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U.S. warplanes strike Fallujah and Tal Afar

American, Iraqi try to regain control of Samarra

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AP photos

Above: Iraqi soldiers cut off all access to Tal Afar, Iraq, on Thursday after U.S. airstrikes. At least 26 Iraqis have been reportedly killed and more than 70 others have been wounded in armed clashes between American troops and Iraqi gunmen.

Right: Also Thursday, residents of Fallujah, Iraq, look for dead bodies under rubble after an U.S. air raid. American warplanes fired missiles on a building used by an al-Qaida-linked militant group in the rebel stronghold, the U.S. military said. The military also said intelligence showed that three associates of Jordanian-born militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi were in the area when jets unleashed a precision strike.

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STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

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

States

Sniper trial: Prosecutors said Wednesday that the judge in the second death-penalty case of convicted sniper John Allen Muhammad should remove himself from the case because he improperly conducted his own investigation into a critical pretrial dispute.

The motion filed by Fairfax County, Va., prosecutors alleges that Judge Jonathan Thacher improperly interviewed witnesses and obtained documents that are central to a defense motion seeking to dismiss the case on the grounds that Muhammad's right to a speedy trial was violated.

Thacher delayed the start of the trial until next year.

N.J. governor: A federal judge in Trenton said he would rule within a week on a lawsuit requesting that New Jersey voters choose Gov. James E. McGreevey's interim replacement in a special election.

U.S. District Judge Garret E. Brown Jr. heard arguments Wednesday in the suit filed by two Princeton lawyers who contend that McGreevey essentially vacated his office when he announced Aug. 12 that he was gay, and said he had an extramarital affair with a man and intended to resign Nov. 15.

Lawyers for the state argued that McGreevey has not officially resigned because he hasn't submitted a letter of resignation.

Wrestling death: A teen whose life sentence in the beating death of a 6-year-old playmate was thrown out on appeal went before a judge Wednesday in Miami on charges he violated his probation by walking around late at night with a pocket knife.

Lionel Tate, now 17, had been the youngest child in modern U.S. history to be given a life sentence. When he was freed from prison in January, he was given a year of house arrest and 10 years probation.

If he is found to have violated his probation, the judge has discretion to put the teenager behind bars again for anywhere from a few days to life.

Gay marriage: Saying the state constitution broadly guarantees equality, a judge struck down Washington's ban on same-sex marriage and set the stage for an appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Thurston County Superior Court Judge Richard Hicks said the guarantees of equality are violated by the state's 1998 Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman and bars same-sex civil marriage.

Shuttle flights: NASA administrator Sean O'Keefe said Wednesday the cost of fixing all the problems with the space shuttle fleet could top $2.2 billion — double the estimated price tag given to Congress a year ago.

O'Keefe, testifying before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee in Washington, also said it was not clear whether damage to Kennedy Space Center from Hurricane Frances would result in a delay of the anticipated launch next spring of Discovery.

Water park lawsuit: The families of three children and an adult who drowned in a water park in Fort Worth, Texas, filed a lawsuit Wednesday, claiming the city and others ignored safety warnings about the swirling pool that sucked the victims to their deaths.

The lawsuit asks for more than $1 million on each of 72 counts, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported in its online edition.

Videotaping arrest: Kamran Akhtar, detained in July after a police officer spotted him videotaping Charlotte, N.C.'s skyscrapers, pleaded not guilty Tuesday to charges of refusing to leave the country, making false statements and possessing false identification documents.

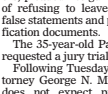
The 35-year-old Pakistan native also has requested a jury trial.

Following Tuesday's hearing, defense attorney George N. Miller told reporters he does not expect prosecutors to accuse Akhtar, who has a wife and three young children in New York, of being involved in terrorism.

Iraq debt relief: German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, left, shakes hands with Iraqi interim President Ghazi al-Yawer, during a meeting in Berlin on Thursday. Al-Yawer is visiting Germany to discuss the reconstruction of Iraq. German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who also met with al-Yawer, renewed a pledge to consider "substantial" debt relief to Iraq.

Business

Federal stock probe: Facing prison in late October, former star investment banker Frank Quattrone is hoping a federal appeals court will overturn his obstruction-of-justice conviction.



Quattrone

Quattrone, convicted in May of hindering a federal stock investigation, was sentenced Wednesday to 1½ years in prison — a far harsher term than federal probation officials had recommended.

In New York, U.S. District Judge Richard Owen ordered Quattrone to begin serving his time in 50 days, which works out to late October. Even federal prosecutors had suggested 60 days.

World

Kashmir violence: A surge of violence across Indian-controlled Kashmir, including a land mine attack and gunbattles, left at least 13 people dead, police said Thursday.

Separatist rebels fired on paramilitary soldiers patrolling in forests after soldiers asked them to identify themselves, a police officer said on condition of anonymity in Jammu, the winter capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state.

A fierce gunbattle followed in which two soldiers and two rebels died, he said.

Bosnia mass graves: Forensic experts have exhumed 100 bodies from a single mass grave in northwestern Bosnia dating to the 1992-95 Bosnian war, an official said Thursday.

The grave likely contains more bodies, said Jasmin Odobasic, an official with the missing persons commission in the Muslim-Croat part of the country. Exhumations will continue at the grave in Stari Kevljani, near the town of Prijedor, about 110 miles northwest of Sarajevo.

The mass grave is the 51st found in the Prijedor area, Odobasic said.

Asian bird flu: A man in Thailand has died of bird flu, the first human casualty in the country since the disease re-emerged in Asia in July, officials said Thursday in Bangkok.

Tests confirmed that the death on Wednesday of an 18-year-old man in Prachinburi province was caused by the H5N1 bird flu virus, said Dr. Charal Trinvuthipong, director-general of the Health Ministry's Department of Communicable Disease Control.

The victim, who raised fighting cocks, was admitted to a hospital in Prachinburi, 60 miles northeast of Bangkok, on Sept. 4, four days after falling ill.

The victim, who was not identified, was in the habit of sucking out blood and other fluids from the mouths of his roosters when they were injured during fighting, a common practice in the sport, said a Public Health Ministry spokeswoman who asked not to be identified.

Stories and photos from wire services

Stars and Stripes Messages of Support

★ P.O.L Troop Munoz, We all miss you here at home (Chicago). Hope you are doing well and are safe. We're all waiting here anxiously for your return. Be careful and stay strong. We love you. The United States is thankful for all that you have done for us. May God bless You and all our military men. "God Bless America". Loving You Always, Veronica

★ Thank you, to all of our service men and women for the great sacrifices you make to serve and protect our country. Our prayers are with you and your families. Michelle F., Jacksonville FL

★ All of you are doing a great job. You are in our prayers. God be with each of you and return you home safely.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, 1,005 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 759 died as a result of hostile action and 246 died of nonhostile causes.

The figures include three military civilians.

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

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 867 U.S. military members have died — 650 as a result of hostile action and 217 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One soldier was killed by an explosive Wednesday in eastern Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

Marines killed Monday in a car bombing in Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Michael J. Allred, 22, Hyde Park, Utah.

■ Marine Pfc. David P. Burridge, 19, Lafayette, La.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Quinn A. Keith, 21, Page, Ariz.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Joseph C. McCarthy, 21, Concho, Calif.

■ Marine Cpl. Mick R. Nygardbekowsky, 21, Concord, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Lamont N. Wilson, 20, Lawton, Okla.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Derek L. Gardner, 20, San Juan Capistrano, Calif.; assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Other identifications:

■ Army Spc. Tomas Garces, 19, Weslaco, Texas; killed Monday in Baghdad when his convoy was attacked; assigned to the Army National Guards 1836th Transportation Company, Fort Bliss, Texas.

■ Army Pfc. Devin J. Grella, 21, Medina, Ohio; killed by a roadside bomb Monday in Iraq; assigned to the Army Reserves 706th Transportation Company, Mansfield, Ohio.

■ Air Force Capt. John J. Boria, 29, Broken Arrow, Okla.; died Monday in a vehicle accident in Doha, Qatar; assigned to the the 911th Air Refueling Squadron, Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D.

■ Army Spc. Clarence Adams III, 28, Richmond, Va.; died Tuesday of injuries sustained a day earlier in Baghdad when his vehicle was hit by an explosive; assigned to the 91st Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

U.S. jets strike Fallujah, Tal Afar

Forces enter city of Samarra, try to regain control

BY DANICA KIRKA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. troops and their Iraqi allies launched crackdowns Thursday against anti-government forces in widely separated parts of the country, sending warplanes against insurgent strongholds in two cities and restoring Iraqi state control in a third.

Dozens were reported killed in the two air attacks.

In another show of force, Iraqi soldiers raided the Najaf office of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr to search for weapons.

None was found, but the search marked the first time Iraqi forces had entered al-Sadr's office since an agreement last month ended weeks of heavy fighting in the Shiite holy city.

American warplanes hammered Tal Afar, a northern city near the border with Syria that lies on smuggling routes for weapons and foreign fighters. The operations are intended to return the city 30 miles west of Mosul to interim Iraqi government control, the military said.

The U.S. military said 57 insurgents were killed in the attack.

Nineveh province health chief Dr. Rabie Yassin said 27 civilians died and 70 were wounded. It was unclear whether any of those reported by the Iraqis as civilians were counted as insurgents by the Americans.

In Fallujah, American warplanes fired missiles on a building suspected of housing associates of Jordanian-born militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. It was the third straight day of airstrikes in the Sunni extremist stronghold.

At least nine people were killed, including two children, said Dr. Ahmad Thair of the Fallujah General Hospital.

Elsewhere, American and Iraqi forces entered the central city of Samarra for the first time in months to try to re-seat the city council and regain control.

Local leaders in the Salahuddin province, of which Samarra is the provincial capital, and the U.S. 1st Infantry Division have taken necessary steps to return the city to normal, said Maj. Neal O'Brian, a spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division.

The troops that entered the city will have joint traffic control points in the city and will also open the Samarra Bridge, the statement said.

U.S. officials agreed to go into the city after meeting with council members and other officials Wednesday in Tikrit, said Taha al-Hendaira, the head of the Samarra's city council.

AP

An Iraqi soldier guards the road near radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's office Thursday in Najaf, Iraq. Iraqi security forces' search for weapons at al-Sadr's office left them empty-handed.

Despite the formal end of the U.S. occupation on June 28, the interim Iraqi government lost control over key Sunni Muslim cities such as Samarra as well as Fallujah and Ramadi. Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, acknowledged that it could be months before U.S. and Iraqi authorities are prepared to take those cities back.

Maj. Gen. John Batiste, who leads the 1st ID, said he had offered a deal to insurgents under which they would be free to leave Samarra or to remain inside as long as they stopped fighting. It was unclear Thursday whether the insurgents had actually accepted any kind of proposal.

Military intelligence officials said they believe a hundred or so guerrillas, including some 40 foreigners — Saudis, Yemenis, Sudanese and Jordanians — were the biggest obstacle to Batiste's initiative.

Elsewhere, dozens of Iraqi security force officers raided al-Sadr's office, said one Iraqi police officer, who identified himself only as Maj. Yasser. He said no weapons were found but that ammunition and mortars were confiscated from nearby houses.

"We received orders from the Iraqi government to search al-Sadr's office and the area around it. The inspection went on without problems and people who were in the office, including its director Sheik Ali Smeisim, coordinated with us," Yasser said.

The search is a sign Iraqi security forces are trying to further consolidate their grip on the area around the Imam Ali Shrine compound, once under the control of al-Sadr and his followers. It also indicates the cleric and his group may be unwilling to create tensions that might threaten the existing peace deal.

Also Thursday, U.S. warplanes detonated roadside bombs in a sprawling Shiite slum in eastern Baghdad, a U.S. military official said. At least one person was killed and four injured in the strikes, officials at al-Sadr General Hospital said.

Iraqi death toll in tens of thousands

BY BASSEM MROUE
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — While America mourns the deaths of more than 1,000 of its sons and daughters in the Iraq campaign, far more Iraqis have died since the United States invaded in March 2003. No official, reliable figures exist, but private estimates range from 10,000 to 30,000 killed across the nation.

At Sheik Omar Clinic, a big book records 10,363 violent deaths in Baghdad and nearby towns alone since the war began last year — deaths caused by car bombs, clashes between Iraqis and coalition forces, mortar attacks, revenge killings and robberies.

The violent deaths recorded in the clinic's leather ledger come from only one of Iraq's 18 provinces and do not cover people who died in such flashpoint cities as Najaf, Karbala, Fallujah, Tikrit and Ramadi.

Iraqi dead include not only insurgents, police and soldiers but also civilians caught in crossfire, blown apart by explosives or shot by mistake — both by fellow Iraqis or by American soldiers and their multinational allies. And they include the victims of crime that has surged in the instability that followed the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Adding to the complexity of sorting out what has happened, the records that have been kept don't always say whether a death came in a combat situation or from some other cause.

The prospect of violent death is the latest burden for a people who suffered through decades of war and a brutal dictatorship under Saddam, whose regime has been accused by human rights groups of killing as many as 300,000 Iraqis it deemed enemies.

"During Saddam's days, killings were silent. Now the killing is done openly and loudly," said Ghali Karim Hassan, who lost his 31-year-old son, Ghaidan, last April.

He said Ghaidan was killed in Najaf when a demonstration called by radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr led to a gunbattle with coalition troops, mainly Spaniards and Salvadorans.

U.S. officials said they didn't have the resources to track civilian deaths during the U.S.-led occupation, which ended officially June 28. Iraq's central authorities also haven't reported comprehensive figures on civilian deaths.

Iraq Body Count, a private group that bases its figures in part on reports by 40 media outlets, puts the number of civilian deaths since the conflict began at between 11,793 and 13,802.

Hazem al-Radini at the Human Rights Organization in Iraq said his group estimates the toll at more than 30,000 civilian deaths.

2nd BCT combat death

The 2nd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team suffered its first combat death in Iraq earlier this week, the Department of Defense confirmed Thursday.

According to a Pentagon news release, Staff Sgt. Gary A. Vaillant, of the 2nd Battalion, 72nd Armor Regiment, was killed Sunday when his tank ran over an anti-tank mine. The incident occurred near Khaldiya, the release said.

Vaillant, 41, was a native of Trujillo, Puerto Rico. A family memorial is planned in his hometown, officials said; there was no word Thursday on whether a memorial service would be held by the 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea.

Some 3,600 members of the Korea-based 2nd Brigade are on a one-year deployment to Iraq.

From staff reports

Abandoned bus proves bait for easy capture

1-4 Cavalry reels in three suspected kidnappers

BY LISA BURGESS
Stars and Stripes

FOB McKENZIE, Iraq — The three Iraqi men might have thought the red-and-white bus would be their one-way ticket to paradise.

But the 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry had a little surprise for the trio: Their bus would drive the suspected kingpins of a Samarra kidnapping ring not to paradise, but rather straight to detention.

The saga began in mid-April, when soldiers from the 1-4 Cavalry's Troop B, or "Bulldawgs," were on a daylong reconnaissance mission, according to Capt. Scott Synowiez, the 1-4 Cavalry's intelligence officer.

Led by Staff Sgt. Grant Phillips of Utica, N.Y., troops from the Bulldawgs' 2nd and 4th platoons were looking for weapons caches north of the Tigris River.

Just one day before, the soldiers had found two carefully hidden "terrain tables": crude models military members around the world use to plan attacks, according to Capt. Jamie Berry, who was the "battle captain" that day.

The scouts took pictures of the tables and took them to the 1-4 Cavalry's Forward Operating Base McKenzie to be analyzed by intelligence experts.

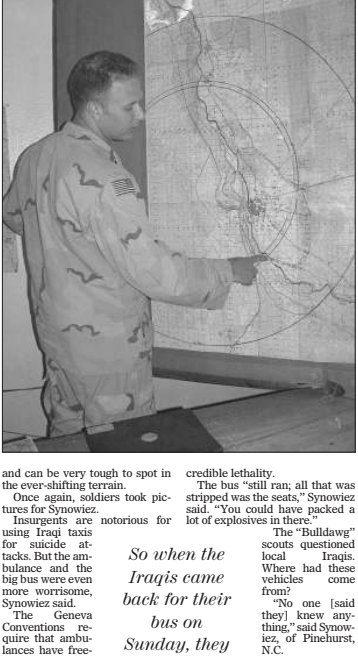
The tables turned out to be models of Camp Anaconda and FOB Brassfield-Mora, Berry said.

"The S-2 thought they had come [to that] spot to plan an attack," Berry, who hails from Tallahassee, Fla.

So the next day, the soldiers scoured the area.

Hidden near the same access route were a medium-size bus, an ambulance and an orange-and-white taxi.

The vehicles were in revetments, which are like graves with no tops. The holes are especially easy to dig in a desert's soft sand, and can be very tough to spot in the ever-shifting terrain.



PHOTOS BY LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

Above: The hollowed out bus found by the 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry "Bulldawgs" still sits in the maintenance yard, its owners apprehended as suspected kidnappers. Left: 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Capt. Jamie Berry shows the approximate location of where the three vehicles were found.

Once again, soldiers took pictures for Synowiez.

Insurgents are notorious for using Iraqi taxis for suicide attacks. But the ambulance and the big bus were even more worrisome, Synowiez said.

The Geneva Conventions require that ambulances have freedom of movement, and insurgents have been known to take advantage of that by using the medical vehicles to smuggle weapons or get close to targets and explode them as car bombs.

And the sheer size of a bus made it a potential bomb of incredible lethality.

The bus "still ran; all that was stripped was the seats," Synowiez said. "You could have packed a lot of explosives in there."

So when the Iraqis came back for their bus on Sunday, they got a ticket to ride: straight to detention.

The "Bulldawg" scouts questioned local Iraqis. Where had these vehicles come from?

"No one [said they] knew anything," said Synowiez, of Pinehurst, N.C.

So 1-4 Cavalry leaders decided to confiscate the bus and the ambulance after checking for booby traps, hidden explosives and other nasty "surprises."

They left the taxi, because abandoned vehicles of that size are found all over Iraq, so the threat was not worth towing the vehicle, the base spokesman and personnel officer, Capt. Nathan Springer of Oklahoma City, Okla., said Wednesday.

For the next four months, the ambulance and bus sat in McKenzie's vehicle maintenance yard. The ambulance rusted quietly, but mechanics sometimes used the hollowed-out bus to haul parts.

Then came Sept. 3, "when these three guys show up at the gate," Synowiez said.

One of the men "said the bus broke down and when he came back [to get it], it was gone," said Synowiez.

"He said he had been looking for it for months and that he just found out from friends we had it."

The alleged owner had all the proper paperwork to show that the bus was, in fact, his. His story that the bus had been stolen "was plausible," Synowiez said.

But to Synowiez, something felt wrong.

He assigned 2nd Lt. Andrew Lee, one of his intelligence subordinates, "to run it down." Lee, from Havertown, Pa., "is really good at the investigative work," Synowiez said.

The Americans told the Iraqis to come back in a couple of days and Lee immediately began his search.

Low and behold, the names of all three men "hit: It turns out they were tied to a series of kidnappings in Samarra, and maybe even more than that," Synowiez said, declining to elaborate.

So when the Iraqis came back for their bus on Sunday, they got a ticket to ride: straight to detention.

Asked why anyone involved in nefarious activities would just walk up to U.S. troops and ask for illicit property to be returned, both Synowiez and Berry shrugged.

"It just shows how bold they are," Synowiez said.

"Or else they think Americans are really stupid," Berry added.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.osd.mil

French aid organization leaving Iraq over safety concerns

BY SAM CAGE
The Associated Press

GENEVA — A French humanitarian organization said Thursday that it is pulling its expatriate workers out of Iraq following the seizure of two Italian relief workers.

The aid organization, fearing it might face reprisals, asked not to be identified.

It will withdraw its three expatriate staff from Iraq by the weekend, one of the staffers told The Associated Press by telephone from Baghdad. The three will most likely go to Amman, Jordan, and plan to return as soon as they feel reassured about their safety.

The group's Iraqi staff will remain in the country.

"It's an evacuation for reasons of security," the aid worker said, explaining that staying in Iraq "would not be responsible.

"It is not that it has become untenable, but you have to look at the risks."

Humanitarian workers are reassessing the danger of operating in Iraq following the seizure of 29-year-old Italians Simona Pari and Simona Torretta.

The Baghdad offices of their Italian aid group "A Bridge To..." have been closed since a dozen gunmen raided the house of an Italian humanitarian group Tuesday, abducting the two Italians and two Iraqis.

The Italian organization, which now has 20 Iraqis working for them in Baghdad and Basra, but no international staff, said Thursday it has yet to decide on the future of its operation in Iraq.

Also Thursday, Nicole Choueiry, spokeswoman at the London headquarters of Amnesty International, said there was "no point" returning to Iraq for now.

Amnesty has no permanent staff in the country, but carries out its work through local contacts and international missions, the last of which was in March.

There is "no point in going back if we can't move around," she said.

Local staff of the international Red Cross will continue to carry out humanitarian work, but the organization is considering its position, a spokeswoman said Thursday. The International Committee of the Red Cross pulled out its international staff after a deadly suicide bombing at its Baghdad headquarters last year.

"We will assess in light of the recent incident but we have no decision to alter the way we operate," said Rana Sidani, spokeswoman for the ICRC. "The ICRC remains active in Iraq, for sure.

"We are concerned about this latest incident," Sidani added.

"We will look into the situation and see if we need to change anything."

Retired brass call for new prison abuse study

Eight former generals, admirals appeal for independent review and immediate action

BY PAULINE JELINEK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is under increasing fire for its handling of the prison abuse investigation, as some retired military officers call for an independent commission to get to the bottom of the four-month-old scandal.

Their appeal came a day before Thursday's hearings by the Senate and House armed services panels, which were reviewing the two latest reports ordered by the Defense Department.

"We cannot ignore that there are now dozens of well-documented allegations of torture, abuse and otherwise questionable detention practices" eight former generals and admirals said Wednesday of prisons in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In-house Pentagon probes don't require sworn testimony, don't have subpoena power and are examples of the military trying to police itself, the officers said in a letter to President Bush.

Most of the officers had backgrounds in military law.

The Pentagon says a probe headed by former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger was independent, but its members were appointed by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, who has been criticized in the scandal.

An Army investigation headed by Maj. Gen. George Fay concentrated on which military intelligence officers at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq could be charged with crimes under military law. But Fay's group also said the Army's top commanders in Iraq shared some blame for management failures.

The Schlesinger report looked at Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay as well as Iraq and at military police, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Rumsfeld as well as intelligence officers in Iraq. It concluded that while lower ranking soldiers might be charged, some blame could go to the highest levels of the Pentagon for inadequate supervision and failure to adapt to developments.

A Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee said Wednesday that months of piecemeal military investigations have left officials and the public without a full idea of exactly what happened and who is responsible.

"It's about time we had an investigation that is complete and answers all the questions," Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island said in telephone conference with several reporters.

The scandal created international revulsion four months ago with disclosure of photographs showing troops threatening prisoners at Abu Ghraib with dogs, posing them in sexual positions and keeping detainees naked and hooded.

Though defense officials said the photos portrayed the actions of a few bad apples, the controversy has grown to include probes of some 300 allegations of detainee deaths, torture or other mistreatment, some during interrogations to gather intelligence.

Abuses occurred as long as nearly two years ago — among prisoners taken in the campaign to rout al-Qaida from Afghanistan.

The retired military leaders who wrote to Bush were Rear Adm. John D. Hutson, Navy Judge Advocate General from 1997 to 2000; Brig. Gen. David M. Brahms, Marine Corps senior legal adviser from 1983 to 1988; Brig. Gen. James Cullen, former chief judge of the Army Court of Criminal Appeals; Maj. Gen. John L. Fugh, former Judge Advocate General of the Army; Lt. Gen. Robert Gard, currently a consultant in international security; Vice Adm. Lee F. Gunn, Inspector General of the Department of the Navy until his retirement in August 2000; Gen. Joseph Hoar, a former commander of U.S. Central Command; Brig. Gen. Richard Omeara, who served in the Army's Judge Advocate General Corps.

Hoar is part of a group of retired diplomats and military officers who has said Bush should be voted out of office because his policies damaged U.S. national security interests and America's standing in the world. Gunn is among 12 retired generals and admirals who have endorsed Bush's Democratic rival John Kerry.

Germany hearing delayed for GI held in slaying of Iraqi

The Associated Press

HANAU, Germany — A hearing for a U.S. soldier charged with murdering a driver for militant Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in Iraq was put off Thursday after the court failed to establish a video link with witnesses in the United States.

The testimony in the case of tank company commander Capt. Rogelio Maynulet now is to be heard Friday, part of an investigation to determine whether he should be court-martialed, hearing officer Maj. Michael J. Fadden said.

The witnesses are based at the U.S. Army's Fort Polk in Louisiana.

Fadden also extended hearings by a day until Monday after the defense said it had more witnesses to call. The latest sessions were originally scheduled to end Friday.

Maynulet, of Chicago, is accused of murder and dereliction of duty in the killing of the Iraqi on May 21. He denies the charges.

On Wednesday, a fellow officer testified that Maynulet told him he shot the driver out of pity because the man was critically injured in action and could not have been saved.

Maynulet

At the Article 32 hearing, the military version of a grand jury investigation, prosecutors are trying to prove to Fadden that there are "reasonable grounds" to send the case to a court-martial.

Charges dropped against soldier accused in drowning of Iraqi man

BY ROBERT WELLER
The Associated Press

DENVER — Military officials on Tuesday dropped criminal charges against a soldier accused of forcing an Iraqi civilian to jump to his death from a bridge over the Tigris River.

Sgt. Reggie Martinez, 24, was initially charged with involuntary manslaughter in the Jan. 3 drowning death of 19-year-old Zaidoun Hassoun near Samarra.

Martinez received a nonjudicial judgment in the case, meaning he will not face criminal proceedings or jail time.

A similar judgment was given to another soldier, Spc. Terry Bowman, 21, who was accused of assault for allegedly forcing a second man into the river. That man survived.

Details of the judgments were not disclosed, Army officials said.

Involuntary manslaughter charges are still pending against a third enlisted soldier, 1st Sgt. Tracy Perkins, 33.

The three men from Fort Carson's 3rd Brigade Combat Team admitted forcing two Iraqi curfew-breakers to jump in the river, though they said both men made it safely to shore.

Also Tuesday, their commanding officer waived his right to a hearing to determine whether he will be court-martialed.

First Lt. Jack Saville was charged with involuntary manslaughter and attempting to cover up a death. He also faces an aggravated assault charge from a separate incident in December. Saville's attorney did not return calls seeking comment.

3 Americans held in Afghan torture case appeal to U.S. official

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Lawyers for three Americans charged with torturing suspects in a private jail during a freelance hunt for terrorists in Afghanistan appealed Wednesday to the U.S. ambassador to help stop their trial.

The American attorneys also released a videotape showing one of the prisoners discussing a plot to kill Afghan ministers and saying he had a relative who worked for Osama bin Laden.

Jonathan Idema, Edward Caraballo and Brent Bennett were arrested July 5 when Afghan forces stormed a house in the capital, Kabul, finding eight men who complained they had been tortured.

Idema, a former U.S. soldier and convicted fraudster, claims he was working in close cooperation with the U.S. Defense Department — something U.S. officials deny.

The men are being tried in Afghanistan and face up to 20 years in jail if convicted on charges that also include kidnapping.

The lawyers declined Wednesday to comment on what evidence they could present showing the defendants had official backing, in a possibly decisive court session expected on Sunday.

But they urged U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad to join them in asking for the charges to be dropped. They said the case was too complex for Afghan legal officials to handle.

Court sessions since July 21 have been chaotic because of sloppy procedures, inaccurate translation and constant interruptions from the dock by Idema.

Robert Fogelnest, a New York-based attorney representing Caraballo, a TV journalist, said he and a lawyer for Idema had written to Khalilzad but received no response.

"If he makes the request, we have every reason to believe it would be honored," Fogelnest told reporters in Kabul.

Idema has claimed that he was hot on the trail of bin Laden, whose capture carries a $50 million bounty, and other top terrorists. He says the FBI wanted him stopped because he was showing them up.

In the videotape, a man who identifies himself as Ghulam Saki says his brother-in-law was sent by the Taliban to work at the al-Qaida leader's militant training camps.

According to the lawyers, the brother-in-law became bin Laden's security chief.

It is unclear what period Saki, who was detained in June, was talking about. The Taliban were ousted in late 2001. In the video, Saki agreed to ask his brother-in-law to help find bin Laden, in return for help in enabling his family to emigrate to the United States.

Prompted by questions from Idema, he also discussed a plot to attack two Afghan ministers prominent in the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance.

Lawyers already played a tape in court showing Saki describing how he was paid to commit acts of terrorism. Saki, who was seated in the courtroom, told reporters his confession was false and that he'd been tortured.

Bell: War uncertainties delay troop movements

At least 2 years until U.S. moves, general says

"Whenever there is a choice to be made about moving a unit or its services being needed in combat, that unit will go to war."

Gen. B.B. Bell
Commander
U.S. Army Europe

BY JON R. ANDERSON
Stars and Stripes

HEIDELBERG, Germany — The Army's top commander in Europe said unexpected turns in Iraq and Afghanistan scrubbed the military's original timeliness to reposition forces in Europe back to the United States.

Last month, President Bush unveiled plans for the biggest drawdown of overseas basing in a decade, announcing that some 70,000 troops and 100,000 family members in Europe and Asia would be relocated to bases in the United States over the next 10 years.

Those moves probably won't start for at least two years, said Gen. B.B. Bell, commander of U.S. Army Europe.

Much of the move is expected to revolve around the Germany-based 1st Infantry and 1st Armored divisions. But when asked which units would be the first to relocate, Bell said the ongoing wars make it too hard to say at this point.

"I would have loved to have answered that question six months ago and probably could have if some of the thoughts we had on rotations into Afghanistan and Iraq had followed a path of declining force levels," Bell told Stars and Stripes.

But the shift in plans underscores the challenges military leaders are facing as they try to balance two wars with the desire to embark on a wholesale redesign of the Army.

Order of march

Last year, reports said that 1st AD troops would begin moving to the United States within six months of their return from duty in Iraq. Now, Bell said, the order in which units will be restationed will be based largely on how things develop in the combat zones.

"The order of march of any unit that could be withdrawn from here," said Bell, "is a function of which unit we need to go back to a short-tour war effort. Dependent on when they're not needed is when they'll go back [to the States]."

Officials have not announced war rotation plans beyond next year, but have said force levels will likely remain the same, with more than 150,000 troops split between Iraq and Afghanistan.

In practical terms, that means most of the Army's war fighting formations are now facing one-year-on/one-year-off rotations into the combat zones. The Italy-based 173rd Airborne Brigade, for example, returned from Iraq in March and is now preparing to take over duties in Afghanistan early next spring.

In fact, just about every combat unit in the Army is facing a similar tempo, and somehow, relocating tens of thousands of troops and families to new bases has to be squeezed in.

"If you want to do this right — deliberately — with respect to the people involved and fight the global war on terror, this is going to take awhile," Bell said. "You can't do one or the other without impacting the other, unless you do this deliberately over time."

That means moves back to the United States won't even begin for another two to three years, at the earliest, Bell said.

"We are fighting a war for our nation's survival," said Bell. "That war will be our first and foremost priority. Whenever there is a choice to be made about moving a unit or its services being needed in combat, that unit will go to war. We can't do both simultaneously."

Rebalancing

Before any units are relocated, however, some will be disbanded altogether. That process has already begun with the deactivation of 1st Armored Divisions air defense battalion last month. When 1st Infantry Division returns from Iraq, its ADA battalion will be cut as well.

"Some of that will continue apace," Bell said. "I would expect one or two other units to be impacted in rebalancing next summer in addition to [1st ID's air defense battalion].

"How those units will be reinvested, how those numbers will add up to affect USAREUR, I don't know yet; but there will be a rebalancing, minor but real, next summer."

Further out, Bell said, his own headquarters will merge with V Corps, to create a single "USAREUR & Task Force 5."

"We're essentially taking a layer out," said Bell. "It will work more efficiently than the stacked way we are now."

BRAC concerns

Military and congressional leaders have to figure out where to move the Europe-based units, but first, officials will decide where they won't go. The next round of stateside base realignment and closures, known as BRAC, is slated to begin next year.

Military leaders want to cut scores of bases they say are no longer needed, and "nothing will be done on any of this until the BRAC process plays itself out," Bell said.

"As soon as we get through BRAC, the guys at the Pentagon and we will look as carefully as we can at which rotations what division will be in and when it would make sense to begin a move."

In the meantime, he said, new facilities in the United States will have to be built or at least improved to handle the influx of troops and families.

"Before I let a unit out of here, I want to know about the schools the kids are going to. I want to know about the facilities the units are moving into," he said. "I don't want them to move into [a] lousy environment where this will be a bad deal for them."

The new USAREUR

While hearings on base closures are under way in the States, Bell said, he expects to be spending much of his time discussing with local leaders which bases will remain in Germany while also looking to expand the Army's presence in Italy, eastern Europe and Africa.

Bell's 62,000 troops in Europe are spread out among more than 200 installations, mostly clustered in some 15 communities. And most of those are in Germany.

Within the next 10 years, Bell said, the Army will be left with "more than 20,000 but less than 30,000" troops based in Europe. All of those will be "accompanied tours" with soldiers living in Europe with their families.

They'll live in about five main community hubs. Three of those he knows for sure:

■ Kaiserslautern — Military officials have long said no matter what happens, they want to keep Ramstein Air Base as a main operating base. Bell said the Army's presence adjacent to Ramstein will be part of that. "The Kaiserslautern area is paramount for us. Today, the support units for U.S. Army Europe are located in the Kaiserslautern area. They're physically partnered with the Ramstein Air Base so that we can take advantage of that great hub," Bell said. The Army's Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, jointly manned with the Air Force, near Ramstein will also remain.

■ Grafenwöhr/Hohenfels — The Army's training complex in eastern Germany split between Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels is "vital to our future," Bell said. One of the Army's new Stryker brigades will be based there to take advantage of the live-fire ranges and maneuver area.

■ Northern Italy — 173rd Airborne Brigade and its parent command, the Southern European Task Force, are based in Vicenza, Italy. Bell said he's already negotiating with the Italians to find room to put a third airborne battalion and additional support units there. "We'll need additional room in Italy to accommodate the larger-size brigade combat team," Bell said.

"Other locations where we might stay because it just make sense," Bell said, "I have not really worked yet."

Still, the coming transition will not be easy.

"I'll tell you this is hard government work to make sure we take care of our soldiers and our families and our civilian employees with dignity and respect and honor," Bell said. "But we can do that."

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M. TRENT LOWRY/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Last year, many 1st Armored Division troops, above casing their colors at Baghdad International Airport in July, were reportedly told their unit would rotate back to the States after their Iraq deployment ended. Those plans were put on hold, says U.S. Army Europe commander Gen. B.B. Bell, as the war on terror continues.

No place like home, but it might not be Kansas

Conventional wisdom says the 1st Infantry Division will go back to its original home of Fort Riley, Kan. After all, that's where one of its three brigades is already stationed.

But the commander of U.S. Army forces in Europe says don't bet on it. At least not yet.

"If anybody believes that's a given, it's because they want it to happen," said Gen. B.B. Bell. "I can absolutely guarantee you that the leadership of the United States has not made any calls on where anything is going. They can't. The laws are clear."

That's because the upcoming base realignment and closure process, or BRAC, hasn't started yet, and it's a political fight where military leaders are reluctant to get in the middle.

Still, Bell offers some simple insight on where he thinks his units should go.

"I would say put armor units where armor units can train best," Bell said.

"I would tell you that our ability to deploy, with the infrastructure in the United States, is pretty good. Air, rail, sea — you can get around. We built the interstate system with [Defense Department] funds with the whole idea of having internal lines of communication. The issue is put them where they can train."

— Jon R. Anderson

PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Above: Capt. Oliver Soria, of Davis, Calif., and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, rips into a sandwich at last year's Bad Dürkheim Wurstmarkt. This year's festival starts Friday.
Left: The rides and games are a big part of the Dürkheimer-Wurstmarkt, but the heart and soul is probably the picnic benches, where friends gather to drink locally-made wine and have fun.

Always a good time at Germany wine festival

Historic annual gathering offers visitors wine, food and a friendly environment

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

BAD DÜRKHEIM, Germany — Leave your car windows open and you can smell the grapes while driving down the road.

There's a good reason why it's called the "Deutsche Weinstrasse," or German wine road. A drive on Route 271 south from Autobahn 6 not only bisects fields of vineyards; it leads to Bad Dürkheim, home of the annual Bad Dürkheim Wurstmarkt, which starts Friday.

The name "Wurstmarkt" is misleading. Yes, there is plenty of sausage sizzling on the grills, as well as other foods. But the sausage market is more of a wine market.

By far the dominant feature is the rows of pavilions under which hundreds of picnic tables and benches are occupied by thousands of people drinking wine.

The Wurstmarkt is not a drunken mess, though.

"Everyone's been really cool and the atmosphere is great," Air Force Staff Sgt. Michael Walker of the 568th Security Forces Squadron, Ramstein Air Base, said at last year's festival.

"It seems different than festivals in the States where you don't ever see alcohol served. It's all Coca-Cola and candy."

After the grape casts its magic in Bad Dürkheim, the result is a sea of genuinely happy people with great glows on their faces. Occasionally, a drunken teen will harmlessly lurch through the crowd, bumping his way through, bottle in hand.

But the Germans are good at handling their wine; the Bad Dürkheim Wurstmarkt, after all, has had more than 570 years to practice.

"Everyone's in such a good mood and relaxed," Walker said at the fest last year.

"I've been here for two hours and I haven't seen anybody get mad. Everyone's just very cool about it."

The carnival rides, vendors, and midway games and lights make it feel a little bit like an old-fashioned county fair in the United States.

A word of warning, though: On Friday and Saturday nights the midway can become so crowded that it is literally impossible to move; like gridlock on the autobahn, and you can just stand and wait for things to get moving again.

There is a park next to the festival grounds, which is a good place to take a load off. The adjacent downtown area is typically German: quaint with narrow streets, pedestrian malls, old buildings and charming cafes.

The wine is served in thick, half-liter glasses with emblems from the various wineries.

Many of the Germans drink a combination of half-wine and half-sparking water, which is a good way to both beat the heat and protect oneself from overindulging.

"The French turn their noses up to water and wine," Army Capt. Oliver Soria of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center noted at last year's fest.

"But after you taste it, it's very good."

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Messages of Support

You give of yourselves for the cause of freedom in a dangerous world. Americans have been given greatness and benefits the world only dreams of. That gift comes through history from each and every American military person who, from the Revolutionary War of 1776, to the present conflict, has paid the price for our greatness - both to accomplish it and to protect it. Godspeed your safe return to your families and countrymen.Husband, father, grandfather and very grateful American

Hanscom AFB plans

BOSTON — In a bid to prevent the Pentagon from closing Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, officials unveiled a plan Wednesday for expanding the base into a high-tech military research hub. The Massachusetts Defense Technology Initiative, a public-private consortium, presented the plan to a committee of four town officials from neighboring Bedford, Lexington, Concord and Lincoln.

The base is a perfect location for military research because of nearby intellectual centers, such as universities and military contractors, said MassDTI spokesman Alan Macdonald. "Our argument is that we have something unique here: This is one of the premier technology clusters relevant to the technology mission of the military," he said.

From The Associated Press

DOD blamed when troops duped by financial scams

Lawmakers point finger at Pentagon during bill hearing

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon shares the blame for companies swindling servicemembers, two lawmakers said Thursday during a congressional hearing on a bill aimed at banning the sale of certain types of mutual funds and life insurance on military bases.

"The [Department of Defense] needs to be called on the carpet for this," said Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite, R-Fla. "Why are they not abiding by their own rule, that being 1344.7? What I think they're doing is a wink-and-a-nod approach to this, and that's just wrong. The DOD let them down by letting [servicemembers] be captive audiences. … The DOD has a lot of answering to do. It's absolutely shameful."

The cited regulation states, in part, that solicitors are permitted to pitch products so long as they are licensed and are allowed on bases by installation commanders.

Commanders are prohibited from "solicitation of recruits, trainees, and transient personnel in a 'mass' or 'captive' audience, making appointments with or soliciting military personnel who are in an 'on-duty' status, [and] soliciting without appointment in areas utilized for the housing or processing of transient personnel, in barracks areas used as quarters, in unit areas, in family quarters areas, and in areas provided by installation commanders for interviews by appointment."

These provisions are regularly violated, Brown-Waite said.

The DOD could not provide comment by press time.

Army Spc. Brandon Conger, 20, testified that he lost $2,000 when he invested in a mutual fund through American Amicable Life Insurance of Texas.

In his third week of basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., Conger said his drill sergeants assembled his platoon to meet with "financial advisers," and those drill sergeants even encouraged the young solders to make "the good investment" and that they'd "make lots of money," he said.

"The experience was a disappointing ordeal for me and my fellow soldiers. Not because I lost money, but because of the misrepresentation of a former soldier who used his contact to gain the trust of young soldiers," said Conger, now with 2nd Battalion, 325th Aviation Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Some companies hire military retirees who then pass themselves off as financial advisers — as opposed to salespeople — and convince young members to buy services they can't afford, don't need or offer such little value for the high premiums that they no longer are sold on the commercial market, witnesses and lawmakers said.

The Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises of the House Financial Services Committee held a hearing Thursday to address a bill introduced by Rep. Max Burns, R-Ga., that would ban the sale of questionable financial products such as life insurance and mutual funds on military bases, both in the United States and overseas.

Beyond laying blame on the insurance companies, which lawmakers and witness labeled as "a few bad apples" in the business, Rep. David Scott, D-Ga., joined Brown-Waite in blaming the military for failing to protect the typical victim, the young, unassuming servicemember with a median age of 24 years and earning less than $30,000 a year.

"There's an apparent collusion going on within the military itself," Scott said.

"It's shameful that these unscrupulous, shall we say insurance agents, are allowed to go into barracks [to speak] to confused soldiers under pressure, training and preparing to go overseas to risk their lives, and they are swamped with very complex financial details, life insurance and contractual plans. … What is so disturbing is that these are veterans taking advantage of young enlisted men."

Industry representatives also testified in support of Burns' bill to an extent, but warned that language that is too broad could hurt companies who do provide legitimate and appropriate services.

Lawmakers and industry representatives said the military should provide better financial education to troops, letting them know that a young member with no dependents doesn't need long-term life insurance, for example.

Commanders keep lists of solicitors banned from their bases, but rarely share those with other base commanders, officials added.

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Senator introduces bill to establish unified command for military intel

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Georgia Republican Sen. Saxby Chambliss introduced a bill Wednesday to create a unified combatant command for military intelligence, a measure that complements a law proposed Tuesday by senators from both sides of the aisle to create a national intelligence director.

The proposed bills are in line with recommendations proposed by the commission created to investigate the U.S. government's response to Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"We need to make the national intelligence director as effective as possible while ensuring our military men and women get the best intelligence possible when they are risking their lives to protect our freedoms," Chambliss, who sits on the Senate Intelligence and Armed Forces committees, said in a statement.

If passed, Chambliss' bill would increase to 11 the number of unified combatant commands within the Defense Department.

Chambliss' proposal is one that has yet to be studied by the Pentagon's leadership, spokesman Bryan Whitman said.

"I haven't seen the proposal and as far as I'm aware, that hasn't been given any sort of study with respect to that."

A commander of military intelligence would:

■ Represent the Defense Department in the intelligence community under the direction of the National Intelligence Director.

■ Carry out intelligence collection and analysis activities in response to requests from the National Intelligence Director.

■ Prepare and submit to the Defense Secretary and the National Intelligence Director recommendations and budget proposals for military intelligence forces and activities.

■ Establish priorities for military intelligence in harmony with national priorities established by the National Intelligence Director and approved by the president.

■ Ensure the interoperability of intelligence sharing within the DOD and within the intelligence community as a whole, as directed by the National Intelligence Director.

■ Respond to intelligence requirements levied by the National Intelligence Director.

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PHOTOS BY SEAN E. COBB/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

German navy Bundeswehr members check identification before allowing entry at Spangdahlem Air Base's old main gate. The German navy took over gate control duties at the Germany base from the German army Bundeswehr on Thursday.

Spangdahlem guard duty transfers from German army to navy

BY MARNI MCENTEE
Stars and Stripes

Members of the German navy began guarding Spangdahlem Air Base's gates and perimeter on Thursday, taking over from German army forces.

The German army has been on duty at the base since February 2003, a base spokesman said. About 100 navy members will be on duty 24 hours a day for at least three months, living and taking their meals on the installation, said Col. Tom Groznik, vice commander of Spangdahlem's 52nd Fighter Wing.

The new forces hail from Kiel, Germany, on the Baltic Sea. They come aboard as roughly 1,000 U.S. Air Force members at Spangdahlem are deploying for at least four months as part of the next Aerospace Expeditionary Force rotation.

A number of Spangdahlem's deployed troops are members of the 52nd Security Forces Squadron.

"We're engaged in a war against terrorism and we always have a large percentage of security forces members deployed downrange," Groznik said Thursday. "They [German forces] are a wonderful help to backfill our folks that are downrange and help us maintain security here."

The German military offered the troops to boost security forces at Spangdahlem, as well as air bases at Ramstein and Sembach, Germany, since shortly after Sept. 11, 2001.

"We're very grateful," Groznik said. "We try to make it a good experience for them and for us."

A German navy Bundeswehr sailor adjusts his G-36 rifle before the start of a change of responsibility ceremony Thursday.

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IN THE STATES

Memos: Bush didn't meet standards of Texas Guard

Newly released files reveal Bush also ignored direct order

BY PETE YOST
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Addressing questions that have lingered for years, newly unearthed memos state that George W. Bush failed to meet standards of the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam war, that he refused a direct order and that his superiors were in a state of turmoil over how to evaluate his performance after he was suspended from flying.

One military official "is pushing to sugar coat it," one memo says of a proposed evaluation of Bush.

"On this date I ordered that 1st Lt. Bush be suspended from flight status due to failure to perform to USAF/TexANG standards and failure to meet annual physical examination … as ordered," says an Aug. 1, 1972 memo by a superior officer, Lt. Col. Jerry Killian, who is now dead. Killian said in the memo that he wanted a formal inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the flight suspension. No records have surfaced that one was ever conducted.

"I conveyed my verbal orders to commander," Killian's memo stated.

The same memo notes that Bush was trying to transfer to non-flying status out of state and recommends that the Texas unit fill his slot "with a more seasoned pilot from the list of qualified Vietnam pilots that have rotated."

The Vietnam-era documents add details to the bare-bones explanation of Bush's aides over the years that he was suspended simply because he decided to skip his flight physical.

The White House said in February that it had released all records of Bush's service, but one of Killian's memos stated it was "for record" and another directing Bush to take the physical exam stated that it was "for 1st Lt. George W. Bush."

"I can't explain why that wouldn't be in his record, but they were found in Jerry Killian's personal records," White House communications director Dan Bartlett told CBS's "60 Minutes II," which first obtained the memos.

Democratic Party chairman Terry McAuliffe said, "George W.Bush's cover story on his National Guard service is rapidly unraveling. … George W. Bush needs to answer why he regularly misled the American people about his time in the Guard ...,' " Bartlett told CBS.

Using only last names, one of the newly disclosed documents points to sharp disagreement among Bush's superiors in Texas over how to evaluate his performance for the period from mid-1972 through mid-1973.

"Staudt has obviously pressured Hodges more about Bush," Killian wrote on Aug. 18, 1973. "I'm having trouble running interference and doing my job — Harris gave me a message today from Grp regarding Bush's OETR and Staudt is pushing to sugar coat it.

Bush wasn't here during rating period and I don't have any comments from 187th in Alabama. I will not rate." Grp refers to a military unit and OETR stands for officer efficiency training report.

The memo concludes: "Harris took the call from Grp today. I'll backdate but won't rate. Harris agrees."

At the time, Walter B. Staudt was commander of the Texas National Guard; Lt. Col. Bobby Hodges was one of Bush's superiors in Texas who two years earlier had rated Bush an outstanding young pilot; and Lt. Col. William D. Harris Jr. was another superior of Bush's.

AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., is greeted by supporters Thursday in Des Moines, Iowa.

Kerry tackles health care

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said Thursday that President Bush has failed to hold down increasing health care costs during his four years in office, citing a new report that showed a double-digit increase in insurance premiums for the fourth year in a row.

"Health care just has this unlimited ability to keep going up every year, and people can't keep up with it. President Bush for four years has had an opportunity to try to deal with this, and he has no plan at all," Kerry said.

"In fact, he's been busy losing people's coverage."

Kerry also pointed to a record increase in Medicare premiums while he talked about health care with several hundred voters at a medical center in Iowa. Democrat Al Gore captured the state's seven electoral votes in 2000 by less than 5,000 votes.

Robert Blendon, a health policy expert at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, said polls show that Iowa's relatively older population ranks health care higher in importance this election year than many other states.

"In Iowa, this will be important," Blendon said.

The nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation reported that employer-sponsored family health care premiums grew 11.2 percent for the year ending last spring. That was the fourth straight year of double-digit increases, though it was down from the 13.9 percent of the previous year.

At he same time, the percentage of workers receiving health care from their employer fell from 65 percent in 2001 to 61 percent in 2004.

Kerry says he wants to help more businesses offer health care by requiring the federal government pick up 75 percent of catastrophic health care costs, a plan the campaign estimates will lower premiums 10 percent on average.

He would give small businesses a tax credit to help employers bear the rising cost of health insurance.

People told to leave Florida Keys

MIAMI — Tourists and residents were told Thursday they will have to leave the Florida Keys to avoid mighty Hurricane Ivan, even as the state still struggled with the misery left by Hurricanes Frances and Charley.

Forecasters said Ivan — which strengthened early Thursday to 160 mph — could reach the island chain as soon as Sunday, making it the third hurricane to hit Florida in a month.

Charley struck southwestern Florida on Aug. 13 with 145 mph wind, causing an estimated $6.8 billion in damage and 27 deaths.

Frances hit the state's eastern coast early Sunday with 105 mph wind, leaving $2 billion to $4 billion in insured damage and at least 15 dead in the state.

Gov. Jeb Bush said the state had no choice but to go through another round of preparations.

From The Associated Press

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Fear of terrorist attack lingers, poll shows

BY WILL LESTER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans today are as fearful of becoming victims of terrorism as they are of losing their jobs or having their homes burglarized.

Almost all of the people questioned in an Associated Press poll say they remember what they were doing when they learned about the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon — and seven in 10 say those memories are among their most vivid.

Such a highly charged atmosphere could play to the advantage of President Bush, who counts his handling of terrorism as a leading strength.

Those who were worried about another terrorist attack, including women with those concerns, were more likely to support the president. Those who were less worried were more likely to support Democrat John Kerry.

Almost four in 10 in an Associated Press poll say they sometimes worry about the possibility of another terrorist attack — about the same number who worry about getting burglarized or losing a job.

In a measure of the trauma of Sept. 11, the AP-Ipsos poll found that 98 percent remember exactly what they were doing three years ago when hijackers flew jetliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, killing almost 3,000.

Those memories can resurface with the most routine cues — a plane flying overhead, a siren from a passing ambulance or news about the ongoing war in Iraq.

"I hardly go to Manhattan any more," said Andre Garcia, a 20-year-old student from the Bronx borough of New York City. "I don't call it a fear, I call it 'me being safe.' I don't want to be over there when it happens."

Dawn Davis, a 40-year-old working mother in rural Arkansas, remembers hearing about the attacks that day, turning on the television and staying glued to the set for the rest of the day, watching the Twin Towers collapse, people falling to their deaths, pedestrians fleeing in the streets.

"I just stayed on the couch, crying all day," she said. Now when she hears a plane go overhead, she sometimes thinks, "It could be a plane ready to bomb where we live."

For most, the dominant feeling about that day was deep anger that anyone would commit such an act against this country, the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs found. Republicans and Democrats were equally likely to say they felt that way.

Juan Jose Torres, a 32-year-old eighth-grade teacher from Laredo, Texas, says that after the attacks his students overwhelmed him with questions he couldn't answer.

"I had to admit I didn't know what was going on," Torres said. "I just freaked out.

"The memory pops up from time to time," he said. "If I hear a siren, the first thing I think of is 9/11. If somebody screams, I think about 9/11."

Women were more likely than men to worry about being victimized by terrorists, but they were also more likely to worry about other things such as a burglary or having a car accident.

Heather Rojo, a 26-year-old wife and mother from Pierre, S.D., says she feels insulated from terrorism now, after feeling threatened when she and her husband lived in Orange County, Calif.

"The times the worry pops up with me is when we fly a couple of times a year," she said. "I actually have chosen to drive instead of flying."

When people are asked who they blame for the terrorist attacks, they are most likely to name the terrorists themselves, but seven in 10 said they think the CIA deserves some blame. Almost that many fault the FBI and airline security.

Only one in five of those who worry about a terrorist attack say it affects how they live.

For Tony Volpitta, a 34-year-old father of three daughters from Curtis, Ohio, it's more of a nagging fear about the future.

"I just hope I can watch them graduate," Volpitta said of his daughters. "I hope we're not all on the run like in 'Terminator.' "

The AP-Ipsos poll of 1,000 adults was conducted Aug. 27-29 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

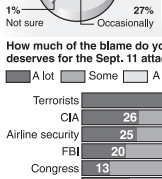
POLL

Memories of Sept. 11 persist

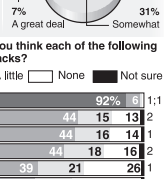
The events of Sept. 11, 2001, are etched in the minds of an overwhelming majority of people polled, and many worry about being victimized by terrorism.

Do you remember where you were and what you were doing when you first learned of terrorist attacks?

How often do you worry about becoming a victim of terrorism?



How concerned are you that your family might become a victim of a terrorist attack?



How much of the blame do you think each of the following deserves for the Sept. 11 attacks?

NOTE: Poll taken between Aug. 27-29; 1,000 adults; margin of error ±3.1

SOURCE: Ipsos-Public Affairs for AP

Post-Sept. 11 illnesses won't appear for years, doctors say

BY DEVLIN BARRETT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A patchwork of post-Sept. 11 health screening programs will not detect increases in more serious, long-term illnesses such as cancer, experts told Congress Wednesday.

Doctors and government investigators told a House subcommittee it could take decades to detect all the health woes stemming from the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack and subsequent cleanup around New York's World Trade Center.

The two most common conditions found so far are lung damage and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The government is currently funding six separate health screening programs to monitor those who came into contact with dust from ground zero in New York. Each program is run separately; none are funded beyond 2009.

Dr. Stephen Levin, who heads Mount Sinai Medical Center's Sept. 11 health screening program, said that timeframe would not catch any cancers caused as a result of exposure.

"In this witches' brew of airborne materials found at and near ground zero were a number of carcinogens, including asbestos and the ... cancer-causing chemicals in tobacco smoke," said Levin.

The doctor said about half of the first responders reporting symptoms 10 months after the attacks suffered from at least one lung problem, like wheezing, cough, or shortness of breath. An equally high rate were still showing signs of psychological distress, Levin said.

The Department of Health and Human Services coordinates much of the current health screening, but doesn't have even a basic estimate of the number of victims, said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y.

"How many people are still suffering or still sick?" she asked.

"I'm not sure anyone could give you an exact figure," answered Dr. John Howard, director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

Howard said new estimates expected later this week could provide a better sense of the scope of Sept. 11-related health problems.

NASA picks up pieces of crashed capsule in Utah desert

BY PAUL FOY
The Associated Press

DUGWAY PROVING GROUND, Utah — Scientists with tweezers picked through the twisted wreckage of a space capsule that crash-landed on Earth, hoping that microscopic clues to the evolution of the solar system weren't completely lost in Utah's salt flats.

NASA engineers were stunned Wednesday when neither parachute deployed aboard the Genesis capsule and the craft plummeted to the ground at 193 mph, breaking open like a clamshell and exposing its collection of solar atoms to contamination.

"There was a big pit in my stomach," said physicist Roger Wiens of Los Alamos National Laboratory. "This just wasn't supposed to happen. We're going to have a lot of work picking up the pieces."

The capsule held billions of charged atoms that were harvested from solar wind on five collecting disks during the 884-day, $260-million mission.

Roy Haggard, who took part in the initial reconnaissance of the capsule, said the capsule's shell had been breached about three inches and the science canister inside appeared to have a small break.

The inner canister was flown to the Army's air field at the proving ground and put in a clean room, a work area in which the air quality, temperature and humidity are highly regulated to prevent contamination.

The reconstruction was expected to take several days, and scientists were hopeful they could salvage the embedded atoms among the twisted platters of exotic metals and silicone.

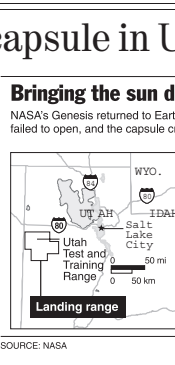
"This is something that's not a total disaster," said Carlton Allen, astromaterials curator for the Houston-based Johnson Space Center. "We didn't lose all the science in the crash."

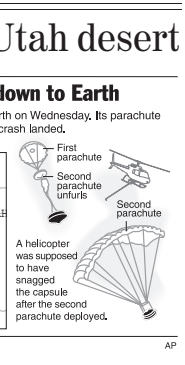
NASA planned to appoint a "mishap review board" to determine a cause for the failure. Flight engineers say a set of tiny explosives didn't trigger the capsule's parachutes, although the fact that all explosives failed pointed to another cause.

The spacecraft was designed and built by Lockheed Martin Space Systems. Robert Corwin, an engineer for the company, said a battery that overheated shortly after the 2001 launch could be a culprit.

Bringing the sun down to Earth

NASA's Genesis returned to Earth on Wednesday. Its parachute failed to open, and the capsule crash landed.





SOURCE: NASA AP

War Is Tough on Families

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

You can count on the American Red Cross to help you wherever you go. Whether you're at sea, or on an installation, we can help your loved ones back home get messages to you, or from you, in case of emergency. We can also help you through counseling and other needed assistance.

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

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

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

American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

IN THE WORLD

AP

A police officer controls a crowd following a blast outside the Australian Embassy on Thursday in Jakarta, Indonesia, killing at least nine people. The embassy is the white building directly behind the police officer.

Blast at Australian Embassy in Jakarta kills 9, wounds 160

BY CHRIS BRUMMITT
The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Suspected al-Qaida-linked militants detonated a car bomb outside the Australian Embassy in Jakarta Thursday, killing nine people and wounding 160 in a devastating strike on a key U.S. ally in the war in Iraq.

The bombing — the first attack linked to regional terror group Jemaah Islamiyah in more than a year — could affect upcoming Australian elections, in which Prime Minister John Howard is running on a pro-American, anti-terror platform in a tight race.

The blast, which left body parts and bloody corpses strewn across the busy thoroughfare, also was a reminder of the continuing threat of terrorism in the world's most populous Muslim nation despite a slew of arrests and convictions.

It came less than a week after Washington and Canberra upgraded long-standing travel warnings to their citizens in Indonesia, citing an increased risk of terror attacks by militants on Western targets.

No one inside the heavily fortified building was killed, although several Australian, Greek and Chinese citizens were wounded in the attack, which occurred two days before the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, strikes in the United States.

Jemaah Islamiyah also has been blamed for the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, including 88 Australians, and an Aug. 5, 2003, suicide bombing at the JW Marriott hotel, located a few blocks from the site of Thursday's blast.

Australia is a key regional supporter of Washington's war on terrorism and sent 2,000 troops to participate in the Iraq invasion, which remains deeply unpopular in Indonesia. It still has more than 850 military personnel stationed in or around Iraq.

Howard is facing criticism in the campaign over his decision to join Washington in the Iraq war, which his opponents say has made Australia more vulnerable to terror attacks.

"This is not a nation that is going to be intimidated by acts of terrorism," Howard told reporters in Australia.

Analysts were divided on how the blasts would affect Australia's Oct. 9 federal election. Howard is considered stronger on national security than his Labor challenger, Mark Latham — who has pledged to bring most of the Australian troops in Iraq home before Christmas — and may benefit from the perception that Australia is under attack.

Six dead in British military helo crash in Czech Republic

BY KAREL JANICEK
The Associated Press

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — A British military helicopter crashed Thursday in the Czech Republic, killing all six British soldiers on board, a spokesman for the Czech Defense Ministry said.

The Lynx helicopter crashed around 1 p.m. near Namest nad Oslavou, 110 miles southeast of Prague, spokesman Andrej Cirtek said.

The soldiers were in the Czech Republic for a Czech-British military exercise dubbed Flying Rhino, he said.

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash, Cirtek said, adding that the exercise was put on hold following the accident.

The helicopter crashed in an uninhabited valley, and rescue workers found six bodies on the scene, said Jan Sedlak, the head of the regional rescue service. Part of the helicopter had been burned, while the other part was submerged in a creek, Sedlak said.

Czech Air Force spokeswoman Sabina Introvicova said six people were aboard the helicopter when it crashed and that there were no survivors. Ingrid Ludvikova, a spokeswoman for the British Embassy in Prague, confirmed that all six were members of the British military.

Czech emergency services and a British forces team were "on the ground dealing with the situation and establishing details right now," British embassy spokesman Peter Wickenden said.

British forces were investigating why the helicopter crashed, he added.

The exercise, which began Monday and had been set to continue until Sept. 17, involved scenarios in which pilots would search for ground targets and simulate attacks from the air. It was unclear what the Lynx was doing when it crashed.

Some 450 British soldiers were involved in the exercise, Introvicova said. She said some were based in Britain and others in Germany, but had no details.

G8 officials discuss Iran nukes

The Associated Press

GENEVA — With pressure building to curb Iran's nuclear program, top disarmament officials from major countries gathered Thursday for two days of meetings that the United States says will focus on Tehran in the campaign to stop the spread of atomic weapons.

The Group of Eight session comes as threats mount to haul Iran before the U.N. Security Council unless it renounces uranium enrichment, which the United States and other countries say will lead to nuclear weapons.

The discussions will give the officials a chance to sort out differences over the approach to next week's meeting of the board of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which could trigger Security Council action.

U.S. Undersecretary of State John R. Bolton, a leading critic of Iran, is hosting the Geneva session with his counterparts from Russia, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan, who were holding separate consultations following their arrival Thursday.

Stars and Stripes Messages of Support

My best wishes for you to go and kick some butt and help the Iraqi people. You are doing an awesome job!! Keep your spirits up and know that the American people are behind you. We have a great commander-in-chief,Pres.Bush. Thank you, Kris from Ohio

I would like to take a moment and tell all the troops in Iraq to keep up the good work and don't pay any mine to the news it is a election year and they will do any thing to put a twist on what you have done in order to make the candidate that they don't support look bad. I was over there earlier this year and I know the job you all are doing and the challenges you all face. My entire family supports you and your mission we come from along line of military service. I wish I could be back over there and working along aside you all. Thank You & God Bless You All. G. C.Borah Jr. Air National Guard

To all our Troops, Thank You for everything that you are doing to preserve our freedom. The Young Family Brighton, Colorado USA

Read Stripes online at

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EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy with rainshowers late in the day. Highs in the upper 70s; Saturday lows in the mid 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the upper 60s to mid 70s; Saturday lows in the lower to upper 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 70s; Saturday lows in the lower 50s.

France: Mostly cloudy with rainshowers in the north. Partly cloudy in the south. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s; Saturday lows in the lower 50s to mid 60s.

Northern Germany: Sunny to mostly cloudy with rainshowers in the morning. Highs in the lower 70s to lower 80s; Saturday lows in the mid to upper 50s.

Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy with rainshowers in the morning. Highs in the mid to upper 70s; Saturday lows in the upper 40s to mid 50s.

Hungary: Sunny. Highs in the mid 60s; Saturday lows in the lower 40s.

Northern Italy: Mostly to partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s to mid 80s; Saturday lows in the lower 50s to lower 60s.

Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s; Saturday lows in the upper 50s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s; Saturday lows in the lower 50s.

Norway: Partly to mostly cloudy with rainshowers. Highs in the upper 60s to lower 70s; Saturday lows in the upper 40s to mid 50s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy with scattered rainshowers in central Spain and rainshowers and thunderstorms along the southern coast. Highs in the lower to upper 80s; Saturday lows in the upper 50s to upper 70s.

Turkey: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s to lower 90s; Saturday lows in the mid 50s 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	73	48	Mogadishu	86	74
Dakar	89	79	Rabat	85	64
Freetown	85	74	Tripoli	92	66
Kinshasa	84	69			

THE WORLD

	HI	LO		HI	LO
Amsterdam	75	55	Manila	90	75
Bahrain	102	81	Mexico City	67	55
Beijing	84	57	Montreal	68	52
Beirut	85	75	Riyadh	111	80
Bermuda	87	77	Rio de. Jan	84	67
Caracas	93	79	Seoul	82	64
Helsinki	68	52	Sofia	63	38
Hong Kong	87	80	Sydney	69	52
Lisbon	80	61	Tokyo	85	69

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:43 AM	6:44 AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	6:54 AM	6:56 AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	7:16 PM	7:15 PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	7:50 PM	7:48 PM

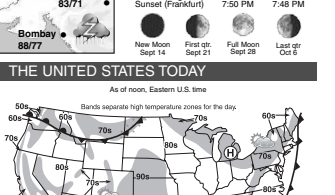
New Moon Sept 14 · First qtr. Sept 21 · Full Moon Sept 28 · Last qtr Oct 6

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

	Hi	Lo	Otlk
Abilene,Tex.	87	62	PCldy
Akron,Ohio	74	54	PCldy
Albany,N.Y.	76	54	PCldy
Albuquerque	87	62	Cld
Allentown,Pa.	79	58	PCldy
Amarillo	87	56	Clr
Anchorage	59	42	Cldy
Asheville	78	59	PCldy
Atlanta	85	67	PCldy
Atlantic City	81	65	PCldy
Austin	92	64	Clr
Baltimore	81	63	PCldy
Baton Rouge	90	69	Clr
Billings	78	52	PCldy
Birmingham	90	65	Clr
Bismarck	80	52	Cldy
Boise	86	57	Clr
Boston	81	61	Cldy
Bridgeport	80	62	PCldy
Brownsville	90	73	PCldy
Buffalo	74	55	PCldy
Burlington,Vt.	71	53	Cldy
Caribou,Maine	64	45	Rain
Casper	85	49	Clr
Charleston,S.C.	87	72	PCldy
Charleston,W.Va.	76	52	PCldy
Charlotte,N.C.	84	63	PCldy
Chattanooga	86	62	Clr
Cheyenne	86	50	Clr
Chicago	79	59	Clr
Cincinnati	79	58	Clr
Cleveland	73	55	PCldy
Colorado Springs	84	49	PCldy
Columbia,S.C.	88	68	PCldy
Columbus,Ga.	90	68	PCldy
Columbus,Ohio	77	56	Clr
Concord,N.H.	74	52	Cldy
Corpus Christi	90	71	PCldy
Dallas-Ft.Worth	87	60	Clr
Dayton	78	56	Clr
Daytona Beach	87	75	PCldy
Denver	91	52	Clr
Des Moines	85	62	Clr
Detroit	77	57	Clr
Duluth	73	54	PCldy
El Paso	90	62	Clr
Elkins	75	54	PCldy
Erie	69	54	PCldy
Eugene	81	58	PCldy
Evansville	83	60	Clr
Fairbanks	57	36	Cldy
Fargo	81	52	PCldy
Flagstaff	78	44	PCldy
Flint	77	53	Clr
Fort Smith	87	62	Clr
Fort Wayne	78	56	PCldy
Fresno	105	69	Clr
Goodland	94	53	Clr
Grand Junction	91	57	PCldy
Grand Rapids	78	55	Clr
Great Falls	73	49	PCldy
Green Bay	79	60	PCldy
Greensboro,N.C.	83	63	PCldy
Harrisburg	80	57	PCldy
Hartford Spgfld	82	55	PCldy
Helena	76	52	PCldy
Honolulu	90	77	Clr
Houston	91	68	PCldy
Huntsville	88	60	Clr
Indianapolis	80	57	Clr
Jackson,Miss.	88	65	Clr
Jacksonville	88	72	Cldy
Juneau	58	44	Clr
Kansas City	86	62	Clr
Key West	90	80	PCldy
Knoxville	84	61	Clr
Lake Charles	90	69	Clr
Lansing	78	50	Clr
Las Vegas	98	77	PCldy
Lexington	80	58	Clr
Lincoln	85	61	Clr
Little Rock	89	63	Clr
Los Angeles	87	67	Clr
Louisville	82	62	Clr
Lubbock	88	57	Clr
Macon	89	65	PCldy
Madison	81	60	Clr
Medford	86	58	PCldy
Memphis	86	65	Clr
Miami Beach	91	79	PCldy
Midland-Odessa	87	63	Clr
Milwaukee	75	59	Clr
Mpls-St.Paul	82	61	PCldy
Mobile	91	67	PCldy
Montgomery	93	65	Clr
Nashville	83	63	Clr
New Orleans	90	75	Clr
New York City	82	67	PCldy
Newark	83	65	PCldy
Norfolk,Va.	83	69	PCldy
North Platte	90	55	Clr
Oklahoma City	86	59	Clr
Omaha	86	64	Clr
Orlando	90	73	PCldy
Paducah	84	59	Clr
Pendleton	81	56	PCldy
Peoria	82	58	Clr
Philadelphia	81	65	PCldy
Phoenix	106	82	PCldy
Pittsburgh	75	57	PCldy
Pocatello	84	48	Clr
Portland,Maine	77	53	Cldy
Portland,Ore.	77	62	PCldy
Providence	80	59	Cldy
Pueblo	92	51	PCldy
Raleigh-Durham	85	64	PCldy
Rapid City	88	53	PCldy
Reno	92	55	Clr
Richmond	83	63	PCldy
Roanoke	80	60	PCldy
Rochester	74	53	PCldy
Rockford	82	59	Clr
Sacramento	99	59	Clr
St Louis	85	62	Clr
Salem,Ore.	79	59	PCldy
Salt Lake City	86	59	Clr
San Angelo	88	62	PCldy
San Antonio	91	66	Clr
San Diego	79	70	PCldy
San Francisco	77	57	Clr
San Jose	87	58	Clr
San Juan,P.R.	92	80	PCldy
Santa Fe	83	52	Clr
Ste Marie	72	59	PCldy
Savannah	88	71	PCldy
Seattle	67	57	Rain
Shreveport	89	64	Clr
Sioux City	89	63	Clr
Sioux Falls	88	61	Clr
South Bend	79	57	PCldy
Spokane	72	49	PCldy
Springfield,Ill.	83	59	Clr
Springfield,Mo.	85	60	Clr
Syracuse	75	55	Cldy
Tallahassee	92	70	PCldy
Tampa-St Pbrsbg	89	74	Rain
Toledo	78	53	Clr
Topeka	89	62	Clr
Tucson	100	70	PCldy
Tulsa	86	62	Clr
Tupelo	87	61	Clr
Waco	90	59	Clr
Washington,D.C.	81	65	PCldy
W.Palm Beach	90	78	PCldy
Wichita	88	62	Clr
Wichita Falls	90	61	Clr
Wilkes-Barre	76	58	Cldy
Wilmington,Del.	80	63	PCldy
Yakima	79	52	PCldy

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



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

YOUR MONEY

Soldier's shopping paradise

Extreme Outfitters has something for every commando

BY ALLISON CONNOLLY
The Virginian-Pilot

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The storefront between Consignment City and the Dollar General at Bayside Shopping Center on Shore Drive looks like a typical outdoor and sporting goods store.

But inside, Extreme Outfitters is anything but average.

It carries boot flippers, knives, gun holsters, grenade pouches, bulletproof vests and hydration backpacks, to name just a few of the 100,000 items in the database.

"It's like being a kid in a candy store," said Army Capt. Young, a special operations soldier who was visiting Virginia Beach last week from his post at Special Operations Command in Tampa. Young declined to give his first name due to the sensitive nature of his work.

The store specializes in tactical gear for military and law-enforcement personnel and the growing legion of defense contractors who must buy their own gear before going to a war zone. BlackHawk Products Group, a tactical-gear manufacturer in Norfolk, opened the store, but they left the retail business in 1997 to focus on making gear. Extreme Outfitters president Jon Johnson has since opened a second store near Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C.

Young said he had ordered gear online from Extreme Outfitters before but had never been inside the retail location. He spent almost three hours in the store over two days last week, looking at gear and trying things out.

"I've never seen a store stocked like this," he said.

Store manager Bill Chan said he sees customers like Young all day long.

"We've had guys come and spend four hours in here, and they've got to touch everything," Chan said. "Then they'll come back the next day when they get permission from their wives to buy something."

Greg Howells, a retired Army sergeant first class from Hampton who works for a nuclear security firm, said he hits the store a couple of times a month.

"I've been to other places, but they just don't have the variety," he said.

Tactical gear isn't cheap, and most of the customers are spending their own money.

Gun sights run as high as $400. Knives go for $30 to $250. The $250 watches are "wrist computers" with all the bells and whistles: heart-rate monitors, altimeters and digital compasses. The ones popular with Navy SEALs can withstand 200-foot dives and can detect the amount of oxygen left in a diver's tank.

Often, the military and law-enforcement professionals are buying bulletproof vests and boots that either aren't issued to them or are better than the government's. Some of the bulletproof vests can block bullets from a 9 mm or .45 caliber gun but not from a rifle. Others can protect against a machine gun round. They range in price from a few hundred dollars to $1,500.

The ceramic plates that go in the front and back of the vests cost $300 to $400 each. The store also has a growing line of women's clothing and boots.

Johnson employs people who know what they're talking about, including former military and part-timers who work by day as a Virginia Beach firefighter, a Norfolk SWAT team member and a Chesapeake police officer.

"We're not selling jump ropes," he said.

With growing business from a number of defense contractors in the area like Blackwater USA in Moyock, N.C., Alutiiq LLC in Chesapeake and Applied Marine Technology Inc. in Virginia Beach, Johnson decided to keep the store open two hours longer each weekday, to 9 p.m.

But he considers himself always on call. He keeps his cell phone number on the store's voice mail for emergencies. A Navy SEAL team once called his cell phone at 2 a.m., saying they were deploying in a matter of hours and needed gear.

Johnson opened the shop and got them what they wanted.

"We will take care of you because it's all about the repeat business," he said.

60,000 miles is good time to replace belt

Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

Dear Tom and Ray:

You recently told another reader to replace her Toyota's timing belt at 60,000 miles. The owner's manual for my 1989 Toyota Cressida (with 60,000 miles on it) does not require replacement under normal service, but when you call Toyota's 800 number, they inform you that the car must be inspected at 60,000 miles and every 10,000 miles thereafter. It doesn't faze them when you remind them that the belt is INSIDE the engine. That's their story and they're sticking with it. Should I just change my timing belt at 60,000 and be done with it? — George

TOM: I'd say yes, George. In our vast — or half-vast — experience, timing belts on engines of this vintage tend to break between 60,000 and 90,000 miles.

RAY: And when they break, one of two things happens, depending on which type of car you're driving. Either (A) the engine stops running and leaves you stranded, and you have to get towed to a garage and have the timing belt replaced …

TOM: Or (B) the engine stops running and leaves you stranded, and you have to get towed to a garage and have the whole engine replaced.

RAY: Fortunately, Toyota owners are in the first category. But still, getting stranded is no fun, and it's not, George?

TOM: Besides, inspecting it isn't all that useful. It's very difficult to tell when the timing belt is going to break, even after you've looked at it. And each peek is going to cost you 50 bucks or so in labor.

RAY: So, if it were my car, I'd spend a couple hundred bucks and just change it now. Changing the timing belt early is kind of like filling up your gas tank when you've got a quarter-tank left. Some wait until you've only got a thimbleful of gas in there, but why not do it now and forget about it for the next 60,000 miles?

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

WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES

52-week High	52-week Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk % Chg
10,753.63	9,230.47	Dow Jones Industrials	10,313.36	-29.43	-.28	-1.14	+9.46
3,212.45	2,660.66	Dow Jones Transportation	3,188.79	+7.79	+.24	+6.84	+17.87
293.55	242.93	Dow Jones Utilities	290.75	-2.81	-.96	+8.94	+18.65
6,798.12	5,614.48	NYSE Composite	6,534.09	-21.55	-.33	+1.46	+14.47
1,278.81	980.94	Amex Index	1,239.03	-1.12	-.09	+5.58	+25.32
2,153.83	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	1,850.64	-7.92	-.43	-7.62	+1.47
1,163.23	990.36	S&P 500	1,116.27	-5.03	-.45	+.39	+10.42
618.46	507.99	S&P MidCap	582.54	-5.62	-.96	+1.13	+13.17
606.42	482.13	Russell 2000	557.70	-5.14	-.91	+.16	+11.17
11,371.14	9,595.20	DJ Wilshire 5000	10,847.15	-53.01	-.49	+.44	+10.75

NYSE MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Motorola	268041	15.10	-.50
GeoGlec	261790	5.46	+.10
Lucent	289066	3.09	-.04
Texinst	182761	18.83	+.12
NokiaCp	177864	12.71	+.12
DeanFds	158711	34.40	-6.73
TycoIntl	144996	30.87	-.27
NortelN W	132066	3.68	-.04
PfizerI	114243	32.77	+.03
JPMorgCh	112587	39.37	-.50

AMEX MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Nasd100Tr	992858	34.29	-.12
SPDR	231924	112.58	-.28
SemiHTr	234884	28.04	+.05
iShBx2000	58744	111.75	-.60
DIIA Diam	49197	103.49	-.15
SP Fncl	47237	29.21	-.22
SP Engy	28480	32.83	+.03
GMcJapan	27823	10.04	-.09
WheatR g	20170	2.61	-.02
BemaGold	17571	2.32	-.02

NASDAQ MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Intel	732681	19.72	-.17
JetBlue	692177	19.57	+.45
SiriusS	508052	2.71	+.17
Cisco	507537	19.51	-.26
Oracle	456663	9.86	-.22
Microsoft	456941	27.26	+.10
ApldMatl	297044	15.79	+.10
AdvrCm	248086	15.90	-.10
SunMicro	189202	3.83	-.10
TASER s	188951	35.55	+2.99

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Alliant Techsystem	--	14	59.26	-.16	+2.6
Armor Holdings	--	35	38.57	+.37	+39.6
Boeing	.80	17	54.05	+.08	+28.3
Computer Sciences	--	17	46.66	-.23	+6.1
Engineered Sup Sys	.07	19	45.91	-.60	-16.6
General Dynamics	1.44	18	97.45	-.35	+7.8
General Electric	.80	22	33.66	+.32	+8.7
Halliburton	.50	--	29.91	+.44	+15.0
Harris Corp.	.52	20	50.64	-.70	+5.9
Raytheon	.80	77	35.63	-.15	+18.6
Rockwell Intl.	.66	21	39.27	+.06	+10.3
Sequa Corp.	--	43	57.20	-1.07	+16.7
Texas Instruments	.09	19	18.83	+.12	-35.9
Textron Inc.	1.30	34	64.02	+.19	+12.2
United Technologies	1.40	18	94.80	-.18	--

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	NAV	Chg.	YTD %Ret.
Fidelity Invest: GroInc	36.11	-.11	+2.3
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	48.30	-.23	+5.1
Amer Century Inv: Ultra	26.60	-.07	-.2
Fidelity Spartan: EqIdx	38.72	-.17	+1.5
Putnam Funds A: GrInA p	18.57	-.11	+2.9
Fidelity Invest: a Mag	15.71	-.02	+.7
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	16.20	-.20	+2.9
AIM Investments A: Const p	20.47	-.05	-4.8
Fidelity Invest: USBI	11.43	+.05	+3.1
Fidelity Invest: Overse	30.87	+.06	-1.8
Fidelity Advisor T: GrOpgT	27.98	-.12	-2.3
Fidelity Advisor T: EqInT	26.64	-.13	+3.3
Scudder Funds S: GrowS	29.19	-.11	+.5
Putnam Funds A: GlbEqty p	7.52	-.01	+.8
AIM Investments A: Weingr p	11.65	-.04	-3.6
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	12.02	-.03	+1.1
Merrill Lynch I: BalCapI	26.71	-.06	+1.9
Scudder Funds S: Intl Fds	38.75	+.15	+.9
Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT	15.44	+.04	-2.2
Lord Abbett A: DevStA p	13.63	-.07	-0.1
Scudder Funds S: Income S	12.54	+.04	+3.2
Merrill Lynch I: USGvMtg	10.32	+.03	+2.5
Scudder Funds S: Devel	17.26	-.10	-8.4
Putnam Funds A: GlGvA p	12.31	+.03	+5.8

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro	$1.25
British pound	$1.83
Japanese yen (Sept. 11)	107.00
South Korean won (Sept. 10)	1,117.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	$1.7892
Canada (Dollar)	1.2987
Denmark (Krone)	6.1048
Egypt (Pound)	6.195
Euro	$1.2191
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7989
Hungary (Forint)	204.21
Iceland (Krona)	72.135
Israel (Shekel)	4.5905
Japan (Yen)	109.74
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2945
Norway (Krone)	6.9165
Philippines (Peso)	56.09
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6962
South Korea (Won)	1,149.40
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2624
Thailand (Baht)	41.62
Turkey (Lira)	1,495,000.00

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

PRECIOUS METALS

London close

Gold	$397.40
Silver	N/A

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.50
3-month bill	1.64
30-year bond	4.96

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

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Get right price on car

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — You thought your brand-new red car was a sweet deal at $16,000. But before you left the lot, you ended up agreeing to pay more than $17,000 for it. What happened? The transaction price — what you and the dealer agreed on — and what you eventually pay can differ by hundreds or thousands of dollars if you're not a sophisticated negotiator, says Phil Reed, consumer advice editor for Edmunds.com, which offers comparison guides for new and used cars.

Before you agree to a deal, be sure to ask what your "out the door" price will be, Reed advises. It is your final negotiated price, plus all the negotiable and nonnegotiable fees that get added in before you're driving the car off the lot.

"There are certain questions you can ask that will put the dealer on notice right away that you know what you're talking about," Reed says. "This is one of them."

Dealers first may try to increase their profit by tacking on additional fees or options — cleaning, applying a scratch-resistant paint coating or providing on-site services, to name a few. Decide what you really need. Cut back where you can.

Other fees aren't negotiable, but can still hurt your wallet if you aren't prepared. A destination fee — getting the vehicle from the manufacturer to the dealer's lot — can be $500 or more, depending on the color and options selected. And documentation fees can be as little as $40 or as much as $900, depending on where you live. You'll also need to pay for title and license fees and state sales tax.

Some dealers will slip in extra fees at the last minute, Reed warns. Read the final paperwork to check for discrepancies before signing it. Don't sign a deal that includes extras or fees you thought had been negotiated down.

FACES 'N' PLACES

Too young to be a legend?

How old is a movie legend? Definitely older than 37-year-old **Nicole Kidman**, according to **Lauren Bacall**.

Bacall became irritated during an interview on a British TV show Wednesday when the younger actress was described as "a legend."

Kidman

"She's not a legend," Bacall said, cutting off interviewer Jenni Falconer in mid-sentence. "She's a beginner. What is this 'legend?' She can't be a legend at whatever age she is. She can't be a legend; you have to be older."

The two actresses were in **Venice, Italy**, to promote their new film "Birth," in which 79-year-old Bacall plays Kidman's mother.

Later, reporters peppered Kidman for a response to Bacall's comments. Embarrassed, she finally suggested they direct their questions elsewhere.

It may, however, simply be a matter of semantics. Bacall, the former wife of **Humphrey Bogart** and star of such films as "The Big Sleep" and "Key Largo," insisted she and Kidman get along famously.

Fashion extravaganza

The fashion faithful braved heavy rains Wednesday morning for the start of the **New York** Fashion Week, and the reward was a taste of next spring from **Kenneth Cole**.

Cole

The designer's collection — in mostly white, tangerine and seafoam — had simple shapes and flattering details such as boning and paneling. He achieved beach-worthy styles using ripped-up nylons and viscose knits.

Actor **Alan Cumming** sat in the front row with magazine editors, retailers and other celebrities as Fashion Week began its eight-day run.

Carolina Herrera, **Oscar de la Renta**, **Ralph Lauren** and **Marc Jacobs** were among other designers set to preview their spring 2005 collections.

Missing from this year's schedule: eveningwear designers **Mark Badgley** and **James Mischka** and **Sean "P. Diddy" Combs**, who won the Council of Fashion Designers of America award for best menswear designer earlier this year.

Hepburn memorabilia donated

Katharine Hepburn's estate is giving back to the group that awarded the famed actress four Oscars.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences library has received thousands of photographs and decades worth of letters, scrapbooks and screenplays Hepburn saved over her career.

Hepburn

She meticulously stored objects documenting her life and career, which spanned 60 years. Academy officials said the donation is one of the most comprehensive collections devoted to any performer's career.

The collection of letters includes numerous exchanges with directors, including **George Cukor**, **John Huston** and **David Lean**.

There also is material showing her involvement in social and political issues and her close personal relationships with **Cary Grant**, **Tennessee Williams**, **Laurence Olivier**, **John Wayne**, **Henry Fonda** and, of course, **Spencer Tracy**.

Jam, Lewis heading west

Music producers **Jimmy Jam** and **Terry Lewis** have sold their Flyte Tyme Studios in **Minnesota** for $2.3 million.

Jam and Lewis, who have produced more No. 1 hits than anyone except **Beatles** producer **George Martin**, have moved their production business to **Los Angeles**. They have produced hits for **Michael Jackson**, **Mariah Carey**, **Boyz II Men** and the **Spice Girls**, among others.

The deal for the 18,000-square-foot facility closed Sept. 1, said **Brian Fogelberg**, who represented Jam and Lewis' Flyte Tyme Productions.

The buyer, **Karl Bohn**, is a prominent real estate developer who has been involved in a number projects south of the Minnesota River. It's expected that Bohn will continue to use the Flyte Tyme building for producing music.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Worldly sound

KEYSTONE/AP

Andrea Corr, lead singer of Irish pop group The Corrs, performs on the Stravinski hall stage during the 38th Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland, in July. Blending American and British influences with sounds from their native country, the four siblings have forged a career spanning more than a decade.

Irish sibling group The Corrs enjoy success mixing native music with pop-flavored tunes

BY SCOTT MERVIS
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Although they hail from Dundalk, County Louth, in Ireland and use such traditional instruments as bodhran and violin, the Corrs aren't necessarily Irish Festival.

The group of four siblings — singer Andrea, violinist Sharon, drummer Caroline and guitarist/keyboardist Jim — have become known worldwide for shimmering pop music, laced with just the slightest hints of Celtic traditional.

It had a lot to do with an upbringing that included their musician parents performing covers of American pop groups.

"I think our harmonies are very much influenced by that," says Sharon Corr. "Mom was a singer, Dad played keyboards. They listened a lot to the Eagles and Carpenters, a lot of very melodic music, and they covered a lot of music that was big on the charts at the time.

"So we were influenced by American music and British music and also by the music on our doorstep. It sort of fused its way into our songwriting, and we thought it was a pretty unique sound."

> *"So, we were influenced by American music and British music and also by the music on our doorstep. It sort of fused its way into our songwriting, and we thought it was a pretty unique sound."*
>
> **Sharon Corr**
> Violinist

The Corrs' pop emphasis was front and center when the group formed in 1991, first as regional group, then as an international concern when its debut, "Forgiven, Not Forgotten," was released in 1996. Its breakthrough hit in the States was the irresistibly catchy "Breathless," from the 2000 release "In Blue."

That breakthrough coincided with the Corrs taking a break from the spotlight.

"We were sort of on the road for seven years nonstop," Sharon says. "We were fairly jaded after a while, so we did need some time to get our personal lives sorted out, because that had been put on hold for years."

The happy interruptions included Sharon, the eldest sibling, getting married in 2001 and then Caroline marrying in 2002 and having a baby the next spring. She's currently eight months pregnant with her second child and obviously not drumming with the Corrs on tour.

Somewhere in between all that, the Corrs did find time to write and record "Borrowed Heaven," a fourth record of majestic pop that leads off with another sparkling single, "Summer Sunshine."

Produced by Olle Romo, the record also includes the Bono co-write "Time Enough for Tears" (from the "In America" soundtrack), a title track that features Ladysmith Black Mambazo and a closing traditional instrumental, "Silver Strand."

One of the more memorable tracks is Sharon's "Goodbye," a song, written about the passing of their mother in 1999, that asks, "Where are you now? Could I get there somehow?"

"With emotional stuff like that, you don't often have a choice," she says. "It just comes out of you. That's the wonderful thing about music: It's a vessel for your emotions, and it can be very therapeutic to write about what you're feeling."

The title track covers similar ground, and with its subtle Afro-pop beat, it seemed a natural for a collaboration with Ladysmith.

"We'd met Ladysmith a couple times," Sharon says, "and we also had known the music from Paul Simon's 'Graceland.' 'Borrowed Heaven' screamed for them. We asked them to sing with us, and so when we went to Johannesburg for Nelson Mandela's 80th birthday, we hired a studio and worked with them. It was a terrific experience."

In the past, we've watched all manner of sibling groups parade across the pop stage, from the Jacksons to the Kinks to Hanson. How does the dynamic work in the Corrs?

"In the beginning, when we were promoting and touring, we were really living in each other's pockets," Sharon says. "We were finding very little time for our individuality. And in those early days, we did fight an awful lot more. We learned to deal with it, and we worked hard to respect each other and get rid of that presumption that because you're family, you're alike. Families can be very, very different."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Steamboat discovery

OK FORT TOWSON — More than 160 years after it sunk in the Red River, researchers are discovering the history of the steamboat Heroine.

Archaeologists using scuba gear are diving into the murky water to excavate the paddle-wheeler that foundered while trying to supply troops at this frontier outpost.

So far, researchers, including those from the Oklahoma Historical Society, have recovered artifacts that bring the Heroine to life — shoes worn by the crew, the dishes they ate from, the hand trucks they used to load cargo.

Officers 'double-dipping'

MA BOSTON — The Boston Police Department has paid hundreds of police officers to be on more than one private detail at the same time, according to a Boston Globe investigation.

The double-dipping was spread across rank, from patrolmen up to captains, including a commander of the department's Paid Detail Assignment Unit. Many benefited more than once: 150 officers collected detail pay 23 times.

An internal committee has been instructed to examine payroll records and investigate officers, and has asked City Hall auditors to reconfigure the computer payroll system to flag overlapping shifts.

Seven officers are now under investigation for double dipping.

Climber falls to his death

WY GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK — A mountain climber fell 50 feet to his death on Disappointment Peak after his rappel anchor failed, officials said.

Frank Olding, 40, of Seattle, died.

National Park Service spokeswoman Jackie Skaggs said Olding began an ascent of the 11,618-foot peak's East Ridge with two other men. At about 11,000 feet, Olding apparently decided to go no farther because he believed the next section was beyond his partners' ability, Skaggs said.

Olding began to rappel back down the mountain but his anchor failed and he fell, Skaggs said. Park officials were investigating why the rappelling gear failed.

Re-indicted for murder

LA SHREVEPORT — A Texas man whose first-degree murder conviction was thrown out by a federal court last month has been re-indicted for the same crime.

James Crandell, 57, was indicted on one count of first-degree murder in the 1989 death of a Bossier City man inside a motel. Crandell is still jailed at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, where he has been serving a life sentence since his conviction in 1991 for the beating death of Charles Parr, 48.

Bossier-Webster District Attorney Schuyler Marvin immediately filed notice after the grand jury's report that he intends to seek the death penalty, but he expects a lengthy court battle.

Marvin intends to test a 24-year-old state court decision that says prosecutors are prohibited from twice seeking the death penalty.

Student found dead

CO FORT COLLINS — A 19-year-old former homecoming queen was found dead at a Colorado State University fraternity, and the fraternity chapter was suspended by its national headquarters.

The body of Samantha Spady, a sophomore from Beatrice, Neb., was found in a lounge at the Sigma Pi fraternity by a member giving a tour of the house. Police suspect drinking contributed to her death but are waiting for the results of toxicology tests.

Police spokeswoman Rita Davis said there was no sign of foul play, leading police to close their criminal investigation.

However, it could be reopened if investigators discover someone else provided the underage student with alcohol.

ACLU challenging law

HI HONOLULU — A man who was kicked out of the Hawaii State Library for using its computers to access a gay and lesbian Web site filed a federal lawsuit challenging a state law that allows authorities to ban people from public property.

The law prohibits people from entering a public place for up to one year after a written warning or request to leave the premises has been issued. It was aimed at removing squatters from public campgrounds, parks and beaches.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii, filing on behalf of Carlos Hernandez, said people or groups could be thrown off public property for no reason and said the law could be used to keep voters out of polling places or to bar groups such as native Hawaiians from the grounds of the state Capitol.

Spider for sale

James McFall, a vendor for Emerald City Balloons, is engulfed by their product during the Blackberry Festival in Bremerton, Wash.

Deadly shooting at motel

MI MOUNT MORRIS TOWNSHIP — Assailants sprayed gunfire into a motel room, killing two people and injuring four, police said.

Police Chief Hap Ashley said two assailants used a 9 mm handgun and a 7.62 mm assault weapon to fire into the room. The motive was unclear, he said.

After the shooting, the motel parking lot was littered with shell casings from about 60 bullets. Inside the room, curtains were shredded and windows were shattered.

Some of the bullets passed through inner walls into other rooms, including one that had been rented but apparently was unoccupied at the time, authorities said.

Animal cruelty case

NY NEW YORK — A 16-year-old high school student was arrested on charges he beat two pit bulls to death with a tree branch in a Bronx park, animal protection officials said.

The teen, Ricardo Plasencia, was arrested at his family's home in the Morrisania section of the Bronx and was charged with two felony counts of aggravated animal cruelty, said Joseph Pentangelo, a spokesman for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The 1-year-old female dogs' remains were taken to the Burgh Memorial Animal Hospital. The veterinarian who performed the necropsies said in 20 years he had not seen an animal sustain such severe head injuries, Pentangelo said.

Pump keeps boy alive

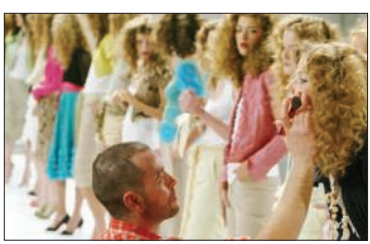
CA STANFORD — A 6-month-old boy kept alive almost two months on a miniature heart pump not approved for use in the United States underwent successful heart transplant surgery and is expected to make a full recovery.

Miles Coulson suffered damage to his heart shortly after his birth March 30 and was placed on a heart transplant list.

His condition began to deteriorate, and doctors at Lucille Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford University persuaded the Food and Drug Administration to let them import a device from Europe called the Berlin Heart. No pumps approved for use in the United States are small enough for infants.

The Berlin Heart has been used on about 50 babies in Europe since 1989. Three other American babies have been treated with it; two received transplants and a third recovered enough to be taken off the device.

Summer day fun **Chris McElfresh, left, and Christopher Richards, 12, tumble down an inflatable slide during the 11th annual Labor Day picnic at Carey Park in Hutchinson, Kan.**



Final touchups **A makeup artist puts the final touches on a model at the Perry Ellis Spring 2005 fashion show in New York.**

The Royal treatment **Veterinarian Dr. Barbara Royal performs an acupuncture treatment on the Brookfield Zoo's Bactrian camel, Jewel, who suffers from arthritis in the front legs, in Brookfield, Ill.**

Wild child

Dylan Fairchild, 3, of Stephenville, Texas, rides a longhorn steer named Snickers at the Celebrate Bandera Festival in Bandera, Texas.

Unbearable heat

An unidentified woman shields her face from the sun while walking past a water fountain in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles area reached a high of 93 degrees.

Road runner

June Norman (496) from the Milford (Conn.) Road Runners club is shown with other runners before the New Haven Road Race in New Haven, Conn. She has been running for 25 years and tests herself in the New Haven Road Race each Labor Day.

Kart collision

Miles Miller, right, of Plainfield, Ind., slides into the rear and flips over Kris Wentink, of Davenport, Iowa, after Wentink hit the wall in turn one during a kart race at the 10th annual Rock Island Grand Prix in Rock Island, Ill.

Man guilty in 3 deaths

CO LITTLETON — A man accused of killing a friend and two women whose bodies were found buried in a backyard pleaded guilty to first-degree murder in his friend's death.

As part of his plea, Richard Paul White will be sentenced to life in prison without parole. He made a plea bargain on a charge of killing former roommate Jason Reichardt, 27, last year.

After his arrest, White told investigators he had killed five women and buried their bodies around the state since 1998.

The bodies of Victoria Lyn Turpin, 32, and Annaletia Maria Gonzales, 27, were found last year in the yard of a Denver home where White and a girlfriend once lived.

White said he buried other bodies in southern Colorado, but authorities have not found them.

Here's what not to do

IN BLOOMINGTON — A gun safety demonstration went awry and landed Monroe County Coroner David Toumey in the hospital after he shot himself in the leg.

Toumey said his gun discharged as he was checking to make sure it was unloaded and a bullet struck him in his left leg during the demonstration to a group of people at a Lake Monroe boat ramp.

"It's an unfortunate accident," Toumey told The Herald-Times of Bloomington. "I've always been very, very safe."

Toumey was released from Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis after treatment, the hospital said.

Man steals church money

MD BALTIMORE — A man who admitted using a copy of a stamp with Cardinal William Keeler's signature on it to steal $443,000 in church donations was sentenced to four years in prison.

Victor Puotinen pleaded guilty to theft in June for stealing the money between 1999 and 2002 when he worked as an accountant at the Roman Catholic Archdiocese and at the Basilica of the Assumption in Baltimore.

Prosecutors said Puotinen copied the cardinal's signature from a stamp and used it on papers to give him the authority to take donated money from church accounts.

13-year-old elephant dies

TX HOUSTON — The 13-year-old elephant that died suddenly at the Houston Zoo had no internal defects, increasing the likelihood she died from a viral or bacterial infection.

Elephant herpes virus is one possibility, zoo officials told the paper. Kimba's sister Singgah died in 2000 of the virus as did three other siblings, who had been shipped to other habitats.

Kimba first showed symptoms when she wasn't interested in eating and had slight swelling around her head. Veterinarians gave her antiviral medication and she seemed better at first when she was given more antiviral medication but later died.

Bank robber gets away

SC AIKEN — A robber who used a rusty pitchfork to stick up a bank got away — and so far, finding him has been like looking for a needle in a haystack.

The man, wearing sunglasses and a mask, entered Security Federal Bank and threatened employees with the 4-foot-long pitchfork. The man took an undisclosed amount of money.

The robber dropped the farm tool as he ran from the bank through a wooded area to a golf course behind the bank, police said.

Bloodhounds tracked the robber to a fast food restaurant parking lot, where police say the man got into a white van driven by a woman.

No customers were in the bank during the holdup, and no one was injured.

Marijuana growth found

WI GREEN BAY — Deputies didn't have to go far to find this marijuana: It was growing right outside their Green Bay headquarters.

Green Bay television station WLUK-TV reported that it received a tip and alerted the Brown County Sheriff's Department about the pot in a planter on the south side of the courthouse.

Chief Deputy John Gossage wasn't sure of the plants' identity, but a drug officer confirmed the presence of marijuana.

The drug officer pulled the six small plants, which were to be destroyed.

Polka dots not approved

NC WILMINGTON — A print shop owner is on the spot with city officials who say her dots are a don't.

The officials don't approve of the polka dots she's painted on an oak tree outside her store.

Elle Puritz said she was just trying to protect the tree, as well as spread some good cheer, when she repainted the plain white trunk red, then added dots.

City officials say the splashy paint job violates sign ordinances.

The trunk of the roadside tree had been painted white years ago to make it more visible to cars. When Puritz bought the property in January, she decided to spruce it up.

Grads get assignment

IA DeWITT — Members of the Central Community High School Class of 2004 were given one last assignment when they graduated — and most didn't seem to mind.

On the last day of high school, Mike and Jill Selby gave each of the 155 graduates a $10 bill and a letter. They asked the graduates to spend the gift in a way that would reflect the values of their son, Cory, who would have graduated with the class.

Cory Selby died the summer before his sophomore year of a rare heart ailment.

The Selbys asked the students to let them know how they spent the money, and the response, they say, has been overwhelming.

Stories and photos from wire services.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

Base names use specific plan

After "Identity crisis in Iraq: Camp changes confuse" (Sept. 2), one might get the impression that there is no end in sight to the problem.

What the article fails to mention is that the plan being "kicked around" at the 1st Cavalry Division to adopt Arabic names, is, in fact, an effort to bring the revolving camp name problem to an end.

As the division chief of plans, I first suggested the idea of renaming the forward operating bases prior to the division's deployment to Iraq, when the planning staff struggled to keep up with FOB names that were changing regularly.

The initial concept was designed to achieve two things: 1) stop the constant renaming of camps based on the mascots or nicknames of tenant units and 2) use names that espoused the values we were trying to bring to the country (Liberty, Justice, Solidarity), rather than names that were potentially insulting to the local populace (Assassin, Gunslinger).

I believed then, and still believe, that a sign outside the gates of a FOB that says Camp Freedom reinforces what the First Team is trying to do here, while a sign that says Camp Outlaw probably does not.

We started by trying to pick what some social scientists call "God words," words that by themselves carry such weight as to be almost sacred to a culture — for Americans, words such as liberty, freedom and democracy.

We vetted our suggested names with the local populace to ensure that we picked words that were important to them as well, which resulted in the selection of camp names such as Solidarity and Union.

The locals recommended restoring two of the facilities to their pre-war names, Camp Taji and Camp Rustamiyah, because of the cultural importance of those two names. The signs will also bear the names of the fallen soldiers for which they have been previously renamed.

It is inaccurate to say that the plan is to adopt only English transliterations of Arabic names.

Camps would, in fact, be named both with the English and Arabic translation of the name (i.e. Camp Liberty would also be Camp Al-Tahreer).

English-speakers would use the English name and Arabic speakers would use the Arabic translation and both would be annotated on signs outside the camp. This practice of dual English-Arabic naming is consistent with how we have named operations when those operations have included Iraqi Security Forces.

No, I guess these camp names will not fix the many problems in Iraq. It will not change the way insurgents view us, but perhaps it will change the way the populace views us, and thus change the way they view the insurgency.

If the article's author had spoken to the commander, or other division leadership, this would have been clear, and then, perhaps, the article might have talked about the solution and not just the problem.

Maj. Eric R. Price
Camp Liberty, Baghdad

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Don't deny voters by ducking debates

The Washington Post

This is, or so we are constantly told by partisans, the most important election of our lives — at least. At the Republican convention last week, Vice President Dick Cheney called it "one of the most important, not just in our lives, but in our history."

You'd think, then, that both campaigns would be eager to see that voters get as much of a chance as possible to see the two candidates debate. The Commission on Presidential Debates, which has sponsored such encounters since 1988, has proposed … three 90-minute presidential debates (one on foreign policy, one on domestic issues and one a town-hall session with undecided voters) and a vice presidential debate.

Democratic nominee John Kerry accepted the proposal in July. But even as the time for the first debate nears — it's set for Sept. 30 in Miami — the Bush campaign hasn't committed and may be trying to limit the number of presidential debates to two.

"We look forward to these debates," Bush campaign manager Ken Mehlman said Sunday on ABC's "This Week." "We look forward to having a debate about debates. We will, in an appropriate time, which is shortly, talk about our intended participation."

Rather than debating about debates, President Bush should just say yes. Surely voters are entitled to at least the 4½ hours of presidential debates the commission has proposed.

You'd think that both campaigns would be eager to see that voters get as much of a chance as possible to see the two candidates debate.

Such coyness and maneuvering over debates is a quadrennial sport, practiced with the greatest zest by the side that thinks it has the least to gain from such encounters.

In 1996, President Clinton, enjoying the advantage of incumbency and a substantial lead in the polls over Republican nominee Bob Dole, ducked out of the first scheduled debate with the flimsy excuse that a long-planned speech to the United Nations wouldn't give him enough time to prepare.

Four years ago, Mr. Bush tried sidestepping all but one of the commission's debates, and he proposed two others … that would have been shorter and would have drawn a far smaller audience than the commission debates, which are carried by all the networks. In the end, Bush caved and, as we recall, the debates didn't turn out that badly for him.

The chairmen of the debate commission, former Republican National Committee chairman Frank J. Fahrenkopf Jr. and former Democratic National Committee chairman Paul G. Kirk Jr., … sent a letter Tuesday to both campaigns asking them to meet to discuss debate plans. That should happen as soon as possible, and the Bush campaign ought to agree to the commission's proposal. If the campaigns' big guns (former Secretary of State James A. Baker III for Mr. Bush, superlawyer Vernon E. Jordan Jr. for Mr. Kerry) need something to haggle over, there's always the pitched battle over whether the candidates should be seated or standing.

Doonesbury Flashbacks

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

True test is when a pupil can express skills

BY DOROTHY RICH

I like high student test scores, but what I don't like is what many school districts across the country are doing to try to get them. Cuts are being made in arts and music and guidance — in any area that somehow is considered non-essential for school achievement. The problem is that they are essential.

The concept of what constitutes student success has moved to test scores, virtually alone. With the just-released disappointing test scores for charter schools, a staunch advocate of testing and charter schools, Chester Finn, formerly of the U.S. Department of Education, writes: "When judging schools, one ought not settle for absolute test scores."

Right! Perhaps these charter school scores, by illustrating the narrowness of how we judge schools today, will set off the needed, wider discussion of what really matters in education and what schools should be accountable for. My answer: Test scores, yes, but well beyond.

We don't have to return to a classical education of Latin and Greek to provide for today's education. Yet, more than ever, our children live in a smaller, global world. We have to try to graduate students who know foreign languages, are aware of diverse cultures, history and the larger world. Reading and math are basic but not enough.

Putting across this message of expanded achievement beyond the usual tests is a prime assignment for educators. Yet, many today, fearful for their own jobs, are not doing this perhaps because it's believed that the public likes "data." The public does deserve the facts … all the facts. Low test scores are an alarm signal but not the only one. Low test scores can result from a number of factors — including poor tests, untrained teachers and unmotivated students.

A recent survey from Arizona on parents' opinions of the public schools reported that 34 percent believe schools teach the basics but only 6 percent believe that schools motivate students.

Even well-educated professionals don't always know what to do.

Mistakes, as they say, "are made." I have made my share of them. In my 50 years in education, I have held a number of wrong ideas and half truths. Many of these still govern what is done in the name of education today. Recently, I started to compile a list of wrong ideas and half truths still at large. Here are two that pertain to testing:

■ Test scores are the best measures of children's achievement: wrong idea. Tests are helpful, yet they are but one piece of understanding about a child's achievement. Tests measure only what tests can measure. This means that a test can measure a child's vocabulary but only for the words that the test asks about. The test measures how well a child can do certain math procedures but only the ones included on the test.

Tests are basic, usually minimal, evaluations, often called "snapshots." A test cannot measure, for example, the extent of a child's imaginative and critical thinking. A test cannot measure a child's confidence and common sense. When we think of a test as one measure and we look as well to other ways of evaluating progress, including our own eyes and ears, then we put tests appropriately into perspective.

■ Use better tests: half truth. Tests can always get better. When we use multiple-choice tests, students are given a limited selection of answers, and these are often based on limited knowledge. We find wrong "right" answers even on national tests.

Essay tests provide a wider range for students to show what they know and don't know. But, these are expensive to grade and are vulnerable to the grader's subjectivity. In one of my classes for teachers to train them in grading essays, the same essay distributed across the group of teachers received a spectrum of grades from C-minus to A. Students to be served well by tests need a variety of tests and many different ways to show what they know.

To build test scores, we need to build students, not just for Friday's test but for all the tests to come as our children become adults.

Schools perform a variety of functions — from the specialized work of serving the handicapped to the broad-scale effort of educating all children for life in a democracy. Children need multiple ways to think and to succeed. They need to learn so much more than tests can test.

Dorothy Rich is founder and president of the nonprofit Home and School Institute, MegaSkills Education Center in Washington.

There was a time when terrorists had standards

BY WALTER LAQUEUR

Once upon a time, terrorists had a code of honor; the targets selected for assassination were kings, ministers, generals or police chiefs.

When in 1904 a group of Russian revolutionaries went out on a mission to kill a certain grand duke, they canceled the action at considerable risk to their own lives because the duke traveled with his wife and his small children and there was the danger that innocents would be hurt. This historical incident inspired Albert Camus to write one of his best-known plays.

Contemporary terrorism has not just become indiscriminate, there seems to be a particular temptation to single out innocents, partly no doubt because these are much easier targets than well-guarded public figures. Terrorists, such as the Chechens who took schoolchildren as hostages, have convinced themselves that there are no innocents — after all, children will grow up and some of them could be soldiers or policemen one day.

Fanatics cannot accept moral taboos for both ideological and practical reasons. The Russian revolutionary of 1904 had no hesitation to kill a leading figure of the hated regime, but he also believed that killing was a mortal sin. The terrorist of 2004 does not feel such compunction; murder has become not only permissible but a holy duty. In his world, infidels (and also many of his own coreligionists) are fair game.

Religious fanaticism is of importance in this context, but it is not the only key to understanding growing barbarity. The murder of more than 20 children in the Israeli village of Maalot in 1974 was committed not by Islamist radicals but the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a secular, self-styled left-wing group.

Over the centuries, rules and laws of war have developed, but terrorists feel that they cannot possibly accept them. It would be suicidal from their point of view if they were to wear uniforms or other distinguishing marks as international law demands. The essence of their operations rests on hiding their identities and on indiscriminate attacks against civilians.

However, they insist that when captured they should enjoy all the rights and benefits accorded to prisoners of war, that they be humanely treated, even paid wages as prescribed by the Geneva Conventions. When regular soldiers do not stick to the rules of warfare — when they kill or maim prisoners, carry out massacres, take hostages or commit crimes against civilians — they will be treated as war criminals. Terrorists, on the other hand, are firmly convinced that they are not bound by these rules.

Will governments continue to accept these principles of asymmetric warfare? There is not much room for optimism. It is unlikely that governments will be impeded in their defense by laws and norms belonging to a bygone (and more humane) age.

But is indiscriminate murder of innocents not self-defeating? Will it not lead to the isolation of the perpetrators? In this respect, too, one should not overrate the extent and effect of moral revulsion.

Standards of human rights (and the value of human lives) are not the same in all societies. Sometimes there will be an outcry, as in the case of the two French journalists held hostage; the pope and the U.N. secretary-general will appeal, as well as many others. But who outside Nepal protested when 12 poor Nepalese workers were murdered in Iraq last week?

Our contemporary terrorists are neither diplomats nor experts in public relations; they know that they have and will retain, whatever they do, a certain amount of support within their own communities, and more they do not need. They do not feel restraints — except perhaps political expediency. And thus the descent to barbarism continues.

Walter Laqueur is the author of "A History of Terrorism." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

Horoscope

Joyce Jillson

Mercury transits into Virgo, where it will be until Sept. 28. This is a very precise placement for the planet of communication. It's a fabulous time to review all of your contractual agreements, including loans, insurance policies and financial arrangements of all kinds. Ask questions to make sure you understand the fine points — they matter.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (September 10). This year, you honor your talents and get a chance to do something important that only you can do. You'll have the opportunity to get special training this month. For those seeking work, the perfect job comes in November. Singles find true love, which could be a Gemini or Aquarius. Moves are favored in February. March involves travel.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Your interests are wide, and therefore, you're learning about new things to want. Before you decide to desire something, look at how happy someone else is who already has it. Tonight, someone asks for your heart.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). The differences between men and women are featured. Instead of trying to understand those differences, you're better off just to deal accordingly or even celebrate diversity. Lucky location: the grocery store.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Loved ones simply aren't listening! Even if you're telling them exactly what they want to hear, they seem to mentally wander off. The only thing left is to direct your bright wisdom toward yourself.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). When there's something missing, you're truly happy — this leaves the space you need to strive. When you're reaching, you're at your best. Friends make lovely gestures. Take note so you can respond in kind later.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're realizing how to hang together with the people in your environment. They're not so different from you.

You'll be happy you cultivated a good relationship with your neighbors. (You did, right? If not, remedy this now!)

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Self-discipline is impressive to others, yet you achieve it effortlessly. Love from the past can re-enter the picture. Because you care deeply about someone, you are led down a path you never knew existed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You count. Tell others what they can do to help you make an even bigger difference in your community. Social tools are important to your business. If you don't own a good suit, or a good handshake, get one now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Worry is a useless endeavor. Do everything you can to stop yourself from turning your fear into this draining mental exercise. Look at how animals enjoy life. You can do the same if you try.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). If you approve of yourself, others follow suit. You are specific about what you want, and you get exactly that. Tonight, call people back, especially people who have probably been wondering what on Earth happened to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Impulsiveness (uncharacteristic of you as it is) could cause you to do something hasty. The more drastic the change you are considering, the more important it is to think it through before making plans.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be putting yourself out there. Understanding how receptive people are will save you time and energy. There's no reason to try and convince someone who can't be convinced when others are open to your unique take.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Responsibilities are numerous, and each seems as important as the last. Turn down the phone, and close the door. Focused attention allows you to accomplish more in 40 minutes than you did yesterday in eight hours.

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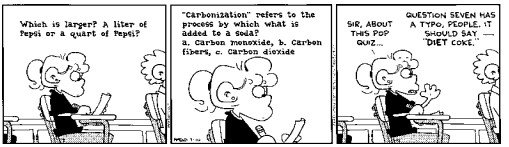
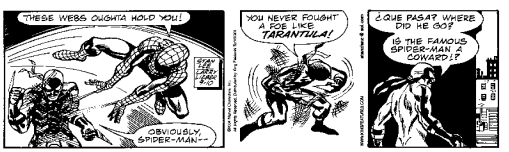


B.C.

Baby Blues

Spider Man



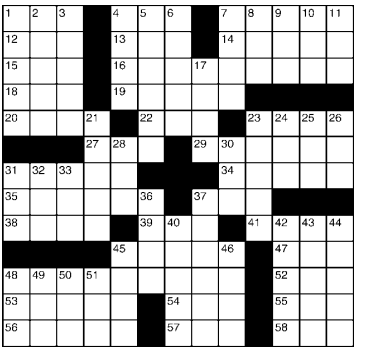
Blondie

Dilbert

Hagar

Garfield

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Fitness center
4 Monogram of "Ol' Blue Eyes"
7 Scandinavian inlet
12 D.C. personage
13 Have a bug
14 Rod of tennis fame
15 "— be!"
16 Problem for the police
18 Dead heat
19 Watch brand
20 Region
22 Fresh
23 Comestibles
27 Catherine Bell series
29 On the up-and-up
31 New Mexico's — Ruins National Monument
34 Overturn
35 Frees of frost
37 Savion Glover's specialty
38 Body-shop concern
39 Train component
41 Vacillate
45 Hard as a rock
47 Wield a needle
48 Radio type
52 "2001" computer
53 Pound part
54 Tease
55 Prior to
56 Fulton's power
57 Wrestling surface
58 Grasshopper's rebuker

Down

1 Noted Olympic swimming champ
2 Salk vaccine's target
3 First "Tonight Show" host
4 Datum
5 On TV, e.g.
6 Nickelodeon gunk
7 Show off the biceps
8 Chatter away
9 Eventual aves
10 Clerical addr.
11 Rap music's Dr. —
17 Stable area
21 Oust
23 Fishtank dweller
24 "Norma —"
25 Grecian vessel
26 Layer of lettuce
28 Expert
30 Sine-non link
31 Recipe verb
32 Last letter
33 Stannum
36 Garbage barge
37 "Jeopardy!" stock-in-trade
40 Frighten
42 Actor Milo
43 Long
44 Young hooter
45 Branch
46 Chapter 11 reason
48 "Mayday!"
49 Islander's dwelling
50 Indivisible
51 Nipper's co.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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A	T	O	P		F	L	U	I	D	I	T	Y
L	A	N	E		T	O	N	S		T	O	O
T	H	O	R		S	W	I	T		Y	E	N

9-10 CRYPTOQUIP

R B B L N D T M Z M R B B G I R V Z M F D Z L T R I D P L T F Z R G Y R X T R Z M M X D P S N L D T Y R M Z D T D B L D V M R L N !

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SUPPOSING AN ACCUSED TAILOR HAD DONE NOTHING WRONG, WOULD HE PLEAT INNOCENT?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals L

Baby sitter mistakenly kills pet snake

Dear Abby: I am a 15-year-old girl who baby-sits for extra money. I baby-sat for a new family last week. After I put the kids to bed, I found a snake in the house. I was scared for the kids, so I grabbed a kitchen knife and chopped off the snake's head.

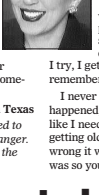
When the parents returned, I found out it was their pet snake that had escaped from its cage, and they were really angry. I feel terrible about it. Although I apologized, they won't talk to me when they see me in the neighborhood.

Should I write them a letter of apology or buy them a new snake? I don't know what the proper etiquette is when you kill someone's pet.

— Rattled in Texas

Dear Rattled: You reacted to what you perceived as a danger. What is unfortunate is that the couple for whom you were baby-sitting were so careless they not only failed to tell you they had an exotic pet in the house, but also compounded it by leaving without making sure the creature was securely in its cage where it belonged. You do not "owe" the family a replacement. They owe you an apology.

Dear Abby



Dear Abby: I was sexually harassed at the age of 7. I wasn't raped; I was just touched and used by my brother's friend.

I am now 13 and I'm very fond of one boy in particular. But ever since I was 7, I can't open up to guys. When I try, I get scared because I remember what happened to me.

I never told my parents what happened, because I never felt like I needed to. But now I'm getting older and I realize how wrong it was — of him, I mean. I was so young I didn't understand what was happening.

I want some help, but I don't know where to go, so I've turned to you. Please help me, Abby.

— Scarred 4 Life

Dear Young Lady: Please clip this letter, give it to your mother and tell her you wrote it. You were not harassed; you were MOLESTED. It is important that you talk about what happened with a professional, possibly one who specializes in post-traumatic stress, who can help you work it through. The sooner you start, the sooner you can begin to build healthy relationships with peers. I wish you the best of luck.

P.S. I regret that you didn't report the molestation to your parents when it occurred. Had you done so, you could have received help then, and guaranteed that the boy could not abuse another child.

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

Wife upset she's left out of will

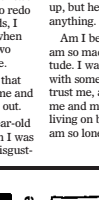
Dear Annie: I am 41 years old and married for 10 years to a 63-year-old man. When we married, I signed a prenuptial agreement, which never bothered me until five years ago. Now it is all I think about.

All of our finances are totally separate. "Franklin" owns a lot of land and has a thriving business. The house we live in is in his name only (it was his before we married). I, on the other hand, have a struggling business and absolutely no assets. For two years, I have begged him to redo his will, because as it stands, I will have nowhere to live when he dies. My husband has two grown sons by his first wife.

They have made it clear that this was their mother's home and when their father dies, I'm out.

Franklin and I have 2-year-old twins. When I first told him I was pregnant, he said he was disgusted. We no longer have sex, because he is afraid I may become pregnant again. To be fair, he seems totally crazy about our twins now. My problem is, I don't feel like I have a marriage anymore, and I want out.

Annie's Mailbox



We have never been the kind of couple that talks about things. I've never taken anything from Franklin, but he makes me feel like a thief.

He supposedly saw his lawyer about having a new will drawn up, but he has yet to done anything.

Am I being overly sensitive? I am so mad and hurt by his attitude. I want a normal marriage with someone who will love and trust me, and share his life with me and my sons. I feel like I am living on borrowed time, and I am so lonely. Help me, please.

— Second Wife

Dear Second Wife: Franklin should not be putting your marriage under such a strain. He has an obligation to make provisions for you and the twins in case he dies. This includes, at the minimum, revising his will to allow you to live in the house during your lifetime, after which, if he wishes, it can revert to his older sons.

You have more than financial insecurity to worry about. Franklin seems secretive and uncommunicative, and you are seriously unhappy.

Ask Franklin to go with you for marriage counseling, and as always, if he won't go, go without him. Also, you should consider seeing a lawyer as well, to protect yourself and the twins.

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

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.

TRIDY

TYJET

SARROY

BEMFUL

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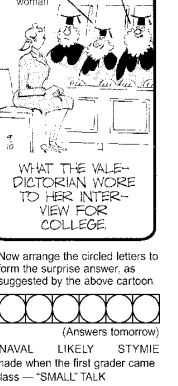
www.jumble.com

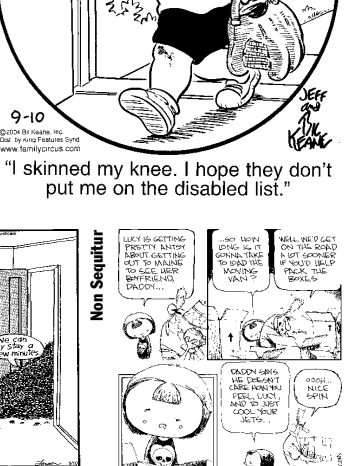


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

A: A " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SLANT NAVAL LIKELY STYMIE
Answer: What Mom made when the first grader came home from class — "SMALL" TALK

Family Circus



"I skinned my knee. I hope they don't put me on the disabled list."

GRAFFITI

Dennis the Menace

"MR. WILSON HAS GIVEN UP 'DO-IT-YOURSELF' BOOKS FOR 'WHO-DONE-ITS'."

©Gary Larson

The Far Side

Ed and Barbara are visited by the insects of the Amazon Basin.

Non Sequitur

Canada blanks Slovakia to reach World Cup semis

The Associated Press

TORONTO — Jarome Iginla had two goals and an assist to lead Canada into the World Cup of Hockey semifinals with a 5-0 victory over Slovakia on Wednesday night.

Vincent Lecavalier, Ryan Smyth and Joe Sakic also scored for Canada, which will play the Czech Republic in Toronto on Saturday night in one semifinal.

The United States plays Finland on Friday night in St. Paul, Minn., in the other semifinal.

Canada has dominated the tournament, going 4-0 while outscoring its opponents 15-3.

"This was our first real test in a do-or-die game, and I think we responded real well," goalie Martin Brodeur said.

Brodeur, arguably the best goaltender in the world, was barely tested, finishing with 23 saves for his first shutout of the tournament.

Slovakia couldn't contain Canada's top line of Iginla, Sakic and captain Mario Lemieux, who were on the ice for three goals.

"They're very easy guys to play with," Iginla said. "I still battle not being in awe a little bit."

Lecavalier scored the first of four second-period goals on a power play at 2:28. Brad Richards skated around a defenseman before passing to the streaking Lecavalier, who didn't miss the open net.

Iginla scored just under three minutes later with a quick shot from the side of the net. Lemieux, who was in front of the net, was initially credited with the goal.

Smyth made it 3-0 at 11:29 after Slovakia defenseman Zdeno Chara turned the puck over at Canada's blue line. Three Canada players hustled down the ice before setting up Smyth, who scored his third goal of the tournament. Just 19 seconds later, Iginla fed Sakic, whose wrist shot beat goalie Jan Lasak.

Sports briefs

Suter agrees to terms with Predators

MADISON, Wis. — University of Wisconsin sophomore defenseman Ryan Suter agreed to terms of a three-year contract with the Nashville Predators on Wednesday.

Suter, the seventh overall pick in the 2003 draft, agreed to terms of a deal worth about $3 million. He will forego his remaining three years of eligibility.

Suter had three goals and 16 assists in 39 games with Wisconsin, and was a third-team all-Western Collegiate Hockey Association selection.

Payton arrested for investigation of DUI

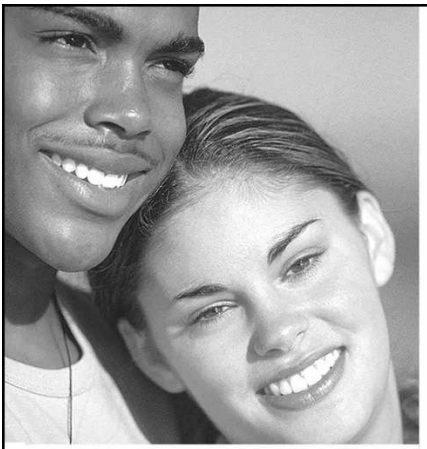
LOS ANGELES — Gary Payton was arrested last month for investigation of driving under the influence, the California Highway Patrol said Thursday.

The NBA star was stopped Aug. 28 after an officer saw him backing down an on-ramp on the San Diego Freeway to avoid heavy traffic caused by an accident, the CHP said.

Payton failed an alcohol sobriety test and was taken to the West Los Angeles Police Department, CHP officials said. He also was cited for unsafe backing and was released after a chemical test at the station. He is to appear in court Oct. 15.

The 36-year-old guard was traded from the Los Angeles Lakers to the Boston Celtics last month. He has threatened to retire rather than play for the Celtics.

Last year, Payton was charged with assault stemming from a fight outside a Toronto club in April 2003. A trial is pending. Payton was with the Milwaukee Bucks at the time.



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Harrington has eye on German Open title

The Associated Press

Golf roundup

PULHEIM, Germany — European Ryder Cup player Padraig Harrington, playing days after laser eye surgery, broke his slump with a 6-under-par 66 Thursday for one-stroke lead over Alex Cejka in the German Masters.

Harrington, Europe's highest-ranked player at No. 8, took the lead with a 30-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole. He had five birdies on the back nine.

The Irishman underwent surgery Saturday on his left eye and was playing golf the next day with sharper vision.

"The one thing I don't want is average," he said. "If someone tells me I have average eyesight, then I want something better. Average just doesn't cut it on the tour. The eyesight is just part of it."

Cejka of Germany shot a 67 in the final tournament before the Europeans play the Americans next week at Oakland Hills outside Detroit.

"I putted well today, for sure," Harrington said. "I came here as a warmup for next week, but now the Ryder Cup has to take a back seat to the German Masters, unless I can't see myself winning this event."

Another Ryder Cup player, England's Paul Casey, shared third with five other players and was two strokes off the lead. Eight players from the European squad are in this event.

"It's nice to be playing well, it's nice to be driving well," Casey said. "At Oakland Hills you have to drive well. I'm trying to win here, but in the back of my mind is getting ready for next week."

Several Ryder Cup players had rocky rounds. Darren Clarke, fighting a wrist injury, was at 71 while Colin Montgomerie was at 73, Paul McGinley at 76 and Miguel Angel Jimenez at 75.

Els three back at Korean Open

SEOUL, South Korea — Ernie Els was three strokes behind leader Hendrik Buhrmann after shooting a 71 in the first round of the Korean Open on Thursday.

Buhrmann, from South Africa, made six birdies and an eagle for a 4-under 68 at the 7,047-yard Woo Jung Hills Country Club in Cheonan. Nico Van Rensburg, Richard Moir and Terry Pilkadaris shot 70 and shared second place.

Els, ranked No. 3 in the world, attracted large galleries. Starting from the 10th, he birdied the fifth and sixth holes.

"I am reasonably satisfied," said Els, who flew directly from Switzerland for the event. "The course played really tough and the flag positions were quite difficult. Anything under par today is a good score. Hopefully I can improve on that."

Els played in the first round with Korean stars Kang Wook-soon and Kevin Na, the youngest player on the PGA Tour this year.

Goosen shoots par, is five behind in Japan

INZAI, Japan — Two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen shot a par-70 Thursday in the opening round of the Suntory Open, leaving him five strokes behind leaders Scott Laycock of Australia and Y.E. Yang of South Korea.

Goosen, who won this year's U.S. Open at Shinecock Hills on Long Island, had just one birdie at the Sobu Country Club course and was tied for 27th in the Japan Tour event.

"I wasn't at all satisfied with today's round," the South African said. "I didn't miss the fairways by much, but my tee shots weren't good. I'll head to the practice tee and hopefully will find a rhythm that will carry over for tomorrow."

Australia's Steve Conran and Japan's Hideto Tanihara shared second at 66.

SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Friday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. — College football: Missouri at Troy State.

AFN-Atlantic, 3 a.m. — Pro football: Indianapolis at New England.

AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m. — Pro basketball: WNBA, Detroit at Los Angeles.

AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m. — Motorcycle racing: MotoGP, Grand Prix of Brazil (dd).

AFN-Sports, 7 a.m. — Motorsports: NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series, Kroger 200 (dd).

AFN-Pacific/Korea, 1 p.m. — Pro football: Indianapolis at New England (dd).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m. — Baseball: Chicago White Sox at Texas (dd).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m. — Tennis: U.S. Open, men's doubles final & women's singles semifinals.

AFN-Atlantic, 8 p.m. — Pro football: Indianapolis at New England (dd).

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. — Hockey: World Cup, North American semifinals.

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m. — College football: Florida State at Miami.

AFN-Pacific/Korea, 4 a.m. — College football: Oregon State at Boise State.

AFN-Sports, 4 a.m. — Baseball: St. Louis at Los Angeles.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Busch Series, Emerson Radio 250 (dd).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m. — Baseball: Cleveland at Oakland (dd).

AFN-Atlantic, 5 p.m. — College football: UCLA at Illinois.

AFN-Pacific/Korea, 6 p.m. — College football: Southern Mississippi at Nebraska.

AFN-Sports, 8:30 p.m. — College football: Auburn at Mississippi State.

AFN-Atlantic, 9 p.m. — College football: Marshall at Ohio State.

AFN-Pacific/Korea, 9:30 p.m. — College football: North Carolina at Virginia.

AFN-Sports, 9:30 p.m. — College football: Colorado at Washington State.

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

Tennis

U.S. Open

Thursday
At The USTA National Tennis Center
New York
Purse: $17.75 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles
Men
Quarterfinals

Tim Henman (5), Britain, def. Dominik Hrbaty (22), Slovakia, 6-2, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.

Doubles
Men
Semifinals

Mark Knowles, Bahamas, and Daniel Nestor (3), Canada, def. Julien Benneteau and Nicolas Mahut, France, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).

Women
Quarterfinals

Virginia Ruano Pascual, Spain, and Paola Suarez (1), Spain, def. Janette Husarova, Slovakia, and Conchita Martinez (6), Spain, 6-1, 6-3.

Elena Dementieva, Russia, and Ai Sugiyama (15), Japan, def. Liezel Huber, South Africa, and Martina Navratilova (7), Thailand, 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Masters Doubles
Round Robin
Squad Senior
Red Group

Colin Dibley, Australia, and Stan Smith, United States, vs. Jan Kodes, Czech Republic, and Cornelius Mattews (6), Spain, 5-7, 6-3, 10-6 tiebreak.

Women
Blue Group

Mima Jausovec, Slovenia, and Gretchen Magers, United States, def. Hana Mandlikova, Australia, and Robin White, United States, 6-1, 6-2.

Pro football

NFL schedule

Thursday's game
Indianapolis at New England
Saturday's game
Tennessee at Miami
Sunday's games
Detroit at Chicago
Cincinnati at N.Y. Jets
Oakland at Pittsburgh
San Diego at Houston
Arizona at St. Louis
Tampa Bay at Washington
Seattle at New Orleans
Jacksonville at Buffalo
Baltimore at Cleveland
Atlanta at San Francisco
Dallas at Minnesota
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia
Kansas City at Denver
Monday's game
Green Bay at Carolina
Sunday, Sept. 19
Houston at Detroit
St. Louis at Atlanta
Chicago at Green Bay
Washington at N.Y. Giants
Denver at Jacksonville
Indianapolis at Tennessee
Pittsburgh at Baltimore
Carolina at Cincinnati
San Francisco at New Orleans
Seattle at Tampa Bay
Cleveland at Dallas
N.Y. Jets at San Diego
Buffalo at Oakland
New England at Arizona
Miami at Cincinnati
Monday, Sept. 20
Minnesota at Philadelphia

NFL injury report

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Football League injury report for Week 1, as provided by the league:

Thursday

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS at NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — **Colts:** OUT: LB Gilbert Gardner (ankle); CB Joseph Jefferson (knee); S Bob Sanders (foot); WR Troy Walters (wrist). QUESTIONABLE: S Cory Bird (concussion); RB James Mungro (wrist); WR Brad Pyatt (thigh). PROBABLE: WR Aaron Moorehead (ankle); CB Donald Strickland (shoulder/hip). **Patriots:** OUT: RB Kevin Faulk (personal reasons); WR Deion Branch (knee); TE Bryan Brown (knee). PROBABLE: QB Tom Brady (right shoulder); QB Jim Miller (right shoulder); TE Ben Watson (knee).

Saturday

TENNESSEE TITANS at MIAMI DOLPHINS — **Titans:** OUT: DE Kevin Calico (knee); LB Brad Kassell (Achilles); K Joe Nedney (left hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: LB Rocky Calmus (back); DE Carlos Hall (ankle); TE Erron Kinney (calf); DE Travis LaBoy (concussion); WR Justin Schifino (hamstring). **Dolphins:** OUT: DT Tim Bowens (back); RB Rob Konrad (thigh). PROBABLE: QB Jay Fiedler (hamstring); RB Leonard Henry (hip/quadriceps); LB Derrick Pope (ankle); DT Bryan Robinson (hand); DT Dario Romero (ankle); CB Patrick Surtain (groin). **Sunday**

ARIZONA CARDINALS at ST. LOUIS RAMS — **Cardinals:** OUT: WR Anquan Boldin (knee). QUESTIONABLE: QB Jeff Blaynoski (knee). QUESTIONABLE: S Ifeanyi Ohalete (ankle); T J. Sheldon (back). **Rams:** OUT: G Zach Bronson (ankle); CB Travis Fisher (forearm); DT Jimmy Kennedy (knee). QUESTIONABLE: S Scott Nutten (toe). QUESTIONABLE: CB Dejuan Groce (knee); WR Torry Holt (groin). PROBABLE: LB Tim Faule (hamstring); RB Joey Goodspeed (hamstring).

ATLANTA FALCONS at SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — **Falcons:** OUT: G Jamie Duncan (pectoral); CB DeAngelo Hall (foot); DE Karon Riley (groin). QUESTIONABLE: LB Keith Brooking (hamstring). **49ers:** OUT: WR Antwan Wilkins (shin - lower leg fracture). DOUBTFUL: RB Fred Beasley (knee); CB Ronald Bartell (groin); TE Kevin Ware (quadriceps). QUESTIONABLE: T Brandon Gorin (knee/shoulder). PROBABLE: C Brock Gutierrez (knee); RB Jason Wright (knee); C Jeremy Newberry (knee); S Tony Parrish (calf).

BALTIMORE RAVENS at CLEVELAND BROWNS — **Ravens:** OUT: C Mike Flynn (shoulder). QUESTIONABLE: WR Kevin Dyson (knee); T Jonathan Ogden (knee); LB Adalius Thomas (knee). PROBABLE: RB Jamal Lewis (thigh); LB Edgerton Hartwell (thigh); WR Travis Taylor (thigh); TE Todd Heap (abdomen). **Browns:** OUT: TE Steve Heiden (knee); DE Corey Jackson (ankle). DOUBTFUL: RB Lee Suggs (knee). QUESTIONABLE: QB Melvin Fowler (ankle); T Joaquin Gonzalez (ankle).

CINCINNATI BENGALS at NEW YORK JETS — **Bengals:** OUT: T Stacy Andrews (knee); CB Robert Geathers (ankle). DOUBTFUL: RB Chris Perry (hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: CB Deltha O'Neal (ankle); TE Matt Schobel (groin); LB Brian Simmons (groin); C Eric Steinbach (elbow). PROBABLE: DT Matthias Askew (knee); C Rich Braham (knee); T Scott Kooistra (knee); CB Terrell Roberts (groin); WR Peter Warrick (knee). **Jets:** OUT: RB Curtis Mickens (knee). QUESTIONABLE: DT Josh Evans (back). PROBABLE: C/G Rich Braham (knee); WR Wayne Chrebet (quadriceps); S Kim Herring (abdomen); DE Bryan Thomas (hamstring).

DALLAS COWBOYS at MINNESOTA VIKINGS — **Cowboys:** OUT: LB Dan Campbell (shoulder). **Vikings:** OUT: RB Michael Bennett (knee). QUESTIONABLE: WR Marcus Robinson (hamstring); CB Brian Williams (knee).

DETROIT LIONS at CHICAGO BEARS — **Lions:** OUT: LB Boss Bailey (knee); T Matt Joyce (elbow); T Jon Jansen (knee). PROBABLE: LB James Davis (ankle); DE Kalimba Edwards (groin); S Brock Marion (groin); DT Cory Redding (shoulder); T Victor Rogers (thumb); RB Brad Smith (ankle). **Bears:** OUT: CB Jerry Azumah (neck); LB Marcus Reese (hamstring); G Rex Tucker (elbow). QUESTIONABLE: CB RW. McQuarters (hamstring); RB Anthony Thomas (ankle); LB Brian Urlacher (hamstring). PROBABLE: TE Desmond Clark (hamstring); P Brad Maynard (hamstring).

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS at BUFFALO BILLS — **Jaguars:** OUT: K Kyle Brady (finger). QUESTIONABLE: RB Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala (foot). PROBABLE: QB Byron Leftwich (right hand); RB Fred Taylor (foot); TE George Wrighster (foot). **Bills:** OUT: QB Drew Bledsoe (ankle); S Lawyer Milloy (forearm). PROBABLE: RB Joe Burns (ankle); RB Anquan Dowell (hamstring); RB Travis Henry (rib); CB Terrence McGee (thigh).

NEW YORK GIANTS at PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — **Giants:** QUESTIONABLE: DE Michael Strahan (knee); TE Jeremy Shockey (hamstring/foot); LB Carlton Taylor (hamstring). **Eagles:** OUT: DT Paul Grasmanis (Achilles). PROBABLE: S Brian Dawkins (knee); S Brian Dhani Jones (ankle); G Jermane Mayberry (hamstring); WR Terrell Owens (ankle/shoulder); OT Tarik Glenn (ankle); LB Ike Reese (knee); DT Hollis Thomas (abdomen); LB Jeremiah Trotter (rib); CB Matt Ware (knee); LB Nate Wayne (hamstring).

OAKLAND RAIDERS at PITTSBURGH STEELERS — **Raiders:** DOUBTFUL: DT Chris Cooper (calf); LB Sam Williams (shoulder). QUESTIONABLE: LB DeLawrence Grant (knee); LB Napoleon Harris (knee). **Steelers:** QUESTIONABLE: LB Kendrell Bell (shoulder). PROBABLE: S Ainsley Battles (ankle); CB Deshea Townsend (groin).

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS at HOUSTON TEXANS — **Chargers:** QUESTIONABLE: WR Tim Dwight (hamstring); LB Shaun Phillips (shoulder); LB Carlos Polk (shoulder); T Courtney VanBuren (knee); LB Matt Willheim (shoulder). **Texans:** PROBABLE: T Marcus Spears (back); RB Jonathan Wells (knee).

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS at NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — **Seahawks:** OUT: LB Chad Brown (leg-fibula). QUESTIONABLE: WR Alex Bannister (shoulder); DT Marcus Tubbs (hamstring); G Jerry Wang (ankle). PROBABLE: G Chris Gray (back). **Saints:** QUESTIONABLE: QB Jason Craft (ankle); DE Darren Howard (knee).

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS at WASHINGTON REDSKINS — **Buccaneers:** report no injuries. **Redskins:** QUESTIONABLE: LB Mike Barrow (knee). PROBABLE: TE Brian Kozlowski (groin); C Justin Geisler.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS at DENVER BRONCOS — **Chiefs:** OUT: TE Kris Wilson (ankle). DOUBTFUL: LB Kawika Mitchell (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: WR Samie Parker (hamstring). PROBABLE: WR Dante' Hall (shin); CB Deveric Harris (hamstring); LB Donald Hudson (Achilles); G Brian Waters (biceps). **Broncos:** QUESTIONABLE: DT Luther Ellis (shoulder); T Daniel Graham (groin). PROBABLE: LB Patrick Chukwurah (back); LB Terry Pierce (knee).

Monday

GREEN BAY PACKERS at CAROLINA PANTHERS — **Packers:** DOUBTFUL: DT Kenny Peterson (ankle/knee). QUESTIONABLE: CB Torrance Marshall (hamstring). PROBABLE: T Joe Thomas (rib); WR Donald Driver (ankle); RB Ahman Green (knee); CB Michael Newthorne (groin); CB Jason Horton (hip). **Panthers:** QUESTIONABLE: G Tutan Reyes (ankle).

College football

AP Top 25 schedule

Thursday
No. 19 Missouri at Troy State
Friday
No. 4 Florida State at No. 5 Miami
Saturday
No. 1 Southern Cal at Colorado State
No. 2 Oklahoma vs. Houston
No. 3 Georgia at South Carolina
No. 6 LSU vs. Arkansas State
No. 7 Texas at Arkansas
No. 8 Michigan at Notre Dame
No. 9 Ohio State vs. Marshall
No. 10 West Virginia at UCF
No. 11 Florida vs. Eastern Michigan
No. 12 California vs. New Mexico State
No. 13 Kansas State vs. Fresno State
No. 15 Virginia vs. North Carolina
No. 16 Iowa vs. Iowa State
No. 17 Utah at Arizona
No. 18 Auburn at Mississippi State
No. 20 Clemson vs. Georgia Tech
No. 21 Wisconsin vs. UNLV
No. 22 Minnesota vs. Illinois State
No. 23 Maryland vs. Temple
No. 24 Oregon vs. Hawaii
No. 25 Purdue vs. Ball State

AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in the Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 6, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Southern Cal (51)	1-0	1,609	1
2. Oklahoma (10)	1-0	1,542	2
3. Georgia (4)	1-0	1,480	3
4. Florida St.	0-0	1,326	4
5. Miami	0-0	1,306	6
6. LSU	1-0	1,266	8
7. Texas	1-0	1,276	7
8. Michigan	1-0	1,269	9
9. Ohio St.	1-0	1,012	9
10. West Virginia	1-0	987	10
11. Florida	0-0	840	11
12. California	1-0	839	13
13. Kansas St.	1-0	732	14
14. Tennessee	0-0	652	16
15. Virginia	1-0	642	16
16. Iowa	1-0	576	20
17. Utah	1-0	570	20
18. Auburn	1-0	552	17
19. Missouri	1-0	536	18
20. Clemson	1-0	490	15
21. Wisconsin	1-0	396	21
22. Minnesota	1-0	259	25
23. Maryland	1-0	256	23
24. Oregon	0-0	181	23
25. Purdue	1-0	131	24

Others receiving votes: Nebraska 92, Louisville 86, Mississippi 76, Boise St. 66, N. State 49, Oregon St. 34, Oklahoma St. 16, TCU 14, Washington St. 11, Alabama 9, Penn St. 7, Arkansas 3, Southern Miss. 3, Boston College 2, Fresno St. 2, Mississippi 2, Rutgers 1, Stanford 1, Virginia Tech 1.

USA Today/ESPN Top 25

The top 25 teams in the USA Today-ESPN college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Sept. 6, points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Southern California (47)	1-0	1,502	1
2. Oklahoma (10)	1-0	1,462	2
3. Georgia (3)	1-0	1,355	4
4. LSU (1)	1-0	1,271	3
5. Miami (Fla.)	0-0	1,269	5
6. Florida State	0-0	1,206	6
7. Michigan	1-0	1,137	8
8. Texas	1-0	1,137	7
9. Ohio State	1-0	1,034	9
10. West Virginia	1-0	767	10
11. Florida	0-0	746	10
12. Iowa	1-0	698	13
13. California	1-0	691	14
14. Kansas State	1-0	664	12
15. Tennessee	1-0	623	19
16. Utah	1-0	514	19
17. Missouri	1-0	503	17
18. Clemson	1-0	501	16
19. Auburn	1-0	466	18
20. Virginia	1-0	417	20
21. Maryland	1-0	392	23
22. Wisconsin	1-0	297	22
23. Purdue	1-0	270	25
24. Minnesota	1-0	256	23
25. Oregon	0-0	124	24

Others receiving votes: Boise State 114, Nebraska 98, Louisville 82, Oregon State 47, Oklahoma State 39, Fresno State 37, Washington State 36, North Carolina State 32, Memphis 30, Brigham Young 24, Virginia Tech 23, TCU 17, Pittsburgh 12, Arkansas 11, Central Florida 11, Georgia Tech 10, Alabama 7, Texas Tech 5, Connecticut 2, Arizona 1, Arizona State 1, Boston College 1, Bowling Green 1, Penn State 1.

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	9	9	6	33	36	36
MetroStars	9	9	6	33	37	38
Chicago	7	10	6	29	29	39
D.C. United	6	9	9	27	32	38
New England	6	9	9	27	34	37
Western Conference						
Kansas City	11	7	6	38	33	26
Colorado	9	7	9	36	23	22
Los Angeles	9	7	9	36	37	35
San Jose	9	8	7	34	37	29
Dallas	6	8	5	30	31	34

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

Wednesday's games
Columbus 1, San Jose 0
Friday's games
Kansas City at Colorado
Saturday's games
Dallas at D.C. United
New England at MetroStars
San José at Los Angeles
Saturday, Sept. 18
MetroStars at Columbus
Chicago at D.C. United
Colorado at New England
Los Angeles at Dallas
San José at Kansas City

Hockey

World Cup

Round Robin
Monday, Aug. 30
At Helsinki, Finland
Finland 4, Czech Republic 0
Tuesday, Aug. 31
At Stockholm, Sweden
Sweden 5, Germany 2
At Montreal
Canada 2, United States 1
Wednesday, Sept. 1
At Stockholm, Sweden
Sweden 4, Czech Republic 2
At Montreal
Canada 5, Slovakia 1
Thursday, Sept. 2
At Cologne, Germany
Finland 3, Germany 0
At St. Paul, Minn.
Russia 3, United States 1
Friday, Sept. 3
At Prague, Czech Republic
Czech Republic 7, Germany 2
At St. Paul, Minn.
United States 3, Slovakia 1
Saturday, Sept. 4
At Helsinki, Finland
Sweden 4, Finland 4, tie
At Toronto
Canada 3, Russia 1
Sunday, Sept. 5
At Toronto
Russia 5, Slovakia 2
Quarterfinals
Monday, Sept. 6
At Toronto
Finland 2, Germany 0
Tuesday, Sept. 7
At St. Paul, Minn.
Czech Republic 4, Sweden 3
At St. Paul, Minn.
United States 5, Russia 3
Wednesday, Sept. 8
At Toronto
Canada 5, Slovakia 1
Semifinals
Friday, Sept. 10
At St. Paul, Minn.
Finland vs. United States
Saturday, Sept. 11
At Toronto
Czech Republic vs. Canada
Championship
Tuesday, Sept. 14
At Toronto
Semifinal winners

Pro basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	14	8	.636	—
Indiana	15	15	.500	½
Charlotte	14	15	.483	1
Connecticut	14	16	.483	1
Detroit	14	16	.467	1½
Washington	13	16	.448	2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Los Angeles	21	8	.724	—
Seattle	18	11	.621	3
Minnesota	16	13	.552	5
Phoenix	16	13	.552	5
Sacramento	8	21	.276	13
Houston	12	16	.429	8½
San Antonio	6	23	.207	15

Wednesday's games
Charlotte 72, Minnesota 67
Seattle 86, Detroit 67
Phoenix 72, Los Angeles 58
Thursday's games
New York at Washington
Sacramento at Charlotte
Houston at San Antonio
Detroit at Los Angeles
Friday's games
Connecticut at New York
Seattle at Minnesota
San Antonio at Indiana

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Purchased the contract of C Paul Phillips from Omaha of the PCL.

NEW YORK YANKEES—Recalled LHP Brad Halsey from Columbus of the IL.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Released 1B/DH Rastelli Martinez, 3B Reinaldo Of Mdre Cumrings from Durham of the IL.

National League
ATLANTA BRAVES—Recalled RHP Roman Colon from Greenville of the Southern League.

CINCINNATI REDS—Announced INF Brandon Larson has refused his outright assignment to Louisville of the IL.

FLORIDA MARLINS—Signed RHP David Weathers. Designated LHP Tommy Phelps, LHP Michael Tejera and OF Chip Ambres for assignment.

NEW YORK METS—Recalled RHP Aaron Heilman from Norfolk of the IL.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
CHICAGO BULLS—Waived G/F Eric Piatkowski, G/F Adrian Griffin and G Mike Wilks from the Bulls Roster for Columbia Mbuji Mayi.

MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES—Named Chris Wright president of Timberwolves and the WNBA Minnesota Lynx. Named Mike Moor chief executive officer for Timberwolves and Lynx.

NEW YORK KNICKS—Signed C Bruno Sundov.

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS—Waived G Greg Buckner.

WASHINGTON WIZARDS—Named Tim Connelly assistant director of player personnel.

National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Signed DT John Nix. Signed TE Bobby Blizzard and OT Jim Newton to practice squad.

BUFFALO BILLS—Signed DE Aaron Schobel to a contract extension.

DALLAS COWBOYS—Signed TE Sean Ryan to the practice squad. Released TE Latrium Trusty.

DETROIT LIONS—Signed LB Ivory McCoy to the practice squad.

GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed WR Andrae Thurman and FB Vonta Leach to the practice squad.

MIAMI DOLPHINS—Acquired RB Lamar Gordon from the Jets for a 2005 third-round draft pick.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Signed CB Earthwind Moreland to the practice squad.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS—Signed QB Kliff Kingsbury and DT Shaun Smith to the practice squad.

NEW YORK JETS—Placed CB Ray Mickens on injured reserve. Signed CB Terrell Buckley.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES—Signed Andy Reid, coach, to a multi-year contract extension through the 2010 season. Signed OL Steve Hutchinson, DE Jason Gildon and LB Jeff Lewis to reserve.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS—Signed QB Brian St. Pierre and DL Nathaniel Adibi to the practice squad.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM MIGHTY DUCKS—Signed F Tim Brent to a three-year contract.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Agreed to terms with D Ryan Suter on a three-year contract.

OTTAWA SENATORS—Signed F Brandon Dubinsky to a multiyear contract.

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS—Signed F Nick Deschenes, F Mike Richards and D Michael Printz.

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS—Signed D Darcy Robinson to a one-year contract.

SAN JOSE SHARKS—Re-signed F Miroslav Zalesak.

COLLEGE
BYU—Announced the contracts of Val Hale, men's athletic director, and Elaine Michaelis, women's athletic director, will not be renewed.

CAL STATE LOS ANGELES—Named Ken Turner women's assistant basketball coach and Ed Franks facilities and events manager. Promoted Chris Hughes to assistant athletic director for marketing, promotions and sports information.

HIGH POINT—Named Justin Furr men's assistant basketball coach.

MOUNT SAINT VINCENT—Named Roberto Garcia sports information director.

PENN—Named Kevin Huckell assistant director of football operations.

QUINNIPIAC—Named Tony Barone women's assistant basketball coach.

SOUTH CAROLINA—Named Rusty Shealy pole vault coach.

TEMPLE—Named Stefanie Scalessa men's and women's track coach.

TEXAS-SAN ANTONIO—Announced women's golf and women's soccer will be added in the 2005-2006 season.

TRINITY, CONN.—Named Kate Salottolo women's assistant soccer coach.

VANDERBILT—Named John Wilkinson women's bowling coach.

TANK McNAMARA

Dolphins-Titans game moved up to Saturday

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Miami Dolphins' opening game against the Tennessee Titans will be played Saturday instead of Sunday because of approaching Hurricane Ivan.

Ivan could reach southern Florida as soon as Sunday, forecasters said. The Dolphins and Titans had been scheduled to kick off at 1 p.m. EDT that day.

"It's pretty wild," linebacker Junior Seau said Thursday. "Where I come from, we have earthquakes. It just happens. Here, you can monitor hurricanes for days and days and your life stops.

"With the weather we have, it can scare a lot of our fan support away and that's understandable."

Suggs doubtful for opener

BEREA, Ohio — Cleveland Browns running back Lee Suggs did not practice again Wednesday and is listed as doubtful for Sunday's season opener against the Baltimore Ravens.

Suggs sustained a neck stinger during practice last week and was kept out of Cleveland's exhibition finale against Chicago. He hasn't practiced this week, and indications are he'll miss the opener.

Browns coach Butch Davis said Suggs has full range of motion and is not in pain. However, following Wednesday's practice, Davis said the team is not counting on Suggs being available.

"We have prepare as if he's not going to play," Davis said.

On the NFL's injury reports, "doubtful" means there is a 75 percent chance of not playing.

Suggs said if was up to him he'd play. But team doctors will have the final decision on allowing the second-year back to suit up against one of the NFL's best defenses.

This summer, Suggs led the Browns in rushing during the exhibition season while outplaying William Green, who will get the bulk of the carries if Suggs can't play.

Titans lose Nedney for season

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee kicker Joe Nedney will miss the season for the second year in a row after tearing his left hamstring, forcing the Titans to place him on injured reserve.

NFL Briefs

Coach Jeff Fisher said Nedney's injury is significant enough that it likely will have to be surgically repaired, and the Titans were busy trying to bring in kickers for tryouts.

"We're looking around right now. There are some guys out there that are available. We'll be bringing in people [Wednesday] evening for a potential workout," Fisher said.

Those could include veteran Gary Anderson, who filled in for Nedney last season, and other available kickers such as Brett Conway, Bill Gramatica, Matt Bryant or rookie Todd France.

Fisher said the Titans aren't too concerned if they don't sign a replacement before Sunday's season opener at Miami because they have Pro Bowl punter Craig Hentrich, who is 7-for-12 on field goals in his career.

Dolphins' Bowens to miss opener

DAVIE, Fla. — Miami Dolphins defensive tackle Tim Bowens will miss Sunday's opener against Tennessee because of a back injury.

Bowens was ruled out Wednesday.

The 6-foot-4, 325-pound run stopper practiced sparingly during training camp and played just one preseason game.

Without Bowens, Jeff Zgonina will start next to Larry Chester.

The injury also means newly signed tackle Bryan Robinson will see significant playing time. The Dolphins signed Robinson on Tuesday.

McGahee settles for backup role

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Travis Henry will be the Buffalo Bills starter on opening day, leaving Willis McGahee to settle for playing backup.

McGahee said Wednesday he can live with the role, but he doesn't have to like it.

It came as no surprise when coach Mike Mularkey announced he's sticking with Henry, the incumbent, heading into the team's opener against Jacksonville on Sunday.

"Travis is the starting running back," Mularkey said. "If he needs a blow, Willis is there in the wings and, hopefully, there's not a dropoff in level of play."

Bills DE Schobel extends deal

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Defensive end Aaron Schobel signed a five-year contract extension Wednesday, allowing the Buffalo Bills to secure their star pass rusher.

The contract, believed to be worth about $23 million — including a $6.75 million signing bonus — locks him up through the 2009 season.

Schobel is coming off his best season in which he had 11½ sacks, becoming only the fifth Bills player to have a 10-plus sack season. He's led the team in sacks in each of his three seasons, in which he started 43 of 48 games.

Bus going forward despite backup role

BY ALAN ROBINSON
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Being a backup for the first time in his career last year didn't necessarily prepare Jerome Bettis for being one again this season.

Bettis knew the Steelers didn't bring in former 1,000-yard rusher Duce Staley to sit him. He also knew the Steelers didn't cut his own salary by nearly three-quarters, to $1 million, to give him the ball 25 times a game.

Regardless, the No. 6 rusher in NFL history was disappointed when he officially learned he's No. 2 on the depth chart going into Sunday's opener against Oakland.

"I'd be lying to you if I said, 'Uh, yeah, it doesn't affect me,' " Bettis said Wednesday. "It affects you. It's disappointing, make no mistake about it, but you understand it.

"If you say, 'Did last year gave me a better understanding of a situation like this?' Yeah. Did it help me prepare for it? No," Bettis said.

Coach Bill Cowher's decision to start Amos Zereoue a year ago wasn't surprising because the Steelers were making the transition from a running to a throwing team. The changeover, masterminded by former offensive coordinator Mike Mularkey, flopped as the Steelers went 6-10 and Zereoue (433 yards, 3.3 average) was released after the season ended.

The Steelers are back to their traditional run-it-first mentality, but the 32-year-old Bettis isn't back in the lineup despite having two 100-yard games in December — one against the Raiders.

"I can't worry about that," Bettis said. "The deal was done. I have no regrets, that's what I'm happy about and comfortable with. I gave them everything they wanted to think about in training camp, I made it tough on them."

Cowher insisted there is no predetermined plan for how Bettis will be used, and Bettis said he hasn't been promised a certain number of carries.

"We got involved in one series in the preseason where we got into a long drive and Duce was on the field and he came off the field and Jerome ran in there for a couple of plays," Cowher said.

"I think it's a healthy situation and, hopefully, we'll be able to get them both involved."

Despite playing behind Zereoue for six weeks, Bettis outrushed Staley 811-463 last season as Staley split playing time with Bryan Westbrook and Correll Buckhalter in Philadelphia. Staley came to Pittsburgh to carry the ball more, and if that occurs, it will mean far fewer carries for Bettis than the 246 he had last season.

The Steelers also plan to use another back, Verron Haynes, in some third-down situations, and undrafted rookie Willie Parker unexpectedly made the 53-man roster after running for a team-high 202 yards in four exhibition games.

"It's different in the sense it's a different guy [ahead of him], but it's still a tough situation because you would like to be out there," Bettis said. "But you've got to stay focused, stay positive, because this team is going to need me at some point."

New interpretation of rules should help Colts in opener against Pats

BY DAVE GOLDBERG
The Associated Press

The Indianapolis Colts begin this season where they finished the last one, at New England, where the Patriots bumped and battered Marvin Harrison and Peyton Manning's other receivers to win the AFC title and reach the Super Bowl.

But might that give Indy an edge in Thursday night's NFL opener? The Colts, especially vocal and influential team president Bill Polian, squawked so much about the beating their receivers took that the league told officials to throw flags every time a receiver is brushed outside the 5-yard contact zone.

"They weren't calling anything and there's nothing you could do about it," Colts receiver Aaron Moorehead said this week, recalling last season's game.

They will this year, which means it's unlikely Manning will throw four interceptions Thursday night, as he did in that title game. But remember that Tom Brady didn't throw an interception in all eight regular-season games in Foxboro last season and that the Indianapolis defense remains the weaker half of the Colts.

Still, Indy looks like one of the legitimate impediments to New England's third NFL title in four seasons. That's reflected in the spread: The Patriots are favored by 3½ points, only a half-point more than they get for being at home.

Bill Belichick won't let his team get cocky.

"There are a lot of questions about everything. I don't think that there is anything that there aren't questions about," he says of his team. "Do I have questions about everything? Yes."

Any questions?

PATRIOTS 24-21.

NFL picks

Kansas City (plus 3) at Denver: An early showdown between the teams that figure to battle for the AFC West title. The Chiefs' defense (or lack thereof) is the reason they went out in their first playoff game last season. The only real change they made was bringing back Gunther Cunningham to coach it. ... **BRONCOS, 31-23**.

Green Bay (plus 3) at Carolina (Monday night): The Panthers have been taken pretty lightly for a team that almost won a Super Bowl last season, primarily because they lost most of their offensive line. But the Carolina crowd will be fired up, the Packers' defense has some problems and Carolina's front seven is one of the best in the NFL. ... **PANTHERS, 20-10**.

Dallas (plus 4½) at Minnesota: Vinny Testaverde won't get rattled by the noise at the Metrodome. But his young teammates will and the Vikings normally start well. ... **VIKINGS, 24-16**.

Tennessee (minus 3) at Miami: Dave Wannstedt didn't make his beleaguered team's work any easier by making Jay Fielder a "one week-at-a-time" starter at quarterback. ... **TITANS, 17-11**.

Tampa Bay (plus 2) at Washington: If the Redskins lose Joe Gibbs' first home game, the D.C. area is likely to sink into the Potomac. ... **REDSKINS, 27-24**.

Oakland (plus 4) at Pittsburgh: A lot of the Raiders' problems remain unsolved. ... **STEELERS, 28-13**.

New York Giants (plus 9) at Philadelphia: The Eagles are banged up. The Giants are still getting introduced to one another. ... **EAGLES, 27-10**.

Atlanta (minus 3½) at San Francisco: The Falcons have defensive problems.The 49ers just have problems. ... **FALCONS, 34-25**.

Baltimore (minus 3) at Cleveland: The Ravens don't need Deion against these guys. ... **RAVENS, 31-7**.

Cincinnati (plus 4) at New York Jets: Carson Palmer may be fine in his first start, but Chad Pennington is home and more experienced. ... **JETS, 24-19**.

Seattle (minus 2) at New Orleans: A lot is expected from the Seahawks. But the Superdome is a tough place for a team that was 2-6 on the road last season. ... **SAINTS, 31-29**.

Detroit (plus 3) at Chicago: The Bears are still adjusting to Lovie Smith and Brian Urlacher didn't play a down in the preseason. Upset No. 2 — an end to Detroit's record 24-game road losing streak. ... **LIONS 17-16**.

San Diego (plus 4½) at Houston: The Texans are the only NFL team that has NEVER lost its opening game. ... **TEXANS 27-6**.

Arizona (plus 11) at St. Louis: Dennis Green should have known what he was getting into. ... **RAMS, 39-10**.

Jacksonville (plus 3) at Buffalo: The Jags are better. So are the Bills. ... **BILLS, 19-13**.

Last season: 143-108-5 (spread); 162-94 (straight up).

This week, rivals are mismatched

Michigan, Texas heavy favorites

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

While Florida State and Miami appear to be headed toward another close contest, two of college football's other storied rivalries look like mismatches.

Notre Dame and Michigan meet for the 32nd time Saturday, and Texas plays at Arkansas in the 35th anniversary of their most memorable game.

The eighth-ranked Wolverines are 13½-point favorites at South Bend against a Notre Dame team that is coming off a disheartening loss to BYU.

The seventh-ranked Longhorns are also double-digit favorites on the road, facing an Arkansas squad that looks very little like the one that snapped Texas' 20-game home winning streak last season with a 38-28 victory. Quarterback Matt Jones is the only returning offensive starter for Arkansas.

"We're a different team now with a lot of younger guys and I don't know how much they know about Texas," coach Houston Nutt said. "Our younger guys probably don't understand that tradition of Arkansas-Texas."

In 1969, Texas was No. 1 and Arkansas No. 2 when they met in Fayetteville for the "Big Shootout." President Nixon came to the game and declared Texas national champions after the Longhorns' 15-14 victory. The memory still riles some Razorbacks.

As for Notre Dame, the Irish went out of their way to get a game in before Michigan came to town. The plan went awry. They lost to BYU, 20-17, in another anemic offensive outing under coach Tyrone Willingham.

"There's not one that's more important when you look at it, but at the same times, you know where your big games are," Willingham said. "That's something that just comes naturally."

Notre Dame has lost 10 of its past 15 games, including 38-0 to Michigan last season.

The picks:

Thursday

No. 19 Missouri (minus 10½) at Troy State: The other Trojans are coming off impressive win over Marshall ... **MISSOURI 34-14**.

Friday

No. 4 Florida State (plus 2) at No. 5 Miami: With some time to think about it, the pick's the same ... **FLORIDA STATE 23-20**.

Saturday

Colorado State (plus 24) at No. 1 Southern California: Trojans had two weeks to hear how unimpressive they were in opener ... **USC 45-17**.

Houston (plus 35½) at No. 2 Oklahoma: Sooners have won eight straight against Texas schools — most better than Cougars ... **OKLAHOMA 58-20**.

No. 3 Georgia (minus 8) at South Carolina: Bulldogs are 12-1 on the road with QB David Greene ... **GEORGIA 24-17**.

College picks

Arkansas State (plus 41) at No. 6 LSU: No missed kicks necessary for Tigers ... **LSU 54-10**.

No. 7 Texas (minus 11) at Arkansas: Longhorns were irked by Hogs strutting around Royal Memorial Stadium last season .... **TEXAS 31-13**.

No. 8 Michigan (minus 13) at Notre Dame: Irish have won last two against Michigan in South Bend ... **MICHIGAN 30-13**.

Marshall (plus 16) at No. 9 Ohio State: Zwick or Smith at QB? It hardly matters — Buckeyes win with defense ... **OHIO STATE 24-13**.

No. 10 West Virginia (minus 20) at UCF: Kay-Jay Harris ran for 337 last week and may even get to start this week ... **WEST VIRGINIA 44-17**.

Eastern Michigan (plus 37½) at No. 11 Florida: Hurricane Frances gave Gators an extra week off ... **FLORIDA 52-10**.

New Mexico State (minus 32) at No. 12 California: Golden Bears go for two straight 50-pointers ... **CALIFORNIA 49-13**.

Fresno State (plus 13) at No. 13 Kansas State: Bulldogs' big chance ... **FRESNO STATE 22-19**.

North Carolina (plus 20½) at No. 15 Virginia: The Tar Heels struggled against William & Mary ... **VIRGINIA 44-13**.

Iowa State (plus 24½) at No. 16 Iowa: Drew Tate is the Hawkeyes fifth starting QB in last five years ... **IOWA 37-9**.

No. 17 Utah (minus 13) at Arizona: Coach Mike Stoops has first chance to show if the Wildcats are better ... **UTAH 34-17**.

No. 18 Auburn (minus 13) at Mississippi State: The Tigers have won the last two meetings by average of 30 points ... **AUBURN 38-14**.

Georgia Tech (plus 7) at No. 20 Clemson: Tigers improved to 4-0 in overtime last week ... **CLEMSON 28-24**.

UNLV (plus 15) at No. 21 Wisconsin: Rebels upset the Badgers in Camp Randall last year. Not again ... **WISCONSIN 36-17**.

Illinois State (no line) at Minnesota: Gophers go for a second straight 60-pointer ... **MINNESOTA 55-7**.

Temple (plus 27) at No. 23 Maryland: Owls have lost 18 straight against Top 25 teams. Make it 19. ... **MARYLAND 35-14**.

Indiana (plus 20) at No. 24 Oregon: Ducks and Hoosiers haven't played since 1964 ... **OREGON 45-20**.

Ball State (plus 30) at No. 25 Purdue: Cardinals give Boilermakers better game than Syracuse did ... **PURDUE 38-14**.

Last week: 18-1 (straight); 5-12 (vs. points).

Season: 18-1 (straight); 5-12 (vs. points).

AP

Army football players take off their helmets and salute as "Taps" is played during a ceremony Oct. 6, 2001, at the beginning of a game against Houston at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. On Saturday, Army will play its opener at home against Louisville.

Army opens season on third anniversay of terror attacks

BY MARK JOHNSON
The Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Memories of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States are never far from the minds of Army football players. Class rolls with the names of the 200 or so former Black Knights who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan since the day hijackers flew planes into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania serve as a constant reminder.

Some of their ex-teammates are still in combat zones.

But coach Bobby Ross says that shouldn't make his Army debut on Saturday, the third anniversary of the attacks, any different from season openers of the past. He expects his players will pay homage to the anniversary then get on with the game, even on a campus where genuine heroes have walked and where patriotism runs high.

Sept. 11 "touches us almost every day here at West Point," said Ross, an Army veteran and a graduate of Virginia Military Institute. "But I think we'll be better prepared to handle it because it does touch us all the time.

"It's a game of emotion and game of poise," he said. "So we've got to have both."

Army takes the field against Louisville (1-0) at a time when many West Point graduates are facing situations much more difficult than anything in a football game.

"It's hard not to be thinking of it and our opening game will bring it to focus even more," says the 67-year-old Ross, whose sons attended the Air Force and Naval academies. "It's not something you put aside. It stands out and always will."

West Point graduates more than 900 new officers each year, about 25 percent of the new lieutenants required by the Army.

Offensive guard Adam Wojcik, a fifth-year senior from Westerville, Ohio, will graduate next May. After graduation, he'll head to Fort Sill, Okla., to join a field artillery unit. There is a good chance Wojcik will one day serve overseas.

Playing on Sept. 11 is "definitely going to be very emotional, knowing that once we graduate, we're no longer going to be worried about football, we're going out to take care of terrorists," he said. "Just playing on the anniversary will give us a little emotional boost."

But many Army players say the attacks won't dominate their thoughts come game day.

There is no major Sept. 11 remembrance planned although 40 members of the New York Police Department and 40 New York Fire Department members will join 80 cadets during a flag ceremony at halftime.

"I haven't really been thinking about it more than Louisville," said senior offensive guard Andy Dytrych, who was a plebe on Sept. 11, 2001.

The war on terrorism comes upon graduation, he said.

"Right now I'm focusing on the rest of my Army football career. We don't really talk about it much. It's been a reality since I was a freshman," he said.

Louisville coaches and players expect the Sept. 11 date to give the Black Knights a lift.

"It was a tragedy and it's the anniversary. Going to play Army in New York, it'll be really tough," Louisville safety Kerry Rhodes said. "They'll be emotionally ready and we'll be in for a fight."

Coach Bobby Petrino is hoping the Cardinals can simply focus on the game and keep memories of the day in the backs of their minds.

"One of the biggest tragedies we've ever had in this country and it's the anniversary of it and we're at Army," he said. "We've just got to keep it in perspective that we're just going up there to play a football game. It does kind of take football and put it in its place . . . We get to go have fun on a bad day."

Associated Press Writer Chris Duncan contributed to this report from Louisville, Ky.

Goal in injury time lifts Americans to tie

The Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Cobi Jones scored two minutes into second-half injury time, and the United States escaped with a 1-1 tie against Panama in a World Cup qualifier on Wednesday night.

Roberto Brown's goal in the 69th minute had put 110th-ranked Panama on track for a huge upset against the 10th-ranked Americans.

After three minutes of injury time had been signaled, Eddie Lewis lofted the ball and it bounced off a Panamanian player who had challenged Brian McBride. On the soggy turf, Landon Donovan turned and mishit the ball, which sliced to Jones.

Jones, who might have been in an offside position, then beat goalkeeper Donaldo Gonzalez from 8 yards for his 15th goal in 163 international appearances. It was the second time the United States salvaged a tie on the road with a late goal by a second-half substitute — Brian Ching scored in the 89th minute of the semifinal opener at Jamaica on Aug. 18.

The Americans (1-0-2) lead Group A with five points, one ahead of Panama (1-1-1). El Salvador (1-1) played Jamaica (0-1-1) later Wednesday.

The top two nations in each of three groups advance to next year's regional finals, and the United States has three games remaining.

Yankees washed out again

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hurricane Frances is still messing up the major league baseball schedule.

The doubleheader between the Tampa Bay Devil Rays and New York Yankees was postponed because of rain Wednesday, leaving few options for a makeup date and possibly forcing New York to play a split doubleheader against separate teams later this season.

The first game Wednesday was supposed to be a makeup of Monday's doubleheader that was changed to a single game when the Devil Rays were unable to get to New York in time for Game 1 due to Hurricane Frances.

The Yankees were annoyed at the commissioner's office over the way that situation was handled. They waited around all day Monday to play one night game, then spent half the day in the clubhouse Wednesday hoping the rain would stop.

"It's kind of ironic, isn't it?" pitcher Mike Mussina said. "It's raining today, it might be raining tomorrow. We might have three games left, who knows?"

More rain is in the forecast for Thursday, remnants of the hurricane that hit Florida last weekend. The teams are slated to play a doubleheader, but even if they get it in, that leaves one game that still needs to be made up.

The Yankees would like that game pushed back to the end of the regular season and made up only if necessary, but the commissioner's office wants postponed games made up during the course of the season.

"They know our preference on it. Given the circumstances the last few days, it's not like there's been a lot of dialogue," New York general manager Brian Cashman said. "There's a lot of things that could have been done differently, but we're not there, we're here, we're just going to try to go forward."

This is Tampa Bay's last scheduled trip to New York this year and the clubs don't have an off day in common.

"I think everybody understands how important it is to get these games in," backup catcher John Flaherty said.

AP

Tampa Bay Devil Rays manager Lou Piniella looks at the sky before a scheduled game against the New York Yankees Wednesday.

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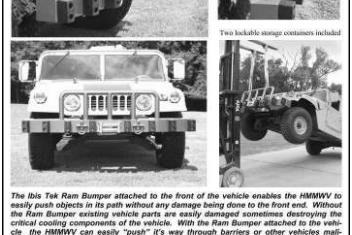

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Rain delay can't slow Davenport at U.S. Open

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — By the time Lindsay Davenport got on the court after a long, rainy day at the U.S. Open, there were only about 100 fans in the stands.

Some of those folks were wandering around, too, and that caused her more trouble than Shinobu Asagoe.

"They just kind of kept coming right when I was in the line of my toss," she said. "I just asked if they could maybe bring some more ushers out, even if there weren't that many people."

Davenport overwhelmed Asagoe 6-1, 6-1 Wednesday night to reach the semifinals. She'll face No. 9 Svetlana Kuznetsova, who defeated No. 14 Nadia Petrova 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Davenport and Kuznetsova were lucky — they got to finish.

The glamour match of the tournament so far, two-time Open champion Andre Agassi vs. No. 1 Roger Federer, was suspended because of showers. Federer led 6-3, 2-6, 7-5, and the match resumed Thursday afternoon.

Rain prevented the start of play again Thursday with two doubles matches scheduled before Federer and Agassi were to return. Also on the day schedule was the quarterfinal between No. 4 Lleyton Hewitt and unseeded Tommy Haas. The quarterfinal between second-seeded Andy Roddick and No. 28 Joachim Johansson was set for Thursday night.

In another men's quarterfinal, No. 5 Tim Henman led No. 22 Dominik Hrbaty 6-1, 7-5, 4-5 when it was suspended — about a dozen fans were there for the warmup.

Davenport got to the National Tennis Center around 9 a.m., about two hours before she was scheduled to play at Ashe. But with no chance to get started in the steady rain, she passed the time trying to sleep, doing crossword puzzles, visiting with her family and eating.

"It's not a total shock to tennis players that we have to go through this," she said. "At this point, I just didn't care if there were 100 people there or 10 people, I just wanted to play."

Davenport wound up starting at 9,645-seat Louis Armstrong Stadium at 7:29 p.m. By then, organizers had shifted the schedule so that all four matches could be played at the same time.

Only two dozen fans headed over to outer Court 11 for the start of the quarterfinal between Kuznetsova and Petrova. It was so empty that when Petrova slapped the strings of her racket after a missed shot, it sounded like a violin — it was that easy to hear.

The match was originally supposed to be played at Armstrong.

Instead, the setting looked more like a recreation league tournament.

"It was important for me to play on a small court so I don't get nervous," she said. "I played (Nicole) Pratt, second round, on this court. Now, I play in the quarterfinals on the same court. It's weird."

The other women's semifinal will also be United States vs. Russia: No. 8 Jennifer Capriati takes on No. 6 Elena Dementieva in the other matchup.

Davenport has won 22 matches in a row since losing to Maria Sharapova in the semifinals at Wimbledon. She's already won three Grand Slam championships, including the 1998 Open.

"I'm in a great position. I've done everything that I could possibly do to be ready to play here and do well," she said, "and now you just see what happens."

During the afternoon, the only action at Ashe came when John McEnroe and Andy Roddick appeared on the slick surface.

They carved out their own version of a traditional New York game — stickball — right in the middle of the court.

McEnroe pitched and Roddick held the opposite end of his racket and took batting practice.

AP

Lindsay Davenport makes a return against Shinobu Asagoe at the U.S. Open on Wednesday. Davenport won 6-1, 6-1.

Surging: Hudson struggles against Sox

SURGING, FROM BACK PAGE

Hudson (11-5) had his season-high, four-start winning streak end in frustrating fashion. He began the game with three full-count walks — he hadn't allowed more than two in a game since coming off the disabled list with a strained stomach muscle on Aug. 7.

"I just didn't make any pitches," Hudson said. "They were patient with me and I was missing early. ... We're just setting them up for the playoffs — make them think I'm terrible."

It took him 26 pitches to get his first out and 38 to finish the inning. He matched his season high with four walks in the first inning. He even plunked Jason Varitek in the right knee leading off the third.

Manager Ken Macha said before the game Hudson "is the guy who can go out there and absolutely dominate."

That wasn't true this time.

The Red Sox reached base 15 times the first three innings, and Hudson put on a jacket and quickly escaped to the clubhouse after the third. Chris Hammond came out to start the fourth.

Hudson also lost his lone other meeting with the Red Sox this season, allowing five earned runs in four innings May 25 at Fenway Park in a 12-2 A's loss.

"I think that's twice," Boston closer Keith Foulke said of Hudson's struggles against the Sox. "I've seen that guy pitch and I've never seen that happen."

Varitek's RBI single in the first extended his season-best hitting streak to 14 games. Damon hit an RBI single in the Red Sox's three-run third to give him an 11-game hitting streak.

Bobby Kielty hit a two-run double in the eighth for Oakland.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	86	52	.623	—
Boston	84	54	.609	2
Baltimore	64	74	.464	22
Tampa Bay	59	77	.434	26
Toronto	58	81	.417	28½
Central Division				
Minnesota	79	60	.568	—
Chicago	70	68	.507	8½
Cleveland	69	71	.493	10½
Detroit	63	73	.463	14½
Kansas City	49	88	.358	29
West Division				
Oakland	81	58	.583	—
Anaheim	79	59	.572	1½
Texas	57	82	.410	24½
Seattle	51	87	.370	29½

Wednesday's games

Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees, DH, ppd., rain
Minnesota 9, Baltimore 0
Kansas City at Detroit, ppd., rain
Chicago White Sox 5, Texas 2
Cleveland 9, Seattle 5
Toronto 1, Anaheim 0
Boston 8, Oakland 1

Thursday's games

Kansas City at Detroit, DH
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees, DH
Chicago White Sox at Texas
Boston at Seattle
Toronto at Anaheim

Friday's games

Minnesota (Silva 10-8) at Detroit (Maroth 10-10)
N.Y. Yankees (Vazquez 13-8) at Baltimore (Lopez 11-8)
Toronto (Batista 10-10) at Texas (Drew 11-8)
Tampa Bay (Kazmir 1-1) at Kansas City (Wood 2-7)
Boston (Schilling 18-6) at Seattle (R.Frankin 3-14)
Cleveland (Elarton 3-4) at Oakland (Mulder 17-4)
Chicago White Sox (Garland 10-10) at Anaheim (Lackey 12-11)

Saturday's games

Cleveland at Oakland
N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore
Minnesota at Detroit
Tampa Bay at Kansas City
Toronto at Texas
Boston at Seattle
Chicago White Sox at Anaheim

AL wild card glance

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	84	54	.609	—
Anaheim	79	59	.572	5

Wednesday
Twins 9, Orioles 0

MINNESOTA **BALTIMORE**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
ShStwrt lf	4	1	0	0	BBrbrts 2b	4	0	0	0
Kubel rf	1	0	0	0	Newlin lf	4	0	1	0
LFord rf	3	0	1	1	Mora 3b	3	0	0	0
Thnter cf	4	2	3	1	McDnld rf	1	0	0	0
RstvchH 1b	1	0	0	0	Tejada ss	3	0	2	0
Mrneau 1b	4	2	3	2	LLopez ss	1	0	0	0
Djeda 2b	3	1	1	0	HLopez c	3	0	0	0
LeCroy dh	5	1	2	3	Gldll c	1	0	1	0
CGzmn ss	5	1	1	0	Segui dh	3	0	2	0
Cddyer 2b	3	1	1	1	Myelski ph	1	0	0	0
Tiffee 3b	3	1	0	0	Gbbons rf	3	0	0	0
HBrisco c	3	0	0	1	Leon 1b	3	0	0	0
Bdrks c	0	0	0	0	Raines cf	3	0	0	0
Totals	**37**	**9**	**12**	**9**	**Totals**	**33**	**0**	**6**	**0**

Minnesota 070 000 200—9
Baltimore 000 000 000—0

E—Mora (18). DP—Baltimore 1. LOB—Minnesota 6, Baltimore 6. 2B—Morneau (12). HR—LeCroy (8). SF—Ford, HBlanco.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Santana W,17-6	7	5	0	0	0	9
JRincon	1	0	0	0	0	1
Durbin	1	1	0	0	0	0
Baltimore						
Bedard L,6-10	2	6	7	1	1	2
Bauer	4	1	0	0	0	2
Rakers	1	4	2	2	0	0
Rodriguez	1	0	0	0	1	0
Williams	1	1	0	0	0	1

HBP—by Bedard (Tiffee). T—2:42. A—19,358 (48,286).

White Sox 5, Rangers 2

CHICAGO **TEXAS**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
WHarrs 2b	4	1	1	0	MYong ss	4	0	0	0
Rwand cf	4	1	2	0	Blalock 3b	2	1	1	0
CaLee lf	4	1	2	1	ASrano 2b	3	0	1	1
Knerko 1b	4	0	0	0	Txeira 1b	3	0	1	0
CEvrtt dh	3	0	0	1	DMlucci lf	3	0	1	0
Brchrd dh	1	1	0	0	EYong rf	0	0	0	0
Vlentin ss	3	0	1	0	Blalock rf	3	0	0	0
TPerez rf	4	0	1	2	NIx cf	4	0	0	0
BDavis c	3	1	1	1	Mench rf	4	1	1	1
Crede 3b	4	0	1	0	Brajas c	3	0	0	0
					AFox pb	1	0	0	0
Totals	**35**	**5**	**8**	**5**	**Totals**	**32**	**2**	**5**	**2**

Chicago 000 014 000—5
Texas 001 000 100—2

E—ASoriano (23), Teixeira (10). LOB—Chicago 4, Texas 7. 2B—TPerez (11). 3B—ASoriano (4). HR—Blalock (2). SB—CEvrett (1), Blalock (2), ASoriano (16), Dellucci (9). CS—BDavis (1).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
PGarcia W,11-10	5	3	1	1	2	8
Cotts	1⅓	2	1	1	0	3
Adkins	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Marte	⅓	0	0	0	2	2
Takatsu S,17	1⅓	0	0	0	0	2
Texas						
Wasdin L,2-4	5⅓	7	5	3	0	3
Ramirez	1⅓	0	0	0	1	2
JeNelson	1	0	0	0	0	2
Benoit	⅓	0	0	0	0	1
FCordero	1	1	0	0	0	1

T—2:48. A—21,836 (49,115).

Indians 9, Mariners 5

CLEVELAND **SEATTLE**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Crisp cf	5	1	3	0	ISuzuki rf	5	0	1	0
Vizquel ss	6	2	1	0	Winn lf	4	1	0	0
Lawton lf	5	2	2	0	EMrtnz dh	4	2	3	3
VMrtnz c	5	0	1	1	BBoone 2b	3	1	2	1
Hafner dh	5	2	1	2	JCdzra 3b	3	0	1	0
Blake 3b	5	2	2	1	Olivo c	4	0	0	0
Belard 1b	5	0	2	0	Bochtcs cf	3	0	1	0
Billard 2b	4	1	1	3	Lopez ss	3	0	0	0
Gerut rf	5	1	2	1	Dobbs ph	1	1	1	1
					Blmquist 1b	3	0	0	0
					Reed ph	1	0	0	0
Totals	**42**	**9**	**14**	**9**	**Totals**	**34**	**5**	**7**	**5**

Cleveland 100 400 301—9
Seattle 002 010 001—5

E—BBoone (11). LOB—Cleveland 11, Seattle 6. 2B—Crisp (20), Blake (31), HR—Belliard (9), Gerut (11), Belliard (11), BBoone (21), Dobbs (1). SB—Lawton (23), ISuzuki (33), Bochtcicks (5).

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
CLee W,11-7	5	5	4	4	3	6
Riske	1	0	0	0	0	2
Betancourt	1	1	0	0	0	1
Howry	1	0	0	0	1	2
Wickman	1	1	1	1	0	1
Seattle						
Baek L,1-2	5	8	5	1	1	2
Thornton	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1
Villone	⅓	1	0	0	0	1
Swanson	1	2	2	2	1	0
Taylor	1	1	1	1	1	0

WP—Baek, Thornton, Villone. T—2:56. A—28,764 (47,447).

Blue Jays 1, Angels 0

TORONTO **ANAHEIM**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Jhnson lf	4	0	0	0	Eckstin ss	4	0	0	0
OHudsn 2b	3	1	0	0	Erstad lf	4	0	0	0
VWells cf	4	0	0	0	Glaus rf	3	0	1	0
CDlgdo 1b	4	0	1	1	GAndsn cf	3	0	0	0
Rlos rf	4	0	0	0	Glaus dh	2	0	0	0
Hinske 3b	3	0	0	0	Gdillen lf	3	0	0	0
Zaun c	3	0	0	0	Alvrdo 3b	3	0	1	0
Gross dh	3	0	1	0	BMolina c	3	0	1	0
Adams ss	3	0	1	0	Figlozzi 3b	1	0	0	0
Totals	**31**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**Totals**	**28**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Toronto 100 000 000—1
Anaheim 000 000 000—0

DP—Anaheim 1. LOB—Toronto 4, Anaheim 2. 2B—OHudson (26), Delgado (20). SB—Gross (2), Glaus (2). CS—AKennedy (5).

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
JMiller W,3-3	8	2	0	0	1	3
Speier S,4	1	0	0	0	0	1
Anaheim						
KScobar L,9-10	8	5	1	1	1	12
Donnelly	1	0	0	0	0	0

WP—JMiller, KScobar. T—2:12. A—36,905 (45,030).

Red Sox 8, Athletics 3

BOSTON **OAKLAND**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Damon cf	4	1	1	1	Kotsay cf	3	2	2	0
Kapler cf	0	0	0	0	Byrnes dh	5	0	2	0
Bllhorn 2b	4	0	1	0	EChavz 3b	3	0	0	0
Reese 2b	0	0	0	0	Germn 1b	1	1	1	0
Ortiz dh	4	1	2	2	Hrbrg lf	3	0	0	0
Nixon rf	1	0	0	0	Kielty lf	1	0	1	3
DOrtiz dh	4	0	1	2	McMthn 3b	5	0	0	0
Mrbelli dh	1	0	0	0	Crosby ss	2	0	0	0
Varitek c	3	2	2	1	Swisher lf	4	0	0	0
SMrtnez c	1	0	0	0	Mlldnld c	4	0	1	0
OCbera ss	4	1	2	0	Scutaro 2b	3	0	1	0
MRivrn 1b	1	0	0	0					
Mueller 3b	3	0	0	1					
Yukilis 3b	0	0	0	0					
ORberts rf	4	0	1	0					
Totals	**34**	**8**	**8**	**7**	**Totals**	**34**	**3**	**7**	**3**

Boston 304 100 000—8
Oakland 000 000 021—3

E—Swisher (1). DP—Oakland 1. LOB—Boston 7, Oakland 11. 2B—OCabera (1), Kotsay (29), Byrnes (32), Kielty (13).

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Martinez W,16-5	6	2	0	0	3	6
Astacio	1⅓	2	2	2	3	1
Adams	1	3	1	1	1	0
Foulke S,28	⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Oakland						
THudson L,11-5	3	6	7	7	5	3
CHammond	2	2	1	0	0	2
Lehr	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rhodes	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mecir	1	0	0	0	0	0
Oxlad	1	0	0	0	0	0

HBP—by THudson (Varitek). T—3:40. A—35,575 (43,662).

AL leaders

Batting

	G	AB	R	H	Pct.
ISuzuki Sea	137	602	89	227	.377
Mora Bal	116	455	92	156	.343
RRodriguez Det	116	463	55	158	.341
VGuerrero Ana	133	529	103	174	.329
Jeriazob Oak	122	441	73	141	.320
Rowand CHw	119	402	82	128	.318
RMarmrez Bos	130	489	95	155	.317
Erstad Ana	114	461	82	146	.317
Damon Bos	129	534	108	167	.313
JGuillen Det	132	512	80	159	.311
Tejada Bal	138	553	89	172	.311

Home Runs

RMarmrez, Boston, 38; DOrtiz, Boston, 36; Konerko, Chicago, 35; ARodriguez, New York, 33; Sheffield, Detroit, 33; Teixeira, Texas, 30; Blalock, Texas, 29.

Pitching (14 Decisions)

Mulder, Oakland, 17-4, .810; PMartinez, Boston, 16-5, .762; Schilling, Boston, 18-6, .750; Santana, Minnesota, 17-6, .739; KBrown, New York, 10-4, .714; Rogers, Texas, 16-7, .696; THudson, Oakland, 11-5, .687; Washburn, Anaheim, 11-5, .687.

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	81	57	.587	—
Florida	72	62	.537	7
Philadelphia	70	69	.504	11½
New York	60	78	.435	21
Montreal	59	80	.424	22½
Central Division				
St. Louis	93	46	.669	—
Houston	76	63	.547	17
Chicago	74	66	.544	17½
Cincinnati	63	75	.457	29½
Pittsburgh	63	75	.457	29½
Milwaukee	60	77	.438	32
West Division				
Los Angeles	80	58	.580	—
San Diego	77	60	.562	3
San Francisco	74	65	.532	6½
Colorado	60	78	.435	20
Arizona	42	97	.302	38½

Wednesday's games

Houston 5, Cincinnati 2
San Diego 10, St. Louis 5
Philadelphia 5, Atlanta 3, 1st game
Philadelphia 4, Atlanta 1, 2nd game
Florida 3, N.Y. Mets 0
Milwaukee at Pittsburgh, ppd., rain
Montreal 6, Chicago Cubs 0
San Francisco 5, Colorado 3
Los Angeles 3, Arizona 1

Thursday's games

N.Y. Mets at Florida
Montreal at Pittsburgh, DH
Milwaukee at Cincinnati
Philadelphia at Atlanta
San Diego at Colorado
Arizona at Los Angeles

Friday's games

Florida (Pavano 16-5) at Chicago Cubs (Prior 4-4), 1st game
Florida (Kensing 0-0) at Chicago Cubs (Prior 7-6), 2nd game
Houston (Munro 4-5) at Pittsburgh (Van Benschoten 0-3)
Philadelphia (Myers 8-9) at N.Y. Mets (Leiter 9-6)
Milwaukee (Hendrickson 1-6) at Cincinnati (Hancock 3-2)
Montreal (Patterson 3-4) at Atlanta (Thomson 10-8)
San Diego (Lawrence 13-12) at Colorado (Kim 14-6)
San Francisco (Tomko 9-6) at Arizona (Johnson 12-13)
St. Louis (Marquis 14-4) at Los Angeles (Ishii 13-7)

Saturday's games

Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets
Houston at Pittsburgh
Florida at Chicago Cubs
San Diego at Colorado
Montreal at Atlanta
Milwaukee at Cincinnati
San Francisco at Arizona
St. Louis at Los Angeles

NL wild card glance

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	76	63	.547	—
San Francisco	77	64	.546	—
Chicago Cubs	74	64	.536	1½
Florida	72	62	.537	2
San Diego	74	65	.532	2

Wednesday
Expos 6, Cubs 0

MONTREAL **CHICAGO**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Wilkrsn 1b	2	1	0	1	CPttson cf	4	0	0	0
EChvez cf	4	0	1	0	DLeEe 1b	3	0	0	0
JRivra rf	4	0	1	0	Grcprr ss	4	0	0	0
Sledge rf	4	1	2	1	Bmngr rf	3	0	1	0
Harris 3b	3	0	1	0	SSosa rf	3	0	0	0
TBrsla 3b	1	0	0	0	Ldwck 2b	3	0	1	0
Schndr c	4	0	0	0	Grdzln 2b	3	0	0	0
Carroll 2b	4	1	0	0	Baiko c	2	0	0	0
Iturris ss	4	2	2	0	Mdlndn rf	2	0	0	0
Downs p	2	0	0	0	Mddux p	2	0	0	0
					Bmngr p	0	0	0	0
					Dmpstr p	0	0	0	0
					Dubois ph	1	0	1	0
Totals	**31**	**6**	**6**	**4**	**Totals**	**29**	**0**	**3**	**0**

Montreal 001 000 050—6
Chicago 000 000 000—0

E—DLee (5). Baiko (4). DP—Montreal 3. LOB—Montreal 6, Chicago 3. 2B—Iturris (13). HR—Sledge (12). SB—EChavez (25), JRivera (4). S—Downs 2. SF—Wilkerson.

Montreal	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Downs W,3-5	9	5	0	0	1	4
Chicago						
Maddux L,13-9	7⅔	5	5	2	1	7
Remlinger	⅓	1	1	1	0	1
Dempster	1	0	0	0	0	1

WP—Downs. T—2:07. A—38,379 (39,345).

Phillies 5, Braves 3

PHILADELPHIA **ATLANTA**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Rollins ss	5	0	2	0	Furcal ss	4	1	0	0
Mchels lf	3	1	0	0	MGiles 2b	4	0	0	0
Abreu 1b	4	0	0	0	Giambi 1b	4	0	1	0
Burrell lf	1	1	1	0	JDrew rf	3	0	1	0
Thome 1b	4	1	3	1	CJones 3b	2	0	0	0
DaBell 3b	4	0	0	0	Blalock c	3	0	0	0
Utley 2b	4	1	2	0	AJones cf	4	1	1	0
Lbthal c	4	1	2	0	Lofton lf	3	1	1	2
Glnville cf	3	0	0	1	Mrrero ph	1	0	0	0
Padilla p	2	0	1	0	Thmas 3b	1	0	0	0
TPerez ph	1	0	0	0	DeRosa ph	1	0	0	0
Madson p	0	0	0	0	JSWrht p	2	0	0	0
Worrell p	0	0	0	0	Alfonzo p	0	0	0	0
Howard ph	1	0	0	0	DWise ph	1	0	0	0
BWngrn p	0	0	0	0	Rtrma p	0	0	0	0
					TMartn p	0	0	0	0
					Grybsk p	0	0	0	0
					Colon p	0	0	0	0
Totals	**35**	**5**	**11**	**5**	**Totals**	**31**	**3**	**4**	**3**

Philadelphia 010 010 030—5
Atlanta 000 030 000—3

E—Burrell (3). DP—Philadelphia 1, Atlanta 2. LOB—Philadelphia 6, Atlanta 5. 2B—Lieberthal (27), JDrew (25), 3B—NGreen (3). HR—Thome (40), Larroche (10). SB—Rollins (26), BAbreu (37), SF—Glanville.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Padilla	6	4	3	2	2	4
Madson W,8-2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Worrell	1	0	0	0	0	1
BWagner S,17	1	1	0	0	1	2
Atlanta						
JSWright	6	7	2	2	1	8
Reitsma	1	0	0	0	0	1
Reitsma L,6-4	0	1	2	2	1	0
TMartin	⅓	2	1	1	0	0
Grybosk	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Colon	1	0	0	0	0	1

Reitsma pitched to 2 batters in the 8th. HBP—by Padilla (MGiles). PB—JStrahrdsk. T—2:51. A—0 (50,091).

Phillies 4, Braves 1

Second game

PHILADELPHIA **ATLANTA**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Rollins ss	5	1	2	0	Furcal ss	4	0	0	0
Planco 3b	4	0	2	1	NGreen 2b	4	0	0	0
Crmier c	2	0	0	0	JDrew rf	2	0	0	0
Thome ph	0	0	0	1	DWise rf	1	0	0	0
Worrell p	0	0	0	0	Jufvr 1b	4	0	2	0
BAbreu rf	4	1	2	1	AJones cf	3	1	0	0
Howard 1b	5	0	2	0	Mrrero lf	4	0	1	1
Burrell lf	4	0	0	0	DeRosa 3b	4	0	0	0
Glnville lf	1	0	0	0	EddPrz c	2	0	0	0
Utley 2b	4	0	1	1	Lroche p	2	0	0	0
Byrd cf	4	1	0	0	AlfnsZa p	0	0	0	0
Pratt c	3	0	0	0	Grbkcz p	0	0	0	0
Floyd p	1	0	0	0	Byrd p	1	0	0	0
Wolcott ph	0	0	0	0	TMartn p	0	0	0	0
Timaco p	0	0	0	0	JEstda c	1	0	0	0
TJones p	0	0	0	0					
Collier ph	1	0	0	0					
FRdrgez p	0	0	0	0					
DaBell 3b	1	0	0	0					
Totals	**37**	**4**	**10**	**4**	**Totals**	**30**	**1**	**3**	**1**

Philadelphia 000 001 102—4
Atlanta 000 100 000—1

E—Furcal (22). LOB—Philadelphia 10, Atlanta 6. 2B—Howard (1). SB—Rollins (27), BAbreu (38), Utley (3), DWise (2), AJones (6), Mrrero (2). S—Pratt.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Floyd	4	2	1	1	3	2
Telemaco	1	0	0	0	0	2
TJones W,3-5	1	0	0	0	0	3
FRodriguez	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cormier	1	0	0	0	0	1
Worrell S,18	1	1	0	0	0	1
Atlanta						
Byrd L,6-5	6⅔	8	2	2	1	8
TMartin	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Alfonseca	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jocoy	1	2	2	1	1	1

HBP—by TJones (JDrew). T—2:55. A—20,320 (50,091).

Marlins 3, Mets 0

NEW YORK **FLORIDA**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Valent rf	4	0	0	0	Pierre cf	4	1	1	0
WDgdo ss	4	0	0	0	LCstillo 3b	3	0	0	0
Floyd lf	4	0	1	0	Duca c	5	1	1	0
Plazza 1b	3	0	1	0	Cbrera lf	4	0	0	0
Wright 3b	2	0	0	0	Lowell 3b	4	0	2	0
Cmrون cf	2	0	0	0	Conine 1b	4	0	1	0
JPrilps c	2	0	1	0	JCrcrn rf	4	0	1	0
Kppngr 2b	2	1	0	0	Aurdz ss	3	1	1	0
Seo p	1	0	0	0	Beckett p	3	0	0	0
Brazell ph	1	0	0	0	Benitez p	0	0	0	0
Stanton p	0	0	0	0					
Bttlco p	0	0	0	0					
Zelle ph	1	0	0	0					
Ficiano p	0	0	0	0					
Dwdll p	0	0	0	0					
Totals	**28**	**0**	**4**	**0**	**Totals**	**33**	**3**	**8**	**2**

New York 000 000 000—0
Florida 001 020 00x—3

E—WDelgado (5), Wright (9). DP—Florida 3. LOB—New York 3, Florida 2. 2B—Pierre (31), Brazell (1), Conine (28), JEncarnacion (26), AGonzalez (27). HR—LCstillo (14), JPierre (38). S—Beckett.

New York	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Seo L,4-9	5	5	3	2	3	3
Stanton	1	1	0	0	0	1
Bottalico	1	2	0	0	1	2
Ficiano	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
HBell	⅓	0	0	0	0	0
Florida						
Beckett W,7-8	8	4	0	0	2	9
Benitez S,41	1	0	0	0	0	1

T—2:33. A—14,691 (36,331).

Padres 10, Cardinals 5

ST. LOUIS **SAN DIEGO**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Tguchi cf	4	2	2	2	Brghs 3b	5	0	0	0
Rfterla ss	3	0	0	0	Robson cf	1	2	1	0
McKay c	0	1	0	0	Nady lf	1	1	1	0
Pujols 1b	4	0	2	1	BGiles rf	4	2	1	1
Rolen 3b	3	0	0	0	Nevin 1b	5	2	3	3
Calil p	0	0	0	0	Kieschk lf	3	2	2	2
AReyes p	0	0	0	0	Payton cf	1	1	1	0
Lnkfrd lf	0	0	0	1	KGreen ss	2	1	0	1
Edmnds cf	4	1	0	0	Wkstjr 2b	3	0	1	1
Floros p	0	0	0	0	Ojeda c	3	0	3	1
Marty rf	4	0	0	0	Bmbrry p	0	0	0	0
Luna 2b	4	0	0	0	Hansen ph	1	0	0	0
Mthnny c	4	0	0	0	Stone p	0	0	0	0
MAndrn 2b	2	1	1	1	Lnbrnk p	0	0	0	0
Morris p	1	1	1	0	Ashby p	0	0	0	0
Eckstein ss	1	0	0	0					
Cedeno rf	1	0	0	0					
Totals	**33**	**5**	**7**	**5**	**Totals**	**32**	**10**	**12**	**10**

St. Louis 002 000 030—5
San Diego 034 000 30x—10

E—Burroughs (14). DP—St. Louis 1, San Diego 1. LOB—St. Louis 3, San Diego 6. 2B—Pujols (40), BGiles (24), Kieskio (28), Ojeda (3), HR—Taguchi (3), MAnderson (7), Nevin (23), Kieskio (7). S—RVazquez, DWells. SF—Lankford, KGreene.

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Morris L,15-9	2	5	7	7	3	0
Hann	4	3	0	0	0	3
Call	⅓	3	3	3	1	1
AI Reyes	0	0	0	0	1	0
Flores	1	0	0	0	0	0
San Diego						
DWells W,10-7	7	4	2	2	0	6
Stone	⅓	3	3	3	0	0
Lnebrink	⅓	0	0	0	0	1
Ashby	1	0	0	0	0	1

Morris pitched to 4 batters in the 3rd. HBP—by Flores (Nady), by Stone (McKay). T—2:41. A—34,277 (42,445).

Astros 5, Reds 2

CINCINNATI **HOUSTON**

	ab	r	h	bi		ab	r	h	bi
Freel cf	3	1	2	0	Biggio lf	5	1	1	1
JCastro 3b	5	1	0	1	Lidge p	0	0	0	0
Casey 1b	2	0	0	1	DMrnro rf	4	0	1	0
Dunn lf	2	0	0	0	Tveras cf	0	0	0	0
Dunmz 2b	4	0	2	0	Bgwell 1b	3	1	3	1
Kearns rf	4	0	0	0	Bkmn cf	4	1

Astros take wild-card lead

Clemens' 326th victory pushes Houston streak to 12

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Roger Clemens pitched the Houston Astros into the NL wild-card lead with his 326th career victory.

Clemens tied Eddie Plank for 11th on the career list and the Astros hit four first-inning home runs in a 5-2 victory Wednesday over the Cincinnati Reds. Houston's 12th straight victory tied a team record.

"I've been on clubs throughout my career who've won quite a few in a row," Clemens said, "but I don't know if it's ever been like this."

NL Roundup

Jeff Bagwell, Lance Berkman, Craig Biggio and Mike Lamb homered in the first off Jose Acevedo (5-11). Houston, one percentage point ahead of San Francisco and a half-game in front of the Chicago Cubs in the wild-card race, matched the 12-game winning streak of Sept. 3-14, 1999.

Houston has won 20 of 23 since Aug. 15, the best record in the major leagues over that stretch.

"We're on a nice roll right now," Bagwell said. "It's kind of been amazing to me, all the home runs we're hitting. I've never seen it quite like this."

Clemens (16-4) won his fourth straight start, allowing four hits in seven innings and striking out six. Brad Lidge got three outs for his 21st save.

Phillies 5-4, Braves 3-1: Rookie Gavin Floyd and five relievers combined on a three-hitter as Philadelphia completed the first doubleheader sweep by an opponent at Atlanta since San Diego took two on Aug. 7, 1990.

Amaury Telemaco, Todd Jones (9-5), Felix Rodriguez, Rheal Cormier and Tim Worrell each pitched an inning in the second game, with Worrell getting his 18th save. Paul Byrd (6-5) gave up two runs and eight hits in $6^{2}/_{3}$ innings.

> *"I've been on clubs throughout my career who've won quite a few in a row, but I don't know if it's ever been like this."*
>
> **Roger Clemens**
> Houston Astros pitcher

In the opener, Jim Thome hit a go-ahead three-run homer in the eighth to reach 40 homers for the fourth straight season.

Ryan Madson (8-2) won the opener in relief of Vincente Padilla and Billy Wagner pitched the ninth for his 17th save. Chris Reitsma (6-4) was the loser.

Giants 5, Rockies 3: Edgardo Alfonzo went 3-for-5 with a homer, Deivi Cruz hit a two-run double in San Francisco's four-run eighth and Marquis Grissom had three doubles as the visiting Giants won for the fourth time in five games.

Barry Bonds, with 698 homers, went 1-for-3 and walked once to move within one of the record of 198 he set two years ago.

Tyler Walker (5-1) pitched the seventh and Dustin Hermanson got three outs for his 11th save.

Steve Reed (3-5) was the loser.

Expos 6, Cubs 0: Scott Downs (3-5) threw a five-hitter for his first career shutout to beat Greg Maddux (13-9), who allowed five runs — two earned — and five hits in $7^{2}/_{3}$ innings and remained at 302 victories.

Termmel Sledge homered for the visiting Expos, who won twice in the three-games series. Chicago has lost six of nine.

Marlins 3, Mets 0: Josh Beckett (7-8) allowed four hits in eight innings and blanked New York for his second start in a row to send host Florida to its ninth consecutive victory, tying a team record. Paul Lo Duca hit a two-run homer for Florida.

Armando Benitez pitched a perfect ninth for his NL-leading 41st save, 11 of which have come against the Mets, his former team. Jae Seo (4-9) took the loss.

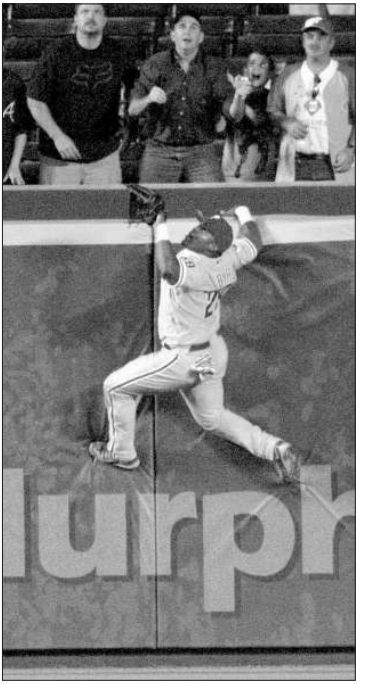
New York, just 1½ games ahead of last-place Montreal in the NL East, has dropped 11 straight, including six to Florida, and hasn't had a lead in 58 innings. The Mets are on their longest losing streak since dropping 12 in a row from Aug. 10-23, 2002.

Padres 10, Cardinals 5: Phil Nevin and Ryan Klesko homered and David Wells (10-7) allowed two runs and three hits in seven innings and drove in two runs.

Matt Morris (15-9) allowed seven runs and five hits in two-plus innings for host San Diego, which trails Houston by two games in the wild-card race.

Dodgers 6, Diamondbacks 5: Steve Finley doubled in the winning run in the ninth off Mike Koplove (3-4) as host Los Angeles maintained a 4½-game lead in the NL West over San Francisco. Eric Gagne (6-3) retired the side in the ninth.

Brewers-Pirates, cancelled: The Milwaukee-Pittsburgh game was washed out by a day-long rain, courtesy of the remains of Hurricane Frances. The game was cancelled and won't be made up because both clubs are out of playoff contention.



AP

Philadelphia right fielder Bobby Abreu climbs the outfield wall to catch Andruw Jones' bid for a home run in the ninth inning of the second game of Wednesday's doubleheader at Atlanta. The Phillies swept the doubleheader, the first by an opponent in Atlanta in 14 years.

Brief shower not enough to dampen Twins' romp

AP

Lia Fabbri, 10, of Dearborn, Mich., clutches an umbrella during a rain delay Wednesday night. The Kansas City-Detroit game was postponed by the rainstorm.

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Johan Santana had an early lead and was well on his way to his 10th straight victory when rain started to fall.

"I was trying to work quick, because in the third inning I saw a little rain coming and I don't want the game to stay like that and be gone, and not get a chance to win," Santana said.

The shower quickly passed and Santana pitched seven innings of five-hit ball in the Minnesota Twins' 9-0 rout of the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday night.

Santana (17-6) struck out nine and walked none before leaving with a 9-0 lead. He's unbeaten in 11 starts since July 11 and has a 1.38 ERA since the All-Star break.

"That's one of best lefties I've ever faced," Baltimore's David Segui said. "His changeup — even if you sit on it and get it — the action on it is pretty impressive."

AL Roundup

Segui and Miguel Tejada both had two hits for the Orioles, who didn't have a baserunner until the fifth inning. By then, it was way too late for Baltimore. Matt LeCroy homered to cap a seven-run second inning for Minnesota, which reached double figures in hits (12) for the first time in seven games.

Justin Morneau and Torii Hunter had three hits apiece, and LeCroy drove in three runs for the Twins, headed to their third straight AL Central title.

"It was good to get the bats going again because we've been a little quiet lately," LeCroy said. "We need to start scoring some runs down the stretch."

The Twins sent 10 batters to the plate in the second inning, scoring six unearned runs following an error by third baseman Melvin Mora. After Henry Blanco hit a sacrifice fly, Mora dropped a liner off the bat of Shannon Stewart. Lew Ford followed with a sacrifice fly, Hunter hit an RBI single and Morneau doubled in two runs before LeCroy homered.

"We had a big inning, which we needed because we haven't been scoring many runs," Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire said. "That was kind of fun for us to get a lead and then hope that the rain didn't bite us."

Erik Bedard (6-10) allowed seven runs — one earned — and six hits in two innings.

White Sox 5, Rangers 2: Carlos Lee hit a tiebreaking RBI single in visiting Chicago's four-run sixth and Freddy Garcia (11-10) pitched five innings in his first start in over two weeks.

Ben Davis homered and Timo Perez hit a two-run double for the White Sox, who have won five of six but remain 8½ games behind first-place Minnesota in the AL Central.

Blue Jays 1, Angels 0: Justin Miller (3-3) allowed two hits over eight innings to outpitch Kelvim Escobar and lead visiting Toronto over the Angels.

Escobar (9-10) allowed a run and five hits in eight innings and set a career high with 12 strikeouts, pushing his season total to a career-best 162.

Indians 9, Mariners 5: Ronnie Belliard hit a three-run homer in the fourth for visiting Cleveland.

Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki went 1-for-5 to extend his hitting streak to 13 games and move within 30 of George Sisler's major league season record of 257 hits. Suzuki has 24 games left to reach the mark, set in 1920 with the St. Louis Browns.

Edgar Martinez hit two homers and Bret Boone and Greg Dobbs one each for Seattle, which lost its seventh straight. Dobbs' homer came in his first major league at-bat, the first Mariners player to accomplish the feat.

RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Last chance

Only 10 drivers will leave Richmond with a shot at winning the Nextel Cup title

BY HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — And so, after 25 races, it comes down to this: Four spots up for grabs in NASCAR's 10-race championship shootout, nine drivers with a shot and one of the raciest tracks on the schedule the place where it will be decided.

"This is the make or break race of the year for us, so we're going to have to pull out all the stops in order to put ourselves in contention to win," Kevin Harvick said of Saturday night's Chevy Rock & Roll 400 at Richmond International Raceway.

It marks the end of the 26-race championship qualifying series, and will be followed by an all-new 10-race shootout among the top 10 drivers in the standings.

A week ago, Harvick was in eighth place going into the race at Fontana, Calif., but a 28th-place finish sent him tumbling to the end of the line of contenders, 56 points behind No. 10 Mark Martin, and forcing him into a decided change in strategy.

Harvick now ranks 15th and will have to beat Jamie McMurray, Bobby Labonte, Dale Jarrett and Jeremy Mayfield — along with at least one driver who will start Saturday night's race in the top 10 — to gain a spot in the championship chase.

"We're on the aggressive now and they're the ones who need to be looking over their shoulders, not me anymore," Harvick said. "... The time is now to go for it all."

Like Harvick, other drivers needing to make up ground at Richmond view the three-quarter-mile oval as an interesting place to wrap up the qualifying series.

McMurray, rankec 11th and only 25 out of the top 10, was running well here in the spring before tangling with Joe Nemechek and being relegated to a 38th-place finish.

"That's the thing about Richmond," McMurray said. "It's a short track and you can be caught up in someone else's mess and have your night end early."

> *"I think it's going to be a great track for it. A short track, Saturday night. I'm sure there will be a full moon out and tempers flaring at the end of it."*
>
> **Jeremy Mayfield**
> 14th in the driver standings

For Mayfield, this race is a chance to undo a number of mistakes earlier in the season that combined to put him 55 points out of 10th going into the finale.

"We've just got to go in there and race and do whatever it takes to win the race and get all the points we can get," Mayfield, who is 14th, said. "Whatever the consequences are, we'll have to deal with them later and race aggressively and do whatever you've got to do to win. ... I don't care about anybody around me."

Jarrett, 43 points behind Martin, thinks expectations that driver etiquette will be forgotten are misguided, at least until the last few laps, because aggressive driving can hurt the aggressor as much as his victim.

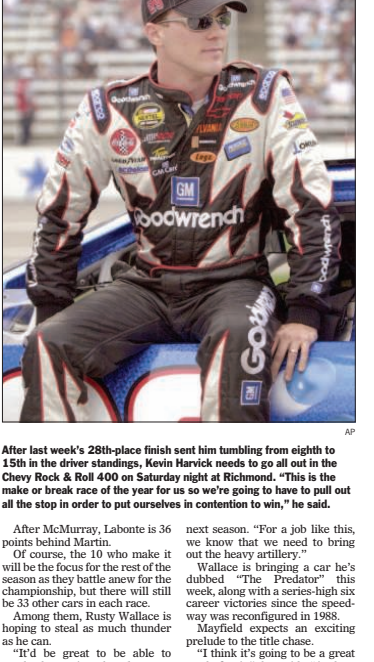
"People want to talk about taking chances and doing this and that on the race track," he said. "You can't put yourself in that position. One spot might make a difference here in the last five laps of this race and you might have to do something at that point if it might be the difference between getting in or not."

Still, he said, the same unwritten rules of decency will apply. That means a nudge aside from a faster car is acceptable and expected, but causing a crash is not.

"As far as literally taking somebody out, no, that's not the way to do it," he said. "That's not the way I've ever done it and I won't start now because of this."

Once the race begins, six drivers will have clinched spots, No. 7 Kurt Busch will have all but clinched one and the remaining contenders will be just 76 points apart, all hoping for a massive reshuffling like the one that took place at Fontana.

After that race, Harvick and Labonte fell out of the top 10, Kasey Kahne and Martin moved precariously in and Ryan Newman climbed from 10th to eighth.



AP

After last week's 28th-place finish sent him tumbling from eighth to 15th in the driver standings, Kevin Harvick needs to go all out in the Chevy Rock & Roll 400 on Saturday night at Richmond. "This is the make or break race of the year for us so we're going to have to pull out all the stop in order to put ourselves in contention to win," he said.

After McMurray, Labonte is 36 points behind Martin.

Of course, the 10 who make it will be the focus for the rest of the season as they battle anew for the championship, but there will still be 33 other cars in each race.

Among them, Rusty Wallace is hoping to steal as much thunder as he can.

"It'd be great to be able to crash that points hoopla party that everyone knows the race will be," said Wallace, who recently announced he's retiring after next season. "For a job like this, we know that we need to bring out the heavy artillery."

Wallace is bringing a car he's dubbed "The Predator" this week, along with a series-high six career victories since the speedway was reconfigured in 1988.

Mayfield expects an exciting prelude to the title chase.

"I think it's going to be a great track for it," he said. "A short track, Saturday night. I'm sure there will be a full moon out and tempers flaring at the end of it."

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 25: Chevy Rock & Roll 400, 1:30 a.m. Sunday (live), AFN-Pacific/Korea.

Last race: Elliott Sadler assured himself of a spot in the championship chase by winning the Pop Secret 500 in Fontana, Calif.

Sadler has to start the next race to officially clinch a spot.

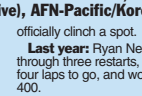
Last year: Ryan Newman held on through three restarts, the last with four laps to go, and won the Chevrolet 400.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Jamie McMurray is 11th in the driver standings, and Richmond will be his last chance to qualify for the 10-race title chase. He trails 10th-place Mark Martin by only 25 points.

Bobby Labonte is in 12th place and only 36 points out of 10th, but he's been fading for the past two months. Labonte hasn't had a top-three finish since July 3.

Dale Jarrett, the 13th-place driver, is only 43 points out of 10th place and coming off a top-10 finish in California. Even better: he has two career victories at Richmond.



Nextel Cup qualifying record
Brian Vickers, 129.982 mph, 2004

Nextel Cup race record
Dale Jarrett, 108.707, Sept. 6, 1997

FAST FACTS

This is the final event before the championship chase, in which the top 10 drivers battle for the title. ... Mark Martin is 10th in the standings, 25 points ahead of Jamie McMurray and 36 in front of Bobby Labonte. ... Kasey Kahne has five second-place finishes this season.

POINTS RACE

After 25 of 36 races

1. Jimmie Johnson	3,482
2. Jeff Gordon	3,432
3. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	3,366
4. Tony Stewart	3,304
5. Matt Kenseth	3,253
6. Elliott Sadler	3,204
7. Kurt Busch	3,186
8. Ryan Newman	3,078
9. Kasey Kahne	3,067
10. Mark Martin	3,058
11. Jamie McMurray	3,033
12. Bobby Labonte	3,022
13. Dale Jarrett	3,015
14. Jeremy Mayfield	3,003
15. Kevin Harvick	3,002
16. Casey Mears	2,704
17. Michael Waltrip	2,674
18. Jeff Burton	2,647
19. Robby Gordon	2,647
20. Rusty Wallace	2,641

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Emerson 250 at Richmond, Va. (Tape-delayed, 9 a.m. Saturday, AFN-Sports).

Last race: Greg Biffle and Casey Mears dominated the Target House 300 at Fontana, Calif., swapping the lead twice down the stretch before Biffle pulled away with two laps remaining to win it.

Last year: Johnny Sauter bumped Matt Kenseth into the wall in the final turn and won the Funai 250 at Richmond for his second career Busch victory.

Next race: Stacker 200, Sept. 25, Dover, Del.

INDY RACING

This week: Delphi Indy 300 at Joliet, Ill. (Tape-delayed, 4 p.m. Tuesday, AFN-Sports).

Last race: Dan Wheldon captured the Firestone Indy 225 at Nazareth Speedway, extending Honda's winning streak to 12 races. Andretti Green Racing drivers swept the top three spots, a first by any team in IRL history.

Last year: Sam Hornish Jr. edged Scott Dixon by just .0099 seconds, the third-closest finish in IRL history, for his second straight Delphi victory.

Next race: Toyota Indy 400, Oct. 3, Fontana, Calif.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

This week: Kroger 200 at Richmond, Va. (Tape-delayed, 9 a.m. Friday, AFN-Sports).

Last race: Carl Edwards came from the back of the field and edged Shane Hmiel to win the O'Reilly 200 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

Last year: Tony Stewart passed Ted Musgrave for the lead with 16 laps to go and won his second consecutive truck race at Richmond.

Next race: New Hampshire 200, Sept. 18, Loudon, N.H.

CHAMP CARS

This week: Grand Prix Monterey at Laguna Seca, Calif.

Last race: Bruno Junqueira jumped back into championship contention with a victory in the Molson Montreal Indy.

Last year: Patrick Carpenteir led from start to finish to hold off Junqueira. Carpentier was awarded the pole after Michel Jourdain's car was declared underweight.

Next race: Sept. 25, Las Vegas

FORMULA ONE

This week: Italian Grand Prix at Monza.

Last race: Michael Schumacher clinched his seventh F1 championship in the Belgian Grand Prix on despite not winning for just the second time in 14 races this season. Schumacher finished second behind Kimi Raikkonen, but still earned his fifth straight drivers' title.

Last year: Schumacher kept a slim lead over Juan Pablo Montoya from start to finish.

Next race: Chinese Grand Prix, Sept. 26, Shanghai.

ACT Against Violence is a joint project of the American Psychological Association and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

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SPORTS

Army preparing for emotional kickoff on Sept. 11, Page 26

Peak performance

AP

Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez works against the Oakland Athletics on Wednesday in Oakland, Calif. Martinez improved to 5-1 with a 1.25 ERA after the Red Sox defeated the A's 8-3 to complete a three-game sweep and fourth victory in a row.

After completing sweep of A's, Red Sox feeling invincible

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Boston Red Sox want to start the playoffs right now.

They feel unbeatable, ready to take on anybody.

Bring it on!

"This is what everyone's been waiting for all year, to be playing like this," center fielder Johnny Damon said. "And we see no signs of slowing down. . . . It shows that we're for real. It shows everyone we're peaking at the right time — pitchers, hitters, defense."

No one would argue.

Boston played superbly in a three-game sweep of the AL West-leading Oakland Athletics, a series that concluded with a convincing 8-3 win Wednesday night. It was the fourth straight victory for the Red Sox and 14th in 15 games. They're 26-5 in their last 31, including an 8-1 stretch against AL West foes Anaheim, Texas and Oakland in the past three series.

Pedro Martinez hardly had to outpitch Tim Hudson because Oakland's All-Star right-hander staked Boston to a huge lead himself.

Martinez pitched six innings of two-hit ball to win his third straight start.

"I don't think about Hudson. I think about my team and how hard they're going to make it for him," Martinez said. "We're ready to play anybody at any time right now. We're hot and we're rolling. Anybody who stands in front of us will have a hard time."

Boston pulled within two games in the AL East of the first-place New York Yankees for the first time since June 3. New York's doubleheader against Tampa Bay was postponed because of rain.

Despite their first four-game losing streak since early July, the AL West-leading A's maintained a 1½-game lead over the Anaheim Angels, who lost 1-0 at home to Toronto.

Martinez (16-5) improved to 5-1 with a 1.25 ERA in seven regular-season starts in the Coliseum, and Hudson lost for the first time in 10 home starts this year. He lasted only three innings, allowing seven runs, six hits and a season-high five walks.

David Ortiz hit a two-run single in the first for Boston, 8-1 this year against Oakland, the team it beat in last season's division series.

The Red Sox again showed their improved defense: First baseman Doug Mientkiewicz made an impressive backhanded diving catch in foul territory, then in the third he flipped the ball to Martinez for an out on Adam Melhuse's sharp grounder.

Twice, Martinez retired seven straight batters and he hasn't allowed a run in 16 innings. The win was his 117th with the Red Sox, tying him with Smoky Joe Wood for fifth in club history.

He's confident in Boston's chances if there's another first-round meeting with the A's.

"They got us two games to nothing and we came back and beat them, so get used to it," he said of the 2003 division series.

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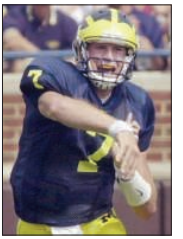

Longtime college rivalries look like mismatches this weekend

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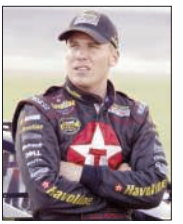

Drivers get final shot at Cup chase in Richmond

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Clemens lifts Astros into wild-card lead with 326th win

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