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Former Denver Broncos QB John Elway

Elway's final drive leads to Hall

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Volume 2, No. 118 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION FRIDAY, AUGUST 6, 2004

U.S., Iraqi troops battle al-Sadr loyalists in Najaf

Clashes spread to other Shiite areas; one U.S. soldier killed Page 3

GIs adapt to changing warfare

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Troops improve on urban training techniques

Pfc. Jibriel Starks, Battery C, left, charges a .50-caliber machine gun during training Sunday at a weapons range at Forward Operating Base Gabe, Iraq, as Sgt. Shawn Johnson, Striker Platoon, watches. Both soldiers are assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment. Starks is based in Bamberg, Germany; Johnson is based in Vilseck, Germany.

RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

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

World

Afghanistan journalist murders: Authorities in Kabul have charged an Afghan man with killing four foreign journalists in Afghanistan in the closing days of the Taliban regime that collapsed in late 2001, a prosecutor said Thursday.

The victims were Australian television cameraman Harry Burton and Afghan photographer Azizullah Haidari of the Reuters new agency, Maria Grazia Cutuli of the Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera and Julio Fuentes of the Spanish daily El Mundo.

The man charged in their deaths was identified as Reza Khan, who is facing charges including murder, rape and highway robbery.

Fatah said Khan had confessed to his role in the incident and that it was ordered by "a Taliban guy."

Dingo mystery: Police on Thursday interviewed an elderly man who recently reignited a 24-year mystery by claiming he shot a wild dog that had snatched and killed a baby in the Australian Outback.

Last month, 78-year-old Frank Cole told a newspaper that he shot a dingo while camping with friends near Ayers Rock in central Australia on the night in 1980 that baby Azaria Chamberlain disappeared — and that the wild dog still had the infant's lifeless body in its jaws.

The baby's mother, Lindy Chamberlain, was convicted of murder in 1982 despite claiming a dingo had snatched Azaria.Cole told the Sunday Herald Sun that one of his companions disposed of Azaria's remains and that he didn't know what had become of the body.

Tailgating death: A lawyer for a former DaimlerChrysler engineer found guilty of causing the death of a woman and her daughter by high-speed tailgating said Wednesday he has filed a new appeal against his conviction.

Fischer has denied the charges, and attorney George Prasser said he had appealed the ruling to a higher state court in Karlsruhe, Germany.

Trial witnesses described seeing Fischer's company-owned Mercedes driving close behind the Kia at some 155 mph, veering onto the left shoulder into an attempt to get around.

States

Nightclub fire: The owners of The Station nightclub in Providence, R.I., should be held personally liable for failing to have workers' compensation insurance for their employees, the state argued Wednesday in Workers' Compensation Court.

Jeffrey and Michael Derderian's company, Derco LLC, has been fined more than $1 million for failing to carry the required insurance. Four employees were among the 100 who died as a result of the Feb. 20, 2003, fire.

Bobblehead lawsuit: California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has settled a lawsuit against an Ohio firm that produces bobblehead dolls in his image. The former Hollywood actor, who is fiercely protective of his image, sued Ohio Discount Merchandise Inc. in April to halt production of the plastic dolls that featured a gun-toting Schwarzenegger in a business suit. Under the new agreement, Ohio Discount can produce Schwarzenegger-the-politician dolls — without the gun.

The state also wants to penalize the brothers personally, and argued in court Wednesday that a new amendment to a state law regarding workers' compensation insurance affirms that managers of limited liability companies can be held personally responsible.

California West Nile: Californians are spraying pesticide around their homes, calling the kids and dogs in at dusk and replacing ratty old window screens — all prevention methods to combat a scourge the rest of the nation knows only too well: the West Nile virus.

The response to the first two deaths in California from the rapidly spreading virus appears to be more prevention than panic, with few reports that the mosquito-borne illness is causing people to cancel outdoor plans or make drastic lifestyle changes.

As of Wednesday, West Nile had infected 79 people in the state, mostly in Southern California, according to the Department of Health Services. Last year, there were only three cases statewide and no deaths.

Ferry disaster: Prosecutors in last October's deadly Staten Island, N.Y., ferry wreck charged the city's ferries director with manslaughter, calling his years of slipshod management "a tragedy waiting to happen."

Besides Patrick Ryan, four others were also charged, including the ferry's pilot, Richard Smith, who pleaded guilty to manslaughter and resigned Wednesday.

Smith acknowledged that he neglected his duties by taking medications that made him lose consciousness at the ferry's helm Oct. 15, 2003. After the wreck, he fled and tried to commit suicide.

Eleven people died and dozens were hurt when the ferry drifted off course and slammed into a concrete maintenance pier, turning a routine trip across New York Harbor into a nightmare of shattered glass and twisted metal that was one of the worst mass-transit disasters in New York history.

Priest sex abuse: Four years before his murder, Danny Croteau appeared ready, under teasing, to reveal a parish priest's secret, a childhood friend told police.

The seeming threat sparked a violent reaction from the priest, and the friend said he figured he knew what the secret was after he was sexually assaulted by the priest the same night.

The friend's statement, given to investigators in 1993, was among more than 2,000 pages of documents in the unsolved 1972 murder of the 13-year-old altar boy that were released Wednesday in Springfield, Mass.

The state's highest court last week ordered the records made public, saying that after more than 30 years there was no longer a good reason to keep the documents under seal.

Defrocked pedophile priest Richard R. Lavigne, who pleaded guilty to molesting two other altar boys in 1992, remains the only publicly identified suspect in the case. He was removed from the priesthood last year.

Hurricane Alex: Tourists departed this Outer Banks island community in N.C. Thursday in an orderly evacuation, lining up for ferries to take them from the storm-damaged "end of the world" back to the mainland.

Emergency officials ordered thousands of tourists to leave Ocracoke Island and stay away until damage from Hurricane Alex is repaired. It's unclear how many tourists will be ferried out; state officials estimated 6,000 to 8,000, while Hyde County put the number at 4,000 to 4,500.

The effects from Hurricane Alex are not limited to North Carolina, as it is creating dangerous rip currents along New England's coast.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

Clarification

In Wednesday's editions, a photo caption on the Stars and Stripes front page said "New York's Liberty Island." Some readers complained, saying Liberty Island is in New Jersey. While the island is physically located in New Jersey, the National Park Service Web site says, "Liberty Island is federal property located within the territorial jurisdiction of the State of New York."

Comics, horoscopes and advice every day in Stars and Stripes

Stars and Stripes Messages of Support

★ To all of our Protectors: All of you have different rolls in maintaining and protecting our Country, our Homes, our Businesses and our FREEDOM. From the smallest to the largest roll, it is all appreciated. Even though we have some people in this Country that feel the need to protest against us, it is you, that gave them the right to do so. Thank You to all of the American, British and all of our numerous allies who will continue their efforts in ridding this world of people like ....Not even worth mentioning his name. Ralph Mills

★ B. Buhman: We miss & love you very much & are so proud of you.Think of you & pray for you every moment. Be safe! Love, Mom, Dad, kids

Insurgents battle U.S., Iraqi troops in Najaf

BY JAMIE TARABAY
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents loyal to radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr battled fiercely with U.S. and Iraqi forces in the holy city of Najaf on Thursday in fighting that killed one U.S. soldier, seven Iraqi civilians and seven militants. A U.S. helicopter was shot down.

Bloodshed quickly spread to other Shiite areas, with each side blaming the other in a profound threat to a shaky two-month-old truce. Al-Sadr's men also fought with U.S. troops in the Baghdad neighborhood of Sadr City, wounding seven Americans; shot at government offices in the southern city of Amarah; and clashed with British forces in Basra, where one militant was killed.

"The cease-fire is over because of the actions of the occupation forces, and the situation has started to deteriorate," warned Sheik Abdul Hadi al-Daraji, a spokesman for al-Sadr in Baghdad.

During the fighting in Najaf, a U.S. UH-1 helicopter was hit by gunfire and crashed, injuring the crew, and Iraqis said at least seven militants and seven civilians had been killed and 54 wounded.

The U.S. command said insurgents attacked a U.S. convoy near Najaf, killing one American soldier and wounding five.

Also Thursday, a suicide car bombing at a police station in Mahawil, 50 miles south of Baghdad, killed six people and wounded 24, the Health Ministry said. In a separate incident in that town, attackers reportedly ambushed an Iraqi national guard patrol and killed one guardsman.

The fighting was the worst flare-up between authorities and al-Sadr's forces since a series of truces two months ago ended weeks of violence that began after the U.S.-led occupation authority closed al-Sadr's newspaper and arrested a key aide. The newspaper was recently allowed to start printing again, but tensions had been rising in recent days between al-Sadr's Mahdi Army and Iraqi and U.S. forces.

People in Najaf said al-Sadr loyalists attacked a police station with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and gunfire early Thursday. U.S. Marines later moved into the area, and busloads of Mahdi Army militants were seen entering the city, residents said.

AP

Insurgents loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr raise their weapons next to a portrait of Mohammed Saadek al-Sadr as they fight British troops in Basra, Iraq, on Thursday.

The Marines intervened "to help the policemen protect the police stations and the city," Najaf Gov. Adnan al-Zurufi told the Al-Jazeera television station. He warned of "very bad consequences" if the militiamen did not disarm and leave the holy city.

The fighting killed seven militants and wounded 22, who were captured, the U.S. military said. Seven civilians also were killed and 32 injured, including four policemen, said Youssef Monem, an official at the city's al-Hakeem hospital.

The U.S. command said insurgents attacked the U.S. military convoy outside Najaf with gunfire and a rocket-propelled grenade, killing one American soldier and wounding five. The slain soldier's name was not released.

People in Najaf reported the fighting had caused slight damage to the dome of the Imam Ali Shrine, a revered mosque that is reputed to hold the remains of Imam Ali, the most hallowed saint in Shia Islam. The shrine also sustained minor damage twice during fighting in May. U.S. forces have been careful to avoid damage to shrines in Najaf and other holy cities for fear of angering Iraq's Shiite majority.

In Baghdad's Sadr City neighborhood, insurgents fired on a U.S. patrol, triggering gunbattles, said Maj. Philip Smith, a spokesman for the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division. Seven U.S. soldiers were wounded in at least two firefights, Smith said.

Meanwhile, in Mahawil, a pair of gunmen dressed in police uniforms opened fire on guards outside a police station while a third sped toward the station in a vehicle filled with explosives and blew up, killing five people and wounding 27, the Interior Ministry said.

Later in the day, assailants attacked an Iraqi national guard patrol in Mahawil, killing one guardsman, a member of the force said on condition of anonymity.

The car bomb damaged the gate of the police station and a dozen nearby cars and left a 15-foot-wide crater.

The two gunmen escaped, said Sabah Kadhim, an Interior Ministry spokesman.

Near the town of Samarra north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said it staged a series of raids on suspected insurgents and detained nine people. Operation Cajun Mousetrap II began early Thursday morning, targeting groups suspected of planning and financing attacks on Iraqis and coalition forces, the military said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, 917 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 680 died as a result of hostile action and 237 died of nonhostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Marine Capt. Gregory Ratzlaff, 36, Olympia, Wash.; died Tuesday in a non-combat incident at a base near Najaf, Iraq; assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego.

■ Army Spc. Justin Onwordi, 28, Chandler, Ariz.; killed Monday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 12th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Pfc. Harry Shondee, Jr., 19, Ganado, Ariz.; died Tuesday from injuries sustained Monday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 12th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Sgt. Tommy Gray, 34, Roswell, N.M.; died Tuesday in a vehicle accident in Taji, Iraq; assigned to 215th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Marine Sgt. Juan Calderon Jr., 26, Weslaco, Texas; killed Monday in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Soldier gets three years, discharge for shooting

BY JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

A 25th Infantry Division soldier was sentenced Thursday to three years in military prison, reduced in rank to E-1, and will be dishonorably discharged for the shooting of an Iraqi civilian Feb. 28.

Pfc. Edward L. Richmond Jr. of the Hawaii-based 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, was found not guilty of unpremeditated murder but guilty of voluntary manslaughter during a three-day military trial in Tikrit, Iraq.

Richmond could have faced a life sentence if convicted of murder.

A military panel of five officers and five noncommissioned officers spent two hours deliberating before announcing the verdict.

Richmond shot Muhamad Husain Kadir in the head as soldiers were arresting him during a roundup of suspected insurgents near Kirkuk.

Sgt. Jeffrey Waruch, a prosecution witness, testified that Richmond shot the handcuffed Kadir, a cow herder, after he stumbled while being led away by Waruch.

Another prosecution witness testified that he heard Richmond "ask if he could shoot the cow herder well before the call came" to arrest him.

A third soldier testified that Richmond had previously talked about wanting to shoot an Iraqi.

Richmond himself testified that he had "requested to shoot the cow herder less than an hour before the shooting," and said that he never saw Kadir with a weapon.

However, he also testified that he "did not realize that the Iraqi he shot had his hands flex cuffed behind his back" and feared Kadir was going to kill Waruch.

The Gonzales, La.-native will be moved to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, before being transferred to a military jail to serve his sentence.

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Photos of Heathrow Airport found on computers of terror suspects

BY PAUL HAVEN
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan gave British authorities images of London's Heathrow Airport and other sites that were found on the computers of two al-Qaida fugitives arrested last month, intelligence officials said Thursday.

The officials, however, could not confirm reports in British newspapers that the information helped lead to the arrests of about a dozen suspected terrorists in Britain this week.

Several news reports in Britain said one of the suspects arrested late Tuesday, variously identified as Abu Eisa al-Hindi or Abu Musa al-Hindi, was believed to be a senior member of al-Qaida and had been plotting an attack on Heathrow.

Britain's Metropolitan Police refused to say whether al-Hindi was among those arrested, and Pakistani officials contacted by The Associated Press had no information about the reported link.

However, the CIA, working with its allies in the war on terrorism, provided information that contributed to the detention of al-Hindi.

Maps, photographs and other details of possible targets in the United States and Britain were found on computers belonging to Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani — a Tanzanian indicted for his role in the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa — and a Pakistani computer expert identified as Mohammed Naeem Noor Khan, said two officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The British reports said al-Hindi, using the code name Bilal, had been in contact with Khan. A Lahore-based intelligence official involved in the investigation after the July 13 arrest of Khan said his computer contained photographs of Heathrow airport, as well as pictures of underpasses that run beneath several buildings in London.

Pakistani authorities said it was not clear if the photos were recently taken. He said, however, that he was unaware of any information from Khan that led directly to the arrests Tuesday of suspected terrorists in and around London.

The other Pakistani official said information from Khan and Ghailani had also been shared with the United Arab Emirates, the country through which several al-Qaida men are believed to have passed.

Troops in Iraq tailor training to reality

GIs say Germany lessons didn't replicate techniques used by Iraqi insurgents

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

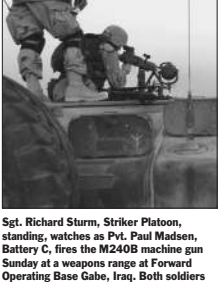
BAQOUBA, Iraq — Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division who patrol the streets in Baqouba every day have seen some of this before, but not just like this.

Before deploying, they trained long and hard in Germany to prepare for their work in Iraq.

However, Iraqi insurgents are proving to be much sneakier than a role-playing enemy in a training area.

The training areas were made to look like small-scale versions of Iraq last October and November to prepare the soldiers to conduct patrols and provide security.

But, soldiers say, Iraq can't be replicated in a safety-first training environment, especially cities such as Baqouba — a hotbed of car bombs, makeshift roadside bombs and rocket-propelled grenades.



Sgt. Richard Sturm, Striker Platoon, standing, watches as Pvt. Paul Madsen, Battery C, fires the M240B machine gun Sunday at a weapons range at Forward Operating Base Gabe, Iraq. Both soldiers are from the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment.

"I don't see how you can possibly mimic what we are facing here," said Sgt. Will Douglas, from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment out of Bamberg, Germany. "The urban training was good for us, but now that we're here I see that it wasn't very realistic."

"[During the training] we would come under sniper fire," Douglas said. "You could see the window open, you see the rifle and then you see the guy leaning out of the window. Here, it's not like that. They are very well hidden."

While the training covered identifying and marking off improvised explosive devices, known as IEDs, and other scenarios that were happening the day before in Iraq, the division went through that training months before it deployed.

Before the division took over in March, the enemy had matured and adapted its methods many times thwart U.S. forces.

Since March, 43 of the division's 12,000 soldiers in Iraq had been killed in action as of Sunday, according to Maj. Neal O'Brien, a division spokesman.

"We didn't train on secondary IEDs last year; that's something new that [insurgents] are doing," said Sgt. 1st Class Donald Alford, an operations sergeant for the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment. The secondary IED is set up either on a timer or by remote control to strike the explosive ordnance team as it disarms the more obvious IED.

In one case, the secondary IED was a loaded rocket-propelled grenade launcher tied to a palm tree about 30 feet away and aimed to hit the other device, he said.

Soldiers identified it before it could detonate, however.

Still, the training gave soldiers an idea of what they could expect in Iraq, especially the field artillery soldiers who have forgone the mission they normally perform to become infantrymen and policemen, according to Maj. Gen. John R. S. Batiste, division commander.

"The command post exercises and warfighter exercise we went through prepared the [command] staff very well," Batiste said.

The mission rehearsal at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany, was tied to what was going on in Iraq at the time, Batiste said.

"The [observer-controllers] had spent time in Iraq just before the training," he said. "The division was very well prepared for this mission."

PHOTOS BY RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Shawn Johnson, center, gives a class Sunday on the .50-caliber machine gun to new arrivals Pvt. Adrian Jurado, left, and Pfc. Jibriel Starks, both of Battery C, at a weapons range at Forward Operating Base Gabe, Iraq. The three are assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment. The unit conducts qualification and familiarization ranges twice a month for new arrivals and for soldiers to maintain their weapons skills.

Preparing for Iraq didn't stop with the training in Germany. The division trained on weapons and individual readiness in Kuwait as it waited to convoy into Iraq earlier this year, Batiste said.

Despite being in the thick of it now, soldiers at Forward Operating Base Gabe continue to train on their weapons, and soon will have an urban training facility to practice on.

"We conduct ranges twice a month," said Staff Sgt. Carlos Ybarra, from Striker Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery from Vilseck, Germany. "We get quite a bit of new soldiers coming in on a regular basis, and this is familiarization for them.

"We also need to keep soldiers doing the patrols skilled and honed on their weapons," Ybarra said.

Not every soldier qualifies every month, however a soldier can expect to qualify with his weapon every few months at FOB Gabe's homemade range, Ybarra said.

The key is keeping the soldiers prepared so they can confidently keep an eye out for the dangers of the streets they patrol.

The soldiers had everything thrown at them at the Hohenfels training center, said Sgt. 1st Class Donald Alford, an operations sergeant from 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment. "The guys are going out there and seeing something different every day, but they are getting the job done," he said.

The "Renegades" of the battalion's 3rd Platoon, Battery B, are a testament to that. The platoon has conducted 228 missions, including patrols and resupply convoys in Baqouba, and hasn't lost a single soldier, according to the platoon leader, 1st Lt. Lance McGill.

"Now, there's not too much we have to do to get ready for a patrol," said Spc. Michael Phillips, from 3rd Platoon. "We just get in our vehicles and roll out to do our job. We've learned what to look out for."

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Afghan detainee pleas for freedom during Gitmo hearing

BY IAN JAMES
The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — An Afghan detainee pleaded for his freedom on Thursday before a military review tribunal that journalists were allowed to witness for the first time, saying he had a Taliban-issued rifle but never fought against Americans.

The 31-year-old detainee in orange garb sat before the three-member panel, hands bound and feet chained to a metal ring in the floor, as he spoke quietly through a Pashto interpreter.

"I surrendered myself to Americans because I believed Americans are for human rights," he said. "I had never heard Americans mistreated anybody in the past."

The review hearing, the ninth since they began last Friday, was held in a windowless 10-foot-by-20-foot room in a trailer at the U.S. prison camp. The hearings are meant to evaluate whether some 585 men being held at the U.S. camp in Cuba should be held as "enemy combatants," or if they should be freed.

The process is separate from upcoming military commissions where prisoners will face charges, a trial and possible sentences, which could include the death penalty.

The detainee who appeared before the review tribunal on Thursday — a slight man with a long, dark beard — occasionally glanced at panel members and three journalists wearing yellow media badges.

Other reporters watched through a two-way mirror.

"If you are arresting everybody with the name of Taliban, it doesn't mean they are all against Americans," he said. "I wasn't going to fight anyone.

"There should be a difference between someone who surrenders himself and someone who fights against Americans. I surrendered myself," said the man, who claimed he had been in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz when he heard there would be a surrender arrangement and turned himself in to a Abdul Rashid Dostum, an ethnic Uzbek strongman.

The detainee agreed that he had a Kalashnikov rifle issued to him by the Taliban, but said it was given to him "forcefully."

"They were giving [them] to everybody," he said.

After an hour of proceedings that were open to some members of the press, the military barred access so officials could review classified information.

The review tribunals were announced on Friday, the same day they began.

Reporters are not allowed to release the identities of the prisoners, and the military maintains that because the proceedings are administrative, they are not obliged to make information public.

The three-member review tribunals may reverse assessments that some detainees are "enemy combatants," a classification that unlike prisoners of war, allots the detainees fewer legal protections under international law.

Since the detention mission began here nearly three years ago, detainees have been held and accused of links to Afghanistan's fallen Taliban regime or the al-Qaida terror network.

So far, five detainees have refused to appear before the panels, known as Combatant Status Review Tribunals.

Military officials say cases heard so far include those of an Algerian who has threatened to kill Americans if freed, and one of a Yemeni who signed an oath of allegiance to Osama bin Laden. Both attended their hearings on Friday and Saturday, as did a third on Wednesday whose nationality wasn't immediately released.

Detainees who refused to appear have included three Yemenis, one Saudi and one Moroccan.

Human rights lawyers criticize the process as a sham, saying the three officers assigned to hear cases can't be considered impartial and that each detainee should be allowed a lawyer.

"It has nothing to do with justice," said lawyer Najeeb Al-Nauimi.

Cooks go extra miles for dinner

Soldiers brave risky drive to pick up meals

BY RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

Spc. Isaiah Burgman, right, and Pfc. Justin Burdick, center, serve breakfast Wednesday to Sgt. Isagani Abinales at Forward Operating Base Gabe, Baqouba, Iraq. Burgman and Burdick are assigned to Service Battery, and Abinales to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment out of Bamberg, Germany. Dinners are particularly tricky for Service Battery, as its cooks must drive through dangerous territory to pick it up.
RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

BAQOUBA, Iraq — The cooks at Forward Operating Base Gabe go way beyond slaving over a hot stove to get dinner on the table.

Every day, soldiers from Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment put their pancake turners and tongs aside, grab their rifles and brave "RPG Alley" to get a super-sized take-out order big enough to feed an army.

Eleven soldiers man the unit's two dining facilities, and preparing lunch and dinner in the facilities' kitchens would be an unworkable overlap, according to Sgt. 1st Class Eric Young, dining facility noncommissioned officer in charge at the larger of the two facilities.

So instead, for dinner a couple of the cooks, all of whom rotate the duty, drive a five-ton truck in the daily resupply convoy to Forward Operating Base Warhorse, on the other side of Baqouba. There, the cooks pick up the hot entrees and side items, as well as treats such as cheesecake, ice cream, muffins and other snacks.

Breakfast is prepared at FOB Gabe, with choices such as omelets, bacon, sausage, French toast and grits. The lunch meal is usually deli-style cold cuts for sandwiches.

The threat of the dinner pickup is real: The convoy was hit last week by a roadside bomb that shattered the truck's windows, according to Sgt. Thomas Nelson, also from Service Battery. No one was injured in the incident, he said.

The convoy has been hit by makeshift bombs several times, but none of the cooks has been seriously injured, Young said.

"I guess whether [the risk] is worth it or not to the soldiers depends on what we pick up for dinner," Nelson joked.

With temperatures in the mid-120s and climbing, any day they bring back ice cream is a good day, no matter what the meal was. But there's no Good Humor Man to deliver the frozen treat — although Nelson does smile a lot.

"We're risking our lives to get some ice cream," he said, shaking his head as if saying this brought home the reality of the danger the cooks face each day.

Although they may not always tell the cooks as much, the soldiers seem to appreciate it.

"We don't have the variety that they have at [FOB] Warhorse," said Sgt. Thomas Watts, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery. The facility at FOB Warhorse is contracted out to KBR and offers a main course line and short order line. "But we're getting hot meals; I can't complain. The portions are just right so that we don't overeat."

Young said that the resupply trips, although perilous, give his soldiers a break at the small, isolated FOB.

But it's the benefit to the soldiers that makes it worthwhile for the cooks.

"We have [Meals, Ready to Eat] and could give the soldiers that," Young said. "But you have to consider morale. Filling their stomachs with a hot meal makes them a little happier."

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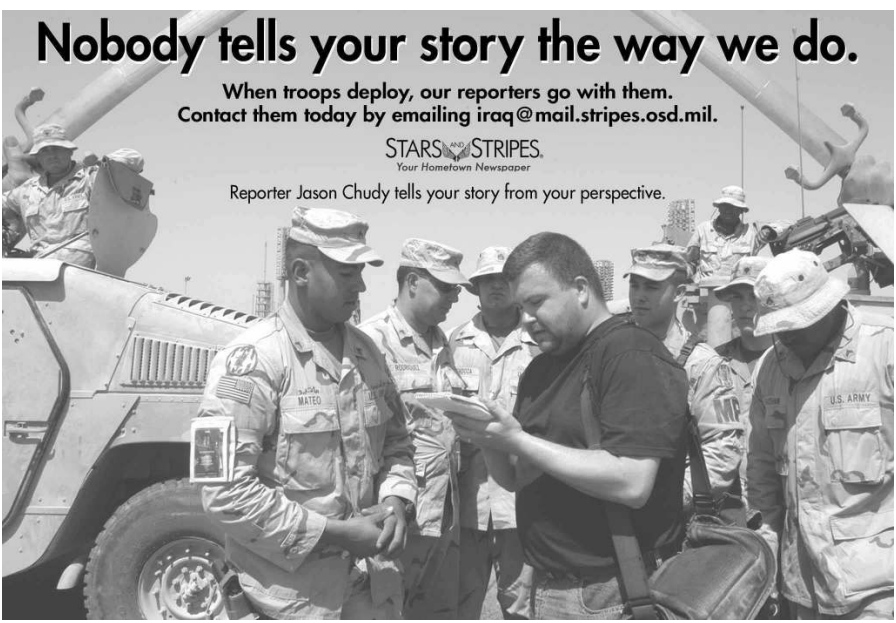

AP

Italian firefighters stand near the burned car belonging to three U.S. Navy sailors who were killed in a car crash in Naples, Italy, on June 12. Navy bases in Europe hope to prevent accidents like this with new measures, such as free buses that run between downtown and the base.

Navy bases move to cut liberty incidents at night

BY KENDRA HELMER
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Navy bases in Europe are taking steps to reduce late-night liberty incidents involving young sailors.

This week, some bases held all-hands calls with junior sailors to discuss how to avoid such incidents that have left four sailors dead in Europe this summer.

New measures include free bus runs to downtown Naples, and giving sailors alternatives to going off base. Rota, Spain, is beefing up its intramural sports programs, and Naples is extending its weekend on-base movie, gym and bar hours.

The bases held focus groups two weeks ago with sailors to discuss ideas, said Master Chief James Smith, chief of Naval Operations-directed master chief for Navy Region Europe.

"There wasn't a cataclysmic event that pushed it over the edge," Smith said. "We just want them to enjoy being overseas but do it in a safe environment."

Smith said Navy leadership had been discussing proposals to avoid liberty problems before this summer.

In June, three Naples sailors were killed and two seriously burned when their car flipped on their way back to base from a club at 5 a.m. on a Saturday. Later that month, a Rota sailor died and another was hurt in a car crash around midnight on a Friday. At 5:15 a.m. Sunday, two Italians died in a car accident involving a Naples sailor.

"The common denominator in most of these accidents is: young sailors, after midnight, impaired driving," whether it be by alcohol or fatigue, Smith said.

Because of fights and other problems this year, commanders in Rota, Naples and Sigonella, Sicily, have declared some off-base clubs off-limits.

The new measures vary by base depending on local circumstances. For example, in Naples, sailors must drive or take taxis to get to clubs, while in Souda Bay, Crete, sailors are within walking distance of bars.

"We're not looking for one panacea to solve the problem," Smith said.

Souda Bay is changing its liberty bus program hours.

On Friday, the Naples base starts free weekend bus runs from two bases to downtown Naples and the suburb of Pozzuoli. An early bus schedule that targets the restaurant crowd leaves base at 7 p.m. and returns at 1 a.m. A bus run aimed at club-goers leaves at 11 p.m. and returns at 4:30 a.m.

"We feel, particularly after the deaths … this summer … that a fairly robust attempt needs to be made" to get sailors off the roads in the early-morning hours, said Capt. Dave Frederick, base commanding officer.

"We've been talking about the idea" of a curfew, said Lt. Steve Curry, Sigonella base spokesman. The base commander was meeting with junior enlisted sailors Thursday to discuss possible changes.

Naval Station Rota spokesman Chief Petty Officer Dan Smithyman said the commands are constantly reviewing procedures to cut down on alcohol and drunken-driving incidents.

For the last two years, some command chief petty officers have offered taxi coupons to sailors, who can use them to get a ride home from town. Sailors give the coupon to a cab driver and the money is taken out of a special fund set aside for the program, Smithyman said.

While some new initiatives won't cost anything, others will be funded depending on the manner of change. The extended hours and new bus routes in Naples are funded by Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Frederick said the extra bus runs cost about $500 a night. He said all the changes will be in effect through Labor Day, at which point the base will assess whether they are effective enough to continue.

Seaman Michael Linden, 19, said he probably won't use the buses because, "We're always pretty good about finding a designated driver and making them stick to it."

But he said late-night movies might entice him to stay on base rather than go downtown.

Seaman Timothy Quigley, 22, plans to take advantage of the new bus run.

"It's an excellent idea instead of punishing everybody [for the car accidents]," he said.

"We could turn this into a good thing," said Seaman Ryan Catlett, 21. "We'll make it the party bus."

Scott Schonauer in Rota contributed to this report.

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Treatment of Muslim chaplain to be investigated

BY ERICA WERNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's inspector general will investigate the treatment of a Muslim chaplain imprisoned in solitary confinement for 76 days and then cleared in an espionage probe at Guantanamo Bay, according to a letter to lawmakers released Wednesday.

House and Senate Democrats have been pushing for the probe of the case of Capt. James Yee, who submitted his resignation to the Army on Monday.

Yee was arrested last year and charged with mishandling classified material and other crimes in a suspected espionage ring at the Naval base prison in Cuba, but the criminal charges were later dropped.

He was then reprimanded for adultery and downloading pornography, but an Army general threw out that reprimand.

"We will conduct an investigation into the issues raised with respect to your correspondence," John R. Crane, an assistant inspector general, wrote in a July 29 letter to House Democrats who sought the investigation.

He wrote that because of "other ongoing and urgent matters" the investigation would start in the fall rather than immediately.

Pentagon spokeswoman Lt. Col. Rose-Ann Lynch confirmed the contents of the letter but declined to comment further.

Rep. Mike Honda of California, who chairs the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, welcomed the development.

"I am deeply concerned that Chaplain Yee did not receive appropriate legal treatment by the U.S. Army in its investigation into his alleged wrongdoings," Honda said.

"For many members of the Asian American and Pacific Islander American community, this case has elements that are painfully reminiscent of the case of Dr. Wen Ho Lee, who suffered character assassination as a result of false allegations brought against him."

Yee

Lee, a former engineer at Los Alamos National Laboratory, was accused by the federal government of spying for China, indicted on 59 counts and confined to solitary confinement before pleading guilty to a single charge of mishandling classified data.

The government dropped the other 58 counts.

Yee is seeking to be discharged from the Army on Jan. 7, after which he plans to finish his master's degree in international relations at Troy State University, which has a campus near his home base of Fort Lewis, Washington, said his attorney, Eugene R. Fidell.

Army increases cash bonuses for enlistees

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army is dramatically increasing cash bonuses for enlistees and preparing to put hundreds of new recruiters on the streets, anticipating that it will have an increasingly tough time finding recruits, the USA Today reported in Thursday editions.

The Army expects to meet its goal of 77,000 new active-duty recruits for the 2004 fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

But officials are far less certain about next year, when the service will have to persuade 80,000 young adults to sign up in the midst of a prolonged guerrilla war in Iraq and an improving economy at home, the article said.

Cash bonuses in some hard-to-fill specialties will rise to a maximum of $15,000, more than double the previous top bonus of $6,000 for a three-year enlistment. The top bonus for most recruits will rise to $10,000.

Because of an increased demand for recruits this year, the Army has been rushing delayed-entry soldiers into basic training ahead of schedule. That has depleted the pool of soldiers who would have reported next year and added to the burden for recruiters.

Loren Thompson, a military analyst at the Lexington Institute, told USA Today that the signs point to difficult times ahead.

"This is not a good situation. The National Guard is not meeting its recruiting numbers, the active-duty Army is having to take unusual steps just to meet its numbers. The practice of putting delayed-entry personnel in right now assures that after the election the numbers will not be met."

War Is Tough on Families

Military life has enough challenges without worrying about how your loved ones will contact you... especially during times of conflict. I know, because I grew up in a military family and served as a Navy Admiral.

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The Red Cross was there for my family, and we'll be there for yours. In fact, we support thousands of military families each year.

For more information, or to learn how you can help, please contact your local Red Cross or visit www.redcross.org. Thank you.

Marsha Evans
President and CEO, American Red Cross
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

Bulwark brings combat lessons to exercises

BY LISA HORN
Stars and Stripes

NOVO SELO TRAINING AREA, Bulgaria — The war on terrorism has forced troops of all ranks and nationalities to fight while establishing bases simultaneously, but most of all to think on their feet.

The Army and Air Force call this mind-set "expeditionary," said Col. John Sterling, commander of Bulwark '04, the first and largest combined exercise with Bulgarian soldiers since the country joined NATO in May.

"The word 'expeditionary' implies the ability to do a lot of things," Sterling said, "to deploy, establish a base and execute the operation."

A group of 22 Bulgarian soldiers have been reinforcing those skills with U.S. troops this week during various exercises at the Bulgarian Land Forces' Novo Selo Training Area, about 25 miles from Sliven, Bulgaria.

Some of those soldiers have already served in Iraq. Others in the group have volunteered to join or replace some of their comrades, numbering about 580, currently in Iraq and the roughly 60 troops supporting coalition forces in Afghanistan.

"There are a lot of things to learn from these exercises," said Pvt. Atanas Kovachev, of the 61st Striema's Mechanized Brigade from Karlovo, Bulgaria.

In addition to learning such techniques as clearing a room, the Bulgarian soldiers tried, for the very first time, Deployable Instrumental Systems in Europe, or DISE, a system used to track soldiers in war games.

To help with the language barrier, interpreters were on hand at every step of the training, said Staff Sgt. Jeremy Wenthe, of the Illinois National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 130th Infantry Regiment.

But, the soldier's code of hand and eye signals did the talking for most of the exercise.

"We're both soldiers and we come from the same common bond," Wenthe said of Kovachev. "We know what it's like, so what we do every day is not that much different from what they do."

After all, one day Wenthe and Kovachev may meet again, maybe in Baghdad.

To add to the realism, the Military Operations in Urban Terrain exercises and the convoy exercises are based on real downrange experiences. Some of the MOUT training and layout was based on Al Schweb, a district of southwest Baghdad, said Capt. Phillip Sounia, 7th Army Training Center observer/controller.

Even political and social sensibilities are touched upon by 7th ATC members when they critique the squads following each scenario.

"You really have to show guys that people are people," said Sounia, who deployed to Iraq last year. "In the world we are working in today in Iraq, you just don't go throw grenades into people's houses.

"A lot of suspected enemies are just an element of their environment."

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PHOTOS BY LISA HORN/Stars and Stripes

Above: Members of the 130th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard learn how to load a litter patient onto a helicopter during a class Tuesday taught by the 236th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) out of Landstuhl, Germany, at Bulwark '04 at the Novo Selo Training Area, Bulgaria. Top left: Two soldiers stand ready for a medical evacuation helicopter. Bottom left: Troops man the perimeter of Humvees during a Convoy Situational Training Exercise scenario. The course is based on lessons learned from actual roadside bomb attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan and aims to teach soldiers how to react if a convoy is attacked.

Stars and Stripes
Messages of Support

SPC GUNN, We here in Bhausen and Aburg are so proud of you all and carry you in our hearts... Donnie, WE LOVE YOU and miss you greatly but we know that you are prepared to do your job with pride and honor. You are now and always have been our hero. BE SAFE and know that we are with you all the way. LOVE HEATHER AND LEXA LOO

Stars and Stripes
Messages of Support

To J. Cleet (USAF), Just want you to know we are all thinking of you here at home (grammy, grandpap, uncle jack, johnna, lauren, aunt louisa). Stay safe, kick butt over there and get home safe. We love you. Love, Cousin Lauren D.

MAY GOD BE WITH YOU ALL !! YOU ARE ALL IN OUR PRAYERS BACK HOME IN CHIPLEY, FLORIDA..... DIANNE and MIKE M.

I hope this message finds you healthy and in good spirits. I am sorry I did not get the chance to tell you goodbye before you left. You have come to mean a lot to me. I miss our talks. My prayers are with you. Be safe. Always. Addie ;)

My name is Leanne and I just want to thank you for all your are doing for our country. Warm thoughts and soft prayers go with you. Stay safe. Leanne

Your dedication and sacrifice is appreciated beyond words. You are what means to be American.

MORE MOVIES

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Stuttgart Marines awed by WWII heroes

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Movies can help bring heroic acts to life.

But for a few outnumbered Marines who held off a battalion of German soldiers and saved a French town, it wasn't show biz and they weren't actors.

"To be somewhere where Marines were actually on the ground, to see the place and talk to people who were actually there," said Staff Sgt. Joseph Forbes, "there's no substitute for that."

Forbes was among a group of Marines from Marine Forces Europe Headquarters in Stuttgart that traveled last weekend to the French Alps to meet Sgt. Maj. John Bodnar, 82, and former Staff Sgt. Jack Risler, 83, and to watch the two veteran Marines be enrolled in the French Legion of Honor.

Bodnar and Risler were among seven Marines who 60 years ago parachuted into the region along with tons of supplies for French Resistance fighters. They then fought off German soldiers near the tiny village of Centron before cutting a deal: The U.S. Marines offered to surrender, and in exchange the Germans would spare the village.

The people of the Albertville-Annecy area are still showing their gratitude, hosting a party as they do every 10 years for the two surviving members of Operation Union II and for the family of the operation's leader, the late Col. Peter Ortiz, whose life was immortalized in the movie "13 Rue Madeleine."

The young Marines from Stuttgart said they were awed to spend time with their forebearers.

PHIL MEHRINGER/Courtesy of the Marines

Retired Sgt. Maj. John Bodnar, 82, and former Marine Staff Sgt. Jack Risler, 83, the only surviving members of Operation Union II, were awarded the French Legion of Honor in a ceremony near Albertville, France, on July 30th. The Marines parachuted into the region Aug. 1, 1944, to fight with the French Resistance against occupying German forces.

"It was an honor for us to meet the veterans who were there and hear their story," said Forbes, 24, of Stockton, Calif., "but also to see we're not the only ones who remember them.

"The town hall was named after Maj. Ortiz. It was definitely an honor for us to be there and see that."

Remote Alpine villages such as Centron were strongholds of French Resistance at the time, but the Germans were nonetheless trying to control the larger, nearby cities, such as Albertville and Annecy.

On Aug. 1, 1944, the small team of Marines parachuted into Centron and were met by their French comrades. One of the Marines died when his parachute failed to open.

Two weeks later while on patrol, Ortiz, Bodnar and Risler were pinned down by the Germans. Knowing that the Germans had recently pillaged a nearby village, the Marines cut their deal with the enemy, and the village was spared.

The three Marines were rescued from a German prison camp eight months later.

"These Marines surrendered themselves at the mercy of the Germans in order to save a town," said Staff Sgt. Rongalett Green, 32, of North Little Rock, Ark. "And this town is so thankful.

"It's so easy to say you'll sacrifice your life for someone, but when you're put on the spot and have to do it, how many people would actually make the sacrifice and how many would run away."

About 60 Marines and family members made the trip to France. Except for a few who were on orders for official business, they paid their own way to take part, according to Master Sgt. Phil Mehringer, an MFE spokesman.

The Stuttgart Marines said it was worth it.

"I'll remember the amount of history that was standing right there in front of me," said Sgt. John Cramer, 24, of Columbus, Ohio. "How many different experiences have they had that I can't ever have?

"But I was able to share in it when they talked to me about it."

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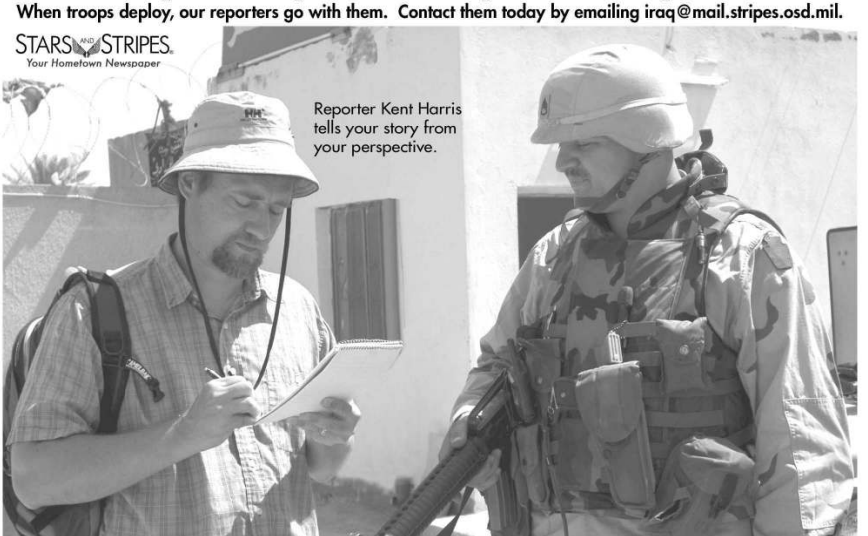
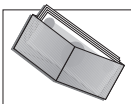




Money in the bank

On Thursday, President Bush signed the fiscal 2005 Defense Appropriations Act, which gives servicemembers an across-the-board 3.5 percent annual pay raise. The raise goes into effect Jan. 1, 2005.

Figures are dollars per month and do not include housing and other special pay.

Pay grade	Less than 2 years	2 years	3 years	4 years	6 years	8 years	10 years	12 years	14 years	16 years	18 years	20 years	22 years	24 years	26 years
Commissioned officers															
O-10												12,963.06	13,026.72	13,297.47	13,769.43
O-9												11,337.91	11,501.23	11,737.21	12,149.24
O-8	8,022.39	8,285.07	8,459.26	8,508.32	8,725.36	9,089.27	9,173.72	9,519.00	9,618.05	9,915.20	10,345.55	10,742.37	11,007.54	11,007.54	11,007.54
O-7	6,666.12	6,975.69	7,119.14	7,233.10	7,438.96	7,642.65	7,878.32	8,113.37	8,349.03	9,089.27	9,714.61	9,714.61	9,714.61	9,714.61	9,763.67
O-6	4,940.68	5,427.85	5,783.99	5,783.99	5,806.04	6,054.75	6,087.97	6,087.97	6,433.87	7,045.56	7,404.49	7,763.43	7,967.74	8,174.22	8,575.39
O-5	4,118.78	4,639.80	4,961.17	5,021.41	5,221.37	5,341.84	5,605.46	5,798.90	6,048.54	6,431.08	6,613.34	6,793.12	6,997.43	6,997.43	6,997.43
O-4	3,553.67	4,113.81	4,388.30	4,449.47	4,704.39	4,977.63	5,317.62	5,582.79	5,766.61	5,872.18	5,933.66	5,933.66	5,933.66	5,933.66	5,933.66
O-3	3,124.56	3,542.18	3,823.19	4,168.15	4,367.80	4,586.71	4,728.60	4,962.10	5,083.20	5,083.20	5,083.20	5,083.20	5,083.20	5,083.20	5,083.20
O-2	2,699.49	3,074.57	3,541.25	3,660.80	3,736.25	3,736.25	3,736.25	3,736.25	3,736.25	3,736.25	3,736.25	3,736.25	3,736.25	3,736.25	3,736.25
O-1	2,343.65	2,438.98	2,948.20	2,948.20	2,948.20	2,948.20	2,948.20	2,948.20	2,948.20	2,948.20	2,948.20	2,948.20	2,948.20	2,948.20	2,948.20
Commissioned officers with more than four years of active-duty service as an enlisted member or warrant officer															
O-3E				4,168.15	4,367.80	4,586.71	4,728.60	4,962.10	5,158.65	5,271.05	5,424.75	5,424.75	5,424.75	5,424.75	5,424.75
O-2E				3,660.80	3,736.25	3,855.17	4,055.75	4,211.00	4,326.51	4,326.51	4,326.51	4,326.51	4,326.51	4,326.51	4,326.51
O-1E				2,948.20	3,148.78	3,264.91	3,383.83	3500.58	3,660.80	3,660.80	3,660.80	3,660.80	3,660.80	3,660.80	3,660.80
Warrant officers															
W-5												5,548.32	5,738.35	5,929.31	6,121.20
W-4	3,228.58	3,473.25	3,573.23	3,671.35	3,840.26	4,007.00	4,176.23	4,341.10	4,511.57	4,778.92	4,949.99	5,117.35	5,290.92	5,461.70	5,636.51
W-3	2,948.51	3,071.78	3,197.53	3,238.83	3,371.10	3,522.31	3,721.65	3,918.82	4,128.41	4,285.52	4,442.01	4,509.39	4,578.94	4,730.16	4,881.37
W-2	2,593.61	2,741.72	2,871.19	2,965.59	3,046.32	3,268.32	3,437.86	3,563.92	3,686.88	3,771.33	3,842.44	3,977.51	4,111.64	4,247.33	4,247.33
W-1	2,290.25	2,477.79	2,603.23	2,684.27	2,900.38	3,030.79	3,146.30	3,275.46	3,360.85	3,438.17	3,564.24	3,659.55	3,659.55	3,659.55	3,659.55
Enlisted members															
E-9							3,901.12	3,989.61	4,101.08	4,232.43	4,364.08	4,575.84	4,755.00	4,943.78	5,231.61
E-8						3,193.49	3,334.77	3,422.02	3,526.97	3,640.61	3,845.54	3,949.25	4,125.92	4,224.04	4,465.30
E-7	2,220.08	2,423.14	2,515.67	2,638.94	2,734.57	2,899.45	2,992.29	3,084.51	3,249.69	3,332.29	3,410.84	3,458.66	3,620.43	3,725.07	3,989.93
E-6	1,920.44	2,112.64	2,205.79	2,296.46	2,390.85	2,604.16	2,687.07	2,779.29	2,860.02	2,888.58	2,908.14	2,908.14	2,908.14	2,908.14	2,908.14
E-5	1,759.60	1,876.97	1,967.64	2,060.79	2,205.17	2,329.68	2,421.59	2,450.78	2,450.78	2,450.78	2,450.78	2,450.78	2,450.78	2,450.78	2,450.78
E-4	1,612.74	1,695.64	1,787.24	1,877.59	1,957.70	1,957.70	1,975.70	1,957.70	1,957.70	1,957.70	1,957.70	1,957.70	1,957.70	1,957.70	1,957.70
E-3	1,456.25	1,547.84	1,640.99	1,640.99	1,640.99	1,640.99	1,640.99	1,640.99	1,640.99	1,640.99	1,640.99	1,640.99	1,640.99	1,640.99	1,640.99
E-2	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52	1,384.52
E-1	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17	1,235.17
E-1 less than 4 months	1,142.64														

Source: Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) Stars and Stripes

Bush signs defense appropriations bill

Legislation provides 3.5 percent pay raise, more money for war

BY TERENCE HUNT
The Associated Press

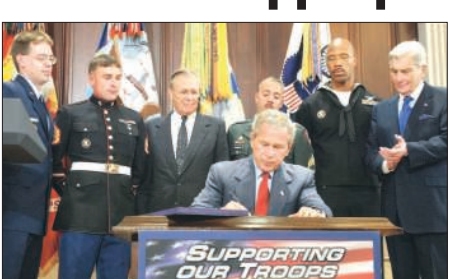
WASHINGTON — President Bush signed a $417.5 billion wartime defense bill Thursday, providing an additional $25 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan, body armor for troops and reinforced Humvee vehicles.

"With this legislation, America's military will know that their country stands behind them as they fight for our freedom and as they spread the peace," Bush said.

"No enemy or friend can doubt that America has the resources to prevail," he said. "And we will."

Overwhelmingly approved by a Congress eager to show election-year support for the military, the measure includes money for 39 more Army Black Hawk helicopters, a Virginia-class attack submarine, three guided-missile destroyers and a 3.5 percent pay increase for troops. "This money is well-earned, well-deserved and well-spent," he said of the pay increase.

In addition to the 3.5 percent raise, Basic Allowance for Housing was raised to the point where it will pay 100 percent of the average housing costs. This concludes Defense Daprtment's five-year plan to eliminate out-of-pocket housing expenses by fiscal 2005.



AP

President Bush signs the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for fiscal 2005 during a ceremony in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on Thursday. With Bush are, from left: Air Force Master Sgt. William Broughton; Marine Staff Sgt. Daniel Paradis; Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld; Army Sgt. 1st Class Julio Maldonado; Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Byron Coleman; and Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Sen. John Warner, R-Va.

This is the first time in five years that the spending bill does not "target" the pay raise, giving some ranks more than others.

This is the sixth consecutive year that the pay raise is larger than private sector pay raises. Once implemented, this raise is expected to decrease the military-civilian "pay gap" from 5.5 percent to 5.1 percent. The gap was at its highest in 1999, at 13.5 percent.

With U.S. security the top issue in his re-election campaign, Bush came off the political trail for the bill-signing ceremony, flanked by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, members of the military and lawmakers. The carefully timed event highlighted Bush's role as commander in chief, offering him a spotlight Democrat John Kerry cannot match.

With the ink on the measure barely dry, Bush was returning to the campaign trail for his 20th trip as president to Ohio.

Bush had originally insisted that no extra funds would be needed for Iraq and Afghanistan until after the elections but under pressure from Congress, he requested $25 billion. He said the two countries were "the front lines in the war on terror."

The bill has nearly $78 billion for weapons purchases, $3 billion more than Bush requested. Included is more money for Air Force unmanned Predator aerial attack vehicles, Stryker combat vehicles for the Army and a DD(X) destroyer.

There is $10 billion for continued work on a missile defense system. And there is $100 million for the Air Force to modernize its fleet of midair refueling tankers.

"This bill will help make America a safer place," Bush said.

Bush also said it was in America's interest for Arab militia violence to end in the western Sudan region of Darfur. The defense bill could help, he said, with $95 million in famine relief and humanitarian assistance.

"Recent history has shown that the threats to our shores can emerge from failing states half a world away," Bush said. "By acting early to end a crisis, we can make our world safer."

Stripes Washington bureau chief Pat Dickson contributed to this report.

IN THE STATES

Man held in plot to bomb federal courthouse

BY NATHANIEL HERNANDEZ
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — A convicted counterfeiter with an apparent grudge against the courts was arrested Thursday on charges of plotting to blow up a federal courthouse, but he never actually had materials to make a truck bomb, authorities said.

Prosecutors said Gale William Nettles, 66, was arrested with a pickup truck containing 1,500 pounds of fertilizer that he allegedly thought was volatile ammonium nitrate, the farm chemical used to blow up the Oklahoma City federal building.

Nettles had planned to sell the chemical to terrorists who would blow up the Dirksen federal building, U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald said in announcing the charges Thursday. But all the other people involved, including the "terrorists" and the people who sold him the fertilizer, were cooperating witnesses or federal agents, Fitzgerald said.

Nettles told the undercover agent he could make a 3,000-pound fertilizer bomb.

"He had a rational plan to build a bomb. We weren't going to wait to see if it would work," Fitzgerald said.

Timothy McVeigh had used a bomb made of 4,800 pounds of ammonium nitrate to blow up the Oklahoma City federal building in 1995, killing 168 people.

Nettles was arrested at a park early Thursday with the pickup truck when he met the undercover agents who he thought were terrorists, according to the criminal complaint. The fertilizer he obtained in the sting does not have the explosive potential of ammonium nitrate.

Nettles had been released from prison in 2003 after serving time for counterfeiting and apparently retained a grudge against the court system, Fitzgerald said. The Dirksen federal building in downtown Chicago houses federal criminal and civil courts and the U.S. attorney's office.

Fitzgerald said Nettles was not working with any other groups but had asked cooperating witnesses about contacting Al-Qaida and Hamas.

According to the complaint, Nettles met July 26 with an undercover agent he thought was a member of a terrorist group. In a recorded meeting, Nettles said he had a half ton of ammonium nitrate in New Orleans that he could have in Chicago in two days and that he had a target in mind — the U.S. courthouse downtown, the complaint said.

Wash. judge knocks same-sex marriage ban

BY MELANTHIA MITCHELL
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A judge ruled that a ban on same-sex marriage violates Washington's constitution, but no licenses will be issued to gay couples until the state Supreme Court reviews the case.

In his ruling Wednesday, King County Superior Court Judge William L. Downing called the ban a denial of "substantive due process," and said he found no evidence to back an argument that children's interests were being neglected.

"The fact is that there are no scientifically valid studies tending to establish a negative impact on the adjustment of children raised by an intact same-sex couple as compared with those raised by an intact opposite-sex couple," Downing wrote.

The ruling came in a challenge by gay couples of Washington's 1998 Defense of Marriage Act, which restricts marriage to one man and one woman.

Gay-marriage supporters said they were confident the state's high court, now in recess, would uphold Wednesday's ruling.

"We, all of us, are absolutely overjoyed today," said plaintiff Johanna Bender.

Critics of same-sex marriage were "disappointed, of course," said Republican state Sen. Val Stevens, who intervened in the case.

Jeff Kemp, executive director of Families Northwest, decried the ruling's effect on children, whom he said "fundamentally need both a mom and a dad in their lives."

Six couples sued in March after King County refused to grant them marriage licenses. Two other couples later signed on to the case. A second lawsuit was filed in April by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of 11 same-sex couples.

King County Executive Ron Sims, a defendant in the lawsuit, said the ruling was a powerful affirmation of equal rights and that he was glad the couples had sued.

An appeal could be heard later this year, said Jennifer Pizer, co-counsel in the case for Lambda Legal Defense.

Bush misspeaks

WASHINGTON — President Bush offered up a new entry for his catalog of "Bushisms" on Thursday, declaring that his administration will "never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people."

Bush misspoke as he delivered a speech at the signing ceremony for a $417 billion defense spending bill.

"Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we," Bush said. "They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we."

No one in Bush's audience reacted.

From The Associated Press

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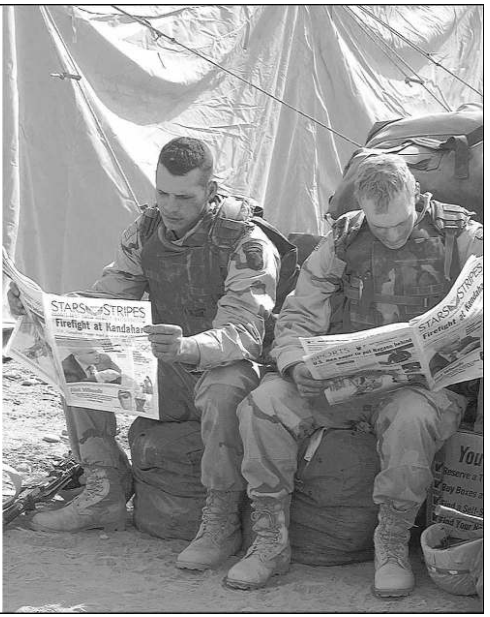

AP

Attorney Jeffrey Kaufmann dresses in a Tigger costume for his final arguments Wednesday in the trial of Michael Chartrand, left, who is helping him with the costume.

Disney worker cleared in Fla. molestation case

BY MIKE SCHNEIDER
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — A Walt Disney World worker who was acquitted of charges he fondled a 13-year-old girl while dressed as Tigger says he wants to return to work, but not as a Disney character.

Wednesday's acquittal came less than an hour following a three-day trial during which the defense attorney for Michael Chartrand donned a Tigger costume in an effort to show jurors how difficult it is to maneuver and see in the outfit.

Outside court, Chartrand, a 36-year-old native of England who lost his fiancee and had been suspended without pay after his arrest, said he'd like his job back, but that the experience "has ruined my dream to be a character."

Disney spokesman Bill Warren said, "We can have a conversation with him, but at this point we really don't have a comment."

Jurors found Chartrand not guilty of lewd and lascivious molestation, a felony; he had faced up to 15 years in prison if convicted. He was accused of fondling the girl while posing for a photo with her and her mother.

Prosecutor Will Jay and members of the girl's family left court without commenting.

During closing arguments earlier Wednesday, defense attorney Jeffrey Kaufman first strapped on Tigger's tail and then put on a neck cloth, the enormous head, and two large orange mitts to show jurors how the costume limits peripheral vision and arm movements. Jurors said the tactic had no effect on their decision. "There was no evidence to convict," juror Zach Kauffman said. "They couldn't even prove who was behind the Tigger mask."

Kaufman has contended that the girl's mother was merely after money and planned to sue Disney. The mother also claimed Tigger touched her breast during the visit to Disney World last February, although no criminal charges followed her allegation.

Under questioning from Kaufman, the mother conceded that she had met with a lawyer about the case. But asked if she thought she could make a lot of money from Disney, she told Kaufman, "No, I didn't."

2 arrested in N.Y. missile scheme

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two leaders of a mosque in Albany, N.Y., have been arrested in an alleged plot involving a scheme to buy a shoulder-fired missile, the Justice Department announced Thursday.

Court papers filed in the case alleged that the weapon was to be used to assassinate the Pakistani ambassador at that country's consulate across from the United Nations in New York.

The two men — identified as Yassin Aref, 34, the imam of the mosque, and Mohammed Hossain, 49, one of the mosque's founders — were arrested on Wednesday night in a government-run "sting" operation, Deputy Attorney General James Comey told a Justice Department news conference.

Two U.S. law enforcement officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the two men have ties to a group which has been linked to the al-Qaida terror network.

Such a connection was not mentioned in legal papers, however, and Comey said he could not comment on it, although he said the pair's background might be brought up by the government later at a detention hearing.

Both face up to 70 years in prison and a $750,000, said Comey in a statement.

"We are working very, very hard to infiltrate the enemy," Comey said.

But under questioning at the news conference, he acknowledged that "this is not the case of the century."

Associated Press writer Michael Virtanen contributed to this story from Albany, N.Y.

Security gaps kept quiet

Citing terrorism, nuke plant safety an issue

BY MALIA RULON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Citing a need to keep information from terrorists, regulators said Wednesday the government will no longer reveal security gaps discovered at nuclear power plants or the subsequent enforcement actions taken against plant operators.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced the change in policy during its first public hearing on power plant safety since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. It drew barbs from critics who said the secrecy would erode public confidence in the agency.

Until now, the NRC has provided regular public updates on vulnerabilities its inspectors found at the country's 103 nuclear power reactors, such as broken fences or weaknesses in training programs.

"We need to blacken some of our processes so that our adversaries won't have that information," said Roy Zimmerman, director of the commission's Office of Nuclear Security and Incident Response, which was created after the attacks.

NRC spokesman Scott Burnell said commissioners voted to take the step March 29, but kept it quiet as agency staff worked to implement the plan. The vote itself was revealed Wednesday and had nothing to do with this week's warnings that terrorists had surveyed U.S. financial institutions, Burnell said.

"We deliberated for many months on finding the balance between the NRC's commitment to openness and the concern that sensitive information might be misused by those who wish us harm," commission Chairman Nils Diaz said in a written statement.

Michele Boyd, a lobbyist for the consumer group Public Citizen, said the NRC had not struck that balance.

"The public has zero confidence in NRC and making this information completely out of the public, not available, does not bring any more confidence," Boyd told the commission.

Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., a longtime critic of the nuclear industry, said the policy will "further deepen public skepticism of the commission's performance and calls into question whether the commission is doing what it must do to keep nuclear reactors safe from terrorist attacks."

Zimmerman of the NRC said the agency is considering providing general information on security vulnerabilities that would not include plant names or other details.

Protection at the nation's nuclear power reactors — located at 64 sites in 31 states — has been boosted since the Sept. 11 attacks. Since then, the commission has been guarded about revealing specifics of the security efforts.

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IN THE WORLD

Attempt to quell Yemen rebellion kills 50

BY AHMED AL-HAJ
The Associated Press

ADEN, Yemen — Yemen's army has launched a major offensive in the country's northern mountains to quell a six-week rebellion, which in the past two days alone has killed 50 soldiers and rebels.

Government officials and tribal chiefs said Thursday more than 2,000 Yemeni troops have been deployed against supporters of Hussein Badr Eddin al-Houti, who the government regards as an outlaw.

Long-simmering tension between the government and al-Houti erupted into armed conflict on June 21 when security forces tried to arrest his supporters in Sa'dah, a city about 24 miles northwest of the capital San'a.

More than 500 soldiers and rebels have been killed since the conflict began.

Last month President Ali Abdullah Saleh ordered a temporary halt to military operations against al-Houti's forces, who are holed up in the Jabal Maraan mountains outside Sa'dah, to give mediators a chance.

But the fighting continued.

Government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said heavy artillery, tanks, helicopter gunships and fighter jets have been backing Yemeni troops. The government has also recruited armed tribesmen from outside the area to fight al-Houti's followers.

"We've been ordered to end the standoff once and for all," an official said Thursday, as the fighting went on.

Tribal elders said the fighting had killed about 50 people and wounded dozens since the offensive began late Tuesday. The elders, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said most of the casualties were soldiers, who have since been evacuated to hospitals in San'a.

The elders said, however, that attempts were still being made to mediate an end to the dispute, although many past attempts have failed.

Yemen's government is offering a $55,000 reward for the capture of al-Houti, who is accused of sedition, attacking government buildings and security forces, forming an illegal armed group and inciting people not to pay taxes.

His group is also said to encourage anti-American sentiment through mosque speeches and demonstrations.

Yemen's government has supported the U.S.-led war on terrorism and has received American military assistance.

Americans warned against Middle East travel

AP

Palestinian activists of Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades shoot in the air Thursday during a rally in the West Bank city of Nablus. The State Department is urging Americans to defer travel to the West Bank and Israel and to leave Gaza immediately because of security concerns following the kidnapping of a U.S. citizen last week. The American was one of three foreign church volunteers taken hostage and later released in Nablus.

Messages of Support

Sent in from Stars and Stripes

★ To: SFC Arroyo. We just want to let you Know that we miss you & love you very much. Keep doing a good job and take care. Yoly & Justin

★ Cpl Greenlee A. D., Our prayers, love and support are with you. God Bless You and Keep You Safe. We are proud of you and all the servicemen. We Love you and Miss you. Mom

★ Stand strong together, pray together, and come home together!!!!

Embassy closes for day

NEW DELHI — The U.S. Embassy in India was closed Thursday because of security concerns, although officials declined to comment on reports of a possible al-Qaida threat.

An Indian intelligence official said on condition of anonymity that the security alert at the Embassy was prompted by information gathered from Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, a Tanzanian accused by U.S. officials of involvement in the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in East Africa, and other suspected al-Qaida members arrested in Pakistan last month.

End to Greece strike

ATHENS, Greece — Ambulance drivers and paramedics called off an indefinite strike Thursday after the government said they would get a monthly raise and be paid for overtime during the Olympics.

Their union started the strike on Aug. 3 to demand an Olympic bonus similar to one given to police and other security personnel.

Rome airport security

ROME — Security has been increased at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport following a series of threats directed at Italy and signed by an al-Qaida-linked group, news reports said Thursday.

The reports also said the new measures included special controls for passengers flying to the United States and Israel.

From The Associated Press

Airport workers vote on possible strike in Britain

BY SUE LEEMAN
The Associated Press

LONDON — Thousands of airport workers began voting Thursday on whether to strike in support of higher pay, posing a threat of crippling walkouts at Britain's major airports at the height of the tourist season.

Unions representing baggage-handlers and check-in staff have rejected a three-year pay offer worth 8.5 percent, or 10.5 percent without a pension plan. British Airways says it cannot afford the unions' demands, which it says amount to 14.5 percent.

Unions have not set a possible strike date.

British Airways, which has written workers warning that a strike would "seriously damage" the airline, on Wednesday offered to take the dispute to arbitration.

But the two biggest unions, the Transport and General Workers' Union and the GMB, say they want a negotiated settlement rather than one imposed from outside.

Last month, 700 TGWU baggage-handlers employed by air services company Aviance at some British airports, including Heathrow and Gatwick, voted 4-1 to strike in protest at a 2.5 percent pay offer; negotiations are continuing.

More than 8,000 TGWU workers will vote until Aug. 18, including 4,500 baggage handlers at London's London Gatwick, Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh airport, and 3,700 check-in workers at the same airports as well as Glasgow.

Heathrow is the world's busiest international airport, serving 63 million passengers per year.

Gatwick, which is Britain's second largest airport and No. 6 worldwide in terms of international flights, serves 30 million passengers per year.

GMB members have already held a strike vote but the results have not been disclosed. A third union, Amicus, has said it favors arbitration.

BA's director of customer services and operations Mike Street said Wednesday that arbitration "will allow our customers to book in confidence with the knowledge that their summer travel plans will not be disrupted."

But TGWU national officer Brendan Gold said the union wants "a negotiated settlement so our members can get the pay rise they deserve and have waited for since Jan. 1 this year.

"That means the company has to move its position," Gold said.

British Airways — which has announced plans to cut $540 million in employee costs over the next two years — said the union pay claim equates to a 14.5 percent increase over three years, which is too expensive.

The TGWU says that basic earnings for baggage handlers are around $25,000 a year. Check-in and administration staff earn around $18,000-22,000.

Messages of Support

Stars and Stripes

★ Dear Mike and fellow comrades Mike i just wanted to let you know that my family and i were thinking of you. We are all very proud of you. I was just on the phone with your mother and aunt Alice. Your mother is trying every which way to get a message to you. Kiddo, Your family loves you so much. All of us are praying for your safe return.

During Christmas i received a card from your mom enclosed was your picture in uniform. I was amazed at how you looked because i had not seen you in such a long time.I will be writing to you again very soon. Mike please take good care of yourself and your brothers. I wish you all a safe return. Best regards, Enrique

★ May each and everyone of the heroes in the military know how much we love them, how much we thank them, how much we pray for their safe and speedy return home. We are so proud of your courageous service to our great nation. Know that we are with you every moment of everyday. And, how grateful we are to you all.

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

Stars and Stripes (USPS 017553) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and $1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at Washington, D.C. Postmaster: Send address changes to European Stars and Stripes, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211.
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Too much FOX News

Which network was covering the Democratic National Convention on the AFN News channel but FOX News, with nothing but how bad the Democrats are performing. FOX News should be called the Republican News Channel.

Not only did we have to put up with FOX critiquing every speaker at the convention, but we had three hours nearly every evening condemning the Democrats for any proposal they presented.

Has anyone seriously examined the AFN News channel to determine how much time is devoted to FOX? Does anyone seriously believe this is fair and balanced? Is the purpose of American Forces Radio and Television Service to try and brainwash the military audience? It sure looks like it.

(Ret.) Chief Warrant Officer 3 F.J. Kirby
Pordenone, Italy

Must 'train as we fight'

What is amazing about our Army system is we don't learn from those who have served and use their knowledge or expertise to train the next generation of new blood in order to hopefully save a few more lives.

Instead, we let the ones with experience go or we bury them in some office job, not training the new and inexperienced ones that commanders plan to send to do our bidding.

However, we do have them trained by soldiers who have never seen combat, but have read a lot about it, and who can recite chapter and verse of Army text on how things should be performed or executed. In reality, their validation methods are exactly opposite of what you really do, why?

Because what you really do saves lives and is too aggressive for "training" purposes in a safe U.S. military base environment. Until we "train as we fight," we will never be successful at putting a ready force in theater as the active component does so well.

Army Sgt. John Neibert
Baghdad

More car care woes

I just finished reading "Other car care problems" (July 7) and couldn't believe that it was not just my imagination that the Army and Air Force Exchange Service Car Care centers are operating with substandard service.

About a year ago, I was having problems with the clutch in my truck, so I had the truck towed to the Mannheim AAFES Car Care Center and ordered a new clutch system. After that, everything went wrong. I was not called when the part came in. I was told that I needed a Master cylinder and it would be three to four weeks before delivery.

After about four weeks and no call, I checked and was then told that I now needed a Slave cylinder, which would take another two weeks for delivery. When two weeks went by with no call, my wife and I went in to find out the status once more and we found that my truck had been ready for 3 days.

Here's where things went from bad to worse:

My wife noticed some dents and scrapes on the right passenger side door — they weren't there when it was turned in to be fixed. The side view mirror on the passenger side was sitting in the bed of the truck. There was grease throughout the interior of my truck. My CD/stereo no longer worked.

The manager said AAFES is not responsible for vehicles parked behind the Car Care Center, even though they were the ones to park our truck there.

It is obviously a serious problem if more than one person has seemingly had a bad experience with an AAFES Car Care Center. I just wish this had surfaced before I had to go through it.

Sgt. Juan Navarro
Camp Anaconda, Iraq

Mind your manners

Welcome home to all of the 222nd Base Support Battalion soldiers! But does the fact that you have spent the last 12 months or more in Iraq give some of you the right to come back and lose all of your manners? No, I think not.

You are a human being and then a soldier. If your parents did not teach you to respect others, I know that the military had to instill some morals and respect into you. So please have your fun and decompression time, but remember the following: Some of us have to work weekends as well as all week long without any leave, so please keep the noise down after 10 p.m. on the weekdays and midnight on the weekends.

We do have children that play outside on this base, not to mention a speed limit, so slow those nice, new, little souped-up cars down. Take them out on the autobahn and go crazy, not in the housing area.

Thank you for doing your duty for the United States. I am glad to see your safe return. Now, let us keep Baumholder safe and respectful and mind your manners.

Lisa Cramer von Clausbruch
Baumholder, Germany

Tell us what you think

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

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Treatment of baggers unfair

I believe it is against the law to expect trainees to work numerous unpaid hours during their training period. Trainees may receive partial pay, but rarely do they receive zero pay.

There is one exception — commissary baggers at Lajes Field, Azores.

We are not talking about job competence here, nor are we talking about pleasing customers. We are talking about what might be termed the Defense Commissary Agency "trainee ejection program" operated by a clique that wants to maintain iron-fisted control over the bagging jobs.

Unwanted nonclique members are placed on the "ejection track." They are told to come in day after day for "training," most of which consists of sitting on a bench watching other people make money. To make matters worse, clique members make a big show of flashing around their thick wads of cash to one and all.

Please let me emphasize that not all baggers at Lajes fit into this category. Many are fine people who accepted this mistreatment. But that fact doesn't make the mistreatment OK.

After 11 hours of bench-sitting over a five-day period, I quit. Critiques of my work were picayune to the point of being absurd. For example, cereal packages had to be placed sideways and not crosswise, etc., ad nauseum.

For many years in the United States, I frequented discount supermarkets that made customers do their own bagging. Of course, there are common sense rules, but we're not exactly talking rocket science here.

DECA managers should step in and put an end to this. These are American dollars flowing here, and American principles of equality should prevail.

Judith G. Clark
Lajes Field, Azores

Offensive road names remain

Stars and Stripes carried a wire service article recently that said Asian-Americans lacked political clout. This is very much correct.

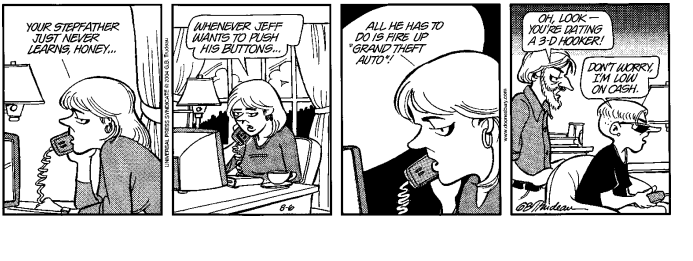
In Texas, some concerned Japanese-American citizens recently succeeded in having a "Jap Road" renamed to something less offensive, but not without the push provided by the New York Times, which reported on it. But the Texans did this with obvious reluctance and much foot-dragging.

Sad to say that in Texas and elsewhere in America, many people simply do not realize how offensive the term "Jap" is to some of us. Also, the sad thing is that there still remains some "Jap" roads in Texas, Tennessee and elsewhere.

George Joji Watanabe
Camp Darby, Italy

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



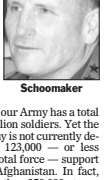
OPINION

Army can transform without missing a beat

BY R.L. BROWNLEE
AND GEN. PETER J. SCHOOMAKER

The last few weeks have seen a lot of discussion — much of it confusing or inaccurate — about the condition and future readiness of the U.S. Army. We owe it to our men and women in uniform, their families, and our country to get the facts right.

No one disputes that there are currently strains on certain segments of our armed forces. A solution some offer is to increase the permanent end strength of our Army. But simply adding to the total number of people in uniform does not really get to the heart of the problem.


Schoomaker

Brownlee

Let us explain. Today our Army has a total force of more than 1 million soldiers. Yet the vast majority of our Army is not currently deployed. Approximately 123,000 — or less than 12 percent of the total force — support operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. In fact, 123,000 members of the 350,000-strong Army National Guard have not been called up.

Overall, 270,000 soldiers are forward deployed in more than 120 countries, but with a total force in excess of 1 million, this should not stretch the force. Yet it does. The strain on the force is caused by a force structure that was built for the Cold War. The solution to the problem is to create the right number of deployable soldiers with the right skills in the right component.

This is why Army transformation is so critical. And so today, our Army is in the midst of the most sweeping transformation since World War II to significantly increase the number of deployable soldiers and units available around the world.

Army transformation is proceeding along three main avenues.

First, we are restructuring the force into modular formations with the right capabilities for our current and future security environment. This restructuring increases the number of active-duty combat brigades from 33 to 43 or more, using a combination of new recruits and soldiers drawn from other parts of our Army. Our goal is an Army with more cohesive and combat-ready formations.

Second, we are stabilizing the force with initiatives that eventually will allow most soldiers to remain based at a single installation for longer periods of time. Stabilization will yield a more predictable lifestyle for our soldiers and their families.

Third, we are rebalancing our force between the active component of the Army, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve. This initiative will give our Army more troops available with the skills we need to fight the global war on terror.

The Department of Defense is expanding our active Army rapidly without sacrificing standards or quality, using emergency authorities.

And we plan to grow the active component of the Army by a total of 30,000 troops over the next three years. It is important to note the difference between growing our Army — a temporary measure granted under the global war on terror authorities and paid for with supplemental dollars — and increasing permanent end strength.

A mandated increase in permanent end strength means that the U.S. Army would be required by law to maintain tens of thousands of additional troops on the payrolls, regardless of the need or the cost, and pay for them out of the Army's core budget. A mandated increase in permanent end strength would take away dollars needed for current and future programs, and threaten our transformation.

We are already growing our Army about as fast as we can. Our soldiers are highly skilled and well-trained, and it takes time and a significant training base to develop them. This deliberate growth will allow us to transform our Army in a way that gets at the heart of the problem, relieves the stress on the force and does not sacrifice our Army's future.

We are able to grow our Army today because retention and recruiting remain very strong. Despite the obvious dangers, hardships and sacrifices, tens of thousands of qualified soldiers choose to join or stay in the U.S. Army every year. In the active Army, Reserve and National Guard, we are meeting our retention goals for this fiscal year. We are also close to meeting our recruitment targets, even as our Army increased those recruiting targets by several thousand this year.

Transforming the force while fighting in Iraq, Afghanistan and other theaters in the war on terror is a tough management and leadership challenge. It is not unlike tuning an engine while the car is moving — complex and potentially dangerous.

But when large organizations face demanding new circumstances, they must change to meet those challenges. Our circumstances today, as an Army serving our nation at war, are providing a tremendous strategic opportunity. The convergence of our current momentum, our focus and the increased resources provided by Congress, over our core budget, in this time of war provide an opportunity for change that we cannot afford to miss.

Simply stated, we have an ambitious task ahead, but with the continued support of the American people, we will get it done. As we overcome these challenges, our all-volunteer Army of active, Reserve and National Guard soldiers are serving with tremendous skill and courage around the world. We are honored to serve with each and every one of them. Rest assured that our Army is not only taking actions to be successful today, but we are seizing an opportunity to remain relevant and ready tomorrow.

R.L. Brownlee is acting secretary of the Army. Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker is chief of staff of the Army.

Don't let Iraq church bombings create a wider war

The (Baltimore) Sun

The coordinated attacks on five churches in Iraq on Sunday, which killed at least a dozen people, were especially troubling for two reasons: First, they represent a lethal escalation of attacks on Iraq's Christian minority that has been going on for some time now. Liquor stores and beauty parlors in Baghdad, typically owned by Christians, have been forced to close by militia groups, and clergy have been threatened in Mosul. Clearly, insurgents are hoping to foment religious discord and, just as clearly, they are hoping to impose a much stricter Islamic way of life.

The Christian communities in Iraq are ancient, as are those in Syria, Lebanon and the West Bank. Taken together, the Chaldeans, Syrian Catholics and Armenian Orthodox account for about 3 percent of Iraq's population. Typically urban and middle class, they were not especially singled out for trouble by Saddam Hussein's regime but were vocal in welcoming its demise. But the chaos in Iraq has opened the door to Islamist militants who [seek] a Muslim theocracy.

Hundreds of Christian families reportedly have already fled abroad, and more wish to follow them. This unhappy development is just one more unintended — but not entirely unpredicted — consequence of President Bush's determination to go to war in Iraq.

An ugly religious fanaticism has taken root there for the first time, and it could very easily come to haunt the United States some day. The president's unwavering focus on the evil of Saddam blinded him to the other potent evils lurking in the wings.

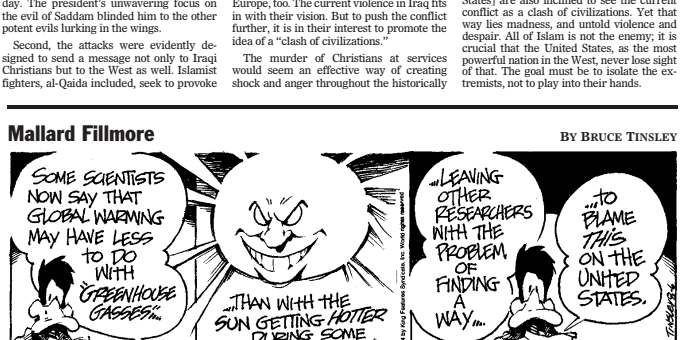
Second, the attacks were evidently designed to send a message not only to Iraqi Christians but to the West as well. Islamist fighters, al-Qaida included, seek to provoke a general war, one that would lead to the rise of a unified Islamic caliphate stretching from Indonesia to Morocco — and deep into Europe, too. The current violence in Iraq fits in with their vision. But to push the conflict further, it is in their interest to promote the idea of a "clash of civilizations."

The murder of Christians at services would seem an effective way of creating shock and anger throughout the historically Christian countries of Europe and America, and set the stage for a furious reaction.

Unfortunately, many people in [the States] are also inclined to see the current conflict as a clash of civilizations. Yet that way lies madness, and untold violence and despair. All of Islam is not the enemy; it is crucial that the United States, as the most powerful nation in the West, never lose sight of that. The goal must be to isolate the extremists, not to play into their hands.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Scary scarecrows

CT EAST LYME — The ghostly white scarecrows on Joseph Smith's cornfield frightened more than the geese he was trying to scare away.

The scarecrows so closely resembled Ku Klux Klan garb that they sparked complaints from minority guards and visitors at a nearby prison.

Workers on Smith's farm made the scarecrows last week out of the white, hooded environmental suits they wear to spray the crops.

Soon after, administrators at the J.B. Gates Correctional Institution began receiving complaints.

Smith's wife, Terri Smith, said the entire episode was a misunderstanding.

"We were just trying to scare away the geese," she said.

"We're like the most non-racist people you'd ever meet."

The Mexican seasonal workers on the farm have tried several tactics to keep the geese away from the corn. Because the prison is close by, the workers cannot fire guns or use other loud sounds like they do on another property they farm.

The first complaints came from visitors to the prison, said Gene Tewksbury, president of AFSCME Local 1565, the union that represents prison guards.

"If you were driving up there, what would you think?" Tewksbury said.

The scarecrows have been removed.

Dealer sold drugs to cop

OH MOUNT STERLING — Undercover officers weren't needed to nab this alleged drug dealer.

William McCrary was charged with selling drugs to a uniformed police officer sitting in his marked cruiser, police said.

"It was one of those things where he got comfortable with thinking Officer [Brian] Botkin would do it," Mount Sterling Police Detective Joe Cox said Tuesday. "Probably every drug dealers' main goal is to get a police officer on their side. Look at where you could go from there."

McCrary, 30, was indicted by a grand jury on July 14 on three counts of trafficking in drugs, all fifth-degree felonies.

"We are probably just as amazed that it went through, as most people that read about it would be," Cox said.

McCrary is currently jailed for violating a civil protection order.

Botkin led McCrary and another man to believe he had been a heavy marijuana user before he became an officer in order to establish a relationship with them.

"Our plan was to use him to go up the chain," Botkin said.

"But now he's in jail and [his supplier] knows."

Park loses puppy

FL ORLANDO — The Universal Orlando theme park is in the doghouse after losing a puppy a guest had left at its kennel.

Joe Wheat thought Connor, a 4-month-old white Labrador retriever, was in good hands during his visit on Saturday. And Connor was, until the moment the kennel handed him to someone else.

"We take care of more than 5,000 animals a year, and this is the first time we've ever faced a situation like this," Universal spokesman Tom Schroder said Tuesday.

Wheat said when he dropped off Connor, with his favorite chew toy, at the 117-cage kennel on Saturday afternoon, he filled out a form that asked for information on himself and his dog. He should've received a pink duplicate that acts as a claim ticket, but didn't.

When Wheat returned about six hours later to retrieve his retriever, Connor was gone. The dog had been checked out by someone with the ticket.

On Sunday, Wheat found Conner's toy in the park's RV parking lot, about 300 feet away from the kennel. Wheat said he was upset park officials wouldn't let him review security tapes.

"At this point, we're trying to understand what happened and, more importantly, trying to get Conner back to Mr. Wheat," Schroder said.

Dengue fever alert

HI HAGATNA — Residents returning from the Festival of Pacific Arts in Palau were being advised by health officials to be alert to symptoms of dengue fever.

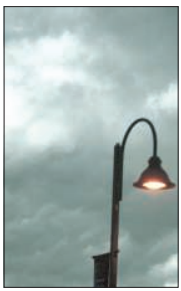
The U.S. territory's Department of Public Health and Social Services said a dengue fever outbreak was confirmed in Palau just as the festival ended in Koror.

About 6,000 people from 26 Pacific Rim countries, territories and the state of Hawaii were in Palau to showcase their traditional art and culture. The festival began July 22 and ended Saturday.

Dengue fever is spread by infected mosquitoes, and symptoms include fever, severe headaches and eye, joint and muscle pain, public health officials said.

"We're always concerned when there's a disease outbreak in our neighbor islands. We're worried it might be spread to Guam," said Dr. Robert Haddock, Guam's territorial epidemiologist.

Guam hasn't had a locally spread outbreak of dengue fever since 1944, he said.



Bad weather ahead

A street light on Fifth Street shines in the rain Tuesday afternoon as a storm front moves in on Ames, Iowa.

Hero assists victim

CO DENVER — A convicted murderer allegedly pepper-sprayed an 83-year-old woman as she sat at a bus stop and stole her purse, only to be tackled by a passerby minutes later.

When police arrived to arrest the suspect — 6-foot-5, 250-pound Ronald Austin Pierson — he was sitting quietly at the feet of Raymond Contreras, who stands just more than 5 feet and weighs about 110 pounds.

Officers had trouble putting handcuffs around Pierson's wrists because they are so big, police said.

Pierson, 51, was convicted in 1977 for murdering a man who he thought slept with his fiancee.

"Mr. Contreras stepped up to the plate," Officer Mark Duran said.

"He's a hero in my book."

Man killed fleeing scene

CA FREMONT — A man was hit and killed by a car after fleeing from another accident, authorities report.

Alberto Escobedo Najera, 27, was among three men who fled after the Ford Ranger they were riding overturned, the California Highway Patrol said.

Najera jumped over the center divider into the southbound lanes, where a 2001 Audi driven by Santos Lopez, 32, hit him. Lopez was not cited.

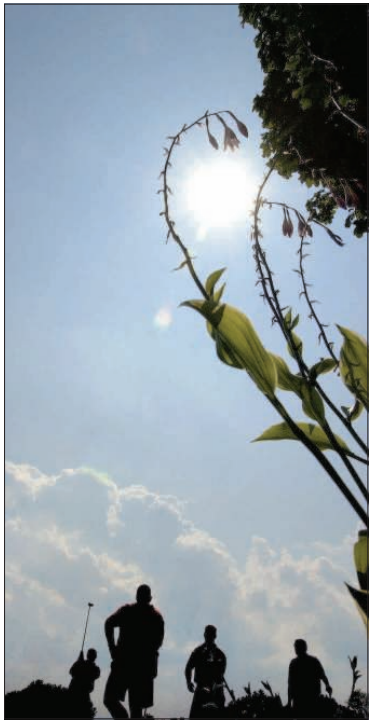
The other men seen running with Najera have not been found.

Campaign had no effect

AR LITTLE ROCK — The tens of millions of dollars spent on a campaign to reduce smoking in Arkansas hasn't had any significant effect yet, a new study says. A report by Santa Monica, Calif.-based RAND Corp. says the percentage of Arkansas adults who smoke has remained fairly constant, about 25 percent, since 1996, though a slight drop was detected in the past year. Gov. Mike Huckabee wants to reduce the percentage of adolescents who smoke to 16 percent and the percentage of adults who smoke to 12 percent by 2007.

Parents question law

KY LOUISVILLE — Some parents of schoolchildren are complaining about a federal law requiring high schools to provide the military with information about students. Since the enactment in 2002 of the No Child Left Behind Act, high schools must give recruiters student information, which is used to appeal directly to teenagers. Grayson County High School Principal Mic Huffman questioned the need to contact teens without parental involvement.



Four under the sun

A golfer tees off at the first tee as others watch Tuesday at Capital Hills Golf Course in Albany, N.Y. Bright blue skies and temperatures in the high 80s brought people outside to take advantage of the nice weather.

Football heat

Craig Littles of Biloxi, Miss., cools off Monday during a break from the first day of football practice at Biloxi High School. Littles is a sophomore offensive lineman for the Indians. Temperatures in the 90s met football players across south Mississippi as they began practice for the upcoming season.

On the ropes

Mark Gettmann, center, of Seattle, Wash., works his way across the "skywalk" rope obstacle Tuesday during the Boy Scouts of America's 2004 National Order of the Arrow Conference at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Light show over Salt Lake City

Two lightning bolts appear to touch down during a storm Tuesday night in Salt Lake City.

In the aftermath

Winds that reached 75 to 80 mph in Vinton, Iowa, uprooted this tree Tuesday night. Straightline winds downed trees and power lines in Vinton.

Man attends court drunk

PA UNIONTOWN — Something smelled rotten when Michael Hanczyk showed up in court to fight a drunken driving charge.

Authorities say it was the booze on his breath.

A judge stopped a hearing Tuesday and ordered the 42-year-old Hanczyk to take a field sobriety test after he and others said they smelled alcohol on Hanczyk's breath.

"Everyone smelled him," said district attorney Nancy Vernon.

A breath test indicated that Hanczyk had a blood alcohol content of 0.296 percent, more than three times the state's legal limit, Vernon said.

Fayette County Judge John Wagner Jr. threatened to put Hanczyk in jail for 30 days for contempt of court, but then said he would wait for a blood test. Hanczyk was taken to a hospital and the hearing was rescheduled.

Drug lab at church

ND LEONARD — A trustee stopping to deliver towels at a rural North Dakota church last week wondered why church doors were locked.

Later that evening, congregants expecting a service instead found sheriff's deputies officials with guns drawn.

"Who would have thought somebody would turn an active church into an active amphetamine lab?" asked Rick Majerus, a Cass County, N.D., sheriff's lieutenant.

"There have been active meth-amphetamine labs in the back seats of cars, bathtubs and abandoned barns, but nobody I've talked to has ever heard of a meth lab in a church," Majerus said.

But, authorities said, that is what happened at the Bethel Moravian Church near Leonard, about 40 miles southwest of Fargo.

Ted Brewer, 22, of Leonard, has been charged with attempting to manufacture a controlled substance, burglary and two counts of possessing drug paraphernalia — all felonies.

College's system hacked

NH HANOVER — Hackers infiltrated the computer system at Dartmouth College and had access to sensitive information on thousands of employees, retirees and students, school officials said. There were no indications the hackers tapped the personal information, the officials said. Hackers frequently try to break into university systems to gain illegal access to music and movies.

Safety efforts in place

CA LOS ANGELES — The spread of West Nile virus in southern California has led advocates for the homeless to call for extra safety measures for people who sleep outside. A city councilwoman has asked a team from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to pass out information about the disease and talk with campers. A study in Houston found that 10 percent of West Nile encephalitis cases in 2002 were homeless people.

Manure kills fish

WI LOYD — Cow manure that leaked into several southwestern Wisconsin streams killed thousands of fish, state environmental officials said. It could take years for the streams to recover, the state Department of Natural Resources said. The agency is contemplating taking action against the farmers who owned the responsible cows.

Boeing to hire engineers

KS WICHITA — Boeing Co. plans to hire more than 460 engineers at its Wichita plant through next year to work on the new 7E7 jetliner and on a Navy program to adapt 737 aircraft for use as reconnaissance planes, according to The Wichita Eagle. Boeing also announced it would rehire 200 production workers who were among the 5,000 people laid off since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Alleged thieves nabbed

WV KINGWOOD — Two men who allegedly broke into the same store twice in the same night were arrested when they were spotted across the street later the same morning.

Surveillance video shows two people breaking into the Manown Mini Mart before midnight Sunday, and again early Monday morning.

"When the alarm went on the second time and we came out here, we were just thinking, certainly, it's something silly, surely someone just bumped the door or something, certainly they didn't come back," said Linda Huggins, who owns the store with her husband, Randy.

Wine coolers, fortified wine and cigarettes were taken from the store, Randy Huggins said.

As the couple was cleaning up after the second break-in, Huggins said he heard an ATV start outside. Walking to a church parking lot across the street, he recognized the men from the surveillance video.

Huggins grabbed Michael Christopher Lovy and deputies caught Zachary Scott Mori, who fled on foot. Both men are 18 and from Waldorf, Md.

Lovy and Mori were charged with two counts each of breaking and entering and conspiracy.

Kingwood is about 20 miles southeast of Morgantown.

Center in billing dispute

IN FORT WAYNE — The Fort Wayne Sexual Assault Treatment Center is suspending operations because of a billing dispute with the state. The center plans to stop treating victims by Aug. 13.

Officials at the center say the state has been late in paying the center for its work. But state and local officials say the center has been double-billing and overcharging for services.

Council offers help

VT BURLINGTON — The Vermont Council on Problem Gambling is offering face-to-face counseling for the first time in its eight-year history, organizers said. The move follows an increase in funding from the Legislature. The council's new $90,000 yearly budget is about double what it was getting previously. Counselors will work from offices in Bellows Falls and Burlington.

Stories and photos from wire services

YOUR MONEY

Saying air bags help is a safe assumption

Dear Tom and Ray:

Am I safer in a bigger, older car that doesn't handle particularly well and has no new safety features (i.e. my '92 Volvo 940 sedan), or a newer compact car with side-curtain air bags that handles well and performs well in crash tests (i.e. a VW Jetta)? Does young but small trump big but old? — Ruby

RAY: So you've got the hots for a new Jetta, huh, Ruby?

TOM: It's not an easy question to answer. There are a number of things that factor into a car's "safeness." Size is just one of them.

RAY: There's also design. Some cars are designed to better protect their occupants with crumple zones, passenger roll cages and reinforced door beams. Some cars add electronics, such as dynamic stability control and anti-lock brakes. And then there are air bags: front, side, head and even knee bags.

TOM: And finally, there's active safety — how well a car handles in emergency situations, to help you avoid an accident in the first place. So, size is an important factor, but it's only one factor.

RAY: In general, I'd have to say that newer cars tend to have more safety advantages than older cars. But your older Volvo might be an exception to this rule. Despite its lack of some of the modern electronics and additional air bags, it is a large car and was extremely well-designed to survive an accident. If you were comparing a '92 Chevy Lumina with a newer car, I'd give the nod to the newer car for safety. But the Volvos were pretty good, even back then.

TOM: So it's a tough call, Ruby. We certainly would like to see you with ABS, as many air bags as a manufacturer will give you and even dynamic stability control, if you can get it. But you really have to look up the crash-test ratings of the particular car you're considering, because the results can differ dramatically — even with similar-size cars with identical equipment. You can link to the ratings from our Web site **www.cartalk.com**.

RAY: In your case, in a choice between a new Jetta and a '92 Volvo, it's hard to make the call purely in terms of safety, Ruby. So I think you have to put aside the safety issue and make your decision based on other criteria. Like how much better you're going to look in that new Jetta, for instance. Good luck.

Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk section of cars.com on the World Wide Web. Distributed by King Features Syndicate Inc.

Phoenix grows younger

Online school sees value of accepting 18-year-olds

BY JUSTIN POPE
The Associated Press

You still won't find dormitories or a football team at the University of Phoenix. But starting this fall, the giant, for-profit university system will have something to make it look more like a traditional college: 18- to 21-year-olds.

Throughout its 28-year history, the company has catered to working, older adults, eschewing ivy-draped campuses for classes in office parks or over the Internet. And the school insists older students will remain the target customer.

But looking with its rivals for a way to match the explosive enrollment growth of recent years — and unable to ignore predictions that California alone will be short 700,000 higher education slots within a decade — the University of Phoenix is dipping down. After recently lowering its minimum age from 23 to 21, it disclosed on an investor conference call that its youngest students will soon be 18.

"We have turned away tens of thousands of potential students to this point," Todd Nelson, president and chief executive officer of Phoenix-based Apollo, the university's parent company, said on a conference call last month, during which he also noted the California predictions and the opportunity they present.

The University of Phoenix, which enrolls 213,000 students and has campuses in 30 states, bills itself as the nation's largest private university. But unlike traditional colleges and universities, which are prohibited under terms of their incorporation from making a profit, Phoenix is a subsidiary of the publicly held Apollo, which earns money and has shareholders.

The university is downplaying the lowered age requirement. It says it has no plans to try to become a full-time college for traditional students, and it won't start recruiting in high schools.

But the announcement, though not entirely unexpected, has prompted questions from analysts who follow the industry. They wonder about the potential impact on the learning experience in University of Phoenix classrooms and chatrooms: Will middle-aged students want to collaborate on a research project with a teenager? Is the market for nontraditional students maturing?

The company hopes to enroll younger students this fall, but Apollo spokeswoman Terri Bishop said details haven't been finalized. She said that, in practice, younger students will almost certainly be segregated, since older students generally already have some credits and take different courses.

Still, "in theory, as these students age, then they might mix them," said Jeff Silber, an analyst who follows the company at Harris Nesbitt. "That's definitely a concern."

The University of Phoenix was unusual in the industry for having age minimums at all.

Though its average student age of around 35 has been falling steadily in recent years, that's still higher than rivals. A typical Phoenix student already is in the working world and looking to bolster skills and credentials with an undergraduate or graduate degree. The company relies mostly on part-time faculty, and about half of its students are in online programs, including many U.S. servicemembers in the States or abroad.

But because Phoenix has always branded itself for older students, its announcement prompted questions about whether Apollo is making this move from a position of strength or weakness.

The company says strength, pointing to its 28 percent enrollment growth in the last quarter, which pushed up revenue nearly 36 percent to $465 million and profits up 47 percent to $109.3 million.

Does expanding the student pool "indicate you've kind of gone as far as you can with your previous pool?" said Alexander Paris of Barrington Research. "That's what the cynic would say. Or is it an issue of, 'We're helpful to 23 and above. Why can't we be helpful to 18 and above?' "

For-profit enrollment

After the University of Phoenix recently lowered its minimum age from 23 to 21, it disclosed that its youngest students will soon be 18. Its average students age of 35 has been falling steadily.

SOURCE: Apollo Group AP

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week High	52-week Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
10,753.63	8,997.15	Dow Jones Industrials	10,126.51	-6.27	-.06	-3.19	+11.35
3,212.45	2,526.38	Dow Jones Transportation	3,119.47	-1.67	-.03	+3.74	+23.11
285.07	229.46	Dow Jones Utilities	284.46	+1.21	+.43	+6.58	+22.00
6,798.12	5,430.77	NYSE Composite	6,385.06	-17.65	-.28	-.86	+16.92
1,278.81	938.73	Amex Index	1,237.69	-13.36	-1.07	+5.47	+31.03
2,153.83	1,640.88	Nasdaq Composite	1,855.86	-4.36	-.23	-7.40	+12.25
1,163.23	960.84	S&P 500	1,098.63	-1.06	-.10	-1.20	+13.60
618.46	477.91	S&P MidCap	571.47	-2.01	-.35	-.79	+18.79
686.42	449.97	Russell 2000	542.67	-.96	-.18	-2.56	+19.55
11,371.14	9,258.56	DJ Wilshire 5000	10,645.79	-21.69	-.20	-1.42	+14.38

NYSE MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Lucent	403704	3.06	+.06
SchergPl	229872	17.96	-1.14
NortelN lf	177631	3.70	-.04
ATT Wirls	167589	14.33	-.10
Gap	154531	21.38	-.86
Texlnst	148963	20.33	-.04
AMD	138956	11.86	+.26
TimeWarn	137223	16.88	-.03
ExxonMbl	122889	46.24	-.65
GenElec	132622	32.88	+.01

AMEX MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
NasdI100Tr	857143	34.25	+.82
SPDR	370329	110.20	-.86
SemiHTr	229667	32.09	+.24
Diabn2400	53860	107.34	-.89
DJIA Diam	59194	101.42	+.17
ISkJapan	44406	9.73	-.05
SP Engy	38421	32.04	-.76
OilSvcHT	36416	72.87	-2.83
RetailHT	29576	87.42	+.82
WheatHlt g	24595	2.53	-.01

NASDAQ MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
IAC Interac	864785	22.80	+.23
Cisco s	884852	17.66	-.68
Intel	557356	23.97	-.16
Oracle	512395	11.82	+.14
Microsoft	450128	28.06	-.01
Dell	439910	35.12	+.38
ApldMatl	322961	17.00	+.55
Yahoo s	297929	27.91	-1.24
SiriusS	251060	2.32	-.07
JDS Uniph	249423	3.35	+.03

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Alliant Techsystem	...	15	62.35	-.45	+7.9
Armor Holdings	...	36	37.35	+.16	+42.8
Boeing	.80	16	51.00	+.24	+21.0
Computer Sciences	...	17	45.75	-.45	+1.4
Engineered Sup Sys	.07	24	53.59	-.16	-2.7
General Dynamics	.14	18	98.75	+.16	+9.2
General Electric	.80	22	32.88	+.01	+6.3
Halliburton	.50	...	30.63	-.75	+17.8
Harris Corp.	.40	24	48.13	+.16	+26.8
Allied Signal	.75	22	36.66	-.34	+9.7
L-3 Communications	.40	19	60.31	...	+17.4
Lockheed Martin	.88	21	54.08	+.68	+5.2
Northrop Gr	.92	21	53.36	+.36	+11.6
Raytheon	.80	75	34.33	+.66	+14.3
Rockwell Intl.	.66	22	37.71	+.65	+5.9
Sequa Corp.	...	39	51.20	+.49	+4.5
Texas Instruments	.09	25	20.33	-.34	-30.8
Textron Inc.	1.30	33	63.37	+.86	+11.1
United Technologies	1.40	18	93.68	+.81	-1.2

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	NAV	Chg.	YTD %Ret.
Fidelity Invest: Growc	35.48	-.01	+.1
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	47.12	-.26	-6.5
Amer Century Inv: Ultra	26.07	-.16	-2.2
Fidelity Spartan: EqIdx	39.01	-.03	-.4
Putnam Funds A: Gro p	17.81	-.01	+.5
Fidelity Invest: A Mgr	15.43	-.02	+1.2
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	10.30	-.10	-4.3
AIM Investments A: Const p	20.33	-.04	-5.5
Fidelity Invest: USBl	11.52	...	+1.2
Fidelity Advisor T: GrOppT	27.52	-.08	-3.9
Fidelity Invest: Overse	29.93	-.29	-5.8
Fidelity Advisor T: EqInT	26.22	-.07	+1.7
Scudder Funds S: GrowthS	19.95	-.04	-.7
AIM Investments A: WeinrpA p	11.53	-.04	-4.6
Putnam Funds A: GlbEqty p	7.33	-.03	-1.7
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	11.98	-.03	+.1
Merrill Lynch I: BalCapI	26.40	-.04	+.7
Scudder Funds S: Intl FdS	37.45	-.38	-2.5
Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT	14.57	-.12	-5.3
Lord Abbett A: DevGtA p	13.40	-.11	-10.7
Scudder Funds S: Income S	12.79	...	+1.7
Merrill Lynch I: USGvMtg	10.21	...	+1.2
Scudder Funds S: Devel	17.81	-.05	-9.6
Putnam Funds A: GlGvA p	12.39	-.01	-.3

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro	$1.24
British pound	$1.87
Japanese yen (Aug. 7)	108.00
S. Korean won (Aug. 6)	1,136.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3768
British pound	$1.8245
Canada (Dollar)	1.3168
Denmark (Krone)	6.1718
Egypt (Pound)	6.20
Euro	$1.2041
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7993
Hungary (Forint)	207.38
Iceland (Krona)	71.80
Israel (Shekel)	4.5269
Japan (Yen)	111.34
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2948
Norway (Krone)	6.9517
Philippines (Peso)	55.74
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7509
Singapore (Dollar)	1.7724
S. Korea (Won)	1,166.04
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2766
Thailand (Baht)	41.48
Turkey (Lira)	1,470,588.00

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

PRECIOUS METALS

London close

Gold	$391.30
Silver	$6.67

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.25
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.25
3-month bill	1.465
30-year bond	5.17

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

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Vacation-home expenses

CBS MarketWatch

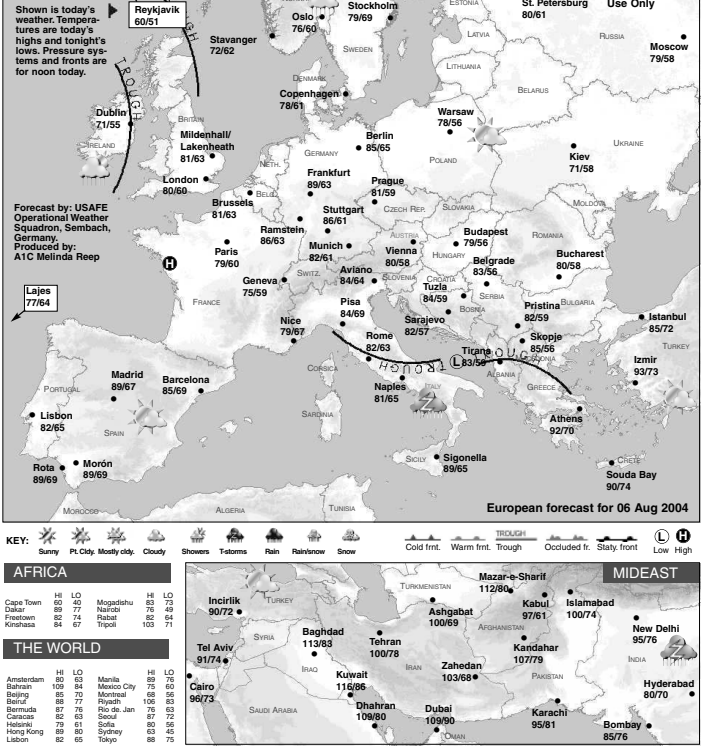
NEW YORK — People buy second homes for various reasons: as a real estate investment, to have a place to retire or as a way to take vacations without paying high rental prices. For others, it's all three, plus a way to make extra cash by renting the home out to other vacationers.

But before you buy a second home, here are some costs to factor in, according to Kiplinger's Personal Finance.

Insurance rates tend to be about 20 percent higher than those on your first home. Factor in additional coverage if the house is in an area prone to natural disasters. And if you plan to rent out the home, expect to pay even more for flood insurance.

Mortgage and loan rates also tend to be higher than those on your first home, and lenders may ask that you make a down payment of 20 percent to 35 percent. On the plus side, however, you can search for lenders in your hometown or in the area where the vacation house is located.

Whether you keep the home for your own use or rent it out, know that you'll need to maintain the property. That can be difficult if you live far away, so you may need to hire a property manager.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with morning rain showers. Highs will be in the 80s with lows in the 60s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers. Highs will be in the lower 70s to lower 80s with lows in the mid 50s to 60s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated afternoon thunderstorms. Highs will be in the lower 80s with lows in the upper 50s.

France: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s with lows in the 60s.

Northern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs will be in the upper 80s with lows in the 60s.

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms. Highs will be in the 80s with lows in the 60s.

Hungary: Cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs will be in the upper 70s with lows in the upper 50s.

Northern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated afternoon thunderstorms. Highs will be in the 80s with lows in the 60s.

Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs will be in the 80s with lows in the 60s.

Kosovo: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated afternoon rain showers and thunderstorms. High temperatures in the low 90s.

Norway: Cloudy with isolated rain-showers. Highs will be in the 70s with lows in the 60s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs will be in the 80s with lows in the upper 60s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs will be in the mid 80s to 90s with lows in the 70s.

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

AFRICA

	Hi	LO		Hi	LO
Cape Town	60	40	Mogadishu	83	73
Dakar	89	77	Nairobi	76	49
Freetown	82	74	Rabat	82	64
Kinshasa	84	67	Tripoli	103	71

MIDEAST

THE WORLD

	Hi	LO		Hi	LO
Amsterdam	80	63	Manila	89	76
Bahrain	109	84	Mexico City	75	60
Beijing	85	70	Montreal	68	56
Beirut	88	77	Riyadh	106	83
Bermuda	87	76	Rio de Jan.	76	63
Caracas	82	63	Seoul	87	72
Helsinki	79	61	Sofia	80	56
Hong Kong	89	80	Sydney	63	45
Lisbon	82	65	Tokyo	88	75

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (London)	0526	0528
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	0602	0604
Sunset (London)	2040	2038
Sunset (Frankfurt)	2102	2100

Last qtr. 08/07 · New moon 08/16 · First qtr. 08/23 · Full moon 08/30

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

	Hi	Lo	Otlk																				
				Cleveland	69	53	PCldy	Hartford Spgfld	74	54	PCldy	New York City	76	62	PCldy	San Francisco	71	57	Clr
Abilene,Tex.	90	71	Cldy	Colorado Springs	83	58	PCldy	Helena	87	53	PCldy	Newark	77	59	PCldy	San Jose	81	58	Clr
Akron,Ohio	69	51	PCldy	Columbia,S.C.	85	60	Clr	Honolulu	90	77	PCldy	Norfolk,Va.	74	60	PCldy	San Juan,P.R.	89	78	PCldy
Albany,N.Y.	70	53	PCldy	Columbus,Ga.	89	62	PCldy	Houston	92	70	PCldy	North Platte	84	62	PCldy	Santa Fe	85	58	PCldy
Albuquerque	89	67	PCldy	Columbus,Ohio	72	54	Clr	Huntsville	84	58	Clr	Oklahoma City	88	66	Cldy	St Ste Marie	72	50	Clr
Allentown,Pa.	72	53	PCldy	Concord,N.H.	72	50	PCldy	Indianapolis	75	54	Clr	Omaha	82	64	PCldy	Savannah	86	63	Clr
Amarillo	87	65	PCldy	Corpus Christi	96	73	PCldy	Jackson,Miss.	86	60	Clr	Orlando	90	74	Rain	Seattle	64	56	Rain
Anchorage	71	54	PCldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	91	71	PCldy	Jacksonville	89	71	PCldy	Paducah	82	53	Clr	Shreveport	90	66	PCldy
Asheville	77	51	Clr	Dayton	72	53	Clr	Juneau	m	m	mm	Pendleton	81	52	PCldy	Sioux City	84	62	PCldy
Atlanta	86	59	PCldy	Daytona Beach	90	74	Cldy	Kansas City	81	60	PCldy	Peoria	77	55	Clr	Sioux Falls	82	63	PCldy
Atlantic City	73	58	PCldy	Denver	86	62	PCldy	Key West	90	79	PCldy	Philadelphia	75	61	PCldy	South Bend	74	53	PCldy
Austin	96	71	PCldy	Des Moines	80	60	Clr	Knoxville	84	56	Clr	Phoenix	105	86	PCldy	Spokane	75	49	Rain
Baltimore	76	54	PCldy	Detroit	73	55	PCldy	Lake Charles	92	69	Clr	Pittsburgh	68	49	PCldy	Springfield,Ill.	79	55	Clr
Baton Rouge	89	66	Clr	Duluth	76	50	Clr	Lansing	75	52	PCldy	Pocatello	90	51	Clr	Springfield,Mo.	82	58	Clr
Billings	90	60	PCldy	El Paso	96	72	PCldy	Las Vegas	100	80	PCldy	Portland,Maine	71	54	PCldy	Syracuse	70	51	Cldy
Birmingham	84	57	Clr	Elkins	68	45	PCldy	Lexington	74	53	PCldy	Portland,Ore.	74	58	Rain	Tallahassee	91	67	PCldy
Bismarck	85	61	PCldy	Erie	68	54	PCldy	Lincoln	85	63	PCldy	Providence	74	56	PCldy	Tampa-St Pbsbg	87	76	Rain
Boise	89	54	Clr	Eugene	75	50	Cldy	Little Rock	85	62	Clr	Pueblo	91	59	PCldy	Toledo	73	52	Clr
Boston	70	57	PCldy	Evansville	80	55	PCldy	Los Angeles	82	63	Clr	Raleigh-Durham	79	57	Clr	Topeka	82	62	PCldy
Bridgeport	76	58	PCldy	Fairbanks	79	52	Clr	Louisville	79	55	Clr	Rapid City	85	62	PCldy	Tucson	99	76	PCldy
Brownsville	97	78	PCldy	Fargo	82	61	Cldy	Lubbock	90	68	PCldy	Reno	87	56	Clr	Tulsa	84	63	PCldy
Buffalo	66	53	PCldy	Flagstaff	77	51	PCldy	Macon	88	62	PCldy	Richmond	75	55	PCldy	Tupelo	84	57	Clr
Burlington,Vt.	65	49	PCldy	Flint	73	52	PCldy	Madison	77	54	Clr	Roanoke	74	53	Clr	Waco	94	70	PCldy
Caribou,Maine	69	51	PCldy	Fort Smith	85	61	Clr	Medford	80	56	Cldy	Rochester	67	54	PCldy	Washington,D.C.	76	57	PCldy
Casper	90	58	PCldy	Fort Wayne	74	53	PCldy	Memphis	83	62	Clr	Rockford	77	54	Clr	W.Palm Beach	91	74	Rain
Charleston,S.C.	84	62	Clr	Fresno	98	66	Clr	Miami Beach	91	75	Rain	Sacramento	87	57	Clr	Wichita	84	62	PCldy
Charleston,W.Va.	73	52	PCldy	Goodland	85	61	PCldy	Midland,Odessa	94	73	PCldy	Salem,Ore.	76	54	Cldy	Wichita Falls	91	69	PCldy
Charlotte,N.C.	81	57	Clr	Grand Junction	91	62	PCldy	Milwaukee	73	57	Clr	St Thomas	90	79	PCldy	Wilkes-Barre	70	53	PCldy
Chattanooga	83	57	Clr	Grand Rapids	75	53	PCldy	Mpls-St Paul	78	63	Clr	Salt Lake City	92	64	PCldy	Wilmington,Del.	74	57	PCldy
Cheyenne	84	58	PCldy	Great Falls	84	52	PCldy	Mobile	90	65	Clr	San Angelo	92	71	Cldy	Yakima	81	51	PCldy
Chicago	75	54	Clr	Green Bay	76	53	Clr	Montgomery	88	60	Clr	San Antonio	95	73	PCldy				
Cincinnati	73	53	Clr	Greensboro,N.C.	77	55	Clr	Nashville	79	56	Clr	San Diego	72	67	PCldy				
				Harrisburg	74	53	PCldy	New Orleans	89	74	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.

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STARS AND STRIPES

FACES 'N' PLACES

On an island far, far away

George Lucas, the man behind the "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones" films, has teamed with **Singapore** to set up his first animation studio and production house outside the **United States**, government and corporate officials said.

The Lucasfilm venture is expected to be up and running in Singapore by 2005, **Micheline Chau**, the company's chief operating officer, said Tuesday.

"By having a base here in Singapore, we can create something new in animation, a style that will blend East and West and offer something not seen before," Lucas said in a recorded message.

Celebrating Canadian film

The **Toronto** International Film Festival will celebrate emerging Canadian filmmakers with work featuring stars such as **Nick Nolte**, **Eric Stoltz** and **Jennifer Tilly**.

The festival, which will run Sept. 9-18, will include **Olivier Assayas'** "Clean," starring Nolte and **Maggie Cheung**; **Don McKellar**'s "Childstar," starring Stoltz, **Jennifer Jason Leigh**, **Dave Foley** and **Gil Bellows**; and "Saint Ralph," directed by **Michael McGowan** and starring Tilly, **Campbell Scott** and **Gordon Pinsent**.

Tilly

The festival puts Canadian "cinema and emerging filmmakers at the very front and center of one of the grandest stages for films today," **Noah Cowan**, co-director of the festival, said Tuesday.

Organizers hope to schedule more than 300 films from 50 countries on 21 screens during the two-week event. The full listing is expected by late August.

Beverly Hillbillies not in business

Max Baer Jr. said a judge's ruling won't stop him from pursuing his proposed Beverly Hillbillies Mansion & Casino in a **Carson City, Nev.**, shopping center.

The 66-year-old former TV actor said he disagrees with a judge's interpretation of restrictive covenants on the former Wal-Mart property.

Baer

District Judge **Michael Griffin** has ruled that the restrictions prohibit places of recreation or amusement on the property, which is co-owned by J.C. Penney and the Glenbrook Corp.

Baer said he won't sell the property and will let it remain vacant if he can't build his proposed $54 million casino, based on the '60s TV comedy. Baer played the doltish Jethro Bodine.

"My plan is to do a casino there," Baer said recently. "I paid cash for it so I have no debt on it. I can afford to leave it there in perpetuity and I can write it off."

His plans include a 200-foot flaming oil derrick at the entrance to a 30,000-square-foot casino with 800 slot machines and 16 game tables. Also planned are a movie theater, 240-room hotel and restaurants — all keyed on "The "Beverly Hillbillies" series.

Phish and pigs

Despite all the hubbub about next week's concert by the jam band **Phish** in its home state of **Vermont**, **Angela Young** had something else on her mind.

"Who's responsible for the pigs if something happens?" said Young, who raises the animals at her farm next to the concert site.

Vermont State Police Maj. **Jim Dimmick** told her police would treat it like any investigation and try to identify the responsible party. Generally, he said, police presence will be strong on the concert site and in surrounding towns.

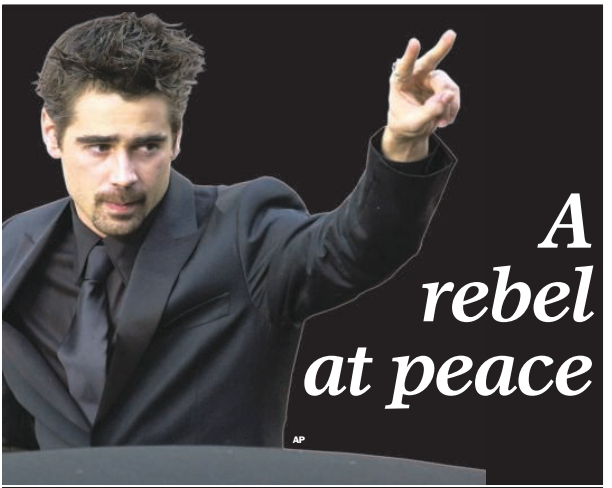
The Phish show, scheduled for Aug. 14-15 at the Newport State Airport, will be the band's farewell performance. At least 70,000 fans are expected to attend.

Local residents met with police and promoters Monday to discuss the two-day festival. Most questions from the audience during the two-hour meeting focused on traffic, which Dimmick, town selectmen and concert promoters acknowledged was going to be the biggest problem.

State police also expect to make arrests, Dimmick said, but past Phish festivals have shown little in the way of crime. Most crimes occur on the site and are usually for stolen items or property damage.

There also will likely be drug arrests, but Dimmick said, "We are not going to arrest everybody who has a joint. There's no way we can do that."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



AP

A rebel at peace

Bad-boy actor Colin Farrell finds contentment on and off camera with stable career, new child

BY MIKE SZYMANSKI
Zap2it.com

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Bad-boy movie star Colin Farrell insists he's calming down a bit now that he has a 10-month-old boy. He's not traveling much from his Dublin home, and is more at peace.

"I have a beautiful son, and as long as I can be with him and as long as he always knows where his dad is, and I can go work as well, I'm fine," says the actor, who walks into a press conference with a beer and lit cigarette in his hand, ignoring the no-smoking policy at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

"I don't know, man," he says, when asked about his child with model Kim Bordenave, "The first time you hold your baby in your arms, I mean, a sense of strength and love washed over me, and I never thought that possible. I love him in a different way and in a stronger way than I love my mother. I mean, I adore my mother, but this a very pure love, unconditional to the extreme."

> *"The first time you hold your baby in your arms, I mean, a sense of strength and love washed over me, and I never thought that possible."*
>
> **Colin Farrell**
> actor

Farrell says his mother still keeps scrapbooks of articles about her son, including the sensational ones when he's fooling around with Britney Spears or Demi Moore. Most likely, he says, she's now clipping stories about the recent controversy of his nude scene cut from "A Home at the End of the World."

"That's boring, man, there's got to be more happening in the world, in cinema, internationally," says the actor, peppering his interview with plenty of four-letter words. The brief full-frontal nude scene was cut because he and the director, Michael Mayer, thought it was too distracting.

Farrell pursued the story by Pulitzer Prize-winner Michael Cunningham, who wrote "The Hours." He stars as a guy in the 1970s named Bobby who has a relationship with both a childhood friend, Jonathan, (played by Dallas Roberts) and a woman, Clare (Robin Wright Penn), who has his baby. Oscar winner Sissy Spacek plays Jonathan's mom, and "Amadeus" star Tom Hulce produced the project.

"I could see in his eyes that he was so passionate for the project. It's timely because their relationship couldn't happen as easily now, in a time when things are so priggish, prurient, repressive and self-conscious," says first-time film director Mayer, a theater director who staged the national tour of "Angels in America."

"This is a timely film."

Actor Dallas Roberts, who spends a few scenes kissing Farrell, says, "The country is hyper aware of these labels of sexuality and love, and part of the country is trying to say what is natural or not natural for everyone. I look forward to a time that it's not an issue anymore and when people can ask me not what it's like to play a gay man, but what it's like to play a great character."

Farrell admits he's a lot like Bobby. "He really just seems to think that there are no problems, that everything is beautiful and there is a grand scheme of things. He very much lives in the moment. I'm a pretty open fella, you might've guessed. I'm also not as gentle as him and I'm fairly gentle."

He wasn't too gentle, however, when diapering the baby in the film.

"I was terrible at changing; every time I held that little girl, she wailed," Farrell says. "It's different when it's yours, though. Instinct kicks in or something."

He calls his character "a lover." "Bobby could move back to New York and if he met a girl who rocked his world, he'd be with her and if he met a boy who rocked his world, he'd be with him. Again, you can call that bisexual, of course, but Bobby wouldn't even know that. If you said to him, 'You're bisexual,' he'd think you were talking about purchasing sex. He just exists."

Although he's playing another bisexual in the Oliver Stone epic "Alexander," Farrell says he likes the idea of switching between small films like "Intermission" and big blockbusters like last year's "S.W.A.T."

"'S.W.A.T.' was 4½ months. I definitely wanted to do something else that would just challenge myself a little bit more," Farrell says.

He's working with director Terrence Malick on a period drama about explorer John Smith and the clash between Native Americans and the British, slated for next year.

Horoscope

Jupiter is a jovial sugar daddy in the sky that would love to bestow us with more than we want (whether or not we can handle it). He forms a stressed angle to Pluto, which rules life's extremes. Don't let your proclivities get the best of you. If you feel Mr. Greed taking hold, the best way to handle it is to do the opposite of what he's telling you.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (August 6). This year, you clarify your personal goals and make new ones. By the end of this month, you're seeing yourself in a whole different light. Old love could appear next month, ready to come back. Travel is to distant shores in December. You'll start making more money after you educate yourself in January. Special loves are Cancer or Capricorn.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). If you go after your career goal full force, you'll have it by next week. Time and energy investments have much better returns than monetary investments do. Passionate undercurrents in a friendship are featured.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Add some variation to your schedule to avoid burnout. You'll benefit financially by paying closer attention to the concerns of the people around you. A Pisces or Virgo will keep you laughing. Imagination will win points tonight.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Dynamic magnetism is yours to play around with. You're a heartbreaker — that's a given — but you may also be a dealmaker and a leader. Keep your promises, and you get new responsibilities and extra credit.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). There will be minor irritations at home — keep your cool. Your personal life could use some attention. Sort out your loyalties. Friends aren't helpful in making a difficult decision — do it yourself! Don't accept less than what's fair.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). It's hard to focus on how lucky and gifted you are when there's unrest in a relationship. Your partner isn't perfect, but this person has much to teach you. Be willing to compromise, at least on one issue.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You are exceptionally confident. Romantic ideals need adjusting to fit reality. Once that happens, you're on the brink of a major love affair. Tonight, it pays to be courteous even if you don't like someone.

Joyce Jillson

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You'll be introduced to people who can help your career. Listen to your most fundamental instincts.

Developing friendships are refreshingly real and honest. Your family life is like a circus. Declare a truce tonight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're super-powerful now. If you are unattached or looking for employment, don't rely on friends to set you up. Clean your living space to make room for the new. Be intentional and proactive, instead of letting life rule you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Be grateful for what a loved one brings to your life. In general, a lot more can be accomplished by two than one now. A forgotten obligation keeps coming back until you deal with it. Call that phone number.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Extra attention goes a long way, especially if you're giving it to yourself. You need love, pampering and gentle talk. Your appearance reflects inner growth and transformation. Accept all invitations.

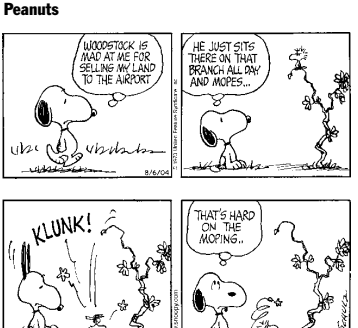
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be torn between handling work details (or at least giving them some thought) and investing your time and attention in playing hard. The id wins out, and you don't even feel like going back to the grindstone after lunch.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're on a roller coaster of emotion.

Take steps to prevent minor things from ruling your life. To a dear friend, your thoughtful gesture means more than an expensive one. What you do for others will be long remembered.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



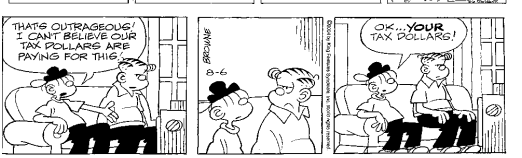
Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

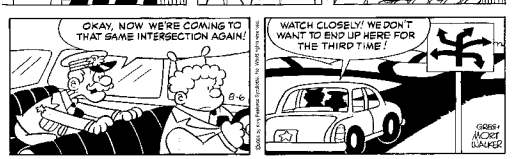
Zits

Cathy

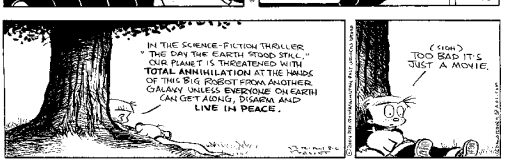
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey

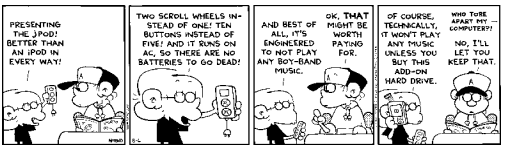


Red and Rover

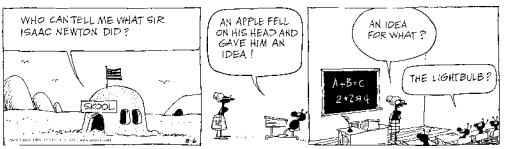


Better or Worse

Foxtrot



B.C.



Baby Blues

Spider Man

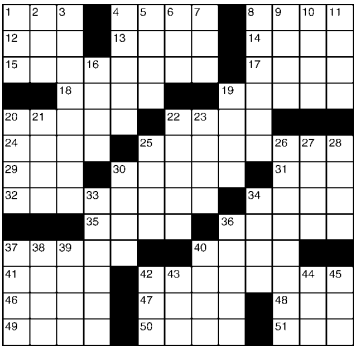
Blondie

Dilbert

Hagar

Garfield

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Ruin the veneer
4 Quid pro quo
8 Moist
12 — Baba
13 Detergent brand
14 Duel tool
15 Risque
17 Aching
18 April 1 victim
19 Duck down
20 Caustic
22 Ostentatious display
24 Family
25 In the wings
29 Ump
30 Lusitania sinker
31 Sine-non link
32 Lateral branch
34 Mongol tent
35 Versifier
36 Dandies
37 Singer McLachlan
40 Bellow
41 Winglike
42 Eggshell
46 Cupid's specialty
47 Dry gully
48 Coffee vessel
49 Ball-bearing items
50 Come in last
51 Comic Caesar

Down

1 Long March leader
2 TV alien
3 Disreputable people
4 Rose
5 G. Gordon Liddy book
6 Commotion
7 Apiece
8 Stop
9 Like two peas in —
10 Unadorned
11 Juror, theoretically
16 Invent
19 Formerly, formerly
20 Height (Pref.)
21 Staff leader
22 Under way
23 "— first you don't ..."
25 Reed instrument
26 "Hair" song
27 Mentor
28 Grub
30 "Oops!"
33 Extras
34 "OK"
36 "Fame" singer
37 Flavor enhancer
38 Shaving-cream additive
39 Glowing review
40 Pastoral P.O. letters
42 Night bird
43 — Schwarz
44 Numerical prefix
45 Extremity

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-6 CRYPTOQUIP

CL Y NAHWTO WYESAAU QCW LTTU PECSA Y ZCS, C WENNTWA QA'U ZA Y LHAPEAOS LHCAH.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WOULD A WARSAW RESIDENT'S OPINION ON SOME RANDOM TOPIC COUNT AS A POLE POSITION?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals F

Close the door on office romance

Dear Abby: My boyfriend of more than a year and I broke up about a month ago. While the split was sudden, I understood his reasons for wanting to end the relationship, and we're still good friends.

Recently, a guy at work expressed an interest in me, and we have made out a few times. This guy is extremely forward, likes to move quickly, and has made it clear that his interest is only physical. I can't seem to find the willpower to tell him to leave me alone. I keep associating with him to fill the void.Can you please help me sort out this mess?

— Torn in Two

Dear Torn: That little voice that's telling you what you're doing isn't right is your intuition. It is trying to steer you in the right direction. When an affair at the office ends, it can be painful and embarrassing to be confronted every day with the ghost of romance past, so take my advice and don't do it.

Dear Abby: I love to bake, and I have heard for years that when baking or cooking with wine or liquor, the alcohol burns off.

I have a cupcake recipe that contains one-half cup of coffee liqueur and yields 30 cupcakes. They were baked at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

One of my co-workers, after having one cupcake, told everyone that she was sure the cupcake had made her drunk.

Is this possible?

— The New Office Bartender, Quincy, Calif.

Dear Bartender: Yes, it is. I posed your question to Sherry Yard, pastry chef at Spago in Beverly Hills. Sherry told me that when the liqueur is put directly into the batter, not all of it burns off — which means people with a sensitivity to alcohol should not eat those cupcakes.

Dear Abby: My husband and I adopted two daughters from China. They are now 3 and 4 years old. Time and again, people ask if the girls are "real sisters."

My daughters are proud to be Chinese, and they know each other only as sisters. What do you recommend answering when we're asked if the girls are "real sisters"?

— Lucky Mom in Michigan

Dear Lucky Mom: There seems to be no limit to the questions people feel entitled to ask when they see families who are multiracial. Your daughters became "real sisters" the minute you adopted them, and I see no reason why you should tell anyone otherwise.

Dear Abby

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

Incest porn habit raises red flag

Dear Annie: I read your column daily, but I never have seen my problem, and it is tearing me apart. Early in my marriage, I discovered that my husband, "Chet," was spending a large portion of his time with computer porn when I wasn't around. The most disturbing part is that at least half the stuff was incest porn. I confronted him, and he swore to stop, but I've caught him at it since then. Chet has begun counseling, but I know for sure he's still looking at these horrible pictures.

In every other way, Chet is a wonderful man. I believe he honestly wants to get to the root of this problem, but he hasn't made much progress since I first discovered him looking at the porn three years ago.

I am not getting any younger and would like to have children, but I am terrified Chet might act on these incest fantasies with our child.

I have no reason to suspect that he ever has done anything like this, but I can't be sure it won't ever happen.

Tell me, Annie, how likely is it that his interest in incest will escalate to action? I need to know what to expect, realistically, before I decide whether or not I can stay in this marriage. I love this man very much, but I want to build a life with someone who can be a safe and loving father for my future children.

— Scared to Death

Dear Scared: There is no way to predict whether or not your husband will commit incest. The porn sites may seem exciting to him, but the reality could be entirely different once he has children. You are wise to be concerned, however.

It's a good sign that Chet admits he needs help and is willing to seek therapy, although you should put a parental control device on the computer and lock him out of the porn sites.

Most incest experts recommend individually tailored cognitive-behavioral treatment for sex offenders. If you have questions about Chet's treatment, discuss them with his therapist. We also recommend you contact Parents Anonymous (parentsanonymous.org), an organization for potential abusers.

The address is: 675 W. Foothill Blvd., Suite 220, Claremont, CA 91711-3475.

Annie's Mailbox

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

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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

FINKE

PURUS

KANTIE

GISTED

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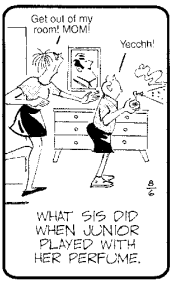
www.jumble.com



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

Ans: A " "

(Answers tomorrow)

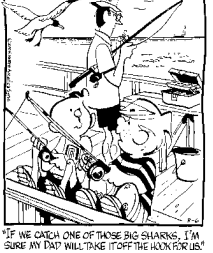
Yesterday's Jumbles: GUILE UNCAP SLOUCH GOITER
Answer: When the ump dialed his wife on their anniversary, he made — THE RIGHT "CALL"

Family Circus

"That's gonna be a hard act to follow."

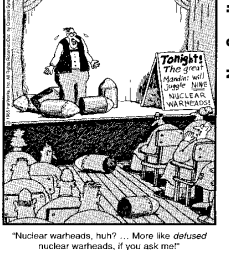
GRAFFITI

Dennis the Menace



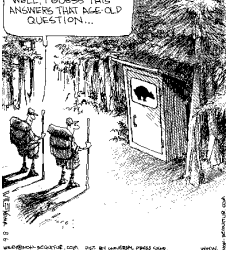
"IF WE CATCH ONE OF THOSE BIG SHARKS, I'M SURE MY DAD WILL TAKE IT OFF THE HOOK FOR US."

The Far Side ©Gary Larson



"Nuclear warheads, huh? … More like *defused* nuclear warheads, if you ask me!"

Non Sequitur



SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

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

Television

Australian Rules Football — Highlights, 7 a.m. Saturday (dld), SPT.

Baseball — MLB: Atlanta at Houston, 2 a.m. Friday, AFN-A; Montreal at St. Louis, 1 p.m. Friday (dld), SPT; Boston at Detroit, 1 a.m. Saturday, SPT; Philadelphia at Los Angeles, 4 a.m. Saturday, SPT; Oakland at Minnesota, 7 p.m. Saturday, AFN-A; N.Y. Mets at St. Louis, 7 p.m. Saturday, SPT; Chicago Cubs at San Francisco, 10 p.m. Saturday, AFN-A; Boston at Detroit, 1 a.m. Sunday, PAC.

Basketball — WNBA All-Stars vs. USA Select Team, 1 a.m. Friday, SPT; USA men at Serbia, 9 a.m. Saturday (dld), SPT.

Boxing — Friday Night Fights, David Lopez (22-12-0, 14 KOs) vs. Kirino Garcia (34-25-2, 26 KOs) for IBA middleweight title, 4 a.m. Saturday, PAC.

Motorsports — Craftsman Trucks Power Stroke Belest 200, 2 p.m. Saturday (dld), SPT; AMA motocross, 6 p.m. Saturday, PAC.

Tennis — ATP Masters Series Cincinnati: round of 16, 9 a.m. Friday (dld), SPT; quarterfinals, 7 p.m. Friday (live) and noon Saturday (dld), both SPT.

X Games — 2004 X Games X: Day 1, 3 a.m. Friday, SPT; Day 2, 9 p.m. Saturday (dld), SPT; Day 3, 10 p.m. Saturday, SPT.

Radio

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

Baseball — Atlanta at Houston, 2 a.m. Friday; Oakland at Minnesota, 2 a.m. Saturday; N.Y. Mets at St. Louis, 7 p.m. Saturday; Chicago Cubs at San Francisco, 10 p.m. Saturday; Cleveland at Chicago White Sox, 1 a.m. Sunday.

AFN-Europe can be reached at DSN 329-4444 or German civ. 069-156-88-444. 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 312/ 348-1319 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	8	6	5	29	33	34
Columbus	6	5	6	24	18	18
D.C. United	5	7	6	21	19	22
Chicago	4	8	7	19	19	24
New England	4	8	6	18	22	28
Western Conference						
Los Angeles	9	5	6	33	35	28
Kansas City	9	5	5	32	28	18
Colorado	6	5	8	26	16	17
Dallas	6	7	5	23	23	25
San Jose	5	6	6	21	24	26

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

Saturday's games
Columbus at New England
Colorado at Dallas
D.C. United at San Jose

Sunday's game
Los Angeles at MetroStars

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	13	12	.520	—
Connecticut	13	14	.481	1
Detroit	13	14	.481	1
Charlotte	12	13	.480	1
Washington	12	14	.462	1½
Indiana	12	15	.444	2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Los Angeles	19	7	.731	—
Seattle	17	8	.680	1½
Minnesota	15	11	.577	4
Phoenix	12	13	.480	6½
Sacramento	12	13	.480	6½
Houston	12	14	.462	7
San Antonio	6	20	.231	13

Sunday's games
Washington 82, Phoenix 62
Minnesota 59, Detroit 58
Seattle 87, Charlotte 55

Monday's games
No games scheduled

Tuesday's games
No games scheduled

Wednesday's games
No games scheduled

Thursday's game
WNBA All-Star Stars vs. U.S. Nationals at New York

Tennis

Masters Cincinnati

Wednesday
At The ATP Tennis Center
Mason, Ohio
Purse: $2.45 million (Masters)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Second Round

Robin Soderling, Sweden, def. Luis Horna, Peru, 6-2, 6-3.

Jonas Bjorkman, Sweden, def. Dominik Hrbaty, Slovakia, 6-7 (6), 6-3, 6-2.

Carlos Moya (4), Spain, def. Ivan Ljubicic, Croatia, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Fabrice Santoro, France, def. Mikhail Youzhny, Russia, 7-5, 6-3.

Wayne Arthurs, Australia, def. Mariano Zabaleta, Argentina, 6-2, 7-6 (6).

Lleyton Hewitt (10), Australia, def. Gustavo Kuerten, Brazil, 6-3, 6-4.

Tommy Haas, Germany, def. Sargis Sargsian, Armenia, 6-3, 6-3.

Ivo Karlovic, Croatia, def. Feliciano Lopez, Spain, 7-6 (7), 6-4.

Andy Roddick (2), United States, def. Nicolas Kiefer, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.

Marat Safin (14), Russia, def. Jeff Morrison, United States, 6-4, 6-4.

Greg Rusedski, Britain, def. Gaston Gaudio (9), Argentina, 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

Paradorn Srichaphan (15), Thailand, def. Sjeng Schalken, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-4.

Tommy Robredo, Spain, def. Juan Carlos Ferrero (7), Spain, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-4.

Juan Ignacio Chela, Argentina, vs. Fernando Gonzalez, Chile, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Andre Agassi (11), United States, def. Thomas Johansson, Sweden, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1.

Tim Henman (5), Britain, def. Hicham Arazi, Morocco, 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Rogers Cup

Thursday
At Uniprix Stadium
Montreal
Purse: $1.3 million (Tier I)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Third Round

Carolina Sprem (12) Croatia, def. Ai Sugiyama (7), Japan, 6-3, 6-4.

Amelie Mauresmo (2), France, def. Elena Bovina (14), Russia, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
ANAHEIM ANGELS—Signed 1B Andres Galarraga to a minor league contract. Recalled C Jeff Mathis from Salt Lake of the PCL.

MINNESOTA TWINS—Placed RHP Grant Balfour on the 15-day DL. Recalled C Rob Bowen from New Britain of the Eastern League.

NEW YORK YANKEES—Optioned LHP Felix Heredia to Tampa of the Florida State League. Purchased the contract of LHP C.J. Nitkowski from Columbus of the IL. Designated INF Ferdin Tejeda for assignment.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Recalled RHP Jeremi Gonzalez from Durham of the IL. Optioned RHP Mike Webb to Durham.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Activated RHP Justin Miller from the 15-day DL. Optioned RHP Michael Nakamura to Syracuse of the IL.

National League
MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Placed INF Keith Ginter on the 15-day DL, retroactive to July 25. Purchased the contract of OF Chris Magruder from Indianapolis of the IL.

SAN DIEGO PADRES—Activated LHP Sterling Hitchcock from the 15-day DL. Purchased the contract of OF Brian Buchanan from Portland of the PCL. Optioned OF Xavier Nady to Portland. Waived INF Jeff Cirillo.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association

DALLAS MAVERICKS—Traded F Antoine Walker and G Tony Delk to Atlanta for G Jason Terry, F Alan Henderson and a future first-round draft pick.

DETROIT PISTONS—Signed G Horace Jenkins.

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES—Matched Portland's offer sheet to G Trenton Hassell.

NEW ORLEANS HORNETS—Named Jim Cleamons assistant coach.

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Acquired F Corliss Williamson and an undisclosed amount of cash from Detroit for F Derrick Coleman and C Amal McCaskill.

SAN ANTONIO SPURS—Signed F Tony Massenburg. Re-signed F Sean Marks.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS—Signed F Samaki Walker.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Agreed to terms with LB Karlos Dansby on a four-year contract. Agreed to terms with DT Daniell Dockett.

CLEVELAND BROWNS—Signed DB Daylon McCutcheon to a five-year contract extension. Signed DB Tim Wansley. Waived DB David Gibson.

DALLAS COWBOYS—Released QB Quincy Carter.

HOUSTON TEXANS—Claimed TE Deltan Dubuc off waivers from Carolina. Waived LB Travis Carroll.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Signed TE Kevin Ware. Released TE Kevin Zurecki.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ATLANTA THRASHERS—Agreed to terms with F Ronald Petrovicky.

EDMONTON OILERS—Agreed to terms with G Eric Brewer on a one-year contract and D Alexei Semenov on a two-year contract.

MONTREAL CANADIENS—Re-signed RW Richard Zednik to a three-year contract.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Agreed to terms with G Tomas Vokoun on a three-year contract.

NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Re-signed F Jason Blake to a three-year contract and F Mattias Weinhandl to a one-year contract.

NEW YORK RANGERS—Signed D Jake Taylor.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS—Signed C Ben Eaves.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Named Dana White strength and conditioning coach.

COLLEGE
NAIA—Promoted Lori Thomas to director of championships.

ALABAMA—Named Jeff Dunnavant media relations intern.

ALBION—Named Michelle Manning softball and women's assistant volleyball coach.

BUCKNELL—Named Jessica Spadafora women's lacrosse coach.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN—Named Jeff Bauer men's assistant basketball coach.

DARTMOUTH—Named Hillary Read assistant softball coach.

DUBUQUE—Named David Jackson women's interim volleyball coach, Greta Pemsl women's assistant volleyball coach, Nate Rucker men's and women's cross country coach and Brad Johnson assistant soccer coach.

FRANCIS MARION—Named Robbie Wilson assistant baseball coach.

IUPUI—Named Chanel Spriggs women's assistant basketball coach.

LYCOMING—Named Michael Talarico men's lacrosse coach.

MEMPHIS—Dismissed senior RB Derron Parquet from the football team.

MONTANA—Announced the retirement of Fred von Appen, assistant football coach.

NORTH CAROLINA STATE—Named Archie Miller director of basketball operations.

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN—Named Lisa Johnson softball and women's tennis coach.

RICE—Named Justin Zoslow men's assistant soccer coach.

RIDER—Named Brian Ramon Johnson women's assistant basketball coach.

SACRED HEART—Named Jennifer Curran women's assistant basketball coach.

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT—Named Lisa Barbaro women's volleyball and softball coach and Carol Nelson athletic trainer.

SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI—Named Kirk Crawford and Troy Howell women's assistant basketball coaches.

TEMPLE—Announced the resignation of Zach Conen, assistant athletic director for marketing, promotions and ticket sales.

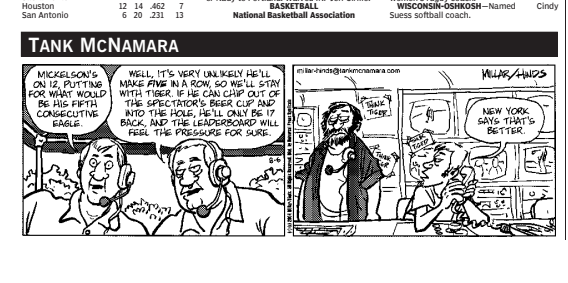
TEXAS A&M—Named Vince Anderson, Juan De La Garza, Ed Marcinkiewicz, Jim Van Hootegem and Dan Waters assistant track and field coaches.

TRINITY, CONN.—Named Marina Traub women's interim rowing coach.

WEST CHESTER—Named Tony DeRemer women's rugby coach.

WISCONSIN-OSHKOSH—Named Cindy Suess softball coach.

TANK MCNAMARA



Pats' Klecko adapts quickly to new role

The Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Dan Klecko is approaching his switch from defensive line to inside linebacker with the same attitude he demonstrated as a rookie last year, when the team used him at everything from nose tackle to fullback.

"I'm a professional athlete," said Klecko, in his second season out of Temple. "I have to come out here and learn it ... that's my job. The biggest thing for me making the team is shutting my mouth and doing what they tell me to do."

In his rookie year, the son of New York Jets great Joe Klecko played nose tackle, defensive end, outside linebacker and blocking fullback in goal-line situations on offense.

But the search for a permanent position has led the Patriots to inside linebacker, which has required Klecko to shed at least 20 pounds from last year's playing weight of 280 to 290 pounds.

"I feel pretty good at this weight," he said. "I'm not dying out there at this weight."

Being a linebacker requires more concentration: He's seeing the game from a standing position, rather than from a crouching stance, and he's also making defensive calls.

"I find that to be a lot of fun," Klecko said. "Rather than just putting your hand in the dirt and hitting someone, you're looking at the whole field standing up. It's not just one guy in front of you."

Coach Bill Belichick said Klecko has taken to his new position.

"For a guy who has never really played on his feet, he's adapted well," Belichick said. "I think that it looks pretty good, all things considered."

Klecko has turned for advice to others who have made the transition, including fellow Patriot inside linebacker Tedy Bruschi, who set the NCAA Division I-A record for career sacks as a pass-rushing defensive end at Arizona.

"It is hard," he said. "But I don't care. I just want to be on the Patriots this year, helping the team win."

Elway: QB had knack for pulling off unlikely wins

ELWAY, FROM BACK PAGE

First, there was that right arm. Elway threw passes into places other quarterbacks wouldn't even see, much less consider, and he often had his coaches yelling into their headsets: "No! No! No! ... Uh, great pass!"

Then there was Elway's aura.

With his gimpy gait, Elway strutted onto the field with a you-can't-beat-me attitude. His piercing blue eyes always seemed to be wide as baseballs, especially with the game on the line.

And it didn't seem to matter what teams did to him. Elway always bounced back.

His injuries ranged from a broken rib to rotator-cuff tears to five knee operations to a swollen elbow bursa sac that was the size of a softball when he finally had it removed. Through it all, he rarely missed a game.

But of all the traits that made Elway stand out, it was the ability to pull out victories from the grasp of defeat that made him a true superstar.

In his 16 seasons, Elway led the Broncos to 39 game-winning or game-saving drives 47 times, including six in the postseason. Most famously, he engineered "The Drive" in the 1987 AFC Championship game, taking the Broncos 98 yards in 15 plays in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter for the tying score of a 23-20 overtime victory over the Cleveland Browns.

"We never felt like we were out of game as long as John was there," receiver Rod Smith said.

And that do-whatever-it-takes attitude led to what Elway considers his favorite moment.

Late in the third quarter of a tie game in the 1999 Super Bowl, he dropped back to pass at Green Bay's 12-yard line on a third-and-6. Unable to find a receiver, Elway ran up the middle and dived for the first down.

But as he took off, Elway was met in the air by Packers safety LeRoy Butler, who spun him around like a helicopter. Elway landed with a thud, leading to some anxious moments on Denver's sideline, but he bounced back up. The Broncos had the first down and the momentum they needed to finish off their first Super Bowl title.

"That's probably the one that sticks out the most," Elway said. "I remember after how important it was to get that first down and it was the biggest game, a game we finally got over the hump."

Denver has had plenty of players deserving of Hall of Fame consideration through the years, from Randy Gradishar to Karl Mecklenburg to Gary Zimmerman. None made it, though, almost as if Hall voters were waiting for the perfect time to break the ice.

If that's the case, they couldn't have done much better than Elway, the embodiment of the Broncos and a hero for an entire city.

"There have been a lot of guys in this organization that deserve to be there and it feels like kind of a conspiracy that they waited," Smith said. "But I guess our first one is our best one by far."

Sources say Carter failed drug test

Cowboys refuse to disclose why QB was cut

BY CLARENCE E. HILL JR.
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

OXNARD, Calif. — The Dallas Cowboys abruptly released Quincy Carter on Wednesday after, according to sources, the team's starting quarterback failed a drug test.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and coach Bill Parcells would not disclose the reason Carter was cut. But several sources said the move was related to substance abuse.

Carter, who was already in the NFL's substance-abuse program, recently failed a second test and is subject to being fined four game checks, the equivalent of $113,748, by the league, two sources told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. A third failed test means a four-game suspension, and the Cowboys didn't want to be vulnerable to that situation.

"This was not a difficult decision at all," Jones said. "It is very disappointing."

The shocking development moves 18-year veteran Vinny Testaverde into the starting role just four days into training camp.

Three days ago, Parcells declared Carter the front-runner to become the team's starter for the fourth consecutive season.

Parcells expressed disappointment and sadness for Carter but said the decision to release him had to be made.

A source close to Carter said that Carter did not test positive for cocaine. The source, who did not identify the substance, said Carter will appeal the game-check penalty.

Carter, who was driven away from the practice facility shortly after he heard the news Wednesday morning, was unavailable for comment.

Carter has twice admitted himself into a treatment facility over the past two years, including once in the weeks leading up to training camp, a source said. The source also said the latter trip was more for prevention.

Nevertheless, Carter's problems were simply too much for the Cowboys. Jones and Parcells said they had discussed the move for some time before making the announcement.

But given their history with Carter and their own experiences with players who have had problems off the field, Cowboys officials said it was a decision they had to make.

Jones was once Carter's biggest fan after the Cowboys surprisingly selected him in the second round of the 2001 draft. He was given the starting job as a rookie after the Cowboys cut veteran Tony Banks during training camp in 2001.

"Quincy did some really good things with the Dallas Cowboys. He did some good things, and there is a lot of great things about him," Jones said. "There are some things, though, that imperfection in those areas don't fit with team concepts and don't fit with certain areas."

Parcells said he had grown to like Carter and was saddened by the turn of events because the Cowboys are in the second year of what is seemingly a successful rebuilding process. There are things Parcells will not waver on, and he reiterated his expectations to his players Wednesday.

"I am committed to going forward here with certain kinds of things, certain kinds of parameters. I am putting too many other people at risk," Parcells said. "Jerry knows what he was getting when he got someone like me."

The Cowboys might add another quarterback at the end of training camp, but for now Parcells is sticking with Testaverde, 40, rookie Drew Henson and second-year man Tony Romo.

Brown belied Raiders' mystique

NAPA, Calif. — Tim Brown's politically amicable departure from the Oakland Raiders was proceeding according to script when it was confronted by the most daunting obstacle imaginable.

The question was verbose and gently understated, as were all the emotions offered for consumption on Wednesday. But boiled to its stark essence it was: Are you a little cheesed off that you're leaving and Jerry Rice is staying?

Gary Peterson

It was a valid question. It's tough to challenge the Raiders' contention that 80 years at two receiver positions is a tough fit under the chronology cap. Rice and Brown are headed for the Hall of Fame. It's contemporary pass coverage they have trouble navigating these days.

The Raiders would have been remiss to ride the status quo into the 2004 season. Their decision to prioritize Rice, the West Bay import, over Brown, career Raider? That debate is on the table.

So the question was put to Brown during his multi-media farewell, with Al Davis sitting to his left, and Rice and quarterback Rich Gannon in the audience to his right. And maybe it's an indication of how we've come to expect the worst in these situations that made the mind swim with the fun Brown might have giving the answer.

For example: "Next question, Einstein."

"I think I'll let George Halas here take a whack at that one."

"Let me guess — you were out clubbing last night with Darrell Russell."

It was no easy task snapping Brown out of character during his 16 years with the Raiders. It was no different during his 15 minutes in front of the cameras on Wednesday.

"I don't let myself go there, man," Brown said. "If [the decision has] been done, it's been done."

KRT

Realizing he would have to endure a reduced role this season, receiver Tim Brown and the Raiders parted ways on Wednesday. Brown said he would try to play for another team this season.

It was a perfectly Brownian answer. He didn't dodge the question.

In fact, he indirectly acknowledged its relevance. In the end, he declined to open that jar of stickum. Instead he made the conscious decision to run the classy route.

Turns out he had made that one of his career goals coming out of college.

"I have fought the battle as much as I possibly could (on the field)," he said. "I tried to restore the image of the team off the field, if that's possible. Me coming here as the Notre Dame guy, everybody said I didn't fit in as a typical Raider."

It was a losing battle for most of his time with the team, of course. There were too many James Trapps, joining an brawl on the field in street clothes during a playoff game; too many Chester McGlocktons, making a big show of giving less than their best; too many Russells and Sebastian Janikowskis, making the wrong kind of news in the predawn darkness.

But Brown tried. He interacted with fans the way most superstars don't. He talked to reporters after games and at least once a week. He probably set some kind of record for appearing at postgame debriefings, always snappily dressed in a suit and tie. He did the weekly radio show thing with relentless good humor uncharacteristic of the genre. He did the Sunday night TV gigs when any NFL player worth his hematoma would rather be home, bobbing for Ibuprofen.

He managed to speak his mind (most of the time) without unfairly maligning his teammates, coaches or opponents (most of the time). He was candid without being caustic, a man unabashedly conscious of his own image yet someone who maintained the guise of being a team player.

He was no different while stepping away from the Raiders on Wednesday, a brutal truth he didn't want to hear and didn't fully believe still ringing in his ears.

"This won't be the end of Tim Brown," he said. "I'll resurface somewhere, hopefully. If not, I'll be back in a couple months to do the retirement thing."

Does this sound like faint praise? It's not. Think of Keyshawn Johnson and his angry exits from New York and Tampa. Recall the Yankees hemming and hawing during the telecast of the All-Star Game, trying to think of something nice to say about former teammate Roger Clemens without sounding insincere.

Think Terrell Owens leaving the 49ers.

As career achievements go, Brown's 1,070 catches, 14,734 receiving yards and 104 touchdowns by various means speak louder than his attempt to emphasize the silver over the black where the Raiders were concerned. But it's saying something that he achieved the former while attempting the latter.

He had no idea what future awaited him when he left the room on Wednesday. But he left the room with a smile, a good word and the truth as he saw it. In the end, he wasn't your typical Raider.

And that would be high praise, indeed.

Gary Peterson is a columnist for the Contra Costa Times (Walnut Creek, Calif.).

Vikings' Birk has surgery

The Associated Press

MANKATO, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings center Matt Birk had a hernia operation Wednesday but is expected to play in the season opener against Dallas, the team announced Thursday.

NFL briefs

Birk had minor surgery to determine the cause of a pelvic injury that has caused him to miss three straight practices.

Coach Mike Tice said Thursday that the Pro Bowler would be sidelined 3-4 weeks.

49ers QB Rattay to miss practice time

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — San Francisco 49ers quarterback Tim Rattay will be held out of practice until next week because an inflamed right forearm.

Rattay, who missed his second straight day of practice Wednesday, isn't expected to return to the field until Monday.

An MRI revealed no ligament or soft tissue damage to Rattay's throwing arm.

Eagles' Dawkins out a week

BETHLEHEM, Pa. — Philadelphia Eagles free safety Brian Dawkins will miss the next week of training camp after injuring his knee Wednesday.

An MRI exam revealed Dawkins, taking part in his first practice after being out with groin spasms, had a bone bruise to his left knee and a hyperextension.

Cardinals' third-round pick agrees to terms

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — Darnell Dockett, the Arizona Cardinals' last rookie holdout, agreed to terms with the team Wednesday.

Dockett, a defensive tackle from Florida State, was the Atlantic Coast Conference defensive player of the year last season.

RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

High hopes for the homestretch

Martin, Jarrett see opportunity to join 10-race chase for Cup

BY DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

Not long ago, Dale Jarrett and Mark Martin appeared to be anything but contenders for the NASCAR Nextel Cup championship.

But both have rallied in the past two months and hope to parlay that momentum into a position among the top 10 — and a chance to win the title.

Under NASCAR's new system, only drivers in the top 10 after 26 of 36 races will vie for the title, and there are six weeks left until that cutoff. That makes Sunday's Brickyard 400 even more important than usual for Jarrett and Martin.

"All that matters to me is winning the Brickyard," Martin said. "That would make up for all the heartbreak that we've experienced this year. That would make a season."

Martin's second-place finish last Sunday at Pocono Raceway left him 13th in the standings, but only 89 points behind Kevin Harvick in 10th. Jarrett wound up 24th in the Pennsylvania 500 but is 14th, 103 points behind Harvick.

Jarrett could easily charge up the leader board at Indianapolis, where he and Jeff Gordon are the only multiple winners. Jarrett won in 1996 and 1999 and has four top-five finishes in 10 races at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

"I think this week can be huge for anybody in the eighth position through 15th," he said. "We know what it's done for us in the past when we've won this race."

Jarrett's victory in 1999 helped propel him to his only NASCAR championship. But things haven't gone well in recent years or at Indy, especially on pit road.

Last year, Jarrett hit his jack man on a pit stop. In 2002, the gas catch-can was stuck in Jarrett's Ford as he roared away. NASCAR forced him return for a stop-and-go penalty that ended any opportunity to win.

Jarrett had a 4-second lead at the midway point in 1998, but a fuel blunder by his crew cost him four laps and he never recovered.

Now Jarrett is trying to reverse a distasteful trend that began after the 1999 season title. He finished fourth the next season, then fifth, and ninth before sinking to 26th last year. Jarrett's championship unit was slowly picked apart by other teams, leaving it without experience and the skills to keep up with technological advances.

Jarrett hovered around the high teens in the point standings for most of this year before third-place finishes in Michigan and Chicago and a ninth-place showing two weeks ago in New Hampshire bolstered his bid for a title run.

"We're going to have over a 10-position change and that's pretty major, especially in this day when you have as much competition as we have," he said. "If we happen to not get in the top 10, we know we're headed in the right direction and that we can continue to build the rest of this year to get into a better position for next year."

Jarrett sees Indianapolis and the following races at Watkins Glen and Michigan as "attack tracks."

"We may not be exactly what you'd look at as a top-10 team up to this point, especially up to the first of June, but since that time we have become closer," he said. "I think we could be a very exciting team in those last 10 races because of the success we've had at a number of those racetracks."

Martin has six top-10s, including a second-place finish in 1998, at the Brickyard. He had seven wins in 1998, but only five since then.

His victory two months ago in Dover snapped a 73-race drought.

Slowly, he's worked his way up the standings. After Pocono, he declared himself a contender, and he considers himself one of the favorites at Indy.

"Do I think we can go there and win? Yeah, we won Dover," he said. "We can win Indy because we weren't dominant by any means at Dover, but at the end of the race there wasn't anybody that could run with us. That's how I feel about Indy."

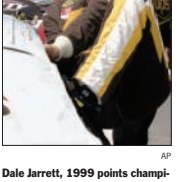
True, but Martin was helped by a 19-car pileup that knocked out some top drivers in Dover. Last week in Pocono, problems encountered by Harvick, Kurt Busch and Bobby Labonte drew Martin considerably closer in the point race.

The timing couldn't have been better for him and Jarrett.

"This team is really hitting its stride at the right time if we can capitalize on these last six races," Jarrett said.

AP

Mark Martin's No. 6 Ford has finished in the top 10 six times at Indianapolis Motor Speedway, site of Sunday's Brickyard 400. He is 89 points out of 10th place, the cutoff for the 10-race chase for the points title.



AP

Dale Jarrett, 1999 points champion, won the Brickyard 400 in 1996 and '99 and has four top-five finishes in 10 races at Indy.

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 21: Brickyard 400, 6:30 p.m. Sunday, PAC

Last race: Jimmie Johnson completed the Pocono sweep by winning the Pennsylvania 500 for his fourth victory of 2004. The points standings changed radically as several top drivers struggled. Tony Stewart, Kevin Harvick, Bobby Labonte and Kurt Busch failed to finish. Ryan Newman placed 13th. Mark Martin's second-place finish was his 18th top-five and 25th top-10 in 36 races at Pocono. But he has never won there.

Last year: Kevin Harvick held off Matt Kenseth, Jamie McMurray and Robby Gordon during a 10-lap shootout to win the Brickyard 400.

POINTS RACE

After 20 of 36 races

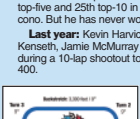
1. Jimmie Johnson	3,040
2. Jeff Gordon	2,808
3. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	2,773
4. Matt Kenseth	2,623
5. Tony Stewart	2,606
6. Elliott Sadler	2,504
7. Kurt Busch	2,481
8. Ryan Newman	2,472
9. Bobby Labonte	2,466
10. Kevin Harvick	2,420
11. Jeremy Mayfield	2,380
12. Kasey Kahne	2,351
13. Mark Martin	2,331
14. Dale Jarrett	2,317
15. Jamie McMurray	2,287
16. Casey Mears	2,197
17. Michael Waltrip	2,165
18. Sterling Marlin	2,159
19. Terry Labonte	2,159
20. Rusty Wallace	2,150

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Jeff Gordon, the only three-time winner at Indy, will be looking for his sixth top-five finish in the last seven races. He has eight top-10s in ten races at his hometown track.

Kasey Kahne can move closer to title contention with a strong finish in his first Nextel Cup race at Indy. Kahne finished 14th and 15th in Busch races here the past two years.

Kevin Harvick arrives at Indy with a 40-point lead in the battle for the final 'Chase for the Cup' position. Harvick is coming off his worst finish of the year, 32nd at Pocono.



Qualifying record
Kevin Harvick, 184.3431 mph, 2003.

Race record
Bobby Labonte, 155.912 mph, Aug. 5, 2000.

FAST FACTS

Dale Earnhardt Jr., still battling injuries after his fiery wreck during an ALMS event, had to be relieved in each of the past two races. He lasted just 52 laps at Pocono after completing 60 at New Hampshire the previous week. ... Jeff Gordon is the only three-time winner at Indianapolis, taking the inaugural race in 1994, and winning in 1998 and 2001.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

This week: Power Stroke Diesel 200 in Clermont, Ind. (Tape-delayed, 2 p.m. Saturday, SPT).

Last race: Greg Biffle went from last to first to win the Salute to the Troops 250 at Pikes Peak International Raceway. Biffle started at the back of the field because he had another driver qualify his car while he was at Pocono Raceway for Nextel Cup qualifying.

Last year: Brian Vickers made the decisive pass on Shane Hmiel on lap 181, then held on to win the Kroger 200 for his first career Busch series victory.

Next race: Cabela's 250, Aug. 21, Brooklyn, Mich.

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Kroger 200 at Clermont, Ind. (Tape-delayed, 9 a.m. Sunday, SPT).

Last race: Greg Biffle went from last to first to win the Salute to the Troops 250 at Pikes Peak International Raceway. Biffle started at the back of the field because he had another driver qualify his car while he was at Pocono Raceway for Nextel Cup qualifying.

Last year: Brian Vickers made the decisive pass on Shane Hmiel on lap 181, then held on to win the Kroger 200 for his first career Busch series victory.

Next race: Cabela's 250, Aug. 21, Brooklyn, Mich.

INDY RACING

Last race: Buddy Rice beat Tony Kanaan to the finish line by 0.0796 seconds to win the Michigan Indy 400. Kanaan led the race for 183 laps before being passed by Rice, whose average speed of 182.123 mph was the fourth-fastest in IndyCar history.

Next race: Belterra Casino Indy 300, Aug. 15, Sparta, Ky.

CHAMP CARS

This week: Grand Prix of Road America in Elkhart, Wis. (Tape-delayed, 6 a.m. Tuesday, SPT).

Last race: Paul Tracy vaulted back into championship contention after winning the Molson Vancouver Indy. Tracy, winless since the season-opener on April 18, is third in the standings, 44 points behind leader Sébastien Bourdais.

Last year: Polesitter Bruno Junqueira moved atop the standings by winning the rain-shortened Mario Andretti GP.

Next race: Aug. 15, GP of Denver

FORMULA ONE

Last race: Michael Schumacher matched his own record of 11 victories in a season after winning the German Grand Prix. Schumacher has also won six straight, tying the mark set in 1952 by Alberto Ascari.

Next race: Hungarian Grand Prix, Aug. 15, Budapest.

No progress in NHL talks

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Labor talks between the NHL and its players' union resumed Wednesday, but both sides said no progress was made toward a deal.

The four-hour session in the union's Toronto office was their first meeting since July 21, when the league presented six possible concepts for a new economic system.

The collective bargaining agreement expires Sept. 15. If a new agreement isn't reached, a lockout could threaten the entire season.

"They haven't moved off their desire for a salary cap, and that's not going to lead us to any progress," said Ted Saskin, the players' association senior director.

Asked if he could be persuaded to adopt a luxury tax, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said no.

"I wish we were making more substantive progress, but we have a vision for the future of the game. It is one that requires substantive changes so that the game and our clubs can be healthy," Bettman said. "The union, at least for the time being, seems intent on maintaining the status quo, and as we all know, that isn't working."

Bettman has vowed to establish "cost certainty" for clubs. He is determined to make sure the percentage of revenue paid out in player salaries is sliced.

"They are married to the status quo or two steps to the status quo," said Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer. "To us, the status quo is disastrous."

An economic study commissioned by the NHL found that players get 76 percent of all league revenue — far more than the percentage for the other major team sports. The players' association has challenged many of the league's financial findings.

"It appears to us, and we've been saying this for a long time, that their plan is to trigger a lockout to try to put economic force on the players to try to get a salary cap," Saskin said.

Sports briefs

McCabe re-signs with Leafs

TORONTO — Maple Leafs defenseman Bryan McCabe re-signed with Toronto on Thursday, agreeing to a multiyear deal two days before an arbitration hearing.

McCabe was paid $3.5 million last season, when he had 53 points and a team-best 22 plus-minus rating and was a second-team NHL All-Star. McCabe finished fourth in voting for the Norris Trophy, which is awarded to the league's best defenseman.

"He is a versatile player who is used in all key situations and has developed into a team leader," general manager John Ferguson said.

McCabe played 75 games for Toronto last season and had 16 goals, 37 assists and 86 penalty minutes. He was the first Toronto defenseman since Borje Salming in 1979-80 to be selected to one of the league's year-end all-star teams.

Williams practices with Trojans

LOS ANGELES — Mike Williams leaped, caught Matt Leinart's tight spiral on his fingertips and came down just inside the sideline.

Just like last season. And maybe this season.

Williams, an All-American wide receiver who declared for the NFL draft and left school last spring, has asked the NCAA to restore his eligibility so he can return for his junior season with the defending national champion USC Trojans.

While awaiting the NCAA decision, Williams is practicing with the Trojans, who opened camp Wednesday.

"I felt like I never left," Williams said. "To get out here and fly around, it feels good to be back out here."

Coach Pete Carroll was glad to see Williams on the field.

"He's eligible to practice, so he's practicing with us and getting ready," Carroll said. "Just like he's done everything else in preparation for the reinstatement, he's done everything he can to position himself to be ready to go when he gets the word from the NCAA.

"We're hopeful that all the information is in, and that we get a favorable decision."

Williams, fourth in last season's Heisman Trophy balloting, is enrolled in summer school and expects the NCAA to issue its ruling after grades are posted.

Rose Bowl will remain on ABC

NEW YORK — The Rose Bowl is staying on ABC through 2014.

The bowl game's management committee and the network agreed Wednesday to extend their deal starting with the 2007 game.

ABC paid $525 million to televise the BCS for seven years, ending with the 2005 season. The network has broadcast the Rose Bowl since 1989.

"The Rose Bowl is a great American institution, so it was a priority for ABC to keep it on our schedule," said George Bodenheimer, the president of ABC Sports and ESPN.

NASCAR to take Busch series to Mexico City

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR will stage its first points-paying event outside the United States in a half-century when the Busch series races next year in Mexico City.

The race at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez road course will be held March 6, and will be the third event on the 35-race schedule. It will mark the return of road-course racing for the junior-level Busch series.

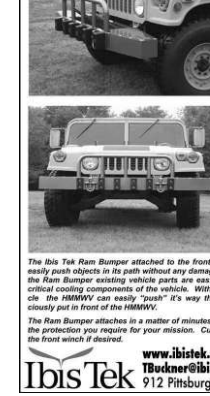
"Mexico has a long tradition in motorsports, and we are thrilled that NASCAR is now part of it," NASCAR Chairman Brian France said. "Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez is a beautiful track that provides our NASCAR Busch series teams the opportunity to perform on an international stage."

The purse for the race will be $2 million, making it the richest Busch event on the schedule.

NASCAR has been trying for some time to branch out into new markets, and had expressed interest in Mexico City and Canada.

The schedule is already full for the premiere Nextel Cup series, so the Busch series was the only schedule to which NASCAR could add events.

All future expansion efforts will likely be for the New York City area, where NASCAR wants to bring its Nextel Cup series.



RUSTY BRYAN/Stars and Stripes

Victor Gerard threw a four-inning no-hitter as Belgium beat the Netherlands in the Transatlantic Regional tournament at Kutno, Poland.

Belgium, Italy win Little League openers

BY RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

KUTNO, Poland — Little League Baseball's 2004 Transatlantic Regional championship featured both ends of the spectrum in its opening two games Thursday.

Belgium's Victor Gerard pitched a run rule-shortened no-hitter in the opener as Waterloo-SHAPE clubbed the Netherlands' champions from Brunssum and Schinnen 16-0 to establish the no-sweat parameter. Then Italian champion Naples staked out the nail-biter end of things by rallying to down Spanish champion Madrid Toros 6-4 in eight innings.

Thursday's third game in the eight-day event, which awards the winner a berth in the Little League World Series later this month in Williamsport, Pa., was to match four-time defending Transatlantic champion Saudi Arabia against Germany champion Ramstein. London Area Little League, the seventh team in this year's field of 11-12-year olds who are not natives of the country in which they reside, was idle on Thursday. The teams will compete in pool play through Wednesday, then cross over for semis on Aug. 12 and the championship game on Aug. 13.

Belgium 16, Netherlands 0: Gerard struck out eight of the 15 batters he faced and allowed just three balls to be hit fair on Thursday.

Gerard opened the game by striking out the side, then benefited as his team scored 12 times in the bottom of the first on eight hits, three walks and three errors. Shortstop Kevin Nelson, a Brussels American School seventh-grader who earlier had stroked two singles to drive in three first-inning runs, hit a three-run home run over the center field fence that brought the score to 15-0.

Second baseman Matt Rohn also had three hits for Belgium, which is scheduled to play Spain at 12:30 p.m. Friday. The Netherlands will try to regroup against England at 3 p.m.

Italy 6, Spain 4 (8): Spanish starter Bucky Ribbeck, who struck out 13 batters in the first five innings, was three outs away from a 2-0 shutout when Naples came to bat in the top of the sixth.

The Italian champs loaded the bases with none out when Tyler Hall — who finished 4-for-5 — singled, Derring Price Jr. walked and Tyler Jacobson singled.

Ribbeck had escaped a similar jam in the fourth with two strikeouts and a force play at home on an attempted squeeze. This time, though, Joni Fatora shot a hard fielders-choice grounder down the first base line to score Hall and watched as Price scored the tying run when Madrid first baseman Sandy Isbell threw wildly to the plate. Jacobson added a go-ahead run on another fielders-choice grounder, this one by Lucas Hertweter.

Madrid forced extra innings in the bottom of the sixth on a two-out walk to Isbell, who took second on a wild pitch and kept going on two errors.

Naples made it 4-3 in the top of the seventh when starting pitcher Devon Mitchell singled to left, took third on a two-base error and scored on Hall's fourth hit of the day.

Once again, Spain tied the game in the bottom of the frame, and was deprived of a chance to win it when, with runners on second and third, Mitchell, who had moved to shortstop, tagged out the runner who had strayed off second and side-armed the ball off-balance to first for a game-saving double play.

Naples then closed the scoring with a two-out rally in the eighth.

Mitchell snared a liner off the bat of Isbell and doubled a runner off first to end the game.

"I was nervous at first," Mitchell said. "After a game like this, there won't be as much pressure on us."

E-mail Rusty Bryan at:
bryanr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	67	39	.632	–
Boston	58	48	.547	9
Tampa Bay	51	56	.477	16½
Baltimore	46	57	.462	18
Toronto	47	60	.439	20½
Central Division				
Minnesota	61	45	.575	–
Chicago	54	50	.519	6
Cleveland	54	54	.500	8
Detroit	50	57	.467	11½
Kansas City	39	68	.364	22½
West Division				
Oakland	60	46	.566	–
Texas	39	46	.552	1½
Anaheim	57	50	.533	3½
Seattle	39	68	.364	21½

Wednesday's games

Texas 8, Detroit 1
Cleveland 14, Toronto 5
Baltimore 6, Seattle 3
Tampa Bay 5, Boston 4
N.Y. Yankees 8, Oakland 6, 11 innings
Minnesota 6, Anaheim 3
Kansas City 11, Chicago White Sox 0

Thursday's games

Cleveland at Toronto
Texas at Detroit
Oakland at N.Y. Yankees
Anaheim at Minnesota
Seattle at Tampa Bay
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City

Friday's games

Boston (Lowe 9-9) at Detroit (Maroth 8-7)
Toronto (Douglass 0-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Vazquez 12-6)
Seattle (R.Franklin 3-10) at Tampa Bay (Brazelton 4-3)
Texas (Regilio 0-2) at Baltimore (Bedard 4-6)
Cleveland (Sabathia 7-6) at Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 10-4)
Oakland (Redman 8-8) at Minnesota (Radke 7-6)
Anaheim (Escobar 5-8) at Kansas City (May 1-9)

Saturday's games

Oakland at Minnesota
Toronto at N.Y. Yankees
Texas at Baltimore
Seattle at Tampa Bay
Boston at Detroit
Cleveland at Chicago White Sox
Anaheim at Kansas City

Wednesday
Rangers 8, Tigers 0

TEXAS — **DETROIT**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
EYong ss	5	0	2	2	ASchoz cf	4	0	2	0
Blalock 3b	4	0	0	1	Infante 2b	3	0	0	0
ASrano 2b	5	0	2	0	IRdrgz c	3	0	0	0
Teixra 1b	4	0	0	0	DFelice c	1	0	0	0
Mathws rf	5	1	1	0	DYong 1b	4	0	0	0
Dllucci lf	4	2	3	1	CGillen ss	3	0	0	0
Mench dh	4	1	2	2	Bonifac rf	3	0	0	0
Nix cf	3	3	2	0	RWhite 3b	3	1	0	0
Laird c	4	1	1	1	Phnes rf	3	0	0	0
					Shelton dh	3	0	0	0
					Inge 3b	3	0	0	0
Totals	**39**	**8**	**15**	**7**	**Totals**	**30**	**0**	**4**	**0**

Texas	000	011	030–8
Detroit	000	000	000–0

E—EYoung (4), Matthews (2), DP—Texas 1, Detroit 2, LOB—Texas 7, Detroit 4, 2B—ASorano (19), Matthews (14), Dellucci (9), ASanchez (9), HR—Nix (11), SF—Shelton.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Bacsik W,1-0	7	4	0	0	0	4
Almanzar	1	0	0	0	1	1
Benoit	1	1	0	0	1	1
Detroit						
Johnson L,8-9	6	10	5	5	2	3
Ennis	1⅓	4	3	3	0	0
Novoa	1	1	0	0	0	0

— 2:27. A–18,857 (40,120).

Orioles 6, Mariners 3

SEATTLE — **BALTIMORE**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
ISuzuki rf	5	1	3	0	BRbrts 2b	4	0	1	0
Winn rf	4	0	2	2	Newhn lf	4	0	0	0
EMrtnz dh	3	1	0	0	Mora 3b	3	1	2	0
JCbsen 1b	4	0	0	0	Tejada ss	4	0	0	0
Ibanez lf	4	0	1	0	RPlmo dh	4	0	1	2
JoDwr 2b	4	0	2	0	JVldez p	0	0	0	0
Lopez ss	4	0	1	0	Surhoff 1b	4	1	1	0
Olivo c	3	0	1	1	KGarcia c	4	1	2	0
Blmqist 3b	4	0	0	0	Hrst Jr cf	2	0	0	0
Totals	**35**	**3**	**9**	**3**	**Totals**	**32**	**6**	**8**	**2**

Seattle	000	003	000–3
Baltimore	010	200	30x–6

E—Lopez (1), Bloomquist (6). DP—Seattle 2, Baltimore 1. LOB—Seattle 8, Baltimore 8. 2B—Ibanez (14), Roberts (31), 3B—ISuzuki (4), HR—Winn (9), SB—Hairston Jr. (12). S—Newhan.

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Mechavie	6	9	3	2	1	7
Hasegawa L,4-4	⅓	0	3	2	2	0
MMyers	1	0	0	0	0	1
Atchison	⅓	0	0	0	1	0
Baltimore						
Cabrera	5⅓	7	3	3	3	4
Groom	⅔	1	0	0	0	0
Williams W,1-0	⅔	1	0	0	0	1
Grimsley	1	0	0	0	0	1
Julio S,17	1	1	0	0	0	1

WP—MMyers. PB—Olivo. T–2:56. A–27,539 (48,286).

Indians 14, Blue Jays 5

CLEVELAND — **TORONTO**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Lawton lf	6	2	3	0	Gomez ss	5	0	1	0
Crisp cf	5	4	2	0	Hinske 3b	4	0	2	1
Hafner dh	3	3	4	6	Rios rf	4	0	0	0
VMrtnz c	4	1	1	1	CDdgdo 1b	3	0	0	0
Peralta ss	2	1	2	3	VWells cf	4	1	2	0
Blake 3b	6	1	5	1	CStnotto dh	4	1	2	0
Brsord 1b	4	0	0	0	Zaun c	3	1	1	0
Billiard 2b	4	1	1	0	Berg lf	4	2	2	3
Gerut rf	4	0	1	2	OHudsn 2b	4	0	1	0
JMcDid ss	5	1	2	1					
Totals	**45**	**14**	**21**	**14**	**Totals**	**35**	**5**	**11**	**5**

Cleveland	200	052	005–14
Toronto	000	014	000– 5

E—Gomez (11). DP—Cleveland 3, Toronto 1. LOB—Cleveland 10, Toronto 7. 2B—Lawton (16), Crisp (18), Thidmr (34), Blake (22), Billiard (37), JMcDonald (3), Zaun (18). 3B—Blake (1), HR—Thidmr (22 21), Laker (3), Berg (5), CStnotto (1). SF—THafner, Gerut.

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Westbrook W,9-5	6	11	5	5	2	3
Riske	2	0	0	0	0	1
Miller	1	0	0	0	1	0
Toronto						
Towers L,6-4	4⅓	10	7	7	2	1
JMiller	1⅔	4	2	2	1	0
Lightenberg	2	2	1	1	0	2
Frederick	1	5	5	5	1	1

T–2:45. A–15,675 (50,598).

Yankees 8, Athletics 6 (11)

OAKLAND — **NEW YORK**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Kotsay cf	6	1	0	0	Lofton cf	4	0	0	1
McLmr 2b	4	1	0	1	Jeter ss	5	1	1	0
Scutaro 2b	1	0	0	0	Sffield rf	6	2	3	2
Echavz 3b	5	1	2	1	ARdrgz 3b	5	1	2	2
Piazza c	5	0	1	1	Posada c	4	1	2	0
Httberg 1b	3	1	0	0	Matsui dh	4	2	2	1
Durazo dh	6	0	1	1	BWlkns rf	5	1	1	0
Crosby ss	4	1	2	0	Olerud 1b	5	1	1	0
Byrnes rf	5	1	2	3	EVrdia 2b	5	2	0	0
Mlhuse c	5	0	1	0	Sierra ph	1	0	0	0
					Cairo 2b	0	0	0	0
Totals	**44**	**6**	**12**	**6**	**Totals**	**43**	**8**	**15**	**8**

Oakland	010	310	100–6
New York	020	300	101–8

One out when winning run scored.

E—Crosby (14), DP—Oakland 2, New York 1. LOB—Oakland 12, New York 10. 2B—Echavez (12), Matsui (30), HR—Echavez (20), Dye (18), Byrnes (17), Sheffield (25), ARodriguez (29), Matsui (20). S—Jeter, EWilson, C—Lofton.

Oakland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Harden	6⅓	10	4	4	1	4
Bradford	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
RRincon	1	0	0	0	1	3
Meidir	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Dotel	1	2	2	2	1	1
Chammond	1	1	0	0	0	0
Dchotr L,4-3	⅓	2	2	2	0	0
New York						
Loaiza	6	6	5	5	4	6
Quantrill	1	1	1	1	0	0
Gordon	1	2	0	0	0	1
Proctor	1	0	0	0	0	0
MRivera W,3-1	1	0	0	0	0	2

HBP—by Loaiza (Dye). T–3:57. A–47,885 (57,478).

Devil Rays 5, Red Sox 4

BOSTON — **TAMPA BAY**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Damon cf	5	0	0	0	Crwfrd lf	4	1	1	0
Yuklilis 3b	3	0	0	0	Upton ss	4	0	0	0
OCbera ss	4	1	0	0	Huff dh	4	0	1	0
MRmrez dh	4	1	1	1	Baldelli cf	4	0	1	1
Varitek c	4	0	1	0	JoCruz rf	4	1	1	2
Millar lf	2	0	1	1	TMrtnz 1b	2	1	0	0
DMrtrs pr	0	0	0	0	Sndrs 2b	2	0	0	0
Mntkw 1b	3	1	2	0	THall c	3	1	1	4
Mueller 2b	4	1	2	2	Blum 3b	3	0	0	0
Kapler rf	3	0	0	0					
Totals	**32**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**Totals**	**30**	**5**	**6**	**5**

Boston	010	002	100–4
Tampa Bay	100	000	40x–5

E—Youkilis (4), Upton (1). DP—Tampa Bay 1. LOB—Boston 6, Tampa Bay 3. 2B—OCabrera (1), MRamirez (31), Mueller (15), Huff (16), Baldelli (18), JoCruz (11). 3B—Crawford (45). SB—Crawford (45). CS—MRentkiewicz (3), Lugo (4). SF—Millar.

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Arroyo L,4-8	7	6	5	4	2	5
Timlin	1	0	0	0	0	2
Tampa Bay						
Halama	6	6	4	2	2	2
Harper W,3-2	2	2	0	0	0	1
Colome	⅓	0	0	0	0	2
DBaez S,23	1⅓	0	0	0	0	2

Halama pitched to 1 batter in the 7th. HBP—by DBaez (Kapler). T–3:24. Attendance: (Metrowerkz). PB—THall. T–2:40. A–18,133 (43,969).

Twins 6, Angels 3

ANAHEIM — **MINNESOTA**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Eckstin ss	5	0	1	0	ShStwrt lf	4	1	2	1
Figgins ss	5	0	2	0	CIzzmn ss	4	0	1	0
Anderkn cf	4	0	0	0	Rndzzo c	4	0	0	0
VGerro rf	4	1	1	1	Mrneau lf	3	1	2	1
Salmon rf	1	0	0	0	Hnrdez 1b	4	1	2	1
Erstad 1b	4	1	0	1	JJones rf	4	1	2	2
Quinlan 3b	4	0	1	1	Koskie 3b	4	1	1	0
AKndy 2b	4	0	2	0	HBlnco c	4	0	0	0
JMolina c	2	0	1	0	Rivas 2b	3	1	1	1
Pena ph	1	0	0	0					
Totals	**37**	**3**	**10**	**3**	**Totals**	**35**	**6**	**11**	**6**

Anaheim	000	000	003–3
Minnesota	003	003	00x–6

LOB—Anaheim 8, Minnesota 7. 2B—Erstad (18), AKennedy (13), ShStewart (12), Thidmr (18), Koskie (15), HBlanco (24), Mornau (7), Jones (18). SB—Figgins (22).

Anaheim	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
ROrtiz L,3-7	6⅔	11	6	6	0	2
Grego	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Minnesota						
Lohse W,5-8	7	9	3	3	1	4
JRincon	1	0	0	0	0	1
Nathan S,31	1	1	0	0	0	1

T–2:23. A–28,435 (45,423).

Royals 11, White Sox 0

CHICAGO — **KANSAS CITY**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Rwand cf	3	0	2	0	Dasus cf	4	1	1	0
Pierzynsk c	4	0	0	0	Wgerto 2b	3	0	0	0
CAlex lf	4	0	0	0	Randa 3b	4	2	2	0
Konerko 1b	4	0	0	0	Harvey 1b	5	1	2	1
Burke 1b	3	0	0	0	Stairs dh	5	1	2	0
Uribe ss	4	0	1	0	Nunnc lf	4	2	2	2
Brchrd rf	3	0	0	0	RMateo lf	4	1	1	2
Crede 3b	3	0	0	0	Berroa ss	3	1	2	1
SAlmr c	3	0	0	0	BBrwn lf	0	0	0	0
WHarrs 2b	3	0	0	0	Rlaford 2b	4	1	3	1
					Buck c	4	1	3	3
Totals	**29**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**Totals**	**38**	**11**	**17**	**11**

Chicago	000	000	000–0
Kansas City	720	000	20x–11

DP—Chicago 3. LOB—Chicago 3, Kansas City 5. 2B—Rwand (26), Harvey (17), Stairs (13), Nunnc (2). 3B—RMateo (2). HR—Buck (3).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Schnws L,6-9	1⅓	9	9	9	1	1
Adkins	3⅔	3	0	0	0	2
Mlackson	2	4	2	2	1	0
Cotts	1	1	0	0	0	1
Kansas City						
Brianderson W,2-9	9	2	0	0	1	7

PB—Buck. T–2:18. A–16,194 (40,785).

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	59	47	.557	–
Philadelphia	55	52	.514	4
Florida	52	54	.491	7
New York	51	55	.481	8
Montreal	42	64	.396	17
Central Division				
St. Louis	68	38	.642	–
Chicago	59	48	.551	9½
Houston	54	53	.505	14½
Cincinnati	52	55	.486	16½
Milwaukee	51	55	.481	17
Pittsburgh	40	67	.374	28½
West Division				
Los Angeles	63	43	.594	–
San Diego	58	49	.542	5½
San Francisco	51	56	.477	12½
Colorado	47	60	.439	16½
Arizona	35	74	.321	29½

Wednesday's games

Atlanta 5, Houston 4
N.Y. Mets 6, Milwaukee 5
St. Louis 5, Montreal 4
Chicago Cubs 11, Colorado 8
Arizona 11, Florida 6
Philadelphia 7, San Diego 5
Cincinnati 8, San Francisco 7
Los Angeles 2, Pittsburgh 1

Thursday's games

N.Y. Mets at Milwaukee
Chicago Cubs at Colorado
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles
Cincinnati at San Francisco
Florida at Arizona
Atlanta at Houston
Montreal at St. Louis
Philadelphia at San Diego

Friday's games

Milwaukee (Sheets 9-8) at Florida (A.Burnett 2-5)
Montreal (Biddle 3-5) at Houston (Oswalt 11-8)
N.Y. Mets (Glavine 8-9) at St. Louis (Morris 11-7)
Cincinnati (Claussen 1-1) at Colorado (Kim 1-2)
Chicago Cubs (Clement 8-10) at San Francisco (undecided)

Saturday's games

New York Mets at St. Louis
Atlanta at Arizona
Chicago Cubs at San Francisco
Milwaukee at Florida
Montreal at Houston
Cincinnati at Colorado
Pittsburgh at San Diego
Philadelphia at Los Angeles

Wednesday
Braves 5, Astros 4

ATLANTA — **HOUSTON**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Furcal ss	5	1	1	0	Biggio lf	4	0	0	0
NGreen 2b	5	1	1	0	AEvrtt ss	4	1	1	0
JDrew rf	4	0	0	0	Wthers p	0	0	0	0
Giles 1b	4	0	2	0	Ensberg rf	0	0	0	0
JEstda c	4	1	2	0	Brkmn rf	4	1	2	2
AJones cf	4	1	0	0	Kent 2b	4	1	2	1
Lroche 1b	3	1	2	1	Bgwell 1b	4	1	1	2
Thmas lf	4	0	2	1	Ausmus c	4	0	1	0
Thmsn p	3	0	0	0	Asmus c	3	0	0	0
JuFrco ph	1	0	1	0	Munro p	1	0	1	0
Rtsma p	0	0	0	0	Rdndo p	0	0	0	0
Smoltz p	0	0	0	0	OPlmrp ph	1	0	0	0
					Rdding p	0	0	0	0
					Gallo p	0	0	0	0
					JVzcno p	1	0	0	0
Totals	**37**	**5**	**12**	**5**	**Totals**	**33**	**4**	**6**	**5**

Atlanta	030	010	100–5
Houston	000	101	002–4

DP—Houston 1. LOB—Atlanta 7, Houston 3. 2B—Lroche (15), Thmsn (6), HBr—Bagwell (16), SB—Furcal (10), CBeltran (7).

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Thomson W,9-7	7	4	2	2	1	2
Reitsma	1	1	0	0	0	1
Smoltz S,26	1	2	2	2	0	2
Houston						
PMunro L,2-3	4⅓	8	4	4	1	4
Harville	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Rdding	2	2	1	1	0	1
Gallo	1	2	0	0	0	0
Weathers	1	0	0	0	1	1

WP—Thomson, Gallo. T–2:18. A–37,712 (40,950).

Mets 6, Brewers 5

NEW YORK — **MILWAUKEE**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Reyes ss	4	0	0	0	PSdsnk cf	5	0	0	0
Zeile 1b	4	0	1	1	BHall 2b	5	1	3	0
Piazza c	3	0	1	0	Jenkins lf	4	1	0	0
VWilsn c	0	0	0	0	Brnyan 3b	5	2	3	1
Hidalgo rf	4	1	1	0	Ovrbay 1b	4	1	1	1
Flciano p	0	0	0	0	Grieve rf	3	0	0	0
Valent 3b	1	0	0	0	RClark rf	1	0	0	0
Stanton p	0	0	0	0	Moeller c	4	0	1	0
Looper p	0	0	0	0	Kschnk ph	1	0	0	0
Floyd lf	3	1	0	0	Cunsell ss	2	0	1	0
Cmeron cf	3	2	1	1	DDavis p	2	0	0	0
Wright 3b	4	1	0	0	Adams p	0	0	0	0
McEwg 2b	4	1	2	2	Burba p	0	0	0	0
Trchsel p	2	0	0	0	Dngtn ph	1	1	1	1
Wiliams rf	1	1	0	0	Kolb p	0	0	0	0
Total	**32**	**6**	**6**	**4**	**Totals**	**36**	**5**	**10**	**5**

New York	000	010	005–6
Milwaukee	000	030	011–5

E—Reyes (4), Overbay (8). DP—Milwaukee 1. LOB—New York 4, Milwaukee 11. 2B—BHall (12), Moeller (9). 3B—McEwing (1), Brunyan (1). HR—Cameron (23), Branyan (2), Durrington (2). SB—BHall 2 (8), Branyan (1). S—Reyes, Williams, DDavis.

New York	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Trachsel	5⅔	8	3	3	5	6
Felciano W,1-0	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Stanton	1⅓	1	1	1	0	1
Looper S,22	1⅓	1	1	1	1	1
Milwaukee						
DDavis	6	3	3	3	3	5
Adams L,1-1	1	2	2	2	0	1
Burba	1	0	0	0	0	2
Kolb	1	0	0	0	1	1

DDavis pitched to 2 batters in the 7th. WP—Kolb. T–3:16. A–18,196 (41,900).

Cardinals 5, Expos 4

MONTREAL — **ST. LOUIS**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Wlkrsn 1b	4	0	1	0	Wmack 2b	5	0	2	0
EChvez cf	5	0	2	0	Rolenas lf	5	0	1	0
Wlkrsn dh	4	0	1	0	Pujols 1b	3	2	2	1
TBtsta 3b	5	0	1	0	Rolen 3b	2	1	0	0
Sledge rf	4	1	0	0	Edmnds cf	2	0	1	0
CCrdro p	0	0	0	0	Mabry rf	4	1	4	0
ASGztz ss	5	2	3	1	Mulvnhll lf	3	0	0	0
Cllway rf	3	0	0	0	Kng p	0	0	0	0
Vlnzuel ss	4	0	1	0	Cedeno pb	0	0	0	0
Ayala p	0	0	0	0	Kline p	0	0	0	0
NJhnsn 1b	1	0	0	0	Tvarez p	0	0	0	0
SOrtiz c	3	1	1	1	Mthrny c	4	0	2	0
JGrrdo 2b	2	0	1	2	Suppan p	1	0	0	0
Horgan p	0	0	0	0	WWms ph	1	0	0	0
JRivra rf	0	0	0	0	Eldred p	0	0	0	0
					Tguchi lf	2	0	0	0
Totals	**37**	**4**	**11**	**4**	**Totals**	**33**	**5**	**13**	**5**

Montreal	010	200	010–4
St. Louis	002	002	000–5

No outs when winning run scored.

E—Wlkrsn (10), Mathrny (1), Suppan (1). DP—Montreal 3. LOB—Montreal 12, St. Louis 10. 2B—EChavez (15), ASGztz (22), Schneider (11), LHernandez (6), Taguchi (6). HR—Pujols (31), Mabry (1). SB—EChavez (16), ASGonzalez (2), HMateo (1), Renteria (12). CS—Mabry (1). S—Sledge, LHernandez.

Montreal	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
LHernandez	6⅔	9	4	4	4	6
Horgan	⅓	1	0	0	1	0
Ayala	1	0	0	0	0	1
CCordero L,3-2	0	1	1	1	0	0
St. Louis						
Suppan	5	8	3	3	1	5
Eldred	1	0	0	0	1	1
Kng	1	0	0	0	0	1
Kline	1	2	1	0	1	1
Tvarez W,3-3	1	0	0	0	0	2

CCordero pitched to 1 batter in the 9th. Kline pitched to 1 batter in the 9th. HBP—by Kline (Wilkerson), by LHernandez (Rolen). T–3:15. A–35,779 (50,345).

Cubs 11, Rockies 8

CHICAGO — **COLORADO**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
PTbtson cf	5	1	3	0	Miles 2b	4	2	1	0
Grcprr ss	5	2	2	1	Clayton ss	5	1	2	1
Alou lf	5	1	0	0	Helton 1b	4	1	1	1
SSosa rf	5	1	3	3	Castillo 3b	5	0	2	1
ARmrz 3b	5	2	2	2	Burnitz rf	3	1	0	2
DeLee 1b	4	2	3	0	PWilsn cf	3	0	0	0
Walkr 2b	4	2	3	2	Bonvno c	4	0	1	0
Rmlngr p	0	0	0	0	SReed p	0	0	0	0
Hwkins p	0	0	0	0	TGreen pb	0	0	0	0
Barrett c	5	0	1	0	Mdwlkw ph	1	0	1	2
Zmbrno p	2	0	0	0	Brnero p	0	0	0	0
Godwin ph	0	0	0	0	Fnsworth p	0	0	0	0
Merckr p	0	0	0	0	Smpson p	0	0	0	0
Frnswrth p	0	0	0	0	LuGnzl ph	1	0	0	0
Grdzln 2b	1	1	1	0	Hlliday lf	4	1	1	0
					CJhnsn c	4	1	1	0
					Wright p	2	0	0	0
					LWalkr rf	3	1	1	1
Totals	**40**	**11**	**15**	**8**	**Totals**	**38**	**8**	**11**	**8**

Chicago	010	000	442–11
Colorado	200	001	210– 8

E—Garciaparra (1), Twalker (6), Simpson (1). DP—Chicago 1. LOB—Chicago 11, Colorado 7. 2B—CPatterson (20), Garciaparra (1), TWalker (17), CJohnson (20), 3B—Clayton (5), SSosa (35), PWilson (24), ARamirez (23), TWalker (13), Helton (25), MaSweeney (5), CJohnson (12). SB—CPatterson (7), Garciaparra (1), DeLee (7), Miles (10). S—Zambrano. SF—Garciaparra.

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Zambrano	6	8	4	4	2	6
Mercker	⅓	0	1	1	1	1
Frnswrth W,4-3	⅓	1	0	0	0	1
Remlinger	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hawkins	1	2	1	1	0	1
Colorado						
Wright	5⅓	4	1	1	4	5
Dohmann	1	2	3	3	1	2
SReed	⅓	3	1	1	1	0
Brnero	⅓	1	1	1	0	0
Chacon L,1-7	⅓	3	3	3	0	0
Simpson	1	2	1	1	0	1

Farnsworth pitched to 1 batter in the 8th. Wright pitched to 3 batters in the 6th. HBP—by Wright (SSosa), by Zambrano (Miles). WP—Chacon. PB—CJohnson 2. T–3:32. A–45,280 (49,449).

Diamondbacks 11, Marlins 6

FLORIDA — **ARIZONA**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Pierre cf	4	1

Yanks claim 42nd comeback victory

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees found the perfect way to make Esteban Loaiza feel right at home: They pulled off one of their signature comebacks.

Gary Sheffield hit a tying homer in the ninth, and Alex Rodriguez's two-run shot in the 11th gave New York an 8-6 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Wednesday night.

Eric Byrnes hit a three-run drive for one of three homers by the A's, who tagged Loaiza for five runs in his Yankees debut. But New York rallied against the Athletics' bullpen, sending Oakland to only its second loss in 11 games.

"I always used to see it on TV, now I'm here and I'm part of it," said Loaiza, who stuck around in the dugout to see the late-inning excitement up close.

With the Yankees trailing 6-4 in the ninth, Derek Jeter blooped a one-out single to right off closer Octavio Dotel. Sheffield then sent a 1-1 pitch over the left-field fence to tie it, bringing a huge roar from the crowd of 47,885.

It was Dotel's third blown save in 11 chances with the A's since he was acquired from Houston.

"Today he got me," Dotel said. "Today I was trying to throw a slider backdoor, something different to see if I could get him out, but he's a good hitter."

After Mariano Rivera threw 51 pitches in two scoreless innings, Sheffield singled with one out in the 11th off Justin Duchscherer (4-3). Rodriguez, playing with a sore leg, followed with a high drive over the left-field fence, giving him the AL lead with 29 home runs.

Rodriguez raised his right arm as he rounded first, then was greeted by his teammates at home plate in a matter-of-fact celebration, Yankees-style.

"There is something magic about this park. I think the Red Sox will tell you that," Byrnes said.

It was New York's major league-leading 42nd comeback victory, surpassing its total from last season.

"Against a club that's the hottest in baseball, it's huge," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

Rivera (3-1) escaped a bases-loaded jam in the 10th with some help from new first baseman John Olerud, who made a nifty pickup and forced a runner at the plate for the second out. Mark Kotsay then flied to center.

Olerud hit a two-run single off Rich Harden in his first at-bat with the Yankees and finished 2-for-5. Hideki Matsui also homered for New York, which will try to win this three-game series between AL division leaders when sinkerballer Kevin Brown faces Oakland curveballer Barry Zito in an enticing Thursday matinee.

"We were tired. We've got to come back out there in about nine hours, 10 hours, so we wanted to win this," Rodriguez said. "There's a lot of fight in this team."

Jermaine Dye and Eric Chavez also connected for the A's, who had won three straight.

A 21-game winner and runner-up for the AL Cy Young Award last season, Loaiza was acquired from the Chicago White Sox for pitcher Jose Contreras and $3 million just before baseball's trade deadline Saturday.

Loaiza is supposed to help solidify the Yankees' inconsistent rotation, but he struggled with his control Wednesday. Three of the four he walked scored, and he set up another run by hitting a batter with a pitch.

Making his second attempt at career win No. 100, the right-hander gave up five runs and six hits in six innings, striking out six.

"I wanted to win — bad," Loaiza said. "I've just got to wait for my next start."

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AP

Devil Rays catcher Toby Hall, left, levels the Red Sox's Dave Roberts at home during the ninth inning of Tampa Bay's 5-4 win Wednesday night. Roberts tried to score from second on a single by Doug Mientkiewicz.

Hall's big plays at the plate lift Devil Rays over Red Sox

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Toby Hall put Tampa Bay ahead with a slump-busting grand slam, then protected the Devil Rays' slim lead by blocking the plate in the ninth inning.

Hall broke an 0-for-18 skid in the seventh with his first career slam and tagged out Dave Roberts to help Tampa Bay hold on for a 5-4 victory over visiting Boston on Wednesday night, just its second win in nine games against the Red Sox this season.

"Boy, it's nice to beat Boston," Tampa Bay manager Lou Piniella said. "It's hard to beat these guys and their neighbors to the south."

While the Red Sox were falling short, their "neighbors to the south" — the New York Yankees — were busy pulling off their major league-leading 42nd comeback victory, an 8-6 win in 11 innings over Oakland. Boston trails New York by nine games in the AL East and is 1½ games behind Texas in the wild-card race.

The Red Sox had a chance to tie it in the ninth when Kevin Millar hit a leadoff single and pinch-runner Roberts advanced to second on Hall's passed ball. Doug Mientkiewicz followed with a single to center and Roberts was thrown out when Hall took center fielder Rocco Baldelli's one-hop throw and blocked the plate.

"To make a throw like that is pretty impressive," Roberts said. "I thought I had a shot. Unfortunately, Rocco made a great throw."

Mientkiewicz, who went to second on the throw, advanced to third on a groundout and Gabe Kapler was hit by a pitch before Danys Baez got Johnny Damon to pop out to first for his 23rd save.

In Tampa Bay's half of the seventh, Jose Cruz Jr. led off with a single, Tino Martinez walked and Julio Lugo reached on third baseman Kevin Youkilis' error to load the bases. Hall followed by hitting Bronson Arroyo's 1-2 pitch over the left-field wall.

"I wanted to go with a sinker in and try to get a double-play ball," Arroyo said. "It was thigh-high, up."

Arroyo (4-8) gave up five runs and six hits over seven innings.

Travis Harper (3-2) worked a scoreless seventh for the win.

Bill Mueller had a homer and two RBIs for Boston, which was looking for its first road sweep since taking three games from the Yankees on April 23-25.

Indians 14, Blue Jays 5: Travis Hafner homered twice, went 4-for-5 and tied a career high with six RBIs, and Cleveland snapped a four-game losing streak in Toronto.

Casey Blake went 5-for-6 to match a career high for hits as the Indians tied their season best with 21 hits.

Jake Westbrook (9-5) won despite allowing five runs on 11 hits in six innings. Josh Towers (6-4) was the loser.

Rangers 8, Tigers 0: Mike Bacsik gave up four hits in seven innings in his Texas debut, and Laynce Nix hit a two-run homer to lead the visiting Rangers.

Bacsik (1-0) signed with Texas in December and was called up from Triple-A Oklahoma last week. Jason Johnson (8-9) allowed five runs on 10 hits in six innings.

Orioles 6, Mariners 3: Rafael Palmeiro singled in two runs to snap a seventh-inning tie, and the Orioles handed visiting Seattle its sixth straight loss.

Brian Roberts also had two RBIs for Baltimore.

Todd Williams (1-0) got the last two outs in the seventh and Jorge Julio got his 17th save. The Orioles scored three runs on one hit in the seventh against Shigetoshi Hasegawa (4-4) and Mike Myers.

Twins 6, Angels 3: Justin Morneau homered for the second straight night, sparking a three-run sixth inning that carried host Minnesota to its 13th victory in 16 games.

Torii Hunter followed Morneau with a double, then Jacque Jones hit a two-run homer to break it open for the Twins, who now have a season-high six-game lead in the AL Central.

Vladimir Guerrero homered for the Angels against Kyle Lohse (5-8). Joe Nathan pitched the ninth for his 31st save.

Ramon Ortiz (3-7) gave up 11 hits and six runs in 6⅔ innings.

Royals 11, White Sox 0: Brian Anderson (2-9) pitched a career-best two-hitter to win for the first time since April 20, and John Buck capped the Royals' seven-run first with a three-run homer.

Scott Schoeneweis (6-9) lasted just 1⅓ innings for visiting Chicago, giving up a season-high nine runs and nine of Kansas City's 17 hits.

Sosa ties Jackson with 563rd as Cubs win

The Associated Press

DENVER — The Chicago Cubs were mostly quiet for the first six innings in Colorado. Then, the Rockies couldn't keep them off the scoreboard.

Aramis Ramirez hit a go-ahead solo homer in the eighth after Nomar Garciaparra tied it on Shawn Chacon's wild pitch, and the Cubs scored 10 times in the final three innings for an 11-8 victory Wednesday night.

NL Roundup

"It's great to see a late-inning win like that," manager Dusty Baker said. "You want late-inning scoring here. You don't want to give them too much time to come back."

After pinch-hitter Mark Sweeney hit a go-ahead two-run homer in the seventh for Colorado, Ramirez homered to make it 7-6. Todd Walker added a two-run homer two batters later for the Cubs, who used 15 hits to win their third straight game and fifth of six.

Sammy Sosa tied it 4-4 when he hit a 1-0 pitch from Scott Dohmann for his 24th homer of the season and 563rd of his career, tying Reggie Jackson for eighth on the career list "I'm just trying to do my job," Sosa said. "It's an honor to tie Reggie Jackson. I never would have thought I'd tie him."

Moments after Sosa's shot, Dohmann and Rockies manager Clint Hurdle were tossed after the right-hander threw a high inside pitch to Ramirez. The pitch didn't hit Ramirez, but plate umpire Dan Iassogna tossed Dohmann immediately although he hadn't issued an earlier warning.

"I wasn't trying to hit the guy," Dohmann said. "It was a tie ballgame at Coors Field in the seventh inning. I guess because it came right after a home run it looked suspicious, but it was ridiculous."

The Cubs matched a season high by moving 11 games over .500 (59-48).

Kyle Farnsworth (4-3) pitched one-third of an inning for the win. Chacon (1-7) allowed three runs and three hits in one-third of an inning to take the loss.

Cardinals 5, Expos 4: Albert Pujols homered off Chad Cordero (3-2) leading off the ninth inning and John Mabry was 4-for-4 with four RBIs for the homestanding Cardinals. Julian Tavarez (3-3) pitched a scoreless ninth for the major league-leading Cardinals, who are 7-2 in their last nine games.

St. Louis' Mike Matheny made his first error in 252 throws since Aug. 1, 2002, at Florida — a record streak for catchers.

Mets 6, Brewers 5: First baseman Lyle Overbay botched Gerald Williams' bunt for a tiebreaking two-run error in a five-run seventh and visiting New York won consecutive games for the first time in nearly a month.

The Mets overcame a 3-1 deficit in the seventh. Doug Davis walked Cliff Floyd and Mike Cameron before giving way to Mike Adam (1-1), who allowed a tying two-run single to Joe McEwing. Williams followed with a bunt that Overbay fielded and threw into right field.

Dodgers 2, Pirates 1: Jose Lima (10-3) pitched seven innings to win his fourth straight decision and Alex Cora hit a tie-breaking home run in the seventh to give the host Dodgers their 23rd victory in 29 games.

Diamondbacks 11, Marlins 6: Randy Johnson pitched six innings to end his three-game losing skid and Roberto Alomar had four hits and three RBIs to help host Arizona win consecutive games for the first time since June 30-July 1 against San Diego.

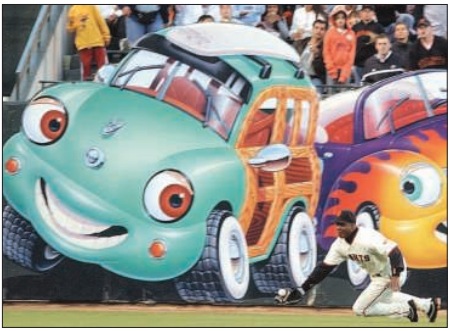
Making his first start since the trading deadline passed Saturday, Johnson (11-9) gave up five runs, seven hits and two walks while matching a season low for strikeouts with four.

Phillies 7, Padres 5: Jimmy Rollins hit an inside-the-park homer for visiting Philadelphia and Eric Milton (12-2) won for the first time in six starts.

David Bell added a two-run homer for the Phillies, who remained 4½ games behind Atlanta in the NL East.

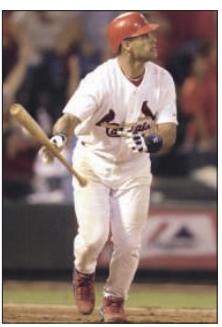
Reds 8, Giants 7: Adam Dunn hit two homers and Felipe Lopez added a go-ahead two-run shot in the sixth for the visiting Reds, who blew a big early lead but rallied for just their second victory in 13 games.

Ken Griffey Jr. went 2-for-3 with his 400th career double in his first appearance since tearing his hamstring on July 10, but left in the fifth with stiffness in the hamstring.



AP

San Francisco Giants left fielder Barry Bonds can't quite reach Ken Griffey's fly ball in the third inning of Wednesday night's game against Cincinnati. The Reds beat the Giants 8-7.



AP

Albert Pujols' ninth-inning home run, his 31st of the season, gave St. Louis a 5-4 victory over Montreal on Wednesday night.

AP

Sammy Sosa hit his 563rd career home run Wednesday night in Denver, tying Reggie Jackson for eighth on the career list.

'New' Thomson befuddles Houston

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Hit hard by Houston in the past, John Thomson changed his approach. It worked.

Thomson held the Astros to four hits in seven innings and pitched the Atlanta Braves to a 5-4 victory on Wednesday night.

"Every time I've pitched against them before, it seemed like they had my number. Tonight I decided to throw more off-speed stuff and changeups and I got a lot more ground balls," Thomson said.

Thomson was 2-4 with a 7.71 ERA against Houston in six previous games.

"My whole career, I've been a fastball and hard sinker pitcher. They are a good fastball hitting team and I'm always around the plate with the fastball," he said.

"I threw a lot of curves tonight and I threw more changeups than I did in the whole month of June," he said.

Jeff Bagwell hit a two-out, two-run homer in the ninth off Braves closer John Smoltz. But after giving up Bagwell's 16th home run of the season and 435th of his career, Smoltz finished for his 26th save in 28 chances.

Chipper Jones contributed two RBI singles as the NL East-leading Braves won for the 10th time in 12 games. They have won eight of their last 10 on the road.

Thomson (9-7) gave up two runs, striking out two and walking one. He retired 11 of the last 12 hitters that he faced in winning for the fourth time in five decisions since June 28.

Chris Reitsma pitched a scoreless eighth and Smoltz took over in the ninth.

It was Thomson's fastball that impressed Bagwell.

"To me, he was different than before. He was throwing a new pitch. It was a hard slider or a cutter," Bagwell said. "I don't remember him being that hard a thrower before. He threw the fastball down and in and that's the whole philosophy of pitching."

Thomson also impressed Houston manager Phil Garner.

"On the other side, we couldn't crack the guy," Garner said. "He threw the ball well. He located pretty well and his cutter was deceptive."

Pete Munro (2-3) lasted only 4⅓ innings, giving up four runs on eight hits.

"They really didn't hit anything hard," Munro said. "They just got enough of the bat on the ball and that one inning ended up being big. I guess a couple of pitches got too much of the plate."

Garner agreed with Munro.

"It wasn't like he got rocketed. They got three broken-bat hits and some other balls that were well placed," Garner said.

Atlanta took a 3-0 lead in the second inning, set up when Johnny Estrada and Andruw Jones singled. Adam LaRoche hit an RBI double and rookie Charles Thomas delivered a two-run double.

"Thomas has been exceptional in everything he has done," Atlanta manager Bobby Cox observed. "His defense has been particularly good and he is hitting .333."

AP

Atlanta's John Thomson changes tactics and got a victory over the Houston Astros.

Heroic heave

Midcourt shot by Iverson saves U.S. from further embarrassment

BY ROY KAMMERER
The Associated Press

COLOGNE, Germany — Things are not looking good for the NBA stars on the U.S. Olympic basketball team.

The Americans needed a final-shot three-pointer by Allen Iverson from just across midcourt Wednesday to pull out an 80-77 exhibition victory over Germany — a team that failed to even qualify for the Athens Games.

A day after losing 95-78 to unheralded Italy, the U.S. players celebrated their last-gasp triumph against Germany as though they had won an NBA championship. When Iverson's second three-pointer in the final 1½ minutes went through the net, two-time league MVP Tim Duncan raised a finger to the sky as if to say, "We're No. 1!"

Other team members piled atop Iverson on the court.

"That was great. It felt good because it was the first time in my life I hit a buzzer beater like that," Iverson said. "That's what basketball is all about."

Duncan led the Americans with 19 points, followed by Carmelo Anthony with 16 and Iverson with 15. But the United States again struggled against a team thought to be no competition.

The Germans' top player, Dallas Mavericks All-Star Dirk Nowitzki, appeared to have sent the game to overtime by making a three-pointer over two defenders to tie the score at 77 with 3.2 seconds left. Nowitzki scored 32 points.

But Iverson, a U.S. co-captain, came through with his own clutch shot, one day after calling the upset rout against Italy "a wake-up call." That 17-point difference was the largest margin of defeat for an NBA-stocked U.S. team.

"We made a lot of improvements over the game last night, but we have a long ways to go," U.S. coach Larry Brown said.

One of Iverson's other four three-pointers came with 1:18 left, staking the Americans to a 75-72 lead. Nowitzki cut that deficit to 75-74 with two free throws with 35 seconds to go.

Anthony, the Denver Nuggets' star rookie, made two foul shots to make it 77-74, setting up the final long-distance drama.

The Americans held a slim lead early, never leading by more than five, until Nowitzki's six straight points on jumpers lifted the Germans to a 59-56 lead with 2:40 left in the third quarter.

The Americans showed more intensity and better defense from the start than against Italy.

Iverson set the tone in the opening minutes, hounding German point guard Steffen Hamann until jarring the ball loose and finishing a fast break with a layup.

"It's my job to set an example on defense and then the others will follow," the 76ers guard said.

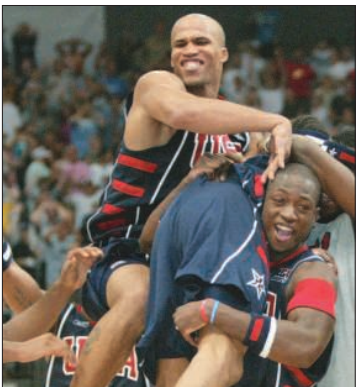
But the Germans, who beat Italy 85-77 three days ago, lacked the stellar outside shooters that proved so hard to handle for the U.S. team against the Italians.

Instead, the hosts relied on Nowitzki and plenty of support from the crowd of 18,000.

"I think we're getting better. Just to get a win in a place like this — the crowd was really into it," Iverson said. "We have to get used to it in Athens. Everybody will be rooting against us. So this will be a good test for us."

The U.S. team plays its first game in Athens against Puerto Rico on Aug. 15 as it tries to win a fourth straight gold medal since NBA players were allowed to compete in the Olympics. The Americans' next exhibition game is against Serbia-Montenegro.

Germany failed to qualify for the Olympics because it lost to Italy in qualifying. The Germans won the bronze medal in the 2002 World Championships.



AP

Allen Iverson is carried by teammates after his last-second, midcourt shot beat Germany 80-77 in an exhibition game in Cologne, Germany, on Wednesday. The Germans had failed to qualify for the Olympics.

Dirk Nowitzki (right) made a three-pointer with 3.2 seconds remaining to lift Germany into a tie on Wednesday. Nowitzki scored 32 points. The Americans' next game is against Serbia-Montenegro.

AP

Kobe's accuser might drop criminal case, pursue civil lawsuit

BY TRACY CONNOR
New York Daily News

The prosecution of Kobe Bryant appeared on the verge of collapse Wednesday night after his accuser threatened to pull out of the criminal case and sue him in civil court instead.

The bombshell dropped two days after a Colorado judge released transcripts of a hearing in which a defense expert claimed the 20-year-old had sex with a mystery man hours after she was allegedly raped.

The woman's lawyers said lurid details about semen from "Mister X" found on underwear she wore to a rape exam wrecked her chances of getting justice in the trial slated to start Aug. 27.

"I think she and the prosecution will have to meet in the very near future to decide what they want to do," one of her lawyers, John Clune, told MSNBC.

Her other lawyer, Lin Wood, said damage from the transcript and other pretrial disclosures about the woman's sex life was "irreparable."

"I'm of the mind that she's only going to be treated fairly in a civil case where the playing field is leveled and Mr. Bryant's life will be scrutinized," Wood said.

Bryant's camp had no comment, and the Eagle County district attorney's office gave only a brief, and surprisingly stoic, statement.

"Nothing has changed with our plans of going forward with the prosecution," spokeswoman Krista Flanningan said.

Technically, prosecutors could try the Los Angeles Lakers star without the accuser's cooperation, but legal analysts said there's no chance of that happening.

"It's over," said Larry Pozner, a prominent Denver defense lawyer. "The evidence did not look good for the prosecution. The credibility of their complaining witness is at an all-time low."

Experts agreed that the accuser would have an easier time getting a judgment against the mega-wealthy athlete in civil court than a conviction in criminal court.

Prosecutors must prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt and cannot compel Bryant to testify. In civil matters, the burden of proof is far lower — a "preponderance" of evidence is required — and the defendant can be forced to take the stand.

The difference between the standards is exemplified by the O.J. Simpson case, in which the football great was acquitted of murdering his ex-wife in criminal court but held liable for her death in civil court.

Still, forgoing prosecution but forging ahead with a lawsuit has its pitfalls for Bryant's accuser, who strongly denies defense claims she's after Bryant's millions.

"The fact that the civil justice system puts accountability into financial terms doesn't make this young girl a gold digger," Wood said. "It makes this girl determined to pursue truth."

The accuser's doubts about the prosecution were aired against the backdrop of an unconfirmed report that all the parties held talks last week on how to settle the case without a trial.

One scenario called for Bryant to plead to a non-sex charge, such as assault, issue an apology, and pre-empt a civil suit with a secret payoff, the TV show "Celebrity Justice" said.

But Wood and Clune said they want an admission from Bryant that he raped their client — not an apology — or a jury's verdict.

"One thing … that Kobe Bryant should know is that doing nothing, going away is not an option," Wood said. "Whether this proceeds criminally, civilly or both, justice is going to be had for this young woman."

Sixers trade Coleman for Pistons' Williamson

BY LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

DETROIT — The Detroit Pistons acquired Derrick Coleman and Amal McCaskill from the Philadelphia 76ers in a trade Wednesday for Corliss Williamson.

Philadelphia got rid of a player it didn't want, and NBA champion Detroit freed up considerable salary-cap space.

"We feel like this is a good trade for our team and our organization as we move forward," said Joe Dumars, Pistons president of basketball operations. "Corliss Williamson was a very special guy to have on the team for 3½ seasons. We thank him for all of his efforts here on and off the court and we will miss him."

The 76ers made it clear they wanted to deal Coleman, who has two years and $9.5 million on his contract. If the Pistons release him after one season, they will owe him $2 million.

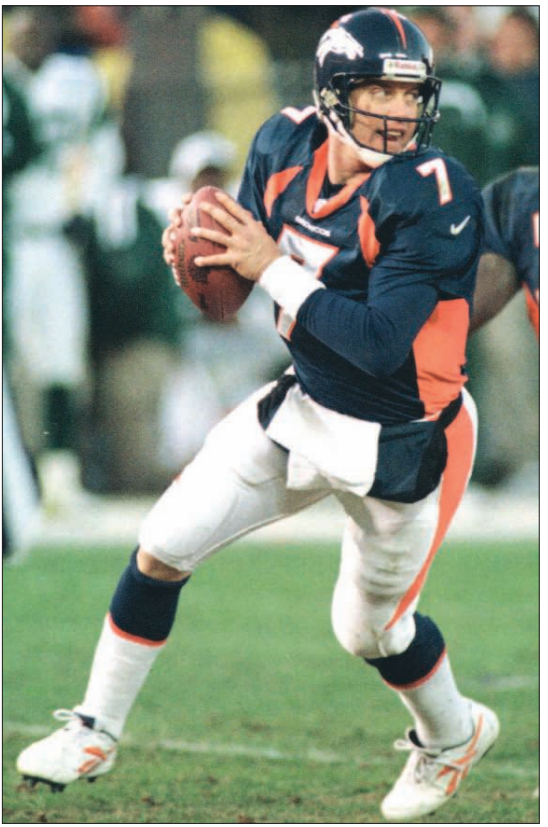
By moving Williamson, with $18 million and three guaranteed years left on his deal, the Pistons will have more money to make moves in a year or two. McCaskill was a free agent, who signed a contract before being traded.

Even though Coleman was vilified by Sixers fans and former team president Pat Croce, he became a favorite of Larry Brown, who coaches the Pistons.

The 37-year-old Coleman played in 34 games last season while struggling to stay healthy. The 6-foot-10 center averaged 8.0 points and 5.6 rebounds.

SPORTS

Sosa ties Jackson with 563rd homer as Cubs top D-backs, Page 30



AP

Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway rolls out against the New York Jets during the AFC Championship in this Jan. 17, 1999 photo at Mile High Stadium in Denver. Elway joins Barry Sanders, Carl Eller and Bob Brown as the Class of 2004 inductees into the Pro Football Hall of Fame this weekend.

The drive to the Hall

Elway, king of comebacks, easily earns trip to Canton

BY JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

DENVER — Whether he was tossing the ball underhand, diving for a first down or driving the length of the field in the closing seconds, John Elway was going to find a way to win.

No matter the score, if there was time on the clock and Elway had the ball, the outcome was still in question.

So when it came to getting into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, there was no doubt: Elway was a first-ballot entry all the way. The King of Comebacks will be inducted Sunday in Canton, Ohio, along with Barry Sanders, Carl Eller and Bob Brown.

"I think the bottom line is I'd just like to be remembered as someone who was competitive, never gave up, that as long as there was time on the clock you're going to get 100 percent of what he had," Elway said.

"It wasn't always pretty, but we were able to get the job done."

The first pick of the great quarterback draft of 1983 — Dan Marino, Jim Kelly, Todd Blackledge, Ken O'Brien, Tony Eason also went in the opening round that year — Elway lived up to the hype.

He ranks second to Marino on the NFL's career list in yards passing, attempts, completions and total yards. Elway has the best winning percentage in league history at 148-82-1 and was a nine-time Pro Bowl pick, tied for the most among quarterbacks.

He also was the 1987 league MVP and is the only quarterback to start in five Super Bowls, winning consecutive titles in 1998-99 before calling it a career.

"He is the greatest quarterback ever to play the game," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said.

But there was much more to Elway than just his numbers.

SEE ELWAY ON PAGE 24

Bucking his way into Canton

Elway

Former Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway becomes the first Denver player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, joining Bob Brown, Carl Eller and Barry Sanders into Canton.

JOHN ELWAY • Quarterback 1983-98 Denver Broncos

Drafted: First overall pick of the 1983 draft by the Baltimore Colts; traded to the Broncos

▶ Only player in NFL history to pass for more than 3,000 yards and rush for more than 200 yards in the same season seven consecutive times

▶ Elected to nine Pro Bowls

▶ NFL's Most Valuable Player, 1987

▶ Only QB to start in five Super Bowls, winning the MVP honor in SB XXXIII

▶ Second on the NFL's career list in passing yards, attempts and completions, and third in touchdown passes.

Career

G	ATT	COMP	YARDS	TDS	INT
234	7,250	4,123	51,475	300	226

AP

Iverson has the answer against Germany, but questions still abound for U.S. Olympic team

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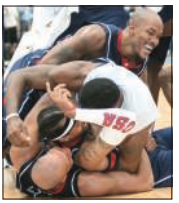

Sources: Cowboys abruptly cut QB Carter because he failed drug test

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Martin, Jarrett racing to crack top 10 and grab shot at Nextel title

Page 26