Cheney says WMD report proves president's case for war Page 3

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NASCAR swears by its pointed language policy

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Volume 2, No. 181 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2004

Green Zone on edge after bomb is found

- Area's security level raised; rockets hit Sheraton hotel
- 2 GIs killed in roadside blasts as violence continues

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AP

A local resident is seen through the broken glass of a damaged car after an airstrike in Sadr City, a neighborhood of Baghdad, on Thursday. Despite ongoing negotiations to end months of fighting between U.S. troops and followers of renegade Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr there, an airstrike on Thursday morning killed one and injured two people. U.S. military sources said that the strike was conducted to destroy a roadside bomb.

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

States

Lori Hacking slaying: Salt Lake City authorities have given Lori Hacking's remains to her family for a private burial.

Family members received the body Tuesday, four days after searchers found the remains at a landfill, where crews combed through mounds of garbage after Hacking's husband, Mark, allegedly confessed to shooting her and throwing her body in the trash.

David Gehris, a spokesman for Lori Hacking's parents, said the family planned a private ceremony at Orem City Cemetery, where a headstone has already been erected.

Civil servant bonuses: Federal agency heads would be able to offer employees bonuses of up to 100 percent of their annual salaries as an incentive to join or stay in the federal work force under legislation the House passed Wednesday.

The measure, aimed at helping the government recruit and retain highly qualified people who might otherwise join the private sector, limits recruitment, relocation and retention bonuses to 25 percent of an annual basic pay in most cases but allows for up to 100 percent for employees who meet a "critical agency need" and agree to work for the government for a specified period. Political appointees are not eligible for the bonuses.

Nader presidential bid: A federal appeals court on Wednesday rejected consumer activist and independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader's attempt to force his way onto the Texas ballot in the November election.

Nader

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans ruled that Texas' tough ballot access requirements for independents are constitutional.

Nader tried to get on the ballot by collecting voter signatures, but his campaign submitted them two weeks after the May deadline.

Aryan Nation threats: The self-proclaimed leader of the Aryan Nation in Nevada was indicted Wednesday by a federal grand jury for allegedly sending threatening e-mails to newspapers in Reno and San Francisco.

Steven Holten, 40, once described by a police official as a "one-man Aryan Nation," faces arraignment on one count of transmitting a threat in interstate commerce. The charge carries up to five years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

Investigators said Holten sent a mass e-mail Sept. 20 to the Reno Gazette-Journal and the San Francisco Chronicle targeting them as an "enemy" of the white-supremacist group.

D-Day memorial trial: The federal fraud trial of former National D-Day Memorial director Richard B. Burrow ended Wednesday as jurors deadlocked on whether his aggressive fund-raising efforts were illegal.

Senior U.S. District Judge James Turk declared a mistrial after a visibly frustrated jury of 11 women and one man told him repeatedly, at times tearfully, during two days of deliberations that they disagreed on all eight fraud counts.

It was the second hung jury in the government's three-year investigation of Burrow.

Prosecutors have 70 days to decide what to do with the charges — they could ask for another trial.

Clinic-bombing trial: Prosecutors in the death penalty case against alleged serial bomber Eric Rudolph are distancing themselves from a government expert who once acknowledged making jokes and comments ridiculing blacks.

Forensic chemist Edward Bender, who works for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, will not testify in Rudolph's trial next year, prosecutors said in papers posted Wednesday on a court Web site.

The government said allegations against Bender "have nothing to do" with the case against Rudolph, who is white.

Koreas talks: South Korean soldiers open a gate Thursday for military vehicles arriving at the Demilitarized Zone that separates North and South Korea. Military officials from the two countries met Thursday to discuss land routes across their border, following a three-month hiatus in dialogue.

World

Hurricane Ivan: U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell pledged millions of dollars in aid to help Grenada recover from the devastation of Hurricane Ivan, saying the American government recognizes urgent needs on the Caribbean island.

Powell

"Grenada has been hit the hardest, so you can expect the assistance that we will be providing to you will be significant," Powell said, without providing an exact figure for Grenada's share.

Mideast fighting: Two Palestinian boys, ages 14 and 15, were killed in an Israeli missile strike on Thursday, their relatives said.

The army said the missile was aimed at militants about to fire a Qassam rocket. The boys' relatives said the two had been playing with an empty tube and gasoline-filled bottles, apparently trying to imitate the gunmen who fire rockets.

Nuclear disarmament: Russia shrugged off U.S. criticism over nuclear issues Thursday, saying it had made progress in reducing its tactical weapons in Europe and would continue cooperating with Iran's program despite concerns Tehran might be trying to develop atomic weapons.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said a 1991-1992 initiative to reduce tactical nuclear weapons and implement other disarmament measures was being "completely fulfilled."

India's nuclear capability: India will not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in its present form, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Thursday, in his first statement on the country's nuclear policy since he came to power in May.

India is a "responsible" nuclear power that will use nuclear weapons only defensively, Singh said.

Military

Scott Speicher search: Insurgent violence in Iraq has impeded the U.S. military's search for clues to the fate of missing Navy pilot Capt. Michael Scott Speicher, a Marine Corps general says.

Speicher

The active phase of the search ended in May and no new leads have emerged since then, Brig. Gen. Joseph J. McMenamin, military commander of the Iraq Survey Group, told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday. A final intelligence report is being prepared, he said.

Speicher was shot down in an F/A-18 over central Iraq on Jan. 17, 1991, the opening night of the Gulf War. His remains were never recovered.

War on terrorism

Guantanamo detainees: An Army officer at the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, on Wednesday denied making statements attributed to him in a British newspaper that suggested many of the alleged al-Qaida and Taliban detainees were no threat to the country and would be freed.

In a statement released Wednesday, the military unit running the detention facility said remarks by its deputy commander, Brig. Gen. Martin Lucenti, were "misquoted or taken out of context" by the Financial Times in an article Tuesday.

Business

Fannie Mae investigation: At turns defiant and emotional, Fannie Mae's top executive, Franklin Raines, denied that the mortgage giant's manipulated its earnings and questioned an investigative report of the company's accounting practices as factually deficient.

Stories and photos from wire services

AP

Smoke bellows from U.S. headquarters at the so-called "Green Zone" in central Baghdad after an explosion Thursday. An improvised bomb was found in a restaurant in the Green Zone, home of the U.S. Embassy and key government offices, American officials said.

Green Zone security level upped after bomb found at restaurant

2 GIs killed by roadside bombs; rockets hit hotel used by foreigners

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Two American soldiers were killed and two others were wounded in separate attacks involving roadside bombs, U.S. officials said Thursday, and 20 Iraqis were arrested in the north in operations against those suspected of planting explosives.

U.S. authorities, meanwhile, raised the security alert in the heavily guarded Green Zone after an improvised bomb was found in front of a restaurant there.

One U.S. soldier from the 13th Corps Support Command died when a bomb exploded near his convoy late Wednesday outside the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, the command said. Two other soldiers were wounded.

A 1st Infantry Division soldier was killed and an Iraqi interpreter wounded when insurgents attacked a patrol with a roadside bomb near Beiji, 155 miles north of Baghdad, the command said.

The warning to Americans and Iraqi officials in the Green Zone followed the discovery Tuesday of an explosive device at the Green Zone Cafe, a popular hangout for Westerners living and working in the compound, which houses major U.S. and Iraqi government offices. A U.S. military ordnance detachment safely disarmed it, U.S. officials said.

A loud explosion shook the Green Zone on Thursday afternoon and smoke was seen rising from inside the compound. The U.S. military had no immediate information on the incident. Insurgents regularly fire at the compound.

Americans living and working in the zone were told to travel in groups and avoid specific areas and nonessential travel.

Later Thursday, two rockets hit a downtown Baghdad hotel housing foreigners and journalists, and gunfire erupted in the neighborhood across the Tigris River from the U.S. Embassy compound.

Security guards at the Palestine hotel said two rockets fired from the back of a pickup struck the nearby Sheraton hotel, shattering windows and filling the main lobby of the hotel with smoke and debris.

Several shaken Westerners emerged from the hotel, some covering their mouths with cloths, as workers swept up shards from shattered plate-glass doors in the Sheraton lobby. A huge crack appeared in the lobby wall.

Outside, bursts of automatic gunfire were heard in the street between the Sheraton and nearby Palestine hotel, which also is a base for foreigners. The gunfire lasted for about 10 minutes after the explosions.

A security guard speaking on the condition of anonymity said private security guards deployed on the roofs in the compound fired at the pickup truck, destroying it.

The blaze was believed caused by several rockets that landed in the compound, which is surrounded by a concrete wall. sky.

The Iraqi government was reported close to an agreement with followers of al-Sadr to end weeks of fighting in his stronghold of Sadr City, a teeming Shiite slum in northeastern Baghdad.

An aide to al-Sadr offered Thursday to hand over medium and heavy weapons and cooperate with Iraqi security forces in the capital if the government stops pursuing members of the Shiite militia and releases most of the cleric's followers from jail.

The offer, made by al-Sadr spokesman Ali Smeisem on Al-Arabiya television, was aimed at striking a deal to end weeks of fighting between U.S. troops and al-Sadr's militia in Sadr City.

There was no comment from the Iraqi government or the U.S. command.

Smeisem made no commitment to disband the Mahdi Army militia — a key U.S. and Iraqi demand. Smeisem also insisted the government respect the "political role" of al-Sadr's movement.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, 1,064 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 809 died as a result of hostile action and 255 died of nonhostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 926 U.S. military members have died — 700 as a result of hostile action and 226 of nonhostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Wednesday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

Cheney: WMD report proves invading Iraq was necessary

BY TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Vice President Dick Cheney asserted on Thursday that a finding by the chief U.S. weapons inspector in Iraq that Saddam Hussein's government produced no weapons of mass destruction after 1991 justifies rather than undermines President Bush's decision to go to war.

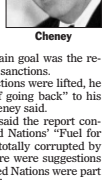
The report shows that "delay, defer, wait wasn't an option," Cheney told a town hall-style meeting.

While Democrats pointed to the new report by Charles Duelfer to bolster their case that invading Iraq was a mistake, Cheney focused on portions that were more favorable to the administration's case.

"The headlines all say no weapons of mass destruction stockpiled in Baghdad. We already knew that," Cheney said.

He said other parts of the report were "more intriguing."

Cheney's comments reflect a GOP strategy to use portions of the report, including abuses of Iraq's "fuel for food" program, to try to move discussion away from the central conclusions on the absence of weapons of mass destruction.



Cheney

Although the report says Saddam's weapons program had deteriorated since the 1991 Gulf War and did not pose a threat to the world in 2003, it also says Saddam's main goal was the removal of international sanctions.

"As soon as the sanctions were lifted, he had every intention of going back" to his weapons program, Cheney said.

The vice president said the report concluded that the United Nations' "Fuel for Food" program "was totally corrupted by Saddam Hussein. There were suggestions employees of the United Nations were part of the scheme as well."

"The suggestion is clearly there by Mr. Duelfer that Saddam had used the program in such a way that he had bought off foreign governments and was building support among them to take the sanctions down," Cheney said.

Thus there was no reason to wait to invade Iraq to give inspectors more time to do their work, Cheney said.

"The sanctions regime was coming apart at the seams," Cheney told a later forum in Fort Myers. "Saddam perverted that whole thing and generated billions of dollars. … He used the funds to corrupt others."

The new GOP strategy contained some risks to Bush: Some of the countries possibly implicated in wrongdoing in the program include U.S. allies in Iraq, particularly Poland, as well as Russia — countries the administration does not want to alienate.

On Wednesday, the former head of the U.N. weapons inspection team, Hans Blix, said: "Had we had a few months more [of inspections before the war], we would have been able to tell both the CIA and others that there were no weapons of mass destruction [at] all the sites that they had given to us."

Duelfer's report said what ambitions Saddam harbored for such weapons were secondary to his goal of evading the sanctions, and he wanted weapons primarily not to attack the United States or to provide them to terrorists but to oppose his older enemies, Iran and Israel.

Whackers & hackers now welcome in Iraq

Major creating golf complex in camp

BY JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes

CSC SCANIA, Iraq — It's called Operation Iraqi Putting Green.

Maj. John McBrearty, executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment of the California National Guard is trying to bring a piece of American life to the wilds of Iraq: a driving range.

"It's just a dream I had when we got here," he said.

Six months ago, he arrived at the dusty Convoy Support Center Scania, about 100 miles south of Baghdad, with a few clubs to keep up his skills.

"I figured I could at least work on my swing wherever I am," he said.

But there was nowhere to play. So McBrearty decided his camp, which serves as a way station for convoys, needed a putting green and a driving range.

Needing the approval from his higher ups before teeing off on the project, McBrearty enlisted the support of friends and family at home. He also brought in donations from Callaway Golf and the Burbank chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Kiwanis for supplies.

"I figured I'd get all the equipment in hand then they couldn't say 'no,' " he said.

Six months later, with a connex filled with 25 sets of clubs, a few hundred yards of Astroturf, balls and tees, he and fellow hackers are ready. The group is now only waiting to obtain some much needed lumber before beginning construction.

A small area near the Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent will become a putting green; a larger area previously cleared for drainage will become a driving range.

Although he is spearheading the project, McBreaty said it is a unit effort. The green and range will be named in honor of Spc. Daniel Unger, a member of his unit killed in May.

"By the time we leave here, we'll probably have a pretty nice golf complex."

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@pstripes.osd.mil

Maj. John McBrearty, executive officer of the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment of the California National Guard, looks over donated golf clubs and a connex trailer full of other golf accessories donated for his future putting green and driving range at Convoy Support Center Scania, Iraq.
JULIANA GITTLER/Stars and Stripes

Iraqis losing interest in election, poll says; too little info available

BY NANCY A. YOUSSEF
Knight Ridder Newspapers

BAGHDAD — Iraqi voters are losing interest in elections scheduled for January, and not because they're worried about security.

Instead, potential voters said they had no interest in or understanding of the process, according to a poll by the Iraq Center for Research & Strategic Studies.

The poll, conducted Sept. 15 to 22, surveyed 3,500 people nationwide. Of those, 66.8 percent said they very likely would vote in January's elections for a National Assembly; in June, 88.8 percent had said they very likely would vote.

Just over 8 percent said they might not or definitely wouldn't vote.

Only 12.7 percent of those saying they probably wouldn't vote cited security concerns. A lack of information was cited by 37.3 percent; 35.7 said they had no interest. The margin of error was 3.4 percentage points.

"In America, you prepare for a year before the election," said Sadoun al Dulame, the executive director of the organization that conducted the poll. "In Iraq, this is the first time, and until now, there is no real preparation."

The results are disappointing for those who hoped the public would embrace the elections as the first step toward a democratic Iraq. They suggest that the U.S.-appointed government hasn't effectively rallied the people to reclaim their government through elections.

"There are a lot of frustrated people," said Huda al Nuaimi, an assistant political science professor at al Mustansiriya University in Baghdad. "The interim government did not serve the individual Iraqi in any way."

Taseer Ameer, 19, a first-year Baghdad University mathematics student, agreed, saying the process "is only words."

Ameer said she didn't plan to vote.

"It's been two years now and the simplest things aren't happening, like improving security," she said. "We are in the process of destruction instead of reconstruction."

> *"We are in the process of destruction instead of reconstruction."*
>
> **Taseer Ameer**
> Baghdad University mathematics student

The poll also asked what factors could prevent people from voting.

Violence at voting booths, which many thought would be a major issue, wasn't as problematic for those polled. Only 7.7 percent said "intimidation by armed groups" absolutely would be a factor, while 28 percent said it was very likely. Nearly 15 percent said such groups wouldn't be a factor.

Iraqis have debated whether the country could legitimately hold partial elections, given the dicey security situation in parts of the country, particularly in the so-called Sunni Triangle. But little has been said about how the process itself would work.

The Independent Electoral Commission, assigned with monitoring the elections, still is recruiting the 70,000 workers it will need to conduct the elections. And it's still being trained. Issues such as whether candidates should use public campaign money and where the elections will be held still are being decided.

Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has called security the main obstacle to a free election. And he's called for a transparent and open process.

He's rarely mentioned political disenfranchisement except to tell people that they can vote for any government they want in January.

Al Dulame said people wanted to experience free elections, but were pessimistic that the process would be fair. They're disappointed in the government they've experienced so far.

U.S. Navy helicopter crashes in Kuwait

MANAMA, Bahrain — A U.S. Navy helicopter crashed Thursday immediately after takeoff in Kuwait, but all seven crew survived, the 5th Fleet's headquarters said.

The crew suffered only minor injuries, the Navy said in a statement issued in Bahrain, about 220 miles south of Kuwait.

The helicopter, a Seahawk attached to the USS John F. Kennedy Strike Group, crashed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, while on a routine mission, the Navy said.

The cause of the crash is being investigated, the 5th Fleet said.

955 Iraqi police graduate in secret location

BAGHDAD — U.S. officials announced the graduation Thursday of 955 Iraqi police officers — but would not say where the two ceremonies took place.

Iraq's beleaguered security forces are the target of regular bombings, mortar attacks and shooting sprees — often directed at recruiting centers. Hundreds of policemen and would-be recruits have been killed since the U.S.-led March 2003 invasion.

A total of 805 students, including 73 women, completed the eight-week basic training that prepares them to serve in the police force, U.S. command said in a statement.

Others completed courses covering subjects like organized crime, kidnappings and the investigation of bomb blasts.

"The courses are designed to improve the capabilities of Iraqi police officers and help to further the goal of creating a secure and stable Iraq," the statement said.

Building a strong Iraqi police force that can take over security operations from U.S. forces is a cornerstone of the American strategy to restore peace in Iraq.

Detainees released from two prisons

BAGHDAD — About 240 detainees were released from U.S. and Iraqi custody Thursday under a review process set up following the prisoner abuse scandal at Abu Ghraib prison, the U.S. military said.

None of those freed were so-called high-value detainees, who are processed separately from the 1,700 "security detainees" at centers at the Abu Ghraib facility near Baghdad and Camp Bucca in southern Iraq, said Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, a military spokesman.

The publication in April of photographs showing naked, terrified Iraqi prisoners being abused and humiliated by grinning American guards at Abu Ghraib caused outrage here and internationally.

A review and release board was set up by coalition forces and the interim Iraqi ministries of justice, human rights and interior.

Thursday saw the fourth round of releases since the board convened Aug. 21. Johnson, an officer with Iraq Detention Operations, said the only two Iraqi women in U.S. custody were not among those freed Thursday since they are considered high-value detainees.

From The Associated Press

Schweinfurt mourns two more lost soldiers

Killed same day serving in Iraq, GIs remembered

BY STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

Sgt. 1st Class Joselito Villanueva charmed friends with his quick wit and jolly laugh, and he took care of his men like family. Spc. Gregory Cox said little but worked hard at the tough job of soldiering in Iraq.

Last spring, the two men both landed with Task Force 1-77 in Iraq, and they both died within an hour of each other Sept. 27 in separate incidents near their home base at Balad.

A Schweinfurt community weary of loss gathered Wednesday at the Ledward Barracks chapel to mourn them. They are the 28th and 29th Schweinfurt-based soldiers killed in action since the 1st Infantry Division deployed to Iraq last spring.

Villanueva, 36, of the 9th Engineer Battalion, was born in the Philippines, but his family later moved to Van Nuys, Calif. He joined the Army in 1986, served in Operation Desert Storm and arrived in Schweinfurt in 2000.

His sunny personality quickly endeared "Sergeant V" to many of his fellow soldiers and their families.

"Joe was a very sweet guy, and he had such a big heart," said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Robinson and his wife, Anna Marie, in a tribute read at Wednesday's service.

"He was also sociable, and he loved hanging out at the Irish Pub with all his friends. I don't think Joe realized how special he made people feel."

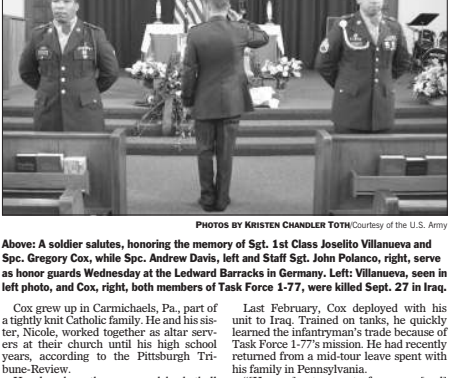
Villanueva served in Kosovo with his unit in 2002, and he deployed to Iraq last February as the platoon sergeant for Company C's 2nd platoon. He looked out for his men.

"He developed that sense of family within his platoon and in the company," said Capt. Henry Delacruz, commander of Task Force 1-77's Company B, to which Villanueva's platoon was attached. "He created this bond that made them the most tight-knit platoon that I've ever seen or worked with."

Villanueva earned a Purple Heart last April when a roadside bomb exploded next to his Humvee, killing one of his soldiers. A small piece of shrapnel pierced his neck, and he nearly died, too.

About 8:30 a.m. Sept. 27, Villaneuva's patrol stopped to aid an Iraqi truck driver who had been driving erratically and crashed his truck. As Villanueva got out to help, a hidden sniper fatally shot him. No one else was injured.

Cox had died a short time earlier, when his Humvee was run off the road by an Iraqi driver — unintentionally, according to a Pentagon statement — and rolled over.



PHOTOS BY KRISTEN CHANDLER TOTH/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Above: A soldier salutes, honoring the memory of Sgt. 1st Class Joselito Villanueva and Spc. Gregory Cox, while Spc. Andrew Davis, left and Staff Sgt. John Polanco, right, serve as honor guards Wednesday at the Ledward Barracks in Germany. Left: Villanueva, seen in left photo, and Cox, right, both members of Task Force 1-77, were killed Sept. 27 in Iraq.

Cox grew up in Carmichaels, Pa., part of a tightly knit Catholic family. He and his sister, Nicole, worked together as altar servers at their church until his high school years, according to the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review.

He played youth soccer and basketball and impressed friends with his dry sense of humor.

"He was a quiet kid," George Parish, a childhood friend, told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette last week. "But whenever the time came when the mood was down, he always had something funny to say."

Parrish is now a student at West Virginia University.

Cox joined the Army after graduating from high school in 2001 and left for basic training just days before the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. The next April, he joined Company C of the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment.

Last February, Cox deployed with his unit to Iraq. Trained on tanks, he quickly learned the infantryman's trade because of Task Force 1-77's mission. He had recently returned from a mid-tour leave spent with his family in Pennsylvania.

"[He was] a teammate for many [and] had come out of his shell while downrange," said Lt. Col. David Hubner, the task force commander, in comments read at Wednesday's service, "to become one of the guys who was always joking around with his friends, check[ing] on everybody else, always ready for the next patrol."

Cox is survived by his parents, John and Mary Anne Cox, and his sister, Nicole.

Villanueva is survived by his parents, Edito and Pilarita Villanueva. Both soldiers were posthumously awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

E-mail Steve Liewer at:
liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Report: U.N. oil-for-food program corrupt

Saddam allegedly made $10.9 billion by bribing officials and illegally selling oil vouchers while under sanctions

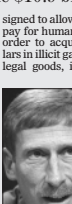
BY DESMOND BUTLER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Vivid allegations of widespread corruption at the U.N. oil-for-food program by the top U.S. arms inspector have added credibility to accusations the United Nations looked the other way while Saddam Hussein's government skimmed billions of dollars and offered kickbacks to governments around the world.

The inspector's report implicates the top U.N. official overseeing the $60 billion program, accusing him of accepting bribes in the form of vouchers for Iraqi oil sales, and details Iraqi manipulation to illegally enrich Saddam's government and influence Security Council members.

The alleged schemes included an Iraqi system for allocating lucrative oil vouchers, which permitted recipients to purchase certain amounts of oil at a profit, according to the report issued Wednesday by Charles Duelfer, head of the Iraq Survey Group.

Duelfer said between 1996 and 2003 the Iraqi government manipulated the U.N. program — designed to allow limited oil sales to pay for humanitarian goods — in order to acquire billions of dollars in illicit gains and to import illegal goods, including parts for missile systems. The report estimates Saddam generated $10.9 billion in hard currency through illicit means from 1990 to 2003 during the entire sanctions period.



Duelfer

It also said the vouchers "provided Saddam with a useful method of rewarding countries, organizations and individuals willing to cooperate with Iraq to subvert U.N. sanctions."

Responding to the report, a high-ranking U.S. congressman demanded the United Nation's independent inquiry speed up its timetable and release documents to Congressional investigators.

"The world cannot wait years for answers to the growing body of evidence implicating senior U.N. officials in outright corruption," said Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., who chairs the House International Relations Committee.

"Immediate public access to U.N. internal audits and other documents — thus far denied to members of the Security Council — is imperative if the world body is to escape further damage to its credibility as a result of this grossly mismanaged program."

Secretary-General Kofi Annan in April appointed former Fed chairman Paul Volcker to lead an independent investigation and he has said his committee will not deliver a report before mid-2005.

Volcker has refused to share with Congress documents for their probes, including 55 internal audits of the oil-for-food program produced by the United Nations.

The Duelfer report said that Benon Sevan, the former chief of the U.N. program, is among dozens of people who allegedly received secret oil vouchers, with Saddam personally approving the list of recipients. The voucher list was dominated by Russian, French and Chinese recipients, in that order, with Saddam spreading the wealth widely to prominent business leaders, politicians, foreign government ministries and political parties, the report said.

Volcker

U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard refused comment on "any specific allegation against Mr. Sevan or anyone else."

The report also names former French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, Indonesian president Megawati Sukarnoputri and the Russian radical political figure Vladimir Zhirinovsky as voucher recipients and other foreign governments range from Yemen to Namibia.

The governments of Jordan, Syria, Turkey and Egypt also did a brisk illicit oil trade with Iraq — more than $8 billion from 1991 until 2003, the report said: "These governments were full parties to all aspects of Iraq's unauthorized oil exports and imports."

Zhirinovsky denied the allegations.

"I never took a drop [of oil], or a single dollar from Iraq or from any other country. I have never dealt with oil," Russia's Interfax news agency cited Zhirinovsky as saying Thursday. "I do not care what [bribes] someone might have received. I personally gained nothing."

In France, Foreign Ministry spokesman Herve Ladsous counseled caution.

"It is important to assure oneself very precisely on the veracity of this information," he said. "We understand that these accusations against companies and individuals were not verified either with the people themselves or with the authorities of the countries concerned."

The names of American companies and individuals who may have been involved in oil deals weren't released because of U.S. privacy laws, the report said.

‘Democracy is a baby in Afghanistan’

Election on Saturday will choose nation’s president

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM
The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Afghanistan’s first direct presidential ballot Saturday will be a historic experiment with democracy after more than two decades of ruin, from Soviet occupation to civil war to the repressive Taliban and the thunderous U.S. bombing campaign that ended their rule.

Despite persistent violence from still-vigorous Taliban insurgents, the United Nations has declared this hard-luck nation ready for the vote, following a campaign that focused on tackling feuding factions and helping people out of poverty.

Thousands of polling stations manned by hastily trained staff open early Saturday for some 10.5 million Afghans who registered for the landmark vote. It will be closely watched by American, NATO and Afghan security forces.

Interim leader Hamid Karzai, seen by many Afghans as a bridge to the West and a figure unsullied by the country’s long-running strife, is expected to garner the most votes and secure a five-year term. Partial results are expected by midweek.

But there are serious doubts about the integrity of the country’s fledgling democracy amid sustained violence and evidence that officials have abused their office to help the U.S.-backed incumbent.

“Peace will not come until the Afghans see that their rights are being observed,” said Yusuf Pashtun, the governor of Kandahar province, once the capital of the Taliban regime and home to Osama bin Laden.

Karzai, the overwhelming favorite among the 18 contenders, has said Saturday’s election is an opportunity to build a new future for a country that has known nothing but war, drought and poverty for a quarter century.

The vote is a key step in rebuilding an Afghan society following decades of turbulence, with the Soviet invasion of 1979, the 1985-89 war against the occupiers, the ruinous 1992-96 civil war that ended with a Taliban victory, and the U.S. campaign to oust them in late 2001.

Karzai’s opponents include warlord chieftains of Afghanistan’s northern minorities to a relative of the country’s last king and a former U.N. worker running as the only female candidate.

The breadth of the field could scatter votes so widely that Karzai fails to achieve the majority needed to avert a run-off, which would give Taliban rebels another chance to disrupt Afghanistan’s democratic process. At least a dozen election workers have died so far in a string of attacks, while Karzai and two his closest aides survived rocket and bomb attacks during the campaign.

While Karzai has won endorsements from regional leaders across the country’s deep ethnic divides, many of his fellow ethnic Pashtuns have not registered in the south due to insecurity while conservative custom has prevented many women from signing up.

Drug smugglers and disgruntled militia forces who helped the U.S. military oust the Taliban three years ago but are now set for disarmament under a U.N.-backed peace plan also may have reason to disrupt the vote.

Still, the American military sees the election as an opportunity for the militants and Karzai’s internationally backed transitional government to seek reconciliation.

Some 18,000 U.S.-led troops are in Afghanistan, up from just 11,000 late last year, to help protect the vote. Another 9,000 NATO-commanded soldiers are on the lookout for trouble in the capital, Kabul, and much of the north.

“Now, are they (the polls) going to be perfect? No. Are they going to be marred by violence? Yes. But we are seeing things happening now that we couldn’t imagine a year ago, or two years ago, and certainly not around 9/11,” said Maj. Gen. Eric Olson, the No. 2 U.S. commander in Afghanistan.

Even if the vote goes ahead without major violence, a Karzai victory is sure to draw criticism that the incumbent benefited from a campaign that flouted the country’s election laws.

Former Kandahar Gov. Gul Agha Sherzai, a powerful tribal leader now serving in Karzai’s Cabinet, told hundreds of elders on Tuesday to vote for Karzai, even though the rules say all officials have to remain neutral.

Ahmed Wali Karzai, the president’s brother who has marshaled his campaign in the south, shrugged, saying Afghans would not understand why a tribal leader should hold his tongue.

“Democracy is a baby in Afghanistan,” he said.

AP

A U.N. election staff member distributes ballot boxes in Herat, Afghanistan, on Thursday. The man was part of a convoy moving boxes throughout the Karokh area. The country’s first direct presidential elections will be held Saturday.

Afghanistan goes to the polls

Main contenders in Afghanistan’s first direct election of a president:

■ Hamid Karzai, interim president elected by tribal grand council after ouster of Taliban. Favorite in election, ethnic Pashtun has become international celebrity drumming up billions in aid pledges, but image at home clouded by slow pace of reconstruction.

■ Yunus Qanooni, Karzai’s former education minister. Last to join race but emerged as Karzai’s strongest rival. Supported by Defense Minister Mohammed Fahim and Foreign Minister Abdullah in troika of former anti-Taliban leaders from Panjshir Valley’s ethnic Tajiks.

■ Mohammed Mohaqeq, another former Cabinet minister. Was anti-Taliban militia commander, but from Afghanistan’s long-suffering Hazara minority.

■ Abdul Rashid Dostum, former communist and wily warlord in country’s civil wars. Widely distrusted, particularly by Pashtuns, but ran fairly efficient mini-state in northeast before it fell to Taliban in 1997. Could secure broad support from fellow Uzbeks.

■ Massooda Jalal, former U.N. worker and only female candidate. Challenged Karzai for interim leadership in 2002. Could score in cities where educated women can find work — and husbands allow them to vote freely.

■ Abdul Latif Pedram, former Tajik exile who ran afoul of communist, mujahadeen and Taliban governments. Contends Karzai’s government doing too little for 3 million refugees who have returned since Taliban’s fall.

■ Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, vice president in early 1990s. Led party with links to Arab volunteers who joined Afghanistan’s anti-Soviet resistance and later al-Qaida, but says those ties are long ended.

■ Abdul Hafiz Mansoor, intellectual. Emerged as focus of independent dissent against Karzai, accusing him of trying to install elected dictatorship.

■ Abdul Satar Sirat, former aide to country’s last king. Could tap nostalgia for monarchy, which saw last period of peace before being swept away by 1973 coup.

The Associated Press

Drug smugglers blamed for attack on Karzai’s running mate

AP

An unidentified man looks Wednesday inside one of the damaged cars from the convoy of Afghan Vice President Ahmed Zia Massood in Faizabad, Afghanistan. A local police official said one person was killed and four others injured.

BY PAUL HAVEN
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Afghan government on Thursday blamed drug smugglers — not Taliban or al-Qaida fighters — for a bomb attack on interim leader Hamid Karzai’s vice presidential running mate, saying the country’s landmark elections are a threat to their business.

The attack Wednesday in the mountainous northeastern poppy-growing region of Badakhshan killed one person and wounded at least five others — including the former governor. Karzai’s running mate, Ahmed Zia Massood, was unharmed.

“I don’t want to name anybody, but the evidence shows that it was the work of drug smugglers, because this process [the election] is against their interests,” said Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali.

The allegation of drug ties to the attack on Massood was illustrative of what might prove a time of transition in Afghanistan, from a largely rebel and al-Qaida-based threat, to one marked by the threat of ever-more violent drug interests.

Heroin and opium production has boomed in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban regime, which had been surprisingly successful at enforcing a ban on cultivation. Officials say they believe the Taliban — now a rebel group — is benefiting from the drug trade, but warlords allied to the government are also heavily involved.

U.N. surveys estimate Afghanistan accounted for three-quarters of the world’s opium last year, and the trade brought in $2.3 billion, more than half of the nation’s gross domestic product.

New surveys suggest even more has been planted this year.

Northeastern Badakhshan, bordering Tajikistan, China and Pakistan, is far from the Taliban strongholds of southern and eastern Afghanistan. Its rugged terrain is covered by poppy fields, and the government has been unable to do much to curb production.

The attack was the third against Karzai and his political allies since campaigning began on Sept. 7. The president survived a rocket assault on his helicopter on Sept. 16 in the eastern city of Gardez, and one of his four current vice presidents survived a bomb attack four days later. The Taliban was suspected in those attacks.

12,500 troops to leave S. Korea by 2008

U.S. agrees to Seoul request to stagger pullout over 3 years

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — The United States has agreed to a "phased" withdrawal of 12,500 troops in South Korea over the next three years, delaying its original proposal to complete the reduction by the end of 2005, officials from both countries said Wednesday.

The new plan, announced at an afternoon Ministry of National Defense news conference and confirmed moments later by a Pentagon statement, calls for a three-stage drawdown from now to 2008.

The agreement marks the first concrete steps in what the Pentagon says will be a worldwide reshuffling of U.S. troops to better reflect post-Cold War conditions. In mid-August, President Bush pledged to move 70,000 U.S. servicemembers and 100,000 family members and civilian employees back to the United States over the next decade.

In the first phase, 5,000 U.S. troops would depart South Korea by the end of this year. That number includes the 3,600 soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, deployed to Iraq in August. Army officials confirmed last month the 2nd Brigade will head to Fort Carson, Colo., instead of returning to South Korea.

U.S. officials did not specify which units would be included in the 1,400 other troops leaving this year, saying only they are "associated with" the 2nd Brigade.

Another element of the first phase is South Korea's assumption of several U.S. military missions, including responsibility for the Joint Security Area in the Demilitarized Zone and a rear-area chemical decontamination unit, Pentagon officials said.

In the plan's second phase, the United States would remove 3,000 troops in 2005 and 2,000 troops in 2006. Again, the affected units were not specified, identified in the Pentagon release only as "combat units, combat support and combat service support units, units associated with mission transfer areas, and other support personnel."

AP

Ahn Kwang-chan, chief policy coordinator of the South Korean Defense Ministry, announces Wednesday that the United States will withdraw 12,500 troops from South Korea by 2008, delaying its original plan to redeploy the troops by the end of 2005.

In the final phase, the United States would redeploy 2,500 troops from "support units" over the 2007-08 time frame, officials said.

U.S. Forces Korea officials referred all questions on the announcement to the Pentagon.

The agreement was reached after several months of negotiations between the two countries and amid associated moves to consolidate and close dozens of U.S. installations in South Korea. The announcement also comes as the United States, South Korea and three other nations are negotiating with North Korea over its nuclear weapons program.

"During these consultations, the United States and South Korea fully considered the combined requirement to maintain a robust deterrent and defense capability while increasing combat capacity," the Pentagon release read.

"Additionally, consultations considered the Korean public's perceptions regarding a potential security gap."

As part of the agreement, the Pentagon also committed to maintaining on the peninsula a multiple launch rocket system battalion and associated counterfire assets, which South Koreans specifically requested.

In recent months, U.S. officials have gone to great lengths to rebut any talk that the reduction would weaken the deterrent value of U.S. forces on the peninsula. The number of "boots on the ground" is less important than the combat capabilities they can bring to bear, officials have said.

U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Leon J. LaPorte reiterated that stance late last month in several appearances before South Korean and international media.

"As the combat commander here in Korea, I am very confident in the decisions we've made and in the fact that we've not created a security vacuum — that capabilities rather than a numerical number is what's important," LaPorte said Sept. 9.

Wednesday's announcement also said U.S. forces would continue a three-year, $11 billion program to enhance the high-tech capabilities on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

"Throughout these consultations, the United States has made clear that it remains committed to the defense of the Republic of Korea, to the security and stability of the region and to a strengthened Republic of Korea-U.S. alliance," the Pentagon release read.

South Korean officials reacted favorably to Wednesday's announcement, with political analysts saying it would be viewed as a diplomatic victory for South Korean president Roh Moo-hyun.

"Continuous voices raising possible security concerns persuaded Washington, bolstered by the U.S. intention to maintain good relations with Seoul," Park Seon-sup, of the Korea Institute for Defense Analysis, told the Chosun Ilbo newspaper.

Roh came under intense public criticism for agreeing to send almost 4,000 South Korean troops to bolster U.S. forces in Iraq. The completion of that deployment has led to heightened terror concerns in South Korea.

The new agreement also gives the South Korean military more time to bolster its own capabilities, officials said. Roh has called for a military fully capable of unaided self-defense over the next 10 years.

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U.S. force reduction goals

2004: 5,000 troops, including 3,600 2nd Brigade troops in Iraq
2005: 3,000 troops from unspecified units
2006: 2,000 troops from unspecified units
2007-08: 2,500 troops from unspecified units

Source: Department of Defense

Base closures

Camp Bonifas (2004)
Camp Liberty Bell (2004)
Camp Edwards (2004)
Camp Garry Owen (2004)
Camp Giant (2004)
Camp Greaves (2004)
Camp Howze (2004)
Camp Stanton (2004)
Camp Falling Water (2004)
Yongsan Garrison (2008)

Source: U.S. Forces Korea

Officials to make flight to show confidence in MV-22

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINTON, Va. — When Gen. Bryan Brown parachutes Friday out of an MV-22 Osprey, it'll be of his own volition.

Brown, commanding general of Special Operations Command, will be joined by other top officials in an orientation of the once-troubled tilt-rotor aircraft program, including Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper, who will revert to his days of flight as he co-pilots one of the Osprey flights at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C.

Rounding out the passenger list is Air Force Secretary James Roche and Thomas O'Connell, assistant secretary of defense for Special Operations and Low-intensity Conflict, who will be take separate orientation flights to learn more about the aircraft.

"It's important to them to familiarize themselves with the aircraft," Air Force spokesman Lt. Col. Mike Caldwell said of Roche's and Jumper's desires to fly in the aircraft. "They haven't had a chance to fly on it before and this gives them an opportunity to see it first-hand and have a better idea of how they want to carry on with the program in the future."

In August 2000, a Marine Corps Osprey crashed during a training flight in Arizona, killing its 19 passengers. Another crashed in December that same year in North Carolina, killing four Marines and bringing the testing program to a halt. But since the MV-22 return to flight in May 2002, the aircrafts have more than 1,740 safe and incident-free flight hours, Campbell said.

The Marine Corps has not taken any steps crews would not ordinarily take to prepare for the flights, even if it's for the Air Force Secretary and Chief of Staff and other high-ranking officials, said Corps spokesman Capt. Jerome Bryant.

The MV-22 has tilt-rotor capabilities that let it take off and land vertically like a helicopter, but fly like a fixed-wing airplane. It is being built by Boeing's helicopter division and Bell Helicopter Textron.

Photos courtesy of DoD

A Bell Boeing MV-22 Osprey comes in for a landing at the Pentagon on Sept. 8, 1999. Military officials are going to show their confidence in the once-troubled aircraft by making a flight in an Osprey on Friday.

The Air Force wants 50 Ospreys for special operations missions, and the Marine Corps intends to buy 360 to replace its aging fleet of CH-53D Sea Stallion and CH-46E Sea Knight helicopters as its primary troop transporter. The Navy might buy about 50.

Putting top leaders into the aircraft "puts a glowing endorsement on the program itself if they're willing to do something like that," said J. Joseph, a retired Marine Corps colonel with 20,000 flight hours in aircraft ranging from general aviation to high performance military and air carrier aircraft, including 22 years of experience in aviation accident analysis and reconstruction. He currently is a commercial airline pilot.

"The testing program has gone on long enough. I think this is a prudent move," said Joseph, who never has flown the Osprey, but has followed closely the program, especially after a Marine Corps pilot friend was killed in initial testing about 10 years ago.

"The program has faced a number of setbacks. It's complicated new technology, but the Marine Corps has put it's best foot forward and done a good job on its testing program," Joseph said.

It's been a roller coaster of a ride for the program, which got started in 1989 and twice faced cancellation, first because of the program's high costs, and again because of the 2000 fatal crashes.

But Marine Corps leaders especially have remained steadfast in keeping the program alive, maintaining that the technology is sound and proven, and the Corps needs the versatile aircraft.

General withdraws as PACOM nominee

BY ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Air Force general who would have been the first from his service to command all U.S. forces in the Pacific is giving up his presidential nomination in the face of a fierce political fight between the Air Force and the Senate over a controversial deal with Boeing Co.

The Pentagon announced Wednesday night that Gen. Gregory S. Martin, who appeared at his confirmation hearing earlier in the day before the Senate Armed Services Committee, had requested that his nomination to succeed Adm. Thomas Fargo as commander of U.S. Pacific Command be withdrawn.

Martin

The Pentagon statement gave no reason for the extraordinary reversal, but a spokesman for Air Force Materiel Command, which Martin has headed since August 2003, said Martin believed that questions raised at the hearing about his connection to the Boeing deal made his confirmation problematic.

Bryan Whitman, a spokesman for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, said Rumsfeld agreed to pull the nomination. He said no decision had been made on a new nominee for the Pacific Command job, which is responsible for U.S. military operations throughout the Pacific and portions of the Indian Ocean.

Martin would have been the first Air Force officer to hold the Pacific Command post, which has traditionally been held by a Navy admiral.

Fargo is scheduled to retire this fall, but he apparently will remain until another nominee is chosen and confirmed by the Senate.

It's not clear whether Martin will remain at Air Force Materiel Command.

Martin's troubles at his confirmation hearing began with statements and questions posed by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. They pertained to a controversy over the Air Force's proposed deal with Boeing to lease 767 planes for use as aerial tankers, and to a scandal involving a former Air Force civilian official, Darleen Druyun, who was sentenced to nine months in prison Friday for helping Boeing obtain a lucrative contract in exchange for an executive job at the company.

Martin is not accused of wrongdoing in either matter, but McCain asserted that the general was "involved" in the $23 billion tanker lease arrangement. McCain pressed him so hard on the issues Wednesday that Martin conceded his confirmation would be held up for months, said Col. Jack Ivy, spokesman for Air Force Materiel Command.

House passes health benefits bill for reservists and veterans

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House voted early Thursday to extend health coverage for reservists, reflecting the longer periods of active duty being required of National Guard and Reserve members.

The legislation, approved by voice vote, increases from 18 months to 24 months the maximum period under which reservists covered by the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act can continue employer-sponsored health care coverage.

The bill also strengthens lease termination protections enacted into law last year for the dependents of service members who are given military orders to move.

Another provision outlines civil penalties for fiduciaries who misuse the assets of service members.

Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Christopher Smith, R-N.J., and others expressed regret that the final bill did not contain a provision allowing the Veterans Affairs Department to provide postnatal care to newborns of female veterans receiving maternity care who are without other health insurance coverage.

Separately, the House passed by voice a bill that expands a 2001 law that provides grants to programs addressing the problem of homeless veterans. Smith estimated that since 2001 the numbers of homeless veterans had decreased from 275,000 to 200,000.

AP

Robert Halbrook, right, talks to people on a tour of the Memphis Belle airplane exhibit Tuesday, in Millington, Tenn. The Memphis Belle is destined for the U.S. Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. The Belle is one of the first B-17 bombers to complete 25 combat missions over German-occupied Europe in World War II.

Historic airplane leaves namesake city

BY WOODY BAIRD
The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Memphis Belle, the World War II bomber that was named for its pilot's sweetheart, is headed north to the Air Force's national museum in Dayton, Ohio.

Local preservationists who have struggled for decades to keep the plane in its namesake city are not pleased, but seem resigned to the move.

The Belle was one of the first B-17s to complete a required 25 combat missions over German-occupied Europe. Its crew came home for a nationwide bond-selling tour and the Belle became a wartime symbol of heroism and sacrifice.

At the U.S. Air Force National Museum, it will continue to help tell the story of the air war over Europe, officials say.

The Belle association, financed by private donations, partially restored the Belle and put it on public display in Memphis in 1987.

It was moved to a hangar at a former Navy air base last year for more restoration, and about a thousand visitors a month drop by to watch the work on the plane.

The Belle was the focus of two movies, the first a War Department documentary by film maker William Wyler. In 1990, Warner Brothers released a commercial movie called "Memphis Belle," based loosely on the combat experiences of the plane's crew.

Report cites failures in case of Lejeune contaminated water

BY SANDRA JONTZ
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The U.S. Marine Corps failed to recognized the potentially serious health risks of the contaminated drinking water and did not adequately inform its residents at the Camp Lejeune, N.C., base who consumed it, according to a report from the independent panel convened by the Commandant to analyze the debacle.

Officials discovered the toxic chemicals in the early 1980s in the drinking water, particularly in supply that provided water to the two housing complexes of Hadnot Point and Tarawa Terrace.

The panel, appointed in February by Gen. Michael W. Hagee, criticized the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic Division, those who tested the water, as being "not aggressive in providing Camp Lejeune with information and expertise to help the base understand the significance of the contamination and how it could have been addressed," the report reads.

"Inadequate funding, staffing and training of Camp Lejeune's Environmental Division, combined with its compliance-based approach to regulations, contributed to a lack of understanding about the potential significance of the first indications of contamination and subsequent test data in the early 1980s."

However, the panel concluded that base officials acted responsibly, the report states, and the water testers and base officials aren't the only ones at fault, the three-member panel concluded.

"Factors that appear to have hindered Camp Lejeune from quickly recognizing the significance of contamination from volatile organic compounds (VOCs) include: the absence of regulatory standards; no records of water quality complaints from base residents; water sampling errors; and inconsistent sampling results."

The panel was headed by Ronald Packard, who served as a California representative in Congress from 1983 to 2000. Other panelists included retired Marine Corps Gen. Richard Hearney, assistant commandant from 1994 to 1996; Robert Pirie Jr., assistant Navy secretary for Installations and Environment from 1994 to 2000; Jerome Gilbert, a water expert and former executive officer of the California State Water Resources and Control Board; and Robert Tardiff, a toxicology and environmental expert.

In May 1982, scientists found the presence of degreaser trichloroethylene, or TCE, and the dry-cleaning solvent tetrachloroethylene, or PCE, in the drinking water at Tarawa Terrace and Hadnot Point. The wells were not shut down until three years later. Eventually, the source of the contamination was traced to a commercial dry-cleaners near the main gate and a vehicle maintenance and body shop on the base.

In July, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, a unit of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, released preliminary results of a health survey of 12,598 children born to women who lived at Camp Lejeune from 1968 to 1985 that revealed 103 of the children suffered childhood cancers or birth defects.

The panel recommended the Corps upgrade environmental and risk communications training for base leadership and staffs, and make public the panel's findings, which it did.

It also recommended the ATSDR expedite its epidemiological study of possible health effects from contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.

For the next 30 days, the Marine Corps seeks public comment on the Panel's report. Those interested can write to the Drinking Water Fact-Finding Panel for Camp Lejeune, 1530 Wilson Blvd., Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22209; or e-mail **clsurvey@hqmc.usmc.mil**

The full report will be available on the Internet at the Marine Corps' Camp Lejeune Web site: **http://www.usmc.mil/camplejeune/clbwatersurveyinfo.nsf/**

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IN THE STATES

Officials argue over DeLay ethics findings

Democrats suggest leadership change while Republicans stand by 'The Hammer'

BY SUZANNE GAMBOA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Leading House Republicans and Democrats exchanged harsh recriminations Thursday over the second ethics committee rebuke in a week for Rep. Tom DeLay, the GOP's No. 2 leader.

The day after the 57-year-old Texan was cited by the House ethics committee for questionable conduct, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said his Republican colleagues should decide whether "they want an ethically unfit person to be their majority leader, or do they want to remove the ethical cloud that hangs over the Capitol?"

Her news conference came as House Speaker Dennis Hastert staunchly defended DeLay, calling him "a good man" and attacking the freshman Democratic congressman whose complaint launched the investigation.

The committee late Wednesday had admonished DeLay, R-Texas, for creating an appearance of giving donors special access on pending energy legislation and using the Federal Aviation Administration to intervene in a Texas political dispute.

Last week, the same committee admonished him for offering to endorse the House candidacy of a House member's son in exchange for the member's favorable vote on a Medicare prescription drug bill.

DeLay

The committee's publicly issued findings constituted the panel's mildest punishment, and spared DeLay from a lengthy investigation.

But the committee noted the rare back-to-back admonishments and that in 1999 DeLay received an ethics committee warning for pressuring a lobby company to hire a Republican.

"In view of the number of instances to date in which the committee has found it necessary to comment on conduct in which you engaged, it is clearly necessary for you to temper your future actions," it said in a letter to DeLay.

DeLay is one of the nation's most partisan political leaders and most successful money-raisers. He has long been known in the Capitol as "The Hammer."

The committee of five Democrats and five Republicans delayed action on an allegation that DeLay violated Texas campaign finance laws. A Texas grand jury investigation has so far led to indictments of three DeLay associates and eight corporations.

DeLay said he considers the complaint against him dismissed, but accepted the committee's guidance. He called the complaint another personal attack by Democrats that fell short "not because of insufficient venom, but because of insufficient merit."

Pelosi

Pelosi, D-Calif., held a news conference as Hastert, R-Ill., was criticizing Rep. Chris Bell, D-Texas, who filed the complaint.

DeLay "fights hard for what he believes, but he has never put personal interests ahead of the best interests of the country," Hastert said in a written statement.

The ethics panel told DeLay that he created an appearance of favoritism when he mingled at a 2002 golf outing with executives of Westar Energy of Kansas.

The tournament at a Virginia resort came just days after the executives contributed $25,000 to Texans for a Republican Majority, a fund-raising organization associated with DeLay.

The committee made clear that DeLay did not solicit contributions from Westar in return for a favor, which would have been far more serious.

Associated Press Writer Larry Margasak contributed to this report.

Hunter indicted for starting last year's Cedar Fire in Calif.

BY SETH HETTENA
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A federal grand jury indicted a hunter on charges he started the largest wildfire in California history — last year's Cedar Fire, which charred 273,000 acres and killed 15 people.

A grand jury in San Diego returned the indictment Wednesday, charging Sergio Martinez, 34, of West Covina with setting timber afire last Oct. 25 and making a false statement. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted on both counts.

Martinez started the fire to signal for help after he became lost on a deer hunting trip in the Cleveland National Forest, according to the county sheriff's department.

Driven by hot Santa Ana winds, the Cedar Fire quickly swept through tinder-dry brush and trees, killing 15 people and burning more than 2,000 homes. It was the worst fire in the brutal onslaught last fall that killed 23 and destroyed 3,650 homes in six Southern California counties.

Martinez's lawyer, Jose Martinez, was told of the grand jury indictment by a reporter and declined to comment.

The U.S. Forest Service had issued Sergio Martinez a misdemeanor citation that night for setting an unauthorized fire. He was released with a warning that he could face felony charges if people were injured or homes destroyed.

Linda Chase, director of a relief center assisting fire victims, said that Martinez can't be held solely accountable.

> *"You can certainly blame him for starting the fire, but you can't blame him for not putting it out. There were lots of other people who failed to do what they needed to do to cause it to go out of control."*
>
> **Linda Chase**
> relief center director

"You can certainly blame him for starting the fire, but you can't blame him for not putting it out," Chase said. "There were lots of other people who failed to do what they needed to do to cause it to go out of control."

Martinez was severely dehydrated and borderline delirious when sheriff's deputies in a rescue helicopter picked him up after responding to a call of a lost hunter, authorities said. When they first spotted Martinez, he was waving frantically from atop a small mountain as a nearby flame shot into the air.

House GOP, Senate have terror bill showdown

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House GOP leaders braced Thursday for a late-session showdown with the Senate over conflicting versions of legislation written in response to the terror-fighting recommendations of the Sept. 11 commission.

Republicans leaders say the House version, which includes creation of a national intelligence director as well as anti-terrorism, illegal immigration, border-security and identity-theft powers, is the best bill and should be the one that prevails.

"It's real simple. The House bill — every single word of it — will make the American people safer," House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, proclaimed as Congress neared adjournment.

An earlier version of the Senate-passed bill — which was to be offered Thursday by Rep. Robert Menendez, D-N.J. and has been pushed by Reps. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., and Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y. — was being presented as a replacement for the House GOP bill.

Shays and Maloney say their proposal — which is identical to the Menendez amendment — was held back to that GOP leaders could depict the Senate version as being a purely Democratic on the House floor.

The House plans to have something finished before the end of the week, and that bill would have to be reconciled with the one that overwhelmingly passed the Senate on Wednesday.

Breaking some eggs to make a vaccine

For a half century, flu vaccine has been produced by growing the virus in fertilized chicken eggs, requiring several months. Researchers are now working on new methods that would not rely on eggs.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Institutes of Health AP

Lack of back-up plan for flu shots upsets many

The Associated Press

DENVER — Josh Duignan got his first flu shot last year when his wife was pregnant with their first child. While son Ethan will get a shot this year, Duignan isn't sure whether he'll also get a chance to roll up his sleeve.

Health officials nationwide are urging healthy adults and schoolchildren to skip the shot because British regulators have shut down a major flu-shot supplier. The news carries particular concern in Colorado, which was the epicenter of last year's flu season with 12,885 reported cases and the deaths of 12 children.

With 46 million doses now unavailable, the government says the 54 million flu shots left from a rival firm should be reserved for youngsters ages 6-23 months, people 65 or older, anyone living with babies younger than 6 months and others in high-risk groups.

Duignan knows his pediatrician has enough doses to vaccinate Ethan, now 7 months, but isn't sure whether he will get a shot.

If they turn me down, I don't know what I'll do," he said.

"But I'm going to get one this year. I promised my wife I would."

The shutdown of flu vaccine production at Chiron Corp. has slashed supplies across the nation."Worst-case scenario, we will have probably more patients being hospitalized with pneumonia," said Dr. Wellington Liu, medical director of Kateri Medical Residence in New York City.

"It's kind of disappointing that we didn't have more than two sources to get the vaccine," complained Dan Knuth, 59, of New Brighton, Minn., who said he probably won't get a shot this year.

"It shows the vulnerability of our health care system."

Bush, Kerry health care plans differ sharply

BY MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Although a raucous debate over national security has dominated the presidential campaign, President Bush and Democratic rival Sen. John Kerry differ even more sharply on how to provide better health care to more Americans.

Kerry's proposal dwarfs that of the president, costing hundreds of billions of dollars more and covering millions more people, according to most independent and campaign estimates.

"They couldn't be more different. It's a very clear choice," said Linda Bergthold, a Los Angeles-based consultant on employer-provided health insurance for Watson Wyatt Worldwide.

The Democrat's plan seeks to stabilize the private, employer-based insurance market that covers more than 150 million people, while expanding government health care programs for children and the poor. The ranks of the uninsured, currently 45 million, would drop to 27 million people over 10 years, according to a range of estimates.

But it would be costly. The campaign says the plan would cost taxpayers $653 billion over 10 years. Other estimates put the cost at double that or more.

Bush would rely on tax incentives and market-based choices for individuals in a plan the White House says would extend coverage to 11 million, and perhaps as many as 17 million, people at a cost of $100 billion to $150 billion. Independent estimates from the conservative American Enterprise Institute and the Lewin Group say the number of newly insured would be more in the range of 7 million to 8 million.

Economists say neither proposal would do much to rein in health care costs, although both campaigns say features of their plans would help.

For Bush, capping medical malpractice awards would lead to fewer meritless lawsuits, a drop in malpractice insurance premiums and substantial cost savings.

Kerry says coordinating care for people with chronic illnesses would bring hundreds of billions of dollars in savings. He also would derive some savings from malpractice reform and permit prescription medicines to be brought in from Canada, a step he says would keep drug prices in check.

Among the components of the Kerry proposal:

■ The federal government would pick up most of the tab for workers who incur the highest medical bills, which the Kerry campaign says would allow employers to cut the annual cost of premiums for a family by about $1,000, on average. Employers would be required to offer health insurance to all workers.

■ Nearly all children and more working adults with low incomes would be eligible for government health insurance that is paid jointly by Washington and the states. The federal government would pick up a substantial share of state costs.

■ Small businesses and individuals between jobs as well as people 50 to 64 years old would receive tax breaks to help them buy insurance coverage.

Major elements of the Bush plan include:

■ Tax breaks to individuals with low incomes who buy their own insurance policies and for those who purchase high-deductible policies and have health savings accounts, tax-free investments that can be used for health expenses.

■ Association Health Plans to allow small businesses in different states to band together to offer insurance to workers.

■ Stepped-up effort to enroll children who already are eligible for government-paid health care.

■ So far, the health care issue has been on the periphery of a campaign that has been dominated by Iraq and terrorism.

New tech makes volcano monitoring safer

Scientists: Threat of eruption has passed at Mount St. Helens

BY WILLIAM MCCALL
The Associated Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Geologist David Johnston wouldn't have died on Mount St. Helens today.

New equipment developed since the 1980 eruption of the volcano has made it possible for volcanologists to take better measurements without hiking up the volatile mountain, a requirement 24 years ago that cost Johnson his life.

"Those measurements can be made remotely now with GPS (Global Positioning System) equipment. You don't need to be up there on the volcano," said Dan Dzurisin, a fellow geologist who was Johnston's friend and colleague.

New technology has also allowed scientists to make better predictions and improve their overall understanding about the complex geological forces at work at a much safer distance.

The instruments that ring the mountain prompted scientists to announce Wednesday that the danger of a strong eruption at any moment has passed. Even so, they warned the mountain could continue venting steam and volcanic rock for several weeks.

Modern instruments have the advantage of measuring deformation — changes in the shape of a volcano — in three dimensions, unlike the obsolete laser reflection systems in use in 1980 that could detect changes in only one direction, Dzurisin said.

The more sophisticated GPS instruments would have revealed movement in the mountain that was not detected by the final reading Johnston made before Mount St. Helens exploded.

"Today, we would have known," Dzurisin said.

Besides GPS sensors that can detect movement of just half an inch, scientists can use infrared heat detectors and specialized radar to track changes in a volcano, said Jake Lowenstern, who leads USGS volcano research at Yellowstone National Park.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY/AP

U.S. Geological Survey scientist Michael Poland collects information Sept. 30 from a Global Positioning System station on the east flank of Washington state's Mount St. Helens. New equipment developed since the 1980 eruption has made it possible for volcanologists to take measurements at a much safer distance.

Texas executes man

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — A death row inmate was executed Wednesday evening for a fatal beating and stabbing in 1986.

Peter Miniel, 42, had welcomed the death penalty and asked his attorney to file no more appeals. He was the 15th Texas prisoner executed this year, and the second in as many days.

Miniel only recently disclosed he was lying when he pleaded innocent to killing 20-year-old Paul Manier, who was beaten with a car shock absorber and a beer mug and stabbed repeatedly with a knife.

At the time of the slaying, Miniel was on probation for aggravated battery.

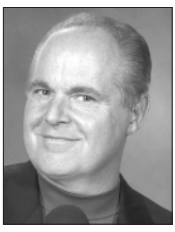
Edward Green III was put to death Tuesday night despite his attorneys' pleas to halt the execution because of problems at the Houston police crime lab.

Green, convicted of killing two people in a 1992 robbery, apologized to families of the victims before he was executed by injection.

Green, 30, said he was high after smoking marijuana and embalming fluid when he and a friend confronted Edward Haden, 72, and Helen O'Sullivan, 63. Haden and O'Sullivan were shot.

Three more executions are scheduled this month in Texas, including one next week.

From The Associated Press



Rush Limbaugh

Fla. court rules Limbaugh's records properly seized

BY JILL BARTON
The Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — A Florida appeals court ruled Wednesday that prosecutors did not violate Rush Limbaugh's privacy rights when they paid a surprise visit to his doctors and seized his medical records for an investigation into his use of painkillers.

Investigators raided the doctors' offices last November to see if the conservative radio commentator had engaged in "doctor shopping," or illegally visiting several doctors to receive duplicate prescriptions.

Limbaugh, 53, has not been charged with a crime and the investigation had been at a standstill pending a decision on the medical records, which prosecutors have not yet been allowed to examine.

The 4th District Court of Appeal rejected Limbaugh's claim that his privacy rights trumped investigators' power to seize his records, and also said prosecutors did not have to notify him of their search warrants or give him an opportunity to challenge them.

"The state's authority to seize such records by a validly issued search warrant is not affected by any right of privacy in such records," the three-judge panel ruled.

Limbaugh's attorney said he will appeal.

"This was a fishing expedition from the outset to see if there was anything they could find to charge me with," Limbaugh said on his afternoon radio show. "There was no doctor-shopping, but it was my contention all along that I shouldn't have to give up my right to privacy to prove my innocence."

Prosecutors went after Limbaugh's medical records after learning he received about 2,000 painkillers, prescribed by four doctors in six months, at a pharmacy near his Palm Beach mansion.

Limbaugh admitted his addiction to pain medication last October, saying it stemmed from severe back pain. He took a five-week leave from his afternoon radio show to enter a rehab program.

(LAS VEGAS) REVIEW-JOURNAL/AP

Pamela Anderson struts her stuff to promotes her new Playboy gaming machine at the Global Gaming Expo in Las Vegas on Wednesday. There's no word on whether Anderson has plans to stay in Vegas, although the return of sin to the city may appeal to the sexy star.

Las Vegas returns to its sinful roots

BY MICHAEL MARTINEZ
Chicago Tribune

LAS VEGAS — Sisters Sarah and Ruthie Steinberg swear it was just innocent flirtation with the guys in the bar last night. Honest.

Just don't tell their boyfriends.

"It's all innocent. Make sure you put that in capital letters," Ruthie said.

Sarah is only 19. So whenever they hit the nightclubs, Ruthie, 21, has to give sis her old driver's license to enter bars, fraudulently and illegally. It works because the sisters could pass for twins.

Ruthie then enters the tavern five minutes later.

They're giggling at their antics, recounted at an oxygen bar on Fremont Street, the original Vegas strip. Their noses are rigged up to a tube carrying 85 percent oxygen, purer than ambient air's 21.9 percent, according to bartender Brandon Mobley, whose pitch to the sisters was that 12 minutes of oxygen for $10 can cure a hangover.

In playing down their mischief, Ruthie invokes the desert's new rule: "What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas," she said.

Her recitation of the Convention and Visitors Authority's new slogan — "What happens here, stays here" — is close enough.

Sin is in again in Sin City.

The erstwhile pretense of the nation's gambling capital as family vacation destination is over, like a dice game with snake eyes.

In this high desert city where people visit and sometimes stay to start over, everyone has a story to tell — or bury.

But some preferred other catch phrases.

"If they want to go with the sin thing, might as well as go to the heart of the matter. Don't family it up," said Ryan Fishel, 22, a coffee-shop clerk and music student at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Fishel, who moved with his family to Vegas seven years ago from Whittier, Calif., said he has seen the dark side of Vegas. Until a year ago, he said, he did a lot of drugs and alcohol, and he can tell you exactly where dope is sold openly on Las Vegas Boulevard between the old strip and new one.

On the old strip, Jim and Kay Cermak were making their first visit to Las Vegas, though they waited until their 50s to do so.

He's a retired high school math teacher and doesn't gamble. "I know better," he said.

But she does. And found the slots ungenerous.

They find the town as home to a lot of "glitz, glamour and clamoring for your dollar," she added.

Back at the oxygen stand, Mobley, 30, was showing his mother, Debra Ward, 49, his new job, which he started two weeks earlier. The rejuvenating gas is flavored with extracts of peach, peppermint, lime or Australian eucalyptus, but Ward tasted nothing but plastic.

"Vegas is its own world," Ward said. "Everything you want is here. Any type of life you want is here, good or bad."

Little gun not for charging

Minneapolis shop debuts credit-card-sized weapon

BY STEVE KARNOWSKI
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — In a new twist on the idea of concealed weapons, a local gun maker and gun shop are debuting a new type of firearm: one that could almost fit in your wallet.

It's a two-shot weapon made from a piece of metal the height and width of a standard credit card, and about a half-inch thick. Each barrel fires seven standard steel BBs. It will retail for $100.

"This I can see being the ultimate self-defense weapon," said Mark Koscielski, owner of Koscielski's Guns and Ammo, the only gun shop in Minneapolis.

Koscielski and Patrick Teel, who makes the guns in suburban Blaine at his company AFT Incorporated, gave The Associated Press a preview on Tuesday, a day before they planned to officially unveil the device.

The credit card-sized shotgun is a muzzleloader, meaning it doesn't use shotgun shells. The user has to measure out some gunpowder, pour it in each barrel, drop seven BBs in each barrel, and tamp in a small wad of paper. A knob on one end serves as a safety, and two buttons set into a hole in the body are the electrical triggers. Each barrel fires with a loud pop.

Another gun salesman was skeptical of the weapon's self-defense value. Mike O'Brien, of Joe's Sporting Goods in St. Paul, wasn't familiar with the new devices, but said muzzleloading is a "slow and tedious" process.

"Us guys here would consider something like that useless," said O'Brien. "A .177 caliber BB is ballistically a joke, OK? I'm sure it could cause injury and damage, but as a self-defense weapon, no. Not to anyone familiar with firearms."

A spokesman for the Brady Center To Prevent Gun Violence was also dismissive.

"It's a silly, silly idea," spokesman Peter Hamm said. "I don't know that I would want to have one of these in my pocket for my own personal safety, never mind the safety of those around me."

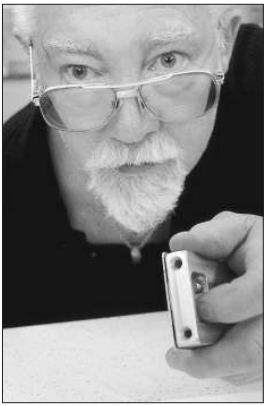
Guns that small have been around in various styles for a long time, and some have become curiosities and collectors items, but have failed as weapons, said O'Brien.

"It might do damage to eyes, that sort of thing. But serious damage to a 200-pound drug-crazed evildoer, no — it'd just make them mad," he said.

Teel said the main value of the new gun is that it gives the owner a chance to get away from an attacker.

"This is no more deadly than a .22," Teel said. "But the difference is you have multiple wounds, which means you'll try to get away quicker, and it will cause more pain. ... There will be more blood, which the cops will be able to see."

They said the guns are meant to be used for close-range self-defense and wouldn't be effective as offensive weapons.



AP

Patrick Teel has his finger on the trigger of a credit card-sized shotgun Tuesday at Koscielski's Guns and Ammo in Minneapolis. Teel makes the two-shot guns, which sell for $100 each and are meant for close-range self-defense, but have attracted criticism.

"They are very effective at five to 10 feet. They're absolutely useless at 20 feet," Teel said.

The new guns don't count as firearms under federal regulations because they're muzzleloaders, Koscielski and Teel said. It's illegal to carry one in Minnesota without a permit for a concealed handgun, they said, and they both pledged not to sell them to anyone without valid identification and either a carry permit or a purchase permit.

Thirty-seven states have laws that require officials to issue concealed carry permits to qualified applicants and nine others have laws that give officials some discretion over whether someone gets a permit. Only Kansas, Illinois, Nebraska and Wisconsin lack a law allowing some form of concealed carrying of guns.

Hamm said the Brady Center isn't as concerned about the credit card-sized shotgun as it is about more powerful weapons because it's less likely to be lethal. He saluted the makers' ingenuity, but questioned whether the gun will find much of a market.

"It sounds like having a little grenade in your pocket more than anything else," he said.

'Team America' creators tone down racy puppet sex scene for R rating

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — "South Park" creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone toned down the puppet sex scene in their upcoming film "Team America: World Police" and finally got an R rating, Paramount Pictures said Wednesday.

"Team America" uses marionettes to satirize the war on terror, Hollywood peaceniks and explosion-filled action-movie clichés.

Although the main characters are 2-foot-tall puppets with visible strings guiding their movements, a jokey — and explicit — sex scene between two of them originally earned the movie an NC-17 rating.

That severely limits the distribution, advertising and audience for any movie, and the filmmakers promised to bring "Team America" into R-rated territory, a studio representative said.

Although various puppets are bloodily gunned down, eaten by sharks or dismembered, the scene of puppet love was a sticking point until Parker and Stone trimmed away some shots.

On Tuesday, the ratings board gave the OK to the requested R citing "graphic, crude and sexual humor; violent images and strong language, all involving puppets."

The Motion Picture Association of America's initial rating is regarded humorously by many in Hollywood — especially since the puppets have no genitalia, just a network of joints and hinges.

"Team America" opens nationwide on Oct. 15, with sneak previews this Saturday in hundreds of theaters.

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Printed in Italy by Editrice Telestampa

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Look for good in Germany

OK, I've had my last straw. The letter "Peters 'absolutely right' " (Oct. 2) was too much for me to remain silent. I read the comments by retired Lt. Col. Ralph Peters in Stars and Stripes (Sept. 23-24 news articles), and there are a lot of parts with which I tend to agree, but they involve criticisms about the German government and some involving the landlords. Where his criticism falls short, and what everyone has clamped onto, is the assessment of the German people.

The letter writer uses a few examples to justify her stance. First, the church in New Ulm. I remember seeing the church and I don't recall anything plain or simple about the entire thing. While I understand it shouldn't take decades to restore, I also understand the intricate details being worked. As for Americans working hard on construction projects, has anyone ever driven on Interstate 64 in Hampton Roads, Va., between Port Eustis and Norfolk? If they ever finish that section, maybe we can talk trash about the church.

Second, does the letter writer believe that if she got a job at her local hardware store in the States that everything would be puppy dogs and ice cream? People are protective of the jobs they view as theirs. Perhaps she never heard of the good ol' boy system.

And Germany has refused to help in the war on terror? I guess German soldiers guarding the U.S. posts don't count. Neither do the increased numbers in Afghanistan.

Bottom line is this: People are people and no one is perfect. We both (Germany and the United States) have people in the work force who make the rest look bad. Even in the Army, we have soldiers who try to hide from work and pass on duties to others. The trick is to look past those few and see the whole — and appreciate what the organization, or country, has to offer.

Capt. Victor Baez-An
Logistical Support Area Anaconda, Iraq

Defeatism is a cancer

My friend's father was a hostage in Lebanon. His captivity denied him medical treatment for cancer in its early stages; the cancer became terminal and he suffered a slow death subsequent to his release.

Many of us who are serving our nation around the world are watching this election with many different perspectives. Many of us grew up in our teens watching the Iranian hostage crisis on television and were repulsed by the impotence of our leaders at the time.

I was a brand-new Marine, just out of Parris Island, S.C., when a terrorist drove his truck into the Marine garrison in Beirut. A few years later, it was payback when we trounced Saddam Hussein in Operation Desert Storm. By that time, I was an intelligence officer with U.S. Central Command and I saw a new type of respect for our troops worldwide: Our military was the envy of all nations; the Soviets threw in the towel; we had a victory parade down Broadway and we participated in innumerable congratulatory celebrations around the globe for our victory.

We are facing a moment of truth right now. Are we going to retreat to the days of the Iranian hostage crisis or will we demand victory for our sacrifices? Some of our "well-meaning" citizens believe that we should be brought home. This did not save the life of my friend's father. It would condemn all of us, like him, to terminal cancer: the cancer of defeatism. We would slowly succumb to the terror cells that would multiply to attack innocent people around the world. The only option for our survival is victory.

We should demand this understanding from anyone who would be president. I never want my child to exist in a world where her rights to liberty and freedom are negotiable terms. Our leaders should bring us home to a nation that is respected and provides sanctuary to our families. We need to communicate this sole option to all those who have the authority to lead our great democracy. Any policy other than victory would be a slow death for all of us.

Retired Army 1st Lt. Mel Gagliano
New York

Undeserving commander

Following the Florida debate last Thursday, President Bush said at a Columbus, Ohio, rally: "I will never submit America's national security to an international test." He was deriding Sen. John Kerry's commitment to consulting our allies before rushing headlong into an avoidable catastrophe.

But hold on! What about Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon? Or one-time Iraqi exile and former neoconservative darling Ahmad Chalabi? Or Iraq's interim prime minister and suspected CIA asset Iyad Alawi? Or the oil-rich House of Saud? If we are looking for our national security being submitted to an international test, need we look any further? Didn't Bush take quite a few cues from [these men]? Why criticize "Old Europe" when a handful of neoconservative favorites have disastrously driven U.S. foreign policy for the last 3½ years?

Clearly, Bush has flip-flopped on the "international test" and, in so doing, has failed the test. How can anyone take Bush seriously?

During this presidential campaign we've seen plenty of smoke and mirrors, tons of mud, constant fear-mongering and the untiring efforts by rich Republicans to keep the real issues — and the truth — out of sight and out of mind from America's voters. When the smoke clears and the mirrors lay shattered, these facts will remain: Kerry volunteered while Bush vanished; Kerry supports the middle class while Bush supports the ultra-wealthy; and Kerry is a statesman while Bush plays one, badly, on TV.

Ultimately, the Bush administration is about making the world a cushy place for its rich friends — at the expense of our troops, who are willing to risk their lives for their undeserving commander in chief.

Ed Thornburg
Würzburg, Germany

Thanks for the photos

I enjoyed the Archive Photo of the Day of Joe DiMaggio and Bob Wicker's story of the Yankee Clipper's surprise visit to the Stars and Stripes office in Darmstadt, Germany, in May 1962 (Stars and Stripes Web site, Nov. 20, 2003). It must have been around the same time that Joltin' Joe appeared at the Hainerberg post exchange in Wiesbaden.

I was 14, on lunch break from ninth grade at Gen. H.H. Arnold High School, wolfing down a hamburger at the cafeteria, when the rumor went around that Joe was signing autographs in the PX next door. With $2 borrowed from my English teacher, I ran to the sporting goods store, bought a baseball and stood in line for Joe. A few minutes later, I shook hands with him and got my treasured autograph — "Best Wishes, Joe DiMaggio."

My collection of autographed baseballs is small. The only other one I have was signed by a group of major leaguers who gave a baseball clinic in Germany. My dad took me to a breakfast at a Wiesbaden hotel for Frank Thomas, umpire Larry Napp, Joe Garagiola and others. Thomas had been traded from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati the day before. In his speech, Thomas said the trade had come as a complete surprise to him. Maybe he found out about it the same way the rest of us did, by reading it in Stars and Stripes that morning.

The photos of Elvis Presley in uniform in Germany on the Web site reminded me of my fellow Wiesbaden student, Priscilla Beaulieu. As smart as she was pretty, she dropped her Wiesbaden boyfriends to become Mrs. Presley.

The collection of celebrities and soldiers whose images were captured somewhere by Stars and Stripes photographers over the years is remarkable. Thanks, Stars and Stripes, for Archive Photo of the Day and for awakening some great memories.

Frank Deak
Tampa, Fla.

Tell us what you think

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

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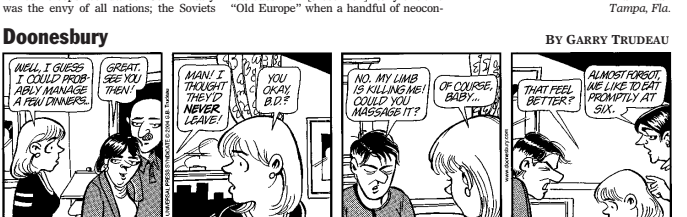
Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

Panel discussion: If cartoonists had rules

BY JOEL PETT

The 32-page predebate memorandum of agreement hammered out by lawyers for President Bush and Sen. John Kerry covered all the bases: positioning, podiums, pens, notes, lights, cameras, actions. But overlooked by the media was the oppressive "document in principle" recently forced upon visual satirists by the two campaigns, which has already resulted in prosecutions. A sample:

Michael "Mike" Luckovich

Charged with: gross disregard of paragraph 43(w): "The President shall not be represented in an unnaturally diminutive manner, nor portrayed in any fashion such as to cause association with any creature of the elf, goblin fairy or gremlin families, nor any relative theresuch, or fictional adaptation thereof. Additionally, the President is to be depicted with facial expressions displaying resolve, confidence, strength and suchlike qualities deemed to be Presidential (see sub-attachment 1600p). Any depiction of the eyes deemed to be 'beady,' or of the mouth in a 'smirk' or 'smirk-like' manner, is strictly prohibited."

Patrick "Pat" Oliphant

Charged with: 1) See paragraph 43(w)

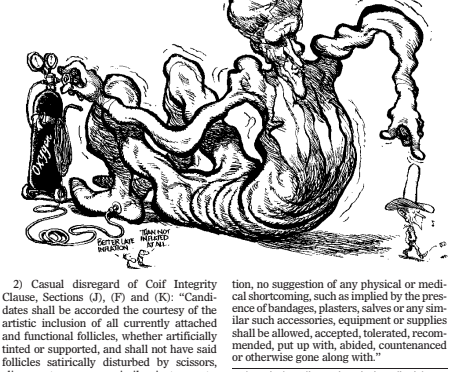
2) Flagrant evasion of Articles 02, C02, H, and He [Oliphant's work accompanies this column]: "The Challenger shall not be depicted, represented, drawn, illustrated or otherwise rendered in such manner as to detract from his official image as War Hero. No suggestion of the lack of skeletal or structural support, or the need for internal inflation by gaseous, liquid, solid or other compound, will be allowed. Nor shall said Challenger be portrayed in other than an 'upright' position. 'Upright' shall be understood, in accordance with generally accepted principles of physics, to exclude horizontal, diagonal or other stances not heretofore associated with a podium, lectern or the like."

Frederick "Ted" Rall

Charged with: serial disregard of Schedule 911(01): "The Commander in Chief's likeness, caricature or iconic or symbolic representation shall not evoke, cause association with, or call to mind any undemocratically selected official, including, but not limited to, dictators, strongmen, iron fists or generalissimos. Nor shall it be associated with any past or present representatives of juntas, upstart rebellions, banana republics, puppet dictatorships or other states (excluding Florida) where the institutions of democracy are suspect, illegitimate, untested or questionably administered."

Matthew "Matt" Davies

Charged with: 1) See paragraph 43(w)



2) Casual disregard of Coif Integrity Clause, Sections (J), (F) and (K): "Candidates shall be accorded the courtesy of the artistic inclusion of all currently attached and functional follicles, whether artificially tinted or supported, and shall not have said follicles satirically disturbed by scissors, clippers, tweezers or similar instruments, nor by means of any manually manipulated or fossil-fuel-powered machines. In addition, no suggestion of any physical or medical shortcoming, such as implied by the presence of bandages, plasters, salves or any similar such accessories, equipment or supplies shall be allowed, accepted, tolerated, recommended, put up with, abided, countenanced or otherwise gone along with."

Joel Pett is the Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist of the Lexington (Ky.) Herald-Leader. His work appears in USA Today. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Comparisons mean Afghanistan's off radar screen

BY FRED HIATT
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON

In 1991, as civil war raged in Afghanistan and the ranks of Islamic radicals there swelled, the first President Bush turned to a CIA briefer and asked, puzzled, "Is that thing still going on?"

That chilling anecdote is recounted in "Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001." The book, by my colleague Steve Coll, is, among many other themes, about America's self-defeating inability to stay focused on anything for very long. This came to mind again last week when, in a presidential debate on foreign policy, not a single question focused on Afghanistan, though the United States invaded that country under the current President Bush and still has more than 20,000 troops waging war and keeping peace there.

The candidates did invoke Afghanistan, but more as a symbol than as a real country. Bush repeatedly referred to the importance of a "free Afghanistan"; Sen. John Kerry cited it only to underline the folly of having diverted resources to Iraq. Neither simplistic portrait did justice to Afghanistan's mixture of progress and problems, nor to the challenges a U.S. president will face there in the next four years.

Those challenges were brought home last week during a visit to Washington by Afghanistan's finance minister. Ashraf Ghani, who spent 24 years working at the World Bank and teaching anthropology at Berkeley and Johns Hopkins University, understands all too well Americans' short attention span and our desire to move smartly to the postgame score-settling. But Afghanistan can't afford to get caught up in that mentality, he said.

"Getting to stability is not a five-year process but a 10-year process," Ghani said. "Getting to prosperity takes longer."

A lot of good things are taking place in his country, contrary to Kerry's description of an unrelenting downward spiral. Since the medieval Taliban fell in late 2001, the economy has begun to revive.

Trade is booming, cities are rebuilding, markets are lively. In recent months the government has made progress toward disarming some of the warlords who control much of the country. As Bush said, millions of Afghan men and women have registered to vote in presidential elections to be held Saturday. "People are a lot happier here now than before, and they are moving toward a modern life," one 26-year-old recently told The Washington Post's Pamela Constable in Kandahar.

But as Constable's reporting makes clear, Afghanistan also has plenty of problems, some of them worsening. Opium production and the corruption it engenders probably rank first on that list; Taliban attacks are increasing in remote areas; intimidation continues of women who seek to vote and girls who attend school; the Kabul government is far from asserting its writ throughout the country.

The Bush administration is partly responsible for these problems, though not primarily because of the diversion Kerry cites. When the Taliban fell, the Pentagon explicitly rejected nation-building, choosing instead to work through warlords who had helped unseat the dictators. Only last year did the administration reverse course. NATO is partly responsible, too, because European countries have been slow to meet their promises to supply peacekeeping troops and even slower to admit that drug lords also must be faced.

Mostly Afghanistan's history is responsible: a quarter-century of civil war that forced millions into exile and destroyed much of the nation's infrastructure. "What used to take two hours' driving now takes six hours," Ghani said.

The professor-turned-workaholic-minister said that average per-person annual income grew from about $200 to $240 in the past year. In seven years, if these "miracle rates" of growth continue, he hopes to reach $500. A country with $1,000 average per capita income, he said, no longer engages in drug production.

Ghani has a vision for how such growth can be achieved. It depends on democracy and decentralization, and on maintaining flows of foreign aid without creating a foreign-aid culture in which U.N. drivers earn 10 times as much as health ministry bureaucrats.

It depends, too, on whether the West can keep Afghanistan in its thoughts before it becomes a crisis again. So far, he said, the Bush administration's attention "has really not wavered," but the media mostly have proven unable to handle two major stories at once.

Attacks, assassination attempts, elections — these are covered, but not "the fluidity, and the range of possibilities."

And that range is enormous, he said, and of enormous consequence: on the one hand, a democratic Muslim country at the crossroads of Central Asia that wants a partnership with the West; on the other, conflict, fundamentalism, narcoterror. With a professor's understatement, Ghani concluded: "Both the opportunity and the threats are very major."

Fred Hiatt is The Post's editorial page editor.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

IN THE WORLD

Pakistan bans public gatherings after attack

At least 39 people killed, about 100 wounded after bombs explode at Sunni Muslim rally

BY KHALID TANVEER
The Associated Press

MULTAN, Pakistan — Pakistan announced a ban on religious and political gatherings nationwide after a bomb attack against Sunni Muslim radicals in a central city early Thursday killed at least 39 people and wounded about 100 others.

Police suspected it was a sectarian attack, and army troops were deployed to keep order in Multan, where about 2,000 angry Sunnis gathered outside a hospital where victims were taken, shouting "Shiites are infidels!" and slogans against the government.

The bombing came less than a week after a suicide attack left 31 dead at a Shiite mosque in an eastern city.

Late Thursday, Interior Minister Aftab Khan Sherpao told reporters that the ban on public gatherings — except for prayers on Friday, the Muslim sabbath — had been imposed to prevent any more attacks by terrorists. He did not say how long the ban would last.

Police tightened security in other cities. In Karachi, scene of sectarian terrorist attacks and unrest in May, extra police were deployed at mosques.

Thursday's bloodshed happened before dawn.

A car bomb exploded near where some 3,000 people had congregated overnight in a residential area of Multan to mark the anniversary of the death of the leader of the outlawed Sunni radical group Sipah-e-Sahaba killed in an attack last year.

Two minutes later, what appeared to be a second bomb attached to a motorcycle went off, deputy city police chief Arshad Hameed said.

Officials at the Nishtar government hospital said at least 39 people were killed and more than 100 were wounded, about 50 seriously. Some 50 others were treated for minor injuries and later discharged. Other people were taken to other clinics.

Pools of blood and shoes of the victims were scattered at the scene, near the charred remains of the car.

Sherpao said it was a remote-controlled bomb planted inside a Suzuki car. Police estimated it weighed about 15 pounds, and said most injuries were caused by flying metal from the vehicle.

It did not appear to be a suicide attack because no body parts were found inside the car, Multan police chief Sikander Hayyat told the private Geo television network.

Sunni Muslims make up about 80 percent of the 150 million people in Pakistan, and most of the rest are Shiites. The vast majority of both sects live in harmony but radical elements on both sides carry out attacks.

AP

Victims of a bomb blast at a Sunni Muslim gathering are treated Thursday at a hospital in Multan, Pakistan. About 2,000 angry Sunnis gathered outside the hospital after two bombs exploded at the rally, killing at least 39 people. The mob at the hospital shouted "Shiites are infidels!" and slogans against the government.

Austrian wins Nobel in literature

BY MATT MOORE
The Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Austrian writer Elfriede Jelinek, a reclusive author whose strident feminism, leftist politics and pacifism are common themes in her works, won the Nobel Prize in literature Thursday for what the Swedish Academy called the "musical flow of voices and counter-voices."

In an interview at her home in Vienna, Jelinek told The Associated Press she was honored by the prize, but said she wasn't mentally prepared to attend the Dec. 10 award ceremony in Stockholm.

"I haven't had time to think yet. It is the biggest honor," she said. "I'm not going to Stockholm because I'm not in a mental shape to withstand such ceremonies. I, unfortunately, suffer from a social phobia."

With reporters and well-wishers constantly calling her and ringing her door bell, Jelinek said her plans for the coming days were simple: "to disappear."

"I can't stand" the attention that comes with the prize, she said.

Only 10 women, including Jelinek, have won the prestigious prize since it was founded in 1901.

AP

Swedish Ambassador in Austria Gabriella Lindholm, right, congratulates the Nobel Prize winner in literature, Elfriede Jelinek, on Thursday in her home at Vienna.

"They assured me that I received the prize because they value my work, not because I am a woman," Jelinek said.

Though her work is famous in German-speaking countries, and widely translated in French, her most famous novel was 1983's "The Piano Teacher," which was adapted into a 2001 film by director Michael Haneke.

The novel and the film tell the story of a piano instructor, Erika — a demanding taskmaster who embarks on a dramatic affair with a younger music student.

The Nobel Prize could boost sales of her works, including in markets where she's not widely translated, including other parts of Europe and the United States.

Her latest play, "Bambiland," written in 2003 and translated into English in 2004, is a head-on attack against the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. But Horace Engdahl, permanent secretary of the academy, emphasized that the prize should not be interpreted as a political comment.

Music sharing crackdown

LONDON — An international music industry group said Thursday it was launching hundreds of lawsuits across Europe accusing people of piracy for illegally sharing music on the Internet.

The lawsuits target 459 groups and individuals in Britain, France, Germany, Denmark, Italy and Austria, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry said.

The lawsuits include criminal and civil complaints against "uploaders" — people alleged to have put copyrighted songs onto Internet file-sharing networks and offering them to millions of people worldwide without permission, the London-based group said.

"After spending more than a year raising awareness that file-sharing other people's copyrighted music is illegal, and sending tens of millions of instant messages, we are now prepared to do more than talk about the law, but to enforce it," said the group's chairman and chief executive, Jay Berman.

From The Associated Press

Official says EU to take reins of Bosnia force from NATO on Dec. 2

BY RAF CASERT
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union is planning to take over the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, its biggest military operation yet, on Dec. 2, an EU official said Thursday.

EU foreign ministers meeting Monday in Luxembourg are to approve the operational plan for the mission, which includes the date for the transfer of power and how the U.S. contingent within the force of 7,000 soldiers will be replaced, the official, who asked not to be identified, said.

"We are mainly planning for the EU headquarters to assume responsibility," the official said.

More than 1,000 U.S. troops will be replaced by EU personnel, with the biggest contingent coming from Finland.

U.S. Brig. Gen. Schook is the last commander of the current force, known by its abbreviation SFOR. The European Union Force, or EUFOR, will have the same mandate to provide a safe environment in the nation.

More than 60,000 NATO-led troops from more than 40 countries were deployed to Bosnia in late 1995 to enforce the so-called Dayton peace agreement, which ended the 3½ year war among the country's Serbs, Muslims and Croats in which 260,000 people were killed and 1.8 million turned into refugees.

The security situation has improved over the years, allowing NATO to decrease the number of troops to the current level of 7,000.

Some NATO units will stay behind to assist local authorities adopt defense reforms and to help hunt down war crimes suspects.

Asia-Europe forum adds 13 new members

BY TINI TRAN
The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — Asian and European leaders welcomed the addition of 13 countries Thursday to an inter-regional forum aimed at cementing economic and political ties between the two continents — despite an ongoing rift over the admission of military-ruled Myanmar.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai presided over an elaborate outdoor ceremony to formally add 10 countries that joined the European Union in May and three Southeast Asian countries to the biennial Asia-Europe Meeting, known as ASEM.

"An enlarged ASEM with 39 members makes up 40 percent and 50 percent of the world's population and [gross domestic product], respectively," Khai said. "With this, ASEM emerges as a political and economic entity fully capable of playing an important role in world peace, security and development."

As European and Asian leaders stood on a large stage, a military honor guard raised the colorful flags of the new members behind them.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen spoke on behalf of the three new Asian members — his country, Laos, and Myanmar — thanking ASEM for its "unanimous decision to welcome the three countries into the great ASEM family."

This year's summit was nearly canceled because of bitter disputes over the admission of military-ruled Myanmar, whose poor human rights record has angered European members.

Underscoring the sensitivities over Myanmar, several European leaders chose to skip the enlargement ceremony, including French President Jacques Chirac and Germany's Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, who was to arrive in Hanoi late Thursday.

The new nations join the original 25-member ASEM forum that has already brought together Asian economic powerhouses such as China, Japan and South Korea and European stalwarts including France, Germany and Britain.

ASEM was first set up in 1996 as an informal forum for Asian and European nations.

But in recent years, the Asian financial crisis and Europe's wars in the Balkans distracted the forum's member nations.

This year's addition of 13 new nations is seen as a rejuvenation of the organization.

The European members of ASEM are Austria, Belgium, Britain, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. The European Commission is also a member.

The Asian members are Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.

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France, Italy still drink most wine in Europe

BY SUE LEEMAN
The Associated Press

LONDON — The French remain Europe's biggest wine drinkers, closely followed by the Italians, but their consumption is set to level off or even fall amid health concerns, according to a survey published Wednesday.

However, in Britain and Germany, wine consumption is growing and is expected to continue to do so over the next five years, according to the study by independent market analyst Datamonitor.

The study found that Europeans spent a total of $105 billion on wine in 2003, consuming some 14.27 U.S. quarts or 18 billion bottles.

French drinkers consumed 51.25 quarts of wine per capita during 2003, a figure which is expected to reach 51.78 quarts by 2008, Datamonitor said.

Italians consumed 50.19 quarts per capita, but their enthusiasm for wine appears to be waning, and average consumption by 2008 is expected to be 49.24 quarts.

"In Italy, people are shifting away from drinking a lot of wine at lunch, partly for health reasons, partly because it's not so socially acceptable to drink at midday," said John Band, Datamonitor's drinks analyst, who wrote the report.

He said wine consumption had fallen in France over the past five years for the same reasons.

Beer consumption is growing in both Italy and Spain, where the average annual wine consumption is also expected to fall, from 30.75 quarts, to 29.06 quarts per person, the survey showed.

In contrast, Britons are turning away from that favored pastime — a couple of pints in the pub — in favor of a glass of wine, often consumed in a restaurant.

British drinkers now consume almost 17.96 quarts of wine per capita each year, compared with 14.79 quarts in 1998. This figure is expected to grow to 20.39 quarts by 2008, Datamonitor predicted. Overall in 2003, Britons spent $7.37 billion on wine.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Divine compromise

CT NORWALK — Norwalk High School needed a little divine help before its football team took to the field.

School athletic officials had sought the permission of Rabbi Yeboshua Hecht of Beth Israel Synagogue of Westport-Norwalk for a Friday night game next door to the synagogue where the rabbi leads Sabbath services.

"A house of worship is a house of worship, and it is difficult to hold services when the cheer is not 'Halakha,' but 'Let's go!' " Hecht said. Halakha means Jewish law.

The high school's Friday night schedule is part of an agreement the Norwalk High School Bears reached with the neighborhood when the team moved to its stadium behind the high school. The agreement, which was negotiated in 2000, called on the team to avoid Friday night games and obtain approval from Hecht if a match was unavoidable for Friday night, the start of the Jewish Sabbath.

Hecht said compromise is a civic duty and he was happy to oblige.

Teen running for mayor

MN ST. MARY'S POINT — Erin Feehan-Nelson, running for mayor of this St. Croix River town, has a campaign slogan that's hard to dispute: "Uncorrupted by years of experience."

The reason? She's 17.

The high school senior wants to be the youngest person ever elected mayor in Minnesota. Feehan-Nelson decided to run as a write-in candidate after learning that only one other candidate had filed for the office.

"The voters need to have a choice," she said. "That's what I'm doing, I'm giving the voters a choice."

Even so, state law says candidates must be eligible voters and at least 21 years old when they take office.

Kevin Corbid, director of elections for Washington County, said officials will count the write-in votes Nov. 2 and forward the results to the St. Mary's Point City Council, which serves as the city's canvassing board.

"The canvassing board will need to determine eligibility," Corbid said. "If someone is not eligible to hold office, the person with the next highest number of votes would be certified."

Feehan-Nelson said that if she receives the highest number of votes but is not certified, she is prepared to take the matter to court.

Lawyers defend name

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — A scrappy law firm has won the right to drum up business by advertising its phone number as 1-800-PITBULL.

Broward County Court Judge William Herring ruled the Pape & Chandler law firm's TV commercials using its controversial phone number and logo of a spike-collared pit pull is protected, despite objections from the Florida Bar.

Herring rejected the Florida Bar's assertions that capitalizing on the image of "a ferocious animal" in the commercials is manipulative and violates state laws regulating legal advertisements.

Herring last week said the qualities the lawyers link to pit bulls are "desirable traits in attorneys."

The law firm, which specializes in motorcycle crash litigation, has spent the last three years defending its use of 1-800-PITBULL.

Attorney John Pape said the logo was symbolic of their firm's "loyalty to our clients and to each other and tenacity, determination and aggressiveness in representing our injured clients."

Historian hits paydirt

TX AUSTIN — A historian thinks he's stumbled on a key piece of Texas history lost in box labeled "miscellaneous 19th-century papers."

The first page of what Jerry Drake, an archivist at the General Land Office, believes is the original draft of the Republic of Texas Constitution is now on display after years of being hidden.

"This is tantamount to going back and finding an early draft of the United States Constitution," said Drake. "It's in chrysalis — you can see how this thing is evolving."

Drake found the 13 pages, nearly all filled with the fancy script of Herbert S. Kimble's handwriting, three years ago. Kimble was the secretary of the Constitutional Convention of the Republic of Texas.

Since Drake's discovery, he has spent his lunch breaks at the Texas State Library to try to determine exactly what he had.

The San Antonio Express-News on Monday said the last time the document was seen was in the early 1940s. Drake found the pages in among maps, land grants and other documents in the Land Office vault.

The constitution was written in 1836 as Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna and his troops battled with Texans seeking independence from Mexico.

From his studies, Drake is convinced the pages are the first draft of the constitution.

Topping it off

Erine Shulyer, of Ace Tree Service, tops a dead Douglas Fir tree Tuesday in Corvallis, Ore. The tree was growing between a garage and a house, so it had to come down in sections so neither structure would be damaged.

Radio proposal

UT SALT LAKE CITY — With no idea how many people were listening to his walkie-talkie, it was anything but a modest proposal.

That didn't deter Jason Parker, a U.S. Forest Service Officer, from asking his girlfriend of three years, a police dispatcher, to marry him over the police radio.

Despite a few crackles, the message from Parker on Monday came through loud and clear — not just to Teri Yoakam, but to every police officer and CB radio junkie listening in.

The line was silent for a few moments before Yoakam said "yes."

"I didn't hesitate because I didn't know what I was going to say. I was just trying to come up with a really profound answer," Yoakam said. "I did manage to say a little more than yes."

Actually, Yoakam said, "I would absolutely love to." After that, a handful of police officers who overheard Parker chimed in with their responses.

"If you don't, I would have," was one reply.

The two met at work — Utah County's dispatchers take calls for the forest service.

Parker said he was originally going to sky dive onto the lawn in front of the Utah County Sheriff's Office or rent a plane to fly a trailing message, but he was worried the weather wouldn't cooperate.

Growth will help counties

WV MARTINSBURG — West Virginia's three eastern-most counties will continue to benefit from growth in the Washington metro area, a West Virginia University economist predicts. George Hammond says Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan counties will see gains in employment, population and construction through 2008. Those counties have added 13,200 residents since 2000, Hammond said.

Right to vote at issue

NH FREEDOM — The attorney general's office is investigating the right of residents of a campground to vote in town. The town agreed to extend site owners' stays at Totem Pole Campground from six to 11 months but rejected campers' right to vote. The town worries the campground would become a trailer park and the added population would overload schools and other services.

New help in search

MN DULUTH — St. Louis County Commissioner Joanne Fay is suggesting candidates across Minnesota hand out a picture of a missing girl as they campaign door-to-door. Fay called LeeAnna Warner's parents and they liked the idea, as did Fay's opponent. LeeAnna was 5 years old when she disappeared last year.

Golden splendor

A carpet of aspen leaves line a trail beneath a thicket of young trees Monday in Weatherford Canyon on the San Francisco Peaks north of Flagstaff, Ariz. Fall foliage is reaching its peak across the mountain.

A bit nippy out

Nyssa Thebert, 7, bundles herself with her sweater Tuesday during an early morning outside assembly in Raleigh, N.C. Temperatures in the low 40s were forecast for the next couple of mornings.

Game over

A couple of unidentified girls leave the soccer field at Ben Geren Regional Park at sunset Tuesday evening in Fort Smith, Ark. The girls attended the Western Arkansas Soccer Association's U-10 girls game at the park.

Home grown

Glory White unloads some home-grown pumpkins for sale at White's Farm, located in Ernul, N.C., on Wednesday. White says their pumpkin crop was good this season, despite the tremendous amounts of rain.

Autumn chores

Matt Luce of Troy, Maine, uses trimmer equipment Monday to cut brush under a maple tree near his home.

Not walking, but in the spirit

Ute Pawlak, right, accompanies her son, Marc, to school on bicycles at Yucca Elementary School on Wednesday in Alamogordo, N.M. They joined more than 3,000 schools in the United States and 3 million people in 36 countries all of whom are participating in the seventh annual International "Walk Our Kids to School Week."

Band goes too far

MI FLINT — For a few moments last weekend, the punk band Treephort was the hottest act in town.

But the group got into trouble at a downtown club when the lead guitarist set his thong on fire, then removed it and scurried around the stage naked.

The Atlanta-based band was about 20 minutes into its set Sept. 25 at the venue Flint Local 432 when guitarist Joe Klein dropped his pants, set fire to the thong and removed it. The bass player also stripped.

The club's management ordered the band to get off the stage.

"They threatened to break stated policies of the club, and so we told them their set was over and asked them to leave," said club owner Joel Rash. The stunt violated the Local's insurance policy and city rules against open flames in the building.

Art auctioned by mistake

KS WICHITA — Matthew Cuellar went to an auction and came away ahead — a little too ahead, according to the city.

Cuellar bid on and won four pieces of James Rosati's 1981 sculpture "Upright Form V" that had mistakenly ended up on the auction block with other items the city kept in storage. Now city officials are trying to get it back.

Cuellar showed up at the sale Saturday — held every three years — and casually perused the offerings. He spotted a shiny, 17-inch-long stainless steel piece set atop a stove.

He found two other similar pieces, one inscribed with Rosati's name. A call to a friend was placed, the significance of the find was confirmed and a bid was placed.

And for a mere $20, it was his.

Two other pieces of the sculpture went up for sale later and Cuellar won them for $230. But when Cuellar went to pay for the two others, auction workers realized they were dealing with more than scrap metal. They wouldn't take his money and refused to turn over the remaining pieces of the sculpture.

The city attorney's office contacted Cuellar on Monday, asking him to return his half of the sculpture in return for his payment.

Cuellar said that once he determines the value of the pieces, he will accept one-third to return it.

"If I'd later found out it was just scrap metal," he said, "they wouldn't give me my money back."

Town gets traffic light

MA WINCHENDON — This community, which still boasts granite hitching posts along Main Street, has finally gotten its first traffic light.

"I think it is progress," Town Manager James M. Kreidler Jr. said of the light at the intersection of Routes 140 and 12.

After the state Highway Department did some reconfiguration work on the intersection, the state-of-the art traffic signal was put up. For now, the signal only blinks yellow, but will be fully operational within the next week, Kreidler said.

Kreidler said high traffic volume played a part in the decision to improve the intersection, and install the light.

Man gets just dues

TN NASHVILLE — A man who spent 22 years in prison for a rape he didn't commit before DNA evidence cleared him has been awarded more than $800,000 in compensation from the state.

Clark McMillan, 47, learned of Monday's decision through his attorney, Democratic state Rep. Rob Briley.

"Thank the Lord!" McMillan said over the phone, according to Briley.

McMillan was released from prison in 2002 after DNA testing on evidence revealed he could not have been the man who had raped a Memphis teenager.

Before his conviction, McMillan was suspected in other rapes and some victims identified him as their attacker. McMillan maintains his innocence in the other cases. Gov. Phil Bredesen exonerated McMillan about five weeks ago after a unanimous recommendation by the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole.

The state Board of Claims, making its first award for wrongful imprisonment in more than two decades, also voted unanimously to grant the compensation.

Official found guilty

NY ALBANY — The former head of the state Bridge Authority pleaded guilty to attempting to defraud the state through his travel expenses. Officials found Jack Gaffney, 68, took four trips to Florida and three to Texas from February 1998 to February 2002. Gaffney, who was paid $137,703 a year, claimed they were business trips, but investigators found the trips were largely personal. He faces up to two years in jail.

Woman suing doctors

WI WAUKESHA — A woman is suing the doctors who gave her a face lift for showing her before-and-after photos to prospective patients.

The woman, identified only as Jane Doe in the lawsuit filed Monday, claims the use of her photos violates her right to privacy and fails to keep her medical records confidential as required under state law.

The malpractice lawsuit said a business acquaintance learned of the woman's plastic surgery through the photos, causing the patient emotional distress.

"It's being done here as a promotional thing," said her attorney, Christopher J. Stawski. "They're using her image to get more business."

The suit asks for unspecified damages from Affiliated M.D.-Rejuvenation Center & Spa Ltd.

Cellblocks quarantined

TX HOUSTON — Two cellblocks at a state prison were placed under quarantine after two inmates contracted chickenpox. The infected inmates were moved to medical units at other prisons last week; 140 other inmates are being monitored for signs of the viral disease.

Airline adds flights

WY CASPER — Years of negotiations culminated in the first Northwest Airlines flight from Casper to Minneapolis. Two flights a day are now scheduled on new, 50-seat jets. Passengers on the inaugural flight included Mike Sullivan, a former Wyoming governor and ambassador to Ireland who was headed back overseas on business.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Rapper faces assault charge

Rapper **Ja Rule** will return to Toronto next spring to face a charge of assault causing bodily harm, a Canadian court ruled at a pretrial hearing.

Ja Rule

A trial for the 28-year-old performer, whose real name is Jeffrey Atkins, has been tentatively set for March 7-11 in Ontario Court. The rapper didn't attend the hearing.

Ja Rule, known for hits such as "Holla Holla," is accused of being part of a June 5 altercation at La Rouge Nightclub in the heart of Toronto's club district.

His lawyers have said the rapper will plead not guilty.

Ultimate bachelor to set up shop in Vegas

Hugh Hefner is coming to Las Vegas, where he'll have a vertical version of his Playboy mansion — a nearly 12,000-square-foot love shack on top of the Palms hotel-casino's 40-story tower that's under construction.

Hefner

The two-story suite will be named the Hugh Hefner Sky Villa. It will have its own glass elevator that overlooks the Strip, along with indoor and outdoor pools.

"He's going to make it his home away from home," Palms owner George Maloof said. "He's got plenty of room to play. It's a perfect fit."

The 300-room tower opens in early 2006.

Olympians give a helping hand

A 5-year-old swimmer got an Olympic-size helping hand from three of the country's most celebrated swimmers.

Paul Lovely, of Lake Forest, was the youngest member of a team racing in Disney's Swim with the Stars tour, which featured **Michael Phelps**, who won six gold and two bronze medals in the Athens Games, and teammates **Ian Crocker** and **Lenny Krayzelburg**.

Phelps

The five-week tour across the country culminated Tuesday at Disneyland, where a three-lane pool was built on Main Street.

Lovely, who swam the first leg of a relay, was struggling to finish when the Olympians jumped in to help, piggybacking the youngster to the end of the pool.

"It was cold," the boy said. "I could go all the way through sometime."

Legendary actor to be honored

John Wayne's contributions to film will be honored during the unveiling of a commemorative stamp at his Iowa birthplace.

Wayne

Wayne's daughter, Melinda Wayne-Munoz, is scheduled to attend the U.S. Postal Service ceremony. The 37-cent stamp is the latest in the Legends of Hollywood series.

Wayne, born in Winterset in 1907, won an Oscar in 1970 for "True Grit." He died in 1979.

The John Wayne stamp, painted by Drew Struzan, is based on a black-and-white publicity still taken for the 1962 film "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance." It was officially issued last month at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, Calif.

Country star designs women's clothes

Entertainer **Reba McEntire** will design a line of women's clothing for Little Rock, Ark.-based Dillard's Inc.

The line will be launched in the spring in nearly half of Dillard's 347 stores, the department store chain announced. McEntire's line will include clothes for the office, sportswear and other items, Dillard's said in a statement. Prices will range from $48 to $289 in sizes 4-14. The company didn't disclose its terms with the singer-actress. The initial choices will reach some Dillard's stores in March, the company said.

Photos and stories from wire reports

Mexican star pushing status quo's buttons

BY REBECCA LOUIE
New York Daily News

If a morality police existed for movies, they'd probably want to slap 25-year-old Mexican star Gael Garcia Bernal with a summons for making subversive films.

Audiences discovered the young actor in 2002, in a pair of films that pushed against the barriers of propriety. First, in the art house hit "Y Tu Mama Tambien," Bernal played an adventurous Mexican teen involved in a menage a trois with a pal and an older woman. Then, he played a priest who impregnates a teenage girl in "El Crimen del Padre Amaro ("The Crime of Father Amaro"), which broke box-office records south of the border, despite the Catholic Church's demands that the film be banned.

But when it comes to pushing buttons, the actor — whose thought-provoking new film, "The Motorcycle Diaries," opens in the States on Friday — prides himself on being a repeat offender.

"If people say something [is wrong], I would do it even more, just for the sake of playing around with them," says Bernal. "It's all about going against preconceptions."

Though several Spanish and Mexican stars — including Salma Hayek, Antonio Banderas, Penelope Cruz and even Bernal's "Y Tu Mama Tambien" co-star Diego Luna — have earned varying degrees of success by courting Hollywood, Bernal flagrantly defies the status quo.

In "Motorcycle Diaries," he portrays Ernesto (Che) Guevara at age 23, as the future Communist leader embarks on a road trip through Latin America with his friend Alberto Granado (Rodrigo De la Serna).

Set in 1952, "Diaries" depicts the social awakenings of the alternately beloved and reviled guerrilla leader of the Cuban revolution. (Bernal, in fact, already played Guevara in a 2002 Showtime movie about Fidel Castro.) The Brazilian film was based on Guevara's memoirs of the same title, and on Granado's book "Traveling With Che Guevara."

And in November, Bernal stars in "Bad Education," the new film by Oscar-winning director Pedro Almodovar ("Talk to Her," "All About My Mother"), as a transvestite involved in a revenge plot against a priest.

Though his runway-ready looks alone could guarantee a lengthy career, Bernal's intelligence and intensity suggest he's destined for more than pinup popularity. Quick to expound, eloquently, on politics and social injustice (his anti-war plea at the 2003 Academy Awards received applause), Bernal uses his craft to explore and enrich his own life views.

"I cannot remember when I didn't know about Che," says Bernal, who grew up in Guadalajara before acting in telenovellos. "Che has so much to do with your ideals as a young man. His mythification, Che the icon, is not three-dimensional. To have the T-shirt [with his image] doesn't mean much. With the film, we wanted to bring that character closer to ourselves."

To do so, Bernal studied the texts that inspired Guevara — including the French existentialists — and took seminars about 1950s Latin American culture.

"Gael was as curious about his own origins as Guevara was when he was 23, and had the same strength of character and honesty in looking at life," says "Diaries" director Walter Salles, who approached Bernal for the part after seeing his debut in "Amores Perros."

"During the day off or after the shoots, Gael was the first one to go to [local residents] to find out more about what kind of life these people were living. In doing so, he was mirroring what Guevara had done 50 years earlier. Gael was very rooted in his own culture."

Working in more than 30 locations across Argentina, Chile and Peru, in temperatures ranging from below zero in the Andes Mountains to 113 degrees in the Amazon, Bernal had many opportunities to interact with locals. Among them were the Quechua Indians and the patients of the San Pablo leprosarium in Peru.

"We are not movie stars, we are not Tom Cruise walking though these towns," says Bernal. "With the nature of the film, it was like paying a tribute to them. Their social and economic struggle is the same as 50 years ago, and that is heartbreaking. It puts your priorities in order."

His experience on "Motorcycle Diaries" helped Bernal cement his commitment to social change, and his personal journey continued with "Bad Education." Almodovar quipped that he cast Bernal because the actor was "attractive as both a boy and as a girl." Bernal was able to have some fun in it as well.

"It's like finding a clown in yourself, a point that belongs only to you," he says of his scenes in drag. "Nobody else owns it, nobody can take it away. The transgender in you exists whether you are a man or a woman. It is pretty fun to play around. It's very liberating."

"The Motorcycle Diaries" only covers a short span of Guevara's life. Born in Rosario, Argentina, in 1928, Ernesto Guevara was the eldest of five children in a middle-class family. He briefly abandoned his studies in medicine at the University of Buenos Aires in 1952 to embark on a motorcycle trip with his friend Alberto Granado, a biochemist. Seeing the plight of laborers ignited his passion for change.

In 1954, Guevara joined exiled Cuban revolutionaries in Mexico City, where he earned the nickname Che, a form of address in Argentina. As part of Fidel Castro's guerrilla army, he helped overthrow Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1958. Castro named Guevara Cuba's Minister of Industry, a position he held from 1961-65, including during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

Guevara moved to Bolivia in 1966, where he worked to stage a coup against the military dictatorship there. He was captured by Bolivian troops and killed in 1967. Once a symbol of the militancy of the struggling poor and an inspiration to civil activists, Guevara's image has, ironically, become a staple on T-shirts, coffee mugs and posters to be purchased in capitalist cultures.

Gael Garcia Bernal stars as Ernesto "Che" Guevara in Walter Salles' "The Motorcycle Diaries."

PAULA PRANDINI, FOCUS FEATURES/KRT

YOUR MONEY

Microsoft upgrades MSN TV

BY GARY GENTILE
The Associated Press

AP

Sam Klepper, left, MSN TV general manager, holds an interview after unveiling Microsoft's new Internet and media player MSN TV 2, right, in New York on Tuesday. The service adds high-speed Internet and video in an attempt to attract younger users.

LOS ANGELES — Microsoft Corp. introduced on Tuesday a new version of its Internet TV service, seeking to broaden its appeal beyond a relatively small base of older, computer-phobic users.

The set-top hardware it uses, the MSN TV Internet and Media Player, is a strange hybrid for an increasingly networked world.

Essentially a media receiver, the player lets people surf the Web, display digital photos, watch downloaded video clips and do e-mail — all the time using their television as a monitor.

The new version, called MSN TV 2, adds a port for people with high-speed Internet connections and home networks. Made by Thomson under the RCA brand, it has more processing power than its predecessor but contains no hard drive. The box has 128 megabytes of RAM and 64 MB of flash memory.

It sells for $199.95 plus a subscription fee, depending on whether it is used with broadband Internet access or dial-up. The box also includes Wi-Fi connectivity for wireless home networks and slots for memory cards from digital cameras.

A wireless keyboard and remote are also included.

Microsoft last updated this service two years ago, at which time it said it had a little over 1 million subscribers.

MSN TV is the renamed WebTV service that Microsoft bought in 1997. The company declined to provide current subscription numbers.

"We're going after the broadband households with home networks who have digital content on their PC and a big screen TV where they can relax and share that media with friends and family," said Sam Klepper, general manager of MSN TV.

Subscribers get access to Microsoft's MSN service, which includes 200 streaming radio stations and video clips from NBC, the Discovery Channel, Fox Sports and other partners.

Users will not be able to watch movies downloaded from the Internet or listen to songs purchased from legitimate online services, such as MSN's own music store, until next year, when copy-protection software is added to the receiver.

But like any other media player — the market remains young — the device will play songs that have been ripped from a user's CD collection to computers on a home network.

Analysts said Microsoft will have a tough time attracting a younger, more tech-savvy consumer while simultaneously trying to appeal to older less tech-savvy users.

"How you serve both at the same time will be an interesting question as you go forward," said Eric Kainer, an equity analyst at Needham & Co.

The cost of the service could also be a problem, analysts said.

"If you do have broadband, the MSN TV subscription is on top of that," said Josh Bernoff, an analyst with Forrester Research, Inc.

"That is quite a lot to ask."

Out of mom-mobile, into police magnet

Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

Dear Tom and Ray:

My 20-year-old daughter, who drives my old, safe 1994 Volvo 960, has informed me that she just purchased a 1970 Volkswagen Bus to take camping. It has a picture of the "Purple Rain" album cover airbrushed on the back. She has a good job, and she paid for it with her own money. She attends the Colorado School of Mines, majoring in environmental chemistry, and she usually makes good decisions. However, I'm concerned about this one. My first concern is safety. My second is that the painting on the back could be a police magnet. Because I am a child of the '60s and '70s myself, my arguments against this "lifestyle vehicle" don't carry much weight with her. Can you give me some good arguments as to why this purchase might be dangerous and/or stupid? — Judy

TOM: Sure! This is the easiest question we've been asked all week, Judy.

RAY: As much fun as this VW Bus might seem, it's really quite a deadly vehicle.

TOM: The problem is that in an accident, your knees are your first line of defense. You sit right up at the front of this vehicle, with your legs right behind that big VW emblem between the headlights. So, if you hit anything head-on, or get hit by another vehicle, you'll be spending the rest of your life in a motorized wheelchair, which you'll operate with your tongue. IF you're lucky.

RAY: The other problem is that they handle terribly, which increases the likelihood of an accident. A medium-size gust of wind is enough to blow this vehicle into the next lane.

TOM: On the plus side, they're a hell of a lot of fun, aren't they? And cool-looking, too! They bring you back to another, more carefree era … when maintaining the use of your legs wasn't on your list of priorities. You remember those days, right, Judy?

RAY: If I were you, Judy, I would just ask your daughter to restrict the VW Bus to local trips. Ask her to stay off the highways and stick to roads where the speeds are, say, below 40 mph. It doesn't guarantee that she'll be safe, but it'll certainly improve her chances.

TOM: Since she's obviously a smart kid, she might discover on her own that she feels quite unsafe driving this rig. She might get tired of the buckboard ride, the swaying around in the wind and the dearth of heat in the winter.

RAY: And the old-car smell.

TOM: But she's obviously rebelling a bit. I mean, you can't find two more disparate vehicles than a Volvo 960 and a VW Bus. So, I'm guessing she's feeling the need to break out of the "mom-mobile" and make her own statement. And you're going to have to accept that.

RAY: If you're really desperately worried about her, Judy, offer to help her sell both of her current vehicles and buy a brand-new Honda Element. That's today's modern, safer version of the VW Bus: a cheap, versatile, funky recreational vehicle. And I'm sure that if you talk to your Honda dealer, you can get the "Purple Rain" cover airbrushed on the back.

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	9,497.72	Dow Jones Industrials	10,239.92	+62.24	+.61	-2.05	+6.32
3,342.76	2,743.46	Dow Jones Transportation	3,388.72	+53.12	+1.59	+12.69	+21.39
300.30	243.26	Dow Jones Utilities	301.35	+1.50	+.50	+12.91	+19.37
6,798.12	5,812.25	NYSE Composite	6,717.43	+38.18	+.57	+4.30	+14.72
1,287.36	1,005.78	Amex Index	1,289.79	+3.11	+.24	+9.90	+27.22
2,153.83	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	1,971.03	+15.53	+.79	-1.61	+4.08
1,163.23	1,018.32	S&P 500	1,142.05	+7.57	+.67	+2.71	+10.47
618.46	528.13	S&P MidCap	605.90	+3.78	+.63	+5.19	+13.39
606.42	503.88	Russell 2000	592.66	+5.32	+.91	+6.42	+14.93
11,371.14	9,890.89	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,164.28	+74.48	+.67	+3.38	+11.21

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Lucent	890923	3.39	+.27
Merck	480681	31.67	-1.76
NortelN If	194075	3.61	+.05
Blockbstr	193378	8.04	+.20
EMC Cp	180533	12.68	+.20
AmIntGp	174736	66.60	+.10
Pfizer	153381	31.18	-.11
GenElec	142441	34.38	+.33
ViacomB	128354	35.77	+.32
ExxonMbl	127828	50.03	+.71

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Nasd100Tr	854910	36.66	+.30
SPDR	412215	114.62	+.71
SemiHTr	209072	32.00	+.09
DJIA Diam	51392	102.64	+.60
iShRs2000	44554	118.03	+.76
GreyWolf	38964	5.03	+.11
iShJapan	38319	10.02	+.09
WheatR g	37203	3.12	-.06
RetailHT	33759	93.02	+.46
BemaGold	31242	3.07	-.02

NASDAQ

MOST ACTIVE ($1 OR MORE)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
SiriusS	3415315	3.87	+.52
Intel	564063	21.13	-.19
Microsoft	551040	28.53	+.15
Cisco	499426	19.53	+.43
Oracle	436464	12.24	+.03
SunMicro	399821	4.31	+.03
ApldMatl	303280	17.24	-.09
JDS Uniph	270807	3.46	+.11
Netegrity	197616	10.54	+2.79
IAC Interac	173785	20.73	-.06

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	YTD %Chg
Alliant Technosystem	...	14	59.76	-.01	+3.5
Armor Holdings	...	42	43.92	+.45	+66.9
Boeing	.80	16	52.36	+.87	+24.3
Computer Sciences	...	18	49.74	+.31	+12.5
Engineered Sup Sys	.04	19	47.29	+.28	-14.1
General Dynamics	1.44	18	101.94	+.20	+12.8
General Electric	.80	23	34.38	+.33	+11.0
Halliburton	.50	...	34.79	+.82	+33.8
Harris Corp.	.48	29	57.49	+.67	+51.5
Allied Signal	.75	23	36.71	+.20	+9.8
L-3 Communications	.40	21	67.54	+.24	+31.5
Lockheed Martin	1.00	22	56.31	-.21	+9.6
NorthrpG s	.92	21	52.91	-.15	+10.7
Raytheon	.80	82	37.50	-.40	+24.8
Rockwell Intl.	.66	23	39.99	+.07	+12.3
Sequa Corp.	...	40	52.83	-1.13	+7.8
Texas Instruments	.10	23	23.10	+.27	-21.4
Textron Inc.	1.30	34	65.33	+.59	+14.5
United Technologies	1.40	18	93.72	-.04	-1.1

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	NAV	Chg.	YTD %Ret.
Fidelity Invest: GroInc	36.68	+.24	+3.9
Fidelity Invest: GroCo	50.97	+.38	+1.8
Amer Century Inv: Ultra	27.31	+.15	+2.5
Fidelity Spartan: EqIdx	40.69	+.29	+3.9
Putnam Funds A: GrInA p	18.31	+.14	+4.3
Fidelity Invest: A Mgr	15.79	+.05	+1.2
Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCpGrA	30.92	+.10	+2.3
AIM Investments A: Const p	21.37	+.16	-.7
Fidelity Invest: USBI	11.13	-.02	+3.0
Fidelity Invest: Ovrsea	32.20	+.13	+2.4
Fidelity Advisor T: GrOppT	28.74	+.21	+.3
Fidelity Advisor T: EqInT	27.19	+.17	+5.4
Scudder Funds S: GroIncS	20.71	+.16	+3.3
Putnam Funds A: GlbEqty p	7.76	+.03	+4.0
AIM Investments A: ChartA p	12.26	+.06	+3.1
AIM Investments A: WeingA p	12.08	+.07	
Merrill Lynch I: BalCapI	27.16	+.10	+3.6
Scudder Funds S: Intl FdS	39.80	-.10	+3.6
Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT	16.09	+.06	+1.9
Lord Abbett A: DevGtA p	14.70	+.09	-2.0
Scudder Funds S: Income S	12.93	-.02	+3.5
Merrill Lynch I: USGvtMtg	10.28	-.01	+2.3
Scudder Funds S: Devel	17.96	+.13	-4.7
Putnam Funds A: GlGvA p	12.38	-.01	+1.6

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro	$1.2626
British pound	$1.83
Japanese yen (Oct. 8)	108.00
South Korean won (Oct. 7)	1,120.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37698
British pound	$1.7753
Canada (Dollar)	1.2596
Denmark (Krone)	5.71
Egypt (Pound)	6.2352
Euro	$1.2267
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.798
Hungary (Forint)	200.02
Iceland (Krona)	71.135
Israel (Shekel)	4.4643
Japan (Yen)	111.41
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.29461
Norway (Krone)	6.34
Philippines (Peso)	56.27
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.59
Singapore (Dollar)	1.6907
South Korea (Won)	1,151.90
Switzerland (Franc)	1.19
Thailand (Baht)	41.41
Turkey (Lira)	1,498,500.00

(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

New York Merc close

Gold	$418.40
Silver	$7.222

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.75
3-month bill	1.70
30-year bond	4.97

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Help after a disaster

CBS MarketWatch

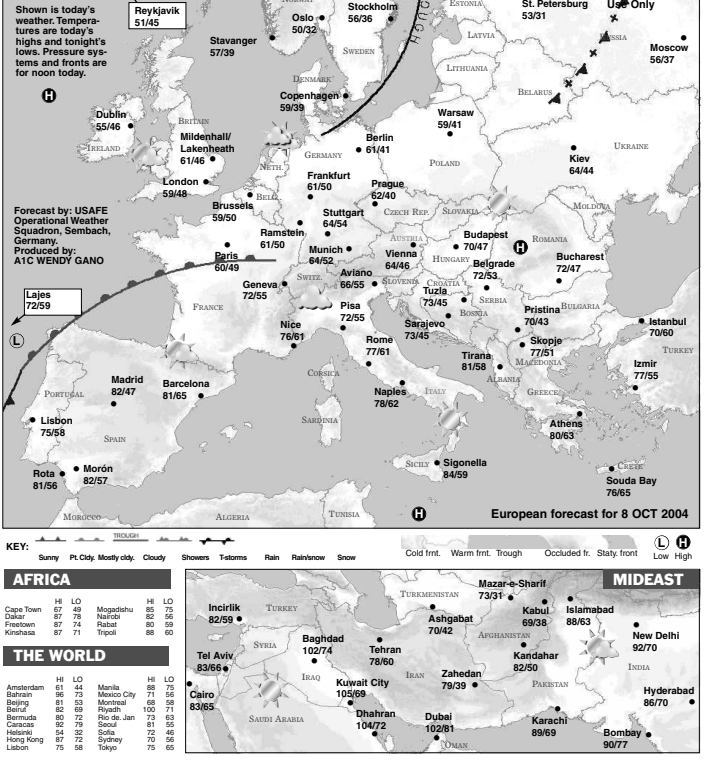
NEW YORK — The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends that you do the following after a natural disaster:

■ Seek out the American Red Cross and other volunteer organizations in your area for food, drinkable water, clothing and other necessary supplies.

■ Contact your insurance company and file a claim. Ask your agent specifically about what is covered. Find out what you'll need to provide in the claim, such as proof of damage, receipts or contractor estimates.

■ Apply for federal disaster assistance. You can apply if you do not have insurance or if you have emergency needs that are not covered by your insurance. Call FEMA at 1-800-621-3362; the line is operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You'll need to provide your name, predisaster address, current address if you are unable to return to your home, contact phone numbers, proof of residency and your insurance coverage information. A FEMA inspector will contact you and inspect your home.

Visit **www.fema.gov** for more information.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Mostly cloudy to cloudy. Highs in the upper 50s, Saturday lows in the lower 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Partly cloudy with gusty winds. Highs in the mid 50s to lower 60s, Saturday lows in the mid to upper 40s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with dense fog in the morning. Highs in the lower 70s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s.

France: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s to mid 70s, Saturday lows in the upper 40s to lower 60s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain. Highs in the lower 60s, Saturday lows in the lower 40s to lower 50s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy with rain. Highs in the lower to mid 60s, Saturday lows in the lower to mid 50s.

Hungary: Sunny. Highs in the lower 70s, Saturday lows in the upper 40s.

Northern Italy: Cloudy with fog in the morning. Highs in the mid 60s to mid 70s, Saturday lows in the mid 50s to lower 60s.

Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s to mid 80s, Saturday lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy with fog in the morning. Highs in the lower 70s, Saturday lows in the lower 40s to lower 50s.

Norway: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower to upper 50s, Saturday lows in the lower to upper 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly to mostly cloudy with gusty winds. Highs in the mid 70s to lower 80s, Saturday lows in the upper 40s to mid 60s.

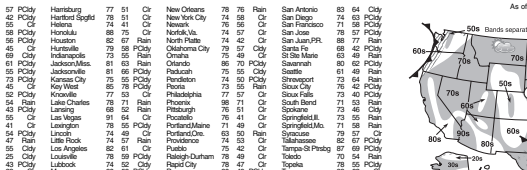
Turkey: Mostly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms and gusty winds. Highs in the lower 70s to lower 80s, Saturday lows in the mid 50s to lower 60s.

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	67	49	Mogadishu	85	75
Dakar	87	78	Nairobi	82	56
Freetown	87	74	Rabat	80	59
Kinshasa	87	71	Tripoli	88	60

MIDEAST



THE WORLD

	Hi	Lo		Hi	Lo
Amsterdam	61	44	Manila	88	75
Bahrain	96	73	Mexico City	71	56
Beijing	81	53	Montreal	68	58
Beirut	82	69	Riyadh	100	71
Bermuda	80	72	Rio de Jan	73	63
Caracas	92	79	Seoul	81	55
Helsinki	54	32	Sofia	72	46
Hong Kong	87	72	Sydney	70	56
Lisbon	75	58	Tokyo	75	65

SUN & MOON

	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	6:07 AM	6:08 AM
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	7:34 AM	7:35 AM
Sunset (Baghdad)	6:41 PM	6:40 PM
Sunset (Frankfurt)	6:53 PM	6:51 PM

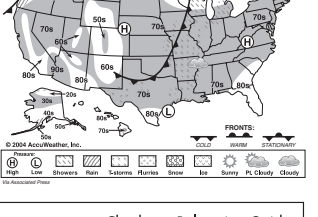
New moon Oct 14 · First qtr. Oct 20 · Full moon Oct 28 · Last qtr. Nov 5

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

	Hi	Lo	Otlk																
				Cleveland	73	57	PCldy	Harrisburg	77	51	Clr	New Orleans	78	76	Rain	San Antonio	83	64	Cldy
Abilene,Tex.	78	56	Cldy	Colorado Springs	69	42	PCldy	Hartford Spgfld	78	51	Clr	New York City	74	58	Clr	San Diego	74	63	PCldy
Akron,Ohio	74	53	PCldy	Columbia,S.C.	80	55	Clr	Helena	74	41	Clr	Newark	76	56	Clr	San Francisco	71	58	PCldy
Albany,N.Y.	77	54	Clr	Columbus,Ga.	81	58	PCldy	Honolulu	88	75	Clr	Norfolk,Va.	74	57	Clr	San Jose	73	57	PCldy
Albuquerque	72	49	Clr	Columbus,Ohio	77	56	PCldy	Houston	82	67	Rain	North Platte	74	42	Clr	San Juan,PR.	88	77	Rain
Allentown,Pa.	73	50	Clr	Concord,N.H.	77	45	Clr	Huntsville	79	58	PCldy	Oklahoma City	79	57	Cldy	Santa Fe	68	42	PCldy
Amarillo	74	50	PCldy	Corpus Christi	86	69	Cldy	Indianapolis	73	55	Rain	Omaha	75	49	Clr	St Ste Marie	63	49	Rain
Anchorage	45	36	PCldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	82	61	PCldy	Jackson,Miss.	81	63	Rain	Orlando	86	70	PCldy	Savannah	80	62	PCldy
Asheville	72	48	Clr	Dayton	75	55	PCldy	Jacksonville	81	66	PCldy	Paducah	75	55	Cldy	Seattle	61	49	Rain
Atlanta	77	55	PCldy	Daytona Beach	84	73	PCldy	Kansas City	75	55	PCldy	Pendleton	74	50	PCldy	Shreveport	73	64	Rain
Atlantic City	75	53	Clr	Denver	72	45	Clr	Key West	85	78	PCldy	Peoria	73	55	Rain	Sioux City	76	42	PCldy
Austin	81	65	Cldy	Des Moines	77	52	PCldy	Knoxville	77	53	Clr	Philadelphia	77	57	Clr	Sioux Falls	73	40	PCldy
Baltimore	76	53	Clr	Detroit	73	54	Rain	Lake Charles	75	71	Rain	Phoenix	98	71	Clr	South Bend	71	53	Rain
Baton Rouge	77	74	Rain	Duluth	65	43	PCldy	Lansing	68	52	Rain	Pittsburgh	76	51	Clr	Spokane	73	46	Cldy
Billings	78	48	Clr	El Paso	81	55	Clr	Las Vegas	91	64	Clr	Portland,Me	75	41	Clr	Springfield,Ill.	73	55	Rain
Birmingham	77	59	PCldy	Elkins	78	41	Clr	Lexington	78	55	PCldy	Portland,Maine	71	49	Clr	Springfield,Mo.	71	58	Rain
Bismarck	72	44	Clr	Erie	72	54	PCldy	Lincoln	74	49	Clr	Portland,Ore.	63	50	Rain	Syracuse	79	57	Clr
Boise	82	57	Clr	Eugene	64	47	Rain	Little Rock	74	57	Rain	Providence	74	53	Clr	Tallahassee	82	67	PCldy
Boston	72	56	Clr	Evansville	76	55	Cldy	Los Angeles	82	61	Clr	Pueblo	75	42	Clr	Tampa-St Pbsbg	87	69	PCldy
Bridgeport	72	54	Clr	Fairbanks	42	25	Cldy	Louisville	78	59	PCldy	Raleigh-Durham	78	49	Clr	Toledo	70	54	Rain
Brownsville	87	70	Cldy	Fargo	69	43	PCldy	Lubbock	74	52	Cldy	Rapid City	78	47	Clr	Topeka	78	55	PCldy
Buffalo	76	55	PCldy	Flagstaff	72	33	Clr	Macon	80	59	PCldy	Reno	80	48	PCldy	Tucson	92	63	Clr
Burlington,Vt.	73	56	Clr	Flint	71	52	Rain	Madison	69	49	Rain	Richmond	77	52	Clr	Tulsa	76	60	Rain
Caribou,Maine	67	48	PCldy	Fort Smith	74	61	Rain	Medford	73	48	Rain	Roanoke	76	47	Clr	Tupelo	78	63	Cldy
Casper	74	42	Clr	Fort Wayne	73	55	Rain	Memphis	78	63	Cldy	Rochester	78	57	PCldy	Waco	82	61	PCldy
Charleston,S.C.	80	59	Clr	Fresno	81	58	Clr	Miami Beach	86	74	PCldy	Rockford	69	51	Rain	Washington,D.C.	78	57	Clr
Charleston,W.Va.	80	50	Clr	Goodland	74	43	Clr	Midland-Odessa	77	56	PCldy	Sacramento	81	54	PCldy	W.Palm Beach	85	74	PCldy
Charlotte,N.C.	77	51	Clr	Grand Junction	74	46	Clr	Milwaukee	68	52	Rain	St Louis	74	57	Rain	Wichita	79	55	PCldy
Chattanooga	78	55	Clr	Grand Rapids	71	52	Rain	Mpls-St Paul	69	43	Rain	Salt Lake City	81	55	Clr	Wichita Falls	79	57	Cldy
Cheyenne	68	40	Clr	Great Falls	75	44	Clr	Mobile	80	65	PCldy	Salem,Ore.	63	48	Rain	Wilkes-Barre	75	51	Clr
Chicago	68	53	Rain	Green Bay	71	45	Cldy	Montgomery	80	60	PCldy	Salt Lake City	81	55	Clr	Wilmington,Del.	76	55	Clr
Cincinnati	76	55	PCldy	Greensboro,N.C.	77	50	Clr	Nashville	78	56	PCldy	San Angelo	79	68	Cldy	Yakima	71	42	Cldy

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



Scheduled to ETS or PCS?

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

STARS AND STRIPES®
Your Hometown Newspaper

Horoscope

Joyce Jillson

The moon in Leo says, "Express what you're feeling," but the sun in Libra adds, "Only when appropriate." The two messages don't always fit nicely with one another, and many an emotion is stifled or underplayed in order to not to upset others. Don't be so concerned about people think that you give yourself a stomachache. Try journal writing.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (October 8). What you've built is now inhabitable. This year features the fruit of your labor — you can sit back and enjoy what you've done. Love is the focus through the next two months. When relationships are on track, everything else seems to be on track, too. Just don't mix love and money, and you'll feel comfortable with your status in both areas.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're accepted. When you believe this at your very core, the bustling, chaotic world seems easier to deal with. Parents hook onto a new way to teach children. The trick is getting them to think they're teaching themselves.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Sometimes, it's enough to plan one step at a time, but looking much farther ahead will benefit you now. Otherwise, you'll be taking the obvious route, not the route that will accelerate your journey beyond what you thought possible.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Manners matter to you. But would you rather be around charming folks who can't further your project or unmannered folks who can boost you to the next level? Do not accept politeness and flattery as payment for services.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You're in a rather ethereal mood, philosophizing and dreaming the morning away. It's all well and good, but when it comes down to it, your destiny is your deed — so use the afternoon to take three actions toward your dream.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Your excellent salesmanship is featured. Whether you're convincing a colleague that yours is the correct way to execute a plan or persuading a customer to buy your product, you've got irresistible style.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Preventative action is the name of the game. The act of buying insurance diminishes the likelihood that you will need it. Once you've handled your own life, you may move on to helping others plan for the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You give serious deliberation to even the most inconsequential choices, but this isn't foolish. You realize that even seemingly inconsequential choices are loaded with karma. Much is coming your way.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The path to making tomorrow better than yesterday is through imagination. You are creative, and many of your insights are far-out. You're on the right track when a good number of people don't understand you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). There is no need to over-explain yourself. Assume that others trust you, and by this very assumption, you inspire their trust. Beware of going on autopilot this afternoon, especially around loved ones.

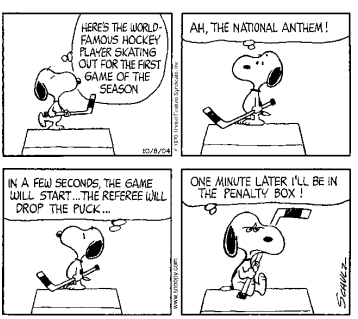
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). There are perfectionists around you who like to quietly judge, keeping their complaints inside in order to vent them on an unwitting third party. Steer clear of these people, and don't become one yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). What comes naturally to you is also difficult for you to explain. For instance, it's second nature for you to gain the goodwill of others by extending plenty of it yourself. But many people just don't get the concept.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Instead of trying to whittle down your list of things to do, consider doing the same number of things but with greater compassion, enthusiasm and kindness. When your actions are motivated by love, your energy flows ceaselessly.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts

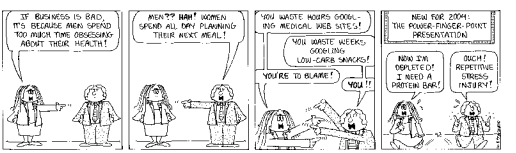


Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

Zits

Cathy



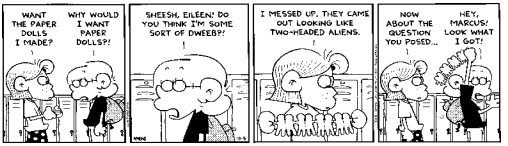
Hi and Lois

Beetle Bailey

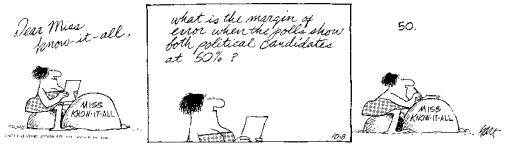
Red and Rover

Better or Worse

Foxtrot



B.C.

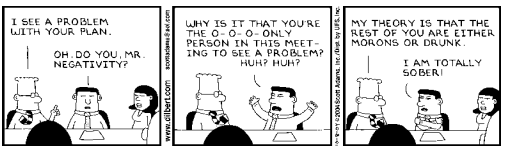


Baby Blues

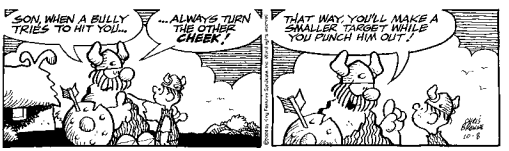
Spider Man

Blondie

Dilbert

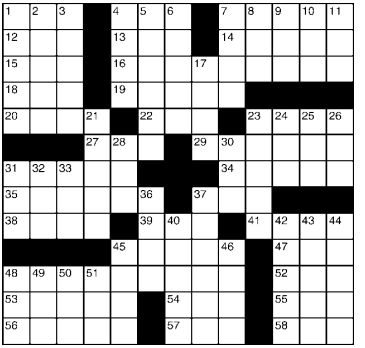


Hagar



Garfield

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

1 Performance
4 The whole enchilada
7 English-class assignment
12 Expert
13 "Holy cow!"
14 Obey reveille
15 With it, once
16 Three-peats, in a way
18 Tennyson princess
19 Christmas tree topper
20 Catnap
22 Huge weight
23 Ganges garment
27 Biz-news abbr.
29 1935 Astaire/Rogers movie
31 Ecru
34 Grates
35 Trite
37 Wield an axe
38 Rorschach picture
39 Swelled head
41 What Hubbard's dog had
45 Sports-page stat
47 Somebody
48 With humility
52 Faraway craft
53 Florentine friend
54 Drumstick
55 British "Inc."
56 Tendon
57 Pigs' digs
58 Sightseer?

Down

1 Garden intruder
2 Words to live by
3 November stone
4 Eastern potentate
5 Shed
6 Release
7 Count counterpart
8 Lanka lead-in
9 Bracketed word
10 Make inquiries
11 "Undeniably"
17 Bivouac structure
21 Behind the — ball
23 Offspring
24 Oohs' mates
25 Snoop Dogg's genre
26 "Monty Python" intro
28 Shell game need
30 Tramcar cargo
31 Bing's pal
32 Blueprint addition
33 "— not choose to run"
36 Computer expert
37 Wasp's kin
40 Objectives
42 Small egg
43 Swell
44 Lyric poem
45 What some men are made of
46 Provocative
48 Possesses
49 "— Blue?"
50 Stannum
51 Lemieux milieu

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

10-8 **CRYPTOQUIP**

WTY FUKHNY NUFQYU RL CRHKMMA LYYVRHN HYQ QFUV. TY'L LF WRUYS FC WTY SKRMA URHS.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A CATTLE RANCH IS FREE OF ALL ITS BABY COWS, WOULD YOU SAY IT'S DECALFINATED?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals R

Friend wants to upgrade relations

Dear Abby: I am a 28-year-old, unattractive guy who is in love with my best female friend. "Chrissy" is 25 and a single mother. I have always adored her. We met in high school in 1996.

In 2002, Chrissy ran into an old high school boyfriend who was addicted to drugs and has psychological problems.

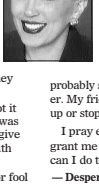
She fell back in love with him, and soon they were dating.

He was insecure about her having friends, especially someone of the opposite sex, so he gave her an ultimatum — him or me. She chose him. A year later they had a baby.

When Chrissy finally got it through her head that he was never going to change or give up drugs, she broke up with him.

Being the good guy — or fool — that I am, I became close with her again. Over time, I have gotten to know her son and have treated him like he was my own. I do anything and everything for them. I would like to have a real relationship with Chrissy. It makes me sad that she'd rather go out with guys who don't really care for her (she admits it herself) than see how much I love her. I want so much to be with her, but I know she doesn't see me in that light.

Dear Abby



I don't know what to do. I don't want to say something because if I do, she'll pull back and probably stop seeing me altogether. My friends say I should speak up or stop seeing her, but I can't.

I pray every night for God to grant me this one prayer. What can I do to make this work?

— Desperately Seeking "Chrissy"

Dear Desperate: You've done enough already. Your belief that you are unattractive may be part of your problem. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and Chrissy may be just plain masochistic about men. If Chrissy is unable to recognize the value of what you have to offer, it would be healthier for you to distance yourself and find a woman who's a better judge of men.

I agree with your friends that it's time to lay your cards on the table. You deserve to have a loving relationship. Love is at its best when it's mutual. When it's not, it's torture. So stop torturing yourself and allowing yourself to be taken for granted. Remember: Some of God's greatest blessings are unanswered prayers.

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

Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

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

LORGY

FODOL

UNBRAU

CLYMAL

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www.jumble.com

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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

Answer: FOR A _____ "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SQUAB CROON ORIGIN GIBLET
Answer: What the king said when the storm ruined his picnic plans – THE RAIN REIGNS

At wit's end with mentally ill mom

Dear Annie: My 58-year-old mother has suffered from mental illness and alcoholism my entire life. She was diagnosed as schizophrenic and has been in and out of treatment for 33 years. Last year, Mom attempted suicide three times.

Recently, my grandmother (her mother) was put into a nursing home and is not expected to live much longer. Mom is so consumed by this that she won't work, sits in my grandmother's house looking through old pictures and has withdrawn from everyone. She is again showing signs of being suicidal, and when she calls me, she often makes comments like, "If something happens to me, I want you to have this."

Annie's Mailbox

Annie, I am emotionally exhausted from trying to be supportive of my mother. I have made a great life for myself, and have a wonderful husband and three beautiful children. I live 2,400 miles away from Mom because of her problems. I love her, but I am not a therapist. I cannot fix her. I hear these little signs that Mom is having serious problems again, but I don't want to intervene. I no longer want to involve myself. Of course, I would call the officials if she said she was going to kill herself outright, but that's about it. There is a point where a person must let go.

Am I being selfish? Is there something else I should be doing?

— Giving Up in Montana

*Dear Montana: You are not being selfish, you are trying to stay mentally healthy. Phone your mother's doctor so he is aware of the situation and can get an assessment. Then, contact the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (1-800-950-NAMI) (1-800-950-6264) or check their Web site (**www.nami.org**) under "Communities" for online discussion groups, including one for sons and daughters of the mentally ill, where you can share your concerns and find support and helpful suggestions.*

Dear Annie: We have seven grandchildren, and every Christmas we send each one a sizable check. Three of them thank us by phone, but we never hear a word from the other four. Annie, I am not talking about young children. These kids are between 15 and 23 years of age. I say, no more checks, but my husband, their grandfather, disagrees.

— Disgruntled Grandmother

Dear Disgruntled: If these children were not taught to write thank-you notes by their parents, it might be helpful to educate them before cutting them off. Phone, write or e-mail each grandchild, and inform them that it is considered good manners to acknowledge a gift, and if they can't find the time to let you know they appreciated your check, you will assume they are no longer interested in receiving one.

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

Creators Syndicate

Family Circus

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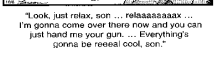
"This one's cheaper. It says the fat's free."

Dennis the Menace

"MOM SAYS YOU'RE HAVING A 'MID-LIFE CRISIS.' IS THAT DANGEROUS?"

©Gary Larson

The Far Side



"Look, just relax, son ... relaaaaaaaax ... I'm gonna come over there now and you can just hand me your gun. ... Everything's gonna be reeeal cool, son."

Non Sequitur

SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Friday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — College football: Houston at Southern Mississippi.

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. — College football: Clemson at Virginia (did).

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. — Baseball: AL Division Series, Anaheim at Boston, Game 3.

AFN-Radio, 10 p.m. — Baseball: AL Division Series, Boston at Anaheim, Game 3.

Saturday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. — Baseball: AL Division Series, N.Y. Yankees at Minnesota, Game 3.

AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m. — Women's basketball: WNBA Finals, Seattle or Sacramento at Connecticut, Game 1.

AFN-Pacific, 4 a.m. — College football: UNLV at BYU.

AFN-Sports, 6:30 a.m. — College football: "Air Force Football with Fisher DeBerry" (did).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — Boxing: Ballroom Boxing (did).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m. — Baseball: AL or NL Division Series game, if necessary. (did) or college football: UNLV at BYU (did).

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m. — College football: Texas vs. Oklahoma.

AFN-Atlantic, 6 p.m. — Baseball: AL or NL Division Series game, if necessary. (did) or college football: Illinois at Michigan State.

AFN-Pacific, 6 p.m. — College football: Minnesota at Michigan.

AFN-Sports, 9 p.m. — College football: Texas vs. Oklahoma.

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. — College football: Southern Cal at California, 9:30 p.m.

AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m. — Baseball: AL or NL Division Series game, if necessary, or college football: teams TBD.

AFN-Radio, 10 p.m. — College football: Tennessee at Georgia.

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. — College football: Tennessee at Georgia (joined in progress).

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

Pro football

NFL

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
New England	4	0	0	1.000	81	53
N.Y. Jets	3	0	0	1.000	92	61
Buffalo	3	0	0	1.000	57	51
Miami	0	4	0	.000	32	63
South						
Indianapolis	3	1	0	.750	124	92
Jacksonville	3	1	0	.750	97	71
Houston	2	2	0	.500	90	93
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	63	93
North						
Pittsburgh	3	1	0	.750	78	71
Cleveland	2	2	0	.500	59	62
Baltimore	2	2	0	.500	69	68
Cincinnati	1	3	0	.250	60	90
West						
Denver	3	1	0	.750	79	57
San Diego	2	2	0	.500	106	94
Oakland	2	2	0	.500	81	84
Kansas City	1	3	0	.250	89	110
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Philadelphia	4	0	0	1.000	107	55
N.Y. Giants	3	1	0	.750	78	62
Dallas	2	1	0	.667	57	65
Washington	2	1	0	.250	61	68
South						
Atlanta	4	0	0	1.000	88	49
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	70	67
Carolina	1	2	0	.333	52	68
Tampa Bay	0	4	0	.000	49	72
North						
Minnesota	3	1	0	.667	78	66
Detroit	2	1	0	.667	61	62
Chicago	1	3	0	.250	66	76
Green Bay	1	3	0	.250	72	94
West						
Seattle	3	0	0	1.000	65	13
St. Louis	2	2	0	.500	83	86
Arizona	2	2	0	.500	81	90
San Francisco	0	4	0	.000	60	109

Sunday's games

Detroit at Atlanta
N.Y. Giants at Dallas
Oakland at Indianapolis
Minnesota at Houston
Miami at New England
Cleveland at Pittsburgh
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets
Jacksonville at San Diego
St. Louis at Seattle
Arizona at San Francisco
Carolina at Denver
Baltimore at Washington
Open: Cincinnati, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Chicago

Monday's game

Tennessee at Green Bay

Sunday, Oct. 17

Green Bay at Detroit
Miami at Buffalo
Houston at Tennessee
San Diego at Atlanta
Washington at Chicago
San Francisco at St. Louis
Seattle at New England
Kansas City at Jacksonville
Cincinnati at Cleveland
Carolina at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Dallas
Denver at Oakland
Minnesota at New Orleans
Open: Indianapolis, Arizona, N.Y. Giants, Baltimore

Monday, Oct. 18

Tampa Bay at St. Louis

NFL injury report

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

Sunday

ARIZONA CARDINALS (1-3) AT SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS (0-4) — Cardinals: OUT: WR Anquan Boldin (knee); RB Josh Scobey (knee); CB Duane Starks (shoulder). QUESTIONABLE: DT Ross Kolodzie) (ankle). **49ers:** OUT: DE Andre Carter (back); C Jeremy Newberry knee); CB Mike Rumph (forearm); DE Andrew Williams (ankle). DOUBTFUL: LB Derek Smith (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: QB Jim Druckenbrod (shoulder); DE Otis Leverette (ankle). PROBABLE: WR Arnaz Battle (thigh); T Kwame Harris (ankle/knee); TE Eric Johnson (ribs); WR Brandon Lloyd (groin); LB Jeff Ulbrich (sickness).

BUFFALO BILLS (3-1) AT NEW YORK JETS (3-0) — Bills: OUT: QB J.P. Losman (lower leg); S Lamont Thompson (knee); CB Troy Vincent (knee). DOUBTFUL: RB Shaud Williams (knee). QUESTIONABLE: TE Jonas Jennings (neck); C Trey Teague (knee); S Lee Wylie (thigh). **Jets:** OUT: LB Sam Cowart (knee). PROBABLE: CB Donnie Abraham (thigh); T Jason Fabini (back).

CAROLINA PANTHERS (1-2) AT DENVER BRONCOS (3-1) — Panthers: OUT: WR Steve Smith (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: DT Brentson Buckner (knee); RB Stephen Davis (knee); LB Mark Fields (knee); WR Karl Hankton (hamstring); RB Rod Smart (knee). **Broncos:** OUT: DE Trevor Pryce (back). QUESTIONABLE: WR Quentin Griffin (ankle). PROBABLE: CB Roc Alexander (finger); RB Garrison Hearst (ankle); CB Lenny Walls (groin); LB D.J. Williams (thigh).

CLEVELAND BROWNS (2-2) AT PITTSBURGH STEELERS (3-1) — Browns: QUESTIONABLE: RB Kevin Bentley (quadriceps); DE Larry Garner (groin); T Ryan Tucker (quadriceps); DT Gerard Warren (pectoral). PROBABLE: QB Ross Verba (calf). **Steelers:** OUT: LB Kendrell Bell (hernia); DE Kimo Von Oelhoffen (right elbow). PROBABLE: C Jeff Hartings (knee); LB Travis Kirschke (hand); WR Hines Ward (flu); RB Duce Staley (toe); WR Hines Ward (wrist).

DETROIT LIONS (2-1) AT ATLANTA FALCONS (4-0) — Lions: OUT: LB Boss Bailey (knee); RB Kevin Jones (ankle). DOUBTFUL: CB Andre' Goodman (hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: CB Dre' Bly (knee); WR Roy Williams (hamstring). PROBABLE: DE James Hall (hand); DE Robert Porcher (ankle). **Falcons:** OUT: CB DeAngelo Hall (hip). QUESTIONABLE: LB Jamie Duncan (pectoral); LB Jason Webster (knee). PROBABLE: S Cory Hall (back).

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS (3-1) AT SAN DIEGO CHARGERS (2-2) — Jaguars: OUT: TE Kyle Brady (finger). QUESTIONABLE: WR George Wrighster (back). PROBABLE: DE Lionel Dotson (shoulder); WR Jerry Porter (groin). **Chargers:** OUT: C Nick Hardwick (knee). QUESTIONABLE: WR Eric Parker (neck); DE DeQuincy Scott(knee). PROBABLE: DE Brian Robison (left shoulder); RB Lorenzo Dwight (toe); S Terrence Kiel (shoulder); RB LaDainian Tomlinson (groin); DT Jamal Williams (abdomen).

MIAMI DOLPHINS (0-4) AT NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS (3-0) — Dolphins: OUT: RB Travis Minor (ankle); T John St. Clair (neck/ankle). DOUBTFUL: DT Tim Bowens (knee). QUESTIONABLE: LB Tony Bua (hamstring); WR Chris Chambers (knee); CB Will Poole (groin). PROBABLE: LB Brendon Ayanbadejo (groin); CB Reggie Howard (shoulder); WR Olindo Mare (calf); LB Zach Thomas (shoulder); DE Jay Williams (ankle). **Patriots:** OUT: T Adrian Klemm (foot-placed on ir). DOUBTFUL: WR Deion Branch (hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: WR Troy Brown (shoulder); RB Kevin Faulk (knee); CB Tyrone Poole (groin). PROBABLE: QB Tom Brady (right shoulder); QB Jim Miller (right shoulder).

MINNESOTA VIKINGS (2-1) AT HOUSTON TEXANS (2-2) — Vikings: OUT: RB Michael Bennett (knee); LB E.J. Henderson (hamstring); TE Jermaine Wiggins (hand). QUESTIONABLE: LB Chris Claiborne (calf); RB Will Poole (knee); RB Moe Williams (calf). PROBABLE: C Matt Birk (ankle). Doubtful: T Eric Brown (knee). QUESTIONABLE: RB Domanick Davis (ankle). PROBABLE: QB David Carr (foot); RB Moran Norris (knee).

NEW YORK GIANTS (3-1) AT DALLAS COWBOYS (2-1) — Giants: QUESTIONABLE: DT Norman Hand (elbow); WR Mark Jones (shoulder). **Cowboys:** OUT: RB Julius Jones (shoulder). QUESTIONABLE: DE Eric Ogbogu (knee).

OAKLAND RAIDERS (2-2) AT INDIANAPOLIS COLTS (3-1) — Raiders: OUT: QB Rich Gannon (neck). DOUBTFUL: G Frank Middleton (ankle); G Ron Stone (knee); RB Tyrone Wheatley (shoulder); LB Eric Barton (ankle); LB Kirk Morrison (shoulder). PROBABLE: RB Justin Fargas (toe). **Colts:** OUT: S Mike Doss (hamstring); CB Joseph Jefferson (knee); S Bob Sanders (foot); WR Troy Walters (upper torso fracture). QUESTIONABLE: C Idrees Bashir (groin); K Mike Vanderjagt (right hamstring). PROBABLE: CB Nicholas Harper (hip); DE Robert Mathis (thigh/groin); WR Brandon Stokley (groin); TE Dwayne Blakley (shoulder).

ST. LOUIS RAMS (2-2) AT SEATTLE SEAHAWKS (3-0) — Rams: OUT: CB Travis Fisher (forearm); DT Jimmy Kennedy (foot). QUESTIONABLE: G Chris Dishman (knee); LB Tony Newson (ankle). PROBABLE: RB Marshall Faulk (shoulder); CB Dejuan Groce (knee); RB Arlen Harris (hamstring); TE Scott Recznyk (wrist/hand); LB Robert Thomas (ankle). **Seahawks:** OUT: LB Chad Brown (fibula). PROBABLE: LB Isaiah Kacyvenski (groin); RB Mack Strong (knee).

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (0-4) AT NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (2-2) — Buccaneers: OUT: WR Joey Galloway (knee); WR Keenan McCardell (Achilles). PROBABLE: DT Anthony McFarland (groin). **Saints:** DOUBTFUL: CB Mike McKenzie (hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: WR Talman Gardner (ankle); RB Deuce McAllister (ankle); WR Jerome Pathon (hamstring); LB Courtney Watson (knee). PROBABLE: LB Derrick Rodgers (back).

BALTIMORE RAVENS (2-2) AT WASHINGTON REDSKINS (1-3) — Ravens: OUT: C Mike Flynn (shoulder); TE Todd Heap (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: RB Orlando Mudhelli (hamstring); CB Deion Sanders (hamstring); LB T.J. Slaughter (hamstring); WR Travis Taylor (thigh). PROBABLE: CB Gary Baxter (shoulder); DT Aubrayo Franklin (hamstring); TE Terry Jones (shoulder); DT Ma'ake Kemoeatu (ribs); LB Bart Scott (hamstring); LB Terrell Suggs (groin); RB Chester Taylor (ankle). **Redskins:** OUT: LB LaVar Arrington (knee); LB Mike Barrow (knee); DE Phillip Daniels (groin). QUESTIONABLE: S Andre Lott (hamstring). PROBABLE: G Ray Brown (hamstring); RB Chad Morton (knee); CB Shawn Springs (ankle). PROBABLE: DE Ryan Sims (knee).

Monday

TENNESSEE TITANS (1-3) AT GREEN BAY PACKERS (1-3) — Titans: OUT: WR Tyrone Calico (knee); TE Frank Wycheck (shoulder); LB Pillio (biceps); S Lance Schulters (foot); DE Juqua Thomas (ankle). QUESTIONABLE: LB Rocky Bishop (knee); LB Rocky Calmus (back); DT Albert Haynesworth (ankle); QB Steve McNair (sternum/ankle); TE Bo Scaife Meier (ankle); LB Robert Reynolds (hip). **Packers:** OUT: DT Grady Jackson (knee); DT James Lee (knee); QB Doug Pederson (back/ribs). QUESTIONABLE: WR Donald Carrol (groin); RB Najeh Davenport (hamstring). PROBABLE: QB Brett Favre (concussion); TE Bubba Franks (back); CB Al Harris (toe); LB Hannibal Navies (shoulder); S Darren Sharper (back); DE R-Kal Truluck (shoulder).

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
y-Columbus	12	5	11	47	38	30
x-MetroStars	11	11	6	39	44	45
D.C. United	9	10	10	37	40	40
Chicago	8	12	9	33	35	42
New England	7	14	8	29	41	51
Western Conference						
x-Kansas City	13	3	6	45	37	30
x-Los Angeles	10	8	10	40	40	39
x-Dallas	10	9	10	40	37	31
San Jose	9	10	9	36	39	33
Dallas	10	13	5	35	32	41

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

Wednesday's game

Columbus 1, Chicago 0

Thursday's games

Columbus at MetroStars
Kansas City at New England
Dallas at Los Angeles
Kansas City at San Jose

Sunday, Oct. 16

Chicago at New England
San Jose at Dallas
Los Angeles at Kansas City
Columbus at Colorado

Sunday, Oct. 17

MetroStars at D.C. United

End of Regular Season

Tennis

Japan Open

Thursday
At Ariake Colosseum
Tokyo

Purse: Men, $690,000 (Intl. Gold); Women, $170,000 (Tier III)
Surface: Hard/outdoor

Singles
Men
Second Round

Jan-Michael Gambill (3), United States, def. Takahiro Terachi, Japan, 7-6 (5), 6-1.
Bjorn Phau, Germany, def. Axel Pawel (3), Romania, 6-2, 6-1.
Paradorn Srichaphan (4) Thailand def. Harel Levy, Israel, 2-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4.
Nicolas Kiefer, Germany, def. Guillermo Canas (6), Argentina, 4-6, 7-5 (2), 6-3.
Jiri Novak (5) Czech Republic, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, 7-5, 6-2.
Ricardo Mello (1) Brazil, def. Flavio Saretta, Brazil, 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 (5).
Marco Chiudinelli, Switzerland, def. Denis Istomin (14), Uzbekistan, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (3).
Bohdan Ulihrach, Czech Republic, def. Jarko Nieminen (12), Finland, 6-3, 7-6 (5).
Marcio Carlsohn, Germany, def. Denis van Scheppingen (14), Netherlands, 6-4, 7-6 (3).

Third Round

Lleyton Hewitt (1), Australia, def. Takao Suzuki, Japan 6-7 (3), 6-2, 6-4.
Taylor Dent (7), United States, def. Lee Hyung-taik, South Korea, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-3.
Cyril Saulnier (9), France, def. Thomas Johansson (8), Sweden, 6-7 (6), 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5).
Gilles Muller (16), Luxembourg, def. David Nalbandian (2), Argentina, 7-5 (4), 3-6, 6-4.
Jiri Novak (5), Czech Republic, def. Ricardo Mello (11), Brazil, 6-1, 6-2.
Bjorn Phau, Germany, def. Jan-Michael Gambill (13), United States, 7-6 (1), 2-6, 6-2.
Paradorn Srichaphan (4), Thailand, def. Marco Chiudinelli, Switzerland, 6-3, 4-1, retired.
Bohdan Ulihrach, Czech Republic, def. Michael Kohlmann, Germany, 6-4, 6-2.

Women
Quarterfinals

Maria Sharapova (1), Russia, def. Youila Fedossova, France, 6-3, 6-4.
Tamarine Tanasugarn, Thailand, def. Anikó Kapacsi, Hungary, 6-1, 2-6, retired.
Mashona Washington, United States, def. Evgenia Linetskaya, Russia, 6-2, 6-1.
Alina Kabajeva (7), Czech Republic, def. Nicole Vaidisova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-0.

Porsche Grand Prix

Thursday
At Tennissportpark Filderstadt
Filderstadt, Germany
Purse: $650,000 (Tier I)
Surface: Hard-indoor

Singles
Second Round

Amelie Mauresmo (1), France, def. Patty Schnyder, Switzerland, 7-5, 6-4.
Fabiola Zuluaga, Colombia, def. Anna Smashnova, Israel, 6-4, 1-6, withdrew.
Anastasia Myskina (3), Russia, def. Nathalie Dechy, France, 6-4, 6-1.

Wednesday
Singles
First Round

Lisa Raymond, United States, def. Elena Dementieva (5), Russia, 6-0, 7-5.
Patty Schnyder, Switzerland, def. Jelena Kostanic-Tosic, 6-4, 6-2.
Elena Bovina, Russia, def. Anna-Lena Grönefeld, Germany, 6-2, 6-2.
Jelena Jankovic, Serbia-Montenegro, def. Nadia Petrova, Russia, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (3).

Second Round

Lindsay Davenport, United States, def. Alicia Molik, Australia, 6-1, 6-0.

Lyon Open

Wednesday
At Palais des Sports de Lyon
Lyon, France
Purse: $982,000 (Intl. Series)
Surface: Carpet-indoor

Singles
First Round

Joachim Johansson (4), Sweden, def. Juan Ignacio Chela, Argentina, 6-4, 6-3.
Julien Benneteau, France, def. Rafael Nadal, Spain, 6-3, 6-0.
Jurgen Melzer, Austria, def. Michael Llodra, France, 7-6 (2), 6-4.
Richam Arazi, Morocco, def. Rainer Schuettler (2), Germany, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

Second Round

Robin Soderling, Sweden, def. Feliciano Lopez, Spain, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.
Jonas Bjorkman, Sweden, def. Max Mirnyi, Belarus, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (5), 6-4.
Xavier Malisse, Belgium, def. Radek Stepanek, Czech Republic, 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4.
Vince Spadea (7), United States, def. Ivan Ljubicic, Croatia, 6-4, 7-6 (4).

Pro basketball

NBA preseason

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlantic Division				
Boston	0	0	.000	—
New Jersey	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	—
Toronto	0	0	.000	—
Central Division				
Chicago	0	0	.000	—
Cleveland	0	0	.000	—
Detroit	0	0	.000	—
Indiana	0	0	.000	—
Milwaukee	0	0	.000	—
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	0	0	.000	—
Charlotte	0	0	.000	—
Miami	0	0	.000	—
Orlando	0	0	.000	—
Washington	0	0	.000	—

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Pacific Division				
Golden State	0	0	.000	—
L.A. Clippers	0	0	.000	—
L.A. Lakers	0	0	.000	—
Phoenix	0	0	.000	—
Sacramento	0	0	.000	—
Southwest Division				
Dallas	0	0	.000	—
Houston	0	0	.000	—
Memphis	0	0	.000	—
New Orleans	0	0	.000	—
San Antonio	0	0	.000	—
Northwest Division				
Denver	0	0	.000	—
Minnesota	0	0	.000	—
Portland	0	0	.000	—
Seattle	0	0	.000	—
Utah	0	0	.000	—

Sunday's games

Miami at Houston
Golden State at Sacramento

Monday's game

Washington vs. Indiana at Muncie, Ind.

Tuesday's games

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

WNBA playoffs

CONFERENCE FINALS
(Best-of-three)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Connecticut 2, New York 0
Connecticut 61, New York 57
Connecticut 60, New York 57

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Seattle 2, Sacramento 1
Sacramento 74, Seattle 72
Seattle 66, Sacramento 54
Seattle 82, Sacramento 70

FINALS
(Best-of-five)
Seattle vs. Connecticut
Friday, Oct. 8
Seattle at Connecticut
Sunday, Oct. 10
Connecticut at Seattle
Tuesday, Oct. 12
Connecticut at Seattle, if necessary

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

AUTO RACING

NASCAR—Docked Jeff Gordon and car owner Geoff Smith 25 championship points apiece, fined crew chief Frank Kimmel $25,000 and suspended crew member Michael Williams for the remainder of the season for spoiler adjustments in the Oct. 3 race. Docked Kasey Kahne and car owner Ray Evernham 25 championship points apiece and fined crew chief Tim Fedewa $25,000 for using an unapproved spoiler modification. Fined Ryan Newman, crew chief for Mark Martin, $10,000 for using an unapproved air directional device and $5,000 for using an unapproved windshield mounting. Fined Kevin Rondeau, crew chief for Kenny Wallace, $10,000 for using unapproved spring mounting plates and bolts. Fined Michael McSwain, crew chief for Ricky Rudd, $1,000 for using unapproved windshield clips. Fined Doug Richardson, crew chief for Scott Riggs, $500 for using seat belts with an expired manufacturer's date.

WATKINS GLEN INTERNATIONAL—Named Paul Heffernan director of sales and marketing and Brett Powell corporate marketing coordinator.

BASEBALL

American League

CLEVELAND INDIANS—Signed INF Ivan Ochoa, RHP Jake Robbins and OF Ernie Lopez, Dominican Summer League champs.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS—Claimed RHP Tim Harikkala from Kansas City. Sold RHP Ryan Rockies. Designated RHP Kirk Saarloos for assignment.

National League

CINCINNATI REDS—Reinstated OF John Vander Wal declined an outright assignment and elected free agency.

MONTREAL EXPOS—Declined to exercise their 2005 option on C Einar Diaz. Assigned OF Matt Cepicky outright to Edmonton of the PCL.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

DENVER NUGGETS—Named Jim Washington senior director of communications.

LOS ANGELES LAKERS—Signed F Ike Nwankwo.

NEW JERSEY NETS—Named Jordan Cohn pro scout.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS—Activated DT Wendell Bryant from the suspended list. Released DT Jason Ferguson.

CINCINNATI BENGALS—Signed S Anthony Mitchell to a one-year contract. Signed DE Efton Polland to the practice squad.

CLEVELAND BROWNS—Signed DL Nick Eason to the practice squad. Waived-injured Lance Nimmo from the practice squad.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Re-signed John Standeford to the practice squad.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed T Matt Light to a six-year contract extension. Signed DB Je'Rod Cherry from WR Kevin Kasper. Placed OT Adrian Klemm on injured reserve.

NEW YORK GIANTS—Signed S Curry Burns. Placed S Sinorice Moss on injured reserve.

OAKLAND RAIDERS—Signed T Jason Jimenez to the practice squad. Released LB Donnie Green from the practice squad.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Claimed DE Melvin Williams off waivers from the New Orleans Saints. Waived C Dwayne Ledford.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Signed WR Derrick Lewis. Placed WR Frank Murphy on injured reserve.

TENNESSEE TITANS—Agreed to terms with WR Jason McAddley.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Signed LB Brandon Barnes. Released LB Michael Brown. Signed LB Billy Strother to the practice squad. Released LB Steve Josue from the practice squad.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

UTAH—Named John Ellinger coach.

NAIA—Approved the membership of Crichton College and William Jessup University effective immediately.

NEW JERSEY ATHLETIC CONFERENCE—Readmitted New Jersey City University for the 2005-06 academic year.

PATRIOT LEAGUE—Named Chris Graziano and Jessica Sapp as assistant media relations directors.

EASTERN KENTUCKY—Announced the resignation of John Shafer, athletic director, effective Oct. 31. Named Robert Bell interim athletic director.

FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON—Named Michael J.S. Louter women's assistant soccer coach.

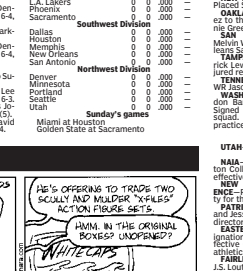
MASSACHUSETTS—Named Christopher Walker men's assistant basketball coach.

MISSISSIPPI STATE—Named Mark White men's assistant basketball coach and Marcus Grant coordinator of basketball operations.

RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE—Named Andy Crisafulli and Scott Virgulak assistant basketball coaches.

STANFORD—Named Kylee Reade women's assistant lacrosse coach.

TANK McNAMARA



RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

Lost for words

One slip of the tongue could decide next NASCAR champ

BY JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The moment the four-letter word slipped out of Dale Earnhardt's mouth, NASCAR knew it had a huge dilemma on its hands.

The precedent had already been set for punishing drivers who cursed during broadcast interviews — a sizable fine, plus the deduction of championship points, which have a far greater value than any cash amount.

But docking points from Junior for using a vulgarity in Victory Lane last week at Talladega had severe implications:

■ He'd drop from first to second in the points lead, giving up the top spot in the race for the Nextel Cup title.

■ Knocking Earnhardt out of the lead would guarantee a nasty backlash from the army of Earnhardt loyalists.

■ Not taking the points would be even worse, indicating favoritism to a driver many believe already gets preferential treatment from NASCAR.

In the end, it was not a difficult decision at all.

NASCAR took 25 points from Earnhardt and fined him $10,000 on Tuesday, a penalty that dropped him behind Kurt Busch for the points lead with seven events to go in the 10-race playoff system.

"It was really a no-brainer," said NASCAR spokesman Jim Hunter. "Are we getting angry e-mails from fans? Of course. But when we announced the Chase for the Championship, everyone asked us how we were going to police it. The answer was 'The same way we police everything else.'

"Just because he was the points leader, just because it changed his position in the standings, changed nothing. The rules are the rules and he broke them."

In upholding the law — which, by the way, only went into effect in February when NASCAR President Mike Helton ordered all teams to quit cussing on TV and radio — the sanctioning body created the possibility that the championship could be decided not on the race track, but off of it for a non-racing violation.

Busch, who now holds a 12-point lead over Earnhardt, is hoping it doesn't happen.

Earnhardt is overwhelmingly NASCAR's most popular driver. Busch, well, is not.

Nextel Cup schedule

Oct. 10 — Banquet 400, Kansas City, Kan.
Oct. 15 — UAW-GM Quality 500, Concord, N.C.
Oct. 24 — Subway 500, Martinsville, Va.
Oct. 31 — Bass Pro Shops MBNA 500, Hampton, Ga.
Nov. 7 — Checker Auto Parts 500, Avondale, Ariz.
Nov. 14 — Mountain Dew 500, Darlington, S.C.
Nov. 21 — Ford 400, Homestead, Fla.

Busch has been booed in Victory Lane numerous times, and realizes that if Earnhardt loses the title by 25 points or less, the winner will be vilified.

"I want to go into the last race with a 155-point edge and that way we won't have to worry about anything," Busch said.

With seven races to go, anything can happen. Earnhardt could race his way back into the lead, or he could wreck his way out of contention.

"This is just a quick point difference that was 13 in his favor and now it's 12 in our favor, but we've got seven races to go," Busch said. "Hopefully, these 25 points won't come into the final factor because we want to beat him on the race track."

Earnhardt and his Dale Earnhardt Inc. team are appealing the penalty, but the three-person panel selected from the National Stock Car Racing Commission rarely overturns a NASCAR decision.

DEI certainly realizes its chances of having the points restored are slim, at best, but is arguing a much larger point.

"We're facing a setback from a competition standpoint for something that should be considered a personal foul," said Richie Gilmore, DEI's director of competition. "I think we're the only sport that takes points off of the board after they've been scored."

AP

Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s team is appealing the 25-point penalty NASCAR levied for Earnhardt's use of vulgarity in Victory Lane on Sunday. The ruling knocked Earnhardt out of the Nextel Cup points lead with seven races remaining.

And that's where it gets murky.

NASCAR can, and should, take points for illegal parts, blatant cheating, even rough driving. All those offenses are racing-related.

But swearing? That's got nothing to do with competition.

What's next? Losing points for wearing an ugly firesuit? Not quite, NASCAR says. But the sanctioning body defends its policy against swearing, pointing to its image as a family sport.

And in dealing with drivers who make tons of money — Earnhardt earned $4,923,500 last season — fines just weren't getting the message across.

"We hadn't been able to find a monetary value that was effective in sending our message for violations we were finding," Nextel Cup series director John Darby said. "Taking points isn't something we're happy about doing. I've been lobbied very hard by crew chiefs to 'Make the fines as high as you like but don't take our points.'

"It's a shame that it can affect the championship, but it's something we feel is working."

Don't count Earnhardt out just yet.

The field of 10 drivers racing for the title has more or less been cut in half.

Jeremy Mayfield is out of it, a wreck at Talladega knocking him 267 points behind the leader. Jimmie Johnson is in ninth place, a failed engine dropping him 159 points out.

Johnson can still climb out of his hole, and so can drivers Matt Kenseth, Tony Stewart, Elliott Sadler and Ryan Newman.

But for any of the bottom drivers to win the title, they'll need the front four to falter — and soon.

Busch, who has held to an aggressive testing schedule, has shown no signs of doing so.

"We're making so many laps that we're trying to keep up with all of our notes," he said.

> *"Just because he was the points leader, just because it changed his position in the standings, changed nothing. The rules are the rules and he broke them."*
>
> **Jim Hunter**
> NASCAR spokesman

NASCAR NEXTEL CUP

Race 30: Banquet 400, 8 p.m. Sunday CET, AFN-Sports.

Last race: Dale Earnhardt Jr. temporarily held the lead in the standings after winning the EA Sports 500 at Talladega, but dropped to second after being docked 25 points and fined $10,000 by NASCAR on Tuesday for using a vulgarity during a televised post-race interview.

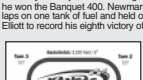
Last year: Ryan Newman's gas gamble paid off as he won the Banquet 400. Newman drove the final 117 laps on one tank of fuel and held off a challenge from Bill Elliott to record his eighth victory of 2003.

DRIVERS TO WATCH

Jeff Gordon remains in a good position to win his fifth Nextel Cup title. Currently third in the driver standings, Gordon has won two of the three Cup races run at Kansas Speedway.

Ryan Newman, who won at Kansas last October, could improve his title chances with a repeat victory. He trails Cup series leader Kurt Busch by 146 points with seven races remaining.

Dale Jarrett (13th in driver standings) isn't in the running for the Cup championship, but he could be due for a victory. Jarrett has finished in the top five the past two races.



Nextel Cup qualifying record
Jimmie Johnson, 180.372 mph, 2003

Nextel Cup race record
Jeff Gordon, 119.394 mph, Sept. 29, 2002.

FAST FACTS

Kurt Busch leads Dale Earnhardt Jr. by 12 points in the driver standings. They are the only two drivers to record top-10 finishes in each of the first three races of the Chase for the Championship. ... Jeff Gordon has four wins at Kansas Speedway. ... Michael Waltrip is expected to make his 600th Nextel Cup start this weekend.

POINTS RACE

After 29 of 36 races

1. Kurt Busch	5,530
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	5,518
3. Jeff Gordon	5,482
4. Mark Martin	5,432
5. Matt Kenseth	5,393
6. Tony Stewart	5,391
7. Ryan Newman	5,384
8. Elliott Sadler	5,377
9. Jimmie Johnson	5,371
10. Jeremy Mayfield	5,263
11. Jamie McMurray	3,585
12. Kevin Harvick	3,549
13. Dale Jarrett	3,507
14. Casey Kahne	3,442
15. Bobby Labonte	3,445
16. Michael Waltrip	3,149
17. Rusty Wallace	3,110
18. Casey Mears	3,081
19. Sterling Marlin	3,058
20. Jeff Burton	3,057

BUSCH SERIES

This week: Mr. Goodcents 300 at Kansas City, Kan. (Tape-delayed, 1 p.m. Sunday, AFN-Atlantic).

Last race: Points leader Martin Truex Jr. took the lead with 12 laps to go and drove to an easy victory in the Stacker 200 at Dover International Speedway. It was Truex's fifth win of the year, tying him with rookie Kyle Busch and Greg Biffle for the most on the circuit.

Last year: David Green led just one lap down the stretch, but it was good enough to win the Mr. Goodcents 300. The race finished under caution when Bobby Hamilton Jr. crashed on the last lap.

Next race: Little Trees 300, Oct. 15, Concord, N.C.

FORMULA ONE

This week: Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka.

Last race: Rubens Barrichello won his second straight race in the inaugural Chinese Grand Prix. Series champion Michael Schumacher finished 12th, his worst showing in a race since 1999.

Last year: Michael Schumacher won a record sixth Formula One title by finishing eighth in the Japanese Grand Prix. Schumacher got strong support from Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello, who won the season-ending race ahead of Kimi Raikkonen.

Next race: Brazilian Grand Prix, Oct. 24, Sao Paulo.

INDY RACING

Last race: Tony Kanaan clinched his first series championship after finishing second in the Toyota 400 in Fontana, Calif. Kanaan was .0183 seconds behind Adrian Fernandez, who claimed his second straight victory and third in five races.

Next race: Chevy 500, Oct. 17, Fort Worth, Texas.

CRAFTSMAN TRUCK

Last race: Todd Bodine ended Ted Musgrave's three-race winning streak at California Speedway with his victory in the American Racing Wheels 200.

Next race: Silverado 350K, Oct. 16, Fort Worth, Texas.

CHAMP CARS

Last race: Sebastien Bourdais held off Newman-Haas teammate Bruno Junqueira in a side-by-side battle to win the Las Vegas 400 for his sixth victory of 2004. Bourdais won by 0.066 seconds, the sixth-closest finish since 1979.

Next race: Oct. 24, Surfer's Paradise, Australia.

Barber has big numbers except fumbles

BY TOM CANAVAN
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Tiki Barber has done more than put his fumbling problems behind him.

The New York Giants running back is leading the NFL in all-purpose yards with 619 and the NFC in rushing with 455, just 21 yards behind league leader Priest Holmes of the Kansas City Chiefs.

Barber insists the statistics mean nothing. The big number is the team's 3-1 record heading into Sunday's game at Dallas.

"It's something that helps us win, that's all that matters," Barber said. "I am standing on a lot of people's shoulders this season, the offensive line, my coaches. I give them as much credit as I deserve."

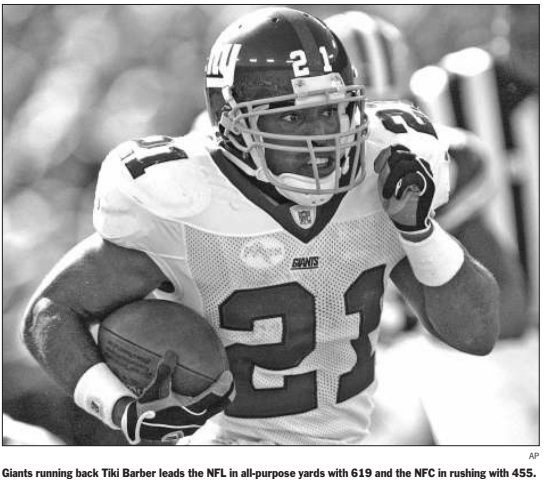
Barber had the second-best game of his eight-year career last weekend, rushing for 182 yards in a 14-7 victory over the Green Bay Packers.

Only seconds after the dazed Brett Favre came off the bench to give the Packers a third-quarter lead with a touchdown pass, Barber took a handoff from Kurt Warner and went 52 yards for a touchdown.

Rookie guard Chris Snee remembered the play well. Every lineman made his block.

"There is still this one guy sitting in the hole that Tiki had to beat, and he beat him," Snee recalled.

No one has ever questioned Barber's running ability; he has rushed for 1,000 yards in three of the past four seasons. However, Barber led NFL running backs with nine fumbles last season, a year during which New York went 4-12.



AP

Giants running back Tiki Barber leads the NFL in all-purpose yards with 619 and the NFC in rushing with 455.

Jim Fassel was fired after the season and was replaced by Tom Coughlin, a no-nonsense coach who hates turnovers. One of the first things Coughlin did was have running backs coach Jerald Ingram work with Barber on how he carried the ball. The two came up with a way to get Barber to hold the ball closer to his body.

Barber also changed his running philosophy a little. Some of his fumbles a year ago came when he tried to make something happen by getting an extra yard or two.

"The next play is more important, so that's what you have to remember," Barber said Wednesday. "Ball security and ball control will win in the NFL. An extra yard here or there doesn't, even though it's a game of inches. An extra yard doesn't win you games."

To emphasize that, the Giants are plus-10 in the giveaway-takeaway margin, which leads the NFL.

Former Giants and current Dallas coach Bill Parcells has been impressed with Barber, particularly the all-purpose yards.

"Gosh, he is making runs," Parcells said. "He is doing a good job on the screen pass in the passing game. He's doing a tremendous job with the run, and they are doing a good job with him. He's a good player. He's always been a good player."

Barber's success is also giving confidence to the Giants' new offensive line.

"When there are holes, Tiki is finding them, and when there are small little holes that certain backs wouldn't get, he is finding it and taking it for a few yards," Snee said.

Barber is also proving he can be the short yardage guy many expected Ron Dayne to be. He has been hitting the pile near the goal line and pushing it.

"I have no fear of getting hit," Barber said. "I get behind my pads and trust my linemen and then I start driving, and whatever happens, happens. Sometimes I pop out of those and that's how some of these big plays happen.

"It's probably stupid, really," Barber added. "Sometime you go in there against a 250-pounder and move him. Sometimes you do, and sometimes you get planted."

Wells proves ability hasn't run dry

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jonathan Wells spent nearly all of training camp on special teams units and sharing repetitions with guys who were certain to be unemployed soon.

Clearly no longer in the Houston Texans' plans at running back, Wells began to wonder if his spot on the team might be in jeopardy.

"It crossed my mind," the three-year veteran said Wednesday. "I tried to stay positive. I knew I was going to get my chance. I just didn't know when or where."

That chance finally came a few weeks into the regular season.

Starting tailback Domanick Davis sprained an ankle at Kansas City, and backup Tony Hollings missed his second game with a bruised right knee.

The Texans had no choice but to start Wells, and he delivered.

Wells made a few tough runs and scored a key two-point conversion in a victory over Kansas City. He broke out with his first 100-yard rushing game against Oakland. Now, he's a valuable commodity on a team that has struggled to find a dependable — and healthy — running back.

Wells had a good beginning with the Texans. As a rookie, he started 11 games for the expansion team, rushing for 529 yards on 197 carries, an average of 2.7 yards, and three touchdowns.

> *"I was going to run the ball in the NFL. . . . I definitely never gave up hope of being a running back."*
>
> **Jonathan Wells**
> Texans running back

Lack of production was a big reason Houston had the NFL's worst offense that season, and the team immediately began looking for a replacement in the offseason.

The addition of rookies Davis and Hollings and free agent Stacey Mack dropped Wells to fourth on the depth chart in 2003. He ran just five times for 14 yards last season.

By summer, Wells was down to splitting carries with running backs who joined the team midway through camp. He barely made Houston's final preseason cut.

Wells still figured he'd be given another opportunity, probably with another team.

"I was going to run the ball in the NFL," Wells said. "When? It wasn't my decision. I definitely never gave up hope of being a running back."

He worked harder in the weight room. He finally began to study the offense and learned how to read defenses. He vowed to use his 6-foot-1, 252-pound frame to pound away at tacklers more than ever before.

And, he waited for another chance.

Injuries to Davis and Hollings cleared the way into the starting backfield.

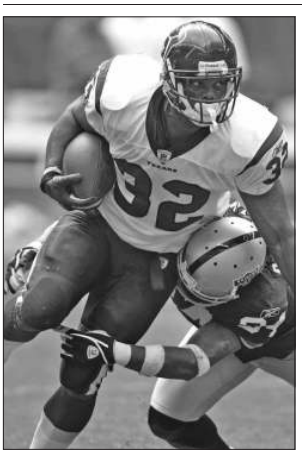
Wells got his first start in two seasons against the Raiders, and helped Houston control the clock by rushing for 105 yards and a touchdown on 26 carries. He caught one pass for 28 yards and had a 62-yard touchdown catch wiped out by a holding penalty in the third quarter.

His performance caught the attention of the same coaches who had almost given up on him a few months before.

"Jonathan Wells stepped up and accepted the role he had with 100 yards," coach Dom Capers said. "I thought he really competed. He played a physical game."

With Davis still ailing and Hollings unproven in a starting role, Wells might even get a chance to start against Minnesota.

"When they call my number, I just want to go in there and produce and not hurt the team," Wells said. "That's my goal right now."



AP

Texans third-string running back Jonathan Wells rushed for 105 yards and a touchdown last week when he started in place of injured Domanick Davis against Oakland.

Williams might not be welcomed back

BY STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — Ricky Williams' former teammates with the Miami Dolphins acknowledge that they need him. After all, they're 0-4 with perhaps the worst offense in the NFL.

But do they want him?

"There are really two lines of thought, and I'm kind of debating between the two," guard Taylor Whitley said Wednesday. "You can either say, 'To heck with the guy. While we've been going 0-4 here, he's been out having a good time.' Or we can say, 'Hey, we need the help. Come on back.' I don't know."

After missing the first four weeks of the season, Williams wants to come out of retirement — but it might not be with the team he left in July. Gary Ostrow, an attorney who has represented Williams, said the 2002 NFL rushing champion hopes to receive clearance from the league to play again before the Oct. 19 trade deadline so he can be dealt by Miami.

Williams, who has admitted to repeated violations of the league drug program, has asked the NFL for a hearing to clarify his status. The Dolphins say their understanding is he must serve a suspension for the rest of this season, and the NFL has declined to comment.

"It's very murky water, and Ricky has asked for a clarification," Ostrow said. "He would like the option to play for another team."

Miami defensive end David Bowens said he would like to see Williams rejoin the Dolphins. But Pro Bowl linebacker Zach Thomas said he doubted that help from Williams is on the way.

"He will not be playing for the Dolphins," Thomas predicted. "He's got too many things with the fans and too much with the media, and that's the reason he ran from it in the first place. He wouldn't come back here."

Williams has expressed an interest in playing for the Oakland Raiders. Their coach is Norv Turner, who was Williams' offensive coordinator during his two seasons in Miami.

"The Raiders would fit Ricky's personality better anyway," Ostrow said. "But he may not have many options other than going back to the Dolphins. How many teams are going to have an interest in him other than Norv, who has a relationship with him?"

Whether Miami would welcome him back is uncertain. He caused a lot of resentment by retiring in July, shortly before training camp. The Dolphins haven't won a game since he left, and they're off to their worst start in 38 years going into Sunday's game at New England.

"It has been very difficult," coach Dave Wannstedt said. "The guy was 65 or 70 percent of our offense. I don't think we would have redone our whole offensive line and started from scratch if we knew we were going to have to start from scratch at the running back position."

In the days following Williams' retirement, center Seth McKinney called it selfish and stupid. Williams then disparaged McKinney's blocking. Defensive tackle Larry Chester said Williams was acting like a bitter girlfriend and owed the team an apology.

Given so much baggage, would the Dolphins embrace Williams' return?

"At 4-0 it would be a different story than being 0-4," Bowens said. "If we were winning, I'm sure people would be a little bit more negative. But since we're losing, people might be a little more optimistic. We could use all the help we can get."

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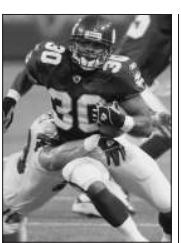


AP

Rookie running back Mewelde Moore might get his chance to start for the Vikings this week.

Vikings' RB depth faces test

BY ANDRES YBARRA
The Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — At the start of training camp, the Minnesota Vikings' backfield was touted as the deepest in years.

Now's the time to prove it.

Michael Bennett is injured. Onterrio Smith is suspended. And veteran Moe Williams is iffy with a calf problem. That leaves rookie Mewelde Moore and first-year man Larry Ned to lead the backfield Sunday when the Vikings play at Houston.

Earlier this year, other teams reportedly showed interest in trading for one of Mike Tice's running backs, but the coach wasn't willing to part with any of them. He's feeling good about that decision now.

"We were not willing to trade any running backs for obvious reasons," Tice said Wednesday. "You're only one injury away from being short."

Bennett, a Pro Bowl running back in 2002, was expected back this week after spraining his right knee in the preseason. But he reinjured the knee last week during practice.

Smith is a very capable replacement for Bennett, but was suspended this week for four games for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy.

Williams is a savvy veteran who led the team with 745 yards rushing and had five touchdowns last year. But he's been limited by a calf problem and is questionable for Sunday. Tice said Williams wouldn't practice much this week.

"Moe will definitely suit up in the game," Tice said. "What his role will be will be determined by how he feels on Friday."

Moore, Minnesota's fourth-round draft pick out of Tulane, likely will start against the Texans.

"I've been in the flow," he said. "I've been watching and paying attention. I'll just go out there and apply my game."

So far, Moore has been used mainly as a kick returner. He's had only one carry this season, an 8-yard gain in the opener against Dallas.

Favre feeling better but skips practice

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Brett Favre skipped practice Wednesday, still feeling the effects of a concussion to go along with a softball-sized bruise on his left leg and a loose left shoulder.

And he's the healthy one.

Backup quarterback Doug Pederson has a cracked bone in his back, a broken rib and a torn muscle in his side, all the result of Keith Washington's wicked sideline hit Sunday in Green Bay's loss to the Giants.

NFL briefs

"We're getting old," said Pederson, a year older than Favre, who turns 35 next week. "We are getting old and we're fragile and that's the thing that even Brett realizes. I mean, he's no spring chicken, either."

Favre has been knocked out of the past two games, but he is preparing to make his 213th consecutive start (including playoffs) Monday night against Tennessee.

On Wednesday evening, Favre's brother-in-law died after crashing an all-terrain vehicle on the player's property in Sumrall, Miss.

Casey Tynes, 24, the brother of Favre's wife, Deanna, was riding the ATV without a helmet when it flipped, Lamar County Sheriff Danny Rigel said. Tynes suffered head injuries, was transported to Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg at 6 p.m. and was pronounced dead 20 minutes later, Deputy Coroner Randy Beck said.

The Favre family did not immediately issue a statement.

Davis gives Panthers pep talk

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The injury report lists Stephen Davis as questionable to play against Denver. His behavior Wednesday made him look more like a probable.

The first sign came in the morning meetings.

"He's ready to go," center Jeff Mitchell said. "He's been awake in all the meetings."

The next sign came halfway through practice, when Davis surprised Carolina's offensive linemen by pulling them together to talk about Sunday's game in Denver.

"He said he wanted us to know the importance of this game, and that he really wants to come back and have a solid performance," said left tackle Jordan Gross.

"He didn't do that all of last year," Gross said. "He's really a quiet guy, and for him to come out and say we need to get going — it really got me excited for this game."

Davis hasn't played since the season-opening loss to Green Bay because he had arthroscopic surgery Sept. 17 to repair torn cartilage in his left knee.

Although Carolina is secure with backup DeShaun Foster, having both backs healthy gives them a 1-2 punch that the Panthers hope will jump-start their stagnant running game.

NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Page 24 for complete injury report provided by the league):

Chargers: Running back LaDainian Tomlinson (groin) missed practice on Wednesday but is expected to practice on Thursday and is probable for Suanday's game.

Raiders: Running back Tyronne Wheatley (shoulder) out 2-4 weeks.

Broncos: Running back Quentin Griffin (ankle) did not practice on Wednesday and is questionable for Sunday's game.

Saints: Running back Deuce McAllister (ankle) ran a few plays in practice on Wednesday and is listed as questionable but is unlikely to play Sunday.

"Having both of them, you can use the whole playbook," Gross said.

Colts looking for kicker

INDIANAPOLIS — If Mike Vanderjagt can't kick Sunday against Oakland, the Indianapolis Colts now have a backup plan.

Vanderjagt is listed as questionable with a strained right hamstring, so the Colts worked out kicker Matt Bryant on Wednesday. He has not yet signed.

When asked if Bryant would be used, Colts coach Tony Dungy said: "He or someone. We'll keep our eyes open. If it comes down to it, we can sign someone Thursday or Friday, probably Friday."

The Colts, however, may not have a definitive answer on Vanderjagt until then.

Vanderjagt said Wednesday he has received treatment for his hamstring three times and that he was feeling better. He was hurt on a 46-yard field goal that gave Indianapolis a 10-0 lead late in the first half last week at Jacksonville.

He didn't practice Wednesday and said he may not even try until Friday.

Bills accuse Patriots' Wilfork of cheap shots

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Buffalo's Jonas Jennings and Chris Villarrial accused Patriots defensive tackle Vince Wilfork of taking cheap shots at them.

Bills tackle Jennings said Wednesday that he was still feeling a little lightheaded after sustaining a concussion, the result of a helmet-to-helmet hit from Wilfork behind the play in New England's 31-17 victory Sunday. Jennings said he was blindsided, and that the collision cracked his helmet near the jaw.

Jennings was held out of practice Wednesday, and is listed as questionable for Sunday's game at the New York Jets.

Jennings already was unhappy with Wilfork, saying they exchanged comments on the field after Jennings said he saw Wilfork kick guard Villarrial in the ribs earlier in the game.

Villarrial said he was down on the ground during Rian Lindell's 33-yard field goal in the first quarter when Wilfork kicked him.

Cardinals activate DT Bryant

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Arizona Cardinals activated defensive tackle Wendell Bryant off the suspended list on Wednesday.

He served a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy.

Peeved Cassell shows at Timberwolves camp

The Associated Press

COLLEGEVILLE, Minn. — Sam Cassell practiced jump shots at the end of practice Wednesday, looking right at home among his teammates on the Minnesota Timberwolves.

But Cassell was a day late for training camp at St. John's University and the 34-year-old guard skipped the team's media day and first day of workouts this week because he was unhappy about not getting a contract extension.

Charles Tucker, Cassell's agent, wouldn't comment when asked if the Wolves did anything to address Cassell's unhappiness, other than to say Cassell "has a better understanding" of the team's plans for him in the future. Cassell said talks were moving in the right direction.

Cassell's contract calls for him to be paid $5.65 million this season and $6.1 million next season.

Cassell said that's not fair market value for a point guard of his caliber. He blames the problem on a former agent he worked with when he played for the New Jersey Nets, and said the issue continues to plague him and accounts for his frequent trades.

"I won't be satisfied until I get what I deserve," he said. "It's going good; that's why I'm in camp. … My number is so low, it won't be something they've got to think about."

Meanwhile, teammate Latrell Sprewell is also hoping to work out an extension before the regular season begins.

"If I have to leave, I will," said Sprewell, who has one year remaining on his contract. "That's the bottom line. … It's a great opportunity to try and win a ring, but I have to do what's best for me financially."

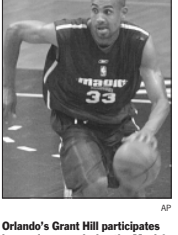
Vice president of basketball operations Kevin McHale wouldn't comment on Cassell's situation, except to say he's glad he's in camp. But he said working out a deal with Sprewell before opening day seemed reasonable.

"We want Spree here," McHale said. "He's a tremendous part of this team — his talent, personality, energy."

Briefs

Wagner leaves Cavaliers camp

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Cleveland Cavaliers guard Dajuan Wagner left training camp Wednesday to attend to a personal matter.



AP

Orlando's Grant Hill participates in a scrimmage during the Magic's training camp this week. Reports indicate that Hill's troublesome ankle is holding up well so far.

The Cavaliers said Wagner returned to his home in Camden, N.J., but the team did not give a reason for his departure. The Cavaliers don't know when Wagner will return.

KYW-TV in Philadelphia reported Wednesday night that Wagner's sister was injured on Tuesday when she fell out of a school bus.

Magic C DeClercq might miss 3-4 weeks after knee surgery

ORLANDO, Fla. — Orlando Magic center Andrew DeClercq will likely miss 3 to 4 weeks while he recovers from his second knee surgery of the year.

The nine-year veteran might start the regular season on the injured list.

Judge rules accuser's name will be revealed in Bryant's civil trial

BY STEVE HENSON
Los Angeles Times

VAIL, Colo. — Indicating he did not want to appear biased in favor of Kobe Bryant's accuser, a federal judge ruled Wednesday that the woman's name will be used in her civil suit against the Los Angeles Lakers star.

Meanwhile, the Colorado Bureau of Investigation determined that it will not release records of its findings in the criminal case, including results of DNA testing and of clothing, hair and fibers taken from Bryant and the 20-year-old woman who accused him of rape.

The felony sexual assault charge was dismissed Sept. 1 — more than 14 months after the encounter at a mountain resort — when the accuser decided she would not testify.

A trial in the civil case is not expected to take place until next year and could be averted if a settlement is reached. The woman has sued for unspecified damages for "ridicule, pain and suffering" since the alleged rape.

The woman's name was not used in pretrial court filings and hearings in the criminal case. However, it would have been used during a trial. Her attorneys have said that among the reasons she dropped out was that she lost faith in the criminal justice system because the court mistakenly released her name several times.

She will be referred to by name in the civil case. District Judge Richard Matsch said that allowing the woman to remain anonymous could be prejudicial to Bryant and ordered that the suit be refiled by Oct. 20 with her "true name disclosed."

The judge noted that the suit filed by the woman's attorneys detailed her account of the alleged rape and that Bryant's attorneys were justified when they wrote that "permitting these allegations to be made anonymously imposes significant prejudice and hardship on the defendant."

Matsch went on to say, "The parties appear as equals before the court and that fundamental principle must be protected throughout these proceedings."

Most mainstream media outlets have not identified the woman because of long-standing policies not to name alleged rape victims.

District Attorney Mark Hurlbert could release as early as Friday a portion of the 4,000 pages of sealed records in the case.

Pacers' Jones fighting again for playing time

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Fred Jones enters the Indiana Pacers' training camp knowing he'll have to fight for every minute of playing time he can get. And that's just the way he likes it.

After a breakout season, Jones had shoulder surgery in July, then watched the Pacers trade for Stephen Jackson, another shooting guard.

Now, instead of becoming the heir apparent to Reggie Miller, Jones again finds himself having to scratch and claw just to get on the court.

"I like to fight," Jones said Wednesday. "I'm aggressive. I've been in a lot of fights in my life. I'm not going to back down."

That's exactly what coach Rick Carlisle wants to hear. Carlisle is a fan of competition in practice, believing it fosters improvement in everyone involved.

Even more encouraging is that Jones appears to be recovering quickly from a painful shoulder injury he sustained during the playoffs last season.

Jones was hurt in Game 3 of the second-round series against Miami, and played through it the rest of the postseason.

After three months of recovery, Carlisle said Jones looks as if "he hasn't missed a beat."

The coach was most impressed by Jones' physical condition when he returned for training camp. Instead of adding weight during a long stretch of inactivity brought on by the surgery, Jones lost nine pounds.

"He kept himself very mindful to the fact when you have an injury you can't blow up," Carlisle said. "Right now, he's playing the same way he did in the playoffs last year."

That's a good thing for the Pacers. After a slow start last season, the 6-foot-2 Jones used his acrobatic triumph in the slam dunk competition during All-Star weekend as a catapult to a strong stretch run.

"I went into the dunk contest not feeling well about it," Jones said. "Then it gave me a lot more confidence that I ended up winning, so I came out of that thinking, 'Man I need to push this up a little bit more and see what I can do.' "

His outside shot started falling, and his defensive intensity increased, making him a valuable member of the rotation by the end of the season. He averaged 4.9 points and 2.1 assists in 81 games.

That didn't stop the Pacers from trading Al Harrington to Atlanta for Jackson, a shooting guard with three-point range and good defensive skills.

And while Jones appears to be No. 3 on the depth chart behind Miller and Jackson, Carlisle said that shouldn't discourage him.

"We're very deep at that position right now, so I'm not sure who's going to get how many minutes," Carlisle said. "But I've told him not to look at the depth chart, not to count heads, but just to play and make it tough on us not to play him. That's what he did last year and that's what he's continuing to do this year."

That's the only way Jones knows how to do it. After starring at Oregon in college, the 2002 first-round draft pick saw minimal playing time his rookie season.

"My rookie year, I didn't get the opportunity to play," Jones said. "Last year was like my rookie year on the floor. Now I know what I can do and I expect it to go up a little more."

Magloire joins B. Davis on list of disgruntled Hornets

BY BRETT MARTEL
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — All-Star center Jamaal Magloire said "no comment" when asked Wednesday if he was happy to be playing for the New Orleans Hornets.

Along with Baron Davis, that makes two All-Stars — the only two on the team — who are talking as if they're losing faith in team management and would prefer to play somewhere else.

"They're not looking out for our best interest and sooner or later I'm going to have to look out for my best interest," Magloire said after practice in suburban Westwego. "Until then, I'll continue to play hard and do what ever coach asks me to do."

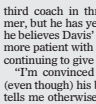
Later this summer, Davis suggested through his agent that he might be better off playing somewhere else, noting that he was dissatisfied with New Orleans' off-season moves.

Davis said he was disappointed the Hornets failed to sign "a big-time free agent" to replace former All-Star Jamal Mashburn, who averaged about 20 points in recent seasons but will miss this season with a career-threatening knee injury.

The Hornets' top free-agent signing this summer was Rodney Rogers, who has averaged just over 11 points for his career.

The Hornets have said salary cap constraints due in large part to Mashburn's approximately $9 million-a-year salary (through next season) limited their ability to pursue free agents.

Since training camp started this week, Davis said he has discussed the matter with team owner George Shinn and is willing to be more patient, but would nonetheless be eager for a trade to a championship contender.



Davis

This is not the start Byron Scott envisioned when he took over as the Hornets' third coach in three seasons this summer, but he has yet to complain and said he believes Davis' comments about being more patient with personnel matters and continuing to give his best.

"I'm convinced by what he tells me, (even though) his body language at times tells me otherwise," said Scott, who was hired in part on Davis' recommendation shortly after last season's firing of Tim Floyd.

"My job is to coach. I'm going to coach the guys that are here. Baron is here and I'm going to coach him the best I can," Scott said. "I'm going to get on him. I'm going to expect him to be ready to play each and every day and so far he's done that."

Another issue concerning Davis and Magloire is a new team policy limiting the use of personal trainers. Although Shinn asserted that is the source of Davis' discontent, Davis denies it. Magloire, however, has called the policy absurd.

Magloire also said he supported Davis' comments about offseason roster moves, particularly in light of the Hornets' move to the Western Conference this season.

"Going to the Western Conference, you have to improve as a team and I think we're stagnant right now," Magloire said.

NBC switches to 5-second delay after Earnhardt slip at Talladega

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — NBC is adding a 5-second delay to its NASCAR telecasts after Dale Earnhardt Jr. used a vulgarity during a postrace TV interview last weekend.

"We're disappointed for our viewers to have to do this, but the delay provides a level of protection against anything inappropriate going out over the air," NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol said Thursday.

Earnhardt was docked 25 points in the Nextel Cup standings and fined $10,000 for his slip of the tongue in an NBC interview after his victory at Talladega Superspeedway, dropping him to second place with seven races left in the season. He will appeal the point penalty.

Federal regulators have cracked down on objectionable content on TV and radio since Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" during her halftime performance in the Super Bowl. CBS was fined a record $550,000 by the FCC for Jackson's breast-baring incident.

Networks have installed delays of up to 10 seconds for some programming, and ABC's "Monday Night Football" is using a 5-second delay this season. But, until now, NBC had decided not to give itself a chance to censor its NASCAR telecasts.

NASCAR hands out 12 more penalties

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — A day after hitting Dale Earnhardt Jr. with a $10,000 fine and the loss of 25 points for cursing during a postrace TV interview, NASCAR handed down 12 more penalties for rule violations at Talladega Superspeedway.

The hardest hit Wednesday was Roush Racing, which received four of the penalties for making unapproved rear spoiler adjustments on the No. 16 Ford of Greg Biffle.

Biffle was penalized 25 points, and car owner Geoff Smith, also the Roush team's general manager, lost 25 points. Also, crew chief Doug Richert was fined $25,000 and crew member Michael Hillman Jr. was suspended until Oct. 20 and placed on probation until Dec. 31.

Biffle remained 21st in the standings, falling to 46 points behind 20th-place Jeff Burton.

Evernham Motorsports was handed three penalties for an unapproved spoiler modification to the No. 9 Dodge of Kasey Kahne, the top rookie in the Nextel Cup series. Kahne and team owner and car owner Ray Evernham were docked 25 points apiece and crew chief Tommy Baldwin was fined $25,000.

The loss of points dropped Kahne from 14th to 15th, eight points behind Bobby Labonte.

Pat Tryson, crew chief for Mark Martin's No. 6 Ford, was hit with fines totaling $15,000 for two separate violations. NASCAR docked Tryson $10,000 for an unapproved air directional device and $5,000 for an unapproved windshield mounting on the Roush-owned car.

Peter Rondeau, crew chief for Kenny Wallace's No. 1 Chevrolet, was fined $10,000 for using unapproved spring mounting plates and bolts; Michael McSwain, crew chief for Ricky Rudd's No. 21 Ford was fined $1,000 for using unapproved windshield clips and Doug Rudolph, crew chief for Scott Riggs' No. 10 Chevrolet, was assessed a $500 fine for using seat belts with an expired manufacturer's date.

Sports briefs

Two-time Boston Marathon champ Kelly dead at 97

BOSTON — John A. Kelley, a two-time Boston Marathon champion who became a central figure in the race's history by running in it a record 61 times, died at 97.

He died Wednesday night at a Cape Cod nursing home, stepson Dave DeLong said. Kelley had just moved into the facility from his Dennis home the same day.

Kelley, a former Olympian and member of the USA Track & Field Hall of Fame, won America's oldest marathon in 1935 and 1945 and finished second a record seven times. But it was his longevity for which Kelley will be remembered. He completed 58 Boston Marathons, also a record, and had 18 finishes in the top 10.

Crew extend streak to 16, win Eastern Conference title

CHICAGO — The Columbus Crew won their first Eastern Conference title and extended their unbeaten streak to an MLS-record 16 games with a 1-0 victory over the Chicago Fire on Wednesday.

Columbus (12-5-11) earned home-field advantage in the playoffs, and extended its unbeaten streak to 8-0-8. The Los Angeles Galaxy set the previous record over two seasons (1997-1998).

Simon Elliott set up Edson Buddle's 25-yard goal with a short pass on a free kick in the 59th minute after Fire defender Evan Whitfield fouled Jeff Cunningham.

Four-on-four hockey series to make 32 stops in Quebec

MONTREAL — Three teams of locked-out NHL players will play for free while touring the province of Quebec in a four-on-four hockey series from which all proceeds will be donated to children's charities.

The 32-stop tour, which will not allow hitting or fighting, is being funded by sponsors. Fans will pay $20 per ticket. The tour's first stop is Oct. 23 in Sorel, Quebec.

The tour is being organized by Joel Bouchard of the New York Rangers. Jose Theodore of the Montreal Canadiens and Roberto Luongo of the Florida Panthers will suit up for one team. Another squad features forwards Simon Gagne of the Philadelphia Flyers and Alex Tanguay of the Colorado Avalanche and Columbus goalie Marc Denis, while a third includes Minnesota's Alexandre Daigle and Anaheim goaltender J.S. Giguere.

Teams will dress 12 players and play 20-minute games in a round-robin tournament style at each stop.

During the recount of the 2000 Election in Florida, a lawyer wrote a memorandum explaining how to use legal technicalities to disqualify the Absentee Ballot Votes of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Guardsmen serving overseas.

We Believe that the Americans Defending Our Democracy Ought To Have Their Votes Counted In Our Elections.

Talk to your Voting Assistance Officer,
Visit www.OverseasRepublicans.org
for more information on voting by Absentee Ballot,
and VOTE because

Every Vote Counts.

Paid For By The Republican National Committee
Not Authorized By Any Candidate Or Candidate Committee

Sosa fined by Cubs for making early exit

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Sammy Sosa was fined $87,400 — one day's salary — for arriving late and leaving early for the Cubs' regular-season finale at Wrigley Field.

Sosa arrived 70 minutes before Sunday's first pitch, and he apparently left 15 minutes after the first pitch without putting on his uniform, according to security cameras in the team's parking lot. Sosa told the Chicago Sun-Times he was in the clubhouse until the seventh inning and also said he was tired of manager Dusty Baker blaming him for the Cubs' failures.

"It's certainly inexcusable for him not to be at the ballpark and not dressed with his teammates," General Manager Jim Hendry said.

The episode, following an injury-plagued season in which Sosa batted just .253 with 35 homers and 85 RBIs, has led to speculation the Cubs will try to trade him.

Sosa is to make $17 million next season and the club has an $18 million option for 2006 with a $4.5 million buyout. If Sosa is traded, his 2006 contract becomes guaranteed and a 2007 club option is added at $19 million with a $4.5 million buyout.

MLB briefs

Reds' Vander Wal becomes free agent

CINCINNATI — Pinch-hitter John Vander Wal chose free agency Wednesday instead of a demotion off the Reds' 40-man roster.

Vander Wal, fifth on the career list with 126 pinch-hits, signed with the Reds as a free agent in January, then tore knee cartilage while shoveling snow.

He was released and signed a minor league deal with Cincinnati while he rehabilitated the knee. He was added to the roster July 11 and hit .118 with two homers. He started seven games in right field.

Vander Wal finished the season hitless in his final 24 at-bats, the longest slump of his career.

Thomas has surgery on ankle

CHICAGO — Frank Thomas had surgery on his left ankle Wednesday and might not be ready for spring training.

Thomas, who played in only 74 games this season with the Chicago White Sox, had debris removed from the ankle, a bone graft and two screws inserted. The operation was performed by Dr. Richard Ferkel in Los Angeles.

A two-time MVP, Thomas will be in a cast for at least eight weeks and his recovery will take 4½ to six months.

The 36-year-old Thomas batted .271 with 18 home runs and 49 RBIs before being placed on the disabled list July 7. The designated hitter was leading the American League in on-base percentage (.434) and walks (64) when he was sidelined.

In 15 seasons, Thomas is hitting .308 with 436 homers. Thomas and Barry Bonds are the only active players with a .300 career average, 400 home runs, 1,000 RBIs, 1,000 runs and 1,000 walks.

AP

Sammy Sosa's jersey remains on the hanger in the Chicago Cubs clubhouse after the final game of the season on Sunday. Sosa on Thursday was fined by the Cubs for arriving late and leaving early from the finale.

Indians DH Hafner has elbow surgery

CLEVELAND — Indians designated hitter Travis Hafner had surgery on his right elbow Wednesday and is expected to be ready for spring training.

Hafner, who batted .311 with 28 homers and 109 RBIs in 140 games, played with pain for much of the second half of the season.

The team said Hafner, who throws right-handed, had loose bodies and bone spurs removed from the elbow. Hafner's elbow problems limited him to just 10 starts at first base and forced him to miss the final week of the season.

Hafner's 106 RBIs were the second most for a DH in team history, trailing Andre Thornton's 109 in 1982.

A's claim Harikkala, waive Saarloos

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Oakland Athletics claimed right-hander Tim Harikkala off waivers from the Colorado Rockies on Wednesday and designated right-hander Kirk Saarloos for assignment.

Harikkala went 6-6 with a 4.74 ERA in 55 relief appearances this season for Colorado. The A's are the sixth organization Harikkala has been in since being drafted by Seattle in 1992.

He has a career record of 7-8 with a 5.83 ERA in 74 appearances.

Saarloos, acquired by Oakland on April 16 in a trade with Houston, was 2-1 with a 4.44 ERA in six appearances. He was placed on the disabled list July 30 with a bone spur in his right elbow and didn't return for the rest of the season.

Astros take first step along playoff trail

Houston follows its ace in search of first playoff series victory

BY PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Roger Clemens could have been taking his turn in the car pool, doing some yard work, relaxing in front of the television.

And miss this? No way.

The Rocket is a step closer to getting back to the World Series, and the Houston Astros are along for the ride.

"We're very happy when we see Roger Clemens on the mound," first baseman Jeff Bagwell said. "That's the main thing: Roger Clemens is pitching for us."

Picking up where they left off in the regular season, the wild-card Astros routed the Atlanta Braves 9-3 in Game 1 of the NL division playoffs Wednesday.

Houston is 0-for-7 in playoff series, losing three of its last four to the Braves. But there's a sense in the Astros' clubhouse that this could finally be their year.

It starts with Clemens, who retired after pitching for the New York Yankees in last year's World Series. About two months later, he changed his mind, jumping at the chance to play not far from suburban Houston home.

The 42-year-old pitcher can't do it alone, of course. The Astros have a lethal lineup that showed off its power in Atlanta, hitting four homers and setting a franchise record for runs in a postseason game.

"This team feels real good about itself," Bagwell said. "We came in on a roll."

The Astros carried over their momentum from the regular season, when they won 36 of the last 46 games to claim an improbable wild card.

AP

Jason Lane's ninth-inning homer capped the Houston Astros' 9-3 playoff defeat of Atlanta.

Houston sent 20-game winner Roy Oswalt to the mound against Mike Hampton in Thursday's second game. The NL East champion Braves can't afford to go down 0-2 in a best-of-five series heading to Houston, where the Astros have an 18-game winning streak.

"We have to win three of the next four games," second baseman Marcus Giles said, "but we have done that plenty of times."

Brad Ausmus, Lance Berkman and Carlos Beltran homered off Braves starter Jaret Wright, who didn't make it through the fifth.

Clemens showed the effects of a stomach virus that kept him from making his last start of the regular season. The Hall of Famer-to-be had two wild pitches and walked six — all in the first four innings and the most he's given up in a game since 1998.

Clemens also had trouble with his footing on the mound, but displayed plenty of grit in winning a Game 1 start for the first time in his storied career. The Braves stranded nine runners in those first four innings, when the Rocket was his most vulnerable.

He wound up lasting seven innings, throwing 117 pitches, giving up six hits and two earned runs, while striking out seven.

"I had to will my way through that game," he said. "Sometimes, it takes more than talent or more than a 95 mph fastball. You have to will it."

In a nod to the guy who persuaded him to put off retirement, Clemens has been wearing a right-handed glove that was mistakenly sent to left-handed teammate Andy Pettitte, out for the season after elbow surgery.

The glove has Pettitte's name stitched into the side.

The Astros trailed 1-0 when Ausmus led off the third by homering into the left-field seats, sparking a four-run inning. Bagwell had an RBI double — the first extra-base hit of his postseason career — and Berkman hit a two-run shot into the Braves bullpen.

Beltran knocked out Wright in the fifth with another two-run homer.

The Braves, meanwhile, were squandering all sorts of chances.

When Atlanta loaded the bases in the first on Berkman's error and two walks, Clemens limited the damage to Johnny Estrada's sacrifice fly. When the Braves put runners at second and third in the second, Clemens struck out Rafael Furcal, who may have had other things on his mind.

The Braves shortstop was in the lineup just hours after being sentenced to three weeks in jail and four weeks in a treatment facility for his second drunken-driving arrest.

He must report after the season, which could come sooner than he wants if the Braves don't start coming through with some clutch hits. Clemens walked the bases loaded in the third, but escaped by striking out rookie Charles Thomas.

The Braves put two more runners on in the fourth. Clemens took care of that by jamming J.D. Drew, whose shattered bat flew farther than his popup back to the mound.

"I thought we had a pretty good game plan," said Chipper Jones, who went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts. "We got him to throw a lot of pitches early, but we missed opportunities."

Bradley, reporter clash over player's remarks

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Milton Bradley allegedly called a reporter an "Uncle Tom" after the Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder was asked how he was treated by St. Louis fans following a season-ending suspension for throwing a bottle into the stands.

The confrontation occurred in the clubhouse at Busch Stadium after batting practice during an off day in the Los Angeles-St. Louis playoff series. Bradley fielded a question from Los Angeles Times reporter Jason Reid regarding fans during the Cardinals' 8-3 victory in Game 1.

It was the first game for Bradley after being was suspended for the final five games of the regular season by Major League Baseball after a bottle-throwing tantrum during a victory over Colorado in Los Angeles. Bradley was thrown out of that game after a fan threw a plastic bottle at him shortly after he made a costly error that allowed two runs to score.

Bill Dwyre, sports editor for the Times, said that various reporters who were in the Dodgers clubhouse said that Bradley didn't like Reid's question. According to eyewitnesses and Reid's tape, Bradley said, "You're an Uncle Tom. You're a sellout."

Reid, who is black, took offense at the insult and began yelling at Bradley, who also is black, Dwyre said.

"We're terribly unhappy on how and why this happened," Dwyre said in a statement. "We back our reporter from every angle of this. We also agree with the Dodgers in the sense that this is something that can, and will be worked out between these two people."

Bradley claimed Reid kept pushing the issue and wouldn't leave him alone.

"He was just one of those guys who wants to keep harping on it," Bradley told KCBS-TV. "I told him what I felt about the situation and I told him how I felt about how he was choosing to handle it. ... He took offense to that and ... started getting physical with me. He had to be restrained by several people in the clubhouse as, you know, I was walking away to leave the situation alone."

"Ultimately this is an issue that needs to be settled between the two individuals, and we will work with them toward that end," Lon Rosen, the Dodgers' chief marketing officer, said in a statement.

Bradley last week apologized for the bottle-throwing tantrum and said he would seek help for anger problems.

Baseball playoffs scoreboard

DIVISION SERIES
American League
New York vs. Minnesota
Tuesday, Oct. 5
Minnesota 2, New York 0
Wednesday, Oct. 6
New York 7, Minnesota 6, 12 innings, series tied 1-1
Friday, Oct. 8
New York (Brown 10-6) at Minnesota (Silva 14-8)
Saturday, Oct. 9
New York at Minnesota
Sunday, Oct. 10
Minnesota at New York, if necessary
Anaheim vs. Boston
Tuesday, Oct. 5
Boston 9, Anaheim 3
Wednesday, Oct. 6
Boston 8, Anaheim 3, Boston leads series 2-0
Friday, Oct. 8
Anaheim (Escobar 11-12) at Boston (Arroyo 10-9)
Saturday, Oct. 9
Anaheim (Lackey 14-13) at Boston (Wakefield 12-10), if necessary
Sunday, Oct. 10
Boston at Anaheim, if necessary
National League
St. Louis vs. Los Angeles
Tuesday, Oct. 5
St. Louis 8, Los Angeles 3, St. Louis leads series 1-0
Thursday, Oct. 7
Los Angeles (Weaver 13-13) at St. Louis (Marquis 15-7)
Saturday, Oct. 9
St. Louis (Morris 15-10) at Los Angeles (Lima 13-5)
Sunday, Oct. 10
St. Louis (Suppan 16-9) at Los Angeles (Perez 7-6), if necessary
Monday, Oct. 11
Los Angeles at St. Louis, if necessary
Atlanta vs. Houston
Wednesday, Oct. 6
Houston 9, Atlanta 3, Houston leads series 1-0
Thursday, Oct. 7
Houston (Oswalt 20-10) at Atlanta (Hampton 13-9)
Saturday, Oct. 9
Atlanta (Thomson 14-8) at Houston (Backe 5-3)
Sunday, Oct. 10
Atlanta at Houston, if necessary
Monday, Oct. 11
Houston at Atlanta, if necessary

Wednesday
Astros 9, Braves 3

HOUSTON	ab	r	h	bi	ATLANTA	ab	r	h	bi
Biggio lf	5	1	1	0	Furcal ss	3	1	1	0
Qualls p	0	0	0	0	MGiles 2b	5	1	1	1
Gallo p	0	0	0	0	JDrew rf	3	0	0	0
CBeltrn cf	3	3	3	2	CJones 3b	4	0	0	0
Lane rf	1	1	1	1	JEstda c	4	0	1	1
Bgwell 1b	5	2	2	1	Lroche 1b	3	0	0	0
Brkmn rf	5	1	2	2	Mrrero ph	1	0	0	0
JKent 2b	5	0	1	1	AJones cf	3	1	2	1
Ensbrg 3b	4	0	2	1	Thmas lf	4	0	2	0
JVzcno ss	4	0	0	0	JSWrht p	1	0	0	0
AEvrtt ss	0	0	0	0	Grybsk p	0	0	0	0
Asmus c	4	1	1	1	DWise ph	1	0	0	0
Clmens p	2	0	0	0	JuCruz p	0	0	0	0
OPlmro lf	1	0	0	0	Alfnsca p	0	0	0	0
					JuFrco ph	1	0	0	0
					Ritsma p	0	0	0	0
Totals	39	9	13	9	**Totals**	33	3	7	3

Houston	004	030	101—9
Atlanta	100	011	000—3

E—Berkman (1). DP—Atlanta 1. LOB—Houston 5, Atlanta 12. 2B—Bagwell (1), JKent (1). 3B—Furcal (1). HR—CBeltran (1), Lane (1), Berkman (1), Ausmus (1), AJones (1). SB—Biggio (1), CBeltran (1), MGiles (1). CS—Ensberg (1). S—JSWright. SF—JEstrada.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Houston						
Clemens W,1-0	7	6	3	2	6	7
Qualls	1	0	0	0	1	0
Gallo	1	1	0	0	0	2
Atlanta						
JSWright L,0-1	4 1/3	8	6	6	0	6
Gryboski	2/3	2	1	1	0	1
JuCruz	2	2	1	1	1	4
Alfonseca	1	0	0	0	0	0
Reitsma	1	1	1	1	0	1

HBP—by JuCruz (CBeltran). WP—Clemens 2. T—3:08. A—41,464 (50,091).

Yankees 7, Twins 6 (12)

MINNESOTA	ab	r	h	bi	NEW YORK	ab	r	h	bi
ShStwrt lf	6	0	0	0	Jeter ss	4	2	1	1
JJones rf	6	1	1	0	ARdrgz 3b	6	2	4	3
THnter cf	6	3	3	1	Shffield rf	5	1	1	2
Mrneau 1b	4	0	2	2	Matsui lf	4	0	1	1
Rivas 2b	0	0	0	0	BWllms cf	4	0	1	0
LeCroy 1b	1	0	1	0	Posada c	5	0	0	0
Koskie 3b	4	1	1	1	Sierra dh	4	0	0	0
Kubel dh	6	0	0	0	Olerud 1b	5	0	1	0
CGzmn ss	4	1	2	0	Cairo 2b	3	2	0	0
Cddyer 2b	5	0	2	1					
HBlnco c	1	0	0	1					
Offrmn ph	1	0	0	0					
Brders c	2	0	0	0					
Totals	46	6	12	6	**Totals**	40	7	9	7

Minnesota	120	000	020	001—6
New York	102	010	100	002—7

Two outs when winning run scored.

DP—Minnesota 2, New York 1. LOB—Minnesota 9, New York 7. 2B—Morneau (1), Koskie (1), ARodriguez (1), BWilliams (1), Olerud (1). HR—THunter (1), Jeter (1), ARodriguez (1), Sheffield (1). SB—THunter (2), Sierra (1). S—Jeter. SF—HBlanco, Matsui.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Minnesota						
Radke	6 1/3	8	5	5	3	0
Balfour	2/3	0	0	0	0	0
JRincon	2	0	0	0	0	4
Nathan L,0-1	2 1/3	1	2	2	4	3
Romero	1/3	0	0	0	0	0
New York						
Lieber	6 2/3	7	3	3	1	4
Gordon	2/3	1	2	2	0	1
MRivera	1 2/3	2	0	0	0	1
Sturtze	2 2/3	2	1	1	3	4
Quantrill W,1-0	1/3	0	0	0	0	0

WP—Gordon. PB—Posada. T—4:19. A—56,354 (57,478).

Red Sox 8, Angels 3

BOSTON	ab	r	h	bi	ANAHEIM	ab	r	h	bi
Damon cf	5	1	2	0	Figgins 2b	4	0	0	0
Bllhorn 2b	3	0	1	0	Erstad 1b	3	0	1	0
Reese 2b	0	0	0	0	VGrero rf	3	0	1	2
MRmrz lf	3	1	1	2	GAndsn cf	4	0	0	0
DOrtiz dh	2	1	1	0	Glaus dh	3	1	0	0
Nixon rf	5	0	1	1	DVnon lf	4	0	2	0
Kapler rf	0	1	0	0	Mcphrs 3b	4	0	1	1
Millar 1b	3	1	1	0	JMolna c	2	1	1	0
Mntkw 1b	2	0	1	0	Ktchm ph	1	0	0	0
Varitek c	3	2	1	2	BMolna c	0	0	0	0
OCbera ss	5	0	1	3	Pride ph	1	0	0	0
Mueller 3b	3	1	2	0	Eckstin ss	3	1	1	0
DRbrts pr	0	0	0	0					
Yukilis 3b	2	0	0	0					
Totals	36	8	12	8	**Totals**	32	3	7	3

Boston	010	002	104—8
Anaheim	010	020	000—3

DP—Boston 2, Anaheim 1. LOB—Boston 10, Anaheim 5. 2B—MRamirez (2), OCabrera (1). HR—Varitek (1). SB—Damon (2). CS—DaVanon (1). SF—MRamirez.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Boston						
PMartinez W,1-0	7	6	3	3	2	6
Timlin	1/3	1	0	0	0	1
MMyers	1/3	0	0	0	0	1
Foulke S,1	1 1/3	0	0	0	0	2
Anaheim						
Colon	6	7	3	3	3	3
FRodriguez L,0-1	2	2	1	1	2	2
Donnelly	1	3	4	4	2	0

HBP—by FRodriguez (Varitek), by PMartinez (Erstad). WP—FRodriguez 2, Donnelly. T—3:48. A—45,118 (45,030).

Yankees need extra effort

A-Rod, Jeter help tie series with Twins

BY MIKE FITZPATRICK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — No more questions about Alex Rodriguez under pressure.

A-Rod and Derek Jeter teamed up to save Mariano Rivera, sparking a championship-caliber rally that carried the New York Yankees past the Minnesota Twins 7-6 in 12 innings Wednesday night, tying their playoff series at a game apiece.

"I don't think I want to watch it again, it was certainly one of the memorable games," Yankees manager Joe Torre said.

Especially for Rodriguez, whose tying double in the 12th was the huge hit New York waited for all season. Jeter then dashed home on Hideki Matsui's sacrifice fly as the Yankees completed another improbable postseason comeback, overcoming a rare October failure by Rivera.

"Alex had a little trouble settling in here, but when you do this at Yankee Stadium in a postseason game, especially coming from behind, God only knows what it's going to do for him," Torre said.

"You couldn't get a bigger hit."

After falling behind in the 12th on Torii Hunter's home run off Tanyon Sturtze, the Yankees refused to fold. No surprise, because New York set a major league record with 61 comeback wins during the regular season.

"We never doubted ourselves," Gary Sheffield said. "We've done this all season. There's no reason to think we couldn't do it again."

Still, Yankees owner George Steinbrenner hardly seemed impressed.

"We've won nothing yet, gang. Nothing, yet. We've got work to do," Steinbrenner said. "It was great to come back."

Corey Koskie keyed the Twins' eighth-inning rally with a tying double against Rivera, who blew a save in the postseason for only the third time in 33 chances.

Game 3 in the best-of-five AL series will be Friday night at the Metrodome, with Kevin Brown starting for the Yankees against Carlos Silva.

Jeter, Rodriguez and Sheffield homered earlier in this game, and it went to extra innings tied at 5. It stayed that way until Hunter connected.

But Twins closer Joe Nathan was running out of gas. He had made 43 straight appearances without going more than one inning, but manager Ron Gardenhire sent him out for a third inning for the first time since May 20, 2003, in hopes of finishing it.

"He was still throwing 94, 95, 96 mph," Gardenhire said. "It's a little disappointing. I probably left him out there too long. I didn't like our options."

Nathan walked No. 9 hitter Miguel Cairo and Jeter with one out in the 12th, bringing up Rodriguez, who hit only .248 with runners in scoring position in his first season with the Yankees.

He's making up for all that in October. A-Rod hit a ground-rule double to left-center on Nathan's 49th pitch, tying the score at 6 with his fourth hit of the game. It gave him three RBIs, and made him 6-for-10 in the series.

"This team never gives up," Rodriguez said.

Sheffield was intentionally walked before J.C. Romero replaced Nathan.

With the outfield drawn in, Matsui hit a liner directly at right fielder Jacque Jones that appeared too shallow to score Jeter from third.

Jeter took off for the plate anyway, and Jones' throw didn't have much on it. First baseman Matthew LeCroy relayed the ball to the plate, but Jeter slid in safely.

"I didn't care, I was going no matter what," Jeter said. "Sometimes you have to force guys to make plays."

Paul Quantrill got one out in the 12th for the win, retiring rookie Jason Kubel with two on.

"For us to have a chance to go up two games, 2-0, that was a tough one," Nathan said. "I'm really disappointed with the walks."

Jeter led off with a long ball, and Sheffield and Rodriguez hit their first postseason homers in pinstripes to help the Yankees build a 5-3 lead after seven innings.

With two All-Stars in Tom Gordon and Rivera at the back of the bullpen, that was supposed to be the Yankees' foolproof formula for playoff success. But they couldn't put this one away.

"I'm human," Rivera said. "It definitely bothers me. The team gave me a two-run lead and suddenly it disappeared."

The Twins have won Game 1 in eight straight postseason series, only to lose Game 2 the last four times.

"You get a chance to beat them in Yankee Stadium, you can't let them off the hook," Shannon Stewart said.

AP

Minnesota Twins catcher Pat Borders fields the wide throw as New York Yankees' Derek Jeter slides in to score the winning run on Hideki Matsui's 12th inning sacrifice fly on Wednesday.

Angels still await spark from Guerrero, Anderson

BY KEN PETERS
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Down the stretch, the Anaheim Angels could always count on Vladimir Guerrero and Garret Anderson.

They're still waiting for the duo to get it done against the Boston Red Sox.

Guerrero had a two-run single in the fifth inning Wednesday night, but he and Anderson are 1-for-16 overall in the best-of-five series — a prime reason why the Angels are heading to Boston down 2-0 after an 8-3 loss in Game 2.

Trailing by a run in the eighth inning Wednesday, Guerrero came to the plate with a runner on first with no outs and struck out against Mike Timlin.

Boston went to reliever Mike Myers, and Anderson struck out, too. Anderson is 0-for-8 in the series.

Closer Keith Foulke then relieved and struck out Troy Glaus to end what was the Angels' last real chance.

Anaheim lost the opener 9-3 Tuesday. Only four teams have come back from 0-2 deficits to win postseason series since the present playoff format was adopted nine years ago.

One of the major league's most powerful offensive teams during the regular season, the Angels have been relatively punchless during the division series.

Although they got a solid six innings by starter Bartolo Colon in Game 2, their offense couldn't muster much against Pedro Martinez and three Boston relievers.

They have scored just six runs in the two games. Guerrero, who hit .337 with 39 homers and 126 RBIs to help Anaheim win the AL West, is just 1-for-8 with two RBIs in the series.

In contrast, Boston's Manny Ramirez, an MVP candidate like Guerrero, is 3-for-8 with five RBIs.

Sox: Angels' bullpen comes up short

SOX, FROM BACK PAGE

Mike Timlin relieved Martinez to start the eighth, and gave up a single to Darin Erstad before striking out Vladimir Guerrero.

Francona then summoned Mike Myers, who struck out Garret Anderson.

Keith Foulke came on and fanned Troy Glaus to end the inning.

The Red Sox broke the game open in the ninth, scoring four runs off Brendan Donnelly. Ramirez doubled, Trot Nixon hit an RBI single and Orlando Cabrera lined a two-out, three-run double.

Foulke retired the Angels in order in the bottom of the inning to earn the save.

"You know they feel good when they get to their bullpen, like we do," Francona said. "Not only did we get the lead but we tacked on a little bit. Somewhere down the line, that might help us. This bullpen has been invincible."

Rally Monkeys were everywhere in the last two innings — on the scoreboard and in the stands. But the Angels couldn't score after the Red Sox took the lead.

Guerrero's first postseason hit — a two-run single with one out in the fifth — put the Angels on top 3-1. Anderson followed with a liner to first base that Millar caught before stepping on the bag for an inning-ending double play.

Scioscia called that a turning point.

The Red Sox tied it in the sixth on Varitek's two-run homer after a two-out single by Millar.

The Red Sox took a 1-0 lead in the second when Ramirez drew a two-out, bases-loaded walk from Bartolo Colon. It could have been worse for the Angels, but with David Ortiz batting and the bases still loaded, catcher Jose Molina picked off Bellhorn at second.

The Angels tied it in their half on an RBI single by rookie Dallas McPherson before Martinez pitched out of a two-on, no-out jam.

Colon allowed seven hits and three runs in six innings. He was lifted after throwing 114 pitches and relieved by Rodriguez.

SPORTS

Dolphins split over whether they want Williams back, Page 27

Pedro delivers 2-0 lead

Boston's ace back in form vs. Angels

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Pedro Martinez has no explanation for his dreadful September. He's just glad to have pitched well to begin October.

Martinez worked seven effective innings, Manny Ramirez drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly, and the wild-card Boston Red Sox beat the Anaheim Angels 8-3 Wednesday night for a commanding 2-0 lead in the AL division series.

The Red Sox will try to sweep the best-of-five series on Friday at Fenway Park, where they went 55-26 during the regular season.

Bronson Arroyo can put Boston back in the AL championship series when he starts against Kelvim Escobar.

Martinez had a 7.72 ERA while losing his last four starts of the regular season. He allowed three runs and six hits while walking two and striking out six against the Angels, retiring his last seven batters and leaving after 116 pitches.

"A lot of people doubted that man," Boston catcher Jason Varitek said of Martinez. "I never doubt that man."

Martinez, a three-time Cy Young Award winner, is 5-1 with a 3.19 ERA in the postseason.

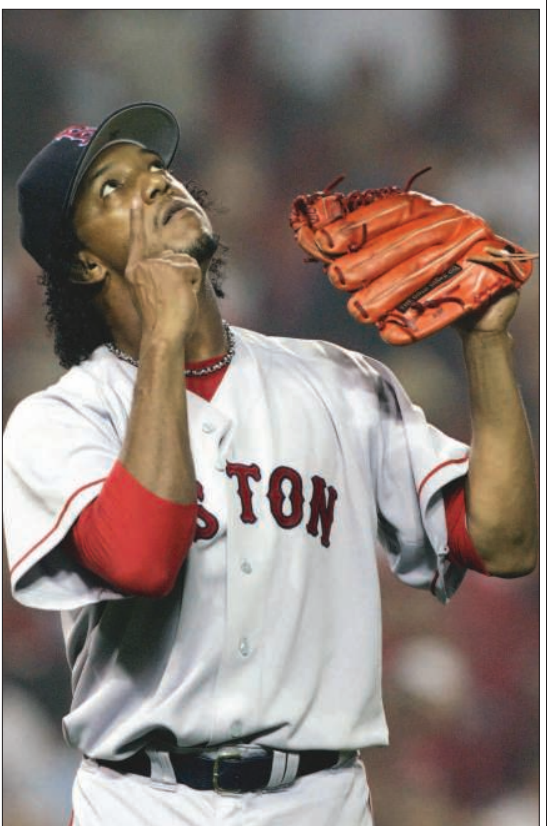
"He's a big-game pitcher," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "I thought he competed his heart out. There were some situations where at any point in that game if something doesn't go our way, we could lose the game. He gave everything he had to do what he did."

Regarding his poor finish to the regular season, Martinez said: "I wanted to do good. I just couldn't do it. But thank God I turned it around, and now I feel like I can pitch better. My arm feels great right now. I feel strong."

The 32-year-old right-hander was so frustrated after losing to New York on Sept. 25 that he said: "What can I say — just tip my hat and call the Yankees my daddy. I can't find a way to beat them at this point."

He hasn't had trouble beating the Angels, going 9-1 with a 2.12 ERA against them in the regular season.

"This was probably the best stuff he has had against us all year," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "I think Pedro is terrific when maybe the situation gets a little hot. He gets an extra gear.



AP

Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez points to the sky after striking out Anaheim Angels' Chone Figgins for the last out of the seventh inning of Game 2 of the AL division series on Wednesday.

"Boston went out and did what they had to do. They won against one of the best bullpens in baseball. These two games, they've taken it to us. We haven't gotten into our game like we can."

The Angels don't have much margin for error now.

"They're up two games, but you never know what's going to happen," Escobar said. "We're down two, on the road. I like the pressure."

The Red Sox scored the go-ahead run in the seventh off Francisco Rodriguez, who won a record-tying five postseason games two years ago to help the Angels win the World Series.

It was tied at 3 when Bill Mueller got an infield hit and Johnny Damon hit into a forceout. Mark Bellhorn walked before Rodriguez threw a wild pitch, putting runners at second and third. Ramirez then flied to center, easily deep enough to score Damon.

SEE SOX ON PAGE 31

Jeter, A-Rod spark Yankees in 12th inning

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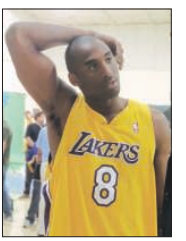

Judge rules Bryant's accuser must use name in civil case

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Clemens gives wild-card Astros 1-0 series lead over Braves

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