Blast in Afghanistan kills seven, including two Americans Page 9

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'Gloria' singer Laura Branigan dies at 47
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Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Earnhardt Jr. dominates at Bristol
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Convention draws GOP, protesters to New York

Kerry, Democrats talk tough against Bush administration

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Rogge to Athens: 'You have won'

IOC president salutes Greece for 'unforgettable, dream Games'

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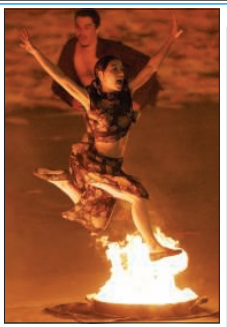

AP photos

Right: Fireworks are seen in the sky above Athens' Olympic Stadium Sunday during the closing ceremony of the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. Above: A dancer jumps over flames during the ceremony.

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

States

Daughter's disappearance: A Wisconsin woman who said she left her 3-year-old daughter behind with relatives in California 35 years ago has been accused in the girl's death.

Donna Pulsifer Kent Prentice, 57, was arrested Friday on a homicide warrant and jailed without bail. Two days earlier, authorities in Illinois arrested Michael Kent, 62, who had been Prentice's boyfriend at the time the girl, Michelle, disappeared. Both are charged with murder.

Michelle's father, Richard Pulsifer Sr., said he began searching for the girl in July 1969 when he arrived at his ex-wife's home in Huntington Beach, Calif., and found everyone gone.

Prentice

Michelle's brother, Richard Pulsifer Jr., now 41, was reunited with his father years later. He recalled the night Michelle burst into his room at the family's home and crawled under the covers, pleading with him to hide her. "And then my mom came into the room and got her. … I never saw her again," he said.

Accused Nazi guard: A federal judge Friday revoked the U.S. citizenship of a Romanian-born former member of the Nazi SS accused of serving as a concentration camp guard.

The government accused Joseph Wittje, 84, of Bensenville, Ill., of hiding his membership in an SS Death's Head battalion that guarded Sachsenhausen, a camp near Berlin where thousands were executed or died from starvation, disease and medical experiments.

The government contended that because the Nazi Waffen SS was a movement hostile to the United States, Wittje was not lawfully admitted to this country when he was granted citizenship in August 1959.

World

India missile test: India on Sunday test-launched a nuclear-capable missile able to carry a one-ton warhead, the defense ministry said.

The weapon has a range of up to 1,560 miles — easily within striking distance of any of India's near neighbors — and is designed to carry both conventional and nuclear warheads.

Somalia forms parliament: Somalia inaugurated a transitional parliament Sunday, taking an important first step toward forming a new government for the devastated country.

Leaders of Somalia's major clans have been meeting in Kenya since October 2002 in an attempt to end 13 years of fighting. They hope to establish the first effective central government since 1991, when warlords ousted dictator Mohamed Siad Barre before turning on each other, plunging the country into chaos.

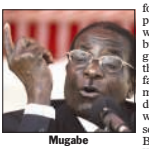
Palestinian clashes in Lebanon: Armed clashes broke out Sunday between Palestinian supporters of Yasser Arafat and Islamic extremists in Lebanon's largest refugee camp, and officials said three people were killed. At least seven people were wounded when machine-gun fire erupted in the Ein el-Hilweh camp on the outskirts of Sidon.

Members of Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction, Palestinian officials said, battled those of the radical Asbat al-Ansar group, which is on the U.S. list of terrorist organizations. The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said fighting started when a pro-Arafat march reached a street controlled by Asbat al-Ansar. Members of the group opened fire in the direction of the demonstrators, killing Mohammed Ibrahim, a Fatah official, and his assistant, Mohammed al-Aatout. A Lebanese teenager who was standing on her balcony just outside the camp was hit by a stray bullet and died, according to hospital officials.

Gandhi's nonviolent message: Arun Gandhi, center, the grandson of Mohandas Gandhi, sits with Knesset members Haim Oron, left, and Yuli Tamir on Sunday prior to a meeting with the initiators of the Geneva Accord, an unofficial peace plan written in 2003. Gandhi arrived in Israel Aug. 24 for a weeklong visit to the West Bank and Israel, to float nonviolent options to end almost four years of fighting between Israelis and Palestinians.

Zimbabwe unrest: Longtime ruler President Robert Mugabe scoffed at Western calls for "regime change" in Zimbabwe and warned his countrymen Sunday of foreign and local subversives in their midst.

Mugabe said former colonial power Britain was embittered by his 2000 program to seize thousands of farms owned mostly by the descendants of white British settlers. He said Britain and its Western allies sent their nationals to Zimbabwe to work for charities and rights and advocacy groups to destabilize his nation. He warned Zimbabweans to be aware of "wolves in sheep's clothing speaking the sweet language of deceit" to restore British influence in the nation.



Mugabe

"They talk of regime change unashamedly. What right have they to effect that change, or even talk about it?" Mugabe said.

Russian plane crashes: Russia must develop unified standards for airport security, the country's transport minister said Sunday, five days after the crash of two airliners believed to have been brought down by explosives.

The airliners, which had taken off from Moscow's Domodedovo Airport, crashed within minutes of each other on Tuesday, killing all 90 people aboard. Officials said traces of the high-explosive hexogen were found in the wreckage of both planes.

The statements that explosives apparently were brought on board planes at one of Russia's most modern and sophisticated airports indicated potentially large security gaps in the air transport network that knits the country's far-flung cities.

Transport Minister Igor Levitin admitted that there is no national standard for airport security.

War on Terrorism

Threats against Italy: An online statement posted Sunday in the name of an al-Qaida-linked group pledged that the Vatican would be spared, but repeated threats to "turn Rome into hell."

"We declare that the Vatican will never be one of (our) targets," said the statement, posted on a Web site known for its militant Islamic content. Its authenticity could not be verified.

The statement, signed in the name of the Abu-Hafs al-Masri Brigades, repeated threats to ravage Rome unless Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's government withdraws Italian troops from Iraq.

Several past statements attributed to the group have warned any target in Italy was valid because the government had ignored demands to withdraw its approximately 3,000 troops from Iraq.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Messages of Support

Stars and Stripes

★ To My Handsome, Sexy Husband F. B. Acevedo Jr. Hey babe, we all love and miss you soooooooooooooooooo much!! You have already been through this once, you will get through it again. We cannot wait until you return!! You are in our prayers, thoughts and heart ALWAYS. Never forget it. Thank you for all you're doing. Love, Lauren, Dimitri, Antonio, Michael & Cindy

★ Hey there Craig! Hope you are doing well where you are. Miss you so much and hope you stay safe! You'll always have my support in all that you do! Love, Deidre

Talks aim at reducing Sadr City violence

U.S. officials, Iraqi Shiites hope to extend Najaf peace deal to Baghdad neighborhood

BY TODD PITMAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. military officials and representatives of rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr held talks Sunday aimed at reducing violence in the restive Baghdad slum of Sadr City, a day after clashes there killed 10 people, officials said.

British forces in the southern city of Basra, also the site of recent fighting, held similar talks with al-Sadr officials there.

Both areas had erupted in violence after U.S. forces and al-Sadr's militants began fighting in the holy city of Najaf three weeks ago, and the talks Sunday appeared to be an effort by both sides to expand on the peace deal that ended the Najaf crisis Friday.

An agreement, at least in Sadr City, remained elusive, however, with al-Sadr's aides demanding a U.S. pullout from the neighborhood, a condition U.S. officials refused.

Meanwhile, guerrillas launched an attack on the country's oil infrastructure in the south, blowing up several oil export pipelines and cutting already curtailed exports to about 500,000 barrels a day, an oil official said.

In the north, insurgents ambushed U.S. troops with rocket-propelled grenades near Mosul, sparking gunbattles that killed two attackers and wounded 34 civilians, the U.S. military said.

U.S. forces and al-Sadr's Mahdi Army militia have been fighting for weeks in Sadr City, the slum named for the rebel cleric's father. Though peace descended on Najaf on Friday, skirmishes continued Saturday in Baghdad, with militants firing mortars and automatic weapons at U.S. troops and tanks in the impoverished neighborhood.

The head of the tribal negotiating team, Naim al-Bakhati, told reporters that all sides — including al-Sadr representatives — had agreed that damaged areas there be rebuilt, U.S. troops withdraw from the area except for their normal patrols and that Iraqi police be allowed to enter the slum.

But "there was no agreement on the Mahdi Army handing over their weapons," al-Bakhati said.

Sadr City police chief Col. Maarouf Moussa Omran said all sides agreed to observe a one-day truce until Monday morning to give the Iraqi government time to discuss the results of the meeting.

But Lt. Col. Jim Hutton, a spokesman for the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, said "there has been no agreement of any kind," adding that the talks were not negotiations.

In Basra, a British commander held talks with al-Sadr's top representative in the city, Sheik Asaad al-Basri, and the pro-al-Sadr deputy governor, Salam al-Maliki.

British Maj. Charlie Mayo, a coalition spokesman in Basra, described the meeting as a routine "interaction between the local British commanders and respected tribal leaders."

The latest attack on Iraq's vulnerable oil infrastructure occurred Sunday when assailants blew up several export pipelines in al-Radgha, about 30 miles southwest of Basra, an official at the state-run South Oil Co. said on condition of anonymity.

Plumes of black smoke billowed from the area as firefighters struggled to douse the flames. The pipelines connect the Rumeila oil fields with export storage tanks in the Faw peninsula.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 968 U.S. servicemembers have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 724 died as a result of hostile action and 244 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 64 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, 11; Poland, 10; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, six; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 830 U.S. soldiers have died — 615 as a result of hostile action and 215 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers Friday. The department did not provide an update on Saturday.

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

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

AP

Workers try to contain a fire Sunday after saboteurs blew up a pipeline in al-Radgha, about 30 miles southwest of Basra, Iraq. Insurgents have launched repeated attacks on Iraq's vital oil industry in a bid to undermine the interim government and reconstruction efforts.

Web site shows kidnapped Nepalese reading statement

BY RAWYA RAGEH
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A Web site linked to an Iraqi militant group showed a video of 12 Nepalese workers kidnapped in Iraq, with one of them reading a statement warning workers against going to Iraq and blaming America for lying about security in the war-ravaged country.

The video on a Web site of the Ansar Al-Sunna Army could not be independently verified. It was not possible to identify the men as the 12 shown in photographs on the site last week when Ansar Al-Sunna Army announced the kidnappings.

The group has been linked to past kidnapping claims.

The two-minute, 40-second video showed a seated man draped in an American flag and reading from a paper. He said the group came to Iraq under a deal between their company in Nepal and American forces, brokered by a Jordanian company.

The unidentified man spoke in broken English, mostly inaudible.

Arabic subtitles were provided.

"We are not the only ones who were cheated by America's promises to work with them," he said, surrounded by the 11 other hostages who were holding their passports.

Behind them was a black banner bearing the name of the group and the phrase "There is no God but God. Muhammad is the prophet of God."

The speaker said each of the 12 men were offered $2,500 a month to work in Iraq.

"The Americans assured us that the situation in Iraq is stable and not dangerous," he said. "America lied to us. … The situation here is not under American control."

He warned others against coming to Iraq.

"We call upon those who want to come to Iraq not be duped by American claims," he said.

The 12 workers were kidnapped August 23, four days after crossing into Iraq. The previous Ansar Al-Sunna Army statement said the men were subcontracted to a Jordanian company and working for the U.S. military in Iraq.

Nepal — an impoverished South Asian nation — doesn't allow its citizens to work in Iraq because of security concerns. An estimated 17,000 Nepalese are believed to have slipped into the war-torn country from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and about 200,000 work elsewhere in the Gulf.

Scores of foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq in recent months by insurgents and criminal gangs seeking to extort money or pressure foreign troops and companies to leave the country.

Nepal has sent no troops to Iraq despite a request from the United States, but armed Nepalese personnel work for security firms guarding foreign contractors in Iraq.

Chirac: Hostages' release a priority

PARIS — President Jacques Chirac vowed Sunday to spare no effort to free two French journalists held hostage in Iraq by militants reportedly demanding that France revoke its law banning Islamic head scarves in schools.

"The whole nation is gathered together because what's at stake is the lives of two French people, the defense of freedom of expression, and also the values of our Republic," Chirac said in a televised address.

Chirac said he dispatched Foreign Minister Michel Barnier to the Middle East to seek the release of Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot.

Barnier "is leaving immediately for the region to develop the necessary contacts there and coordinate our representatives' efforts," said the president.

"Everything is being done and everything will be done in the hours and days to come," said Chirac, without directly addressing the kidnappers' reported demand on head scarves.

Turks freed by Iraqi militants

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Two Turkish hostages were freed by Iraqi militants Sunday, a Turkish Foreign Ministry official said, less than a week after the men's employers said they were ending operations in Iraq to save the lives of their employees.

The Turkish engineers — Ali Daskin and Abdullah Ozdemir — "were released. They're now at the embassy in Baghdad," Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Namik Tan told The Associated Press.

The two men were kidnapped from a construction site in Iraq. In a video broadcast Wednesday on two private Turkish television stations, the militants said they would kill the men if their companies did not leave within three days.

Hours later, the two companies that employed the men said they were withdrawing all staff from Iraq.

From The Associated Press

Soldier: Abuse encouraged in Abu Ghraib

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Staff Sgt. Ivan "Chip" Frederick, who last week agreed to plead guilty to some charges in the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal, said in an interview published Sunday that "secret services" operating in the jail encouraged the humiliation of prisoners.

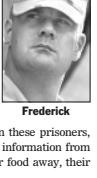
But Frederick said he was taking responsibility for what he had done and urged other defendants to do the same.

"I will answer for my acts in court, but I hope that others will take my example and take responsibility for their guilt — there are certainly more people responsible for what happened in Abu Ghraib and many of them are not yet charged," Frederick said in the interview with Der Spiegel magazine.

The interview was conducted last week in Mannheim, where Frederick told a military court he would plead guilty at a hearing in Baghdad in October.

Frederick, a corrections officer in Buckingham, Va., told Der Spiegel that the abuse was already going on at Abu Ghraib when his unit arrived there, and that they were told that was the way military intelligence wanted it done.

"The people from the secret services were always praising us — they said 'do more like that, you're doing good work,' " Frederick said in the interview, published in German. "The secret services had simply set no boundaries. They were looking for concrete results and were not interested in how they were achieved."



Frederick

"They said 'put the dogs on these prisoners, try to get more information from them, take their food away, their clothes — humiliate them,' " he told the magazine in a German-language report.

An Army investigation released last week said an unidentified civilian contractor worked with and encouraged abuse by Frederick.

Frederick and five other military police currently face charges in the Abu Ghraib case, while a seventh has pleaded guilty and is serving one year in prison. Their defense attorneys have maintained that they were following the direction of civilian contractors and military intelligence in carrying out the abuse.

Frederick is charged with maltreating detainees, conspiracy to maltreat detainees, dereliction of duty and wrongfully committing an indecent act and has not said specifically which counts he will plead guilty to.

During the three days of hearings in Mannheim, prosecutors said at least two military intelligence soldiers would soon be charged and the judge suggested he may force key military intelligence officers to testify, broadening the scope of the prison scandal beyond the 372nd Military Police Company, an Army reserve unit from Maryland to which all soldiers facing charges so far were assigned.

Iraqi envoy arrives in Tehran ahead of Allawi

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iraq's deputy prime minister visited Tehran on Sunday in what appeared to be an attempt at fence-mending between the former enemies whose relations have been bruised by growing Iraqi allegations that Iran is supporting the insurgency in Iraq.

Barhem Saleh arrived with the interior and transportation ministers on the first direct flight between Baghdad and Tehran in 25 years. Saleh is scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi.

"I am carrying the friendship message of the Iraqi government and nation for the Iranian government and people," the official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Saleh as saying.

Tension has been rising between Iraq and former foe Iran. Iraqi Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan went so far as to describe Iran as Iraq's "first enemy."

Iraqi officials have accused Tehran of backing insurgents and a Shiite militia in Iraq in an attempt to influence the political process there — a charge that Iran has denied.

Relations also have soured with the unexplained disappearance of several Iranians inside Iraq, including two IRNA journalists who were released on Friday.

Saleh said Iraqi officials wanted to stress "the strengthening of brotherly ties between the two countries."

According to Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi, talks will focus on the cases of Faridoun Jihani, the Iranian consul to Karbala, Iraq, who was kidnapped by militants three weeks ago, and other missing Iranian nationals in Iraq.

An Iraqi militant group kidnapped Jihani, saying it would release him if Iran frees some 500 Iraqi prisoners it is allegedly holding. Tehran has rejected the conditions, saying there are no Iraqi prisoners in Iran.

Saleh's arrival in Tehran is preparation for an anticipated visit by Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, Asefi said. It was not clear when Allawi's visit would take place.

Allawi has played down accusations against Iran and said his country had no problems with the Islamic republic.

The Iranian government has denied interfering in Iraq's internal affairs. It maintains it does not allow fighters to cross into Iraq, but does not rule out that such people might have infiltrated the long and porous border.

Iraq launched an eight-year war against Iran in 1980 that caused more than 1 million casualties on both sides.

Take a little off the back

JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Pfc. Richard Olsen, 23, of Lake Oswego, Ore., has his hair cut by Dhaffar al-Mansouri, a translator and part-time barber with the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, in a Najaf police station that serves as 2-7 Cav's headquarters. Because of limited space, the HQ's temporary chapel doubles as its temporary barbershop. Waiting in the door to get his haircut is Spc. Ryan Tuttle, 20, of Philomath, Ore. Both soldiers are assigned to the Oregon Army National Guard's Company B, 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry Regiment, which was attached to the 2-7 Cav for the fighting in Najaf.

Security improvements help move EU discussion on Iraq aid

BY KIM HOUSEGO
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD— The Dutch foreign minister said Sunday that improved security in Iraq has opened the way for the European Union to discuss stepped-up reconstruction efforts — even as his Iraqi counterpart conceded that security here remains precarious.

"Now that the security conditions have improved, it is easier to provide this aid," Foreign Minister Ben Bot, whose country currently holds the rotating EU presidency, said on a one-day visit to Baghdad.

Bot

He said a peace agreement last week that ended three weeks of fighting in the holy city of Najaf, and ongoing talks between Iraq and its neighbors about how to curb the influx of foreign fighters, have laid the groundwork for a better security environment.

However, fierce fighting between coalition forces and Iraqi insurgents continues unabated in many parts of the country, including the capital, while the recent killing of an Italian journalist and the kidnapping of two French reporters underscored the risks for foreigners working in Iraq.

"It is not a secure environment," Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said at a joint news conference with Bot. "We are not trying to underestimate the dangers they (foreigners) are facing."

Nevertheless, Zebari implored the European Union and foreign reconstruction firms and aid agencies to increase their efforts to rebuild the country, saying it was crucial to restoring stability.

The EU had said in the past it was prepared to do that — but only if the security situation here improves.

Bot said he will meet with his European counterparts next week to push for increased EU involvement in the country, including efforts to train Iraqi police and civil servants and assist with reconstruction, administration and preparations for elections scheduled for January.

Sunday's visit to Baghdad was the first by a high-level EU delegation since the interim government of Prime Minister Ayad Allawi took power June 28.

The EU has committed $371 million in humanitarian and reconstruction aid for Iraq this year. A similar commitment is expected next year.

Separately, Bot said the 1,400 Dutch troops in Iraq will stay at least through March to help maintain stability through elections scheduled for January.

Spangdahlem to be joint fighter-cargo base

Project will build a rump, refueling system and taxiways for operations

BY MARNI MCENTEE
Stars and Stripes

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — Amid Pentagon plans to reduce U.S. military forces in Europe, Spangdahlem Air Base is undergoing work that may make it indispensable.

Last week, base officials invited the media to Spangdahlem to show off progress on its $170 million takeover as a joint fighter-cargo base, a plan that will make the base one of two strategic airlift hubs on the continent.

The jewel in Spangdahlem's crown is a $60 million project to build a ramp, fueling system and taxiways to support the new cargo operations. On Thursday, contractors operated a machine that lays down more than 1,450 feet of smooth, thick concrete every day to build the new ramp.

Up to 11 C-5 aircraft — the largest plane in the Air Force inventory — will be able to park there. Two more wide-body planes will have room to park on a hot-cargo pad where hazardous cargo is transferred to and from the planes.

By December 2005, Rhein-Main Air Base will close, and all its air traffic will go to Spangdahlem and Ramstein Air Base. The so-called Rhein-Main Transition Program, which will cost more than $600 million in German and NATO funds, has been in the works for years.

Goldfein

But U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials said recently that the Rhein-Main Transition was one reason why Air Force manning will remain roughly the same in Europe, even as the Army plans to draw down up to two-thirds of its 62,000 troops in Europe.

The Spangdahlem project will transform the Cold War-era fighter base into a joint fighter-cargo base, at least for the immediate future. Pentagon officials have said talks are continuing with other countries, such as Turkey, about moving Air Force F-16 squadrons, such as the two at Spangdahlem, to Incirlik Air Base. But no one has said such a move is imminent.

The uncertainty over the future of troops in Europe prompted a flurry of local news coverage in and around Spangdahlem, which relies a great deal on the base for its economic livelihood. Spangdahlem's commander fielded several questions from German news crews Thursday about whether troops would remain — regardless of the expensive base upgrade.

By December 2005, Rhein-Main Air Base will close, and all its air traffic will go to Spangdahlem and Ramstein air bases.

Col. David Goldfein, head of the 52nd Fighter Wing, said military leaders up the chain are planning the global force structure, and he wasn't aware of any immediate changes at Spangdahlem.

"What we don't know is what that force structure will look like," Goldfein said.

In the meantime, Spangdahlem will add about 125 troops to handle its new mission. Other units, such as the fire department and air traffic control, will add personnel as well.

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PHOTOS BY MARNI MCENTEE/Stars and Stripes

A machine lays concete for Spangdahlem Air Base's new ramp, which will hold up to 11 wide-body aircraft, as a KC-135 lands on the runway and an F-16 taxis just beyond it.

Concrete is laid on Spangdahlem's new ramp, which is a milestone in base's transformation to a dual fighter-cargo base.

Homemade meth problem has exchanges limiting cold pill sales

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — With some water, a few household items and common cold medicine, a teen can cook up what some people are calling the new crack cocaine: methanphetamine.

The growing popularity of using cold pills to make the highly addictive drug is why Navy Exchange stores worldwide are now limiting the number of pseudoephedrine products customers can buy.

Such products as Advil Cold and Sinus Caplets, Tylenol Cold Caplets and Sudafed Cold/Allergy Tablets are among the 21 Navy Exchange items containing pseudoephedrine. Customers can only buy two items per transaction.

Navy base stores implemented the restrictions this month hoping to help prevent people from making methamphedtamine. Some department and drug stores in the United States have similar policies.

"Just for the health of our customers and our Navy family we're following other retailers in the industry in limiting how many they can purchase," Navy Exchange Service Command spokeswoman Kristine Sturkie said from Virginia Beach, Va.

Base commissaries do not have any policy regarding the medication, said Flo Dunn, a spokeswoman for the Defense Commissary Agency in Fort Lee, Va. But Army and Air Force exchange stores do.

RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Navy Exchanges and Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores are limiting the sale of products containing pseudoephedrine to customers for fear they'll be combined with other products to make methamphetamine.

They restrict who can buy the medicine, but do not limit the amount people can buy. Customers under the age of 18 cannot purchase over-the-counter products containing pseudoephedrine or Dextromethorphan at Army and Air Force and Exchange Service stores, said AAFES spokesman Judd Anstey in Dallas. Customers must show identification to purchase the products.

The age restriction went into place in February based on guidelines provided by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Anstey said.

In Oklahoma, Army and Air Force bases pulled pseudoephedrine products to meet state law, which requires the items to be behind a pharmacist counter.

Methamphetamine, known as "ice," "crystal meth" or "crank," can be snorted, orally ingested, injected or smoked. It can create a sense of euphoria, increased libido and a burst of energy, according to the Partnership for a Drug-Free America's Web site. However, it is extremely addictive, can cause depression, organ damage, heart attack and death.

Making the drug can also be dangerous.

Using cold medication to create meth has grown in popularity because it is relatively cheap and easy to do. A simple Internet search can turn up several Web sites that offer "recipes" and step-by-step directions on how to make it on your own kitchen.

At Navy bases, exchange stores planned to put up signs explaining the new rule, Sturkie said. In Rota, General Manager Gerald Outar talked about the new policy during a town hall-style meeting earlier this month at the naval station.

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

Bush nuke plan may not affect Europe stores

Atomic news journal says efforts to cut stockpile not likely to include continent

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

The Bush administration plans to cut by nearly half America's nuclear warhead stockpile, a result of the Moscow Treaty of 2002 reducing deployed nuclear forces, according to a report to be published in the September/October edition of The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.

But one of the authors of the article said the nuclear arsenal kept on European soil is not going anywhere.

"Right now, I assume those weapons are staying, at least in the short term," said Robert S. Norris of the Natural Resources Defense Council, or NRDC, an environmental watchdog group from Washington, D.C.

Norris and Hans M. Kristensen — who are on the NRDC nuclear issues staff — wrote the article, in which they say the National Nuclear Security Administration, or NNSA, submitted a classified report to Congress on June 1 outlining the administration's plans to reduce the number of nuclear warheads, Norris said in a telephone interview last week.

An unclassified letter to Congress from the NNSA that accompanied the report says the stockpile reduction is possible because the Moscow Treaty will reduce the nation's deployed force of nuclear weapons to the lowest level in decades by 2012. The treaty requires a reduction of those weapons to no more than 2,200 by that date. A reduction in deployed weapons makes possible a reduction in the stockpile, which supports the deployed force, the letter says.

Details of the NNSA report were not provided to the authors, but Norris and Kristensen used declassified material to estimate that the United States has about 10,350 warheads in the stockpile and plans to cut about 4,300 of them, or 42 percent.

The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists has been tracking nuclear weapon development by the United States and other countries for 60 years.

Norris and Kristensen claim that America has 480 warheads stored in six countries in Europe, including Turkey. Most of them — 130 — are at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, they say. RAF Lakenheath, England, is home to 110, they said.

They said others are stored at Klein Brogel Air Base, Belgium; Buchel Air Base, Germany; Aviano Air Base and Ghedi Air Base, Italy; Volkel Air Base, the Netherlands; and Incirlik Air Base, Turkey.

The U.S. European Command said Thursday the locations and numbers of nuclear weapons are classified. But those sites also appear in publications from other organizations that follow nuclear weapon development, including the Italian Union of Scientists for Disarmament and various anti-nuclear groups in Europe and America.

A EUCOM spokesman in Stuttgart, Germany, told Stars and Stripes that NATO considers nuclear weapons "an essential political and military link between the European and North American members of the alliance."

U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Rick Haupt said, "The alliance will, therefore, maintain adequate nuclear forces in Europe."

He said their numbers would be at "the minimum level to maintain peace and stability."

"The U.S. remains committed to NATO's strategic concept and will continue to support it, along with its allies," he said.

Hopes were raised in the European anti-nuclear crowd a few months ago when Gen. James L. Jones, EUCOM commander and supreme allied commander in Europe for NATO, told a Belgian senate committee that U.S. nuclear weapons would be reduced in Europe.

"The reduction will be significant. Good news is on the way," Jones told the committee in March, according to La Libre Belgique, a newspaper.

Pol D'Huyvetter, a spokesman for a Belgian anti-nuclear group known as For Mother Earth, said, "That [newspaper article] appeared even on the Web site of SHAPE for a few days and then — whoosh! — it was gone."

However, it had already been picked up by anti-nuclear Web sites and raised expectations for a further announcement.

"I was expecting a follow-up then, but it didn't happen," said Norris.

America has maintained nuclear weapons in western Europe since the 1950s as part of its Cold War strategy to counter the threat of the Soviet Union in eastern Europe. At the height of the Cold War, thousands of nuclear warheads were placed in Europe, according to reports from various groups.

Treaties with the Soviets prompted a reduction of weapons even before the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and further reductions have taken place since.

Their presence over the years sparked the growth of a European anti-nuclear movement that survives to this day, still pushing for elimination of American nuclear weapons from Europe. The United States is the only country to deploy nuclear weapons outside its border.

The presence of nuclear weapons in Europe over the years sparked the growth of a European anti-nuclear movement that survives to this day, still pushing for elimination of American nuclear weapons from Europe.

Activists remain pessimistic that their goal will be met anytime soon, even with the announcement of possible troop withdrawals from Europe. D'Huyvetter said, "We think the withdrawal of U.S. troops is the right signal, but we don't see that as related [to reducing nuclear weapons]."

"We've discussed that," said Roland Blach of the German group Nonviolent Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

"So far, I have not much hope. I think the nuclear weapons will be here for another five or 10 or 15 years."

Davida Higgin, an American who created Lakenheath Action Group to campaign for the removal of nuclear weapons from RAF Lakenheath, said: "We would be very glad if the bombs we firmly believe are there were taken away."

But, she added, her worry is that they would be replaced with "mininukes," a new generation of weapon being developed by America.

The purpose of maintaining a nuclear stockpile in Europe escaped the anti-nuke people. Blach called it "really stupid" and D'Huyvetter said the reason was "a mystery."

Norris said, "I think it would be a wise move to bring them home."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

A nuclear weapons protester is led away by British police after crossing a barricade at the main gate of RAF Lakenheath, England, in October 2002.

PHOTOS BY RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

A little girl watches a Buddhist monk during an anti-nuclear demonstration outside the front gate of RAF Lakenheath, England, in October 2002. Anti-nuclear groups are excited about the possibility that the Bush administration may soon announce plans to cut in half the United States' nuclear weapons arsenal.

Lakenheath protester serves time for damage

Stars and Stripes

An anti-nuclear protester was released from jail Friday in England after serving part of a sentence for cutting the fence at RAF Lakenheath during a protest in October 2003, a local daily newspaper reported Saturday.

Irene Willis, 59, a member of the Lakenheath Action Group, an anti-nuclear organization, served 10 days of a 21-day sentence imposed after a court in Mildenhall found her guilty of causing criminal damage, according to a story in the East Anglian Daily Times. She refused to pay the 500-pound (about $950) fine for court costs so she was given the jail time, which she served at a facility near Bury St. Edmunds.

Willis, along with three other women, were arrested and charged during a protest at RAF Lakenheath, where they believe the United States stores nuclear weapons. The base will neither confirm nor deny the claim.

The punishment also included a three-year probation, but Willis said she will return to the fight.

"I felt really proud to have done this and would be willing to go back to prison again," she told the newspaper.

The quartet of women, who were dubbed "Fallout Fairies," argued in court that their actions were justified to prevent the greater crime of nuclear war.

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Tandra Thomas, left, who works at RAF Mildenhall, England, chats with Grace Royal, 101, in Brandon, England. Thomas delivers Meals on Wheels to Royal and several other people in the town near the large U.S. bases in eastern England.

RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

Stripes Spotlight

Tandra Thomas

Thomas coordinates and makes deliveries for the Meals on Wheels program around Brandon, England.

Job: Computer assistant with 100th Communications Squadron at RAF Mildenhall, England

Age: 38

Family: Husband, Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Campbell

Military service: Four years in the Air Force

Stars and Stripes

Mildenhall worker reaches out to shut-ins

BY RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

BRANDON, England — To a certain segment of the population around here, Tandra Thomas is an important figure.

To the aged, the infirm and the homebound, she is the angel who brings the midday meal from time to time.

"This is the one thing I do where I feel I'm helping somebody," said Thomas, a computer assistant with the 100th Communications Squadron at RAF Mildenhall, about 12 miles south of Brandon.

"This is a personal touch," she added. "You are actually interacting with people in the community."

Since she arrived from El Paso, Texas, with her husband, Chief Master Sgt. Raymond Campbell of the 100th Logistics Readiness Squadron, in September 2002, she has delivered countless meals to shut-ins.

"She's a marvelous lady," said Geoff Kidd, the local organizer of the program. "She's so reliable, it's unbelievable."

Thomas walked into the program at RAF Mildenhall because the 100th Communications Squadron was providing the Meals on Wheels in Brandon with a weekly volunteer for meal delivery on Tuesdays.

She started as a volunteer delivering meals, but became the person in charge of the program for the squadron in February, coordinating to ensure someone is available to fulfill the unit's weekly obligation. She brought a familiarity with the program to her role.

"Every base I've been to, I've tried to do Meals on Wheels," she said.

Meals on Wheels began in Britain during World War II and the blitz of London. The Women's Volunteer Service for Civil Defense carried meals in mobile canteens to people unable to cook in their bomb-damaged homes.

The first American version of the program began in Philadelphia in 1954. The high school students who delivered the meals were called Platter Angels.

Meals on Wheels began in Britain during World War II and the blitz of London. The Women's Volunteer Service for Civil Defense carried meals in mobile canteens to people unable to cook in bomb-damaged homes.

It's now hard to find a town in the United States or Britain that does not have some version of Meals on Wheels, delivering hot meals to people who cannot cook for themselves or leave their homes.

Kidd said Americans have become an integral part of the local program.

"We do a seven-day-a-week service here, even Christmas," he said. "Without the Americans, we would not be able to do the Tuesday trip."

Drivers are given a map and list of people to serve. The list includes special instructions, such as which door to use or whether the person has a hearing or vision problem.

Thomas said the 20 or so elderly people on the route don't always remember her, but they are a joy to meet. On a recent Tuesday, she stayed a couple minutes at the home of Grace Royal, who proudly gave her age as 101.

"I was born on May 1, 1903," she said, adding she worked many years for the post office.

"She's the nicest lady on the route," said Thomas.

Several of the clients have died during Thomas' two years with the program, which is always a sad occasion, she said.

The high operations tempo at the base lately has shortened Thomas's list of volunteers. Her husband secured some additional help from his squadron, including Airman 1st Class Devin Carter, who was delivering meals for the fourth time recently.

"It's always good to help the community," she said. "When I see these people, I think of my parents."

Now, another squadron is taking over responsibility for the effort from the 100th Communications Squadron. The 727th Air Mobility Squadron has stepped up to take charge.

"We're definitely looking forward to it," said Senior Airman Danielle Whitfield, who was learning the route on a recent Tuesday. She said it would be a good way to meet people in the local community and do some good.

But Thomas will still participate. She will continue to deliver the meals, just as she has done for two years.

"When you take on something like this," she said, "you take it on until you [leave] is how I look at it."

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IN THE WORLD

AP

Afghan police officers gather at the scene of an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday.

Afghan blast kills 2 Americans

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A powerful explosion tore through the office of a U.S. security contractor in the Afghan capital Sunday, killing seven people including two Americans, officials and witnesses said.

The explosion hit the office of Dyncorp Inc., an American firm that provides security for Afghan President Hamid Karzai and works for the U.S. government in Iraq, said Nick Downie of the Afghanistan NGO Security Office.

"The explosion, which occurred in front of the Kabul office of an international security company, killed at least seven people," Karzai's office said in a statement. "Two Americans, three Nepalese and two Afghan nationals, including a child, have been confirmed dead."

Karzai and U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad expressed shock at the attack.

An embassy statement said the contractor was also involved in a project to train Afghan police.

"This cowardly attack will not deter U.S. participation in the ongoing effort to help Afghanistan stand on its own feet," Khalilzad said, expressing sympathy for the victims of a "terrorist attack."

Downie said he and others at the scene pulled five or six seriously injured people — including other apparent U.S. citizens — from the building.

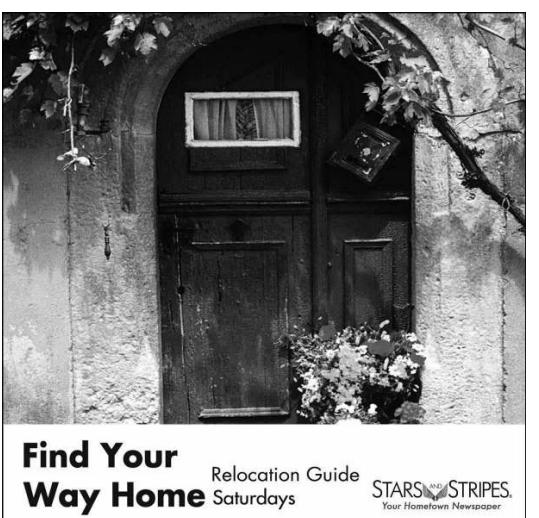
"Some were obviously Dyncorp staff," he said.

Dyncorp Inc. is a division of Computer Science Services, Inc., based in El Segundo, California.

Meanwhile, another explosion ripped through a school in southeastern Afghanistan, killing nine children and one adult, the U.S. military said Sunday.

The American military said it was helping local authorities investigate the explosion, which Bennett said occurred as the children were attending an evening class.

The Mullah Khel school was an Islamic school that also taught the more modern syllabus set by the Afghan Education Ministry.



Chechens vote for new president amid fear of new violence

BY MIKE ECKEL
The Associated Press

GROZNY, Russia — Against a backdrop of war, squalor and terrorism, Chechens voted Sunday for a replacement for their assassinated president in a vote the Kremlin hopes will bring some stability to the violence-torn region. A man was killed when he attempted to blow up a polling station.

Kremlin backing has made Chechnya's top police official, Maj. Gen. Alu Alkhanov, the unquestioned favorite in the race. Russian officials have warned that Chechen rebels might stage attacks to mar the voting — a danger highlighted by the near simultaneous crashes of two jetliners last week that killed 90 people.

Traces of explosives were found in the wreckage of both jets, and there are suspicions two Chechen women conducted the suicide attacks.

In the Chechen capital Grozny, a man tried to bring a suspicious package to a polling station and when guards at the polling station asked to see it, he ran away. The package blew up and the man was killed, elections commission head Abdul-Kerim Arsakhanov said in comments shown on the NTV television channel.

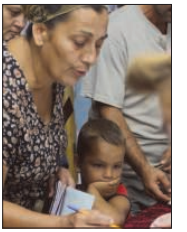
No other casualties were reported and the polling station continued to operate, according to NTV.

The election is part of the Kremlin's strategy to undermine support for separatist rebels — who have been fighting Russian forces for nearly five years — by inducing a sense of civil order in the ruined southern republic.

Turnout was more than 79 percent of the electorate, the ITAR-Tass news agency cited Arsakhanov as saying after the polls closed. That claim could not be independently verified and there was widespread suspicion ahead of the voting that the results would be manipulated.

Alkhanov is seeking to replace Akhmad Kadyrov, the man who was previously the key to the Kremlin's attempts to add a veneer of political stability to Chechnya. Kadyrov was brought to power in an election last October, but he was killed in a bomb blast in Grozny in May. Fighting and violent crime have continued.

The other six candidates in the race are thought to have little chance.



AP

A woman gets her ballot Sunday at the polling station in Tolstoi-Yurt, 12 miles north of the Chechen capital, Grozny. Chechens voted Sunday for a replacement for their assassinated president.

Israel denies any tie to alleged Pentagon spy

BY STEVE WEIZMAN
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli officials predicted Sunday that allegations that the government spied on the Pentagon would be proven untrue, but analysts said damage to the image of Israel and its lobbying ally in Washington had already been done.

American officials said Saturday that the FBI has spent more than a year investigating whether a Pentagon analyst funneled highly classified material to Israel.

The material described White House policy toward Iran. Israel says Iran — and its nuclear ambitions — pose the greatest single threat to the Jewish state.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office issued a denial late Saturday, saying "Israel does not engage in intelligence activities in the U.S."

Natan Sharansky, the first Israeli Cabinet minister to speak in public about the matter, told Canadian Broadcasting Corp. television that Israel enforces a ban on spying in the United States.

"I hope it's all a mistake or misunderstanding of some kind, maybe a rivalry between different bodies," he said, singling out "the Pentagon and the CIA."

The scandal dominated Israeli newspapers and radio reports Sunday. In numerous interviews, both current and former Israeli intelligence officials said it was highly unlikely that Israel would have to spy on the U.S. government.

They pointed to close ties between the U.S. and American intelligence communities. They also said there has been a strict ban on espionage against U.S. targets since the 1985 arrest of American naval analyst Jonathan Pollard for passing on secrets to Israel. Pollard is serving a life sentence.

Iran's nuclear capabilities worry Germans

Confrontation with Tehran would be 'nightmare,' minister says

BY SHAFIKA MATTAR
The Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan — An Iranian nuclear arms buildup would be a "nightmare," German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer warned Sunday, saying Europe is looking to head off any dangerous confrontation with Tehran.

Fischer

Fischer said an Iranian nuclear challenge only adds to Middle East problems that include bringing security and stability to postwar Iraq, resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and introducing democratic reforms. The United States accuses Iran of using a nuclear energy program to hide nuclear weapons production, an accusation the Iranians deny and that has concerned Europe.

"It would be a nightmare for the region ... if there'd be the beginning of an arms race — a nuclear arms race — in the region," Fischer told reporters in Jordan, where he was meeting with Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher. "We are in intensive talks with Iran, and we hope the leadership in Tehran would not miscalculate the situation."

Fischer also indicated Germany, France and Britain were near an understanding with Tehran on supplying Iran with nuclear energy technology — a prospect the European have held out if their suspicions about a nuclear weapons program are alleviated.

"We think we have reached an agreement, and we are ready to fulfill our part step by step and word by word," Fischer said. The Iranians accused the Europeans of backing out on a previous commitment.

Fischer did not elaborate, but said: "We are really very serious to find a way out of a very dangerous, possible confrontation."

Washington has been lobbying for the International Atomic Energy Agency to refer Iran's nuclear dossier to the U.N. Security Council, which could impose sanctions on Iran.

Fischer, who arrived from neighboring Syria on Saturday, was also scheduled to hold talks with Jordan's King Abdullah II. The German minister is on a regional tour that will include Israel, the Palestinian territories and Egypt. He already has visited Lebanon.

On Iraq, Fischer said Germany still had a different perspective from that of the United States: "The U.S. is our close friend and ... most important ally, but I think we have a different view."

Fischer said Germany remained opposed to sending troops to Iraq, but that its contribution to rebuilding the war-ravaged country included humanitarian aid, debt relief and training Iraqi police.

Reflecting on the Iraq situation and Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the need for reform in the Arab world, Fischer said American leadership was needed, but that Europe and others must play a role.

"If you put all three together, it's quite clear [that] we need American leadership," he said. "But, on the other side, I don't believe this can be done alone by the United States.

"Europe will play an important role in the Quartet," he said, referring to America's partners — including Russia, the United Nations and the European Union — trying to resolve the Mideast conflict.

"When we talk about our security as Europeans, we talk about the future of our neighbor — the Middle East — because when things are going badly wrong here in the region, it will hurt our interests immediately and our security immediately," he said.

Poles remember Holocaust victims of Lodz ghetto

BY MONIKA SCISLOWSKA
The Associated Press

LODZ, Poland — Holocaust survivors and their families gathered Sunday at one of Europe's largest Jewish cemeteries to remember more than 200,000 Jews of Lodz who were killed by the Nazis, marking the 60th anniversary of the last transports from the city's ghetto to Hitler's death camps.

On the edge of the vast wooded cemetery of gray and black tombstones, some 1,500 people stood in silent tribute as a Jewish cantor and a choir chanted Hebrew prayers for the dead in honor of those taken in cattle cars to Auschwitz and other camps.

Ahead of the prayers, survivor Eljezer Zyskind remembered the horror as the ghetto's residents were rounded up and taken to death camps in 1944.

"I can still hear the cries of little children torn from their mothers crying 'mama, mama!'" Zyskind said, his voice quavering with emotion.

Lodz, some 75 miles southwest of Warsaw, was a thriving center of commerce before World War II, with the city's 230,000 Jews representing about a third of its population.

After occupying the city in the wake of the successful invasion of Poland, the Nazis sealed the ghetto with barbed wire on April 30, 1940, concentrating Jews in a tightly packed space sequestered from society, much the way they did in Warsaw and other conquered cities.

About 45,000 Jews from other parts of German-occupied Europe, including Luxembourg, Austria and Germany, were also forced into the Lodz ghetto, as were about 5,000 Gypsies.

Many died from the horrific conditions, and the Nazis eventually decided to kill the rest in August 1944.

Following the prayers, survivors and city leaders placed flowers at a monument to the victims near the cemetery gate.

"Today Poland is firmly against terrorism and firmly denounces anti-Semitism," Polish Prime Minister Marek Belka said. "We will preserve the memory of crimes carried out on Lodz's soil."

Slovaks commemorate uprising against Nazis

The Associated Press

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — Military jets thundered overhead, and hundreds of people, including veterans and top officials, gathered Sunday to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1944 Slovak uprising against Nazi rule.

In a deeply symbolic message to participants, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder described the Nazis' fierce response to the uprising as a "dark and often and often forgotten chapter of German history."

The uprising was crushed by the Germans at the end of October 1944, but guerrilla fighting continued in the mountains until the next spring. With the revolt, Slovakia joined the worldwide coalition against the Nazis in World War II.

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IN THE STATES

Tropical storm Gaston slams into S.C. coast

BY BRUCE SMITH
The Associated Press

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. — Tropical Storm Gaston sloshed ashore in South Carolina Sunday, spinning sheets of rain and near hurricane-force wind as it uprooted trees, flooded roads and knocked out power to at least 125,000 homes.

Gov. Mark Sanford declared a state of emergency as the storm moved inland and encouraged "folks to stay in their homes for the time being so that damage assessment crews, utility truck crews and debris removal crews can do their jobs."

The storm made landfall at Bulls Bay near McClellanville, just a few miles from where Hurricane Charley made a second landfall after devastating southwest Florida earlier this month.

As much as 8 inches of rain had fallen along some parts of the coast by midday, and a flash flood watch was in effect.

Steady sheets of rain fell in Mount Pleasant hours after the eye of Gaston came ashore. Tree limbs littered flooded roadways, some of which were impassable. Palmettos planted earlier this year on a new boulevard were pushed to the pavement, and road signs twisted in the wind.

Across the harbor in Charleston, Gaston flooded streets and pushed over power poles. At least 75,000 people were without power at the height of the storm.

"The best advice for everyone is to stay put. Stay put, don't go out please," said Charleston's mayor, Joseph P. Riley Jr. "This will be past us quickly and let's just stay out of harm's way and get it behind us."

By midday, the storm was moving north about 8 mph toward inland South Carolina, weakening along the way but still prompting flood watches and warnings of wind gusts as high as 60 mph.

The rain along the coast was tapering off, although blustery winds still raked the coastline near Charleston and intersections throughout the area had no traffic lights.

"The important thing is that we don't have any false sense of safety that it's all over," Riley said. "We have downed trees and often times there are power lines under those downed trees."

Charleston County officials said there was only one initial report of a serious injury — a resident injured when a tree fell on a home.

Residents in low-lying areas in Charleston and Georgetown counties were urged to move to higher ground before the storm hit.

Authorities also asked people living in mobile homes to evacuate.

John Legare of the state Emergency Management agency said about 30 people had sought refuge in five shelters in coastal counties as Gaston approached. Shelters were opened in at least one inland county.

A flood watch was also issued for parts of North Carolina.

Gaston — the hurricane season's seventh named storm — had maximum sustained winds near 60 mph by midday, down from 70 mph when it hit land. A storm becomes a hurricane when its winds reach 74 mph.

Congress gives no guarantee for rapid intelligence reform

BY WILLIAM C. MANN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders on Sunday would not guarantee passage of an overhaul of the nation's intelligence agencies by the November election, but pledged to try to make it happen.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said both the House and Senate have held hearings this summer and worked diligently on how to deal with recommendations for change offered by the commission that investigated the Sept. 11 attacks.

The commission found serious shortcomings in intelligence handling and analysis. Among the suggestions was creation of a national direction of intelligence with the power to oversee spending, hiring and firing of all intelligence agencies.

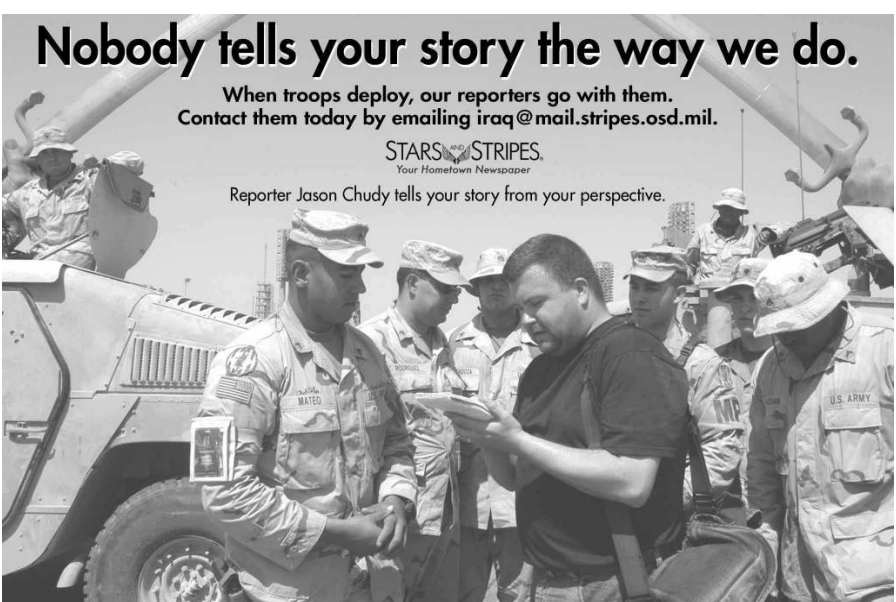
"We will be deliberate. We will be aggressive. We will be focused," said Frist, who appeared with House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., on "Fox News Sunday."

President Bush issued executive orders Friday to expand the powers of the CIA director to perform many of the functions of a proposed national intelligence director until Congress comes up with a formula for the intelligence system.

Bush's orders also put in place other commission recommendations. He also has promised to work with Congress to design the position of overall director of the 15 civilian and military intelligence agencies.

Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has proposed breaking up the Central Intelligence Agency and downgrading or eliminating several agencies in the Pentagon.

Congress has set Oct. 1 as its target to leave before the Nov. 2 election, but that adjournment date is almost certain to be extended. The leaders of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee are working on intelligence legislation to be presented to the full Senate by the end of September.



Bush readies for GOP convention

Thousands of protesters march in New York as delegates gather

BY TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched past Madison Square Garden, site of the Republican National Convention, on Sunday, chanting, blowing whistles and carrying anti-war banners as delegates gathered to nominate President Bush for a second term.

On the eve of the convention, the demonstrators packed the street from sidewalk to sidewalk for 20 blocks as they slowly filed past.

"Hope is in the air, help is on the way," civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said through a bullhorn.

On the other side of New York Harbor, Vice President Dick Cheney told a rally on Ellis Island that Bush was "exactly the leader we need for these times, and we need him for the next four years."

With the New York skyline as the background, Cheney said it was "a special honor to kick things off here on this island, the gateway to America for so many people."

Meanwhile, Bush suggested in an interview with Time magazine that he still would have gone into Iraq but with different tactics if he had known "that an enemy that should have surrendered or been done in escaped and lived to fight another day."

He called the swift military offensive that led to the fall of Baghdad in April 2003 "a catastrophic success" in light of the fact that fighting continues to this day despite the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's government.

That brought an immediate response from Democratic vice presidential nominee John Edwards.

"President Bush now says his Iraq policy is a catastrophic success. He's half right. It was catastrophic to rush to war without a plan to win the peace," Edwards said.

Preconvention polls showed the presidential race evenly split between Bush and Democrat John Kerry, although the challenger has lost ground since his convention in Boston a month ago. The four-day Republican meeting opens Monday.

The demonstrators took their protests of Bush's foreign and economic policies to the fortified streets of midtown Manhattan, swarming up Seventh Avenue past the convention site shouting "No more Bush."

"The majority of this country wants the Bush administration out of office," filmmaker and Bush critic Michael Moore told the crowd. A large banner said, "Save America. Defeat Bush." People poked their heads out of apartment windows to watch the marchers in the sweltering heat.

About 45 protesters on bicycles were detained and bound with plastic handcuffs just off the march route, police said. More than 300 people had been arrested through Saturday night for disorderly conduct and convention-related incidents.

Bush went to church Sunday morning, rode his mountain bike and was flying later to Wheeling, W.Va., for a rally. He was campaigning in battleground states as he makes his way to this overwhelmingly Democratic convention city.

Kerry was spending the day at his beachfront home in Nantucket, Mass.

Former President Clinton, speaking in New York City at the interdenominational Riverside Church, asserted that religious faith was "not the exclusive province of the right wing."

"The religious right has tried to turn all of us, in disagreeing with them, into two-dimensional cartoons," Clinton said.

AP

Mock coffins signifying American soldiers who have died in Iraq are props during a protest march in New York City on Sunday. The protest march headed toward Madison Square Garden, where the Republican National Convention is to start Monday.

Man regrets helping Bush into Guard

BY BOBBY ROSS JR.
Associated Press

DALLAS — Former Texas House Speaker Ben Barnes said he is "more ashamed at myself than I've ever been" because he helped President Bush and the sons of other wealthy families get into the Texas National Guard so they could avoid serving in Vietnam.

"I got a young man named George W. Bush into the National Guard ... and I'm not necessarily proud of that, but I did it," Barnes, a Democrat, said in a video clip recorded May 27 before a group of John Kerry supporters in Austin.

Barnes, who was House speaker when Bush entered the Guard, later became lieutenant governor.

The video didn't get much attention when it was posted June 25 on the Web site **www.austin4kerry.org**.

Bush joined the National Guard in 1968, at the height of the Vietnam War, and served until 1973. He has said he received no special treatment.

"I became more ashamed of myself than I've ever been because it was the worst thing I did — help a lot of wealthy supporters and a lot of people who had family names of importance get in the National Guard," he said. "I'm very sorry of that and I'm very ashamed of it and I apologize to the voters of Texas for that."

Kerry, Democrats take aim at Bush

BY COLLEEN MCCAIN NELSON
The Dallas Morning News

TACOMA, Wash. — The spotlight will be trained on Republicans this week, but John Kerry and his surrogates launched a preemptive strike against the president Saturday.

Retired Army Gen. Wesley Clark called George Bush incompetent and indecisive. And Kerry said the president's administration amounted to little more than a slew of slogans.

Kerry appealed to the party faithful in this divided but Democratic-leaning state to keep working on his behalf.

"This is the most important election of our lifetimes," the Democratic presidential candidate said. "Everything that matters to you is on the line."

Thousands rallied at the Tacoma Dome, where the Massachusetts senator continued to lay out his plans to improve the economy. Kerry promised voters jobs and insurance, saying that affordable health care is not a "goo-goo, do-gooder, wacky kind of idea."

He had spent the last week working to shift the campaign story line from his military service to his plans to help the middle class. But on Saturday, Kerry and the veterans who took the stage with him had some tough talk for those who would doubt his heroism.

"I think it's outrageous that the president of the United States can question the medals and the service and the valor of American veterans who have served," said Clark, a former Democratic presidential candidate. "It's offensive against every veteran in this country."

Bush has said that Kerry served honorably and has denied any ties to the group of Vietnam veterans attacking the Democrat's military record.

"We say to George Bush, 'Enough is enough,' " Clark said. "You want to match early records of service? Throw it open to the public."

AP

Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry speaks at a rally in Tacoma, Wash. on Saturday.

Bush campaign spokesman Steve Schmidt called Clark's comments a baseless attack.

"John Kerry keeps trying to divide America over the past," he said. "His hypocrisy, combined with his vacillation and indecision regarding the war on terror are one reason he has a growing credibility problem with the American people."

Jim Rassmann, the soldier Kerry rescued from a Vietnam river, also came to the senator's defense, calling him courageous and trustworthy.

But when the crowd began to boo at the mention of Kerry's detractors, Rassmann urged respect for all veterans.

"No, don't do that," Rassmann said. "They're misguided, but they served bravely."

Kerry made no mention of the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. But he told the crowd, "I defended this country as a young man, and I will defend it as president of the United States."

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

From Seattle, WA: We support you and look forward to welcoming you home. Stay safe, and know we are proud of you all.

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE TROOPS OUT THERE AND FIGHTING FOR OUR COUNTRY. to J. Clark ....baby I love and miss you and hope for your safe return home. I am going to wait for you to get back to me. Just stay safe and remember that I am here for you no matter what. Love you always and forever baby. mary

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Branigan, best known for 'Gloria,' dies at 47

BY MADISON J. GRAY

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Laura Branigan, a Grammy-nominated pop singer best known for her 1982 platinum hit "Gloria," has died. She was 47.

Branigan died of a brain aneurysm Thursday in her sleep at her home in East Quogue, said her brother Mark Branigan. He said she had complained to a friend of a headache for about two weeks before she died, but had not sought medical attention.

"Gloria," a signature song from her debut album "Branigan," stayed atop the pop charts for 36 weeks and earned her a Grammy nomination for best female pop vocalist, the first of four nominations in her career.

She also made television appearances, including guest spots on "CHiPs," and in the films "Mugsy's Girls" and "Backstage."

Branigan released seven albums after her debut "Branigan," including "Solitaire," "Self Control," and "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You," which was co-written with Michael Bolton.

Her songs also appeared on soundtracks for the films "Flashdance" and "Ghostbusters."

Branigan was born July 3, 1957, and grew up in Brewster, N.Y.

She attended the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Manhattan. During the late 1970s, she toured Europe as a backing vocalist for Canadian singer and songwriter Leonard Cohen. She signed as a solo artist with Atlantic Records in 1982.

THE DETROIT NEWS AP

Singer Laura Branigan is shown in an undated publicity photo from the 1980s. Branigan, a Grammy-nominated pop singer best known for her 1982 platinum hit "Gloria" died of a brain aneurysm Thursday in her sleep at home in East Quogue, N.Y., according to her brother. She was 47.

After her run of success in the 1980s, her releases in the early 1990s attracted little attention. In 1994, she sang a duet with David Hasselhoff called "I Believe" for the soundtrack of the television show "Baywatch." She released a 13-track "Best of Branigan" LP the next year.

After the death of her husband, Lawrence Kruteck, in 1996, Branigan stopped performing but returned to the stage in 2001. In 2002 she starred as Janis Joplin in the off-Broadway musical "Love, Janis," which earned her rave reviews.

Branigan recently had been working on material for a new release.

She is survived by her mother, two brothers and a sister.

Funeral services were scheduled for Monday.

Calif. lawmakers OK Canadian drug bills

Measures likely to face veto from governor

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California lawmakers have approved bills that would create government-sponsored Web sites encouraging consumers to buy cheaper prescription drugs from Canada.

The measures, which face almost certain vetoes by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, would make California one of just a few states to provide residents similar online information. Others include Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota and Maine.

Federal law prohibits drug imports from other countries, but an estimated 1 million Americans are having their prescriptions filled at Canadian pharmacies at prices as much as 40 percent less than their American counterparts.

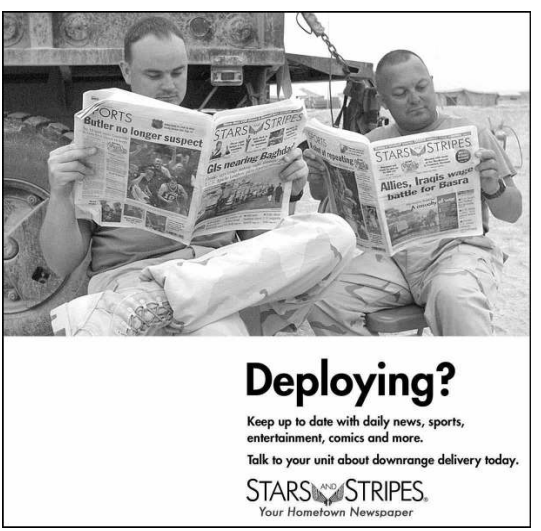
Although the measures passed Friday by big majorities, Schwarzenegger has indicated he will not sign either bill. Margita Thompson, the governor's spokeswoman, has said the governor will not violate federal law.

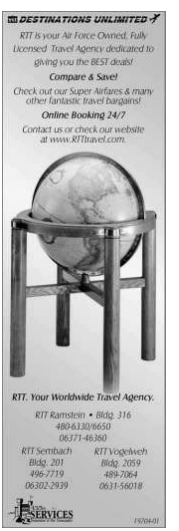
> *"[Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is] going to have to decide whether he is with families and seniors and uninsured patients or with the big drug companies that price gouge and are among the most profitable corporations in the world."*
>
> **Anthony Wright**
> Executive director, Health Access

Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access, a coalition of labor and consumer organizations, said Schwarzenegger will be under pressure to reconsider.

"He's going to have to decide whether he is with families and seniors and uninsured patients or with the big drug companies that price gouge and are among the most profitable corporations in the world," Wright said.

One of the two bills would require the state to set up a Web site to help consumers find and buy Canadian imports; the second would establish another site warning of unsafe sources for purchasing drugs from Canada.





Carbon monoxide leak

ANACONDA, Mont. — Students sickened by a dormitory carbon monoxide leak have been released by hospitals or were to be released Sunday, school officials said Saturday.

"According to the medical people at the different hospitals, they are fine," said Bob Hogan, assistant student supervisor at the Anaconda Job Corps.

Twenty students from the center were flown Friday to hospitals around the Northwest. Hogan said all have been discharged except for five students in a Pocatello, Idaho, hospital who were expected to be released Sunday morning.

60th anniversary plunge

GREENSBURG, Ind. — A couple celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary took a different kind of plunge — from an airplane.

As nervous friends and relatives craned their necks to watch, Albert and Esther McDaniel made their first skydiving jump on Friday. Both jumped in tandem with an experienced skydiver and returned safely to the ground.

Earlier this year, the couple read a newspaper article about the Never Too Late Foundation, which grants wishes to the elderly. They contacted the group and told them their wish was to jump out of an airplane.

From The Associated Press

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Doing the right job

I am a private first class in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 2nd Infantry Division. Since arriving in Iraq, all I have done is do detail after detail. I am a 92G (cook), and when I got here we found KBR in charge of all the dining facilities and no military cooks. A lot of these civilian contractors are being paid in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to do jobs that the Army already has soldiers for.

What gets me the most about that is the fact that the cooks in my unit were told we would be doing escort and guard duty while working here. I and four other cooks were due to rotate from our overseas duty assignment in Korea, meaning we had already served a year or longer there away from our families. When it came time to go, the command decided not to let critical military occupational specialities rotate, stating a need for cooks. A need for cooks? For what? To do the dirty work they don't want to make anyone else do?

I am a firm believer that you are a soldier first, then your MOS. However when you train me for a certain job and then put me in a totally different one that I have not been properly trained on, that raises a red flag for me. Especially when poor taxpayers are spending money on civilians to do the job they already trained me for.

I by no means feel I should not be in Iraq serving my country. I just feel if I'm here I should be doing the job you trained me for, not one I am not prepared for. I don't want to harm myself or fellow soldiers. I firmly believe I could cook for the soldiers like I did all year long.

Pfc. Jordan Taylor
Al Ramadi, Iraq

The cost of the war

In response to the letter "Get rid of death toll" (Aug. 3), I too must complain about the use of this figure. However, I believe that along with the number of deaths should be the number of injured. This war is costing Americans a lot more than just the estimated $125 billion or the 968 lives we are already familiar with — it is also causing thousands of our fighting personnel to return home handicapped in some way.

I believe that many Americans are forgetting about the nearly 6,000 injured in combat that are having to come home with their lives changed forever, just calling them a "casualty of war." The sad truth is that we know many lives will be lost until the mission is truly accomplished, and it is our duty to make sure that parents, families and friends who either lost loved ones, or have had their loved ones return injured, will know we have not forgotten them.

It is not being negative to remember the sacrifice of our fighting men and women. When I read the "tally" in the Stars and Stripes, I also read the names that are included, and thank each one for giving the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. I applaud this paper for having the courage to print this small but significant article, as it is the least that can be done for those who "paid the price for freedom." I don't think any of us had any idea this war would be so costly — in lives.

Michael Masek
RAF Lakenheath, England

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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Women ready to fight

I am responding to the letter "Sending women to war wrong," (Aug. 15). Our military is made up of volunteers. The writer implies that women enlist solely for benefits and are duped by recruiters because they don't emphasize "the real mission." Before I signed the dotted line, I asked myself if the consequences of the worst-case scenario — going to war — was worth it. Obviously, you know my answer, but the point is that it was my decision, my option.

This is my second deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom and I volunteered to return. I did it because I wanted to help my brothers and sisters in the fight. I joined the Army, and one of the things I think is neat about it is that we are all "soldiers" — there is no reference to gender in our proud title. I earned that title because I live in a great country that allows me the choice to do, and live, and become whatever I choose. And I believe it's worth fighting for.

There are no longer limits to where I can go in my country. What the writer leans toward is a step backward in our evolution as a people.

Spc. Melanie Golson
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait

Soldiers without gender

I am dumbfounded by the ignorance and patronizing tone of the writer of "Sending women to war wrong." First of all, America is most definitely not the only country to send its women to war, as he claims. He then writes "When women are encouraged to enlist in the regular Army and our Guard and Reserve force, they have no idea what they are really getting into."

This statement is incredibly offensive to me, a female currently serving in Iraq with the 216th Engineer Battalion, Combat Heavy. Is he trying to say that women who join the military are too stupid to know that there is a high possibility of deployment? That we don't realize some day we might just have to use our training? Any woman who didn't know was probably tipped off during basic training when we learned hand-to-hand combat, tactical maneuvers and marksmanship right alongside the guys.

The men I've talked to out here are pleased that there really has been no gender distinction on missions. Women have gone to every forward operating base that our men have. We do the same jobs, and we do them just as well as the men.

He also asserts that the only reason women are out here is because there is a shortage of men. I guess he never considered that the women are just as competent as the men and are seen as an asset by the military, which is, thankfully, much more egalitarian than the writer.

Sgt. Sharon Allen
FOB Speicher, Iraq

All soldiers in same war

In reply to "National Guard training," (Aug. 17), I would like to give the point of view of a soldier serving in the Middle East who has active-duty and Guard time.

■ Training for active-duty and Guard is similar, but many Guard soldiers have managerial and technical jobs that teach more responsibility, disciple and respect than a classroom would teach.

■ I have spoken with many active-duty soldiers, and their complaints equal that of any Guard member. Everyone deployed misses families and friends. Guard members also worry that they will not have jobs when they return home and that Army pay will not cover the lifestyle that their civilian jobs supported.

■ The letter writer says "A lot of the younger troops joined to get money for college." While this may be true, what is not recognized is that many active-duty soldiers do the same. I, for example, joined the active Army at 17 to pay for college. I joined the Guard so that I could go to college and still serve my country.

■ The letter also mentions that, "[National Guard members] weren't expecting to have to leave the comfort of home, where everything is done for them." Guard soldiers do not have the chow halls to eat at hungry or free lodging if found homeless.

■ Active-duty soldiers may return to do another deployment in six months. Isn't that part of their career choice? Guard members chose to serve their country, go to school, have careers outside the Army and raise a family.

Active soldiers may look down on Guard and Reserve soldiers but what is forgotten is that we are all here fighting the same fight, losing our lives and loved ones. We all wear the same uniform, eat the same sand and feel the same heat. Keep in mind that we are all here together and we all made our own choices.

Heather Case
Reno, Nev.

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION/OMBUDSMAN

In re-fighting Vietnam, real issues AWOL

BY BRONWYN LANCE CHESTER
The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK

OK, enough with Vietnam already. The presidential race of 2004 has lost all semblance of focus on issues that actually matter. Instead of a unfolding a road map to the next 35 years of America's future, it's mutated into a referendum on events 35 years in our past.

Demonstrating a mastery of political jujitsu that would have made Lee Atwater proud, Bush backers have taken one of Kerry's greatest strengths — his voluntary service in Vietnam — and used it against him.

Suddenly, Americans find themselves gauging the presidential race according to whether Swift Boat Veterans for Truth, Kerry, Veganism, Polygamy or a Mime-Free World have had their claims debunked or confirmed on any given day.

One of the most important elections in recent American history now turns on the origins of metal shards in Kerry's butt and the rigors of the Navy's citation vetting process in 1969. Two words to all involved: Move on.

Yes, Vietnam is a scabbed-over wound in our national consciousness. Yes, the war and its aftermath had enormous ramifications on American foreign policy, politics and personal lives. Yes, conduct in wartime speaks to character. And yes, the way Vietnam veterans were treated was a travesty.

But according to the U.S. Census Bureau, roughly 30 percent of eligible voters — myself included — are 35 and under, with no real memories of the Vietnam era. And probably another 30 percent are fed up with having to relive Vietnam.

For my generation and those that follow, Vietnam might as well be World War II, Waterloo or the Battle of Carthage, so distant are our personal connections. It's a war that occurred in the periphery of our lifetimes.

We're not ignorant of the war and its effect on society. To assume we are is simply naiveté on the part of older Americans.

But to many of us, the present issue less resembles a national debate than a nasty divorce. It's 35 years later and both parties have metaphorically moved on, remarried and put kids through college. Yet, neither side can resist getting sucked into a vile and spiteful he-said/she-said argument, complete with dragging out moldy "proof" of the other's transgressions.

Meanwhile, we slightly embarrassed onlookers are left wanting a shower and wondering why they just can't let the issue drop.

Both sides are to blame for changing the debate from a theater of war into war theater. Kerry, grasping that this election hinges on national security — a traditionally vulnerable spot for Democrats — tried to peel off the "liberal wimp" label by placing an inordinate amount of emphasis on service that should have been an honorable footnote.

And President Bush hid behind this record-obscuring smokescreen for two weeks, waiting until he'd wrung every drop of political capital from the anti-Kerry veterans' ads before, as he put it, "denouncing all the stuff." ...

Lost in the fog of a long-gone war is a genuine discussion of the Bush administration's record and the issues that define our future.

Note to candidates: Stop sniping, quit re-fighting Vietnam and start debating issues Americans actually care about.

Stripes reporters had their own Iraq stories to tell

This is the third in a series of columns on coverage by Stars and Stripes of the conditions in Iraq since April 2004, which was the first anniversary of the fall of Baghdad. The earlier columns appeared June 28 and July 27, respectively.

Ombudsman

Joe Ungaro

The mission of Stripes is to be a complete newspaper for its readers wherever they may be located. The July 27 column looked at the wire service reporting about Iraq that was published by Stripes. This column looks at the staff-produced stories.

During the last 15 weeks as I read each of the three editions of Stripes I tore out staff-produced stories on Iraq no matter where they came from.

Most were from Iraq but a significant number were from the paper's Washington bureau and its European and Pacific operations.

Then I reread them, sorted them by categories and made judgments on volume, quality of writing and editing, whether they duplicated or complemented the wire reports that had been published (and reviewed in the previous column) and how well the staff-produced material carried out the mission.

Some overall observations:

■ The staff-produced report did not duplicate the wire report and there was no wasted effort. The mission philosophy was effectively executed.

■ There was a substantial contribution of quality material by Stripes' Washington bureau and the staffs in Europe and the Pacific. This resulted in an Iraq news report that had dimensions that made Stripes, in my opinion, a vital read each day for military personnel no matter where they were located.

■ The editors at the central desk in Washington also receive high marks for the selection and presentation of Iraq staff-produced material for all editions.

■ The one weakness was that most of the coverage in Iraq was centered on Baghdad and the Sunni Triangle, a result of security concerns that curtailed travel. At some point, if it can be done safely and transportation arranged, a team of two staffers should make the rounds of the other bases in Iraq and do stories on what "life is like" at each of those facilities.

The staff-produced material totaled 150 stories during the study period — an average of 10 a week. These complemented an average of 20 wire stories a week.

The staff-produced material broke down this way:

■ 76 (50.7 percent) were spot-news stories.

■ 28 (18.7 percent) were features and human interest stories.

■ 46 (30.6 percent) were enterprise articles on both positive and negative developments. My journalistic definition of "enterprise" is taking the obvious from the day-to-day developments and bringing to the readers a dimension that they hadn't known about or read about.

The quality of writing and/or editing or both was excellent. Not having seen the original copy I can't make a judgment. So both writers and editors deserve praise because the end result is worthy of praise. Virtually all of the articles in the feature and enterprise categories were stories I had not seen in the five daily papers I regularly read. My favorites, listed below, are based on what I learned that I didn't know before I read the article.

In the in-depth category:

■ "Knowledge is power against roadside bombs" — part of a two-part series by Lisa Burgess.

■ "Convoy shows leaving Iraq not a fun ride" — by Charlie Coon.

■ "31st CSH cares for servicemembers, Iraqis shattered by war injuries" — by Nancy Montgomery.

■ "Far from the skies, airmen fulfill Iraq duty/Called on to provide security and other tasks, Air Force members serve alongside soldiers and Marines" — by Ron Jensen.

■ "Female troops face new dangers in Iraq" — by Lisa Horn.

In the feature category:

■ "Troops trade war faces for poker faces/Card games give servicemembers chance to relax, talk trash downrange" — by Jessica Inigo.

■ "Serving, fighting and married in a war zone/Two military couples say being together for Iraq duty makes marriage stronger" — by Terry Boyd.

■ "Kids find strength in numbers during parents' deployment" — by Kevin Dougherty.

In the spot-news category:

■ "Survey is starting point for addressing mental health/Services look for better ways to prepare troops for strain" — by Sandra Jontz. This was a companion story to an Associated Press story titled "Survey: Troops returning with severe stress."

■ "82nd engineers keep highway safe from IEDs" — by Rick Emert.

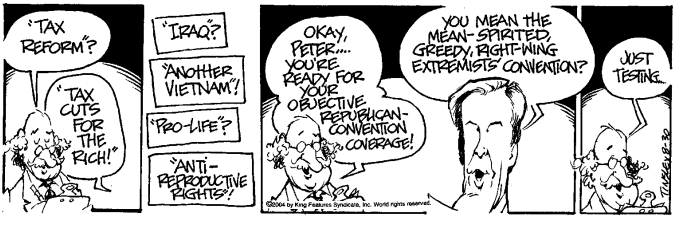
It should also be noted that during this period, staffers were in and out of Afghanistan, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo and France for the 60th anniversary of D-Day and a major exercise in Bulgaria. A busy schedule for a reporting staff of two dozen whose duties also include coverage at their home bases in Europe and the Pacific.

The next column will be on Page 1, the selection and balance of content and headlines.

Send comments to Joe Ungaro at: Ombudsman, Stars and Stripes, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, D.C. 20045-1301. Phone civilian +1(401) 364-6032; fax +1(401) 364-8696; or e-mail ombudsman@stripes.osd.mil

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Pet abuser gets time

PA LEVITTOWN — A man who set his kitten on fire and threw it off the balcony of his apartment has been sentenced to six to 23 months in prison.

Daniel Culligan, 28, of Bristol Township, was sentenced after pleading guilty in June to arson and cruelty to animals.

Police said Culligan admitted spraying lighter fluid on the 9-month-old kitten's back Dec. 13, then setting it on fire and tossing it off his apartment balcony. The cat had to be euthanized that night.

Police said Culligan had said he was "frustrated" after the pet defecated on the floor and scratched his son. Culligan was ordered to pay a $1,000 fine and $222 in restitution to the animal hospital that euthanized the kitten.

Expensive country ham

KY LOUISVILLE — If you stuck the silver-plattered ham they auctioned here in the supermarket deli case and put a price-per-pound sign in it, it would read $4,166.66.

Of course, it was no ordinary slab of pig meat that was being paraded around by Miss Kentucky at the Kentucky Farm Bureau's traditional country ham breakfast.

This ham was grand champion of the Kentucky State Fair, and the $60,000 bid it brought from Republic Bank & Trust was evidence of just how seriously Kentuckians take their country ham.

The sale of the 14.4-pound ham was preceded by speeches from the governor and a U.S. senator.

The winning bidder, Republic Bank chairman and founder Bernard Trager, said he was willing to pay "whatever it took" to walk away with the salty, cured meat.

'Boring, bland' marriage

MO INDEPENDENCE — Single life was Boring, and married life will be Bland for this new bride.

Katie Boring wed Nathan Bland June 12.

And the Boring-Bland affair was anything but, said the groom.

After the announcement of their engagement was published last winter, the impending "Boring-Bland" merger was mentioned on NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," in a segment where the comedian calls attention to unusual name combinations.

Bland, out of town on business, was flipping channels in his hotel room when he saw it.

Some friends had joked about sending the engagement notice to Leno, but nobody took credit once it actually made the show.

The bride figures that over the years she's probably had a worse time over her name than her husband has.

Pooch hits the road

NE WAVERLY — It was a ruff ride for the hitchhiker who traveled 85 miles on the back of a semitrailer truck in pouring rain, state troopers said.

Before being rescued, he was shaggy, sopping wet and wearing only a flea collar.

A motorist on Interstate 80 reported seeing a dog on the truck, troopers said.

The driver said the mixed-breed shepherd must have hitched a ride when he stopped in Sutton, 130 miles from the driver's final destination, Omaha.

Troopers called around to local police and sheriff's offices, but so far they haven't found anyone missing a dog.

For now, the dog has found temporary lodging.

Votes are not for sale

OH ELYRIA — James Pengov thought selling his vote would help get him out of debt. Instead it landed him in trouble with the law.

It took authorities 12 hours to hear about and stop Pengov's eBay offer of a "Presidential Vote for Sale," with a starting bid of $50.

The 36-year-old said he was hoping to land enough money from selling his vote to pay medical bills.

Pengov said he didn't know that selling a vote was illegal.

The fraud unit of the California secretary of state's office, which has been alerted to votes for sale on eBay in previous elections, came across the posting and notified Ohio authorities.

Pengov told buyers he generally votes Republican, but expressed dissatisfaction with both parties.

Man stabs alligator

FL GAINESVILLE — A man jumped in a pond and stabbed a 6-foot alligator with a pocketknife to force the reptile to release his dog from its jaws.

Matthew Goff, 29, said he was walking Sugar, a tan-colored bloodhound/Shar-Pei mix, in a park when the attack occurred. The unleashed dog wandered to the edge of the pond and the gator grabbed its head.

"I couldn't stand by and watch it happen and I had the pocketknife so I decided to try and save her," Goff said.

The gator released Sugar when Goff stabbed the reptile in the eye. The dog then ran home, escaping with three teeth marks on and about her head. Goff had a few scratches.

A state trapper planned to kill the gator if it's found.

Jumping for joy

Brenda Cano, 6, cools off in a water fountain at Concourse Park in Kansas City, Mo. Temperatures reached into the 90s with the heat index at 100 degrees.

Charged with harassment

NY MINEOLA — A Long Island man was arraigned on charges he made hundreds of threatening and sexually suggestive telephone calls to female reporters and anchors at a cable television news station over the last eight years.

Carmen Monaco Jr., 48, who worked at a trucking company, allegedly left lewd messages and threats at News 12 Long Island, said Nassau County Police Det. Lt. Steven Skrynecki.

Monaco was charged with three counts of third-degree stalking and eight counts of second-degree aggravated harassment. Bail was set at $105,000 and he was ordered not to have contact with the station or its reporters, said Katie Grilli-Robles, spokeswoman at the district attorney's office.

Concern for orcas

WA SEATTLE — Fire retardants used worldwide in manufacturing vehicle parts and computers have been found in Puget Sound orcas, raising new concerns about the long-term health of the region's killer whales, a new Canadian study shows.

Canadian fisheries scientists found that killer whales they tested had troubling levels of polybrominated diphenyl ethers or PBDEs, chemicals related to PCBs, a carcinogen banned decades ago.

The findings come as the state Ecology Department prepares recommendations for curtailing the use of PBDEs in Washington, following an executive order Gov. Gary Locke issued in January.

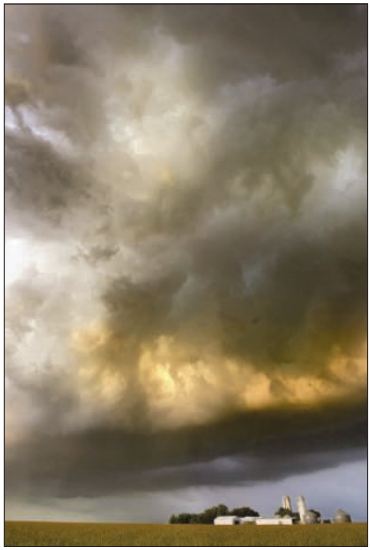
Rude awakening

DC WASHINGTON — Capital residents opened their morning newspaper to find photos of Laurie Coleman, wife of Republican Sen. Norm Coleman of Minnesota, dressed in lingerie and a cocktail dress.

The Washington Post headline: "Senator's Wife Reveals Almost All!"

A victim of the paparazzi? Hardly.

Coleman's Los Angeles publicist said he pitched the Style section layout to promote Laurie Coleman's acting and modeling career. She currently is a spokeswoman for a women's clothing line on ShopNBC, a 24-hour TV shopping network.



Trouble brewing

Storm clouds form over a farm southeast of Lidderdale, Iowa. The northern half of Carroll County had been placed in a tornado warning by the National Weather Service, although no tornado was ever spotted, nor was any damage reported.

Spoonbill in flight

A rosette spoonbill takes flight after feeding its young on a branch of a cypress tree in Lake Martin in St. Martin Parish, La.

Just one more coat ...

Boguslaw Karbarz, a painter for US Tank Painting Inc. based in Hillside, N.J., walks along the crown of the water tank in the Carman section of Rotterdam, N.Y.

Row your boat

Participants in the 2004 Ford Canoe Challenge paddle their way down the San Antonio River near the Casa Rio restaurant in San Antonio.

Soothing waters

Elephant keeper Mary Wulff keeps the attention of Wanda, an arthritic Asian elephant that is undergoing a whirlpool bath at the Detroit Zoo in Royal Oak, Mich.

Squeaky clean

Ben Minton, with Clearview Window Cleaning, works through periodic rain showers to clean windows on the Lexington Chamber of Commerce building at the corner of Rose and East Main streets in Lexington, Ky.

Friendship circle

Members of a youth soccer team conclude a recent practice session by joining hands for a team run in Kenosha, Wis.

Arts center shuts down

PA PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, an art gallery and school founded in 1945, has suspended operations because it's about $1 million in debt, officials said. All 13 staff members were laid off, said Catherine Kraus, president of the center's board.

Contributions from local foundations have dropped between 20 percent and 25 percent at a time when all local arts groups are seeking grants from the same pool of money, Kraus said.

Health care shuffle

GA ATLANTA — Gov. Sonny Perdue proposed a plan to shift 1 million Medicaid recipients in Georgia into private-sector, managed health care programs beginning in 2006. The state would solicit bids from care management organizations to provide Medicaid-covered health benefits in specific regions. Georgia spends about $2 billion a year on Medicaid.

Hermes takes off

CA SAN FRANCISCO — After a 30-year rest, Hermes has taken flight again.

The bronze statue "Resting Hermes," a remnant of the 1915 Panama Pacific International Exposition that was stolen in the 1970s and quickly returned, disappeared in the dead of night from its base outside the posh University Club.

Thieves pried the 300-plus-pound statue off its soapstone pedestaland took off with the wing-footed Greek god of messengers, who had a reputation for thievery and a thirst for adventure.

"My gut tells me that the crooks pulled up in a pickup truck, loosened the statue with a crowbar, then threw it in the back of the truck and drove off," said Deke Kastner, general manager and chief operating officer of the club. "If it was one guy, then I wouldn't want to meet him in a dark alley. Hermes is heavy."

The club is offering a $1,000 reward for Hermes' safe return, no questions asked.

Magic the giraffe dies

TN KNOXVILLE — Magic, the Knoxville Zoo's giraffe that fathered 16 calves and had a long-running feud with a park zebra named PJ, has died.

Zookeepers found the 17-year-old animal dead in his stall over the weekend, zoo Executive Director Jim Vlna said. The cause of death was not immediately known. Vlna said preliminary tests indicate a possible internal infection.

Buried treasure

ME CORINNA — A Corinna man was being sought by police in connection with the seizure of nearly eight pounds of cocaine found buried in the back yard of his grandmother's home, authorities said.

Jason Belmer, 25, ran into the woods after the cocaine was seized, the Maine Drug Enforcement Agency said. The find was described as one of the state's largest cocaine seizures, with an estimated street value of as much as $380,000.

After agents had been tipped off about Belmer's alleged drug dealing, authorities searched the home of his grandmother, Jeanne Rogers. The drugs were found wrapped in plastic and buried in the yard beneath a shed, the agency said.

Dali museum packs heat

FL ST. PETERSBURG — The Salvador Dali Museum is making a bold response to the recent theft of Edvard Munch's "The Scream" from the Munch Museum in Oslo, Norway.

"We've hired armed, off-duty law-enforcement officers," said Hank Hine, director of the Dali, which draws about 200,000 visitors annually.

It's an unorthodox move in the world of fine-arts museums, where unarmed guards are the norm.

Unauthorized withdrawal

UT SOUTH OGDEN — Zachary Hayden liked the car so much, he only needed to stop at the bank to get some money.

The problem is, police said, he didn't have an account there.

Authorities said Hayden, 31, of Warsaw, Ind., robbed the Wells Fargo Bank after test driving a Ford Escort from the Good-One Auto Sales and then using the car for his getaway.

"He didn't seem different from other customers," said Trent Goodwin, a car salesman. "He walked here, but a lot of our customers do that."

Goodwin sent another employee along with Hayden when he said he needed to withdraw the money to buy the vehicle.

While Hayden was inside the Wells Fargo, the employee got out of the car to help a woman with directions. Just then, Hayden allegedly ran out of the bank and fled in the car, leaving the employee behind.

More than six hours after the robbery, Nevada Highway Patrol pulled the car over near Ely, Nev., about 200 miles southwest of South Ogden. It still had the white lettering of $1,895 on the window and displayed dealer license plates.

Call saves woman's life

OH SUMMERFORD — A woman says her life was likely saved when she answered a hang-up phone call.

Mary Dhume was watching television when the phone in the next room rang. She got up to answer it, but there was no one at the other end of the line.

Suddenly, she heard breaking glass and saw her living room wall collapse onto the chair where she'd been sitting.

A pickup truck had missed the curve on the road in front of Dhume's home and smashed into the century-old house. Dhume said she saw the driver run away as she dialed 911.

Three hours later, State Highway Patrol troopers arrested Carlos Cummings, 41, of Mechanicsburg, on a charge of failing to control a vehicle.

"The phone ringing at that particular time? That's one of those things people would never believe," Dhume said. "Maybe it was God calling to tell me to get out of my living room."

Stories and photos from wire services

AP

Mike Pitzer, left, advisor and scout master to Boy Scout Troop 825 at the Kentucky State Reformatory, awards the rank of Tenderfoot to inmate James Payton earlier this month in La Grange, Ky. Payton is part of a pilot rehabilitation program for emotionally and mentally disturbed prisoners serving time for everything from murder to sex crimes.

Inmates pledge to do their best

BY BRETT BARROUQUERE
The Associated Press

LA GRANGE, Ky — Robert Jackson stood with the two dozen other members of Boy Scout Troop 825, raised his right hand in the traditional Boy Scout sign, and took the oath to do his best for God and country.

Unlike other scouts, Jackson and members of his troop aren't allowed to earn merit badges through mastering camping and other outdoor skills.

That's because they are prison inmates.

"We're trying to teach more long-term planning, how to live when they get out," said Mike Pitzer, who serves as adviser and scout master to the troop at the Kentucky State Reformatory.

The inmates are part of a rehabilitation program for emotionally and mentally disturbed prisoners serving time for everything from murder to sex crimes.

Becoming a member of Troop 825 isn't easy. Inmates must have a mental or emotional problem that renders their mental age at 18 or lower — the Boy Scouts require scouts to be under age 18 — stay clear of disciplinary violations, have or work toward a high school degree and be willing to follow the rules of the club.

The Boy Scouts sanction the use of their name, logo and methods, so long as the inmates do not have any association with the scouts upon their release, Pitzer said.

Brandi Mantz, a spokeswoman for the National Council of Boy Scouts in Irving, Texas, said the prison program has been successful in the past decade.

"It's always good to help those individuals work their way back into society," Mantz said.

Mantz said the Kentucky scout program is the only one in the state, but others have been chartered around the country.

There are things the prison-based scouts cannot do. Instead of hiking, swimming and camping, members of Troop 825, who wear khaki inmate uniforms along with tan-and-red baseball caps with the Boy Scout fleur-de-lis to meetings, earn merit badges for personal hygiene, balancing a checkbook and learning CPR and first aid. They also raise money to help other inmates and, occasionally, fund a trip by an outside Boy Scout troop.

The inmates who make it past the initial introduction say the program is helping them work past the issues that landed them in prison in the first place.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	$1.241
British pound	$1.85
Japanese yen	107.00
S. Korean won	1,123.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	$1.7895
Canada (Dollar)	1.3135
Denmark (Krone)	6.1518
Egypt (Pound)	6.2251
Euro	$1.2016
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7996
Hungary (Forint)	206.10
Iceland (Krona)	72.515
Israel (Shekel)	4.5413
Japan (Yen)	109.63
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2947
Norway (Krone)	6.9067
Philippines (Peso)	56.08
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1.7117
S. Korea (Won)	1,152.10
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2823
Thailand (Baht)	41.67
Turkey (Lira)	1,515,152

(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	$404.63
Silver	$6.59

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.50
3-month bill	1.56
30-year bond	5.02

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

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Avoid disaster-aid scams

CBS MarketWatch

In the aftermath of a disaster, charities pop up like wildflowers, with telemarketers soliciting donations to help the cause.

If you decide to make a donation, the Federal Trade Commission recommends:

■ Be wary of appeals that tug at your heart strings.

■ Ask what percentage of the donation is used to support the cause and what percentage is used for administrative costs.

■ If the telemarketer claims that the charity will support local organizations, call those organizations to verify.

■ Don't provide bank or credit-card information over the phone.

■ Ask for a receipt showing the amount of the contribution and stating that it is tax-deductible.

■ Avoid cash gifts. Instead, send a check made out to the charity organization — not the solicitor.

Stolen 'Scream' joins thousands of missing art works

BY MORT ROSENBLUM
The Associated Press

PARIS — Edvard Munch's stolen "The Scream," spirited away by bandits who stormed a Norwegian museum, joins more than 150,000 works of art that specialists say may never be found.

Then again, they add, it may turn up overnight. When a version of Munch's famous painting was stolen in Oslo during the 1994 Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, it reappeared in three months. The culprits tried to collect a $1 million ransom from the government but ended up in handcuffs.

"These thieves are usually very naive, and they seldom think through their robberies," Karl-Heinz Kind, Interpol's special officer for art theft, told The Associated Press.

"It's rather easy for them to make the first step, overcoming security people and stealing the item," he said. "But finding someone willing and able to buy it is a long, difficult process."

Most likely, he said, the thieves would be in contact with museum authorities in hopes of negotiating a ransom.

"The Scream" would be worth perhaps $70 million if auctioned legitimately. The thieves also took Munch's "Madonna." They were painted in 1893 and 1894 as part of the artist's "Frieze of Life."

A high-profile piece such as "The Scream" is hardly likely to be sold unless a private collector buys it to be hidden, as in the film "The Thomas Crown Affair."

Kind dismisses that as unlikely fiction. "It is contrary to human psychology," he said. "People would be too tempted to show it off."

But Bryan Roberts, a gallery owner in Columbus, Ohio, who keeps track of missing art, cited past cases of rich art fanatics who were content to keep rare works under wraps.

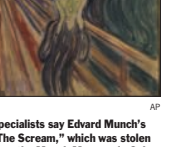
"Absolutely, people hide things for themselves," he said.

"Especially pre-Columbian art. Some of these pieces disappear from the face of the earth, found only when someone dies, if then."

Huge amounts of stolen art simply vanish.

According to a recently published estimate by London writer Edward Dolnick, "The Museum of the Missing" would include 551 Picassos, 43 Van Goghs, 174 Rembrandts and 209 Renoirs. Interpol's running data base lists 20,000 missing works of art, half of them paintings, but the Art Loss Register in Britain tallies about 150,000. And Italian authorities list many more.

According to a recently published estimate by London writer Edward Dolnick, "The Museum of the Missing" would include 551 Picassos, 43 Van Goghs, 174 Rembrandts and 209 Renoirs.



AP

Specialists say Edvard Munch's "The Scream," which was stolen from the Munch Museum in Oslo, Norway, on Aug. 22, joins more than 150,000 works of art that may never be found.

The largest art heist in history remains unsolved.

Early on March 18, 1990, two men disguised as Boston police officers entered the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum as the city's St. Patrick's Day celebration was winding down. They persuaded security guards to unlock the doors of the gallery and then stole 13 priceless items including works by Rembrandt, Vermeer, Degas and Manet.

"The investigation is still active and the $5 million reward stands and we continue to be hopeful about the recovery of the artwork," said Cathy Deely, the museum's director of marketing and public relations.

Roberts said he expects "The Scream" to resurface soon.

"But," he added in a telephone interview, "you always have to worry about these things. You can never know what might happen."

In 2002, for instance, the mother of a French art thief destroyed art worth more than $1.4 billion, including canvases by Antoine Watteau and Peter Bruegel.

After her son, Stephane, was arrested for stealing an antique bugle from a Swiss museum, police said, Mireille Breitwieser cut hidden paintings into tiny pieces and dumped artifacts into a canal.

EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the mid 60s, Tuesday lows in the mid to lower 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 60s, Tuesday lows in the upper 40s to mid 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the low 80s, Tuesday lows in the mid 50s.

France: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s to lower 80s, Tuesday lows in the lower 50s to low 60s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 60s, Tuesday lows in the mid 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the mid to upper 60s, Tuesday lows in the mid 50s

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s, Tuesday lows in the low 50s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 70s to mid 80s, Tuesday lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the low to mid 80s, Tuesday lows in the mid 60s.

Kosovo: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 70s, Tuesday lows in the mid 50s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with rain. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s, Tuesday lows in the upper 40s to lower 50s.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny. Highs in the lower to upper 90s, Tuesday lows in the low to mid 60s.

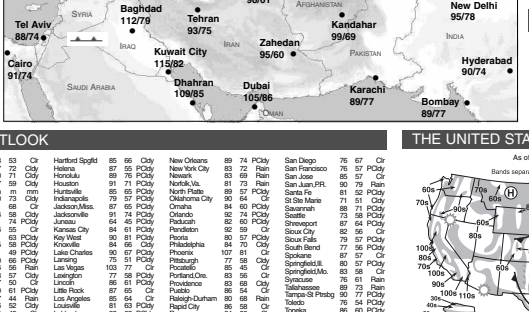
Turkey: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 80s to mid 90s, Tuesday lows in the mid 60s to lower 70s.

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	68	48	Mogadishu	85	73
Dakar	87	78	Nairobi	79	53
Freetown	83	74	Rabat	85	61
Kinshasa	88	67	Tripoli	102	72

MIDEAST



THE WORLD

	Hi	LO		Hi	LO
Amsterdam	65	57	Manila	88	76
Bahrain	105	83	Mexico City	71	54
Beijing	86	61	Montreal	74	56
Beirut	86	75	Riyadh	110	80
Bermuda	86	77	Rio de. Jan	77	67
Caracas	93	77	Seoul	85	63
Helsinki	66	50	Sydney	84	56
Hong Kong	90	81	Sydney	67	52
Lisbon	82	64	Tokyo	87	76

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:36AM	6:37AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	6:38AM	6:40AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	7:31PM	7:29PMx
Sunset (Frankfurt)	8:14PM	8:11PM

Full moon Aug 30 · Last qtr. Sept 6 · New moon Sept 14 · First qtr. Sept 21

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

	Hi	Lo	Otlk
Abilene,Tex.	89	66	PCldy
Akron,Ohio	71	56	Cldy
Albany,N.Y.	81	65	Rain
Albuquerque	86	62	PCldy
Allentown,Pa.	82	67	Rain
Amarillo	88	62	PCldy
Anchorage	67	47	Cldy
Asheville	80	64	Cldy
Atlanta	87	69	Cldy
Atlantic City	82	70	Cldy
Austin	94	64	PCldy
Baltimore	84	70	Rain
Baton Rouge	89	69	PCldy
Billings	86	59	PCldy
Birmingham	87	67	PCldy
Bismarck	83	56	PCldy
Boise	93	64	Clr
Boston	86	70	Cldy
Bridgeport	80	68	Rain
Brownsville	92	78	Rain
Buffalo	73	59	Rain
Burlington,Vt.	76	62	Rain
Caribou,Maine	69	58	Rain
Casper	82	49	Clr
Charleston,S.C.	90	73	PCldy
Charleston,W.Va.	79	61	Rain
Charlotte,N.C.	83	68	Rain
Chattanooga	86	67	Cldy
Chicago	78	58	PCldy
Cincinnati	76	59	Cldy
Cleveland	72	56	Cldy
Colorado Springs	78	53	Clr
Columbia,S.C.	87	72	Cldy
Columbus,Ga.	90	71	Cldy
Columbus,Ohio	77	59	Cldy
Concord,N.H.	m	m	mm
Corpus Christi	90	73	Cldy
Dallas-Ft Worth	91	68	Clr
Dayton	76	58	Cldy
Daytona Beach	91	74	PCldy
Denver	86	55	Clr
Des Moines	81	63	PCldy
Detroit	75	58	PCldy
Duluth	71	49	PCldy
El Paso	90	66	PCldy
Elkins	76	56	Rain
Erie	68	57	Cldy
Eugene	87	50	Clr
Evansville	80	61	PCldy
Fairbanks	57	44	Rain
Fargo	76	52	Cldy
Flagstaff	80	42	Clr
Flint	74	53	PCldy
Fort Smith	90	63	Clr
Fort Wayne	77	56	PCldy
Fresno	102	65	Clr
Goodland	89	56	Clr
Grand Junction	90	58	Clr
Grand Rapids	75	56	PCldy
Great Falls	85	53	PCldy
Green Bay	75	53	PCldy
Greensboro,N.C.	79	66	Rain
Harrisburg	80	66	Rain
Hartford Sgpfld	85	66	Cldy
Helena	87	55	PCldy
Honolulu	89	76	PCldy
Houston	91	71	PCldy
Huntsville	85	65	PCldy
Indianapolis	79	57	PCldy
Jackson,Miss.	87	65	PCldy
Jacksonville	91	74	PCldy
Juneau	64	45	PCldy
Kansas City	84	61	PCldy
Key West	90	81	PCldy
Knoxville	82	66	Cldy
Lake Charles	90	67	PCldy
Lansing	75	57	PCldy
Las Vegas	103	77	Clr
Lexington	77	58	PCldy
Lincoln	86	61	PCldy
Little Rock	87	65	Clr
Los Angeles	85	64	Clr
Louisville	81	63	PCldy
Lubbock	88	63	PCldy
Macon	90	69	Cldy
Madison	76	54	PCldy
Medford	97	58	Clr
Memphis	87	66	Clr
Miami Beach	92	76	PCldy
Midland-Odessa	89	65	PCldy
Milwaukee	76	58	PCldy
Mpls-St Paul	75	56	PCldy
Mobile	90	71	Rain
Montgomery	90	71	PCldy
Nashville	82	63	PCldy
New Orleans	89	74	PCldy
New York City	83	72	Rain
Newark	83	69	Rain
Norfolk,Va.	81	73	Rain
North Platte	89	57	PCldy
Oklahoma City	90	64	Clr
Omaha	84	60	PCldy
Orlando	92	74	PCldy
Paducah	82	60	PCldy
Pendleton	92	59	Clr
Peoria	80	57	PCldy
Philadelphia	84	70	Cldy
Phoenix	107	81	Clr
Pittsburgh	77	58	Cldy
Pocatello	85	45	Clr
Portland,Ore.	83	56	Clr
Providence	83	68	Cldy
Pueblo	86	54	Clr
Raleigh-Durham	80	68	Rain
Rapid City	86	58	Clr
Reno	94	56	Clr
Richmond	80	69	Rain
Roanoke	82	66	PCldy
Rochester	74	59	Rain
Rockford	77	57	PCldy
Sacramento	94	57	Clr
St Louis	83	64	PCldy
St Thomas	91	79	Rain
Salem,Ore.	83	53	Clr
Salt Lake City	88	61	Clr
San Angelo	89	65	PCldy
San Antonio	94	68	PCldy
San Diego	76	67	Clr
San Francisco	76	57	PCldy
San Jose	85	57	Clr
San Juan,P.R.	90	79	Rain
Santa Fe	81	52	PCldy
St Ste Marie	71	51	Cldy
Savannah	88	71	PCldy
Seattle	73	58	PCldy
Shreveport	87	64	PCldy
Sioux City	82	56	Clr
Sioux Falls	79	57	PCldy
South Bend	77	56	PCldy
Spokane	87	57	Clr
Springfield,Ill.	80	57	PCldy
Springfield,Mo.	83	58	Clr
Syracuse	76	61	Rain
Tallahassee	89	73	Rain
Tampa-St Pbsbg	90	77	PCldy
Toledo	76	54	PCldy
Topeka	86	60	PCldy
Tucson	102	73	Clr
Tulsa	90	65	Clr
Tupelo	86	64	PCldy
Waco	92	67	PCldy
Washington,D.C.	84	73	Rain
W.Palm Beach	92	75	PCldy
Wichita	87	61	PCldy
Wichita Falls	93	66	Clr
Wilkes-Barre	78	62	Rain
Wilmington,Del.	83	69	Cldy
Yakima	91	54	Clr

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time

Bands separate high temperature zones for the day.

via Associated Press

Scheduled to ETS or PCS?

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

STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

FACES 'N' PLACES

Christian Dior: J'adore Charlize Theron

Add **Christian Dior** to the list of **Charlize Theron** fans. The company announced Thursday that the Oscar winner will be the new face of J'adore, the designer's fragrance that debuted in 2000.

Theron

Theron will start appearing in print ads and TV commercials next month — about the same time that ads for **Chanel No. 5**, featuring another Oscar winner, **Nicole Kidman**, debut.

"Ms. Theron was chosen because she represents modern femininity and embodies the spirit and energy of Dior. She is a classic beauty," said **Pamela Baxter**, president and CEO of LVMH Perfumes and Cosmetics, Dior's parent company.

The advertising deal with Theron is the first one between the beauty brand and a celebrity. Dior's artistic director **John Galliano** oversaw all aspects of the ad campaign.

Floating into the world of 'Geisha'

Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa, who plays a detective in the new NBC police drama "Hawaii," says he's "blown away" by his upcoming movie role — The Baron in "Memoirs of a Geisha."

"I'm just kind of floating right now," he said from the "Hawaii" set.

"Memoirs of a Geisha," directed by **Rob Marshall**, stars **Michelle Yeoh, Zhang Ziyi** and **Ken Watanabe**. The movie is based on the best-selling 1997 book, which chronicles a young girl's rise from poverty in a Japanese fishing village to life in high society.

Tagawa, who has appeared in the films "Pearl Harbor" and "Planet of the Apes," said his work on the film wasn't expected to disrupt his schedule for "Hawaii," which debuts after the Olympics.

Elvis fans have left the festival

Ticket sales again were disappointing for the Elvis Presley Festival, held in **Tupelo, Miss.**, the town where the King of Rock 'n' Roll was born, putting the future of the event in jeopardy.

The festival has drawn some well-known musical acts in the last six years, including **B.B. King** and **Little Richard**. But the Downtown Tupelo Main Street Association reported a loss of $5,465 for the June 2004 festival. Last year, the event lost $2,642, organizers said.

Presley

"We can break even or make a little money, but we can't keep losing money," **Jim High**, the association's assistant director, said last week.

The Tupelo Convention and Visitors Bureau cut its contributions from $100,000 in 2003 to $50,000 this year.

"We love festivals," said **Linda Butler Johnson**, the bureau's executive director. "And we love to help with seed money, but over a period of time we need to pull back and let them stand on their own feet."

"It is a serious situation," said festival Chairman **Gary Bailey**. "We have to do whatever we can to make it successful next year."

That song was made for you and me

This song is my song, this song is your song.

That's the agreement reached between the publishers of **Woody Guthrie**'s classic "This Land Is Your Land" and JibJab Media, creators of an animated Internet short that uses the tune in a comic send-up of **President Bush**'s and **Sen. John Kerry**'s presidential campaigns.

Ludlow Music, the song's publisher, agreed in a settlement last week to allow the cartoon — one of the biggest Internet draws of the summer — to keep using the song.

In return, JibJab dropped a lawsuit against Ludlow that had sought an order saying its use of the song was protected because it was a parody and "This Land" was in the public domain.

The creators also agreed to provide a link on their Web site to the song's original lyrics and to donate 20 percent of any profits to the Woody Guthrie Foundation.

Since its July 9 debut, the cartoon — in which equal opportunity insults fly — has been viewed by about 20 million people, according to **Santa Monica**-based JibJab.

" 'This Land' is known as an iconic song about national unity, and the JibJab parody is predominantly about the lack of national unity at this time," said **Fred von Lohmann**, a lawyer for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, which represented JibJab.

The video can be seen at **http://www.jibjab.com**

Photos and stories from wire reports

BEImages

Julie Andrews and "young princesses" attend the world premiere of "The Princess Diaries 2: The Royal Engagement" held at Disneyland earlier this month. At age 68, Andrews is still enjoying success in Hollywood.

Our royal love affair with Julie Andrews

BY HANH NGUYEN
Zap2it.com

LOS ANGELES — While promoting her latest film, Disney's "The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement," actress Julie Andrews is the picture of poised elegance in a pristine white pants suit with matching scarf.

She regally presides over the table of journalists, who have regressed upon meeting her, eager to please and basking in her maternally warm smile. It's a natural reaction, considering that in two of her most memorable films, "Mary Poppins" and "The Sound of Music," she plays nannies who command affection as well as respect.

Now, a new generation of moviegoers is discovering Andrews' disarming combination of wit, charm and refinement. In 2001's "The Princess Diaries," Andrews played Queen Clarisse of Genovia, the grandmother and royal mentor to aspiring princess Mia Thermopolis (Anne Hathaway). In the 2004 sequel, the queen prepares Mia for the heavy responsibilities of ruling, including making an arranged marriage.

In addition to Andrews' welcoming personality, kids today have been introduced to the star's beautifully cultured speaking voice as Queen Clarisse and as the animated Queen Lillian in "Shrek 2." Although a botched throat operation in 1997 ended her famous four-octave singing voice, audiences are treated to Andrews' semimusical return to the big screen in "Diaries 2."

"It was the studio's idea [to have her sing] originally on the first film ... but we never did it," director Garry Marshall says. "Then the second time we took another swing, and this time she would try it."

The British actress sings the original duet "Your Crowning Glory" during the film's raucous slumber party with Disney Channel star Raven, who plays Mia's pal Princess Asana. Andrews is modest about her brief performance.

"It's a very sweet little song and it was very specially written to kind of cope with my voice," she explains. "It's pitched very low, and I actually talk it more than sing it. I don't want the audience to think that I am back singing because I'm not — alas."

Although the song's vocal range is limited, its impact is powerful.

Heather Matarazzo, who plays Mia's childhood friend Lilly in both films, says, "It is something that I will definitely share with my kids and grandkids."

Marshall adds, "Most of the crew, even the guys with tattoos, got a little teary there."

Andrews also influenced her fellow cast members with her acting skills. She taught Hathaway the Alexander Technique, a method of movement and alignment that helps people to use their bodies more efficiently to center them and prevent injury.

"I decided to give it a bit of a try," says Hathaway. "It changed my posture a bit, breathing and standing up straight and sort of focusing, centering on it. That really, really helped."

Kathleen Marshall, who plays royal assistant Charlotte, says that Andrews' precise diction had an improving effect on her.

"You want to speak so succinctly and slowly because she has such a beautiful voice and hits every syllable, and so you want to rise up to that," says the director's daughter. "It was an incredible exposure and lesson, just speaking beautifully."

In "Diaries 2," Queen Clarisse has a more active role than in the first film. In addition to instructing Mia on the finer points of being a monarch, Clarisse must contend with her own issues of responsibility versus romance. Her relationship with Joe (Hector Elizondo), the head of security, was only hinted at in the original "Diaries," but has deepened for the sequel, causing a queenly conflict of interest.

Not all of her moments are about duty and difficult decisions, though. During Mia's slumber party, the girls are taking part in mattress surfing, a sport in which they glide down an indoor slide on minimattresses. Since this is a Genovian tradition, the Queen demonstrates her mastery by surfing while standing upright the whole trip down.

At age 68, even though her singing career is over, Andrews is still enjoying success in Hollywood. The actress stays optimistic and grounded, summing up her film career as simply, "I've been a queen. I've been a nanny. I've been a cross-dresser."

Horoscope

Joyce Jillson

Pluto spends a third of the year in retrograde, but today, the slow-moving (and rather profound) planet is set to go direct. Pluto rules life's major changes, and for many, there will be an intense event or insightful realization from which there is no going back. In a sense, life changes overnight, even though the change might take weeks to unfold.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (August 30). You exert your independence this year, which in a strange way attracts more support than ever for your causes. You'll realize how profoundly loved you are, and people are especially attentive in September. October brings a career move that helps you get something you've wanted for a long time. Lucky love signs are Taurus and Aquarius.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). As a rebel, you sometimes feel that if you're not acting against an opposing force, you're not working hard enough. Everything doesn't have to be a fight. There's luck when you yield to the requests of people you respect.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Any action you take to deter your own progress is dangerous. If you're honest, you'll easily spot these behavioral traps. Take hold of your psyche, and command yourself to do the things you've been procrastinating for ages.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Your day is a series of choices, not events that happen to you. This shift is one of the most empowering you could ever experience. You're creating the movie of your life — what admirable action will the main character take?

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're hard on yourself. Sure, an action is not complete until you bring it to a conclusion, but somewhere along the way, try to sit back and observe your work, knowing that with each effort you're getting closer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your mind is going a million miles a minute now. As soon as you get an idea, act on it right away. Otherwise, you'll wait and worry and doubt and eventually forget about it. This is especially true if you want to meet somebody.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your aims are high now, but don't forget about balance. Expecting to have endless energy and creativity when you've done nothing to nurture them is unreasonable. Take care of yourself like you never have before.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're prone to passionate whims and could even take a spontaneous road trip. Responsibilities don't magically disappear, though. Cleverly cover your bases while you're flying down the freeway or beaching it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The atmosphere is charged with a fresh feeling, and with all the playful electricity in the air, it may as well be a Friday — even the shyest in the bunch is ready for action. Everyone is out and about, making the hot spots even hotter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). All morning long, you've got luck for getting the tedious stuff out of the way. This lets you kick back and visit with friends, or start something new. If you don't know how to go about a task, look to someone who does.

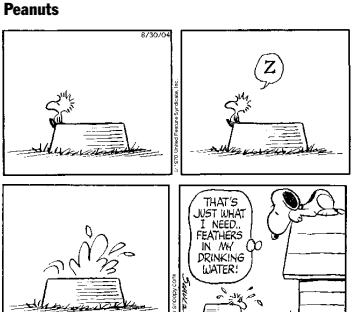
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your approval puts a plan in motion. It's good to be king — or queen, as the case may be. If you get the feeling something's up this afternoon, it could be because someone is either talking or fantasizing about you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). A problem that has been dogging you for a long time suddenly seems simple — maybe because you're doing instead of worrying about what there is to do. Use intuition to help you decide whether to go through with a deal.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Relationships suck mental energy if you allow them to. Or you could release problems and ask the universe to show you what to do. What would happen if you just let go of plaguing commitment issues?

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



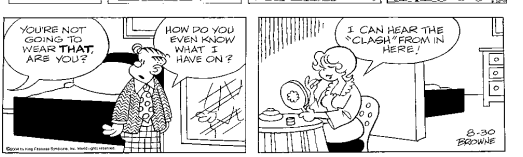
Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

Zits

Cathy

Hi and Lois

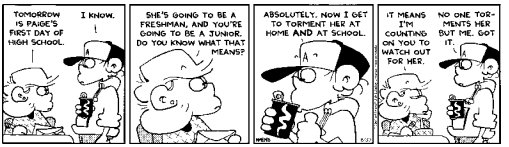


Beetle Bailey

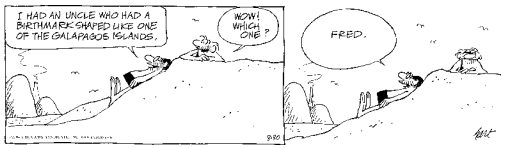
Red and Rover

Better or Worse

Foxtrot



B.C.



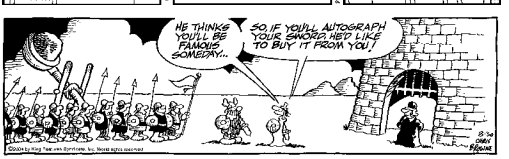
Baby Blues

Spider Man

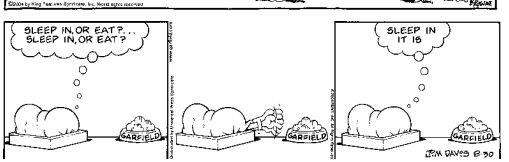
Blondie

Dilbert

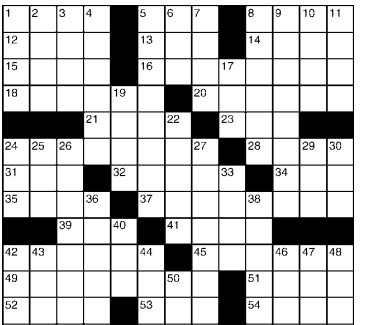
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Gear teeth
5 Poorly lit
8 Coll. mil. program
12 Condo, e.g.
13 Public radio's Mr. Glass
14 Cave phenomenon
15 Mason portrayer
16 Goes to sea
18 Dormant
20 "Citizen Kane" model
21 Eager, plus
23 Frazier foe
24 South American monkey
28 Sufficient, old-style
31 Khan title
32 Become established
34 "You — There"
35 "Demon Barber of Fleet Street"
37 William — Maugham
39 Cartesian conclusion
41 Actress Campbell
42 Fill with love
45 Pretentious
49 Shelve
51 Parka feature
52 Those in favor
53 Brillo rival
54 "Beetle Bailey" dog
55 Lancaster foe
56 USN grad
57 Pravda source

Down

1 Castro's turf
2 Responsibility
3 "—, Interrupted"
4 Rill
5 Gets rid (of)
6 Indignation
7 Trigonometry, e.g.
8 Used-goods transaction
9 Sweet potatoes
10 Anything but that
11 Future stallion
17 Vast expanse
19 Hollywood clashers
22 Board
24 Place setting part
25 In olden days
26 Heat provider
27 Eternal
29 Raw rock
30 Drenched
33 St. Petersburg river
36 Grayish-red
38 Extremely popular
40 Calendar pp.
42 Discover
43 Pianist Peter
44 React to yeast
46 Tittle
47 They're often connected
48 Big bothers
50 Dress in

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-30 CRYPTOQUIP

L 'N J G C D M R R Z T S M C R V L Y M V F G T S T Y Z X T C A G D, O R V R P A Z D R P O T D L F T J G T M C T L Y S F P N X?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: FLASHLIGHTS OFTEN SEEM TO BE NOT MUCH MORE THAN CASES FOR HOLDING DEAD BATTERIES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals G

Let your true feelings be known

Dear Abby: My best friend, "Angela," has a boyfriend I'll call Robb. I have an insanely strong crush on him. I am 14, but I am very mature for my age and have unusually intense feelings. Seeing Robb with Angela every day is torture.

The school counselors suggested I immerse myself in something to get my mind off Robb — sports, drama, my studies — anything. I tried for months, but it hasn't worked. I can barely function because I'm so miserable and lovesick.

A few days ago, Angela told me she doesn't like Robb as a boyfriend as much as she used to and would really rather be good friends with him. But she doesn't want to hurt his feelings. I want to tell her how I feel about him, but I can't bring myself to do it. What if she laughs at me or tells me he'd never like me? I might kill myself. Please help.

— Lovesick in California

Dear Lovesick: Speak up! Angela gave you the perfect opening when she said she'd prefer to be good friends with Robb. Don't let your fear of what she "might" say keep you suffering in silence. The only thing worse than caring for someone who doesn't know you're alive is feeling trapped in a relationship with someone you no longer care for.

It's not necessary to tell Angela that you're so lovesick you can't function. Just let her know that if she wants to date others, you'll be happy to console Robb. Then cross your fingers and make yourself available if he wants a shoulder to cry on.

Dear Abby

Dear Abby: A good friend of mine recently wrote and self-published a book. It is comprised of anecdotes, poems and short essays. She asked if I liked it, and I (coward that I am) told her I liked a couple of the stories and thought the book was quite good. I lied. The book is horrible. I thought it was just me — but when I shared it with a few others, they felt the same way.

Much of what she wrote reflects strong negativity about her job as a social worker, the people she's there to help, and the children she taught as a substitute teacher I want to tell her my true feelings, but everybody tells me to keep quiet. That may not be fair to her. She's starting another book, and I think she should know the truth. How can I tell her without hurting her feelings or insulting her?

— 'Lil White Lie

Dear 'Lil: Writing her thoughts and feelings may be your friend's mechanism for venting her frustrations, and it's a healthy one. I see nothing to be gained by discouraging her. Because you and your friends didn't care for her book doesn't mean no one will. Since her friendship means a lot to you, mum's the word.

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

Grandparents set bad example

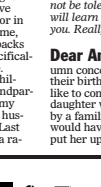
Dear Annie: My husband and I have been married for eight years and have three children. The problem is my in-laws.

My children adore their grandparents, but unfortunately, the adults could use some lessons in deportment. When they are around my children, they swear, speak of issues that never should be mentioned around kids and use racial slurs. My husband and I have talked to his family about this, but they refuse to stop. I'm sure it is so ingrained in their speech patterns that they have no idea they are doing it.

Recently, my in-laws have begun encouraging behavior in my children that horrifies me, such as going behind our backs to buy them things we specifically said they could not have.

I don't want to ban my children from seeing their grandparents, but I also don't want my kids to behave in ways my husband and I disapprove of. Last week, my 7-year-old used a racial slur to describe one of my husband's friends. We can guess where he learned it. Short of stopping these visits altogether, what can we do?

Annie's Mailbox



— Hate the In-Laws

Dear Hate the In-Laws: While their behavior is irritating and worrisome, the truth is, your in-laws have much less influence on your children than you do. If the folks say something you don't like, discuss it with your children at home, and explain that such language is insulting, demeaning, inappropriate, whatever, and that it will not be tolerated. Your children will learn how to behave from you. Really.

Dear Annie: I read the column concerning adoptees finding their birth mothers and would like to comment. My firstborn daughter was the result of a rape by a family member. I knew she would have a much better life if I put her up for adoption.

She contacted me after she was married and had children. I was pleased to meet her, learn how her life had gone and impart medical history. However, I made it clear that I had no intention of usurping the relationship she had with her adoptive parents. She agreed, but then began to show up at my house at the drop of a hat and began visiting my younger daughter's house as well.

We didn't want her to think we didn't care, so we shared holidays with her. It was never enough. For each concession to her feelings, she wanted a dozen more. Now there is a lot of tension, awkwardness and resentment on both sides. Please tell those who search not to expect too much.

— A Reader in the West

Dear Reader: Thank you for being so frank. Some of these reunions are fulfilling, but not all.

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.

JONEY

GANTE

TABLLE

DRIZAW

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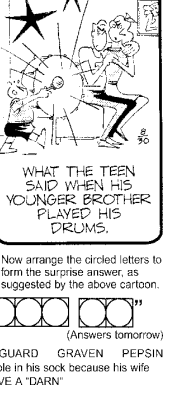
www.jumble.com



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

Print answer here: " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: DADDY GUARD GRAVEN PEPSIN
Answer: He had a hole in his sock because his wife didn't — GIVE A "DARN"

Family Circus

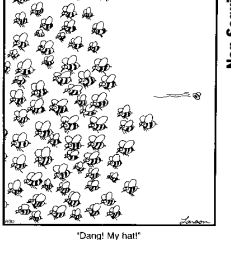
"We don't need string, Mommy. These are cell phones."

GRAFFITI

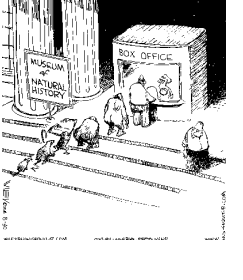
Dennis the Menace

©Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

(All times Central. European. AFN-A: AFN-Atlantic; PAC: AFN-Pacific/Korea; SPT: AFN-Sports; dld: delayed. Listings are listed available from AFRTS and subject to change without notice.)

Television

Baseball—teams TBD, 9 a.m. Tuesday (dld), SPT; 11 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1, AFN; 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1, (both dld) both SPT.

Little League World Series: World Championship game, 3:30 p.m. Monday (dld), SPT.

Motor racing—Nextel Cup Sharpie 500, 1 p.m. Tuesday (dld), SPT; AMA motocross, 1:30 p.m. Monday (dld), SPT; NHRA Midsouth Nationals, 1 a.m. Tuesday (dld), SPT; IRL Firestone Indy 225, 3:30 a.m. Tuesday (dld), SPT.

Pro football—NFL preseason: Tennessee at Dallas, 2 a.m. Tuesday, AFN-A, noon Tuesday (dld), PAC, and 7 p.m. Tuesday (dld), SPT.

Tennis—U.S. Open (all on SPT): Preview show, 7:30 a.m. Monday (dld); men's rounds, 5 p.m. Monday; 1 a.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept 1.

Olympics -1 a.m. Monday, Aug. 30 - Closing ceremony.

Radio

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

College football— Texas A&M at Utah, 1:30 a.m. Friday.

AFN-Europe can be reached at DSN 329-4444 or German prefix 0049-(0)611 (0)69-156-88-444. 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	9	9	3	32	36	36
Columbus	7	5	9	30	24	23
D.C. United	6	8	9	27	31	35
New England	5	9	9	24	30	34
Chicago	5	10	8	23	23	33
Western Conference						
Kansas City	10	7	3	33	31	25
Los Angeles	9	6	8	35	36	32
Colorado	8	7	9	33	21	21
Dallas	7	8	9	30	29	31
San Jose	6	7	11	30	36	28

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

Saturday's games
D.C. United 0, New England 0, tie
Dallas 4, Chicago 1
Colorado 0, San Jose 0, tie

Sunday's game
Columbus at MetroStars

Wednesday, Sept. 1
Kansas City at Chicago

Saturday, Sept. 4
San Jose at New England
Los Angeles at Columbus
D.C. United at Chicago
MetroStars at Kansas City
Dallas at Colorado

Pro football

NFL preseason

AMERICAN CONFERENCE East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Jets	2	0	0	.667	61	40
Buffalo	1	0	0	.333	47	17
Miami	1	2	0	.333	26	39
New England	1	2	0	.333	44	57
South						
Tennessee	2	0	0	1.000	40	18
Indianapolis	1	0	1	.667	58	65
Jacksonville	2	1	0	.667	38	29
Houston	1	2	0	.333	36	69
North						
Baltimore	2	1	0	.667	58	32
Cleveland	2	1	0	.667	41	55
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	.667	86	51
Cincinnati	1	2	0	.333	47	60
West						
Oakland	2	1	0	.667	70	67
Denver	2	1	0	.500	73	56
Kansas City	1	2	0	.333	67	62
San Diego	1	2	0	.333	75	60

NATIONAL CONFERENCE East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	2	0	0	1.000	70	47
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	21	38
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	64	68
Philadelphia	1	2	0	.333	56	65
South						
Carolina	2	0	0	1.000	70	57
Atlanta	2	1	0	.667	64	58
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	54	45
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	43	30
North						
Chicago	2	1	0	.667	46	40
Minnesota	2	1	0	.667	70	43
Detroit	1	2	0	.333	43	55
Green Bay	1	2	0	.333	44	57
West						
Seattle	2	1	0	.667	50	42
St. Louis	1	2	0	.333	45	40
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	45	78
San Francisco	0	3	0	.000	53	76

Friday's games
N.Y. Jets 17, N.Y. Giants 10
Minnesota 34, San Francisco 10
St. Louis 28, Washington 3
Jacksonville 27, Bay 7
New Orleans 17, Chicago 13
Denver 31, Houston 17
Seattle 26, San Diego 20

Saturday's games
Tampa Bay 17, Miami 10
Atlanta 37, Cincinnati 10
Baltimore 17, Detroit 6
Carolina 20, New England 17
Indianapolis 30, Buffalo 17
Cleveland 21, Kansas City 19
Oakland 17, Arizona 16

Monday's game
Tennessee at Dallas

Thursday, Sept. 2
Carolina at Pittsburgh
Jacksonville at New England
Baltimore at N.Y. Giants
Atlanta at Philadelphia
Kansas City at Dallas
Tampa Bay at Houston
Minnesota at Seattle
Arizona at Denver
St. Louis at Oakland
San Diego at San Francisco

Friday, Sept. 3
Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets
Atlanta at Washington
Indianapolis at Cincinnati
Green Bay at Tennessee
Miami at New Orleans
Chicago at Cleveland
End Preseason

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	2
Minnesota	15	11	.577	4
Phoenix	13	13	.480	6½
Sacramento	12	13	.480	6½
Houston	12	13	.462	7
San Antonio	6	20	.231	13

Wednesday, Sept. 1
Indiana at Washington
Connecticut at Charlotte
Phoenix at Detroit
Minnesota at Houston
Sacramento at Seattle
San Antonio at Los Angeles

Auto racing

Sharpie 500

Saturday
At Bristol Motor Speedway
Bristol, Tenn.
Lap length: 533 miles
(Starting position in parentheses)

1. (30) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 500, $322,445.
2. (4) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 500, $213,887.
3. (11) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 500, $169,550.
4. (15) Jeff Burton, Chevrolet, 500, $126,280.
5. (8) Elliott Sadler, Ford, 500, $142,158.
6. (3) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 500, $132,115.
7. (5) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 500, $101,715.
8. (24) Kurt Busch, Ford, 499, $107,515.
9. (23) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 499, $134,168.
10. (14) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 499, $119,232.
11. (10) Greg Biffle, Ford, 499, $92,165.
12. (2) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 499, $114,152.
13. (7) Mark Martin, Ford, 499, $91,440.
14. (1) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 498, $135,118.
15. (12) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 498, $109,335.
16. (19) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 498, $121,468.
17. (39) Scott Riggs, Chevrolet, 497, $111,527.
18. (16) Ward Burton, Chevrolet, 497, $79,075.
19. (6) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 497, $121,526.
20. (20) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 497, $67,835.
21. (26) Kasey Kahne, Dodge, 496, $107,535.
22. (9) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 496, $101,515.
23. (40) Todd Bodine, Dodge, 495, $76,785.
24. (21) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 494, $110,963.
25. (28) Kenny Wallace, Chevrolet, 493, $71,740.
26. (13) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 490, $114,246.
27. (36) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 481, $105,961.
28. (41) Mike Wallace, Dodge, 468, $72,595.
29. (27) Jeff Green, Dodge, 462, $98,635.
30. (12) Casey Mears, Dodge, 433, accident, $67,675.
31. (38) Jimmy Spencer, Chevrolet, 430, $72,605.
32. (26) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 418, $71,455.
33. (25) Carl Edwards, Ford, 386, accident, $103,187.
34. (35) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet, 373, accident, $89,735.
35. (17) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge, 313, accident, $76,615.
36. (34) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 268, accident, $87,005.
37. (31) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 150, accident, $76,759.
38. (42) Derrike Cope, Ford, 121, brakes, $68,250.
39. (33) Tony Raines, Chevrolet, 88, accident, $68,125.
40. (32) Joe Nemechek, Ford, 84, accident, $94,055.
41. (43) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, 49, handling, $67,875.
42. (37) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 31, accident, $75,755.
43. (29) Kevin Lepage, Dodge, 11, vibration, $67,862.

Average Speed of Race Winner: 88.538 mph.

Time of Race: 3 hours, 0 minutes, 36 seconds.

Margin of Victory: 4.390 Seconds.

Caution Flags: 9 for 63 laps.

Lead Changes: 18 among 10 drivers.

Lap Leaders: J. Gordon 1-57; R. Wallace 58-61; D. Earnhardt Jr. 64-104; R. Wallace 105-118; D. Earnhardt Jr. 119-131; R. Wallace 132-139; D. Earnhardt Jr. 191-215; J. McMurray 216-223; J. Gordon 224-226; D. Jarrett 227; J. Burton 228; M. Waltrip 229-235; R. Labonte 236; T. Bodine 237-239; D. Earnhardt Jr. 240-355; J. Johnson 356-375; D. Earnhardt Jr. 376-390; J. Burton 391-415; D. Earnhardt Jr. 416-500.

Top 10 in Points: J. Gordon - 3,380; J. Johnson - 3,356; D. Earnhardt Jr. - 3,305; T. Stewart - 3,195; M. Kenseth - 3,156; K. Busch - 3,061; E. Sadler - 3,018; K. Harvick - 2,923; B. Labonte - 2,919; R. Newman - 2,918.

Belgian GP

Sunday
At the Spa Circuit
Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium
Lap length: 4.335 mile

1. Kimi Raikkonen, Finland, McLaren-Mercedes, 44, 1 hour, 32 minutes, 35.374 seconds, 132.389 mph.
2. Michael Schumacher, Germany, Ferrari, 44, 1:32:38.406.
3. Rubens Barrichello, Brazil, Ferrari, 44, 1:33:29.661.
4. Felipe Massa, Brazil, Sauber-Petronas, 44, 1:32:47.778.
5. Giancarlo Fisichella, Italy, Sauber-Petronas, 44, 1:32:49.378.
6. Christian Klien, Austria, Jaguar-Cosworth, 44, 1:32:49.888.
7. Antonio Pizzonia, Brazil, Williams, 44, 1:32:53.244.
8. Olivier Panis, France, Toyota, 44, 1:32:53.967.
9. Jarno Trulli, Italy, Renault, 44, 1:32:57.389.
10. Ricardo Zonta, Brazil, Toyota, 41, did not finish, 1:27:21.317.
11. Nick Heidfeld, Germany, Jordan-Ford, 40, 1:32:59.249.

Not Classified
Juan Pablo Montoya, Colombia, Williams-BMW, 37, 1:09:09.
Antonio Pizzonia, Brazil, Williams BMW, 31, 1:02:38.523.
Jenson Button, England, BAR-Honda, 29, 57:49.654.
Ralf Schumacher, Hungary, Minardi-Cosworth, 28, 57:49.882.
Fernando Alonso, Spain, Renault, 11, 24:38.160.
Mark Webber, Australia, Jaguar-Cosworth, 0.
Takuma Sato, Japan, BAR-Honda, 0.
Gianmaria Bruni, Italy, Minardi-Cosworth, 0.
Giorgio Pantano, Italy, Jordan-Ford, 0.

Driver's Standings
(After 13 of 18 races)

1. Michael Schumacher, Germany, 128 points.
2. Rubens Barrichello, Brazil, 88.
3. Jenson Button, England, 65.
4. Jarno Trulli, Italy, 62.
5. Fernando Alonso, Spain, 45.
6. Juan Pablo Montoya, Colombia, 38.
7. Kimi Raikkonen, Finland, 29.
8. David Coulthard, Scotland, 21.
9. Takuma Sato, Japan, 19.
9. Giancarlo Fisichella, Italy, 18.
11. Ralf Schumacher, Germany, 12.
12. Felipe Massa, Brazil, 10.
13. Mark Webber, Australia, 7.
14. Olivier Panis, France, 6.
15. Antonio Pizzonia, Italy, 4.
16. Cristiano da Matta, Brazil, 3.
16. Nick Heidfeld, Germany, 3.
16. Christian Klien, Jaguar, 3.
19. Timo Glock, Germany, 2.
20. Zsolt Baumgartner, Hungary, 1.

Golf

BMW International Open

Sunday
At Golfclub Munich-Nord Eichenried
North Course, Munich, Germany
Purse: $2.7 million
Yardage: 6,957; Par: 72
Final Round

Miguel A J Jimenez, Spain	68-66-67-66	—267
Thomas Levet, France	72-65-63-68	—268
Alex Cejka, Germany	68-70-69-65	—272
Paul Casey, England	69-69-66-70	—274
Colin Montgomerie, Scot.	67-70-67-68	—272
Retief Goosen, S. Africa	66-69-68-70	—273
Paul McGinley, Ireland	70-68-67-68	—273
Darren Clarke, N. Ireland	72-68-66-67	—273
Fredrik Jacobson, Sweden	71-65-68-69	—273
David Lynn, England	67-68-69-69	—273
John Daly, United States	67-70-72-65	—274
Soren Kjeldsen, Denmark	70-67-69-68	—274
Andrew Raitt, England	73-69-65-67	—274
Tino Schuster, Germany	70-68-68-68	—274
Joakim Haeggman, Sweden	69-70-70-65	—274
Markus Brier, Austria	71-65-67-72	—275
Lee Westwood, England	71-68-69-67	—275
Sebastian Fernandez, Arg.	71-68-69-67	—275
Graeme McDowell, N. Ireland	72-72-69-62	—275
Luke Donald, England	68-71-68-69	—276
David Howell, England	73-68-67-69	—277

The Tradition

Saturday
At The Reserve Vineyards and Country Club
Aloha, Ore.
Purse: $2.3 million
Yardage: 7,213; Par 72
Third Round

Vicente Fernandez	67-71-66-204	-12
Peter Jacobsen	69-66-69-204	-12
Tom Kite	69-72-64-205	-11
D.A. Weibring	69-69-69-207	-9
Tom Kite	72-71-66-209	-8
Craig Stadler	70-70-68-208	-8
Gil Morgan	71-68-69-208	-8
Doug Tewell	69-70-69-208	-8
Bruce Lietzke	69-67-73-209	-7
Jerry Pate	73-71-66-210	-6
Dave Stockton	72-71-67-210	-6
John Bland	71-71-68-210	-6
Andy Bean	69-69-72-210	-6
Tom Jenkins	69-69-72-210	-6
Jose Maria Canizares	67-71-72-210	-6
Dave Eichelberger	75-70-66-211	-5
Hale Irwin	69-74-68-211	-5
Sammy Rachels	71-70-71-212	-4
Bruce Fleisher	71-70-71-212	-4
Larry Nelson	69-77-66-212	-4
Tom Watson	73-71-68-212	-4
Tom Purtzer	71-70-71-212	-4
Morris Hatalsky	73-71-69-213	-3
Walter Hall	75-69-69-213	-3
Bobby Walzel	74-70-69-213	-3
Gary McCord	72-70-71-213	-3
Bobby Wadkins	73-69-71-213	-3
Stewart Ginn	70-71-72-213	-3
John Harris	71-70-72-213	-3
Jim Thorpe	70-70-73-213	-3
Ed Fiori	75-65-73-213	-3
Bob Gilder	72-72-70-214	-2
Fuzzy Zoeller	68-75-71-214	-2
Wayne Levi	71-68-75-214	-2
Jim Ahern	71-75-69-215	-1
Leonard Thompson	71-75-69-215	-1
James Mason	71-74-70-215	-1
Mike Smyth	73-71-71-215	-1
Eamonn Darcy	72-72-71-215	-1
Keith Fergus	74-69-72-215	-1
Bruce Summerhays	67-72-76-215	-1

Buick Championship

Saturday
At TPC at River Highlands
Cromwell Conn.
Purse: $4.2 million
Yardage: 6,836; Par 70
Third Round

Fred Funk	66-66-69-201	-9
Tom Byrum	69-66-67-202	-8
Corey Pavin	67-71-64-202	-8
Hunter Mahan	71-67-66-203	-7
Joey Sindelar	68-68-68-204	-6
Daniel Chopra	71-68-65-204	-6
Tim Herron	70-69-65-204	-6
Woody Austin	68-70-66-204	-6
Skip Kendall	69-69-66-204	-6
Hidenichi Tanaka	68-69-67-204	-6
Tom Pernice Jr.	70-66-68-204	-6
Kirk Triplett	68-67-69-204	-6
Hank Kuehne	68-65-71-204	-6
Jose Cocores	68-66-71-205	-5
Omar Uresti	68-70-67-205	-5
Bo Van Pelt	67-65-73-205	-5
Matt Gogel	67-69-69-205	-5
Robert Gamez	69-66-70-205	-5
Bob Burns	65-70-70-205	-5
Zach Johnson	67-65-73-205	-5
Jay Williamson	68-71-67-206	-4
Brent Geiberger	71-67-68-206	-4
Joe Durant	69-69-68-206	-4
Jason Gilchrist	66-70-70-206	-4
Todd Fischer	71-69-67-207	-3
Cameron Beckman	71-69-67-207	-3
Kevin Sutherland	70-70-67-207	-3
Ted Purdy	71-68-68-207	-3
Robert Damron	71-68-68-207	-3
Jason Bohn	71-67-69-207	-3
Ken Duke	68-69-70-207	-3
Jerry Kelly	66-71-70-207	-3
Brad Faxon	69-68-70-207	-3
Frank Lickliter II	73-68-67-208	-2
J.L. Lewis	71-70-67-208	-2
Bill Haas	70-69-69-208	-2
Loren Roberts	67-72-69-208	-2
Craig Barlow	73-66-69-208	-2
Bart Bryant	70-69-69-208	-2
Kevin Na	72-67-69-208	-2
Billy Mayfair	68-71-69-208	-2
Pat Perez	69-69-70-208	-2
Olin Browne	69-68-71-208	-2

Wachovia Classic

Saturday
At Berkleigh Country Club
Kutztown, Pa.
Purse: $1 million
Yardage: 6,381; Par 72
Third Round

Grace Park	68-66-65-199	-17
Ai Miyazato	66-64-71-201	-15
Soo-Yun Kang	67-66-68-201	-15
Laura Diaz	65-69-67-201	-15
Nancy Scranton	68-69-67-204	-12
Michelle Wie	67-68-69-204	-12
Wendy Ward	70-66-69-205	-11
Leta Lindley	67-69-69-205	-11
Beth Daniel	70-70-66-206	-10
Hee-Won Han	67-72-67-206	-10
Marcy Hart	67-72-67-206	-10
Hilary Lunke	66-69-71-206	-10
Gloria Park	74-69-65-208	-8
Katherine Hull	70-70-68-208	-8
Juli Inkster	70-70-71-211	-5
Suzann Pettersen	70-63-75-208	-8
Michele Redman	71-71-67-209	-7
Leta Lindley	71-70-68-209	-7
Young-A Yang	73-67-69-209	-7
Catriona Matthew	71-69-69-209	-7
Candie Kung	70-69-70-209	-7
Nadina Taylor	70-68-71-209	-7
Jackie Gallagher-Smith	70-68-71-209	-7
Joanne Mills	69-69-71-209	-7
Brandie Burton	69-69-71-209	-7
Christina Kim	69-69-71-209	-7
Mika Saiki	67-70-72-209	-7
Mi Hyun Kim	71-70-69-210	-6
Meg Mallon	69-72-69-210	-6
Jeong Jang	71-69-70-210	-6
Lorie Kane	67-73-70-210	-6
Karin Koch	69-68-73-210	-6
Mikaela Parmlid	67-69-74-210	-6
Juli Inkster	72-69-69-210	-6
Miriam Nagl	72-69-69-210	-6
Denise Killeen	70-69-71-210	-6
Patricia Meunier-Lebouc	71-70-70-211	-5
Hee Young Park	68-69-74-211	-5
Natalie Gulbis	77-66-69-212	-4
Heather Bowie	71-72-69-212	-4
Kelly Robbins	72-70-70-212	-4
Candy Hannemann	70-72-70-212	-4
Patricia Baxter-Johnson	69-73-70-212	-4
Tina Barrett	73-68-71-212	-4
Dorothy Delasin	71-70-71-212	-4
A.J. Eathorne	73-66-73-212	-4
Moira Dunn	71-68-73-212	-4
Kristal Parks	69-69-74-212	-4
Karrie Webb	70-67-75-212	-4

Tennis

TD Waterhouse Cup

Saturday
At The Hamlet Golf and Country Club
Commerce, Ga.
Purse: $380,000 (United States)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
Semifinals
Lleyton Hewitt (2), Australia, def. Dmitry Tursunov, Russia, 6-4, 1-6, retired.
Luis Horna (9), Peru, def. Paradorn Srichaphan (4), Thailand 1-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5).

Pilot Pen

Saturday
At The Connecticut Tennis Center at Yale
New Haven, Conn.
Purse: $585,000 (Tier II)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Women's Championship
Elena Bovina (7), Russia, def. Nathalie Dechy (8), France, 6-2, 2-6, 7-5.

Doubles Championship
Nadia Petrova (1) and Meghann Shaughnessy (2), United States, vs. Martinia Navratilova and Lisa Raymond (3) United States, 6-1, 1-6, 7-6.

U.S. Open

Monday
At The USTA National Tennis Center
New York
Show courts schedule
Arthur Ashe Stadium
Day Session
Marissa Irvin, United States, vs. Amelie Mauresmo (2), France.
Martina Hingis (1), Switzerland, vs. Albert Costa, Spain.
Jennifer Capriati (8), United States, vs. Denisa Chladkova, Czech Republic

Night Session
Sandra Kleinova, Czech Republic, vs. Serena Williams (3), United States
Andrew Roddick, United States, vs. Andre Agassi (6), United States

Louis Armstrong Stadium
Carlos Moya (3), Spain, vs. Brian Baker, United States
Mardy Fish (26), United States vs. David Nalbandian
Elena Dementieva (6), Russia, vs. Dinara Safina, Russia
Todd Martin, United States, vs. Fabrice Santoro (31), France

Grandstand
Teryn Ashley, United States, vs. Al Sugiyama (12), Japan
Nicolas Massu (7), Chile, vs. Nicolas Kiefer (19), Germany
Marion Bartoli, France, vs. Meghann Shaughnessy (32), United States
Younes El Aynaoui, Morocco, vs. Taylor Dent (21), United States
Gastón Gaudio (9), Argentina, vs. Juan Monaco, Argentina

Deals

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
SEATTLE MARINERS—Placed RHP Clint Nageotte on the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Chris Seung Back from Tacoma of the PCL.

National League
CHICAGO CUBS—Placed RHP Kyle Farnsworth on the 15-day DL. Designated RHP Todd Wellemeyer from Iowa of the PCL.
HOUSTON ASTROS—Recalled RHP David Weathers for assignment.

BRETTOS—Activated INF Keith Ginter from the 15-day DL. Optioned INF Trent Durrington to Iowa of the PCL, IL.

NEW YORK METS—Recalled RHP Jae Seo from Norfolk of the IL.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Placed LHP Steve Kline on the 15-day DL. Recalled LHP Randy Flores from Memphis of the PCL.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS—Called up RHP Brad Hennessey from Fresno of the PCL. Optioned RHP David Aardsma to Fresno.

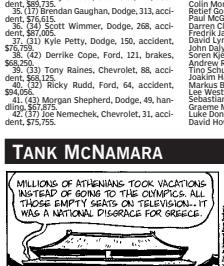
FOOTBALL
National Football League
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—Released WR Matthew Hatchette, CB Blue Adams, G Konrad Dixon, OT Charles Ogden, RB Brian Smith, RB Robert Gillespie, WR Matt Cherry, LS Mike Gomez, C Marwan Hage, WR Fred Stamps and WR Jay Scroggins.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Released TE Kyle Acker, RB Sapian Banks, WR Kevin Cook, FB Dan Curran, WR Thabiti Davis, OL Shawn Draper, WR Terrell Harris, RB Ronney Jenkins, P Mark Mariscal, T Chris McKelvy and DB Ryan Sorahan.

NEW YORK JETS—Released CB Art Thomas, DB Jarrell Weaver, WR Carl Kearney, WR Derek Lee, QB Chris Finlen, OL Sean Young, DT Randy Chevrier and DT Kory Klein.

ST. LOUIS RAMS—Placed LB Jeremy Loyd and OT Kyle Turley on injured reserve. Released TE Nick Burley, WR Michael Coleman, CB Robert Cromartie, CB Corey Yates, DB Russ Michna and DT Justin Montgomery.

TANK McNAMARA



Bush helps USC overcome Virginia Tech

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Reggie Bush came out of the backfield to give Southern California a new big-play receiver.

The tailback caught three long touchdown passes to help the top-ranked Trojans beat Virginia Tech 24-13 in a sloppy opener Saturday night in the Black Coaches Association Classic.

"He's a special player, and he proved it tonight," USC quarterback Matt Leinart said. "He's real fast, he's got great hands and he can make defenses kind of look silly out there sometimes."

Bush caught five passes for 127 yards.

"Reggie deserves to get the ball as much as you can get it to him," USC coach Pete Carroll said.

Bryan Randall led the Hokies with his arm and legs, throwing for 153 yards and a score, and rushing for 82 yards. It was enough to make the defending champions work hard, but not nearly enough to pull the upset.

"I think there was a lot of people out there that didn't give us a chance," Randall said. "We proved them wrong."

The Trojans played their first game in two seasons without star receiver Mike Williams. USC found out Thursday that Williams would not be reinstated by the NCAA after his failed attempt to enter the NFL Draft.

The Trojans said they were prepared to be without the All-American Williams and would be OK with a group of talented but inexperienced receivers.

The results showed otherwise.

Breaking in a new group of starting wideouts, Leinart found few open targets in the first half, going 8-for-16 for 102 yards. And the Trojans' rebuilt offensive line was providing sketchy protection.

So the junior looked to Bush, and the explosive sophomore came through when the Trojans looked as if they were in big trouble — trailing 10-7 late in the third quarter.

AP

USC tailback Reggie Bush races past Virginia Tech's Xavier Adibi (11) and Darryl Tapp (55) for a touchdown.

Bush lined up as a wide receiver, blew by Virginia Tech's best cornerback, Jimmy Williams, and cradled in a perfect over-the-shoulder throw from Leinart for a 53-yard touchdown with 1:55 left in the third.

Bush also opened the scoring by taking a middle screen 35 yards for a TD in the first quarter.

Otherwise, an offense that averaged 41 points and 447 yards last season struggled for most of three quarters against a Virginia Tech defense that is coming off its worst season in years.

Wide receivers Steve Smith, Dwayne Jarrett and Chris McFoy combined for eight catches and 87 yards.

Leinart picked it up in the second half and finished 19-for-29 for 272 yards, hitting 11 straight at one point. He finally found a wide receiver for long gainer when he hit Smith for 46 yards in the fourth quarter.

On the next play, Bush sneaked out of the backfield and Leinart found him all alone for a 29-yard score that made it 21-13 with 5:35 left and finally allowed the outnumbered Trojans fans among the 91,665 at sold-out FedEx Field to relax a little.

For a while, it looked as if the Hokies might get their first victory against a No. 1 team in seven tries.

As the Trojans failed to connect in the first half, Randall and the Hokies gained confidence and found a grove.

Randall's runs accounted for the bulk of the Hokies' early offense. The elusive senior had 87 yards rushing on six carries in the first quarter, which ended with USC up 7-3.

"I think things opened up for me tonight," Randall said.

In the second quarter, Randall burned the Trojans with his arm.

He went 5-for-5 for 65 yards during a 10-play, 80-yard drive that culminated with a 12-yard touchdown pass to Josh Hyman. The 17½-point underdog Hokies, unranked entering the season for the first time since 1998, took a 10-7 lead into halftime.

The Hokies had things going their way in the second half, too, until an offensive pass interference call on Hyman wiped out a long gain and led to a punt.

"The momentum just switched right there," Randall said.

USC took advantage on the next possession, sending Bush deep for the lead.

No. 1 USC 24, Virginia Tech 13

Virginia Tech	3	7	0	3—13
USC	7	0	7	10—24

First Quarter

USC—Busch 35 pass from Leinhart (Killeen kick), 5:59.

VaT—FG Pace 35, 1:42.

Second Quarter

VaT—Hyman 12 pass from Randall (Pace kick), 6:19.

Third Quarter

USC—Bush 53 pass from Leinhart (Killeen kick), 1:55.

Fourth Quarter

VaT—FG Pace 42, 7:55.

USC—Busch 29 pass from Leinhart (Killeen kick), 5:35.

USC—FG Killeen 41, :54.

A—91,665.

	VaT	USC
First downs	18	16
Rushes-yards	34-141	29-101
Passing	153	272
Comp-Att-Int	14-29-1	19-29-0
Return Yards	19	60
Punts-Avg.	5-45.8	5-42.8
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	1-1	3-9
Time of Possession	31:31	28:29

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing—Virginia Tech, Randall 17-82, Hamilton 8-33, Humes 9-26. **USC**, White 15-78, Bush 9-27, Smith 1-(minus 1), Leinhart 4-(minus 3).

Passing—Virginia Tech, Randall 14-29-1-153. **USC**, Leinhart 19-29-0-272.

Receiving—Virginia Tech, King 4-65, Johnson 2-27, Humes 2-9, Mazzetta 1-22, Hyman 1-12, Kinzer 1-8, Clowney 1-7, Hamilton 1-3. **USC**, Bush 5-127, Smith 4-68, Kirtman 3-32, Holmes 2-12, McFoy 2-11, Jarrett 2-8, Webb 1-14.

Coughlin announces Warner to start Giants opener

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Two-time MVP Kurt Warner beat out Eli Manning for the job of starting quarterback of the New York Giants.

Coach Tom Coughlin announced the decision Sunday, a day after indicating he would not decide until after this week's final exhibition game.

While Warner played better than the NFL's No. 1 draft pick against the New York Jets on Friday night, Coughlin had remained coy when it came to selecting a starter for the regular-season opener at Philadelphia on Sept. 12.

NFL briefs

Warner was 9-for-11 for 104 yards in making the start against the Jets (2-1). He led the Giants (1-2) on their only touchdown drive in the 17-7 exhibition loss and had another scoring chance spoiled when receiver Tim Carter fumbled inside the 10-yard line.

Manning, who played predominantly with the first-team offense, was 4-for-14 for 20 yards and two interceptions. He also lost a fumble that was returned for a TD.

On Saturday, Coughlin even refused to say who will start the exhibition finale against Baltimore on Thursday at Giants Stadium.

"I am on course with what the decision will be, (but) I am not going to announce it," Coughlin said in a conference call on Saturday.

Bennett questionable for opener

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings running back Michael Bennett will miss 1-3 weeks after spraining his right knee in Friday's exhibition victory over San Francisco.

Bennett, injured in the third quarter on a low hit by 49ers safety Erik Totten, underwent an MRI exam Saturday that revealed more damage than originally diagnosed. He won't play in Thursday's exhibition finale at Seattle and is questionable for Minnesota's season opener Sept. 12 against Dallas.

"He might be a little iffy for the opener," Vikings coach Mike Tice said.

Short-yardage specialist Moe Williams will start in Bennett's place on Thursday and would start against Dallas if Bennett isn't ready. Rookie Mewelde Moore and Larry Ned also will see action.

Onterrio Smith, Bennett's top backup, likely will miss the first four games of the season for violating the NFL's substance-abuse rule.

Rams place Turley on injured reserve

ST. LOUIS — Starting right tackle Kyle Turley will miss the season after being placed on injured reserve Saturday by the St. Louis Rams.

Turley reinjured his surgically repaired back in late July and left training camp Aug. 1. Rams coach Mike Martz had previously said it would take weeks to know Turley's prognosis.

The loss of Turley is the latest in a series of offensive line problems for the Rams, who are without star left tackle Orlando Pace, a contract holdout. Backup tackle Grant Williams has been bothered by an ankle injury and St. Louis cut center Dave Wohlabaugh because of a hip injury.

Veterans Chris Dishman and Tom Nutten were lured out of retirement.

Bills lose Milloy, backup QB to injuries

INDIANAPOLIS — Buffalo lost starting safety Lawyer Milloy and backup quarterback Travis Brown with injuries during Saturday night's 30-17 exhibition loss to the Indianapolis Colts.

Milloy broke his right forearm when he jarred the ball loose from Colts receiver Brandon Stokley in the third quarter. He was scheduled for surgery Sunday.

"I think my hand got caught in the turf," Milloy said. "I couldn't feel anything in my fingers. I just sat there and held my arm."

Bills officials did not say how much time Milloy would miss. Milloy said he hoped to return for the season opener against Jacksonville.

Brown injured his left knee. Bills officials were uncertain of the severity of the injury, but Brown believed it could be serious.

"We won't know anything official until they do an MRI," Brown said.

Six-week slide over for Little E

Earnhardt dominates at Bristol; Schumacher clinches F-1 crown

The Associated Press

BRISTOL, Tenn. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. acknowledged his team was in a slump. Then he set out to end it.

Mission accomplished.

Earnhardt broke out of a six-week dry spell Saturday night with a convincing victory in the Sharpie 500, giving him a weekend sweep at Bristol Motor Speedway and momentum for the upcoming Nextel Cup championship chase.

Racing roundup

"This is huge for me, it's awesome for our team," Earnhardt Jr. said. "The team really needed that. I watched my Daddy race here so many times ... wherever he's at, he's laughing at this butt-kicking."

His team was in free fall, and nothing the driver or crew tried could fix it.

This ought to do it.

"This team is tough as nails!" he screamed in Victory Lane. "Man, we needed this. This is one of the biggest wins of my career.

"You can't be No. 1 all the time. That's what makes it sweeter."

Almost completely healed from burns received last month in a non-NASCAR wreck, Earnhardt led 295 of 500 laps for his first Nextel Cup victory at Bristol. He'll stick the trophy right next to the one he earned Friday night for winning his first Busch series race on the 0.533-mile bullring.

He beat Ryan Newman to the finish line in Saturday night's race that didn't shake up the championship standings as much as predicted.

Newman, fighting to become eligible for NASCAR's 10-race championship chase, moved into contention by jumping three spots to the cutoff position of 10th. It came at the expense of rookie Kasey Kahne, who finished 21st and fell to 11th in the driver standings.

It was the only major change in the standings as drivers scramble to make it into the top 10 with just two races to go before the playoffs begin.

Kahne is 26 points out of the top 10 and Jeremy Mayfield, his teammate, is right behind in 12th. But time is running out on the Evernham Motorsports pair, and everyone else behind them, too.

The name of the game now is putting together solid runs and getting teams in sync right before the chase begins. Jimmie Johnson did it by ending his streak of three straight DNFs with a third-place finish.

But it was Junior who made the loudest statement by pulling off a victory when almost everyone had written off the team.

It didn't help that his legs were so badly burned in a practice session for a sports car race in California that Earnhardt twice had to give way to a relief driver, too hurt and too frustrated to stay in his car.

Things started to get better two weeks ago with a fifth-place finish on the demanding road course at Watkins Glen.

Now comes this victory, which had Earnhardt almost giddy in Victory Lane.

Jeff Burton finished fourth in his new Richard Childress-owned ride. Elliott Sadler was fifth, followed by Sterling Marlin and Jamie McMurray.

Kurt Busch, who won the past three Bristol races, finished eighth, one lap down. Matt Kenseth was ninth and Dale Jarrett 10th.

AP

Sparks fly as Scott Wimmer (22) tries to avoid Joe Nemechek, left, in Saturday night's race in Bristol, Tenn.

Schumacher clinches seventh title despite finishing second

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium — Michael Schumacher clinched an unprecedented seventh Formula One drivers' title in the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday despite not winning for just the second time in 14 races this season.

McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen was the winner on the hilly Spa circuit, the Finn's second career victory. Schumacher came in second and earned his fifth straight drivers' title.

"It's a great day for all of us, and I'm just delighted and happy," Schumacher said. "Obviously, I would rather have wrapped up the championship with a victory, but we weren't strong enough in the right moment."

Schumacher finished second to Raikkonen by 3.1 seconds after falling back early to sixth place. He needed to score only two more points than Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello to take the title.

Barrichello was third, 4.3 seconds behind the winner on the 4.3-mile circuit. He was followed by Sauber's Felipe Massa and Giancarlo Fisichella and Jaguar's Christian Klien.

Schumacher's title completes a Ferrari sweep of the season after the Fiat-owned team claimed its sixth straight constructors' crown two weeks ago in Hungary. Schumacher's only other loss this season came in Monaco in May.

Jimenez wins; Ryder spots set

The Associated Press

NORD EICHENRIED, Germany — Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez won his fourth title on the European tour this season and four of his challengers claimed Ryder Cup berths Sunday in the BMW Open.

The event was dominated by competition for Europe's Ryder Cup team. Englishman Paul Casey finished third to secure one of four guaranteed spots and was joined by countrymen David Howell and Ian Poulter and Irishman Paul McGinley.

Captain Bernhard Langer will also choose two captain's selections.

Jimenez birdied Nos. 11, 13 and 14 to break away France's Thomas Levet and win by two strokes at 21-under 267. He finished with a 66. Levet shot 68 for a 19-under 269.

Casey, Colin Montgomerie and Germany's Alex Cejka were another three back at 272.

The Ryder Cup is scheduled Sept. 17-19 at Oakland Hills outside of Detroit.

Jimenez and Levet had already secured spots on the Ryder Cup team through international performance. Padraig Harrington, Sergio Garcia, Darren Clarke and Lee Westwood also wrapped up berths earlier this month.

Golf roundup

Montgomerie shot a final-round 68 and challenged for the lead until a bogey at No. 13 ended his bid. His performance combined with a wealth of Ryder Cup experience was expected to earn him consideration for one of Langer's two captain's picks. The 41-year-old Scotsman has been one of the Ryder Cup's best players the past decade, playing on five European winners and never losing in singles.

Funk leads Buick

CROMWELL, Conn. — Fred Funk shot a 1-under 69 for a one-stroke lead over Tom Byrum (67) and Corey Pavin (68) after three rounds of the Buick Championship.

With 20 players within four strokes of the lead, Funk, a 48-year-old Ryder Cup rookie, would have to hold off a gang on Sunday to pick up his first victory in six years.

Funk, who shared the second-round lead, was at 9-under 201.

Hunter Mahan (65) and Joey Sindelar (68) were two strokes back. Skip Kendall and Hank Kuehne were among nine at 6-under.

Park atop Wachovia

KUTZTOWN, Pa. — Grace Park closed with an eagle and two birdies for a 7-under-par 65 and a one-stroke lead after three rounds of the Wachovia LPGA Classic. Park's 17-under 199 is a 54-hole record of the event, two strokes better than Michelle Ellis' 201 in 2002.

Second-round leader Jill McGill (70) was one back and Soo-Yun Kang (68) was at 201.

Two share Tradition lead

ALOHA, Ore. — Vicente Fernandez birdied the final hole Saturday for a 6-under 66 and a share of the third-round lead with Peter Jacobsen (69) at 12-under in the Tradition, the Champions Tour's last major of the year.

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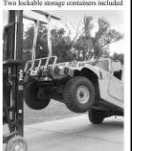

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Cards hit 2003 win total with month left

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Reggie Sanders hit a three-run homer and the St. Louis Cardinals matched last year's total with their 85th victory, beating the Pittsburgh Pirates 6-4 on Saturday.

Jim Edmonds hit his fifth homer in as many games for St. Louis (85-44). The Cardinals improved to 11-5 this year against the Pirates.

Matt Morris (14-8) allowed four runs and seven hits in six innings and Jason Isringhausen pitched the ninth for his 38th save.

NL Roundup

Nelson Figueroa (0-1), making his second start of the season, gave up five runs and six hits in four innings as the Pirates lost for the seventh time in nine games.

Dodgers 4, Mets 2: Adrian Beltre went 5-for-5 with his major league-leading 42nd home run for the visiting Dodgers.

Eric Gagne worked a perfect ninth for his 36th save in 38 chances. His 143rd save since 2002 broke Hall of Famer Dennis Eckersley's major league record for most in a three-year span. Eckersley had 142 from 1990-92 with Oakland.

Giovanni Carrara (4-1) struck out two in a perfect seventh to win it.

Jeff Keppinger led off the first with his first major league homer for the Mets, who lost for the sixth time in seven games.

With the Mets leading 2-1, Beltre singled off Ricky Bottalico with one out in the eighth. Mike Stanton (2-6) gave up a double to Shawn Green and pinch-hitter Olmedo Saenz came through with an RBI infield single up the middle to tie it. Pinch-hitter Jose Hernandez followed with an RBI single to center.

Astros 7, Cubs 6: Roger Clemens pitched six innings for his 324th victory and the visiting Astros made the most of three Cubs errors.

Clemens (14-4) allowed five runs and eight hits as Houston won for the 10th time in 13 games. Staked to a 5-0 lead, Clemens tied Don Sutton and Nolan Ryan for 12th on the career victory list.

Brad Lidge struck out two in the eighth to stop a rally attempt and finished for his 18th save as Houston pulled within five games of Chicago, which holds a one-game lead over San Francisco in the NL wild-card race.

Carlos Zambrano (12-8) gave up seven runs — three earned — seven hits and season-high six walks in $5^2/_3$ innings.

Braves 9, Giants 3: Paul Byrd (5-4) allowed one run in six innings and hit two run-scoring singles off Jason Schmidt, leading the host Braves past the Giants.

Rafael Furcal had four hits and four RBIs for the Braves, who have won six straight. They moved a season-high 22 games over .500 and improved to 15-1-3 in their past 19 series.

Barry Bonds went 1-for-3 with an infield single on a day on which he was originally scheduled to have off, but told manager Felipe Alou after Friday's 5-3 loss that he wanted to play.

Schmidt (15-5) left his previous start Aug. 17 against Montreal with a strained right groin, an injury that forced him to skip a turn in the rotation. He gave up six runs and a season-high 10 hits in only $3^2/_3$ innings.

The two hits and two RBIs were career highs for Byrd.

Marlins 4, Rockies 3: Juan Encarnacion hit a two-run single in the first inning and a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth, extending the visiting Rockies' losing streak to six.

With Colorado leading 3-2 in the eighth, Jeff Conine singled off Steve Reed (3-4) leading off and Encarnacion followed with his 14th homer.

Carl Pavano (15-5) allowed three runs and seven hits in eight innings and Armando Benitez finished with a perfect ninth for his 38th save. Jennings gave up two runs and six hits in six innings.

The defending World Series champions, who have won four of their last six games, closed within 5½ games of NL wild-card leader Chicago.

Padres 5, Expos 2: Jake Peavy won his sixth straight decision and Phil Nevin homered and drove in three runs for visiting San Diego.

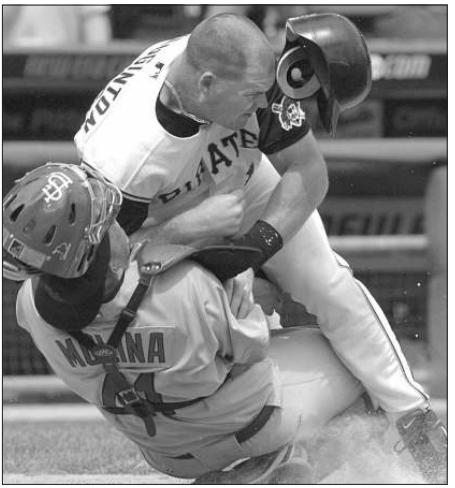
Peavy (11-3), unbeaten in nine starts since the All-Star break, held Montreal to five hits and two runs in $6^2/_3$ innings. It was the 18th time in 20 starts he's allowed two earned runs or less.

Trevor Hoffman struck out the side in the ninth for his 33rd save in 37 chances.

Ramon Hernandez also homered for San Diego, which closed within one game of Chicago in the NL wild-card race.

Phillies 4, Brewers 3: Placido Polanco homered off Mike Adams (2-2) with one out in the ninth and the host Phillies extended Milwaukee's losing streak to 10.

Diamondbacks 6, Reds 3: Casey Fossum (4-12) combined with four relievers on a four-hitter and Juan Brito singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning for visiting Arizona.



AP

St. Louis catcher Yadier Molina held onto the ball and recorded the out at home plate in the second inning on Saturday despite being leveled by Pittsburgh's Ty Wigginton.

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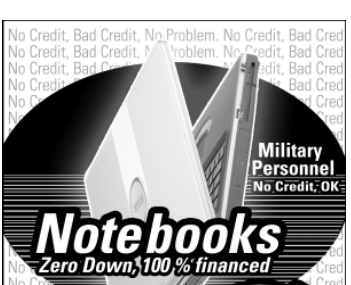


Yanks' Clark hits trifecta vs. Jays

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Tony Clark homered three times for the first time in his career, Ruben Sierra hit a grand slam for his 300th homer and Gary Sheffield and Alex Rodriguez also connected to lead the New York Yankees over the Toronto Blue Jays 18-6 on Saturday.

New York, which overcame a 4-0 deficit for the second time in the series, had nine runs and 10 hits in the ninth inning, both season highs. Sheffield hobbled off the field, after spraining his left ankle on third base.

Kevin Brown (10-3) became the first Yankees starter to win in 14 games, allowing four runs, six hits and four walks in seven innings. Mariano Rivera, who entered with a 9-6 lead in the eighth, got four outs for his major league-leading 45th save.

Ted Lilly (9-9) gave up seven runs, five hits and four walks in $5^1/_3$ innings.

Mariners 9-5, Royals 7-3: Randy Winn hit a two-run homer in the 12th, helping the host Mariners complete a doubleheader sweep.

AL Roundup

Ichiro Suzuki led off the 12th with an infield single — his 50th hit in August, which gave him three months this season with at least 50 hits. Winn followed with his game-winning shot off Matt Kinney (0-1).

Bucky Jacobsen drove in three runs with a home run and a double in the opener.

Twins 7, Angels 1: Johan Santana (15-6) won his eighth straight decision, allowing one run and four hits in seven innings in stopping host Anaheim's nine-game winning streak. Santana struck out six, increasing his league-leading total to 213.

Jacque Jones and Augie Ojeda homered for the Twins.

Red Sox 5, Tigers 1: Pedro Martinez struck out eight to move into the top 20 on the career list and the host Red Sox stretched their winning streak to five.

Bill Mueller had three hits and scored twice for the Red Sox, who have won 11 of 12.

Martinez (14-5) allowed one run and four hits with two walks and two hit batsmen in seven innings and finished with 2,614 strikeouts, passing Chuck Finley for 20th place.

Rangers 4, Orioles 3: Rod Barajas homered and drove in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly and the host Rangers extended the Orioles' season-high losing streak to 12 games.

Athletics 5, Devil Rays 4: Eric Chavez homered for the third straight game and Tim Hudson (10-4) won his third straight start.

Hudson allowed two earned runs and four hits in seven innings, struck out four and walked one. Octavio Dotel finished for his 16th save.

White Sox 5, Indians 3: Paul Konerko hit a three-run homer and Jose Contreras (12-6) waited out a 2-hour, 46-minute rain delay at the start and then baffled the Indians with an assortment of breaking pitches for $6^2/_3$ innings.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	81	48	.628	–
Boston	75	53	.586	5½
Tampa Bay	59	70	.457	22
Baltimore	57	71	.445	23½
Toronto	53	77	.408	28½

Central Division

Minnesota	72	57	.558	–
Cleveland	65	66	.496	8
Chicago	63	64	.496	8
Detroit	60	69	.465	11
Kansas City	45	83	.352	26½

West Division

Oakland	76	53	.589	–
Anaheim	74	55	.574	2
Texas	73	56	.570	2½
Seattle	49	80	.380	27

Saturday's games

N.Y. Yankees 18, Toronto 6
Seattle 5, Kansas City 7, 1st game
Seattle 5, Kansas City 1, 12 innings, 2nd game
Minnesota 7, Anaheim 1
Boston 5, Detroit 1
Chicago White Sox 5, Cleveland 3
Texas 4, Baltimore 3
Oakland 5, Tampa Bay 4

Sunday's games

N.Y. Yankees at Toronto
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland
Detroit at Boston
Baltimore at Texas
Kansas City at Seattle
Minnesota at Anaheim
Tampa Bay at Oakland

Monday's games

Philadelphia (Myers 3-4) at Chicago White Sox (Schoeneweis 5-3)
Detroit (Robertson 11-7) at Kansas City (Wood 2-6)

Tuesday's games

Anaheim at Boston
Seattle at Toronto
Cleveland at N.Y. Yankees
Baltimore at Tampa Bay
Oakland at Chicago White Sox
Texas at Minnesota
Detroit at Kansas City

Saturday

Twins 7, Angels 1

MINNESOTA	ab	r	h	bi
Shstwrt dh	5	1	2	1
Jones rf	5	1	3	1
Thmer cf	5	0	2	1
Mrneau 1b	5	0	0	0
Lford lf	4	1	1	0
Cddyer 3b	4	0	2	0
Cgzmn ss	4	0	1	0
HBlnco c	4	1	1	0
Ojeda 2b	4	3	1	1
Totals	**37**	**7**	**12**	**7**

ANAHEIM	ab	r	h	bi
Eckstin ss	4	0	0	0
Amzga ss	0	0	0	0
Erstad lf	4	0	1	0
VGrero rf	4	0	1	0
Jgllen cf	4	0	1	0
GAndsn cf	4	0	0	0
BMdwsk dh	2	0	0	0
Figgins 3b	3	0	0	0
Alkazr 2b	3	0	0	0
Pride ph	1	0	1	0
Paul c	3	0	0	0
Aybar 2b	0	0	0	0
Phillips c	1	0	0	0
Mldnado ph	1	0	0	0
Jcobsn 1b	4	0	0	0
JSmith ss	1	0	0	0
Kapler rf	1	0	0	0
Totals	**32**	**1**	**5**	**1**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	**7**
Anaheim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**

E—Mldnado (3). DP—Minnesota 1, Anaheim 1. LOB—Minnesota 5, Anaheim 4. 2B—Thmer (32), HBlanco (14), HR—Jones (22), Ojeda (1). CS—Kennedy (4). SF—Cddyer.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Santana W,15-6	7	4	1	1	1	6
JRincon	1	1	0	0	0	0
Balfour	1	0	0	0	2	2
Anaheim						
Colon L,13-10	6	8	5	5	0	5
Gregg	2	3	1	1	1	1
Brnsley	1	2	0	0	0	2

WP—Gregg. T—2:44. A—42,778 (45,030).

Yankees 18, Blue Jays 6

NEW YORK	ab	r	h	bi
BWllms cf	5	1	1	0
Jeter ss	4	2	1	0
Sffield rf	6	2	3	1
Lofton rf	0	0	0	0
ARdrgz 3b	5	3	3	1
Posada c	5	3	2	4
Pherty c	0	0	0	0
Matsui lf	4	2	2	2
Sierra dh	6	2	2	5
TClark 1b	5	3	3	0
Cairo 2b	5	0	1	0
Totals	**44**	**19**	**18**	**13**

TORONTO	ab	r	h	bi
Wheldn ss	3	0	0	0
Crede 3b	3	1	2	1
Bchrd rf	4	0	0	0
Wlkrsn dh	4	0	0	0
Ldwick 1b	4	0	1	0
Mrphy c	3	1	1	1
Zaun c	1	0	0	0
Cstillo 2b	4	1	1	0
Grzlny lf	4	1	1	0
Glaus 3b	3	1	1	2
Lwrnce lf	1	0	0	0
Totals	**34**	**6**	**9**	**6**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
New York	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	**1**
Toronto	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**

LOB—New York 7, Toronto 4. 2B—Sheffield 2 (24), ARodriguez (17), Posada (29), Johnson (24), Zaun (22), Mr.Sheffield (33), ARodriguez (31), Sierra (15), TClark 3 (15). SB—OHoddson (6). CS—BWilliams (4). SF—CDelgado, Zaun.

New York	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
KBrown W,10-3	7	6	4	4	4	4
Quantrill	1⅓	3	2	2	0	0
MRivera S,45	1⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Toronto						
Lilly L,9-9	7½	5	7	7	4	7
Chulk	1⅓	1	1	1	1	2
Frasor	1	1	0	0	0	1
Maurer	0	2	4	4	2	0
Litterbnrg	½	1	0	0	0	1
Menechino	½	2	0	0	0	0

Maurer pitched to 4 batters in the 9th.
HBP—by Lilly (ARodriguez). WP—KBrown. T—3:33. A—43,541 (50,598).

Mariners 9, Royals 7

First game

KANSAS CITY	ab	r	h	bi
DJesus cf	4	2	1	0
Rlaford 2b	4	2	1	1
Randa 3b	4	1	2	2
Stairs dh	4	0	2	2
Pckerg 1b	5	1	1	0
Guiel lf	3	1	0	0
Buck c	3	0	0	0
Berroa ss	4	0	1	2
Totals	**35**	**7**	**9**	**7**

SEATTLE	ab	r	h	bi
Ichiro rf	4	2	1	0
Lopez 2b	4	1	2	1
Blmqist 3b	4	1	2	0
Totals	**33**	**9**	**12**	**8**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Kansas City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	**7**
Seattle	0	0	2	1	1	1	2	1	x	**9**

E—Guiel (2), Berroa (23), Lopez (6). DP—Kansas City 1, Seattle 1. LOB—Kansas City 6, Seattle 8. 2B—Randa (22), Stairs (14), Winn (30), Jacobsen (7), BBoone (23), Lopez (3), HR—Rolaford (5), Randa (5), Jacobsen (9). SB—Winn (18), CS—Berroa (7), BBoone (4), Bocachica (3). S—Bocachica, Blanco.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
MAy L,2-15	4⅓	9	6	6	3	3
Camp	3⅔	3	3	2	4	3
Seattle						
Nageotte	3	5	4	4	2	0
Thornton W,1-2	3	0	0	0	1	4
Sherrill	1	2	2	2	1	0
Cordero	1	2	1	1	0	2
Putz S,5	1	2	1	1	0	2

WP—Sherrill. Balk—Camp. T—3:05. A—8 (47,447).

Mariners 7, Royals 3 (12)

Second game

KANSAS CITY	ab	r	h	bi
DJesus cf	4	1	1	0
Rlaford 3b	5	1	1	0
Randa dh	4	1	1	1
Stairs 1b	5	0	0	0
Nunez rf	4	0	0	0
Berroa ss	5	0	2	0
ACstillo c	4	0	2	0
Gotay 2b	4	0	1	0
Gomez lf	4	0	0	0
Guiel lf	2	0	1	0
Endrese	0	0	0	0
Lopez ss	1	0	0	0
Totals	**41**	**3**	**10**	**2**

SEATTLE	ab	r	h	bi
Ichiro rf	5	1	2	1
DReyes ss	3	1	0	0
Affeldt	1	1	1	0
Cerda	2	1	0	1
Kinney L,0-1	0	0	0	0
Seattle				
Madritsch	8	7	3	3
Hasegawa	2	2	0	0
Baek W,1-0	2	0	0	0

Endrese pitched to 2 batters in the 12th.
HBP—by Madritsch (Gotay). WP—Serrano.
PB—Olivo. T—3:12. A—45,001 (47,116).

Red Sox 5, Tigers 1

DETROIT	ab	r	h	bi
Infante 2b	4	0	1	0
Kgnsrn rf	3	0	0	0
CPena 1b	4	0	0	0
DYoung dh	4	1	2	1
Monroe cf	3	0	1	1
Ramsey 3b	3	0	0	0
Thmes lf	3	0	0	0
Inge c	3	0	1	0
JSmith ss	1	0	0	0
Totals	**28**	**1**	**4**	**1**

BOSTON	ab	r	h	bi
Roberts lf	5	0	1	1
Bllhdnr 2b	3	1	3	1
Ortiz dh	4	1	1	1
Mrnte 1b	4	0	1	0
Lowell 3b	3	0	2	0
Mrtnez rf	3	0	0	0
Mntkw 1b	0	0	0	0
Varitek c	4	0	1	0
Kapler rf	3	2	3	0
Totals	**32**	**5**	**9**	**5**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Detroit	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	**1**
Boston	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3	x	**5**

E—Higginson (4), Mueller (13). LOB—Detroit 7, Boston 8. 2B—Monroe (23), Roberts (4), Bellhorn (28), Damon (31), Varitek (22). SB—Mueller (2). S—Kapler 3 (3).

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Bndrm L,7-11	6⅔	4	3	3	4	4
JWalker	⅓	2	2	2	0	0
Yan	⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Levine	1	1	0	0	0	1
Boston						
PMartinez W,14-5	7	4	1	1	2	8
Timlin	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mendoza	1	0	0	0	0	0

HBP—by Mendoza (Monroe), by PMartinez (Inge), by PMartinez (Munson). T—2:38. A—35,012 (35,095).

White Sox 5, Indians 3

CHICAGO	ab	r	h	bi
Rwand cf	1	1	0	0
Uribe 2b	4	1	2	1
Knerko 1b	4	1	3	1
CEvrtt dh	3	0	0	0
Gload lf	4	0	1	0
BDavis c	4	0	1	0
Vlentin ss	4	0	1	0
Crede 3b	3	1	2	1
Bchrd rf	4	0	0	0
Totals	**30**	**5**	**8**	**5**

CLEVELAND	ab	r	h	bi
Rwand cf	1	1	0	0
Lawton lf	5	0	1	0
Blake 3b	4	0	1	0
Hafner dh	4	1	1	0
VMrtnez c	4	0	1	2
Phillips 2b	4	1	1	0
Brssrd 1b	4	0	1	1
Broussard rf	4	0	0	0
Boyrd cf	3	1	1	0
Cloninger ss	3	0	0	0
Totals	**36**	**3**	**10**	**3**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	**5**
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	**3**

E—Broussard (7), Contreras (2). DP—Cleveland 4. LOB—Chicago 4, Cleveland 7. 2B—BDavis (7), Crede (20), Blake (28), HR—Konerko (32), Blake (22), Broussard (13). SB—Valentin (7), Broussard (4).

CS—CEvrtt (5), Crisp (10).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Contrras W,12-6	6⅔	6	1	1	1	6
Marte	1⅓	0	0	0	0	2
Adkins	½	2	2	2	0	1
Politte S,13	½	2	0	0	0	1

Cleveland

CLee L,10-6	5⅔	8	5	5	3	2
Italiano	2⅓	2	0	0	1	2
Guthrie	2	0	0	0	0	1

HBP—by Guthrie (Crede), by CLee (Rowand). T—2:40. A—37,374 (43,389).

Rangers 4, Orioles 3

BALTIMORE	ab	r	h	bi
Newhn lf	4	1	3	0
LLopez 2b	4	1	2	1
BRbrts 2b	0	0	0	0
Mora 3b	4	0	1	0
Tejada ss	4	0	2	1
JvCpz dh	3	0	0	0
Gibbons rf	4	0	1	0
JLeon 1b	3	0	0	0
Surhoff ph	1	0	0	0
Mchado c	4	0	0	0
Raines cf	3	0	0	0
RPrmo ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	**33**	**3**	**6**	**3**

TEXAS	ab	r	h	bi
Dllucci lf	3	1	1	0
Gldrn cf	3	1	0	0
Mlldrr ss	4	0	1	0
Txeira 1b	4	0	2	1
ADrsn 2b	3	0	0	0
Nix cf	3	1	0	0
Mnch dh	3	0	1	0
Mathws rf	2	0	0	0
Brajas c	2	1	1	2
Totals	**29**	**4**	**7**	**4**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Baltimore	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	**3**
Texas	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	x	**3**

E—Nix (2). DP—Baltimore 1. LOB—Baltimore 6, Texas 5. 2B—LLopez 2 (5), MYoung (25), Mench (21), 3B—Newhan (5), HR—Tejada (24), Dellucci (15), Barajas (14). CS—Blalock (2). SF—Barajas.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
RLopez	6	5	3	3	1	4
BRyan L,3-5	1	1	1	1	2	1
Julio	1	0	0	0	0	1
Texas						
Rogers	6⅔	6	3	3	3	8
Francisco W,5-1	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Crordero S,41	1	0	0	0	0	0

T—2:58. A—41,676 (49,115).

Athletics 5, Devil Rays 4

TAMPA BAY	ab	r	h	bi
Crwfrd cf	4	0	0	0
JoCruz rf	4	0	1	0
Huff lf	4	0	0	0
TMrtnz 1b	4	0	0	0
Lugo ss	4	0	0	0
Cantu 2b	4	1	2	0
Simon dh	3	1	0	0
Blum 3b	3	1	2	1
Frdyce c	3	1	2	2
RSnchz ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	**35**	**4**	**5**	**4**

OAKLAND	ab	r	h	bi
Kotsay cf	4	0	0	0
McLmr 2b	3	1	1	0
Sclrzno 2b	1	0	0	0
Echvrz 3b	4	1	2	2
Hbberg 1b	4	0	1	0
Dye rf	4	1	1	0
Durazo dh	3	1	2	1
Byrnes lf	4	1	1	0
Crosby ss	2	0	0	0
Mlinaec c	3	0	0	0
Totals	**31**	**5**	**8**	**5**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	**4**
Oakland	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	x	**5**

E—McLemore (3), Echavarz (8), Crosby (15). DP—Tampa Bay 1. LOB—Tampa Bay 5, Oakland 3. 2B—Blum (20), Fordyce (14), McLemore (22), Durazo (28). HR—Echavarz (27), Byrnes (19).

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Bradman L,6-5	7	6	5	5	0	1
Halama	3	2	0	0	0	1
Colome	1	0	0	0	0	1
Oakland						
Thudson W,10-4	7	4	4	2	1	4
Rincon	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Bradford	½	0	0	0	0	0
Chulk S,1	1	0	0	0	0	2

HBP—by Brazelton (Crosby). T—2:25. A—48,099 (43,662).

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	75	53	.586	–
Florida	65	60	.512	9½
Philadelphia	64	65	.496	11½
New York	60	68	.469	15
Montreal	55	74	.426	20½

Central Division

St. Louis	85	49	.659	–
Chicago	71	58	.550	14
Houston	66	63	.512	19
Cincinnati	61	67	.477	23½
Pittsburgh	51	68	.429	29½
Milwaukee	55	72	.433	29

West Division

Los Angeles	75	54	.581	–
San Diego	70	59	.543	5
San Francisco	71	69	.542	5
Colorado	55	74	.426	20
Arizona	41	89	.315	34½

Saturday's games

Los Angeles at N.Y. Mets
Atlanta 9, San Francisco 3
St. Louis 6, Pittsburgh 4
Houston 7, Chicago Cubs 6
Florida 4, Colorado 3
San Diego, Philadelphia 2
Philadelphia 4, Milwaukee 3
Arizona 6, Cincinnati 3

Sunday's games

San Diego at Montreal
Los Angeles at N.Y. Mets
Arizona at Colorado
St. Louis at Pittsburgh
Milwaukee at Philadelphia
Houston at Chicago Cubs
Colorado at Florida
San Francisco at Atlanta

Monday's games

San Francisco (Ainsworth 3-0) at Atlanta (Thomson 9-8)
Philadelphia (Myers 4-3) at Chicago White Sox (Schoeneweis 5-3)
Chicago Cubs (Maddux 12-8) at Montreal (Biddle 4-7)
Florida (Willis 9-9) at N.Y. Mets (Leiter 9-5)
Houston (Munro 2-5) at Cincinnati (Hudson 1-1)
Pittsburgh (Fogg 8-9) at Milwaukee (D.Davis 10-10)

Tuesday's games

Chicago Cubs at Montreal
Atlanta at Philadelphia
Florida at N.Y. Mets
Houston at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at Milwaukee
San Diego at St. Louis
Los Angeles at Arizona
Colorado at San Francisco

Saturday

Braves 9, Giants 3

SAN FRANCISCO	ab	r	h	bi
Drham 2b	4	1	0	0
Ardsm p	0	0	0	0
Mrphy ph	1	0	0	0
Tucker cf	3	0	0	0
Alfonzo 3b	3	1	1	0
Bonds lf	3	0	1	0
Mohr lf	1	0	0	0
Snow 1b	3	1	1	0
Ledee rf	4	0	1	0
JCruz ss	4	0	1	0
Trralba c	4	0	1	0
Schmidt p	1	0	0	0
WFrklin p	0	0	0	0
Ransom 2b	0	0	0	0
Totals	**32**	**3**	**6**	**3**

ATLANTA	ab	r	h	bi
Furcal ss	4	1	0	0
NGreen 3b	5	0	0	0
MGiles 2b	5	0	2	0
JDrew cf	5	0	1	0
Byrd p	2	1	2	2
Colons 3b	0	0	0	0
JuCruz p	0	0	0	0
Giles 1b	4	1	2	2
Lroche 1b	5	0	1	0
Ensberg rf	5	0	1	0
Pena c	2	4	2	1
Ramrez ss	5	1	1	0
Afnsca p	0	0	0	0
Bkhrdt ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	**37**	**9**	**15**	**5**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
San Francisco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	**3**
Atlanta	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	6	x	**9**

E—Ledee (1), Furcal (21). DP—Atlanta 1. LOB—San Francisco 9, Atlanta 12. 2B—Durham (13), Lacroche (16), Ensberg (8). 3B—Thomas (3), Furcal (21), MGiles (12). S—Byrd, SFCruz.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Schmidt L,15-5	3⅔	10	6	6	2	8
WFranklin	⅔	1	2	2	0	1
Ansmus	1	2	1	1	3	1
Atlanta						
Byrd W,5-4	6	3	1	1	2	4
Alfonseca	1	0	0	0	0	0
Colons	1	0	0	0	0	1
JuCruz	1	0	0	0	0	2

HBP—by Aardsma (Thomas), by WFranklin (Thomas), by Byrd (Alfonzo). WP—Schmidt. T—3:06. A—42,549 (50,091).

Cardinals 6, Pirates 4

ST. LOUIS	ab	r	h	bi
Wmack 2b	4	0	0	0
Rolaris ss	4	0	1	0
LWalkr rf	4	0	0	0
Rolen 3b	3	2	0	0
Edmnds cf	4	2	2	1
Tvarez p	0	0	0	0
Ismghs p	0	0	0	0
Rdmnd lf	4	2	3	0
Mabry 1b	3	0	1	0
YMlina c	3	0	1	0
MAndn ph	1	0	0	0
Mthny c	0	0	0	0
Morris p	1	0	0	0
Luna ph	1	0	0	0
Eldred p	0	0	0	0
Isringhsn p	0	0	0	0
Tguchi cf	1	0	1	1
Totals	**30**	**6**	**8**	**6**

PITTSBURGH	ab	r	h	bi
Kendall c	4	0	0	0
JWilson ss	4	0	0	0
Mckwk rf	3	0	0	0
CWilsn 1b	3	1	1	0
Floyd cf	4	2	2	0
TCrdrn cf	4	1	1	0
Wggntn 3b	3	0	1	0
Bmbrg lf	4	2	3	1
NFrgna p	1	0	0	0
Grzalez p	0	0	0	0
Stnrsrs p	0	0	0	0
Hill ph	1	0	0	0
Grzelnk p	0	0	0	0
Rtrsrs p	0	0	0	0
ANunez ph	1	0	0	0
Mdrnng p	0	0	0	0
Tguchi p	1	0	1	1
Totals	**32**	**4**	**8**	**4**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	**6**
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	**4**

E—Rolen (2). DP—Pittsburgh 1. LOB—St. Louis 3, Pittsburgh 5. 2B—RSanders (22), Wigginton (25), HEdmonds (36), RSanders (20), Bay (20), TRedman (8). SB—Luna (3), Castillo (3). CS—Renteria (8), Tguchi (2). S—Mabry, Morris.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Morris W,14-8	6	7	4	4	2	5
Eldred	1⅓	1	0	0	0	0
King	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Tavarez	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Isringhs S,38	1	0	0	0	0	2
Pittsburgh						
NFrgna L,0-1	4	6	5	5	2	2
Brooks	3	0	0	0	2	3
Grzalez	1	1	1	1	0	1
STorres	1	2	1	1	0	1

HBP—by Tavarez (Bay). T—2:44. A—19,167 (38,496).

Marlins 4, Rockies 3

COLORADO	ab	r	h	bi
Miles 2b	4	1	0	0
Barmes ss	4	1	1	0
Helton 1b	4	0	1	0
Castilla 3b	4	0	0	0
Burnitz rf	4	0	1	0
Hllday lf	4	0	0	0
Closser c	4	0	1	0
Frman cf	3	1	0	0
Pavano p	1	0	0	0
MaSwy ph	1	0	0	0
Speed p	0	0	0	0
Fentes p	0	0	0	0
Totals	**32**	**3**	**7**	**3**

FLORIDA	ab	r	h	bi
Pierce rf	4	1	2	0
Lee 1b	3	1	0	0
Delhrty lf	4	0	3	0
Lowell 3b	4	0	0	0
Conine 1b	2	1	1	0
Ramrez ss	4	0	1	0
LCstillo 2b	4	0	0	0
AGnzlz ss	4	0	1	0
Pavano p	1	0	0	0
LHaas rf	0	0	0	0
Aguilla ph	1	0	0	0
Benitez p	0	0	0	0
Totals	**34**	**4**	**8**	**0**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	**3**
Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	x	**2**

E—Closser (2). DP—Colorado 1. LOB—Colorado 4, Florida 8. 2B—Helton (36), 3B—Frman (1), HR—Burnitz (1), JEstamacion (14), SB—Burnitz (4), Pierre 2 (35). S—JJennings, Pavano.

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
JJennings	6	6	2	2	3	4
SReed L,3-4	1⅓	3	2	2	0	0
Fuentes S,2	⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Florida						
Pavano W,15-5	8	7	3	3	4	4
Benitez S,38	1	0	0	0	0	1

HBP—by JJennings (Lo Duca). T—2:20. A—35,243 (36,331).

Dodgers 4, Mets 2

LOS ANGELES	ab	r	h	bi
Izturis ss	4	2	0	0
Grblnsky cf	5	0	0	0
Brdley lf

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Intruder pushes marathon leader off course

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Stefano Baldini of Italy took the lead two miles from the finish to win the gold medal and American Meb Keflezighi took a stunning silver Sunday in an Olympic marathon disrupted by a costumed intruder who grabbed the race leader with about three miles to go.

Vanderlei Lima of Brazil, whose lead had been slowly shrinking, was pushed to the curb by a man dressed in green beret, red kilt and knee-high green socks. Lima was able to get back into the race, but he lost several more seconds and eventually was overtaken by Baldini.

Lima, who took the bronze, drew big cheers from the crowd at the finish line in Panthinaiko Stadium — the beautiful marble structure that was the site of the first modern Olympics 108 years ago.

Keflezighi, who emigrated from the war-torn African nation of Eritrea at age 10, is the first American to medal in the men's marathon since Frank Shorter's silver in 1976.

As the runners went through the streets of Athens, the intruder came from the runner's left and pushed him to the side, all the way to the curb and into the crowd. Police quickly went after the intruder, as Lima pushed himself free and kept running.

The intruder had a piece of paper attached to his back bearing the message: "The Grand Prix. Priest Israel Fulfilliment of Prophecy Says the Bible."

Police identified him as Cornelius Horan, an Irish citizen. In July 2003, Horan, in a costume similar to Sunday's, ran onto the track at the British Grand Prix in the middle of the race and stayed there for more than 20 seconds, forcing racers to swerve around him. He was carrying a sign that said, "read the Bible — the Bible is always right."

Olympics scoreboard

Sunday's scores

TEAM HANDBALL
Men
Gold Medal
Croatia 26, Germany 24
Women
Fifth Place
Hungary 38, Spain 29
Gold Medal
Denmark 38, South Korea 36, 2OT
VOLLEYBALL
Men
Bronze Medal
Russia 3, United States 0 (25-22, 27-25, 25-16)
Gold Medal
Brazil 3, Italy 1 (25-19, 26-28, 25-20, 25-22)
WATER POLO
Men
Seventh Place
United States 9, Italy 8
Fifth Place
Germany 6, Spain 4
Bronze Medal
Russia 6, Greece 5
Gold Medal
Hungary 8, Serbia-Montenegro 7

Taekwondo

Men
Over 80Kg
Bronze Medal
Pascal Gentil, France, def. Ibrahim Kamal, Jordan, 6-2.
Gold Medal
Moon Dae Sung, South Korea, def. Alexandros Nikolaidis, Greece, KO, 02:10, 1.
Over 87Kg
Bronze Medal
Adriana Carmona, Venezuela, def. Natalia Silva, Brazil, 7-4.
Gold Medal
Chen Zhong, China, def. Myriam Baverel, France, 12-5.

Wrestling

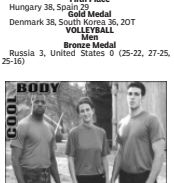
Men's Freestyle
60Kg
Bronze Medal
Kenji Inoue, Japan, def. Vasyl Fedoryshyn, Ukraine, 6-5.
Gold Medal
Yandro Miguel Quintana Rivalta, Cuba, def. Masuod Mostafa Gokar, Iran, 4-0.
74Kg
Bronze Medal
Ivan Fundora Zaldivar, Cuba, def. Krystian Brzozowski, Poland, 3-2.
Gold Medal
Buvaysa Saytiev, Russia, def. Gennadiy Laliyev, Kazakhstan, 7-0.
96Kg
Bronze Medal
Alireza Heidari, Iran, def. Daniel Cormier, Stillwater, Okla., 3-2.
Gold Medal
Khadjimourat Gatsalov, Russia, def. Magomed Ibragimov, Uzbekistan, 4-1.

Boxing

Finals
48 Kg
Yan Bhartelemy Varela, Cuba, def. Atagun Yalcinkaya, Turkey, 21-10.
54 Kg
Guillermo Rigondeaux Ortiz, Cuba, def. Worapoj Petchkoom, Thailand, 22-13.
60 Kg
Mario Cesar Kindelan Mesa, Cuba, def. Amir Khan, Britain, 30-22.
69 Kg
Bakhtiyar Artayev, Kazakhstan, def. Lorenzo Aragón Armenteros, Cuba, 36-26.
81 Kg
Andre Ward, Oakland, Calif., def. Magomed Aripgadjiev, Belarus, 20-13.
Over 91 Kg
Alexander Povetkin, Russia, def. Mohamed Aly, Egypt, Walkover.

Rhythmic gymnastics

Individual
1. Alina Kabaeva, Russia, 108.400.
2. Irina Tchachina, Russia, 107.325.
3. Anna Bessonova, Ukraine, 106.700.
4. Aliya Yussupova, Kazakhstan, 103.975.
5. Natalia Godunko, Ukraine, 103.800.



U.S. left to rethink Dream Team plan

NBA stars bring home bronze, but officials ponder selection changes

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Standing on the lowest of the three medal podiums, Richard Jefferson couldn't resist sneaking a peek.

Standing above him one spot to his right was Argentina guard Pepe Sanchez, who was about to have a gold medal draped around his neck, and Jefferson's eyes were drawn to the reward he could only look at, not touch.

It will be at least four years before another U.S. men's basketball player gets that close to the gold, and it could be even longer before an American is the one on the receiving end of a similar jealous gaze.

The Athens Games hammered home a point: The world hasn't just caught up in the 12 years since the Dream Team was born. It has sped past and left the United States in its wake.

The Americans took the bronze-medal game seriously Saturday and earned some revenge in a 104-96 win over Lithuania.

But that wasn't what they came to Athens for.

Defeating one of three teams that beat them earlier in the tournament, the Americans got 22 points from Shawn Marion, 15 from Allen Iverson and 14 apiece from Lamar Odom and Stephon Marbury.

The start of the game was delayed 48 minutes after both teams arrived wearing white uniforms. It also included a second half that started with no coaches on the American bench, Larry Brown emerging from the tunnel 50 seconds after play had started, his assistants beating him out by only 30 seconds.

Shame should not be attached to the U.S. team that won a bronze, though the questions beginning with the word "Why?" are legitimate.

Some of the answers: They didn't practice together long enough.

They weren't familiar with each another, nor with the rules or intricacies of international basketball. They didn't have pure shooters. They didn't adapt to their coach, nor he to them.

But at least they showed up.

If blame is to be cast on anyone, it should go to the players — including Shaquille O'Neal, Kevin Garnett, Mike Bibby, Ray Allen, Kenyon Martin and Ben Wallace — who refused to come.

"The only thing that bothered me was when I heard so many people talking so bad about the guys on this team. It was disrespectful, it was ignorant," Jefferson said. "They want to say the 12 guys who decided to come don't care, they're not playing hard enough, they're not playing together. Why? Because you lose a game?

"Just because you lose a game doesn't mean you're not playing together. It just means you're unfamiliar with one another. That was some of the most ignorant stuff I've ever heard," he said.

The Americans headed home Sunday on an early morning flight, riding along with the women's basketball team that won gold. No doubt it was a quiet trip for the men, whose faces betrayed their frustration as the medals were handed out.

Carmelo Anthony stood on the podium shaking his head from side to side. A couple of players gave halfhearted waves to the handful of American fans who stood behind them and cheered. Iverson and Marbury exchanged glances and giggled self-consciously as wreaths were placed atop their heads.

As the bronze medals were placed around their necks, the players from Argentina ignored the Americans as they turned to their fans, danced and exchanged salutes, smiles and raised fists.

Nothing remotely resembling a smile crossed Iverson's face as the Argentinian national anthem was played and the country's blue and white flag was raised to the rafters, above the Stars and Stripes. Iverson stared at the flags, the enormity of the moment seeming to strike him hard.

The Americans wasted no time walking off following the ceremony, Iverson and Marbury the first to quickly remove the wreaths.

Argentina's squad, the core of which has played together in international tournaments since 1996, remained on the court and celebrated jubilantly for another 20 minutes.

"The most special thing you can do is win for your country," Argentina guard Manu Ginobili said. "We win in soccer in the morning and then in basketball. Argentina is on top of the world because it is on top of the two biggest sports in the world today."

America will have to go back to the drawing board.

USA basketball president Tom Jernstedt said the federation has already kicked around several ideas for how to select a team for the Beijing Games in 2008, from giving the coach a greater say in picking the roster, to bringing in the NBA champions, to conducting tryouts ahead of a lengthened training camp.

He conceded the Americans might have been too slow to adapt to changes in the world basketball landscape, sticking too long with the formula first used in 1992 — picking the 12 best players they can find and throwing them out there in the belief that sheer talent would overwhelm the opposition.

"We'll go back and review and figure out if there's a better way of doing it," Jernstedt said. "Leaving with a gold and a bronze is not quite what we expected."

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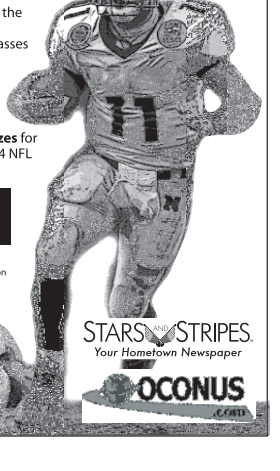

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

U.S. wrestlers Cormier, Williams denied medals

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Daniel Cormier went down without a fight this time, and without an Olympic wrestling medal.

Cormier, America's last medal hope in freestyle, couldn't hold a 2-0 overtime lead Sunday and lost the bronze 3-2 to Iran's Ali Reza Heidari in the 211½-pound (96-kg) class.

Olympic medals roundup

Heidari's dominance of Cormier was similar to that of last year's world championships, a match that turned ugly when Cormier became enraged at Heidari's on-mat victory celebration and shoved him in the back. After the latest loss, Cormier was left to lash out only at himself.

"I don't know what happened, I really don't know," said Cormier, from Stillwater, Okla. "This was a big match for me, and I just wasn't able to get it done. I just stopped wrestling. I just should have kept doing what I did the whole match."

Earlier in the day, Cormier lost his semifinal match 5-0 in overtime to Russia's Khadjimourat Gatsalov, who then beat Magomed Ibragimov of Uzbekistan 4-1 for the gold.

Sunday proved to be a washout for the U.S. freestyle team, with three-time NCAA champion Joe Williams losing 3-2 in overtime to Kazakhstan's Gennadiy Laliyev in an elimination match at 163 pounds (74kg). Williams finished fifth.

The seven-man U.S. freestyle team left Athens with three medals, Cael Sanderson's gold and silvers by Jamill Kelly and Stephen Abas.

For five-time world champion Bouvaissa Saitiev of Russia, his gold in the 163-pound class was partial redemption for his upset loss to Slay in the 2000 Games — his only defeat in a world championship since 1995. Saitiev took the gold by beating Laliyev 7-0.

Yandro Quintana, last year's world runner-up from Cuba, won at 132 pounds (60 kg) by beating Masuod Jokar of Iran 4-0.

AP

Alireza Heidari, of Iran, aides Daniel Cormier, of the USA, after defeating him during a men's freestyle 96kg wrestling bronze medal bout on Sunday

Volleyball

Men's: Brazil backed up its No. 1 world ranking with a gold-medal finish Sunday to a near-perfect Olympics, beating rival Italy in the final.

Gilberto Godoy Filho had 20 points to lead the Brazilians to a 25-16, 24-26, 25-20, 25-22 victory. Brazil has been a major international power for the past decade, but this was its first Olympic medal since a gold in 1992.

"We are winners," said Godoy Filho, who was named the tournament's most valuable player. "We were here for first place. Every player had this and only this in his mind. I am so happy."

Russia won this year's bronze by beating the United States in straight sets earlier Sunday.

"It's just so disappointing to have this opportunity to get back on the medal stand and not play your best," outside hitter Reid Priddy said.

While the U.S. team made great strides since a disastrous 0-5 showing in Sydney four years ago, the weekend proved that the Americans are just not quite ready to be included in the world's elite with Brazil, Italy, Russia and Serbia-Montenegro.

Team handball

Men's: World champion Croatia won the men's handball gold medal Sunday, finishing an undefeated run through the Olympic tournament with a 26-24 victory over Germany.

The Croatians won in Atlanta in 1996, but failed to qualify for the Sydney Games four years ago. They won the world championship in Portugal last year.

Women's: Denmark won its third consecutive Olympic title, defeating South Korea 4-2 in a penalty shootout after playing to a 34-34 tie at the end of two overtime periods.

Danish goalkeeper Karin Oernhoej Mortensen had two saves, and Henriette Mikkelsen scored the decisive goal in the shootout. The final was a rematch of the 1996 Atlanta Games, which Denmark also won, 37-33 in extra time.

Water polo

Men's: Hungary won its eighth Olympic water polo gold medal, scoring three times in the last quarter to beat Serbia-Montenegro 8-7 on Sunday.

Russia beat Greece 6-5 for the bronze medal. The United States upset Italy 9-8 behind three goals apiece from Tony Azevedo and Jesse Smith to finish in seventh place.

In the title game, left-handed shooter Gergeley Kiss scored four goals and Tamas Kasas had two for the defending world and Olympic champions.

The United States' win over an Italian team that finished second in the world championships provided an uplifting ending for the Americans, who were in a tough bracket.

"Winning that was totally important," Azevedo said. "The whole time, we've been saying the top three in our bracket are the three that are going to get the medals. This shows we could have been playing for a medal if we'd started in the other bracket."

Taekwondo

Men's over 80 kg: South Korea's Moon Dae-sung unleashed a wicked roundhouse kick that knocked out Alexandros Nikolaidis of Greece in the first round of Sunday's taekwondo heavyweight final.

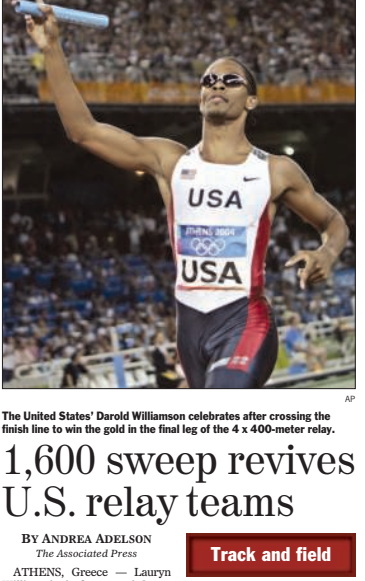
Moon was leading 1-0 when he landed a high kick to the Greek fireman's head. The blow knocked Nikolaidis' helmet askew and he collapsed on the mat for several seconds before officials came over to help him up.

At 6 feet 7, most of Nikolaidis' competitors have a tough time lifting their legs up high enough to connect with his target points. But the 6-foot-3 Moon managed to catch Nikolaidis off guard and landed the rare knockout to claim his first Olympic gold medal.

Women's over 67 kg: China's Chen Zhong defeated Myriam Baverel of France 12-5 to successfully defend her gold medal from Sydney.

Rythmic gymnastics

All-around: Four years after watching her medal hopes end when she lost control of her hoop, two-time world champion Alina Kabaeva from Russia won the rhythmic gymnastics all-around Sunday in a rout. She finished with 108.400 points, more than a point ahead of silver medalist Irina Tchachina of Russia. Anna Bessonova of Ukraine took the bronze.



AP

The United States' Darold Williamson celebrates after crossing the finish line to win the gold in the final leg of the 4 x 400-meter relay.

1,600 sweep revives U.S. relay teams

BY ANDREA ADELSON
The Associated Press

Track and field

ATHENS, Greece — Lauryn Williams had a favor to ask Sanya Richards on Saturday morning: "Bring home the gold."

How about two?

The United States swept the 1,600-meter relays later in the evening, making up for the disappointment of the 400 relay teams. Richards led her 1,600 team to victory in 3 minutes, 19.01 seconds, while Jeremy Wariner powered the men to gold in 2:55.91 — just .17 seconds off the Olympic record. It was the seventh straight gold for Americans in that relay.

Williams was on the 400 relay that was knocked out Friday night when she couldn't execute the baton exchange with Marion Jones.

Then, on Saturday night, Justin Gatlin stepped on Coby Miller's shoe, slowing the men's 400 team down and costing it gold.

"She just wanted us to go out and bring home gold for them, and that's what we did," Richards said. "I'm just happy we were able to pull it off for the U.S."

After what happened to the 400 teams, the U.S. coaches told their runners to focus on getting clean handoffs, even though they are not as much of a factor in the longer relays.

So the team of DeeDee Trotter, Monique Henderson, Richards and Monique Hennagan went out and easily beat Russia, which took silver in 3:20.16. Jamaica won bronze in 3:22.

"Before we came out here, our coaches told us the running would be the easiest part, to focus on the small things like getting the stick around, staying in the zone, not running out of our lanes early," Richards said. "Everybody was focused on it and it worked out really well for us."

It also made up somewhat for the 400-meter final, when Richards, Trotter and Hennagan failed to medal.

While they celebrated, the men's 1,600 team prepared to take the track with Wariner, Otis Harris and Derrick Brew — who swept the 400 earlier in the week.

Darold Williamson was selected to run anchor, a familiar position for him. He and Wariner ran together on the Baylor team that won the 1,600 relay earlier this year at the NCAA outdoor championships.

After they won the gold medal, Wariner announced he's turning pro.

"I've done all I can do. Now it's time for me to step to the next stage and see what I can do there," he said.

Australia took silver in 3:00.60, and Nigeria won bronze in 3:00.90.

"We prayed the Americans would do us a favor and drop the baton somewhere," said Enefiok Udo Obong of Nigeria. "But bronze is as good as gold in Nigeria."

The United States has won the men's 1,600 relay every year since 1976, not including the boycotted Moscow Olympics.

"With all the problems the other teams were having, we just wanted to get the stick around and win a gold medal," Harris said.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Ward gives U.S. boxers lone golden moment

BY TIM DAHLBERG
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Andre Ward and his father had been too close not to share this moment, just like they shared everything else. Standing on the medal podium, Ward looked upward and blew a kiss to the man who had meant so much to him.

Frank Ward would have been proud of his son — an Olympic gold medalist.

"I believe he was looking down on me," Ward said. "I just wish he was here."

Boxing in the memory of his late father, Ward became the only American boxer to win a gold medal, beating Magomed Aripgadjiev of Belarus on Sunday to claim the light heavyweight title.

Ward's father, who introduced his son to boxing, died suddenly two years ago and Ward boxed through the Olympics with a picture of him in his shoes. Deeply religious, he said he believes his father helped guide him to the gold.

"I felt his spirit all through this tournament," Ward said.

Ward's victory in the last fight of the Games salvaged what had been a bleak Olympics for the U.S. boxing team, which brought nine boxers to Athens but had only one bronze medal to show for it before Ward stepped in the ring.

Showing a maturity that most of his teammates lacked, Ward shook off a swollen eye to turn the fight around in the third round and win a 20-13 decision.

"I just couldn't see myself coming away with a bronze or silver medal," Ward said. "I couldn't see myself settling for that."

It was the first gold medal for the United States since David Reid's victory in 1996, and it couldn't have come at a better time for the beleaguered U.S. boxing program. American boxers seemed lost much of the time during these Games, unable to adapt to international scoring and unwilling to change their styles.

Not Ward, whose singular focus on winning a gold medal carried him to four victories and the top prize.

"If a lot of other guys on this team were mature like him and didn't lose discipline, they would have been here too," assistant U.S. coach Al Mitchell said. "He's a good role model and we need role models in this sport."

On a day when Cuba won three more golds and British teenage sensation Amir Khan came up short in his gold medal bout,

AP

American Andre Ward, right, delivers a blow to Belarus' Magomed Aripgadjiev during the light heavyweight boxing final Sunday in Athens.

Ward found his mark with quick inside punches in the third round to pull ahead.

Ward trailed after two rounds, but came on strong in the final two despite swelling around his right eye that coaches worked on in the corner between rounds. He won the third round 7-2, then remained aggressive with quick flurries in the final round.

"I felt he was much quicker than me," Aripgadjiev said.

Ward had a cheering section of family members rooting him on, an atmosphere much different than during Friday's semifinal bout, in which he was booed by the crowd from the moment he entered the arena.

He admitted that the pressure of the moment slowed him in the first two rounds.

"I wasn't having fun the first two rounds. I was kind of tight because I've got the country and world on my shoulders," Ward said. "But I loosened up and picked it up."

In previous Olympics, the 20-year-old father of two from Oakland, Calif., would have been an attractive candidate for a promoter to sign for big money. Because Olympic boxing wasn't widely shown on American television, though, Ward's market value won't be as high.

Still, he said he plans to pursue a pro career.

"I have to go home, settle down and see what's on the table," he said.

Cuba ended the boxing tournament with five gold medals, two more than Russia. Defending Olympic champion Guillermo Rigondeaux and Mario Kindelan both won, as did light flyweight Yari Bhartelemy.

The Cuban total didn't match the seven golds won in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, but was better than the four Cuba took home in each of the last two Games.

In perhaps the most anticipated final, Kindelan beat Khan for the lightweight gold.

Kindelan was too wily and experienced for the 17-year-old Khan, who had won four straight fights in impressive fashion.

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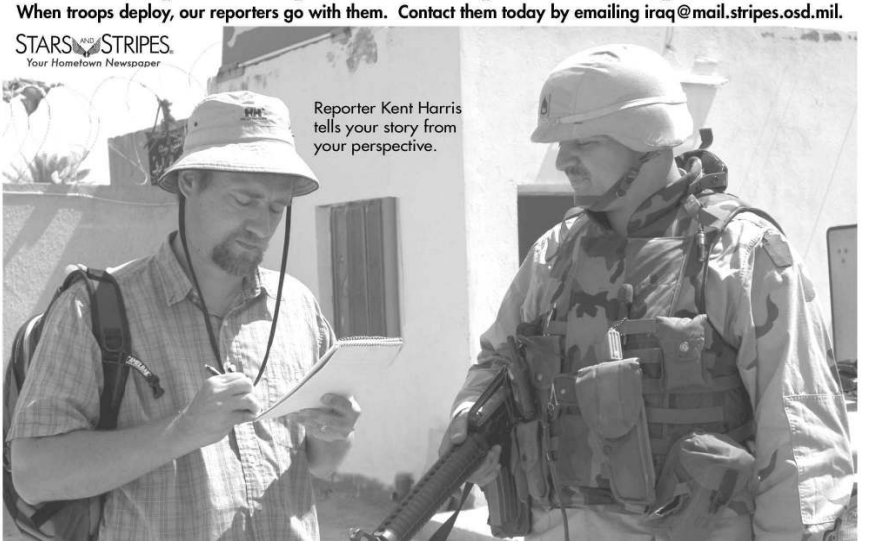

SPORTS

Top-ranked Southern Cal outplays Virginia Tech in tough opening test, Page 25

Athens rose to challenge

AP

Fireworks explode during the closing ceremony for the 2004 Olympic Games at the Olympic stadium in Athens on Sunday.

Medal count

Final leaders after 301 medal events in the 2004 Olympics, which ended Sunday, Aug. 29:

Country	G	S	B	Total
United States	35	39	29	103
Russia	27	27	38	92
China	32	17	14	63
Australia	17	16	16	49
Germany	14	16	18	48
Japan	16	9	12	37
France	11	9	13	33
Italy	10	11	11	32
South Korea	9	12	9	30
Britain	9	9	12	30

Ward captures lone gold medal for inexperienced U.S. boxing team

Page 31

Marathon leader attacked in most bizarre incident of Athens Games

Page 29

Greece takes a bow as Games wrap up

Steve Wilstein

ATHENS, Greece

Efharisto!

A nervous world learned the Greek word for thank you and repeated it endlessly at an astonishingly successful Athens Olympics that quelled fears, surprised skeptics and greatly honored the birthplace of the Games.

Efharisto, Athens, for architectural masterpieces of stadiums and arenas that showcased record performances. The fountain sprays, reflecting pools and soaring arches. The undulating, giant white Wall of Nations that caught the whispering wind, bringing music to our ears and smiles to our faces.

Efharisto for the thousands of security forces who stood guard day and night, keeping terrorism away. An undercurrent of danger, a sense of tranquility. We saw guns everywhere, walked in peace.

Fireworks and spectacular lighting kicked off the closing ceremony Sunday night, an extravaganza of folk dancing and music in the Olympic tradition that summed up the glee the Games brought to Greece.

"You have won," International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge told the Greek people in prepared remarks for the finale. "You have won by brilliantly meeting the tough challenge of holding the Games. These were unforgettable, dream Games."

He was right, even if they started slowly the first week with empty seats and vacant plazas as many Greeks took their holidays and frightened tourists stayed away. The second week saw the games transformed. The huge Olympic stadium was packed each night for track and field. Basketball, tennis and beach volleyball rocked.

> *"The world discovered a new Greece."*
>
> **Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki**
> Athens 2004 president

There had been no shortage of worries that Athens would not be ready for these Games. As late as March 2000, the IOC considered moving the Olympics out of Greece, possibly to South Korea.

"It's always nice to underpromise and overdeliver," said Jim Easton, an American IOC vice president.

Athletes who finished their events partied, roaming the Plaka, Syntagma and Omonia squares. It was Greece at its rollicking best, a spirited fusion of visitors from all countries, and of all colors and ages. It reminded us again, at a time when we need all the reminding we can get, that the Olympics celebrate humanity's highest aspirations, the universal quest for peace and the exalted qualities of body, mind and spirit that transcend cultures.

Efharisto, Athens, for coupling the ancient with the new, putting up with years of jarring construction, spending billions beyond your budget, and giving us a glimpse of your future as a sophisticated, modern city.

"The world discovered a new Greece," said Athens 2004 President Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, who made it all happen with her fierce determination to overcome construction delays and avoid an international humiliation.

These Games took us to their sacred origin in Olympia, the mythological home of the gods, to watch the shot put, to Marathon to stand on the spot where the race got its name.

We trod like pilgrims to a shrine up the dusty stones of the Acropolis to gaze with awe at the 2,500-year-old Parthenon. Our imaginations did the rest, letting us feel the spirit of Socrates, Plato and Aristole; Pericles and Alexander the Great; Hippocrates and Herodotus; Euclid and Pythagoras — that brainy bunch who laid the foundation for our culture.

The scourge of sports — steroids, stimulants and other drugs — intruded but didn't spoil the games. A record two dozen athletes were caught, seven lost medals, and there could be more to come as the test results keep rolling in.

"Each positive test is a blessing for us because it's eliminating the cheats and protecting the clean athletes," Rogge said. "The more we find, the better."

These Olympics saw the rise of China as a sports superpower as it positioned itself for the 2008 games in Beijing. The United States — buoyed by the brilliance of swimming star Michael Phelps, but embarrassed by the three losses and mere bronze of its once-vaunted men's basketball team — won the most medals. Americans beat their target of 100 by three, 35 of them gold. Russia finished second with 92, including 27 gold. China was third with 63 medals, 32 gold Greeks gathered at cafes and tavernas in the Plaka to watch the marathon and the closing ceremony on wide screens and TV sets.

"The Greeks showed once again what they're capable of if they set their minds to it," said Yianna Mihalakpoulou, a graphic designer.

And, once again, Efharisto!

Steve Wilstein is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at swilstein@ap.org