	2.57
42. Joakim Haeggman	Swe	2.54
43. Lee Westwood	Eng	2.53
44. Jeff Maggert	USA	2.50
45. Justin Leonard	USA	2.44
46. Brad Faxon	USA	2.44
47. Peter Lonard	Aus	2.40
48. Tim Herron	USA	2.38
49. Shaun Micheel	USA	2.37
50. Zach Johnson	USA	2.37
51. Scott Hoch	USA	2.32
52. Fred Funk	USA	2.29
53. Craig Parry	Aus	2.28
54. Thomas Levet	Frn	2.28
55. Shingo Katayama	Jpn	2.27
56. Bob Tway	USA	2.27
57. John Daly	USA	2.22
58. Ian Poulter	Eng	2.21
59. Michael Campbell	NZl	2.19
60. Ben Curtis	USA	2.13
61. Justin Rose	Eng	2.13
62. Mark Hensby	Aus	2.13
63. John Huston	USA	2.10
64. Luke Donald	Eng	2.04
65. Colin Montgomerie	Sco	2.00
66. Bob Estes	USA	2.00
67. Loren Roberts	USA	1.99
68. Alex Cejka	Ger	1.96
69. Geoff Ogilvy	Aus	1.94
70. David Howell	Eng	1.92
71. Duffy Waldorf	USA	1.92
72. Brendan Jones	Aus	1.92
73. Steve Lowery	USA	1.91
74. Nick O'Hern	Aus	1.91
75. Bernhard Langer	Ger	1.89

Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Recalled RHP Mike DeJean to the New York Mets for OF Karim Garcia.

MINNESOTA TWINS—Placed C Joe Mauer on the 15-day DL. Recalled C Rob Bowen from New Britain of the EL.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Signed C Landon Powell, OF Jackie Rexrode and RHP Chris Windsor and assigned them to Vancouver of the Northwest League.

TEXAS RANGERS—Activated RHP R.A. Dickey from the 15-day DL.

Purchased the contract of OF Chad Allen from Oklahoma of the PCL.

Designated OF Jason Conti and INF Manny Alexander for assignment.

National League

CHICAGO CUBS—Activated SS Alex Gonzalez from the 15-day DL.

Designated SS Rey Ordonez for assignment.

CINCINNATI REDS—Signed RHP Homer Bailey and assigned him to Sarasota of the Gulf Coast League. Placed 3B Brandon Larson on the 15-day DL, retroactive to July 18.

COLORADO ROCKIES—Called up RHP Travis Driskill from Colorado Springs of the PCL. Placed RHP Denny Stark on the 15-day DL. Designated RHP Turk Wendell for assignment.

MONTREAL EXPOS—Recalled OF Ron Calloway from Edmonton of the PCL.

NEW YORK METS—Placed RHP Jose Parra on the 15-day DL.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Signed C Jason Jaramillo.

SAN DIEGO PADRES—Acquired SS Rich Aurilia from Seattle for a player to be named or cash.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association

NEW ORLEANS HORNETS—Signed F-C Chris Andersen.

UTAH JAZZ—Re-signed F Gordan Giricek to a four-year contract.

American Basketball Association

ABA — Granted an expansion franchise to Miami for the 2005-06 season.

MIAMI—Announced team nickname will be Sunblazers. Named Alvin Mallard chief executive officer.

National Basketball Association

PHOENIX MERCURY—Acquired F Gwen Jackson from San Antonio for F Adrian Williams.

FOOTBALL
National Football League

BUFFALO BILLS—Agreed to terms with LB Jason Gildon on a one-year contract.

CAROLINA PANTHERS—Signed WR Keary Colbert and TE Michael Gaines.

GREEN BAY PACKERS—Claimed LB Tyrec Harris on waivers from Philadelphia.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Signed TE Kris Wilson to a four-year contract.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed NT Vince Worfolk to a six-year contract.

TENNESSEE TITANS—Agreed to terms with DT Jared Gaither and TE Sean McHugh.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

MINNESOTA WILD—Re-signed G Manny Fernandez to a one-year contract.

MONTREAL CANADIENS—Signed F Marc-Andre Thinel to a one-year contract.

NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Re-signed F Justin Papineau to a one-year contract.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Signed C Craig Darby.

COLLEGE

ALBION—Named Sara Koski assistant trainer and Paul Schudel offensive line coach.

BENTLEY—Named Pat Durgin men's assistant basketball coach.

DETROIT—Announced its baseball program will be discontinued.

DUKE—Promoted Mike Cragg to associate director of athletics. Luci Hill to business manager and David Almodova to assistant director of operations. Named Bert Smith director of promotions.

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL—Announced the resignation of Jack Byerley, women's softball coach.

HOBART—Named T.W. Johnson men's assistant lacrosse coach.

HOFSTRA—Named Derek Neal assistant sports information director and Andrew Zygmont assistant ticket manager and volunteer service.

JAMES MADISON—Named J.C. Price assistant football coach.

KENT STATE—Named Scott Stricklin baseball coach.

KEYSTONE—Announced the resignation of Monica Thomas, women's basketball coach.

LANDER—Named Stephanie Butler women's assistant basketball coach.

MISSISSIPPI—Suspended sophomore RB Jamal Pittman and senior LB Ken Bourne indefinitely.

NICHOLLS STATE—Announced the resignation of Phyllis Gaudy, softball coach. Named Jenny Parsons interim softball coach.

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN—Named Michele DeSantis women's volleyball coach.

OLD DOMINION—Named Jerry Meyers baseball coach.

PALM BEACH ATLANTIC—Named Ben Cowan athletic trainer.

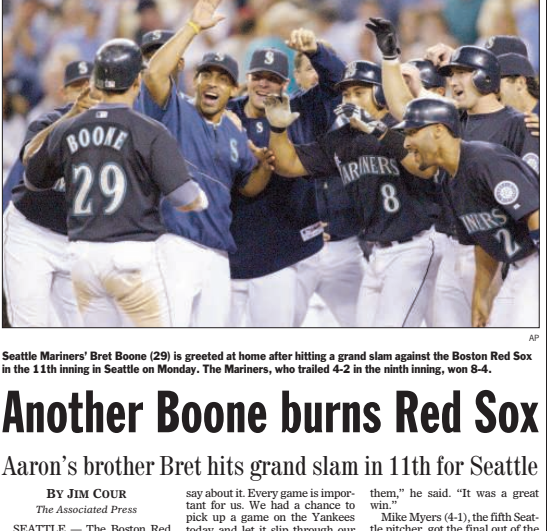
ROBERT MORRIS—Named Ken Baker assistant sports information director.

SIENA—Named Brian Brecht men's lacrosse coach.

STETSON—Named Garrett Quinn assistant baseball coach and Cheryl Carlson women's volleyball coach.

VILLANOVA—Named Gordon Finch assistant athletics director for compliance, Brian Papson director of marketing and special events, Lisa Melillo coordinator of intramurals and recreation and Bill Lacey assistant football coach. Promoted Rod Hagan to associate athletics director.

Tank McNamara



AP

Seattle Mariners' Bret Boone (29) is greeted at home after hitting a grand slam against the Boston Red Sox in the 11th inning in Seattle on Monday. The Mariners, who trailed 4-2 in the ninth inning, won 8-4.

Another Boone burns Red Sox

Aaron's brother Bret hits grand slam in 11th for Seattle

BY JIM COUR
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Boston Red Sox had a chance to gain ground on the New York Yankees in the AL East. Instead, they were beaten by another Boone.

Bret Boone hit a grand slam in the 11th inning, lifting the Seattle Mariners to an 8-4 victory over the Red Sox on Monday night. Last season, his brother, Aaron Boone, homered in the 11th inning against Boston in Game 7 of the AL championship series to put the Yankees in the World Series.

The Mariners tied it with one out in the ninth behind consecutive home runs from Miguel Olivo and Edgar Martinez.

"It's the worst game we've played all year," the Red Sox's Johnny Damon said.

The Red Sox remained seven games behind the Yankees, 9-7 losers in Tampa Bay, in the AL East.

"This is a bad feeling," Damon said. "We shouldn't have been in this situation. We were just awful. There isn't much more you can say about it. Every game is important for us. We had a chance to pick up a game on the Yankees today and let it slip through our fingers."

Boone hit his fifth career grand slam on an 0-1 count from Curtis Leskanic (1-5), the fifth Boston pitcher, a 392-foot shot into the Seattle bullpen in left field. The Mariners loaded the bases on a single by Olivo and walks to Dave Hansen and Randy Winn.

Winn's walk was intentional.

Boone, hitting a paltry .233 when the day began, was 2-for-6 with six RBIs. His grand slam was the Mariners' first of the season.

The last-place Mariners won their second straight game, but are 21 games under .500 and are 17½ games out of first place in the AL West. They've divested themselves of veterans John Olerud and Rich Aurilia this month.

Boone didn't fault the Red Sox for walking Winn intentionally to try to get him to hit into a double play.

"With the struggles I've had this season, you can't blame them," he said. "It was a great win."

Mike Myers (4-1), the fifth Seattle pitcher, got the final out of the 11th.

The Red Sox were 44-0 in games in which they led after the eighth.

The Mariners sent the game into extra innings in the ninth when Olivo and Edgar Martinez homered off closer Keith Foulke with one out in the ninth. Foulke blew his fifth save in 19 opportunities and his fourth save in his last six chances since June 12.

Olivo's homer to left was his first in five games with the Mariners since being acquired in a trade with the Chicago White Sox for Freddy Garcia June 27. The pinch-hitting Martinez homered 395 feet to center.

Jason Varitek went 2-for-4 with four RBIs, including a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth that put the Red Sox ahead 4-1.

Bronson Arroyo gave up one run and struck out a season-high 12 in eight innings for Boston.

Ron Villone pitched six strong innings, but the Red Sox came back against the Mariners' bullpen.

Everett provides spark White Sox were lacking

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Carl Everett showed how comfortable he feels in a Chicago White Sox uniform.

Everett went 2-for-5 with a home run, leading Chicago to a 12-6 victory over the Texas Rangers on Monday night — a day after he rejoined the White Sox in a trade.

Everett was the designated hitter and fit nicely into the fifth slot in a White Sox lineup that started the night averaging .186 in July.

AL Roundup

He played for the Rangers and White Sox last season, then began this season with Montreal before he was traded for minor leaguers Jon Rauch and Gary Majewski.

"Hopefully that's just the beginning," Everett said. "That's what I'm here for, to help the team out. It was a good first game."

Mark Teixeira homered in his fifth straight game, hitting a solo shot in the ninth to tie a club record. Hank Blalock also homered in the ninth for Texas, which had a four-game winning streak snapped.

Aaron Rowand tied a career high with four hits and Carlos Lee homered and drove in three runs for the White Sox, who had lost eight of 13 and three of four to start their eight-game road trip.

White Sox starter Scott Schoeneweis (6-7) had a 7-0 lead following three innings after getting a total of one run in support in his previous four starts. He snapped a five-start losing streak, holding the Rangers to four runs on five hits over 5⅓ innings.

He struck out four and didn't walk a batter as he earned his first victory since May 30.

Devil Rays 9, Yankees 7: Aubrey Huff and Robert Fick drove in two runs each, and Tampa Bay hung on for a win at Tropicana Field after taking a five-run lead in the first.

Geoff Blum's RBI single off Tanyon Sturtze (3-2) snapped a 5-all tie in the sixth.

Lance Carter (3-2) got the win, and Danys Baez got four outs for his 19th save.

Twins 3, Tigers 1: Pinch-hitter Jose Offerman's two-run single in the seventh led visiting Minnesota to its second win in eight games.

AP

The Indians' Travis Hafner hits a three-run homer in the 10th inning against the Anaheim Angels.

Terry Mulholland (2-3) gave up one run on four hits in 6⅔ innings, improving to 2-0 in three starts since moving into the rotation earlier this month.

Mulholland joined the New York Mets' Al Leiter and the Yankees' Kevin Brown as the only pitchers to beat all 30 teams.

Jason Johnson (7-8) allowed three runs on seven hits in eight-plus innings, eight days after pitching a five-hit shutout in Minnesota.

Orioles 7, Royals 4: Sidney Ponson (4-12) gave up two runs in six innings to end his nine-game losing streak with a win at Kansas City.

Javy Lopez had three hits and two RBIs for the Orioles, and Miguel Tejada hit his 16th homer, a two-run shot.

Brian Anderson (1-9) lost his ninth straight start, a Royals' club record set by Jeff Suppan in 2002.

Indians 8, Angels 5 (10): Travis Hafner hit his second homer of the game — a three-run shot in the 10th inning — and drove in a career-high five runs to lead Cleveland at Angel Stadium.

David Eckstein's two-out error on a routine grounder by Matt Lawton set the stage for Hafner's game-winning homer off Troy Percival (2-2).

Indians reliever David Riske (5-2) got the win despite allowing two runs in the ninth.

Jays' Towers reaches new heights in win at Oakland

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Josh Towers put on another good performance for his family.

Pitching in front of relatives who made the drive from Port Hueneme, he worked into the eighth inning Monday night to help Toronto to a 5-3 victory over the A's.

It was his second win over Oakland at the Coliseum this season, where the Jays are 0-3 in games he doesn't start.

"Every team seems to have a pitcher they struggle against and ours seems to be Towers," Oakland manager Ken Macha said. "He pitched well against us the last time they were here, too."

Towers (4-3) pitched Toronto to a 6-1 win in Oakland on June 4.

"I can't really explain why I pitch so well here," Towers said. "This is a pitcher's park with a lot of foul territory. And maybe it's because my family was here."

Towers' family drives to games he works in California, even the approximately six-hour one to Oakland. In front of them Monday night, he gave up two runs in the third inning, then shut down the A's as the Blue Jays snapped their season-high six-game losing streak. He was replaced by Kerry Ligtenberg after allowing a one-out double to Eric Chavez in the eighth.

Towers gave up seven hits and struck out five. He also hit two batters in winning his second straight start.

Jason Frasor allowed a leadoff homer in the ninth to Erubiel Durazo before finishing for his 10th save.

The Blue Jays scored four runs in the fourth inning off Kirk Saarloos, who hadn't allowed an earned run in his other two starts this season and had a streak of 14⅔ scoreless innings until Toronto broke loose.

Vernon Wells led off the fourth with his 10th homer. One out later, Gregg Zaun doubled. After Alexis Rios singled, Chris Gomez had a run-scoring hit to tie it 2-2. Orlando Hudson and Reed Johnson each added RBI singles to make it 4-2. Saarloos was removed after Johnson's hit.

"I felt like I was one pitch away from getting out of the inning," Saarloos said. "I just left too many balls over the plate."

Saarloos (1-1) allowed eight hits and four runs in 3⅔ innings. Macha said he was "95 percent sure," Saarloos would make his next scheduled start while waiting for Tim Hudson's pulled stomach muscle to heal.

Carlos Delgado led off the eighth with his 11th homer of the season, a shot to right off Ricardo Rincon, the third of five A's pitchers. It was the 997th RBI of Delgado's career.

Braves return to a familiar place

Atlanta tops Philly to move into first

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves have finally made it back to a familiar position.

Winners of 12 straight division titles, the Braves gained sole possession of first place in the NL East for the first time this season with a 4-2 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday night.

Mike Hampton gave up two runs and five hits in seven innings, and Atlanta's defense made several spectacular plays, including shortstop Rafael Furcal's leaping catch of David Bell's liner to end the game. Bell slung away his bat in frustration, nearly hitting home plate umpire Tim Timmons.

The Braves won for the 16th time in 20 games, breaking a tie with the Phillies for the top spot.

"They smell blood every time they take the field," said Philadelphia manager Larry Bowa, his team falling out of the division lead for the first time since June 27. "They don't win by accident."

Despite their impressive pedigree, it's a little surprising to find the Braves in this position. After all, they went through a major salary purge during the offseason, losing Gary Sheffield, Greg Maddux and Vinny Castilla.

The Phillies and World Series champion Florida Marlins were supposed to be the new powers in the East, but it appears that first in this division still goes through a familiar place — Atlanta.

"The goal is to be in first when the whole season is completed," manager Bobby Cox said. "We'll try to stay there."

Adam LaRoche, Andruw Jones, Charles Thomas and Chipper Jones drove in runs for the Braves, while Hampton (5-8) won for the fourth time in five starts.

Jimmy Rollins led off the game with a double and scored on Bobby Abreu's groundout.

Hampton has given up 19 runs in the first — more than any other inning — but he quickly settled down. The Phillies managed only one hit the next five innings, a stretch of domination that ended with Jim Thome's monstrous homer over the center-field fence leading off the seventh.

The Phillies threatened to get back in the game when Jason Michaels walked and Bell followed with a single, putting runners at first and second with one out. But Mike Lieberthal hit into an inning-ending double play, which began with Chipper Jones fielding a tricky hop at third base.

On the mound, Hampton pumped his fist and let out a yell as he watched the ball go around the horn.

"I was real excited about it," Hampton said. "It gave me a lot of confidence for Bobby [Cox] to stay with me in that position."

John Smoltz went the rest of the way for his second two-inning save of the season. He struck out four and had to get the final out twice — Ricky Ledee struck out but reached on a passed ball, putting runners at first and third in the ninth.

Bell hit a liner that appeared headed for left field, but Furcal stretched out to make a leaping catch that ended the game. Smoltz kneeled on the mound and pumped his fist, savoring his 18th save in 20 chances.

"I thought it was a base hit," he said. "He really made solid contact."

Phillies starter Paul Abbott lasted only 4⅔ innings and dropped to 0-4 since joining Philadelphia. He started the season with Tampa Bay, going 2-5 before his release on June 3.

"It is definitely frustrating," Abbott said. "How can it not be?"

In what is becoming a daily occurrence, Thomas made another spectacular play in the field, too. The left fielder made a diving catch on Rollins' soft flyball in the sixth, continuing his brilliant play since being called up from the minors on June 23.

Andruw Jones chipped in with a belly flopper of his own to end the eighth.

"The team was outstanding," Hampton said. "All the guys behind me deserve the credit."

KRT

Atlanta's Marcus Giles gets hold of Philadelphia shortstop Jimmy Rollins on Monday night to try to prevent a double play. The Phillies fell out of first place in the NL East for the first time in nearly a month.

Arizona's Gonzalez out for season

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona slugger Luis Gonzalez will have season-ending ligament replacement surgery in early August, but is expected to return to the Diamondbacks next spring.

The left fielder will fail to drive in 100 runs in six consecutive seasons. He has played all year with a partially torn ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow, feeling pain on every throw. The ligament connects bones in the upper and lower arm.

MLB briefs

Head trainer Paul Lessard said it was possible for position players to recover from the operation within four to six months, compared with 12 to 16 for pitchers.

Jays' Halladay shut down

OAKLAND, Calif. — Toronto Blue Jays right-hander Roy Halladay will miss four to six weeks because of a tired arm.

The American League Cy Young winner was examined Monday by Dr. James Andrews. Toronto General Manager J.P. Ricciardi said Monday there was no structural damage to Halladay's shoulder. He said Halladay (7-7, 4.35 ERA) would be re-evaluated in two weeks.

Twins' Mauer returns to DL

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Twins catcher Joe Mauer was placed on the 15-day disabled list Monday with a sore left knee, his second trip to the DL this season.

Mauer, eligible to be activated on July 31,missed seven weeks after tearing knee cartilage in the second game of the season.

Padres acquire IF Aurilia

SEATTLE — The San Diego Padres added some infield depth, getting Rich Aurilia from the Seattle Mariners on Monday for a player to be named or cash.

Signed as a free agent in January, Aurilia, 32, hit .241 with four home runs and 28 RBIs in his first year in the AL.

Reds put Larson on DL

CINCINNATI — Brandon Larson went on the 15-day disabled list with a strained hamstring on Monday, the third time that the Cincinnati Reds' third baseman has been hurt this season.

Larson pulled his left hamstring while running on Saturday.

Astros demote Duckworth

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros sent right-handed pitcher Brandon Duckworth to Class AAA New Orleans on Tuesday on the heels of his latest ineffective start and summoned pitcher Chad Qualls to take his place.

Mets trade Garcia to O's

NEW YORK — Hoping to bolster their bullpen, the New York Mets traded outfielder Karim Garcia to the Baltimore Orioles for reliever Mike DeJean on Monday.

Dodgers power to 13-1 in past 14 games

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Milton Bradley and Shawn Green hit back-to-back home runs in the eighth inning to lift Los Angeles to a 7-6 victory over the Houston Astros on Monday night, the Dodgers' seventh straight victory.

NL Roundup

Adrian Beltre hit his career-high 24th homer for the Dodgers, who have won 13 of 14 games.

Winning pitcher Giovanni Carrera (2-0) allowed two runs and two hits in 1⅓ innings, and Eric Gagne threw just eight pitches in a perfect ninth for his 26th save in 27 opportunities.

"It was a great victory," manager Jim Tracy said. "It was back-and-forth and we had some big step-up at-bats in the late innings by Milton and Shawn. … We made a couple of mistakes early, but it was because we were aggressive. You can't fault that."

Dan Miceli (3-5) gave up the back-to-back homers to Bradley and Green and took the loss, which dropped new manager Phil Garner's record to 1-3 since taking over from Jimy Williams after the All-Star break.

"We didn't play well," Garner said."We had the game in the palm of our hands and we let it get away. … It's frustrating because we put runs on the board. We just couldn't throw the ball over the plate. A pair of late home runs, that is going to happen sometimes, but you have got to throw strikes to win games."

In the eighth, Bradley homered to right on Miceli's first pitch.

Milton Bradley (21) hit a solo homer in the eighth to tie it, and Shawn Green followed with a homer that was the difference in the Dodgers' 7-6 victory on Monday night.

AP

Green followed with a homer to right on a 0-2 pitch to give the Dodgers a 7-6 lead. Green hit .412 (7-for-17) in the first five games of this road trip.

The Dodgers scored four runs in the sixth inning, with three unearned because of two Astros errors.

In other NL games on Monday:

Expos 6, Pirates 2: Termmel Sledge drove in two runs with a ground ball just past first base during a four-run seventh inning and Montreal halted Pittsburgh's 10-game home winning streak, the Pirates' longest since winning 24 straight in 1978.

Marlins 6, Mets 5: Pinch-hitter Lenny Harris delivered a go-ahead single in the bottom of the ninth, spoiling Scott Erickson's bid for his first major league victory in nearly two years.

Miguel Cabrera tied it with an RBI single off closer Braden Looper (2-2), who gave up four straight hits in the ninth.

Shane Spencer hit a three-run homer for the Mets.

Cardinals 5, Cubs 4: At Wrigley Field, Scott Rolen hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning off Carlos Zambrano to lead St. Louis to its 12th win in 14 games.

Zambrano (9-5) was ejected in the eighth inning after hitting Jim Edmonds with a pitch right after Rolen's two-run shot — the second time Zambrano hit Edmonds

Chris Carpenter (10-4) got his 10th victory and fourth of the season against the Cubs.

Reds 8, Brewers 4: Wily Mo Pena hit his sixth homer in eight games, and also had a run-scoring single and a double.

Right-hander Aaron Harang (6-2) won his second straight start against the visiting Brewers, and the Reds batted around in the first inning for four runs off right-hander Ben Hendrickson (0-2).

Padres 13, Rockies 6: Ismael Valdez pitched five-plus innings and hit a two-run double, Mark Loretta had four hits and three RBIs, and visiting San Diego set a season high for runs and matched its season high of 18 hits.

Giants 6, Diamondbacks 1: In Phoenix, Brett Tomko (5-5) pitched into the eighth inning, and San Francisco won without Barry Bonds, who sat out after having a root canal Monday morning.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	57	34	.626	—
Boston	50	41	.549	7
Tampa Bay	45	47	.489	12½
Baltimore	40	50	.444	16½
Toronto	40	52	.435	17½
Central Division				
Chicago	48	41	.539	—
Minnesota	49	43	.533	½
Cleveland	45	47	.489	4½
Detroit	44	48	.478	5½
Kansas City	34	56	.378	14½
West Division				
Texas	52	38	.578	—
Oakland	50	41	.549	2½
Anaheim	49	43	.533	3½
Seattle	35	56	.385	17½

Monday's games

Minnesota 3, Detroit 1
Tampa Bay 9, N.Y. Yankees 7
Chicago White Sox 12, Texas 6
Baltimore 7, Kansas City 4
Seattle 8, Boston 4, 11 innings
Cleveland 8, Anaheim 5, 10 innings
Toronto 5, Oakland 3

Tuesday's games

Baltimore at Kansas City
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay
Toronto at Oakland
Cleveland at Anaheim
Boston at Seattle
Minnesota at Detroit
Chicago White Sox at Texas

Wednesday's games

Baltimore (Bedard 3-4) at Boston (P.Martinez 10-3)
Kansas City (May 7-9) at Detroit (Maroth 6-7)
Toronto (Hentgen 2-8) at N.Y. Yankees (Vazquez 10-6)
Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 9-3) at Cleveland (C.Lee 10-7)
Anaheim (Escobar 5-6) at Texas (Drese 5-5)
Tampa Bay (Halama 5-3) at Minnesota (Radke 5-6)
Oakland (Zito 5-7) at Seattle (Blackley 1-2)

Thursday's games

Baltimore at Boston, doubleheader
Toronto at N.Y. Yankees
Kansas City at Detroit
Tampa Bay at Minnesota
Anaheim at Texas
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland
Oakland at Seattle

Monday

Twins 3, Tigers 1

MINNESOTA				DETROIT			
ShStwrt dh	4	0	1	0	Infante 2b	4	0	1	0
CGzmnn ss	4	0	0	0	Polanco ss	4	0	1	0
LFord lf	4	1	2	0	IRdrgz dh	3	0	0	0
Mrneau 1b	4	1	1	1	DYong 1b	4	1	1	0
THnter cf	3	1	1	0	Guillen 3b	4	0	0	0
JJones rf	2	0	0	0	RoWhite lf	4	0	2	0
Koskie 3b	3	0	0	0	Monroe 2b	2	0	1	0
LeCroy c	4	0	1	0	DFelice c	2	0	0	0
HBlnco c	0	0	0	0	Thmes ph	1	0	0	0
Cddyer 2b	2	0	0	0	CPena ph	1	0	0	0
Offrmn ph	1	0	1	2	Monroe cf	0	0	0	0
Rivas 2b	1	0	0	0	Inge rf	3	0	0	0
Totals	**32**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**Totals**	**30**	**1**	**5**	**1**

Minnesota	000	000	300—3
Detroit	000	000	001—1

DP—Minnesota 2, Detroit 1. LOB—Minnesota 6, Detroit 5. 2B—THnter (2), Mrneau (2), CGuillen (25). SB—THnter 2 (7), JJones (10). S—JJones.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Mlhlnd W,2-3	6⅔	4	1	1	1	2
Romano	0	0	0	0	0	0
JRincon	1	0	0	0	0	1
Nathan S,25	1	1	0	0	0	1
Detroit						
JJohnson L,7-8	8	7	3	3	2	6
JWalker	⅓	0	0	0	1	1
Levine	⅓	0	0	0	0	1

JJohnson pitched to 1 batter in the 9th.
HBP —by Mulholland (CGuillen), WP—Romero. T—2:29. A—21,369 (40,120).

Devil Rays 9, Yankees 7

NEW YORK				TAMPA BAY			
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
BWilms dh	5	0	0	0	Crwfrd lf	5	1	2	1
Jeter ss	5	1	2	0	Cantu dh	3	1	0	0
Sthfield rf	5	1	1	0	Fick dh	1	0	0	0
ARdrgz 3b	3	2	1	0	Baldelli cf	4	1	1	1
JaGbi 1b	1	0	0	1	Huff 1b	4	2	2	2
Posada c	4	1	1	2	JCruz rf	4	0	0	0
Matsui lf	3	1	1	1	Lugo ss	3	2	2	1
EWilkn 2b	3	0	1	1	THall c	4	1	2	1
Sierra lf	1	1	1	2	Blum 3b	4	2	2	1
Lofton cf	4	0	0	0	RSnchz 2b	2	0	0	0
Cairo 2b	4	0	1	0	TMrtnz 1b	3	0	0	0
Totals	**34**	**7**	**8**	**7**	**Totals**	**36**	**9**	**13**	**9**

New York	000	230	020—7
Tampa Bay	003	003	01x—9

E—Blum (4). DP—Tampa Bay 1. LOB—New York 5, Tampa Bay 5. 2B—THall (2), Posada (23), Cantu (1), Fick (5), Huff 2 (13), Lugo 2 (24), THall (8), Blum (16). 3B—Crawford (14). HR—Sierra (11), SB—Baldelli (26), Lofton (4). S—RSanchez, SF—JaGiambi.

NEW YORK	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Graman	⅓	5	5	5	0	0
Sturtze L,3-2	4⅔	4	2	2	1	1
Heredia	⅓	1	1	1	0	1
Padilla	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1
Quantrill	1	2	1	1	0	0
Tampa Bay						
RBell	4⅓	6	5	5	2	4
LCarter W,3-2	1⅓	1	0	0	0	2
Colome	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1
DBaez S,19	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1

Sturtze pitched to 2 batters in the 6th.
HBP—by RBell (ARodriguez). PB—THall. T—3:06. A—41,755 (43,969).

White Sox 12, Rangers 6

CHICAGO				TEXAS			
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
WHarrs 2b	3	2	2	1	EKrong lf	4	1	1	0
Vlentin ss	6	0	2	3	MYong ss	5	1	1	0
MOrdrz rf	5	1	1	0	Ardoin c	0	0	0	0
TPerez rf	1	0	0	0	Blalock 2b	4	2	1	1
CaLee lf	5	1	3	3	Teixeira 1b	4	1	1	1
GLoaiz lf	1	0	0	0	Mrnder lf	5	0	1	0
CEvrtt dh	5	2	2	1	Blalock 3b	4	1	2	1
Knerko 1b	4	1	0	0	CAllen dh	4	0	0	0
PAnrd cf	3	4	0	0	Mathis c	4	0	1	0
Crede 3b	3	1	1	1	DLuce lf	1	0	0	0
SAlmr c	4	0	2	2	Mathias cf	3	1	1	1
Totals	**42**	**12**	**17**	**11**	**Totals**	**34**	**6**	**8**	**6**

Chicago	214	120	020—12
Texas	001	003	002—6

E—Vlentin (2), Barajas (6). LOB—Chicago 11, Texas 2. 2B—WHarris (9), CLee (25), ASoriano (16), Blalock (24). HR—CLee (13), CEvcrett (1), Teixeira (22), Blalock (24), Mathias (6). S—Crede. SF—Teixeira.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Schwy W,5-4	5⅓	5	4	4	0	3
Mdleson	⅔	2	0	0	0	1
Cotts	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Politte	1	0	0	0	0	0
Adkins	1	2	2	2	0	0
Texas						
Benoit L,3-5	2⅓	7	7	7	4	2
Dickey	4	7	3	1	0	2
Brocail	1⅓	1	1	1	0	0
BShouse	⅓	2	1	1	0	0
Almanzar	⅓	0	0	0	0	0

HBP—by Benoit (Crede). WP—Benoit. T—3:06. A—28,805 (49,115).

Orioles 7, Royals 4

BALTIMORE				KANSAS CITY			
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Hrst Jr rf	5	0	0	0	DJesus cf	4	0	0	0
Newhn dh	4	1	2	2	Sweeney lf	4	1	2	0
Mora 3b	5	1	1	0	MSwy 1b	5	0	1	0
Tejada ss	5	1	2	4	Stairs rf	2	0	0	0
LMrtnz c	5	1	3	2	Ibanez dh	5	1	2	1
RPlmro 1b	4	0	2	0	DBrwn lf	5	0	0	0
Matos cf	4	0	2	1	Berroa ss	3	0	1	0
Bigbie lf	4	1	2	0	Ralford 3b	4	0	1	0
BBrbrs 2b	3	1	1	0	Buck c	4	1	1	0
Totals	**38**	**7**	**12**	**7**	**Totals**	**35**	**4**	**10**	**3**

Baltimore	000	300	310—7
Kansas City	110	000	01x—4

E—BDrwn (2). DP—Baltimore 1. LOB—Baltimore 9, Kansas City 11. 2B—Newhan (5), JLopez (17), HR—Tejada (16), Harvey (11), Buck (1). SB—BBrbrs (2), Ibanez (1), Berroa (9), CS—Berroa (5). S—Roberts. SF—Matos.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ponson W,4-12	6	7	2	2	4	3
Grimsley	1	0	0	0	1	0
BRyan	1	3	1	1	0	2
Julio	1	2	1	1	0	0
Kansas City						
JPrdmrc L,1-9	5	5	3	3	1	0
Seanez	1⅓	3	2	2	0	3
Sullivan	⅔	2	2	2	0	1
Huisman	2	3	1	1	0	1

WP—Ponson, Julio, Seanez, Sullivan. T—3:07. A—17,586 (40,785).

Mariners 8, Red Sox 4

BOSTON				SEATTLE			
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Damon cf	6	0	1	0	Ichiro rf	5	1	2	0
Mueller 3b	4	0	0	0	Olerud lf	5	2	1	0
DOrtiz dh	3	0	0	0	Bboone 2b	6	1	2	6
MMnrz rf	3	2	1	2	Sheffld dh	4	0	1	0
Grcpnr ss	4	1	2	0	Blmquist 1b	4	0	0	0
Varitek c	3	1	2	1	Spiljardo 3b	3	1	1	0
Millar 1b	4	0	0	0	JoCbra ss	4	0	0	0
McCty 1b	1	0	0	0	Leone 3b	5	0	0	0
Kapler rf	4	0	1	0	Olivo c	5	2	2	1
Reese 2b	1	0	0	0	Bcchca cf	3	0	0	0
Millhorn 2b	4	0	2	0	Ellbrkr rf	1	0	0	0
					Hansen 1b	0	1	0	0
Totals	**40**	**4**	**9**	**4**	**Totals**	**42**	**8**	**10**	**8**

Boston	000	100	030—4
Seattle	000	001	012—4

One out when winning run scored.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
E—Mueller (8), Reese (7), Leone (5).						

DP—Seattle 2. LOB—Boston 5, Seattle 6. 2B—Beilhorn (19), Winn (23), BBoone (14). HR—Varitek (11), BBoone (12), Olivo (1). SB—Damon 2 (7), SB—Bloomquist (6). CS—Kapler (2). S—ISuzuki.

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Arroyo	7	3	1	1	2	12
Embree	0	1	1	0	0	0
Timlin	1	1	0	0	0	1
Foulke	2	3	2	2	0	3
Leskanic L,1-5	⅓	2	4	4	2	0
Seattle						
Villone	6	5	1	1	4	3
Sherrill	1⅓	2	0	0	0	2
Franklin	1	2	3	3	1	1
Mateo	2⅓	1	0	0	0	2
MMyers W,4-1	⅓	0	0	0	0	0

Embree pitched to 2 batters in the 8th.
HBP—by Foulke (JoCabrera), by Villone (Mueller). WP—Arroyo, Villone, JMateo. T—3:38. A—42,898 (47,447).

Indians 8, Angels 5 (10)

CLEVELAND				ANAHEIM			
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Lawton lf	6	2	3	0	Eckstin ss	4	1	1	0
Crquel ss	4	1	1	0	Erstad cf	4	1	1	0
Hafner dh	4	2	3	5	GAndsn cf	5	0	1	0
VMrtnz c	5	1	2	0	VGrero rf	4	1	2	1
Sabathia 3b	4	1	1	0	Salmon rf	0	0	0	0
Brssrd 1b	2	0	0	0	DVnon lf	5	1	2	0
Belliard 2b	5	0	3	0	Salinas dh	5	0	2	1
Gerut rf	5	0	0	0	BMolina c	3	0	1	1
Crisp cf	4	0	0	0	ARdrgz 2b	4	0	0	0
					Quinlan ph	0	1	0	0
					JMolina c	1	0	0	0
					ARdrgz ss	4	0	0	0
Totals	**39**	**8**	**12**	**8**	**Totals**	**39**	**5**	**10**	**4**

Cleveland	202	000	001 3—8
Anaheim	000	100	112 0—5

E—Eckstein (3), RGrtiz (2). DP—Cleveland 1, Anaheim 1. LOB—Cleveland 11, Anaheim 9. 2B—Belliard (28), Figgins (14), VGuerrero (26), HR—THafner 2 (14), Blake (16), SB—Crisp (12), VGuerrero 2 (9), DaVanon 2 (12), Quinlan (3). CS—Broussard (1), S—Vizquel. SF—Blake.

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Tadano	6⅔	4	2	2	5	5
Betancourt	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Miceli	1	0	0	0	0	1
Riske W,5-2	1	3	2	2	0	0
Miller S,1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Anaheim						
Sele	4⅔	7	4	4	3	4
RCrtiz	3⅓	3	0	0	2	1
Donnelly	1	1	1	1	3	0
Percival L,2-2	1	1	3	0	1	0

HBP—by Riske (Quinlan), by Tadano (Eckstein), by Tadano (VGuerrero). Balk—Sele. T—3:21. A—42,886 (45,050).

Blue Jays 5, Athletics 3

TORONTO				OAKLAND			
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Jhnson lf	5	0	2	1	Kotsay cf	5	1	3	0
Hinske 3b	5	0	1	0	Mcthr 2b	5	0	2	2
VWells cf	5	1	2	1	Echavz 3b	4	0	1	0
Crdejo 1b	4	0	1	0	Chavez lf	4	0	1	0
Zaun c	4	1	2	0	Httberg 1b	4	0	0	0
Rios rf	4	1	2	0	Durazo dh	4	1	1	1
Gomez ss	4	1	1	0	Crosby ss	3	0	0	0
JPrijdo dh	4	0	0	0	DMiller c	4	0	1	0
OHudsn 2b	3	0	2	1	Kielty lf	3	1	0	0
Totals	**38**	**5**	**12**	**5**	**Totals**	**35**	**3**	**9**	**3**

Toronto	000	400	010—5
Oakland	002	000	001—3

E—Bradford (1). DP—Toronto 1, Oakland 2. LOB—Toronto 7, Oakland 8. 2B—Zaun (14), Kotsay (28), Durazo (16). 3B—Chavez (1). HR—VWells (10), CDelgado (11), Durazo (12).

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Towers W,4-3	7⅔	7	2	2	0	5
Lidrigan H,1	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Frasor S,10	1	2	1	1	1	0
Oakland						
Saarloos L,1-1	3⅓	8	4	4	1	3
Duchscherer	3½	2	0	0	0	0
Rincon	1	1	0	0	0	1
Bradford	1	1	0	0	0	1
Mecir	⅓	0	0	0	0	0

HBP—by Towers (Dye), by Towers (Kielty). T—2:38. A—15,480 (43,662).

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	49	43	.533	—
Philadelphia	48	44	.522	1
Florida	46	46	.500	3
New York	46	46	.500	3
Montreal	43	50	.462	6
Central Division				
St. Louis	58	34	.630	—
Chicago	49	43	.533	9
Cincinnati	49	44	.527	9½
Milwaukee	47	44	.516	10½
Houston	45	47	.489	13
Pittsburgh	38	54	.413	20½
West Division				
Los Angeles	53	38	.582	—
San Francisco	52	42	.553	2½
San Diego	50	42	.543	3½
Colorado	38	54	.413	15½
Arizona	31	63	.330	23½

Monday's games

Montreal 6, Pittsburgh 2
Florida 6, N.Y. Mets 5
Cincinnati 8, Milwaukee 4
Atlanta 4, Philadelphia 2
Los Angeles 7, Houston 6
St. Louis 6, Chicago Cubs 4
San Diego 13, Colorado 6
San Francisco 6, Arizona 1

Tuesday's games

Milwaukee at Cincinnati
St. Louis at Chicago Cubs
Montreal at Pittsburgh
Florida at N.Y. Mets
Philadelphia at Atlanta
Los Angeles at Houston
Arizona at Colorado
San Francisco at Arizona

Wednesday's games

Cincinnati (P.Wilson 9-2) at Chicago Cubs (Clement 7-7)
Florida (A.Burnett 1-4) at Philadelphia (Millwood 7-5)
Montreal (Patterson 1-2) at N.Y. Mets (Seo 4-6)
Pittsburgh (Benson 7-7) at Atlanta (Byrd 2-2)
Milwaukee (Santos 9-3) at St. Louis (W.Wilk 4-3)
Houston (Pettitte 5-3) at Arizona (Webb 3-10)
Colorado (Estes 9-4) at Los Angeles (Ishii 7-4)
San Diego (Peavy 6-3) at San Francisco (Rueter 5-7)

Thursday's games

Montreal at N.Y. Mets
Pittsburgh at Atlanta
Florida at Philadelphia
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs
Colorado at Los Angeles
San Diego at San Francisco
Houston at Arizona
Milwaukee at St. Louis

Monday

Expos 6, Pirates 2

MONTREAL				PITTSBURGH			
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
EChvez cf	5	1	1	0	Kendall c	4	0	2	0
VMrtnez lf	3	2	1	0	Wilson ss	5	1	1	0
Vldrz 2b	5	0	1	0	Mckwk 3b	4	0	1	0
TBtista 3b	4	0	0	0	CWilsn rf	3	1	2	1
Wlkerson rf	4	2	2	2	Bay lf	4	0	1	0
OCbera ss	4	0	2	0	TRdmn cf	2	0	0	0
Schneidr 1b	4	0	1	0	Bmbrry 1b	3	0	1	0
Hrgan p	0	0	0	0	Castillo 2b	3	0	0	0
Carroll ph	0	0	0	0	Hill ph	1	0	0	0
Cllway ph	1	0	1	2	Fogg p	2	0	0	0
Ayala p	0	0	0	0	Grabow p	0	0	0	0
CCrdrn p	0	0	0	0	WRbrts p	0	0	0	0
Schndr c	3	0	1	1	House ph	1	0	0	0
Biddle p	2	0	0	0	Grzalez p	0	0	0	0
Tucker p	0	0	0	0	Vglsng p	0	0	0	0
Jrvis p	0	0	0	0					
Totals	**36**	**6**	**11**	**5**	**Totals**	**31**	**2**	**6**	**2**

Montreal	011	000	400—6
Pittsburgh	200	000	000—2

E—Simon (2), Fogg (1). DP—Montreal 1, Pittsburgh 3. LOB—Montreal 8, Pittsburgh 6. 2B—Wilkerson 2 (20), NJohnson (13), JRivera (12). HR—Schneider (18). SB—TRedman (8). CS—TRedman (5).

Montreal	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Biddle	5	3	2	2	2	5
Tucker	⅓	1	0	0	0	0
Horgan W,3-0	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Ayala	2	2	0	0	0	2
CCordero	1	0	0	0	1	1
Pittsburgh						
Fogg	5	6	2	1	3	2
Grabow L,0-4	1⅓	4	4	2	0	0
WRoberts	⅓	1	0	0	0	0
Gonzalez	1	0	0	0	0	1
Vogelsong	2	1	0	0	1	2

Fogg pitched to 2 batters in the 6th. HBP—by Biddle (Kendall). WP—WRoberts. W-2:54. A—14,787 (38,496).

Marlins 6, Mets 5

FLORIDA				NEW YORK			
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Pierre cf	5	1	0	0	Reyes 2b	4	3	3	0
Castillo 2b	4	2	2	0	Matsui ss	4	0	0	0
Lowell 3b	4	1	2	1	Piazza 1b	2	1	1	1
Nunez rf	0	1	0	0	McEwg 1b	3	0	0	0
Cbrera rf	5	0	2	3	Spncer lf	4	1	3	0
Mrdcai 3b	0	0	0	0	Hidalgo rf	3	0	2	0
Wgnr lf	4	0	1	0	Wggntn 3b	4	0	1	0
Tranor c	5	0	0	0	Cmeron cf	4	0	1	0
LHarris ph	1	0	1	1	Phillips c	3	0	0	0
Benitez p	0	0	0	0	Floyd ph	1	0	0	0
Ullrich p	0	0	0	0	Erksn p	0	0	0	0
Conine lf	4	0	1	0	Moreno p	0	0	0	0
AGnzlz ss	5	0	1	0	JrFrco p	0	0	0	0
Willis p	3	1	1	0	Wheeler p	0	0	0	0
Easley ph	1	0	0	0	Stanton p	0	0	0	0
JMrquez p	0	0	0	0	Wigginton ph	1	0	0	0
Rdmnd c	0	0	0	0	Loper p	0	0	0	0
Totals	**40**	**6**	**13**	**5**	**Totals**	**32**	**5**	**9**	**4**

Florida	000	000	006—6
New York	301	010	000—5

E—Hidalgo reached first on catcher's interference. E—Willingham (1), Spencer (3), Cameron (5). DP—Florida 3. LOB—Florida 11, New York 3. 2B—Castillo (18), Reyes 2 (6). HR—Spencer (4). SB—Reyes 2 (5). CS—Hidalgo (4).

Florida	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Willis	7	8	5	4	1	5
JMrnzlz W,2-2	1	0	0	0	1	1
Benitez L,3-1	1	5	4	1	0	1
New York						
Erickson	6	8	2	1	3	3
Moreno	⅓	1	2	1	1	0
JrFrancc	⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Wheeler	⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Stanton	⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Leiper L,2-2	1	4	2	2	0	0

HBP—by Moreno (Lowell). PB—Willingham, VWilson. T—3:09. A—23,176 (57,405).

Reds 8, Brewers 4

MILWAUKEE				CINCINNATI			
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Pdsdnk cf	5	0	1	0	Freel cf	4	1	1	0
Cunsell ss	5	1	1	0	Larkin ss	5	0	2	0
Jenkins lf	2	1	1	1	Casey 1b	3	1	0	0
Ovrbay 1b	5	0	2	0	Dunn lf	4	1	1	1
BHall 2b	4	0	1	1	DMrnez 2b	5	1	2	1
KGintr 3b	5	0	0	0	WPerez rf	4	1	3	3
BClark rf	4	0	0	0	GWhite p	0	0	0	0
GBrntt c	4	1	4	1	LaRue c	2	1	2	1
Hndrck p	1	0	0	0	JCastro 3b	3	0	1	0
Grieve ph	1	0	0	0	Harang p	1	0	0	0
Kinney p	0	0	0	0	PNortn p	0	0	0	0
Mgrder ph	1	0	0	0	RWgnr p	0	0	0	0
Wise p	0	0	0	0	Rmano rf	1	1	1	0
Helms ph	1	0	1	1					
Meintt p	0	0	0	0					
Totals	**38**	**4**	**11**	**4**	**Totals**	**34**	**8**	**12**	**8**

Milwaukee	010	000	111—4
Cincinnati	000	010	01x—8

DP—Milwaukee 1. LOB—Milwaukee 11, Cincinnati 9. 2B—GBrntt (7), Helms (1), Dunn (18), WPerez (5). HR—Jenkins (14), WPerez (13), LaRue (10). SB—Jenkins (3), Freel (16). SF—JCastro.

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Hndrck L,0-2	3	7	6	6	0	3
Kinney	2	1	1	1	1	3
Wise	2	0	0	0	0	2
JBennett	1	2	1	1	1	2
Cincinnati						
Harang W,6-2	6⅔	7	2	2	4	5
PNorton	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
RWagner	⅓	1	0	0	0	1
GWhite	1	3	2	2	2	2

HBP—by Kinney (Casey), by Hendrickson (LaRue), by Hendrickson (Dunn). T—3:16. A—25,793 (42,271).

Braves 4, Phillies 2

PHILADELPHIA				ATLANTA			
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Rollins ss	4	1	1	0	Furcal ss	3	0	1	0
Pizarro 2b	4	0	2	0	McGlfrs 2b	3	0	1	0
BAbreu rf	4	0	1	0	JDrew rf	4	1	1	0
Thome 1b	4	1	2	1	Cldrns 3b	4	0	1	1
Burrell lf	4	0	0	0	JEstda c	3	1	1	0
Michels cf	2	0	0	0	Smoltz p	0	0	0	0
Ledee ph	1	0	0	0	Lroche 1b	3	1	2	1
Glnville cf	0	0	0	0	Ldrmlk ss	4	1	2	1
Dallett 3b	4	0	2	0	Thomas rf	4	0	1	1
Lieber p	0	0	0	0	Ramrez ss	0	0	0	0
PAbbtt p	2	0	0	0	EddPrz c	1	0	0	0
Madsen p	0	0	0

George, Tennessee parting company

Titans' career rushing leader asks for his release after rejecting contract offer

BY TERESA M. WALKER
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Eddie George insists he isn't being greedy — he just wants to be paid close to what he's worth.

Tennessee's career leading rusher rejected the team's latest contract offer Monday and asked the Titans to release him so he can join another team before training camp.

"Change may be good," George told The Associated Press on Monday night. "I hate to sever the ties here. My first and only option was to finish a Tennessee Titan under fair circumstances. Unfortunately, that's not how I perceive it at this point. I look to move forward in a new situation."

> *"I hate to sever the ties here. My first and only option was to finish a Tennessee Titan under fair circumstances."*
>
> **Eddie George**
> Titans RB

The Titans again declined comment Tuesday on the running back's request.

George's agent, Lamont Smith, said team officials told him they wanted to "kick it around" and get back to them.

But Titans owner Bud Adams said in May he was "pessimistic" about George returning to the team, even as General Manager Floyd Reese and coach Jeff Fisher said they hoped a deal could be reached.

George is only the second NFL running back to rush for 10,000 yards while never missing a start, joining Jim Brown. Only Walter Payton (170) has started more consecutive regular-season games than George's 128.

Last December, George became the 17th running back to top 10,000 yards. He has 10,009 yards and 64 touchdowns for the franchise that drafted the 1995 Heisman Trophy winner 14th overall in 1996. His best season was in 2000, with fullback Lorenzo Neal, when he carried 403 times for 1,509 yards.

George is under contract through 2006 and was to make $4.25 million this season. The Titans asked him in February to rework his contract and paid him a $1 million roster bonus in March.

But the salary cap-strapped Titans, whose woes are expected to worsen in 2005, need to clear space to sign 13 draft picks before training camp starts July 31.

Smith said they gave the Titans a counter offer two to three months ago that would have shaved $3 million from their salary cap, only to see team officials stick close to a proposal of approximately $1.5 million this season with less money each year through 2006.

"In essence, the deal we had on the table doesn't assure me of anything but a one-year deal," George said. "I don't plan on retiring after next year."

The Titans have evolved into a pass-first offense behind Steve McNair, the NFL's co-MVP last season after leading the league with a quarterback rating of 100.4.

George has been known throughout his eight NFL seasons for his work ethic, which includes regular yoga sessions to maximize his flexibility. He had one of his best games in a couple seasons last January during a playoff victory at Baltimore when he ran for 88 yards despite dislocating his left shoulder.

He attended the team's offseason minicamps as he recovered from operations on his right knee and left ankle. But NFL teams start opening camps during the next two weeks.

George, who turns 31 in September, spoke of Tampa Bay, Philadelphia and Dallas as potential options and said he wants to join a team with a chance of winning a Super Bowl.

If the Titans release George, it would leave them with second-year rusher Chris Brown, veteran Robert Holcombe and rookies Troy Fleming, Vick King and Jarrett Payton at running back.

AP

Eddie George is one of 17 NFL players to run for 10,000 yards. With 10,009, he has eclipsed Earl Campbell's club record by nearly 1,500.

Pats sign first-round pick Wilfork

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — The New England Patriots on Monday signed nose tackle Vince Wilfork, the 21st overall pick in the draft, to a six-year contract that could be worth more than $18 million.

Wilfork is the second first-round pick to sign. He will be guaranteed $6.575 million through 2006, including a $3 million signing bonus and his salary for 2005-06.

NFL briefs

Wilfork, who is listed at 325 pounds, had seven sacks in 2002 and six in 2003 at Miami. He joins a team that allowed the fewest points in the NFL last season (238) and will contend for a starting spot in the defensive line vacated by the departure of veteran Ted Washington.

Jason Babin, who was taken by Houston with the 27th overall pick, is the only other first-round pick who has signed.

Bills reach oral agreement with LB Gildon

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Bills have reached an oral agreement with linebacker Jason Gildon, who was let go by the Pittsburgh Steelers last month.

The one-year deal is believed to be worth between $1 million and $1.5 million, and includes a signing bonus of $500,000, according to The Buffalo News.

Gildon, a three-time Pro Bowler with 77 career sacks, is expected to be used as a pass rusher. He will be 32 on July 31.

Tagliabue agrees to new deal

NEW YORK — Paul Tagliabue will remain as NFL commissioner through the end of the 2007 season.

Tagliabue has officially agreed to the new deal, announced last March, to extend his current contract that would have expired after next season, league officials said Monday.

Tagliabue will be 67 when the contract expires — he would have retired at 65 had he stuck to his current deal. The new one is expected to pay him around $8 million a year, putting him on a level with NBA Commissioner David Stern as the highest paid chief executives in professional sports.

The deal has been approved unanimously by the 32 owners.

Tagliabue's ability to generate television revenues and get cities to build or renovate stadiums, has made him popular with everyone — in the 15 years he's been commissioner, 21 of the 32 teams either have built new facilities or renovated older ones and the $17.6 billion television contract that expires after next season is the biggest in sports history.

Chiefs sign second-round pick

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Tight end Kris Wilson, a second-round draft choice of the Kansas City Chiefs, has signed a four-year contract with the team.

No contract terms were announced Monday.

Earnhardt Jr. released from hospital after wreck

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. was released from the hospital on Monday, one day after being burned on the face and legs in a crash during a warmup for an American Le Mans Series race.

Racing briefs

The NASCAR star was flown to the University of California-Davis Medical Center on Sunday after the car he was driving crashed and turned into a fireball at the Infineon Raceway in Sonoma.

Earnhardt was treated for second-degree burns on the insides of both legs and on his chin, according to a statement from the hospital. The burns covered about 6 percent of his body.

The terrifying accident came at the beginning of a morning practice, when Earnhardt lost control of his Chevrolet Corvette C5-R. The car spun and slid into a concrete barrier.

The crash broke the fuel filler neck, where gas is poured into the fuel tank, and sparked the fire. Earnhardt was able to get out of the car on his own.

While Earnhardt's injuries weren't serious, any wreck he is involved in always brings up memories of the last-lap crash in the 2001 Daytona 500 that killed his father, easily the most popular driver of his era.

Steve Crisp, a spokesman for Dale Earnhardt Inc., said the younger Earnhardt will compete in next weekend's Nextel Cup race at New Hampshire International Speedway. Earnhardt, second in the Cup standings behind Jimmie Johnson, was supposed to be enjoying a weekend off from his regular series.

Stewart, Foyt crash during practice session at Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS — NASCAR drivers Tony Stewart and Larry Foyt crashed Tuesday — but neither was hurt — during testing at Indianapolis Motor Speedway for next month's Brickyard 400.

Stewart returned to the track in a different car. Stewart, fourth in the Nextel Cup driver standings, damaged the right rear of his car when he hit the wall in the second turn.

Foyt hit the wall in the first turn, damaging the car's right side. He did not return to the track because his team brought only one car for the session leading to the Aug. 8 race.

AP

Burns covered about 6 percent of Dale Earnhradt Jr.'s body, but the NASCAR star is expected to compete in this weekend's race at New Hampshire International Speedway.

Nemechek signed to replace Nadeau through 2005

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Joe Nemechek signed a one-year extension Tuesday with MB2 Motorsports to drive the No. 01 Chevrolet through 2005.

Nemechek joined the team with four races left last season, replacing Jerry Nadeau, who suffered a head injury in a crash at Richmond International Speedway.

MB2 General Manager Jay Frye said there is no timetable for Nadeu's return to competition.

Divac returns to Lakers with two-year deal

The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Vlade Divac has come full circle to rejoin the Los Angeles Lakers.

The Lakers called an afternoon news conference Tuesday to announce the signing of Divac, who played the past six seasons for the Sacramento Kings.

NBA briefs

The 36-year-old center will fill the spot left vacant when Shaquille O'Neal was traded to Miami last week. Brian Grant, acquired along with Lamar Odom and Caron Butler in that deal, will share duties at center.

The Lakers took Divac with the 26th pick in the 1989 NBA Draft and he spent seven years with Los Angeles before the Lakers traded him to Charlotte in 1996 for the draft rights to Kobe Bryant.

Divac, an unrestricted free agent, still has a home in Los Angeles. He has agreed to a two-year deal that reportedly will pay him $4.9 million for next season.

Earlier, he said Sacramento did not show interest in keeping him. The Kings apparently wanted to avoid paying the luxury tax, and did not match the Lakers' offer.

The 7-foot-1 Divac averaged 9.9 points, 5.7 assists and 5.3 assists for Sacramento last season.

The revamped Lakers could have a starting lineup of Divac at center, Bryant and Gary Payton at guard, Odom at small forward and — if he decides to return for another year — Karl Malone at power forward.

Nuggets welcome Martin

DENVER — Kenyon Martin helped turn the New Jersey Nets from one of the NBA's worst teams into two-time Eastern Conference champions.

Now he's hoping to take the Denver Nuggets — one of the league's worst teams just two years ago — to another level.

"It's an honor being here," Martin said Monday, three days after being sent to Denver in a sign-and-trade deal. "It was a great run in Jersey, but it was time for a change. I'm glad to be a part of this."

Denver tied for the league's worst record at 17-65 two years ago before turning it around last season behind a revamped roster and rookie sensation Carmelo Anthony.

Combined with Anthony, Marcus Camby and Nene, Martin should give Denver one of the Western Conference's best frontcourts.

Giricek re-signs with Jazz

SALT LAKE CITY — Gordan Giricek re-signed with the Utah Jazz on Monday, returning to the team that picked him up at the trading deadline last season.

A Jazz spokeswoman said she could not disclose details of the contract, widely reported to be worth $16 million over four years.

Giricek played in 25 games for the Jazz last season after coming over from Orlando in a deal for DeShawn Stevenson. Giricek averaged 13.5 points for Utah and started 18 games at shooting guard.

Rapper Nelly latest to join Bobcats ownership group

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Rapper Nelly is a part-owner of the NBA's expansion Charlotte Bobcats.

"This is a great opportunity for both the Bobcats and Nelly," Robert L. Johnson, the team's majority owner and the founder of Black Entertainment Television, said Monday in a news release.

Nelly, whose real name is Cornell Haynes Jr., joins an ownership group that includes former NBA player and executive M.L. Carr; Felix Sabates, owner of NASCAR racing teams, and Hugh McColl Jr., former CEO of Bank of America.

For embattled sport, Devers a breath of clean air

Steve Wilstein

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Her curly, 3-inch fingernails painted gold and her patter as breathless as her pace on the track, Gail Devers is headed for her fifth Olympics.

Once, in her early 20s, she was days away from having her feet amputated because of a rare disease affecting her immune system.

Now Devers is 37, taking her last shot at the one gold that has eluded her in an event that has defined her career and, metaphorically, her life — the hurdles.

"I'm ecstatic. I feel blessed," Devers said as the U.S. Olympic track and field trials ended on a 110-degree Sunday that was a fitting preview of the searing heat expected in Athens.

"I've been there, done that before, but each time is like a new experience for me. I try to look at it as if it's my first time going to the Olympic Games."

Maybe this time she will clear those hurdles cleanly, run the perfect race she has pursued so long and missed heartbreakingly on the biggest occasions. Three world championships in the 100-meter hurdles tell her she can do it, no matter the date on her birth certificate.

"If you had asked me in 1988 how long I would be here, I would have told you I thought I was done in '88," she said. "The key to it for me, for all these years, is still having fun. The challenge for me has been coaching myself. You have to look for challenges to keep yourself motivated."

From Seoul to Barcelona to Atlanta, Sydney and now Athens, this devoutly religious daughter of a Baptist preacher has been a burst of sunshine in a sport too often consumed by the darkness of doping. She embraces the roles of ambassador of track and big sister to the budding young stars who surround her on the U.S. team.

By chance, a doping case might give Devers the opportunity to race again in the 100 sprint, which she won in 1992 and '96. She finished fourth in the trials behind Torri Edwards, who faces a two-year ban if found guilty of using a banned stimulant.

Edwards took her case to an arbitration panel Monday, but the odds of her winning are poor. She may very well have taken the stimulant inadvertently, as she says, as an additive in a glucose mixture her doctor gave her in Martinique in April. But the bottom line, as the World Anti-Doping Agency keeps telling athletes, is they are responsible for anything found in their body.

If Devers is the beneficiary of Edwards' blunder and chooses to run in the 100, she would have to compete five days in a row. That could compromise her chances to win, finally, in the 100 hurdles.

"I've never made a hasty decision," Devers said. "I'm not going to start."

She said she will do what she always does when she has to make a big decision: pray.

If Devers passes on the 100, it would open up a spot in the race for Marion Jones, the defending Olympic champion who finished fifth in the trials. That would be one more twist in the never-ending doping stories of the Games, because Jones is under scrutiny by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency because of her links to the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative, accused dopester and boyfriend Tim Montgomery and former husband C.J. Hunter, who was banned for using a steroid.

AP

Gail Devers will try to win Olympic gold in her signature event, the 110 hurdles, for the first time this summer in Athens.

These are grim days in the sport. Fairness is a slippery commodity and athletes with integrity, like Devers, are too few.

Track and field's governing body recommended Sunday that the U.S. 1,600 relay team, led by Michael Johnson, be stripped of its gold medal from the Sydney Olympics as part of Jerome Young's doping case.

The International Olympic Committee is expected to endorse the recommendation. USA Track & Field said it "regrets" the decision and will try to fight it.

The recommendation came 2½ weeks after the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled Young, the 400 world champion who ran in the relay's opening and semifinal rounds, should be stripped of his gold because of a positive test for the steroid nandrolone on June 26, 1999.

Young, who has denied taking a prohibited substance, was exonerated by a USATF doping appeals board on July 10, 2000.

If the whole U.S. 1,600 relay team is punished, the IOC ought to start looking deeper into Olympic history and correct more blatant injustices. Open up the whole rotten Pandora's box.

Go back to 1976 and give American swimmer Shirley Babashoff the golds she was denied when she finished behind East Germans pumped up on steroids. Take a look at the East German marathoner who came out of nowhere to beat Frank Shorter. Examine the medical records and interview the East German women with bulging muscles and husky voices who won golds in 1988.

When the Berlin Wall fell, the East German sports secrets started leaking out. Manfred Hoppner, the deputy director of East Germany's sports medicine machine, revealed documents that detailed the country's cheating. In 2000, Lothar Kipke, the chief doctor of the East German Swimming Federation from 1975 to 1985, was convicted of causing bodily harm to 58 swimmers with various concoctions.

Does the IOC, so eager to come down hard on the U.S. team, have the guts to probe the seamy side of the Olympics over the past three decades?

Steve Wilstein is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at swilstein@ap.org

Two Mississippi football players suspended following arrest

Stripes and wire reports

JACKSON, Miss. — Running back Jamal Pittman and linebacker Ken Bournes have been suspended indefinitely from Mississippi's football team following a weekend arrest, Rebels coach David Cutcliffe said in a statement released Monday.

"We are gathering information surrounding the events regarding the arrest of Jamal Pittman and Ken Bournes in Memphis, Tenn., over the weekend," Cutcliffe said.

Sports briefs

"At this time, they are suspended indefinitely from all football related activities."

The statement, which was sent to media outlets and posted on the school's Web site, did not say why the two were arrested.

A Web site for the Shelby County Jail in Memphis listed a Jamal Pittman from Columbia, Miss. being booked early Sunday morning on charges of "reckless endangerment-deadly weapon" and "resisting official detention." He was being held on a $50,000 bond with a court date set for Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Pittman, a sophomore running back, played in five games last season, gaining 214 yards on 42 carries. He ran for a touchdown against Louisiana-Monroe.

Bournes, a senior, was expected to start at linebacker after a strong performance in spring drills.

Big Leaguers 2-0 in tourney

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Eric Murray picked up the victory Tuesday as the Ramstein Americans clubbed Romania 17-3 to improve to 2-0 in the round-robin portion of the European Big League Europe, Middle East and Africa Regional baseball tournament for players 16-19 years of age.

The victory followed Ramstein's 12-2 victory over Austria on Monday behind the one-hit pitching of Dotson Linger.

The Americans take on the Netherlands at noon Wednesday in the final round-robin game, which will determine seedings for Thursday's semifinals.

The championship game is scheduled for Friday, with the winner advancing to Little League Baseball's Big League World Series July 30-Aug. 2 in Easley, S.C.

American Olympians growing old gracefully

Bhardwaj, Hatch prove women's gymnastics not just for teens anymore

BY EDDIE PELLS
The Associated Press

NEW WAVERLY, Texas — One woman likes Led Zeppelin, has been through college and spent her time before the Olympics worrying as much about bills as tumbling and twirling.

Another is coached by her husband, has lived in two countries and is well into the second phase of her career after a five-year retirement.

They are 25-year-old Mohini Bhardwaj and 26-year-old Annia Hatch, hardly typical Olympic gymnasts. They were chosen for the American team Sunday, capping comebacks after refusing to buy into the widely held notion that female gymnasts are washed up by age 20.

"I hope we've inspired some more people to come in and do this," said Bhardwaj, who listed "Led Zeppelin III," an album that came out in 1970, as the CD she'd most like to have with her if she were stranded on a desert island.

Time will determine the impact these women have, but their presence on a team expected to contend for the gold in Athens is a sign that things are changing significantly in women's gymnastics, especially in the United States.

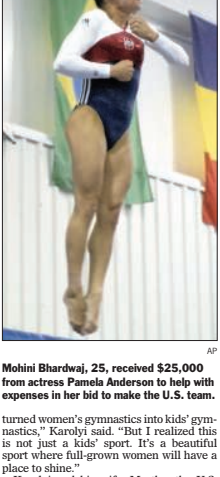
The worldwide shift toward a teen-dominated sport began in 1976, when 14-year-old Nadia Comaneci put up a handful of perfect 10s in the Montreal Games.

Her coach was Bela Karolyi. And while Comaneci invigorated the sport, many gymnasts who followed didn't offer up such pretty pictures.

The image of painfully young, skinny girls prancing around the mat became common over the next 10 to 20 years. It's still common today, and conspiracy theories abound about certain countries that are willing to fudge on birth certificates to get underaged athletes — their bodies more flexible and explosive — into big-time international events.

The sport developed a reputation for chewing up and spitting out its athletes before they reached college, or often even before they hit puberty. Bhardwaj quit for a time when she was a teen, feeling she was tumbling more for her family and coaches than for herself.

"I felt a bit guilty, because in 1976, I turned women's gymnastics into kids' gymnastics," Karolyi said. "But I realized this is not just a kids' sport. It's a beautiful sport where full-grown women will have a place to shine."



AP

Mohini Bhardwaj, 25, received $25,000 from actress Pamela Anderson to help with expenses in her bid to make the U.S. team.

AP

Annia Hatch, 26, who qualified for Cuba's gymnastics team in 1996 but didn't attend the Games, took five years off to get married and become a U.S. citizen.

Karolyi and his wife, Martha, the U.S. team coordinator, have probably done more to shape American gymnastics than any two people over the past 20 years.

It was in 1988, four years after Mary Lou Retton won gold in the all-around and the American team won silver, that the Karolyis looked around and realized they had no experienced athletes left.

The '88 Olympic team didn't have a holdover from '84, and Phoebe Mills, who won bronze on the balance beam, saved the Americans from a medal shutout.

Thus began a trend toward giving more opportunities to older gymnasts. While leaders of U.S. programs didn't seek out girls in their 20s, they started building programs with room for the older athletes who had before been shown the door at 18.

Bhardwaj said the disappearance of the older gymnast in the mid-1970s wasn't just an institutional phenomena. It was also a cultural reality. Most high school girls who dominate the sport in America live at home or get support from their parents.

Most women Bhardwaj's age have to pay bills.

"Financially, it's impossible once you're done with college," she said. "It's the amount of training required for the sport. It's a lot of hours. You can't have a regular job. And if you do, you don't have time to train."

Bhardwaj believes financial considerations are a bigger drag on the hopes of many 20-something gymnasts than physical ones, and she insists she wouldn't be here if not for the $25,000 she received from former "Baywatch" star Pamela Anderson.

On the physical side, Bhardwaj and Hatch credit a much different approach to training, along with significant layoffs they had in earlier years, as the reasons they've been able to stay competitive with girls up to 10 years younger.

Bhardwaj abandoned her gym-rat tendencies when she went to UCLA, and NCAA rules required she spend no more than 20 hours in practice and meetings.

"You just learn how to spend your time more wisely," she said.

Like Bhardwaj, Hatch doesn't overdo it in training anymore.

She's a vault specialist but doesn't work on the event as much as most girls do, if only to save herself from enduring the kind of pounding she took when she was training and living in Cuba in the 1990s.

"I've been there, done that," Hatch said. "This is just another type of training that's working. You have to take into consideration that you are older, and you take longer to recuperate. It doesn't make you any less of an athlete because you keep your body healthy."

Hatch says she wasn't hurt by the five-year layoff she took after leaving Cuba to get married and become an American citizen.

While living in Cuba in 1996, she qualified for the Olympics, but the cash-strapped government didn't send her to Atlanta.

"I thought my career was over," she said. "I didn't think I was going to have a chance to be in another Olympics."

Eight years later, she made it. And she's got good company for the trip to Athens.

"If you look at any pro sport, the athletes are between 18 and 29 or 30," Bhardwaj said. "That's when you peak, mentally and physically, and that's how it should be for gymnastics. I'm not saying cut the younger ones out. I'm just saying the life span should be longer. And we're showing it's possible."

Young track talent brings fresh face to troubled sport

BY BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The United States will send a track and field team loaded with young talent to the Athens Olympics, fresh faces sorely needed by a troubled sport.

Thirty-two athletes under the age of 25 are on the tentative roster turned over to the U.S. Olympic Committee on Monday by USA Track & Field, the sport's governing federation.

Nine of them won events in the U.S. Olympic track and field trials, which ended on Sunday with a victory by the youngest of all — 18-year-old Allyson Felix — in the women's 200 meters.

"It's just great to have so many young people on this Olympic team," said Felix, whose time of 22.18 seconds was the second-fastest in the world this year. "I'm in great company. There's so many of us, and we're all excited, passionate and we're just ready to go."

AP

Sanya Richards is one of two teens on the U.S. track team.

The team's other teenager is 19-year-old Sanya Richards, who left the University of Texas in June to concentrate on her running career — and, like Felix, sign a lucrative athletic shoe contract.

Richards broke her American junior record — and ran under 50 seconds for the first time in her career — in finishing second in the women's 400.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the new era of athletes," Richards said. "I think it's great for our sport. The United States has always been the forerunner in track and field, and this has proven we're going to continue to do that — and I'm excited to be a part of it."

Several of the youngsters have opportunities to win medals, including 22-year-old Justin Gatlin, the former NCAA champion at Tennessee who made the team in the 100 and 200 meters.

Alan Webb, 21, faces a tough challenge against the powerhouse runners of Africa and Europe in the 1,500 meters, but he represents a legitimate hope for the United States, which hasn't won a medal in the event since Jim Ryun's silver in the 1968 Mexico City Games.

Webb knows what the infusion of young talent can do to help track's image after this year's steroid scandal.

"This is a great sport. There's been a lot of negative press going around track and field, but I really believe the people who should be up in the spotlight will be there, the people who have done things the right way," he said.

Among other youthful performers to watch in Athens:

■ Sheena Johnson, 21, winner of the NCAA title for UCLA a month ago, ran the fastest 400 hurdles in the world this year (52.95 seconds) in the trials. The top three had the world's top three times, with 25-year-old Brenda Taylor second (53.36) and 21-year-old Lashinda Demus, of South Carolina, third (53.36).

■ Jeremy Wariner, 20, a junior-to-be at Baylor, won the men's 400 in 44.37 seconds, the fastest time in the world this year. His Baylor teammate Harold Williamson, 21, is in the 1,600 relay pool. The runner-up to Warren at the trials, Rickey Harris, is 22.

■ Bryan Clay, 24, upset world champion Tom Pappas in the decathlon with a personal best 8,660 points, third-best in the world this year.

■ DeeDee Trotter, 20, the NCAA champion from Tennessee, finished third in the women's 400 but already has beaten Richards this year.

■ Muna Lee, 22, the LSU standout, was second to Felix in the 200 at 22.36, fourth-fastest in the world this year.

■ Lauryn Williams, 20, who just left Miami to turn pro after winning the NCAA title as a junior, was third in the 100 at the trials, and has the second-fastest time in the world this year at 10.97 seconds.

Peak: Armstrong's sprint to finish might have locked up sixth Tour

PEAK, FROM BACK PAGE

Armstrong earned bonus seconds for winning the stage, extending his lead on second-place Basso to 1 minute, 25 seconds. If he can hold that advantage for two more days in the Alps and in a time trial on Saturday, Armstrong will pedal into the history books when the three-week cycling marathon ends on the crowd-packed Champs-Elysees in Paris on Sunday.

Armstrong said his team manager, Johan Bruyneel, was yelling into his radio-linked earpiece that he had to beat Basso.

"Johan was screaming in my ear that I had to win because of the time bonuses," Armstrong said. "Every second counts."

Kloden is third overall, 3:22 off Armstrong's pace. Voeckler dropped to eighth, 9:28 behind Armstrong.

As overall leader, Armstrong will get the privilege of starting last for Wednesday's time trial. For the first time, the race against the clock is on the brutal ascent to the L'Alpe d'Huez ski station, a Mecca of cycling with 21 rhythm-destroying hairpin bends.

Starting last is the equivalent of pole position, allowing Armstrong to see how other riders — notably Basso — fare on the ascent.

AP

Actor Robin Williams, right, jokes with Armstrong during his visit to the team bus prior to the 15th stage of the Tour de France on Tuesday.

"There was still a part of me that wanted to ride a legendary mountain like L'Alpe d'Huez in the yellow jersey," Armstrong said, who added that he expects Basso will be "tough to beat" on the ascent. But "I have the good fortune of starting behind him, so I'll know his time splits all the way up, which is a big advantage," Armstrong said.

Fans have been camping out for days along the Alpine climb. The town, which usually has a population of 1,500 people, is expecting up to 1 million to converge on the mountain for the cycling spectacle.

More star power

A million people bunched together? That's more like Woodstock than a cycle race.

"Oh God! It's Bikestock" actor Robin Williams said, comparing it to the legendary Woodstock rock concert of 1969 — which attracted hundreds of thousands of music fans.

Williams, star of "Good Will Hunting," "Good Morning Vietnam" and other movies, joins rock star Sheryl Crow, and Prince Albert of Monaco as the latest celebrity guest invited by Lance Armstrong during the three-week race.

Speaking after Armstrong won Tuesday's 15th stage, Williams could not hide his excitement about L'Alpe d'Huez.

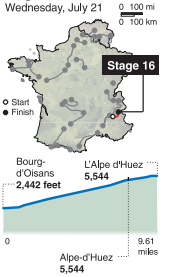
"An uphill time trial, the crowds are wild," he said. Asked if he'd like to ride the stage himself, Williams added: "I'd love to ... if I could find a bike."

91st TOUR DE FRANCE

Racing the clock

Bourg-d'Oisans to L'Alpe d'Huez mountain stage is a short individual time trial with a grade of 7.9 percent.

Stage 16
Wednesday, July 21



SOURCE: Tour de France AP

Stage winners

July 3 — Prologue, Liege, Belgium to Liege, individual time trial, 3.79 miles (Fabian Cancellara, Switzerland; Cancellara)

July 4 — Stage 1, Liege, Belgium to Charleroi, Belgium, 125.5 (Jaan Kirsipuu, Estonia; Cancellara)

July 5 — Stage 2, Charleroi, Belgium to Namur, Belgium, 122.42 (Robbie McEwen, Australia; Thor Hushovd, Norway)

July 6 — Stage 3, Waterloo, Belgium to Wasquehal, France, 130.49 (Jean-Patrick Nazon, France; McEwen)

July 7 — Stage 4, Cambrai to Arras, team time trial, 40.08 (U.S. Postal Service; Lance Armstrong, United States)

July 8 — Stage 5, Amiens to Chartres, 124.59 (Stuart O'Grady, Australia; Thomas Voeckler, France)

July 9 — Stage 6, Bonneval to Angers, 121.79 (Tom Boonen, Belgium; Voeckler)

July 10 — Stage 7, Chateaubriant to Saint-Brieuc, 127.08 (Filippo Pozzato, Italy; Voeckler)

July 11 — Stage 8, Lamballe to Quimper, 104.40 (Hushovd; Voeckler)

July 12 — Rest day in Limoges

July 13 — Stage 9, Saint-Leonard-de-Noblat to Gueret, 99.73 (McEwen; Voeckler)

July 14 — Stage 10, Limoges to Saint-Flour, 147.27 (Richard Virenque, France; Voeckler)

July 15 — Stage 11, Saint-Flour to Figeac, 101.91 (David Moncoutie, France; Voeckler)

July 16 — Stage 12, Castelsarrasin to La Mongie, 122.73 (Ivan Basso, Italy; Voeckler)

July 17 — Stage 13, Lannemezan to Plateau de Beille, 127.70 (Armstrong; Voeckler)

July 18 — Stage 14, Carcassonne to Nimes, 119.62 (Aitor Gonzalez, Spain; Voeckler)

July 19 — Rest day in Nimes

July 20 — Stage 15, Valreas to Villard-de-Lans, 112.16 (Armstrong; Armstrong).

July 21 — Stage 16, Bourg-d'Oisans to L'Alpe d'Huez, individual time trial, 9.63

July 22 — Stage 17, Bourg-d'Oisans to Le Grand Bornand, 127.08

July 23 — Stage 18, Annemasse to Lons-le-Saunier, 103.46

July 24 — Stage 19, Besancon to Besancon, individual time trial, 34.18

July 25 — Stage 20, Montereau to Paris, Champs-Elysees, 101.29

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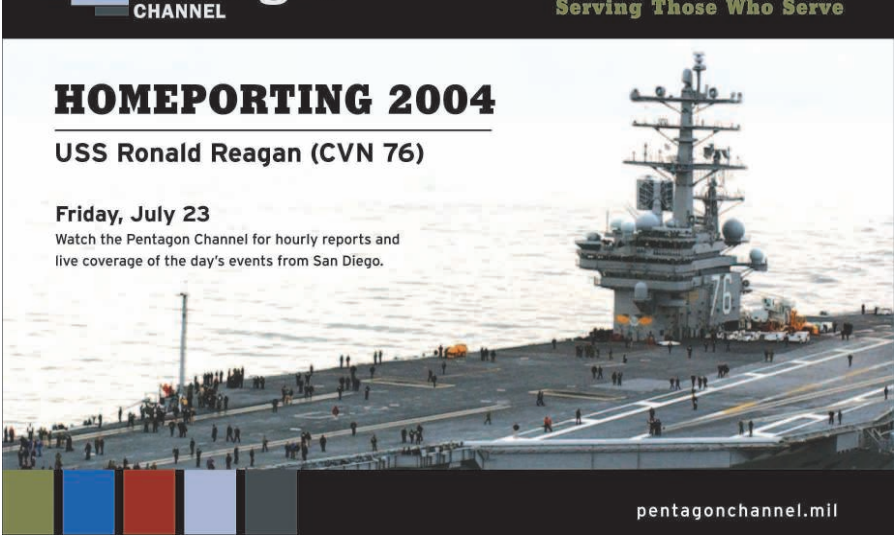
USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)

Friday, July 23
Watch the Pentagon Channel for hourly reports and live coverage of the day's events from San Diego.



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SPORTS

Center Divac returns to Lakers after six seasons with Kings, Page 29

AP

Lance Armstrong crosses the finish line ahead of Italian Ivan Basso, left, to win the 15th stage of the Tour de France between Valreas, southern France, and Villard-de-Lans, French Alps, on Tuesday. Armstrong is five stages from becoming the first to win the Tour six times.

Peak performance

Armstrong takes overall lead in Alps, sets up No. 6

BY JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

VILLARD-DE-LANS, France — Lance Armstrong retook the overall lead in the Tour de France on Tuesday, outsprinting his top two challengers to win the first stage in the Alps and close in on a record sixth straight title.

Armstrong moved past Ivan Basso and 1997 Tour champion Jan Ullrich in the curves before the closing stretch to claim his second stage victory in the 2004 Tour and the 18th of his illustrious career. He also has won two team time trials.

"There's something special in winning in a sprint," Armstrong said. "To win in a sprint for me is much more intense than being alone."

The Texan earned his 61st yellow jersey as overall leader, meaning he will overtake Miguel Indurain for third place when he wears his jersey during Wednesday's stage. Armstrong also wore yellow for one day after the team time trial July 7, but he ceded the lead to Frenchman Thomas Voeckler the next day.

"It's exciting to take the yellow jersey, even if it's number 61 or however many. It's still a thrill," Armstrong said.

Voeckler held on until Tuesday, having bravely and narrowly defended his advantage in the Pyrenees. Armstrong entered those mountains trailing by nine minutes and whittled that down to 22 seconds heading to the Alps.

Five-time Tour runner-up Ullrich's bid to dethrone Armstrong was hurt in the Pyrenees, but Basso appeared to still have a shot after two weeks of punishing racing.

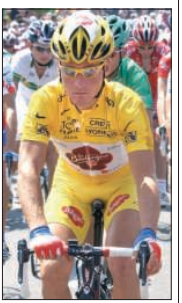
Neither Ullrich nor Basso, though, had the strength to stay with Armstrong at the end of Tuesday's 112-mile ride from Valreas to Villard-de-Lans, including seven climbs, in heat topping 85 degrees.

Having pulled ahead of the rest of the riders, that trio — plus Ullrich's teammate Andreas Kloden — jockeyed for an edge during the closing yards, trading leads of a bicycle length or so.

In the end, Armstrong had a little extra, flashing past Basso on a late turn and pumping his legs to carry himself across the finish line first, pumping his fists.

Basso was credited with the same finishing time, with Ullrich three seconds behind, and Kloden six seconds back in fourth place.

SEE PEAK ON PAGE 31



AP

Frenchman Thomas Voeckler, above, held the overall lead for nine stages after taking it July 8.

Red Sox done in by another Boone blast in 11th

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Braves not ready to relinquish bragging rights in NL East

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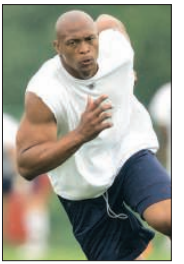

Titans RB George rejects latest offer, asks team to release him

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