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SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2005



Phase Zero



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Top: Nigeriens along the road watch Thursday as the convoy of Team Niger passes through their town in southwestern Niger. The soldiers of Team Niger are there for Flintlock 05, a seven-nation exercise to train African soldiers and to strengthen U.S.-African ties. Above: Soldiers from Team Niger get back onto their bus after a break during a 15-hour convoy from Niamey to Tahoua.

Troops shocked, amazed during African journey

Team Niger endures 15-hour convoy to reach camp for Flintlock 05

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

War on terror

Accidental shooting: A Marine whose gun went off while he was cleaning it, killing a comrade in Afghanistan, was sentenced in absentia Friday to 12 years in prison.

Lance Cpl. Frederico Pimental, 23, was convicted at Camp Lejeune, N.C., on Thursday of involuntary manslaughter in the death of Lance Cpl. Russell White, who was shot in the head last year.

Pimental was tried in absentia. He left the base without permission before the trial, and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Business

Enron scandal: Tens of thousands of Enron Corp. investors who lost money because of the energy trader's collapse moved a step closer on Friday to recouping at least some of their losses.

Citigroup Inc., the nation's largest financial services company, said it will pay \$2 billion to settle a class-action lawsuit over its role in helping Enron orchestrate a massive accounting fraud that led to the company's collapse in 2001.

Attorneys in the case hope for similar settlements with eight other banks and brokerage firms as well as several former Enron executives.

Nation

Mad cow disease: The government says there is no new health risk from mad cow disease despite fresh suspicions about an animal that was previously cleared of the lethal infection.

The Agriculture Department said Friday night it will seek further testing of a tissue sample from a "downer" beef cow — one unable to walk — after receiving conflicting results on tests of it for mad cow disease.

Church sex abuse: The Archdiocese of San Francisco agreed Friday to settle 15 pending lawsuits involving allegations of sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests for \$21.2 million, the church said.

Under the settlement brokered by a retired judge who is still mediating about 40 cases, the archdiocese will pay out \$6.6 million, with the rest coming from its insurers. Several other cases have gone to trial.

Patriot Act debates: The Republican chairman walked off with the gavel, leaving Democrat's shouting into turned-off microphones at a raucous hearing Friday on the Patriot Act.

The House Judiciary Committee hearing, with the two sides accusing each other of being irresponsible and uncooperative, came as President Bush was urging Congress to renew those sections of the post-Sept. 11 counterterrorism law set to expire in September.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., chairman of the panel, abruptly gaveled the meeting to an end and walked out, followed by other Republicans. Sensenbrenner declared that much of the testimony, which veered into debate over the detainees at Guantanamo Bay, was irrelevant.

World

Afghan disarmament push: Afghanistan's government Saturday launched a new disarmament campaign aimed at ridding the country of illegal weapons left over from a quarter century of war.

The program, which will run for up to three years, aims to disarm up to 1,800 groups, such as criminal gangs and private militias. It will be set up in each province and will start by urging armed people to peacefully give up their weapons and if they don't they will be forcibly disarmed.



Day care death: The driver of a day care center van was arrested Friday in the death of a 2-year-old girl who was left in the vehicle for hours on a hot, muggy day. The body of Asia Jones was discovered Thursday afternoon when her mother arrived at the day care center in suburban Milwaukee and workers could not find the girl. Pictured from left, Kael Lampe, Justine Lampe, 8, and Lampe's daughter, Winter, 10, place flowers, a cross and a teddy bear near the playground of the Come and Grow With Me Learning and Arts Center.

"We will disarm all groups throughout the country with this program," said Mohammad Karim Khalili, chairman of the Disarmament and Reintegration Commission. "We don't want armed groups or illegal groups. We don't want individuals with weapons."

U.N. reform: The United States and 22 other nations sent a letter urging U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to stay focused on U.N. finances and management as he forges ahead with efforts to reform the world body.

The letter, obtained Friday by The Associated Press, comes at a crucial time. Republicans in the U.S. Congress are pushing to withhold U.N. dues unless the United Nations enacts drastic budget changes.

While much of the debate over Annan's reform agenda announced earlier this year has focused on redesigning the Security Council, the signatories say they don't want other key reform issues to be ignored.

Ethiopian opposition leaders: Ethiopian authorities placed two opposition leaders under house arrest Saturday, saying they were threatening the security of the state and were behind a week of protests that saw police fire on demonstrators, leaving 29 dead.

Information Minister Bereket Simon accused the main opposition Coalition for Unity and Democracy of renegeing on an agreement struck Friday with the ruling party and another opposition coalition to work together to end protests.

The government has accused the opposition of engineering the protests by students and others angered that the ruling party has claimed victory in recent parliamentary election. The opposition denies it orchestrated the protests, but has said the elections were flawed by fraud and violence.

Japan war shrine visit controversy: A powerful conservative group representing families of Japan's war dead has asked Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to reconsider his visits to a controversial shrine because

of tensions they are causing with other Asian countries, media reports said Saturday.

In an unusual move, the Nippon Zokukai, which has long backed visits by Japanese prime ministers to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, cautioned Koizumi about his annual pilgrimages, saying "it is necessary to give consideration to neighboring countries and obtain their understanding," NHK public broadcaster said.

Yasukuni Shrine honors Japan's 2.5 million war dead, including wartime Prime Minister Hideki Tojo and 13 other leaders convicted of the most serious war crimes at a 1946-1948 international war tribunal in Tokyo. Koizumi's visits there have outraged China and other Asian countries that suffered during Japan's brutal conquest of the region.

Lebanon assassination fears: The recent killing of an anti-Syrian journalist has revived fears among Syria's opponents in Lebanon that Damascus and its local allies may be planning further political assassinations despite the withdrawal of the Syrian army six weeks ago.

Syria's opponents in Lebanon, who loudly demanded Syria end its control of Lebanon after the Feb. 14 assassination of former Premier Rafik Hariri, have said they may be targeted by remnants of the joint Lebanese-Syrian security services and are taking precautions.

Such fears were buttressed by accusations from the United States Friday that Syria has not fully withdrawn its intelligence operatives from Lebanon and that it was perhaps even organizing political assassinations.

Military

Fort Riley murders: A military jury found an Army sergeant guilty Friday of premeditated murder in the shootings of two fellow soldiers last year.

Sgt. Aaron Stanley, 23, of Bismarck, N.D., faces a sentence of life in prison. He took the stand in Fort Riley, Kan., during the sentencing phase to read an apology to the victims' families.

Closing statements were to be presented Saturday morning.

Stanley was convicted of killing Sgt. Matthew Werner, 30, and Spc. Christopher Hymer, 23, at his rural farmhouse near Fort Riley in September.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Bombers, gunmen kill at least 23 in Iraq

BY PAUL GARWOOD

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber dressed as a policeman blew himself up during roll call at the heavily guarded headquarters of an elite commando unit Saturday as attacks in and around Baghdad killed at least 23 people.

Interior Minister Bayan Jabr, meanwhile, said an Iraq-led offensive to weed out militants in the capital had led to 1,218 arrests and reduced the number of car bomb attacks from an average of 12 a day to less than two.

Two U.S. Marines were killed Friday in a roadside bomb attack near the volatile Anbar province town of Saqlawiyah, west of Fallujah, the military said Saturday.

The attack at the two-story Baghdad headquarters of the Wolf Brigade followed weeks of accusations against the Shiite Muslim-dominated force by Sunni Arab leaders, who accuse it of kidnapping and killing Sunnis, including clerics.

Jabr said the attacker was a former Wolf Brigade member who was targeting the commando force's commander, Brig. Mohammed al-Quraishi.

"Today's attack does not constitute an infiltration of police forces," Jabr said. "The only thing left of the bomber was his head and feet."

Three people were killed in the blast, he said, adding that police were searching for two of the suspect's former colleagues. A witness, Maj. Falah al-Mahmudawi, said five people were killed and another wounded. A discrepancy could not immediately be reconciled.

Gunmen also opened fire on a minibus in Diyara, 30 miles south of Baghdad in the so-called Triangle of Death, killing at least 11 Iraqi construction workers employed at government and U.S. bases, police said.

In Baghdad, gunmen in a speeding car attacked an Interior Ministry



A member of the Iraqi Interior Ministry's al-Hussain brigade escorts a suspected insurgent in Baghdad on Saturday. The brigade arrested 41 suspects in recent raids in Baghdad.

commando convoy in western Baghdad's Mansour area, killing three Iraqi forces, police said.

Another suicide car bomber blew himself up Saturday in front of the Slovakian Embassy in southeast Baghdad, injuring four people, according to Iraqi and Slovak officials. Slovakia has 109 soldiers in Iraq mostly for de-mining efforts.

It was unclear how the attacker managed to enter the tightly guarded compound in eastern Baghdad's Bab Sharqi neighborhood with his explosives undetected, but his police uniform may have helped him avoid the stringent checks in place.

People entering the compound,

which also houses the 10-story Interior Ministry building, must be searched by policemen and dogs. Al-Mahmudawi said the attacker was disguised as a policeman and detonated explosives during a roll call for new commandos.

"I was inside the headquarters building when the explosion took place," al-Mahmudawi said. "Then I saw five dead bodies lying on the ground plus seven injured people, most of them are policemen."

"There was a group of newly graduated commandos gathered in the yard at the time of the explosion," he added. It was unclear if the bomber was standing among the graduates or was nearby.

The Associated Press

As of Friday at least 1,691 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,293 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EDT Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier died Thursday of a nonbattle injury near Tuz, Iraq.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

Killed Thursday in an explosion in Haqlaniyah, Iraq:

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Thomas O. Keeling, 23, Strongsville, Ohio; assigned to Marine Forces Reserve, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Akron, Ohio.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Devon P. Seymour, 21, St. Louisville, Ohio; assigned to Marine Forces Reserve, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Akron, Ohio.

■ Marine Cpl. Brad D. Squires, 26, Middleburg Heights, Ohio; assigned to Marine Forces Reserve, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Akron, Ohio.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Dustin V. Birch, 22, Saint Anthony, Idaho; assigned to Marine Forces Reserve, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Boise, Idaho.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Chavez, 20, Seattle; assigned to 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Army 1st Lt. Michael J. Fasnacht, 25, Columbus, Ga.; killed Wednesday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Tikrit, Iraq, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Marc L. Tucker, 24, Pontotoc, Miss.; killed Wednesday in a vehicle accident in Iraq; assigned to the 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan.

■ Army Sgt. Roberto Arizola, Jr., 31, Laredo, Texas; killed Wednesday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Baghdad; assigned to the Army's 297th Military Intelligence Battalion, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Gordon, Ga.

■ Army Capt. Phillip T. Esposito, 30, Suffern, N.Y., and Army 1st Lt. Louis E. Allen, 34, Milford, Pa.; died Wednesday of injuries suffered Tuesday in an explosion in Tikrit, Iraq; assigned to the Army National Guard's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 42nd Infantry Division, Troy, N.Y.

■ Army Lt. Col. Terrence K. Crowe, 44, New York; killed Tuesday by grenade and small arms fire in Tal Afar, Iraq; assigned to the Army Reserve's 10th Battalion, 98th Regiment, 4th Brigade, 98th Division, Lond, N.J.

■ Army civilian Linda J. Villar, 41, Franklinton, La.; died June 3 in a mortar attack in Baghdad; worked for the U.S. Army Field Support Command, Fort Stewart, Ga.

■ Navy Cmdr. Joseph Acevedo, 46, New York; died of a non-hostile cause in Manama, Bahrain, on April 1, 2003; assigned to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, Tampa, Fla.

U.S. soldier dies after ambush in Afghanistan

BY DANIEL COONEY

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An American soldier was killed and three U.S. troops were wounded when insurgents ambushed an patrol Friday in eastern Afghanistan — the third deadly attack on U.S. forces in the border region in a week.

Seven militants were killed in fighting set off by the ambush of U.S.-led coalition Afghan forces in Paktika province, a U.S. military statement said. The militants fled after the fighting and American forces deployed attack aircraft in pursuit.

Fighting in Paktika has killed five U.S. troops in the past week. The province is next to the Pakistani border and militants based in tribal regions on the other side of the mountainous frontier often cross into Af-

ghanistan to launch attacks. Seventeen suspected Taliban militants were reported captured in the area Monday.

Two American soldiers wounded in Friday's attack were taken to a nearby base for treatment while the third was treated and returned to duty, the military statement said.

"Our patrols of coalition and Afghan forces are relentless in the pursuit of the enemy," Army Brig. Gen. Jack Sterling was quoted as saying of Friday's clash. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of our soldier and will honor him by continuing to take the fight to the enemy."

"The enemy may still be powerful at times, but not nearly as powerful as the combined efforts of Afghan and coalition forces when fighting alongside each other," U.S. military spokesman Lt. Col. Jerry

Afghan army crash kills three

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan army truck collided with a bus Saturday in southern Afghanistan, killing three villagers and wounding seven, the interior minister said.

The crash occurred on the highway from the southern city of Kandahar to the Pakistani border, Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali told reporters in the capital, Kabul.

He said reports by officials in the area that a U.S. military vehicle was involved and that 10 people were killed were wrong.

A local police commander, Abdul Wasai, and Gen. Raziq Khan, a senior defense ministry official based in the district of Spin Boldak where the accident occurred, had earlier told The Associated Press an American military Humvee vehicle was involved and 10 people were killed.

Wasai also said U.S. troops had cordoned off the area and an investigation had been launched into the cause of the crash. The local officials couldn't be reached for further comment.

O'Hara said.

The death brought to 149 the number of U.S. military person-

nel killed in and around Afghanistan since the Taliban were driven from power in 2001.



Members of the 82nd Airborne Division 307th Forward Support Battalion carry a stretcher with the body of a soldier killed in southeastern Afghanistan on Wednesday. A battle in the same area Friday resulted in the death of another U.S. soldier.

Convoy trip across Niger eases opening for soldiers

Lengthy journey to camp for Flintlock 05 provides a glimpse into African culture

By CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

TAHOUA, Niger — Some of the dark faces flashed bright white smiles and bright white eyes. Others had toothless smiles and yellowish eyes. But they were smiling.

And they were impressionable, so the Americans smiled and waved to make a good impression.

"I like the reception of the people," said Sgt. Merle Sullivan.

Sullivan, of Sullivan County, Pa., and a medic with the 160th

First Surgical Team from Landstuhl, Germany, had seen worse.

"It's a lot different than Somalia [1992-94]," said Sullivan, who had served in Somalia.

Re-store Hope in eastern Africa. "It's like the people want us to be here and help

out. For Team Niger, the exercise called Flintlock 05 continued Thursday with a 15-hour convoy that chugged through the heat like a cheetah. Team Niger 05 is a seven-nation "peace operation" to train national armies to defend their nations. It also aims to make friends.

For many of the soldiers on Team Niger, the convoy was a sweaty, eye-opening introduction to Africa.

The asphalt strip on which they traveled pierced through a vast land of bronze-red dirt stretching for miles into the horizon. Out of its dirt floor grew short green trees and bushes. The soldiers rode past cows and goats grazing on the plants under shepherds' watchful eyes.

A feathery blanket of cirrus clouds made the sky bluish-white. The clouds helped filter the sun, but did not diminish the 100-degree heat.

At noon, the convoy stopped along a deserted stretch of the road for a break. After the soldiers got back on the bus and its engine turned, one made pointed observation.

"We better get to where we're going," he drawled,

"or we're gonna start smellin' like bull frogs."

The soldiers rode through villages that were identified by small white road signs with black block letters: Diawondo, Tombo Valley, Birni Gausore. Many of the villages were no larger than a football field.

Some dwellings were made from the red dirt and had holes in them for windows; others were like teepees, made from branches that came to a point on top and built on top of tree stumps for elevation to protect occupants from

Phase Zero



rainy-season flooding and critters that slither and crawl.

In larger towns, the roadside was lined by ramshackle shops. Smoke rose from piles of metal cooking over wood fires. People with nearly jet-black skin stood in small groups or sat in the shade. Women wore wrap-around gowns of red, green, yellow and blue and carried buckets on their heads.

All watched as the convoy passed.

"Honestly, I'm shocked but at the same time amazed," Spc. Terry Draper said. "Shocked because of the way the people are living, amazed at how many happy kids run up and wave to the vehicles."



CHARLIE COON/Stars and Stripes

Youngsters wave to the Team Niger convoy as the soldiers travel through southwestern Niger on the way to camp for Flintlock 05. The seven-nation exercise is to train African soldiers to defend their countries and to strengthen ties between Africa and the U.S.

Draper, of Shreveport, La., and a medic with the 160th FST, was humbled.

"It makes you thankful for what you have," Draper said, "because a lot of people don't have as much."

About 12 hours into the desert road trip, the convoy pulled over for gas. As they got off the bus, the soldiers were engulged by vendors hawking cold drinks, jewelry and other souvenirs. They bartered for deals as the vehicles were being refueled, then reboarded.

Justin, a Special Forces specialist from the Alabama-based 20th Special Forces Group who asked that his last name not be used, thought about the training mission that would begin at the end of the Thursday's journey.

"What level are [the Nigerian soldiers] already at?" he asked. "Are they at the baby stage or an intermediate level?"

"You just don't know how much they know until you get there."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: coon@mail.starsandstripes.com

Detaining of Iraq contractors highlights rift with military

By T. CHRISTIAN MILLER
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Matt Raiche knew he was in trouble when the Marines handed him an orange jumpsuit, a bottle to urinate in, a Quran and a Muslim prayer rug.

Marine guards put the former Marine into a six-foot by six-foot concrete cell, locked the steel door and told him to keep his mouth shut. In cells nearby, he heard imprisoned insurgents screaming in Arabic.

"They took us to be ... insurgent terrorists," said Raiche, 34, one of 16 U.S. contractors arrested by the Marine Corps last month on suspicions of firing indiscriminately at U.S. soldier and Iraqi civilians. "We said we were Americans. We didn't know what was going on."

So began three days of captivity for the employees of North Carolina-based Zapata Engineering, apprehended after Marines allegedly witnessed them firing weapons from an armored convoy passing through Fallujah.

While details remain unclear, the May 28 incident reflects the long simmering tensions between the military and private business in Iraq.

American security workers complain of false imprisonment, poor treatment from Marines

Even though the government has hired private companies to perform many functions in Iraq, it does not formally oversee their activities, allowing misunderstandings and disputes to fester in the process.

Raiche said the Marines seemed angry at the higher salaries that contractors in Iraq enjoy. "One Marine gets me on the ground and puts his knee in my back. Then I hear another Marine say, 'How does it feel to make that contractor money now?'"

The contractors who were detained have said they are innocent of the accusations. They were released and are in the process of returning home. Three unarmed Iraqi subcontractors for Pasadena, Calif.-based Parsons Corp. who were passengers in the convoy also were held and released.

The Zapata contractors, who were held in a Marine base near Fallujah, acknowledged firing warning shots to prevent a suspicious vehicle from approaching their convoy but said they never aimed at Marines or civilians.

Marines officers confirmed that the Department of Justice was reviewing the incident.

The Marine documents said the Zapata contractors, besides firing on civilians, had "unauthorized" weapons in their vehicles — AT4 anti-tank weapons and grenades. Several of the contractors claimed they were given those weapons by the Marines in the months before the confrontation.

The incident also renewed questions about the general treatment of prisoners in Iraq by the U.S. military. One of the few things that both sides largely agree on is that the Marines treated the contractors like any other detainees — treatment that the contractors found humiliating and abusive.

The Marines are investigating the contractors' abuse complaints, but have found "nothing to substantiate those claims," said Lt. Col. David Lapan, a Marine spokesman. The case is believed to be the first time that U.S. military has detained private con-

tractors in Iraq on suspicion of endangering Iraqi civilians or U.S. soldiers.

Almost since the beginning of the U.S.-led invasion, there have been tensions between the private forces and the U.S. military.

The contractors previously denied firing any shots at the Marines, and on Friday two of them, Raiche and Rick Blanchard, repeated those denials. Blanchard, 42, a former Marine and Florida state trooper, said he believed that the Marines had confused the Zapata convoy with an earlier security convoy that had fired indiscriminately.

Blanchard and Raiche claimed they were physically and mentally abused by their Marine guards. They said the Marines taunted them about their allegedly large salaries, slammed them around and threatened them with a guard dog.

"They were treating us like we were the insurgents," said Blanchard. "It broke my heart, the way the Marines treated us."

The military denies any physical abuse occurred. "We treat all detainees professionally and in accordance with strict procedures," said Lapan.

Lapan said the release of the men after three days does not mean the Marines considered them innocent.

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Care packages are either hit or miss

Family and friends, you're too generous and your offerings are, well, weird



TERI WEAVER/Stars and Stripes

2nd Lt. Japheth Johnson, 25, of New Orleans, shows off a care package from his girlfriend. She sent him a box of Doritos, a candy and other snacks, which he offered to his friends as soon as he opened the box. "She sends way too much," he said, though definitely not complaining.

BY TERI WEAVER

Stars and Stripes

LCAMP LIBERTY, Baghdad
Taysha Deaton held up what she said was the worst care package item she'd received in her eight months in the Middle East.

"What do you think this is?" the public affairs officer for the 256th Brigade Combat Team asked, holding a clear tube of what looked to be a popular name-brand hygienic lubricant.

"It's toothpaste," she said, unveiling the tube's name: Security Personal Care. "Would you put that on your teeth? It's wrong. It's so wrong."

The "gift" came in a package from a well-meaning, distant family member who didn't quite hit the mark. Deaton, 25, from Lake Charles, La., would rather have the Fruity Pebbles and Special K breakfast bars her mother sends in bulk supply.

Care packages in wartime are heaven-sent and no soldier doubts the good intentions and generosity of people who donate. Even the most meager packages make soldiers feel a little closer to home.

"In my experience, anything is good," said 2nd Lt. Japheth Johnson, 25, of New Orleans and also a member of the Louisiana National Guard. "Just to open a letter," he said, means the world.

Still, complaints are as much a part of war as homesickness and boredom, and some soldiers hone their gifts carefully so there's a difference between a smart care package and one that has more good intentions than good supplies.

So, please, many say: Take it

easy on the baby wipes. Ditto on the hand sanitizer. No more little bottles of shampoo swiped from hotels. Just how many tubes of toothpaste does one man need?

"I've got 20 tubes in my room," said 1st Lt. Jon Clark, 30, of Manhattan and the New York National Guard's 101st Cavalry.

At Baghdad's Camp Independence, troops have piles of wood-working magazines. "I'm like, I don't even own a hammer," said Lt. Mark St. Roman, 23, of Baton Rouge, La., and the Louisiana National Guard.

What soldiers need depends on where they are deployed. At the bigger camps with large post exchanges and mess halls, lip balm and shampoo are in good supply. Smaller camps, however, have little more than cigarettes, soda and Skoal for sale.

To make their wishes known, many soldiers use www.anyone.creole.com. The Web site lets troops say what they need and want, and anyone around the world can log in, adopt a wish list, and send a care package directly to that person.

Last week, the requests ranged from movies and magazines to feminine hygiene products.

Even when there are piles of leftovers, nothing goes to waste. Troops pack up the unneeded candy, toiletries and Beanie Babies and pass them out to Iraqi families. Some units give the surplus to Iraqi soldiers who patrol with the Americans.

"I've got a good mother," said Spc. Eugene Dolan, a 23-year-old New York Guard member serving with the 256th Brigade.

Dolan's mother shops at a local Italian grocer and sends packets

of sauces: marinara, pesto, steak. And don't get Dolan, of Albertson, N.Y., started on salad dressings:

"Balsamic vinegar with white wine ...," he starts, shaking his head as he recites the ingredients. In late May, he was down to only two bottles.

But sometimes even a simple request to a close friend can get a little out of hand.

Staff Sgt. Frank Fernandez, 48, of Napanoch, N.Y., and the 101st Cavalry, gets an urge for dip every once in a while, and he asked a buddy back home to send some of his favorite. "I ended up getting 100 cans," he said.

No one, however, said he or she wanted the packages to stop.

E-mail Teri Weaver at weaver@stripes.com

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Pool, video games offer GIs small respite

BY ANTONIO CASTANEDA

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — One young man cannonballed into the cool blue pool, another applied suntan lotion to his girlfriend's shoulders — and a third swung his machine gun onto a lawn chair. A pair of Black Hawk helicopters hovered above.

The men and women could have passed for American college students, but they were U.S. soldiers at Camp Liberty in western Baghdad, seeking a break from the war raging just beyond the blast walls. Hours later, some would don helmets and flak jackets, jump into armored vehicles and patrol through violent Baghdad neighborhoods.

"When I come here, I don't feel like I'm in Iraq," said Sgt. Jeanne Crochet, a nurse in the 256th Brigade of the Louisiana National Guard, who sat next to her sunbathing boyfriend, Sgt. Bryan Zbeling, as Jimmy Buffett tunes played in the background.

"I don't complain much about living conditions."

In this war, troops — particu-

lar infantrymen who regularly patrol and conduct raids — struggle to relax and get away from the violence that relentlessly creeps up on them.

Even inside bases such as Camp Liberty and the adjoining Camp Victory that stretch for miles, insurgents continue to kill

"When I come here, I don't feel like I'm in Iraq."

Sgt. Jeanne Crochet on the Camp Liberty pool

and injure soldiers by launching mortars and rockets over fortified walls.

Just last week word flashed through the camp of a big-screen showing of the new Star Wars movie, generating a flood of excitement.

But then insurgents fired a rocket into the base, slamming close to shops and fast-food eateries where the movie was to be shown, killing one soldier.

"The soldiers came in and yelled, 'Save yourselves and run to the bunkers,'" remembered Jericho Aquino, a Filipino worker at the Cinnabon dessert shop close to where the rocket struck. Future screenings were canceled.

But the U.S. military has brought other slices of Americana to this dusty complex of white trailers and palaces once used by Saddam Hussein. A Burger King and Pizza Hut compliment a dining hall that can compete with most corporate dining facilities — lobster and a dozen desserts are often on menu — and a local store resembles a major retail outlet, complete with rows of CDs, DVDs, and big screen TVs.

Some soldiers relax over video games or bootleg DVDs on their laptops.

Others look forward to seeing celebrities. A recent visitor was actor Vince Vaughn, a local favorite.

But the most popular venue on base may be the palace pools where soldiers lie in the sun or swim with friends, ignoring the occasional explosion that reverberates in the distance.

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House of trust

Germany shoot house prepares GIs for the close-quarters combat they'll face in Iraq, Afghanistan

BY TERRY BOYD
Stars and Stripes

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — Before big missions in Iraq or Afghanistan, it's not unusual to see bands of soldiers with M-4s raised, walking slowly and purposefully through small mazes of plywood sheets simulating "rooms," counting off steps like dancers rehearsing a complicated routine.

That's one way to rehearse clearing a building.

A better way is shooting your way through real ones using live ammunition. After all, nothing says "I trust you" like working with team members firing weapons a few inches away.

The most crucial part of preparing for urban fighting is building team confidence, said 1st Sgt. Joseph Cotto of the 1st Armored Division's Baumholder-based 2nd Brigade, 6th Infantry Regiment.

"The guy next to you is firing within a foot of you," Cotto said. "You need that confidence."

The Range 21 Shoot House at Baumholder is the newest firing house — and only the second in Europe — that allows soldiers to practice clearing buildings using live ammunition. The range opened Friday after a brief ribbon-cutting ceremony with Baumholder and 7th Army Training Command officials, then a demonstration by 2-6 soldiers without live ammunition.

The Baumholder shoot house — Europe's other one is in Grafenwöhr — is a product of the division's first Iraq deployment, said Sgt. 1st Class Cameron Richardson, master gunner for the 2nd Brigade.

Before, there was not as much emphasis on urban warfare training, said Richardson, who's been in the Army for 11 years. "Now our focus has changed. We knew once we hit [Iraq] cities like Fallujah... that we'd have to go in the buildings and clear them."

At one point in the 1st AD's April 2004 campaign against Muqtada



TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Pfc. Matthew Erickson, 22, from Othello, Wash., and Company B of the 2nd Battalion, 61st Infantry Regiment, boots open the door Friday during a demonstration at Baumholder's new shoot house, where soldiers can fire live rounds as they learn to clear buildings. Ready to go in with Erickson are Spc. Willis Sanft, 18, from Waco, Texas, and Spc. Jesse Rodriguez, 24, from Chicago, Ill. They are members of the same unit.

al-Sadr's Mahdi Army, his unit cleared 200 buildings at night in a 12-hour period, Cotto said. Incredibly dangerous and demanding, it was physically and mentally draining work, he said.

To hone their skills, soldiers took bombed-out buildings on the Butler Range, east of Baghdad, and started using them for live-fire training. Master Sgt. Alec Lazore, formerly the brigade master gunner, came up with the design, which cost about \$7,000 to build, Richardson said.

"Lazore returned from Iraq saying, 'We want a shoot house and we want it now,'" Jose Larroy, training support center supervisor said during Friday's ribbon-cutting ceremony. "He said, 'The brigade needs it.'"

Col. Ralph O. Baker, recently departed 2nd Brigade commander, blessed the project. Eighteen months and \$363,000 later, the facility opened.

To the untrained eye, the new Baumholder complex doesn't look like much. It's a series of small, crude, roofless buildings with 7-foot-high walls. But the walls are steel — representing most of the construction cost — which absorbs the rounds, lined inside by easily replaceable wood in two-by-fours.

Building designs give soldiers a lot of different looks, Richardson said. Soldiers enter one building and see multiple doors right off the bat. Enter another, and there's one way in, one way out. Depending on the building, halls are short, halls are long. There are single-room and multi-room setups inhabited by target silhouettes that can be positioned anywhere.

The shoot house is close to other training facilities, including Baumholder's Close Quarters Battle range and Military Operations on Urbanized Terrain ranges.

But soldier after soldier talked about how the shoot house is as realistic as it gets.

"It's not training for training's sake," said Sgt. Josh Brunick, one of the 2-6 soldiers in the demonstration.

The surrounding open ground can be integrated into all sorts of scenarios, such as a patrol taking small-arms fire from a compound, pulling up to it, securing the perimeter and then clearing the buildings, Richardson said.

Cotto said he'd like to see more obstacles inside each building: sofas and refrigerators to negotiate, and closets for suspects to hide in, just like Iraq.

Training officials are trying to scavenge old furniture that the housing office is about to pitch, Larroy said, to make things as realistic as possible.

So now, for 1st AD soldiers, staying alive in Iraq will start with a noisy day in Germany's shoot house.

"This," Richardson said, "is going to save lives."

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boydth@mail.strips.osd.mil

Little time to think with lives on the line

BAUMHOLDER, Germany — A four-man stack lines up against the wall of an Iraqi house.

Is the door locked?

The team leader checks it, then silently signals it is.

After he's certain his team is ready, his thumb goes up for "1."

His index finger goes out for "2."

His middle finger goes out for "3," and a soldier kicks in the door.

All four rush in, each with a section of the room to secure. Each must choose the path of least resistance to his point of dominance, said Sgt. 1st Class Cameron Richardson, master gunner for the 1st Armored Division's Baumholder-based 2nd Brigade.

Each team member relies on the others to do his job. If one fails, they all die.

The team must stay out of the "fatal funnel" of doorways, through which the enemy can fire. They must exercise "target discrimination," Richardson said. Do they shoot? Do they not shoot?

Information starts flying. The number of people. Dead. Wounded. The layout. Long hallways with lots of rooms, short hallways to one room. There are endless distractions.

As other squads clear nearby buildings, there may be shooting all around. A Squad Automatic Weapon gunner or a M-240B gunner may be firing support from a position outside the building, Richardson said.

Taking a squad into a building and clearing it "is a thinking man's game," said Sgt. Josh Brunick, 30, a squad leader with Company B of the Baumholder-based 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment.

Brunick is the squad leader who gave a brief building-clearing demonstration at Friday's ribbon-cutting for Baumholder's new live-fire shoot house. But he has done the real thing, learning the trade in Iraq.

The shoot house helps build confidence and trust for a task that calls for total mutual reliance, he said. In training scenarios, teams switch up positions and learn one another's jobs. But clearing buildings in urban warfare puts great pressure on the team leader, who controls the inside of the building, and the squad leader, who decides how and when teams will move next, and which door they'll open next, Brunick said.

Open that door, he said, "and the team leader makes a thousand decisions in two seconds."

— Terry Boyd

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IN THE WORLD

G8 officials OK canceling \$40 billion in debt relief

BY ED JOHNSON

The Associated Press

LONDON — Finance ministers from the Group of Eight industrialized nations agreed Saturday to a historic deal canceling at least \$40 billion worth of debt owed by the world's poorest nations.

Britain Treasury chief Gordon Brown said 18 countries, many in sub-Saharan Africa, will benefit immediately from the deal to scrap 100 percent of the debt they owe to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the African Development Bank.

As many as 20 other countries could be eligible if they meet strict targets for good governance and tackling corruption, leading to a total debt relief package of more than \$55 billion.

"The G8 finance ministers have agreed to 100 percent debt cancellation for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries," Brown told a news conference in London.

Aid agencies welcomed the deal, saying it would save the 18 countries a total of \$1.5 billion a year in debt repayments that could now be used for health care, education and infrastructure development.

Finance ministers from the United States, Britain, Japan, Canada, Russia, Germany, Italy and France agreed to the package during a two-day summit in London.

"A real milestone has been reached," U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow said. "President Bush's commitment to lift the crushing debt burden on the

world's poorest countries has been achieved.

This is an achievement of historic proportions."

Nations in sub-Saharan Africa alone owe some \$68 billion to international bodies. Rich nations had long agreed the debt must be relieved, but the international community could not agree on a formula for tackling the problem.

The package agreed to Saturday was put forward by the United States and Britain following talks in Washington last week between Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The agreement will initially cover 18 nations eligible for debt relief under the HIPC initiative, including Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana and Mali.



A 17-year-old Dutch-born man is seen with a towel over his head as he is arrested in front of his home in Noord, Aruba, on Thursday in connection with the disappearance of 18-year-old Natalee Holloway on May 30. Prosecutors say they are at a crucial point in the case.

Suspect in missing teen case: 'Something bad happened' to her

BY MICHAEL NORTON

The Associated Press

ORANJESTAD, Aruba — One of the young men detained in the disappearance of an Alabama honors student admitted "something bad happened" to the woman after they took her to the beach, a police officer said, while prosecutors said Saturday the investigation was at a crucial point.

But prosecutors refused to comment on the statement by Deputy Police Commissioner Gerold Dompig, who told The Associated Press that the man who made that admission was leading police to the scene. He refused to identify which of the three young men who took Natalee Holloway, 18, to a northern beach the night she went missing made the statement.

Police refused Saturday morning to say whether they discovered anything overnight to solve the mystery of what happened to Holloway, who was last seen in the early hours of May 30.

Referring to Dompig's statement, prosecution spokeswoman Vivian van der Biezen said Saturday: "We neither confirm nor deny any information coming from other sources ... [about] al-

leged statements of suspects in this case."

"The investigation at the moment is the following: Five suspects are being held ... and we are at a very crucial, very important moment in our investigation," she said.

Police investigating Holloway's disappearance arrested a man at dawn Saturday but later said he had nothing to do with the case.

The three young men arrested Thursday — two Surinamese brothers and the 17-year-old Dutch son of a high-ranking island judicial official — were to appear before a judge Saturday, government spokesman Ruben Trapenberg said. Authorities have refused to say on what grounds they were being held. The judge would decide whether police have sufficient grounds to continue holding them.

Police also have detained two other men — former security guards at a hotel near the one where Holloway was staying. No one has been charged in the case.

Island-wide searches by Aruban police, Dutch marines and hundreds of volunteer islanders and tourists continued Saturday, Trapenberg said.

Associated Press reporter Jay Reeves in Mountain Brook, Ala., contributed to this report.

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Saudis pressed for more nuclear openness

By GEORGE JAHN
The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — The United States, Europe and Australia are joining forces in an unusually stark reflection of concern in urging Saudi Arabia to allow in nuclear inspectors before a key meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency, officials said Friday.

Diplomats accredited to the agency and European officials told The Associated Press that both the European Union and Australia will send formal diplomatic notes to the Saudi government this week asking it to consider allowing in the IAEA inspectors.

Washington already has done so, but its chief delegate to Monday's IAEA board

U.S., Europe, Australia to send requests for Saudis to allow inspectors to verify nuke status

meeting, Jackie Sanders, will renew the request at a weekend meeting in Vienna with her Saudi counterpart, said the diplomats and officials, who requested anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media on such issues.

State Department press officer Tom Casey confirmed that U.S. diplomatic note had been delivered to the Saudis, saying Washington hoped that the country will agree to independent verification of its nuclear status "on a voluntary basis."

The joint diplomatic push is being

sparked by concerns the Saudis could be exempt from any outside policing of their nuclear agenda under an agreement they have negotiated with the IAEA, and by past Saudi nuclear ambiguities, including reported interest in a weapons program.

Senior Saudi foreign policy adviser Adel al-Jubeir sought to deflect such concerns Wednesday, telling the AP in Washington that his country has "no desire to acquire any type of weapon of mass destruction, period."

He also said reports, some based on U.S.

intelligence, that Saudi Arabia has sought possible nuclear weapons help from Pakistan are "not correct."

The diplomats said the Australian and EU diplomatic notes will urge the Saudis to go beyond the letter of the arrangement and commit to allow IAEA inspectors into the country, at least to take stock of what nuclear equipment and materials the Saudis might have.

The Saudis deny any plans to develop nuclear arms, and diplomats close to the IAEA say the agency has no firm evidence to the contrary. But the Saudi push to formalize minimal monitoring for the country comes amid increased nuclear-generated tensions in the region, fed by suspicions that rival Iran might want to develop the bomb.



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II arrives to inspect the troops at London's Horse Guards before the annual Trooping the Colour parade marking her official birthday on Saturday. Some 1,220 troops took part in the spectacular display of precision formation marching and horsemanship.

Britain marks queen's birthday with pomp

The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain put on one of its grandest annual shows on royal pageantry on Saturday with celebrations of Queen Elizabeth II's official birthday.

In a spectacular display of precision marching and horsemanship choreographed to military band music, about 1,220 soldiers in ceremonial red dress and huge black bearskin caps saluted the monarch in the Trooping the Colour ceremony at the Horse Guards Parade ground near Buckingham Palace.

The "color" being paraded on London's Horse Guards this year is the flag of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards.

The queen turned 79 on April 21, but public celebrations of the British monarch's birthday are always held on a Saturday in June, when the chances of fine weather are good.



Queen Elizabeth II

Thousands of people filled sidewalks around the palace on a partly cloudy day, hoping to catch a glimpse of the queen.

"I've got goose bumps. It's wonderful. I've got to see the queen," said Beryl Sixsmith, 64. She had come to London from her home in Manchester, a city in northern England.

The queen and her husband, Prince Philip, who celebrated his 84th birthday Friday, rode in an open carriage from Buckingham Palace along the wide, tree-lined Mall from the palace to the parade ground near Admiralty Arch.

Prince William, 22, elder son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, rode in a separate carriage with his stepmother, the Duchess of Cornwall. The duchess, the former Camilla Parker Bowles.

Earlier Saturday, the queen released her annual list of birthday honorees to many Britons, including veteran rockers Brian May, Jimmy Page, John Mayall and Mick Jagger.

Of the 894 names on the list, more than 500 are involved in voluntary work of some kind, according to Prime Minister Tony Blair's office, which draws up the list for the monarch to approve.

Japanese cops question student bomber

Bullying may have played role in attack that injured 58 teens

By NATALIE OBIKO PEARSON

The Associated Press

TKYO — Police questioned an 18-year-old student on Saturday about why he threw a homemade bomb into a high school classroom in southern Japan, wounding 58 teenagers when the gunpowder-filled jar exploded, spraying the room with glass shards and nails.

News reports said the boy told police he made the explosive using instructions found on the Internet and had planned the attack because his "pride had been hurt" repeatedly by other students and that he "had a grudge."

One male student was seriously injured with cuts to his legs and abdomen, and another student broke his finger in the attack Friday at Hikari public high school in Yamaguchi prefecture (state). The other injuries were minor.

Police said the boy fashioned the bomb from a glass bottle filled with a combination of gunpowder and other substances.

The more severe injuries were caused by several dozen nails which were stuffed into the bottle along with gunpowder stripped from firecrackers and connected to a crude fuse, Asahi TV and the Mainichi newspaper reported. Public broadcaster NHK said he told police he used instructions from a Web site to make the bomb.

Investigators uncovered evidence indicating the suspect had also been building a second bomb, Kyodo News agency reported.

The suspect was arrested soon after the attack on charges of assault. But police have not ruled out the possibility of raising that charge to attempted murder, the Yomiuri newspaper said.

Teachers and administrators from the high school convened Saturday to set up a team to investigate why the incident occurred and arrange counseling for traumatized students, school official Norio Fukano said.

School officials and news reports described the boy as quiet, courteous and a conscientious student who never skipped class and had an academic record "above average." The suspect's name was being withheld because he is a minor.

But they also described a loner who was often bullied since middle school and was extremely withdrawn. "Of course we will be looking into whether bullying may have had something to do with the incident," Fukano said.

When the boy threw the bomb into the classroom, it burst into flames and exploded with a loud bang as it landed just in front of the teacher's desk, spreading shards of glass, nails and white smoke across the room. Of the 58 students treated after the incident, 17 were hospitalized.

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IN THE STATES

U.S., N. Korea seeking common voice on nukes

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush and South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun pressed North Korea to rejoin denuclearized talks on its nuclear weapons program on Friday and tried to minimize their own differences over how hard to push the reclusive communist regime.

Roh, whose government has resisted the tougher approach advocated by the Bush administration toward ending the impasse, said he agreed that six-nation talks remain the best way to persuade Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

While Bush emphasized that the two allies "are of one voice" on the issue, Roh, who is presiding over a South Korea newly assertive about its role in the region, raised the issue of remaining differences.

"There are, admittedly, many people who worry about potential discord or cacophony between the two powers of the alliance," he said through a translator.

Roh opposes military action if diplomacy with North Korea fails. South Korea also is cool to the idea of taking the North Korean standstill to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions. South Korea instead is pursuing a policy of engagement with the communist North and supports a security guarantee or economic incentives to entice North Korea to return to six-nation talks it has boycotted for nearly a year.

Bush, however, wants South Korea — as well as China — to take a more aggressive stance. The president said Friday he had no new inducements for North Korea beyond those offered last June, when the North was told it could get economic and diplomatic benefits once it had verifiably disarmed. Anything else, in the U.S. view, would amount to a reward for nuclear blackmail.

While insisting the U.S. has no intention of launching a military strike, Bush also has steadfastly refused to take that option off the

Bush pushing energy bill, Social Security

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The future economic security of the nation is in the hands of Congress, President Bush said Saturday.

Setting the stage for a week in which he will push stalled sections of his domestic agenda, Bush told his weekly radio audience that lawmakers need to get an energy bill to his desk within weeks and embrace his ideas for changing Social Security.

On Wednesday in Washington, he'll renew his call for Congress to act on an energy plan.

Despite opposition from the White House, a growing number of Republican and Democratic senators want to address global warming as part of the country's broad energy policy. The Senate is scheduled to take up energy legislation next week. Whether to include a measure on climate change, such as limiting heat-trapping emissions, will be sharply debated.

table. And the administration is increasingly hinting it is closer to pursuing U.N. sanctions.

North Korea, widely believed to have enough weapons-grade plutonium for a half-dozen nuclear bombs, has sent mixed signals on whether it will return to negotiations with the United States, South Korea, China, Japan and Russia. North Korean diplomats indicated earlier this week they were willing to come back, but they set no date.

Roh campaigned in 2002 promising to put South Korea on a more equal footing with the United States, using language some viewed as anti-American.



Approaching Tropical Storm Arlene produces strong waves Friday at Pensacola Beach, Fla., on the northern Gulf Coast. Officials expected the storm to hit land on Saturday.

Tropical Storm Arlene approaches Gulf Coast

Residents from Florida to Mississippi brace for possible hurricane

BY BILL KACZOR

The Associated Press

PENSACOLA BEACH, Fla. — Heavy rain drenched the Florida Panhandle early Saturday and heavy surf pounded beaches as Tropical Storm Arlene plodded toward the Gulf Coast, chasing a few weather-weary residents into shelters.

The storm had wind blowing at a sustained 70 mph, and the National Hurricane Center posted a hurricane warning along 125 miles of coast from Pascaoula, Miss., to Destin in the western Florida Panhandle.

Meteorologists said Arlene could build into a Category 1 hurricane by landfall, with its heaviest wind and rain east of the storm's center. The center of the storm was expected to hit the northern Gulf Coast during the mid to late afternoon, the hurricane center said.

Bob Garcia checked into a Red Cross shelter at Gulf Shores, Ala., with his son, Tammy.

Garcia said they live in a mobile home in Somersdale, Ala., and there was "no sense in taking chances" with the possibility of tornadoes developing as the storm plowed shore. He was one of only 13 people in the shelter Saturday morning.

One death had been blamed on the storm — a Russian exchange student died after she was pulled from the rolling waves off Miami Beach on Friday.

The worst fears were in the Florida Panhandle, still reeling from Hurricane Ivan nine months ago. Piles of debris, gutted homes and storm-damaged roofs covered by plastic blue tarps are vivid reminders of Ivan's wrath.

"I was pretty shocked to see how bad it still was," said tourist Roddy Rogers, 46, of Springfield, Mo. "I've been in third-world countries and it looks kind of like that in some places."

Officials urged thousands of people in low-lying areas of three Panhandle counties to evacuate, and people flocked to hardware stores to buy generators, flashlights and other hurricane supplies.

At the Islander Package and Lounge in Pensacola Beach, a sign read "Here we go again."

By midmorning, about 4,000 Gulf Power customers in Escambia County, Fla., were blacked out, though most service was quickly restored.

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush declared a state of emergency Friday.

At 11 a.m. EDT Saturday, the storm was centered 85 miles south-southeast of Mobile, Ala., and was meandering toward the north-northwest at 14 mph. Hurricane watches and tropical storm warnings extended west to Grand Isle, La., and east to Indian Pass, Fla. A tornado watch was issued for a huge swath of the Gulf region.

Associated Press writer Gary Mitchell contributed to this report from Gulf Shores, Ala.

More nation stories on Page 15



President Bush, listens Friday as South Korea's President Roh Moo-hyun, left, talks in the Oval Office of the White House.

Bush picks Redd for counterterrorism post

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Bush Friday nominated retired Vice Adm. John Redd, who served as executive director of the presidential commission on intelligence, to run the National Counterterrorism Center in McLean, Va., and called on Congress to renew the USA Patriot Act to help law enforcement officials like such as Redd hunt and capture terrorists.

Visiting the new Northern Virginia facility, which is responsible for analyzing intelligence on ter-

rorism and for the strategic planning of counterterrorism operations, Bush said Redd is a "man of enormous experience" who will be a "good boss" at the NCTC.

Redd is a 36-year Navy veteran and was commander of the Navy's Fifth Fleet in the Middle East. Most recently, he served as deputy administrator and chief operating officer of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad. He has never been involved in counter-terrorism operations.

The NCTC, which is part of the domain of John D. Negroponte, the new director of national intel-

ligence, will draw information from 26 different government networks, including air-traffic control; its analysts come from the CIA, the FBI, and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as other agencies. The CIA, the FBI and other government law-enforcement units are expected to carry out anti-terrorism operations based on information collected by the NCTC.

If confirmed by the Senate, Redd, 60, would replace John Brennan, a longtime CIA official who has served as the center's acting director. Redd will report directly to the president.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Panel grid to press Congress The Dallas Morning News

They're not backing down. That's the best way to sum up Monday's first unofficial meeting of the members of the panel investigating the Sept. 11 attacks. And they are wise to keep pushing Washington. The Sept. 11 commission may have published its recommendations last summer, but Americans still face homeland security risks. Here are two problems:

■ Congress still hasn't reorganized itself sufficiently. The House recently tried to eliminate confusion about who's keeping America safe by creating a Homeland Security Committee. But the committee doesn't have the House's entire homeland security portfolio. For example, it must compete with the House's transportation committee to ensure airport screenings are doing their work. The Senate's worse. Its Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee oversees only 30 percent of all homeland security spending and 8 percent of all homeland security personnel. ... House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist should get on this by consolidating power in these committees by year's end.

■ Russia is still coming from in the wrong hands. Russian leaders, for example, are quibbling with the United States over who would be liable if an old Russian nuke went off while Russian and U.S. scientists were decommissioning it. The White House should push hard on this one both sides can get to the real task of neutering nukes.

None of us has forgotten the images of Sept. 11. But we do have to have last sense of urgency about keeping the country safe. More power to the Sept. 11 panel members for keeping Americans focused on our present dangers.

'Curious crew' motivated Felt Chicago Tribune

High drama and high mystery. The revelation of W. Mark Felt as "Deep Throat" tantalizes because it creates so many new mysteries.

Why did Felt, the No. 2 man at the FBI at the time, decide a prime source for Washington Post reporters? The Vanity Fair article in which Felt breaks his cover to author John D. O'Connor reveals that Felt harbored "increasing contempt for this curious crew at the White House, whom he saw as intent on utilizing the Justice Department for their political ends."

It may have been personal, too. After [FBI Director J. Edgar] Hoover died, Felt was passed over for the top job when L. Patrick Gray became the bureau's interim successor. A patriot out to save the country? A guy with a grudge? That's another mystery, the motivation of the leaker. ...

Watergate wasn't just about a misandred bid of Democratic Party headquarters. It was what followed the break-in that caused Nixon's fall, the cover-up, the abuse of power, the White House's attempted misdirection, government agencies, including the FBI. ...

Watergate was a scandal unlike any other in American history, leading to the only resignation of an American president. Yet Watergate can still surprise. It can still turn up an old FBI man who got enough encouragement, protected his turf and helped save the country from further grief.

Look at charges, not source Journal Star, Peoria, Ill.

Last month Newsweek magazine retracted a small story reporting that interrogators at Guantanamo Bay had flushed the Quran



down the toilet. The magazine said its source wasn't sure. Unfortunately, the next two weeks produced better sources for stories of more heinous abuse. The allegation from Amnesty International that the Cuba prison camp is "the gulag of our time" has gotten the most notoriety, understandably. ... By the Stalinist standards identified with the term, Guantanamo is no "gulag," and President Bush says so earlier this month. ...

Americans who were abashed at the pictures from Abu Ghraib should be equally disturbed by ... two of Amnesty International's conclusions: The United States tried to dilute the generally accepted torture ban, and its mistreatment of prisoners has granted a license to other nations to do the same.

This is not the kind of light this nation wants to shine, nor is it likely to get would-be attackers and their allies by the President Bush's argument that we are the country that "promotes freedom around the world." ...

A president who sees the world in terms of right and wrong should not have been so ready to dismiss Amnesty's findings because the accounts came from "people who hate America."

Jets playing Games with N.J. The Record of Bergen County, N.J.

At what point will reality sink in for the New York Jets? New York City's bid for the 2012 Summer Olympics grows shakier by the day, and so does the \$2 billion stadium boondoggle planned for Manhattan's West Side. Sooner rather than later, the team must realize that its future lies in the Meadowlands, in a new stadium that it could share with the Giants.

As a practical matter, it makes no sense for the Jets to seek a new home on the West Side or anywhere else across the Hudson [River]. The Giants already have the go-ahead to build a terrific \$750 million stadium in the Meadowlands Sports Complex. The Jets would be wise to get involved now, while the team can still have input in the design. ...

Odds-makers in London now list Paris as the 1-4 favorite to get the Games. In contrast, New York City is a 33-1 long shot.

In other words, it's time for the Jets to punt — and stay in the Meadowlands. And if New York City hopes to win the Olympic bid sometime after 2012, a brand-new stadium nearby in the Meadowlands might come in handy.

Win secure, Gregoire can lead The Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Democratic Gov. Christine Gregoire now has a full four-year term to finish serving as governor. For Republicans, the 2004 election is over.

For Washington voters, Monday's court ruling means a chance to see whether Gregoire can sustain the remarkably strong leadership she displayed during the first legislative session. ...

Voters also have an opportunity to demand changes in slipshod election procedures brought to light by the examination of Gregoire's narrow victory over Republican Dino Rossi. Chelan County Superior Court Judge John Bridges said the "voters of this state are in a position to demand" improvements. ...

For Washington, the facts on the ground have been clearly established. Gregoire is governor, by right of a 133-vote victory. ... Washington's progress on education, economic development and every other issue will depend a great deal on how well she leads from now until 2008. She has 3½ years to make a better state.

Working parents need daycare The Republican, Springfield, Mass.

The landmark 1996 welfare reform act requiring almost all parents to work — including those with preschool-age and younger children — is due to expire at the end of the month, and legislation now before Congress calls for even stiffer work requirements.

The Bush administration's rationale for the tougher rules was bluntly expressed by a White House spokesman. "Part-time work doesn't get you out of poverty," he said. "Let's not have a system that throws a parent when people get part-time jobs."

Requiring parents to work full-time hours, however, means that they'll have to pay more for child care. And that's if they can find it.

Under the current system, child-care subsidies — and the nation's supply of care providers — have not kept pace with the needs of hundreds of thousands of workers on welfare and other low-income workers who are not welfare-dependent. ...

Both groups of workers compete for the subsidies under the same federal grant. The amount of that grant has become the focus of the debate as the June 30 reauthorization deadline approaches. ...

Without increased subsidies, poverty will

continue to be a way of life far too many Americans, and their children's futures will be bleak. The societal price will be high. Surely, that's nothing to party about.

Medical pot still has backers The Philadelphia Daily News

Time to drop the doobie. Marijuana is bad for you, even if it's the only drug that makes the cancer that's killing you manageable.

Last week the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states can't make marijuana legal for medicinal purposes, trashing the laws of 10 states that did just that.

The ruling was hailed by the White House. Drug czar John Walters said, "Today's decision marks the end of medical marijuana as a political issue."

He may be wrong about that. ... While we're not ready to completely decriminalize marijuana, it's way past time for a more humane and rational approach. It's hard to think of grass as a major battle in the war on drugs, especially when you consider the harm and addictive properties of other legal drugs, like OxyContin. ...

Ten states ... and their voters — saw the wisdom of treating marijuana differently from other controlled substances.

We suspect the rest of the nation would feel the same way — if Congress would allow itself to consider the issue.

Ills on both sides of border Los Angeles Times

Just as surely as the sky is blue, law enforcement in Mexico is corrupt. That assumption may too often be true, but it is incomplete. A federal sting that exposed surprising openness to bribery among U.S. soldiers and law enforcement officers in the U.S.-Mexico border ought to turn on a light bulb.

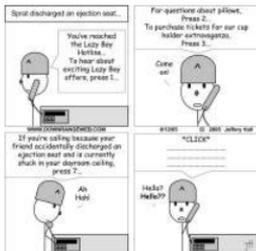
Recent stories ... showed that Army National Guard Humvees were used to deliver hundreds of pounds of cocaine to an Arizona hotel. ...

Higher-level officials are apparently not immune. A federal grand jury Tuesday indicted a former immigration service intelligence chief in San Diego on charges of covering up a drug and immigrant smuggling ring. Even Forest Service rangers have been caught smuggling marijuana in Arizona. ...

The Arizona bribery sting is commendable, even if it shatters a few U.S. illusions. It also ought to raise some radical questions about the enforcement and results of our border policies.

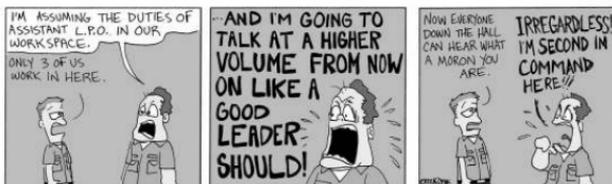
stuff

Downrange



Downrange is drawn by Jeffery Hall. Check out the Web site: www.downrangeweb.com.

Ricky's Tour



Ricky's Tour is drawn by Mike Jones, an enlisted Navy Journalist. Email: rickykstour@yahoo.com

Girls & Sports



Girls & Sports is penned by Andrew Feinstein and Justin Borus. E-mail: creators@girlsandsports.com

Web site of the week

Need some tips on chowin' down? Check out the site for petite competitive eater Sonya Thomas at www.sonymatheblackwidow.com

MATCH PLAY BY PATRICK MERRELL / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

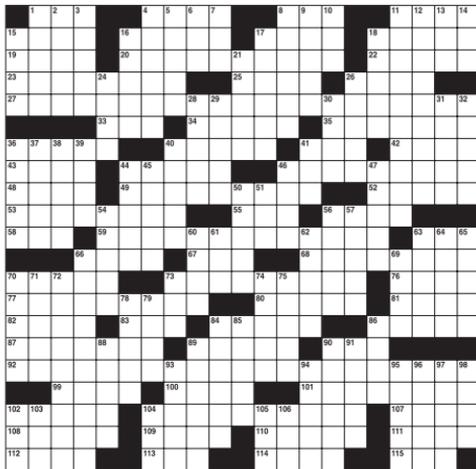
- 1 Pen filler
4 Unit of change
8 Sky line?
11 Calf accompanier
15 _Alto
16 Mexican silverworks city
17 Latino sports legend
18 Kind of infection, for short
19 "___ the opinion ..."
20 Source of unrest
22 Flynn of film
23 Harem
25 Knock for a loop
26 Given the heave-ho
27 In -, 4-, 8- and 11-Across, when treated as 59-Across
33 Mideast land: Abbr.
34 Cowpoke's charge
35 Rubber
36 Company's plant, e.g.
40 They have hands and hooves
41 Michael Jackson movie musical, with "The"
42 Sir Henry for whom a gallery is named
43 Forty-niner's equipment
44 Tweet
46 Imbed with
48 Stub ___

- 49 They're adjacent to
52 Formula One challenges
53 Splashdown recovers
55 Baton Rouge sch.
56 Datum for a seey.
58 ___ the bat hah
59 / His cloister'd flight ..."
59 43-, 44-, 80- and 81-Across, literally ..."
63 Bygone carrier
66 With 9-Down, is compatible
67 Former press secretary Fleischer
68 Land-locked national
70 Ruhr Valley city
73 Ones higher up in a tree
76 Some
77 Out of stock
80 60's symbol
81 Puncture sound
82 Taking care of matters
83 Ultimate end
84 Peter, Paul or Mary
86 Substantial
87 With 103-Down, Shakespearean title character
89 Latin "earth"
90 Superfund administrator: Abbr.

- 92 112-, 113-, 114- and 115-Across (for this puzzle's challenges)
99 Raiser
100 Writer Bombeck
101 Standing
102 Biscayne Bay city
104 Rustic furniture material
107 Hot drink in a cup
108 Lombardy capital
109 Welk's "... and ..."
110 "Bellefleur" author
111 Mideast ruler
112 Big wheel site
113 Scale unit
114 Small fastener
115 General in the Capitol's Statuary Hall

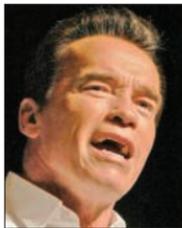
DOWN

- 1 Animal with three hds on each eye
2 Prayer starter
3 Skim
4 More conniving
5 Mario Cuomo or Gray Davis, I' rinstance
6 Big maker of A.T.M.'s
7 ___ fault
8 Adjut. as an engine
9 Forty-niner's equipment
10 "So's ___ old lady!"
11 Cardiologist's exam
12 Mules
13 Business sect. listing
14 Org. with many goals
15 El ___
16 Agree (with)
17 Cajun French, e.g.
18 Battle of the ___
21 Churchful gesture
24 Heroic deed
26 Dazzle
28 "Do ___?"
29 Jazes (up)
30 Friendly femme
31 Many a navel
32 Birnhouse dwellers
36 With some urgency
37 Lutelike instrument
38 Sweep
39 Just makes, with "out"
40 "To begin with ..."
41 Oz. and kg.
44 B, basically
45 Work force that turns over a lot
46 Apesation
47 Plectrum with a circular red, white and blue logo
50 Title role for Jude Law or Michael Caine
51 This ___ surprise!"
54 One of the Ivies
56 Basic multiple choice
57 Sign of life
60 Trap filler



- 61 Frodo pursuer
62 W.W. II craft
63 Leg part
64 Dieter's measure
65 Impatient
66 King of power
67 Common in Iceland
69 Museum artifact
70 Poetically large
71 Access Braga
72 Street competition
73 Boric acid target
74 Veep after Hubert
75 Morning break time, maybe
78 King in the Gospels
79 Left hand's starting position for a touch typist
84 "It would ___ me ..."
85 Enlightened Buddhist
86 K follower
88 "The results ___"
89 Caught off guard
90 Netanyahu's predecessor as P.M.
93 50 past
94 Rice/Lloyd Webber musical
95 Rope fiber
96 Part of Caesar's boast
97 Jack of "The Great Dictator"
98 Phillie or Card
102 "Yummy"
103 See 87-Across
104 Half a candy bar name
105 Age-determining stat.
106 Scorecard number

RESULTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 19



Arnold Schwarzenegger



Ronald Reagan

Following Reagan's path

New biography on Gov. Schwarzenegger points to similarities between actors who went political

BY BETH FOUHY
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A new biography of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger compares the actor-turned-politician favorably

to California's Republican icon, former President Ronald Reagan.

However, author Laurence Leamer also paints a cautionary tale in "Fantastic: The Life of Arnold Schwarzenegger."

He suggests the gifts the Repub-

lican governor shares with Reagan — unstinting optimism combined with a righteous populism — may not be sufficient to push through a business-backed government reform agenda out of step with the state's heavily Democratic population.

Schwarzenegger, elected in 2003, has seen his popularity slide as he pushes proposals to cap state spending and make it harder for teachers to gain tenure.

He has been feuding with groups he calls "special interests" — teachers, nurses and other public employee unions who accuse him of shortchanging education, health care and other programs.

Leamer presents Schwarzenegger's gamble in a positive light, suggesting he is risking his own image to make bold changes in state government.

Schwarzenegger's personal story has been told many times before — that of the penniless Austrian bodybuilder who emigrated to the United States to become a one-man business and entertainment empire before turning his focus to politics.

In the book, Leamer weaves the story together in exhaustive detail, offering new insight into Schwarzenegger's calculations behind his choice of movie roles and his relationship with his wife, former television journalist Maria Shriver.

While Republicans have expressed deep suspicions about Shriver's influence over her husband's policy decisions, Leamer describes her as a committed partner whose only agenda is that he be well-served by those around him.

Leamer, though, warns that voters' trust in Schwarzenegger could disintegrate as he resembles more and more the kind of traditional politician he once decried.

Despite Schwarzenegger's pledge to remove special interest money from politics, he raised \$26.6 million in his first year alone, almost all from business interests with a stake in legislation.

Former senator dies

LINCOLN, Neb. — Jim Exon, a Democrat who served two terms as governor and three terms in the U.S. Senate for Nebraska, died Friday. He was 83.

Exon died of natural causes at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, his family said in a statement released by the hospital. He had been treated for cancer several years ago, but declined to discuss it publicly, saying in 2003, "It's not a highly malignant type of cancer and I'm not in dire straits."

The broad-shouldered senator once dubbed "Big Jim" started in the party as a precinct worker and was chairman of the state Democratic Party when he made his first bid for public office, winning the governor's seat in 1970.

Exon was elected to the Senate in 1978, serving through 1996.

From The Associated Press



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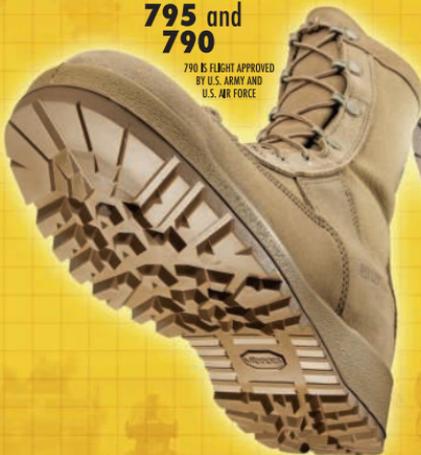
www.mini.de/militarysales



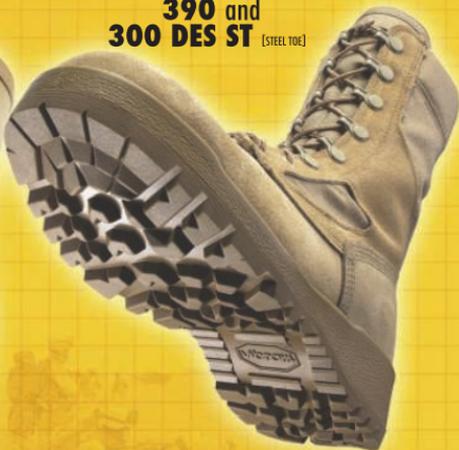
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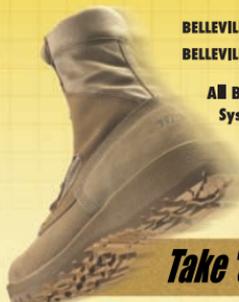
BELLEVILLE 790: Temperate Weather boot that is FLIGHT APPROVED by the US Army and Airforce; keeps your foot dry with a breathable GORE-TEX[®] fabric bootie

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Sgt. Brian Horn



May's Unsung Hero of the Month

SGT. Brian Horn from LaPlata, Maryland, an Army infantry soldier with the 173rd Airborne Brigade was in the Kirkuk area of Iraq when he started the idea of Any Soldier to help care for his soldiers. He agreed to distribute packages that came to him with "Attn: Any Soldier" in the address to the soldiers who were not getting mail. Brian is in Afghanistan now, and Any Soldier Inc. continues through charitable support. Any Soldier Inc. started in August 2003 as a simple family effort to help the soldiers in

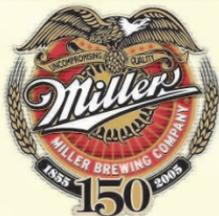
one Army unit. Now, due to overwhelming requests, the Any Soldier effort has been expanded to include any member of the Armed Services who is in harm's way. The unselfish nature of SGT. Horn displays the best of our men and women in uniform. While he himself was in harm's way, SGT. Horn selflessly found a way to help other soldiers in need.

AnySoldier.com is a program created to help American soldiers in all branches of the military - both active duty and reservists - who have been deployed for the war. These men and women in uniform are cared for, via letters and packages from "home." AnySoldier.com features emails from over 3,500 different military personnel regarding the type of support needed in the field. The support could be in the form of a simple letter or package, or it could include toiletries, food or even newspapers and magazines.

Who's Your Hero? Miller wants to know

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Sunday Horoscope

Previously buried emotions bubble to the surface, and with Mercury now exploring Cancer, it's safe to express them to people in the inner circle. But anyone else — well, you'll think twice before showing even a glimpse of vulnerability. While the moon is void, there's an inevitable lull in the action. You may as well relax and enjoy.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(June 12). The fruits of your labor are big and juicy this year! Work is so much more than a means to an end — but your bank balance still matters. By this time next month, you'll have that padding you need to take a leap of faith. Your graceful acceptance of what everyone has to give makes you lucky in love. Singles hit off with Libra or Scorpio loves.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Cupid is an impish child who thinks it's funny to play "chemistry" with your heart. Keep in mind that charm and infatuation are approximately the same thing and neither has much to do with true love.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

Anyone can turn something simple into a complex activity. But your strength is taking something complicated and making it simple — and that's why you'll be sought out, rewarded and admired.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

All behavior that is learned can't be unlearned. You'll be trying your best to do just that. Instead of beating your head against the wall, take a break and try again tomorrow when your incentive will be greater.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

With Mercury newly visiting your sign, you are more willing to express every feeling that flickers across your heart — and you find the words to do so, too! You won't feel very productive today, but try to do some organizing tonight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You put your complete self into a task, expecting fast results that don't come. Now that you know this, you can enjoy your activities more fully. The luckiest endeavor is to find a

place of compassion between humans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Emotional security is a valid need. You want answers to your relationship quandaries — answers that are not easily given, but it doesn't hurt to start the conversation. If single and looking, the best opening line is "hello."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You'll meet someone who represents the worst traits of a parent — and, of course, fall immediately under this person's spell. There's a difference between trusting your heart and being the victim of your own whim. Strike a balance.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You may not think you are flirting, but your attitude does the flirting for you! Therefore, be aware of loved ones who are feeling sensitive, raw and unconfident. Give special care where it is needed.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

It's the headheard, practical ideas that work brilliantly — and you'll have dozens of these to choose from if you surround yourself with earth signs (Taurus, Capricorn and Virgo). Affection is lavished on you tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Just as proper nutrition is key to keeping your body in condition, frequent chatting sessions with friends can do the same for your mind. Bounce your latest and greatest ideas off your pals for instant positive feedback.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Though you have blossomed into a responsible adult, some people you know never did. Don't let them guilt you into doing things that you find juvenile. Singles: An admirer sends subtle signals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Being apathetic is generally not considered positive, but when loved ones bring their personal drama into your realm, apathy is the way to go. Avoid acknowledging conflict, or you will get drawn into the madness.

Creators Syndicate

RESULTS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE PAGE 14

3	11	15	19	23	27	31	35	39	43	47	51	55	59	63	67	71	75	79	83	87	91	95	99	103	107	111	115	119	123	127	131	135	139	143	147	151	155	159	163	167	171	175	179	183	187	191	195	199	203	207	211	215	219	223	227	231	235	239	243	247	251	255	259	263	267	271	275	279	283	287	291	295	299	303	307	311	315	319	323	327	331	335	339	343	347	351	355	359	363	367	371	375	379	383	387	391	395	399	403	407	411	415	419	423	427	431	435	439	443	447	451	455	459	463	467	471	475	479	483	487	491	495	499	503	507	511	515	519	523	527	531	535	539	543	547	551	555	559	563	567	571	575	579	583	587	591	595	599	603	607	611	615	619	623	627	631	635	639	643	647	651	655	659	663	667	671	675	679	683	687	691	695	699	703	707	711	715	719	723	727	731	735	739	743	747	751	755	759	763	767	771	775	779	783	787	791	795	799	803	807	811	815	819	823	827	831	835	839	843	847	851	855	859	863	867	871	875	879	883	887	891	895	899	903	907	911	915	919	923	927	931	935	939	943	947	951	955	959	963	967	971	975	979	983	987	991	995	999
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Get help with taking care of, leaving abusive husband

Dear Abby: I'll make a long story short. I was married to an abusive man I'll call Tony. We had a child together, which I suppose is why I stayed with him for four years.

Anyway, we separated, and now I'm in love with his brother, "Joe."

I thought I was so in love with Joe that I let my heart take control. The problem is, he's abusive to me, too. He tried to choke me to death. I want to leave him, but I'm scared because he told me that my husband and his family are trying to take my daughter away from me — and he says if I leave him he'll make sure they get her.

I'm scared to go to the police because I'm sure I'm going to lose my daughter, and I love her dearly. I can't stand the thought of losing her. I have spoken to Tony about this. He says he would never take my daughter away from me. But I have heard so many things I don't know what to do. No longer want to be with Joe. I just want to be alone with no headaches. Please help me.

—Afraid and Confused in New York

Dear Afraid: One way abusers control their victims is through fear, and that's what Joe is trying

to do with you when he threatens you with taking your child. Because this man can be violent, it's even more important that you get your daughter away from him. Many abusers have no compunction about acting out on a child if they feel provoked.

Dear Abby: Pick up the phone and call 1-800-799-7233. It's the toll-free number of the National Domestic Violence Hotline.

They will help you to formulate a safe escape plan for you and your child. I wish you the best of luck.

Dear Abby: Some-

thing happened on a flight to the southwest part of the United States recently, and I'm still seething about it. The flight attendant was taking drink orders. When she took the orders for my nieces, she instructed them to say "please" when giving their order. My sister and I looked at each other in stunned silence. There were other children seated around us, and we listened to see if she would ask them to also say please. They didn't, nor did she ask them to. Please note that my sister and I are African-American.

My nieces are of mixed parentage; the children sitting

around us were Caucasian.

When the drink orders arrived and were being distributed, the flight attendant told my nieces to say "thank you." Abby, my nieces are very polite girls. They were always taught to say please and thank you. Having someone demand that they say it before they had an opportunity to do so on their own was humiliating not only to them but also to my sister and me.

What should we have done? Should we have taken the attendant aside and asked for an apology, ignored it, or spoken to the airline about it? The whole incident has left a bad taste in our mouths.

Dear Embarrassed in Flight, III: The flight attendant's behavior was patronizing, presumptuous and discriminatory. If you had called her on it during the flight, the situation might have escalated into an incident that was even more embarrassing.

Do not ignore it. Write a letter to the president of the airline and describe what happened, including the date it occurred, the flight number, and a description of the person who insulted you.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69480, 655 Kingsley Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Letters can write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.usexpress.com/dearabby>

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Blunty call father out on his viewing of Web pornography

Dear Annie: I am a 15-year-old girl. I really like going on our family computer and surfing the Internet, but I have a problem with my father. He is constantly going on pornographic websites.

I know because I have to clean out the "cookie" files that tell where people have been, and I know for a fact that my mother and sister would not go to pages like that.

The sites don't have underage girls on them, or anything illegal like that, but it still bothers me because we are constantly getting viruses and spyware on our computer.

I've been dropping hints to Dad that I know what he is doing, but he doesn't seem to get it.

This really disgusts and embarrasses me, and I do not understand why he needs to look at things like that so often. What should I do?

—Embarrassed in Manitoba

Dear Embarrassed: It's time to be more direct with Dad regarding the porn sites.

Show him exactly how you know where he's been so he can clean up his own act and not expect you to do it for him. He also could use some updated virus protection.

If things don't change, tell Mom.

Annie's Mailbox

Dear Annie: My older sister, "Ernestine," has all the old family photo albums, as well as boxes of old family home movies. Over the years, I've made many requests for her to let me see the photos and films so I can make copies, but she has totally ignored me.

I know these things are collecting dust in Ernestine's attic and that she doesn't look at them. The photos and films clearly mean very little to her, but they are precious to me, and my frustration is turning into anger and resentment.

Ernestine and I are not particularly close. She says she'll make the films and pictures available to me "one of these days." It's been said this for the last 20 years. She insists she doesn't have the time to search for them. She offered to

give them to our brother (whom she likes more than me) so he can make copies for everyone, but he said he is not interested.

These films and photos contain the only images of me with my late parents, and it hurts deeply that my sister is preventing me from seeing them. I would pay for the duplication and will return the originals to her.

How can I best articulate to Ernestine how much these images mean to me?

—Pictureless in Boston

Dear Pictureless: Either Ernestine is terribly lazy or she doesn't want to accommodate you. You can ask her directly, "Why won't you give me the photographs?" although she may give you a satisfactory answer.

Can you offer to go through the attic and look for the pictures yourself? Otherwise, since she is willing to give them to your brother, ask him to intercede on your behalf. If he will simply accept the pictures from Ernestine, you can then make copies.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. E-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.com/letnet, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Cross Country, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045

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Fin fine

CA SAN DIEGO — A federal judge ordered a Hong Kong company to pay for 29 metric tons of shark fins found aboard one of the company's contract vessels in open seas off Guatemala.

Tai Loong Hong Marine Products, which signed the order Monday, said in court papers it plans to appeal the agreement, which required it to pay the nearly \$620,000. A federal law passed five years ago makes it illegal for vessels to hunt sharks for their fins in U.S. waters and for any U.S. fishing vessel to have shark fins on board without the rest of the carcass.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ment of Agriculture is still probing accusations of animal abuse.

A nine-page report released by three outside zoological professionals found flaws in the zoo's hierarchy, staffing and planning — but no evidence of "serious deficiencies." A separate investigation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture is under way.

Kris Nelson, a veterinarian who serves on the zoo's Animal Health Committee, last month publicly disclosed a list of more than 30 incidents in which she said animals suffered or died unnecessarily.

'Get your ice-cold pot!'

TN MEMPHIS — An ice cream man is getting a chilly reception from police.

Marshall Gene Beasley, 27, was arrested on charges of selling marijuana along with his other frosty fare.

"This is a guy going down neighborhood streets who's around and near children," said David McGriff, drug task force director.

"I'm not saying he sold to children, but we bought marijuana from him while he was operating the ice cream truck."

The company Beasley worked for will get back the truck and its stock because there's no evidence the business knew of his alleged activities.

Family has right stroke

NY CHENANGO FORKS — Cousins Joanie Villecco and Ruthie MacDonald are quite a pair — a pair of aces, to be exact.

Black history class

PA PHILADELPHIA — City high school students will be required to take a class in African and African American history, a move that education experts believe is unique in the nation.

The requirement in the 185,000-student district, which is about two-thirds black, begins in September, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

The yearlong course covers subjects including classical African civilizations, civil rights and black nationalism, said Gregory Thornton, the district's chief academic officer. The other social studies requirements are American history, geography and world history.

Doc weeded out

IN COLUMBUS — A state medical board has suspended the license of a former New York City doctor accused of growing marijuana in his home.

Dr. Arnaldo F. Trabucco, a urologist, is prohibited from practicing medicine in Indiana until the suspension is resolved, according to the emergency order by the Medical Licensing Board of Indiana.

Trabucco and his wife, Pamela, face charges of possession of marijuana, filed after Bartholomew County sheriff's deputies and U.S. postal inspectors found marijuana plants growing in the couple's Columbus house.

Fungi no fun for maples

ME LEWISTON — A fungus that thrives in wet conditions is infecting maple trees from Wells to Bangor, leaving blotched or blackened leaves that make it seem as if the trees are dead.

But appearances may be deceiving, according to Lewiston city arborist Steve Murch. He said that unless the tree is sick to begin with, new, healthy leaves should return in about a month.

"My biggest fear is that people are just going to cut down a healthy tree," he said. "Don't do it."

The culprit is maple anthracnose, a fungus that thrives in wet conditions, said Clark Granger, plant pathologist for the Maine Forest Service. The fungal spores infect trees as they bud, and the fungus eventually eats away at the leaves.

Zoo investigated

AZ PHOENIX — Independent experts cleared the Phoenix Zoo of allegations of wide-ranging problems with its animal care, but the U.S. Depart-

ment of Agriculture is still probing accusations of animal abuse.

A nine-page report released by three outside zoological professionals found flaws in the zoo's hierarchy, staffing and planning — but no evidence of "serious deficiencies." A separate investigation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture is under way.

Kris Nelson, a veterinarian who serves on the zoo's Animal Health Committee, last month publicly disclosed a list of more than 30 incidents in which she said animals suffered or died unnecessarily.

Prostitution patrol

MI MOUNT CLEMENS — Some community activists are walking the streets to fight streetwalkers.

North Gratiot Neighborhood Watch members spent two days last month posing as prostitutes and vagrants in an area known for its street crime.

When potential customers pull over, the activists hand out fliers that read: "If you're soliciting sex and/or drugs in this neighborhood, you are being videotaped." The flier adds, stay tuned for the 11 o'clock news.

Watch group organizer Deborah Roberts said the homeowners are using the new technique because they are tired of motorists driving around the block asking crack-abiding men and women for crack cocaine or sex for money.

W hale gets tangled

AK ANCHORAGE — A young humpback whale calf was spotted in Southeast Alaska with commercial fishing gear entangled in its mouth, a federal fisheries biologist said.

The calf and its mother were first spotted by a recreational sailor at the mouth of Gastineau Channel just south of Juneau.

A piece of jill net is entangled in the whale's upper jaw.

"The calf appears to be healthy and active, swimming and breathing freely alongside its feeding mother," said Aleria Jensen, a fisheries biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "At this point, it is not a life-threatening situation for the calf."

Jensen said the Coast Guard and NOAA enforcement officers have twice gone out to check on the 20-foot-long calf, which probably was born in Hawaii last winter.

Snake bite death

AR LITTLE ROCK — A medical examiner has confirmed that a man from Scotland died in a car last year year of a bite he suffered from one of four snakes he had recently bought.

The body of Garrick Wales, 49, of Kilmacool, Scotland, was found in the sports utility vehicle on May 13, 2004.

A medical examiner's autopsy report released recently said the cause of Wales' death was a snakebite. The report said it was not possible to tell which of the four snakes — a forest cobra, a green mamba, a black mamba and a twig snake — bit Wales, because of the nature of snake venom and the way it breaks down in the body.



Gentleman Liberty

Fernando Diaz adjusts his sunglasses while posing as the Statue of Liberty in Battery Park in New York.



School's out!

Graduates from Harvard Law School Jacob Hodges, center, and Lynn Poss, right, hold up gavels with others celebrating during commencement ceremonies at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.



Vegas weddings

Newlyweds Kathryn and Stephen O'Hara dance after being married during "Once Upon 100 Weddings" in Las Vegas. One hundred couples were married simultaneously during the event.



Panda popsicle

Giant panda Tian Tian cools off with an icy treat in the heat at the National Zoo in Washington. The 7-year-old male panda dined on a snack consisting of sweet potatoes, apples, and pears frozen in diluted apple juice.



Storm warms up

An evening thunderstorm moves across south St. Louis County over Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, near St. Louis, Mo.



Why wait for the hose?

Henry Matherne, 11, keeps cool by dumping a bucket of water on his head outside his Gray, La., home while playing with his siblings, Shahana, 7, right, and Tyler, 6.



Seal checks out the scene

A seal pokes its head up from the ice at the Leconte Glacier just outside Petersburg, Alaska.

Stranger saves girl

CA ELK GROVE — A 12-year-old girl suffered only a minor injury in an attack in a city park after an unidentified passerby fought off her assailant.

The girl was walking through Simpson Park when she was confronted by a boy, described as being about 16 years old, police said.

The teenager threw her to the ground, pinned her arms over her head, stuffed a rag in her mouth and began to remove her clothing, according to the police report. He then pulled a knife and ran it over her torso, the report states.

The passerby then tackled the assailant and the two fought before the attacker fled.

The girl, who suffered a minor knife injury to lower abdomen, did not know her attacker or the person who came to her aid, police said.

Vouchers vanquished

MO KANSAS CITY — The state eliminated a program that gave low-income mothers and seniors vouchers to buy produce at farmers' markets. Farmers say the move has cost them thousands of dollars.

Last summer, 37,700 Missourians bought more than \$426,000 worth of produce with the coupons.

History gets a facelift

DE GREENVILLE — The Delawarean Museum of Natural History has reopened after a nine-month, \$5 million renovation. The museum now has more exhibit space, an educational wing and a snack area.

Visitors said the building is brighter and more open. More than 1,000 patrons showed up during the reopening celebration.

A better bottom line

GA ATLANTA — The state's money managers expect a surplus of \$150 million to \$200 million when the fiscal year ends June 30. The revenue picture is far different from recent years, when Georgia had to dip into reserves and engage in a series of budget cuts to stay in the black. Officials said revenue for the first 11 months was \$13.2 billion, up \$966.6 million, or 7.9 percent, from a year ago.

Money mismanagement

NY BUFFALO — State Comptroller Alan Hevesi's report recommended the state install a control board in Erie County to fix a budget mess he blamed on "colossal mismanagement." A budget review by Hevesi's office projects a \$18.4 million budget deficit for the current fiscal year, despite the elimination of 1,500 jobs and severe cuts in programs and services earlier this year.

Admissions drop-off

MI ANN ARBOR — The number of black and Hispanic freshmen admitted to the University of Michigan for the fall term increased from a year ago, when minority admissions plummeted after the U.S. Supreme Court quashed the school's undergraduate admissions policy. The total of 6,597 enrollment deposits re-

ceived as of May 15 includes deposits from 473 blacks, up 20.1 percent from 394, and from 421 Hispanics, up 15.3 percent from a year earlier.

Live mascot siffs some

CA MERCED — The University of California-Merced has adopted a live bobcat kitten at the zoo to be its "Golden Bobcat" mascot, but animal rights advocates say the cat should rightfully be returned to the wild.

Critics say the city-run zoo and the university want to keep the animal for publicity as the new campus prepares for its opening in late August. They also assert that state wildlife biologists failed to ensure that the animal got its best chance to be released from captivity.

The 4-month-old bobcat, covered with mites and fleas, was found April 21 abandoned in a closed satchel next to a trash can at Merced's Applelegate Zoo. The state Department of Fish and Game determined that for its own safety it should not be released and allowed the zoo to keep the kitten.

An end to memorials

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — State transportation officials will ask a group to remove the 3,000 white crosses it placed along state highways to show where people died in traffic accidents. The group promotes passage of a gas tax increase to improve highways and bridges.

Life support drama ends

MA BOSTON — A woman whose daughter went to court to block Massachusetts General Hospital from ending her life support has died before the hospital could take her off a ventilator, the daughter's attorney said. Barbara Howe, who had Lou Gehrig's disease and was on life support since 1997, was due to be taken off a ventilator by June 30. She was 80.

Empty cages for rent

HI HONOLULU — Two years after strict rules were eased for pets entering Hawaii, the state is looking for empty kennels. With nearly 90 percent of the pet dogs and cats entering the state being released directly from the airport in five days or less, nearly two thirds of the available kennels at the Animal Quarantine Facility in Halawa Valley are empty.

Now the state is looking to lease out part of the facility.

With fewer animals to care for, the state Department of Agriculture has had to shift employees from the quarantine facility to other departments or state agencies.

The cop didn't help

NC GASTONIA — A police officer responding to an emergency call of a man struck by a car accidentally ran over the victim with his cruiser, authorities said.

Investigators remained uncertain whether the victim was already dead when he was struck a second time by the police car, said Sheriff's Department Capt. Tony Robison. The North Carolina State Highway Patrol was investigating.

Stories and photos from wire services

YOUR MONEY

It's new car smell vs. use car price

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

New or used? When buying a car, deciding between a hot little number on the showroom floor or something "pre-owned" is a sensible and rational way to begin.

The answer is as clear as crank-cast oil.

"There's certainly pros and cons to each," said Michael Quincy, who evaluates and writes about cars for Consumer Reports, a longtime trusted source for information about vehicles, both new and used.

In a telephone interview with Stars and Stripes, Quincy said a new car's main advantage is its warranty, which covers nearly everything that could break down.

"The downside of a new car is that as soon as you drive it off the dealer's lot, it depreciates. The value plummets," he said.

The attraction of a used car, Quincy said, is "it's already gone through its steepest depreciation." Its value is not going to drop precipitously after you buy it.

The downside of buying a used car, of course, is "you don't know its history," he said. Has it been in a crash? Driven hard? Poorly maintained?

For those reasons, Larry Webster, who drives and reviews cars for Car and Driver Magazine, said the new-car route is the only way to go.

In fact, he recommends buying a new car every three years. "During the whole time you own that car, you don't have to pay to repair it," he said, referring to the warranty. "You're not going to need new brakes. You're not going to need new tires. You're not going to need new shocks."

His route may cost more money each year, he said, unless you figure in the cost of repairs for a car until it simply dies, he said, doesn't work these days because "a car never just dies."



A customer browses the car lot for Hummers at Mount Kisco Chevrolet Cadillac & Hummer on Thursday in Mount Kisco, N.Y. "The downside of a new car is that as soon as you drive it off the dealer's lot, it depreciates. The value plummets," says Michael Quincy, who evaluates and writes about cars for Consumer Reports.

Instead, it is you who is going to get gnawed to death by a string of constant repairs, he said in a telephone interview.

When buying a car overseas, another factor to consider is the sales tax required by most states when they take the car home.

Sarah Wellman, wife of Sgt. Jeremy Wellman, said she was surprised she had to pay taxes on the family's Honda Accord — purchased at Baumholder, Germany — when the Wellmans moved to their new duty station at Fort Knox, Ky.

The Auto Exchange at Ramstein, where they purchased the car, was festooned with "tax free" signs.

"You get that mind-set of 'tax

free' before you even decide to purchase," she said. "Every single one of these places advertises that."

She said they eventually paid \$700 in sales tax for the three-year-old car.

Tom Sweeney, manager of Auto Exchange, said in an interview that an explanation of the tax system is part of every salesman's pitch.

"We have to be crystal clear on it," he said. "It's of absolutely no value to anybody to duck or dive on the issue."

In the end, the decision to buy new or used, comes down to what the buyer can afford, Quincy said.

"You don't want to get upside down on a car loan," he said.

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

Testing 'Old Betsy'

Buying a used car can be akin to shooting craps at a Las Vegas casino.

Dealers may provide some level of comfort with a limited warranty, but buying from a private person selling "Old Betsy" leaves the buyer more vulnerable.

The Federal Citizen Information Center home page — www.pueblo.gsa.gov — provides used-car buyers with some tips.

Determine what car is right for you by asking yourself how the car will be used, who will use it and what features are required to fit your needs.

After narrowing the choice to a few makes and models, check them out for safety features, performance and track record for repairs.

Don't sell the test drive short. Put it through its paces on city streets, open highways and rural roads if the car will be used away from town.

Have a trusted mechanic give the car a once-over, but do some looking yourself. Lift the hood and look for worn belts or hoses. Check to see if the oil or any fluids are dirty.

Climb behind the wheel and turn the key to the accessories. Are all the lights and gauges working? Start the car and check out the signal lights, warning lights and all other lights.

Look at the odometer. Odometer fraud costs consumers billions of dollars annually, according to estimates from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Be direct when asking the seller the history of the car. Ask to see repair and maintenance records.

Mike Quincy, who evaluates cars for Consumer Reports, said used-car buyers should "look, listen and feel."

Check the brake and gas pedals for wear, he said, which will give an indication of the car's true mileage. Look along the car's body for ripples that might indicate major repairs due to a crash. Also look for subtle changes in paint color.

Take along a refrigerator magnet and stick it on the car at several places. Any place it doesn't stick, he said, is where fiberglass has been used for repairs.

Smell the car, Quincy said. A musty odor will indicate water damage. Do this inside the car and in the trunk.

"It's a lot of simple things," he said.

The Federal Citizen Information Center says to have all payment questions out of the way before the car search begins. A "rule of thumb" is that the monthly auto loan payment should not exceed 20 percent of your available money each month after your usual living expenses.

— Ron Jensen

Getting started

The Federal Citizen Information Center's Web page suggests several Web sites that can help make a used-car purchase a satisfying one:

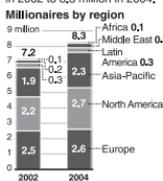
- Auto Trader: www.autotrader.com
- Better Business Bureau: www.bbbonline.org
- Carfax Inc.: www.carfax.com
- Consumers' Checkbook - Car Bargains: www.carbargains.org

www.carbargains.org

- Edmunds.com Inc.: www.edmunds.com
- Kelley Blue Book: www.kbb.com
- National Automobile Dealers Association Guides Online: www.nadaguides.com

World's wealthiest

The ranks of the world's millionaires grew from 7.2 million in 2002 to 8.3 million in 2004.



SOURCE: Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc., CAPgemini Group

600,000 join list of world's millionaires

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A strong global economy gave 600,000 people an entire last year into a highly envied group: the world's millionaires.

The annual World Wealth Report, released Thursday by Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc. and the Chase City Group consulting firm, found that there were 8.3 million people worldwide with \$1 million or more in financial assets at the end of 2004, up from 7.7 million a year earlier.

Their total wealth rose 8.2 percent to \$30.8 trillion in 2004, giving them control of nearly a quarter of the world's financial assets, according to Petrina Dolby, vice president of Capgemini's wealth management practice.

The 8.2 percent increase was the strongest since an identical 8.2 percent rise in 1999, she said.

Not surprisingly, the expansion of the millionaire class was especially strong in North America because of the solid economic growth last year in both the United States and Canada.

"Significantly, North America surpassed Europe both in total high net worth individuals population and bursting for the first time since 2001," when North American investors were hard-hit by the bursting of the technology stock bubble and the terror attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The Asia-Pacific region also showed strong growth.

According to the latest figures, the number of high net worth individuals included 2.7 million in North America with a total of \$9.3 trillion in assets; 2.6 million in Europe with \$8.9

trillion; 2.3 million in the Asia-Pacific region with \$7.2 trillion; 300,000 in Latin America, including Mexico, with \$3.7 trillion; 300,000 in the Middle East with \$1 trillion; and 100,000 in Africa with \$700 billion.

"The study also looked at what it termed "ultra high net worth individuals," who have at least \$30 million in financial assets.

Their ranks increased by 6,300 individuals, or 8.9 percent, in 2004 to 77,500 worldwide, the study said.

Although the international economy was growing rapidly last year, the world's millionaires were more cautious in their investment and asset allocation strategies, the study said.

"With returns drifting lower and market volatility increasing in 2004, high net worth individuals leveled off their commitments to equities," it said.

YOUR MONEY

Interest-only loans not for novices

Q: The interest-only loan has plucked my interest because I want to buy a house in an expensive area but probably will sell it or refinance in 10 years when my children are older. I have a question that may seem silly and naive, but I know very little about home buying. Since I don't build equity with this kind of loan, who gets the increased value of the home? If I buy for \$400,000 and sell for \$450,000, does the lender get the \$50,000 increase in equity?

A: No, you get to keep increases in equity that result from home price appreciation.

Here's how it might work. Let's assume you buy the home for \$400,000, using a 10 percent, or \$40,000, down payment and an interest-only loan. Since your initial mortgage payments cover just interest and don't pay down the principal, your loan balance would remain at \$360,000 for the first several years.

If you sold the home for \$450,000 during this period, you probably would pay 6 percent in real estate commissions, leaving you with \$423,000. After paying off your mortgage balance, you'd net \$63,000 in cash — giving you a profit of \$23,000.

But the fact that you need to ask this question, along with your status as a first-time buyer, indicates that an interest-only loan probably isn't the way to go.

These mortgages are fairly complicated and full of traps for the unwary. If your home

value drops rather than increases in the early years, you're more likely than borrowers are to become "upside down" — owing more on your home than it's worth — since you're not building equity with your payments. That could be a major problem if you need to move earlier than you think.

Also, the rate on interest-only loans is typically fixed only for a certain period of time, usually five, seven or 10 years, but sometimes much less. Once the fixed-rate period ends, your payments could rise. Your payments also will rise — substantially — when the interest-only portion of the mortgage ends and you start paying down the principal.

If you've never bought a home before, you could easily underestimate the costs of homeownership and find yourself critically strapped for cash when your payments increase.

Q: I have accrued \$7,000 on credit cards with a total credit limit of \$10,000. My interest rates average over 20 percent. My wife has \$4,000 in debt on two cards with a total credit limit of \$14,000, and her rates are 6 percent and 9 percent. Is it a good idea for me to transfer my high-rate debt onto her lower-rate cards, or should we not risk ruining her good credit scores?

A: Your wife's great rates might not last if you transfer debt to her cards. Credit issuers

get wary when consumers start to max out their cards, and may raise her rates. And using more than 30 percent of any card's limit can hurt a borrower's credit scores.

You might try to ask your card issuers for lower rates, and you should work hard on paying those balances off.

Q: My wife and I, who are in our early 60s, have always prided ourselves on paying as we go and never using credit. After the column in which you wrote about this credit, however, we decided that we might build up our credit. When my wife applied for a credit card, though, her application was rejected because of "inactive or insufficient recent credit history." How do people like us with no debt and no recent credit history get a credit card?

A: You may need to start by getting a secured credit card that offers you a line of credit equal to the deposit you make at an issuing bank. Look for a card that doesn't charge steep upfront fees and that converts to a regular credit card after 12 to 18 months of on-time payments.

Li Puilliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be sent to 3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or at <http://www.liweston.com>. Distributed by No More Red Inc.



Li Puilliam Weston

New luxury airline

A former British Airways PLC executive will start a new airline this year to fly between New York and London.

The new airline, called Eos and founded by David Spurlock, said Wednesday that it will begin business-class-only trans-Atlantic service in the third quarter.

The airline will lease three 757 airplanes and configure them with 48 seats, rather than the typical 200 seats, giving each customer 21 square feet of space. They will fly out of New York's Kennedy airport and London's Stanstead.

Eos will join a host of new, small, boutique airlines offering luxury service targeted at business travelers. UAL Corp.'s United Airlines flies a premium transcontinental service between New York and San Francisco or Los Angeles. Deutsche Lufthansa AG offers premium services within Europe through partner Privatair. And Eos will have direct competition if British company Fly First raises money to start premium service between London's Luton airport and Newark.

Eos' fares will be about 20 percent to 25 percent below the premium-class fares of rival airlines, says Spurlock plans to keep the airline small.

From wire reports

FRIDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES									
52-week		High		Low		Last		YTD % Chg	
Dow Jones Industrial	18,512.51	+4.16	+0.21	-2.31	+3.26				
S&P 500	1,389.97	+2.99	58	-0.28	+1.62				
NASDAQ	3,178.28	+1.11	373	+11.7	+1.7				
Dow Jones Transportation	3,821.49	-7.72	-22	-7.28	+16.42				
Dow Jones Composite	1,755.88	+6.21	57	-13.82	-17	+69	+9.81		
NYSE Composite	1,527.19	+3.79	358	-21	+65.57	+37.15			
Russell 2000	1,215.99	+7.52	62	-13.91	-67	+5.17	+3.15		
NYSE 100	1,269.77	+5.47	54	-1.98	-11	+2.62	+3		
S&P 500	1,389.97	+2.99	58	-0.28	-0.28	+0.28	+0.28		
Dow Jones Industrial	18,512.51	+4.16	18,512.51	-29	-29	+29	+29		

NYSE				NASDAQ			
Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)			
Name	Vol	Last	Chg	Name	Vol	Last	Chg
Microsoft	47,649	30.33	+2.1	Microsoft	47,649	30.33	+2.1
Apple	28,603	35.21	+0.8	Apple	28,603	35.21	+0.8
Amazon	24,875	34.11	+0.2	Amazon	24,875	34.11	+0.2
Google	18,440	36.26	+1.2	Google	18,440	36.26	+1.2
Yahoo	15,212	27.75	+0.2	Yahoo	15,212	27.75	+0.2
Oracle	14,986	11.33	+0.3	Oracle	14,986	11.33	+0.3
IBM	13,276	17.44	+0.1	IBM	13,276	17.44	+0.1
Microsoft	13,276	17.44	+0.1	Microsoft	13,276	17.44	+0.1

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS					KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	Div	FE	Last	YTD % Chg	Name	NAV	Last	YTD % Chg	
Alliant Technologies	—	—	78.59	+8.8	Fidelity Invest: Global	37.22	-1.2	-1.6	
Aerotech	1.06	—	37.13	+6.5	Fidelity Invest: Growth	56.66	-0.8	-0.8	
Bombardier	—	—	142.85	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	
Boeing	—	—	101.28	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	
General Dynamics	—	—	39.87	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	
Honeywell	—	—	101.28	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	
Lockheed Martin	—	—	88.22	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	
Northrop Grumman	—	—	36.63	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	
Raytheon	—	—	44.82	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	
United Technologies	—	—	31.60	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	
Boeing	—	—	101.28	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	
Lockheed Martin	—	—	88.22	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	
Northrop Grumman	—	—	36.63	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	
Raytheon	—	—	44.82	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	
United Technologies	—	—	31.60	+6.6	Fidelity Invest: Divd Growth	24.46	-1.5	-1.5	

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 12)	\$1.9588
Dollar buys (June 12)	60.7963
Japanese yen (June 12)	165.00
South Korean won (June 12)	979.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (b.)	4.77
British pound	61.819
Canada (Cdn)	69.25
Denmark (krone)	6.1029
Egypt (pound)	67.517/5.8253
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.75
Hungary (Forint)	204.58
Iceland (krona)	69.25
India (rupee)	48.20
Iran (dinar)	6.2919
Norway (krona)	69.25
Philippines (peso)	6.2919
Poland (zloty)	3.76
Saudi Arabia (riyal)	3.76
Singapore (dollar)	1.0699
South Korea (won)	1,000.00
Switzerland (franc)	1.7679
Taiwan (dollar)	3.76
Turkey (New Lira)	0.358

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Mercile close	
Gold	\$427.80
Silver	\$7.70

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	6.00
Discount rate	2.00
3-month bill	5.15

Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Backing up computers

MarketWatch
Backing up to a hard drive is the fastest way to save information.

NEW YORK — These days our computers play a variety of roles from financial manager to family photo album. With all this important and irreplaceable information being stored on our hard drives, it's vital that it remain safe and secure.

While just about all users know they should backup their computers, not many of us do it with any regularity.

Years ago, making backups was a real chore because floppy disks didn't hold much data and tape drives were so slow. Now there are more choices.

Writable CDs provide an inexpensive and relatively permanent way to save all your data files. Even better, they use a writable DVD drive, with which you can back up several gigabytes of data.

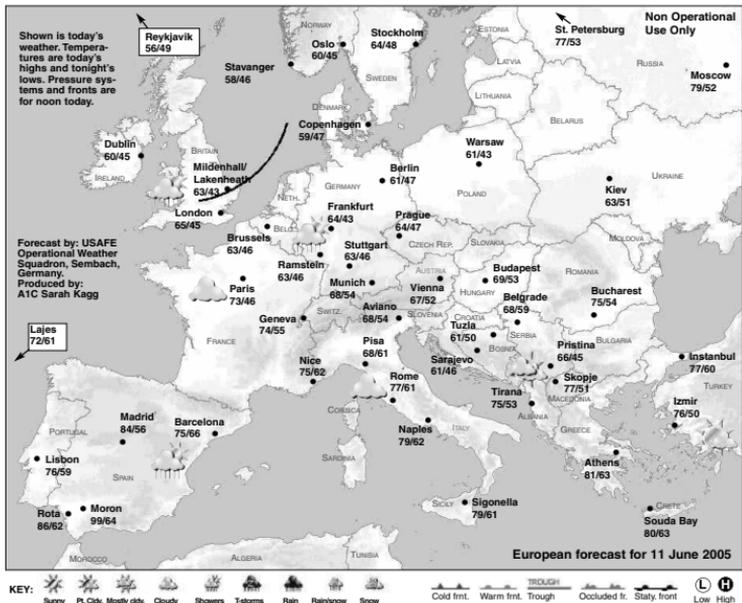
External hard drives, from companies such as Maxtor or Western Digital, often come with their own backup software.

Or you can buy a second hard drive with a program like Norton Ghost or Partition Magic, which can back up your entire hard drive.

If you don't want to lose any of your digital valuables, get in the habit of backing up at least once a month.

Remember to keep a set of backups in a different location, in case of a total disaster.

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EUROPEAN FORECAST

BeneLux: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 60s, lows in the mid to upper 40s.

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

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly Cloudy. Highs in the lower-60s, lows in the upper 40s.

France: Sunny. Highs in the mid-70s, lows in the 50s to lower 60s.

Northern Germany: Partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 60s, lows in the mid-40s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 60s, lows in the upper-40s to lower-50s.

Hungary: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 60s, lows in the mid-50s.

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

Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the upper 70s, lows in the mid- 60s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-60s, lows in the mid 40s.

Norway: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the 60s, lows in the lower 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly to Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms on the east coast. Highs in the mid-80s to upper 90s, lows in the 60s to 70s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms in central and North-East Turkey. Highs in the upper 70s in Portugal and mid-80s in Spain, lows in the mid-50s to mid-60s.

AFRICA

City	HI	LO	City	HI	LO
Cape Town	62	46	Mogadishu	84	76
Dakar	85	77	Nairobi	83	69
Freetown	87	76	Rabat	73	57
Konakoya	85	70	Yaounde	88	71

MIDEAST

City	HI	LO	City	HI	LO
Cairo	94/68	81/68	Jerusalem	88/68	78/68
Baghdad	106/79	92/79	Tehran	93/77	81/77
Tel Aviv	83/66	71/66	Zahedan	86/67	75/67
Incirlik	84/63	71/63	Dubai	100/84	88/84
Mazareharif	84/63	71/63	Karachi	93/83	81/83
Ashgabat	100/71	88/71	Mumbai	90/84	78/84
Kabul	75/55	63/55	Hyderabad	99/81	87/81
Islamabad	100/73	88/73	New Delhi	107/84	95/84
Kandahar	94/68	82/68			

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

THE WORLD

City	HI	LO	City	HI	LO
Amsterdam	62	48	Manila	82	77
Bahrain	102	80	Mexico City	89	61
Beijing	80	66	Montreal	89	69
Bombay	80	69	Riyadh	108	82
Buenos Aires	77	70	Rio de Jan	80	67
Calcutta	80	68	Saudi	84	62
Helsinki	70	52	Sofia	70	57
Hong Kong	82	68	Sydney	86	68
London	76	59	Tokyo	78	66

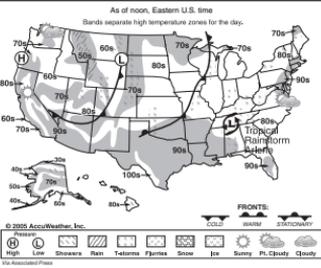
TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

State	HI	LO	State	HI	LO
Alabama	85	72	Delaware	83	70
Alaska	72	58	District of Columbia	80	67
Arizona	85	72	Florida	88	75
Arkansas	85	67	Georgia	88	75
California	85	67	Idaho	85	68
Colorado	85	67	Illinois	87	70
Connecticut	85	67	Indiana	85	68
Dakota	85	67	Iowa	85	68
Delaware	83	70	Kansas	86	71
District of Columbia	80	67	Kentucky	84	66
Florida	88	75	Louisiana	89	71
Georgia	88	75	Maine	83	66
Hawaii	80	67	Maryland	85	68
Idaho	85	68	Massachusetts	85	68
Illinois	87	70	Michigan	85	68
Indiana	85	68	Minnesota	85	68
Iowa	85	68	Mississippi	85	68
Kansas	86	71	Montana	85	68
Kentucky	84	66	Nebraska	85	68
Louisiana	89	71	Nevada	85	68
Maine	83	66	New Hampshire	85	68
Maryland	85	68	New Jersey	85	68
Massachusetts	85	68	New Mexico	85	68
Michigan	85	68	New York	85	68
Minnesota	85	68	North Carolina	85	68
Mississippi	85	68	North Dakota	85	68
Montana	85	68	Ohio	85	68
Nebraska	85	68	Oklahoma	85	68
Nevada	85	68	Oregon	85	68
New Hampshire	85	68	Pennsylvania	85	68
New Jersey	85	68	Rhode Island	85	68
New Mexico	85	68	Tennessee	85	68
New York	85	68	Texas	85	68
North Carolina	85	68	Utah	85	68
North Dakota	85	68	Vermont	85	68
Ohio	85	68	Virginia	85	68
Oklahoma	85	68	Washington	85	68
Oregon	85	68	West Virginia	85	68
Pennsylvania	85	68	Wisconsin	85	68
Rhode Island	85	68	Wyoming	85	68
Tennessee	85	68			
Texas	85	68			
Utah	85	68			
Vermont	85	68			
Virginia	85	68			
Washington	85	68			
West Virginia	85	68			
Wisconsin	85	68			
Wyoming	85	68			

SUN & MOON

Event	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Baghdad)	x	x
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	x	x
Sunset (Baghdad)	x	x
Sunset (Frankfurt)	x	x

THE UNITED STATES TODAY



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Davies keeps Sorenstam in sight

Only two strokes separate golfers going into weekend

By BOB LENTZ

The Associated Press

HAVRE DE GRACE, Md. — With her game rounding into shape, Laura Davies welcomed a pairing with Annika Sorenstam in the third round of the LPGA Championship.

It would be even better to play with her two days in a row.

"I would like to on Sunday," Davies said after she wound up two shots behind Sorenstam on Friday, an unenviable spot for anyone these days. "You can't win it tomorrow, but you can certainly put yourself out of it."

On a steamy day at Bulle Rock Golf Club, Sorenstam left little doubt who is the player to beat.

Sorenstam started the second round a stroke out of the lead and used a rousing finish that included tap-in birdies on three of the last five holes for a 5-under 67 and a 9-under 135 total — just as Davies had predicted.

"I'll be more surprised if she's not 9, 10 under," Davies said about an hour before Sorenstam made her charge.

The long-hitting Englishwoman made her own move, overpowering Bulle Rock for a 2-under 70 that put her in the final group going into the weekend. "I was pretty predictable," was the way Davies tried to shorten Bulle Rock. The highlight of her

high-powered round came on the 330-yard, par-4 16th hole, when she drove within about 30 feet of the pin and made the chip for eagle.

"If ever I was going to do well, this is the sort of course," Davies said. "It's built for a long hitter."

But the 2 was just the low number of an inconsistent round that included the eagle, four birdies and four bogeys.

Sorenstam, trying to become the first woman in 65 years to win the same major three straight seasons, had her only bogey at the 11th, a lone blemish on an otherwise solid round.

Natalie Gulbis hung with Sorenstam as long as she could, but she missed three birdie chances inside 6 feet over the final five holes. At the 18th, she saved par with a 20-footer on the 18th for a 71.

She was at 6-under 138, and likes her chances of making her first LPGA victory a major.

"I'm definitely in a good spot," Gomis said.

Marisa Baena (69), Tina Fischer (71), Laura Diaz (72) and Moira Dunn (68) were at 5-under 119, followed by amateur Michelle Wie.

The 15-year-old from Hawaii was in the first group off the 10th tee, but failed to make a move, ending with a 75. She was 10 under and settling for a 1-under 71, five strokes behind Sorenstam.



Laura Davies of England chips onto the 15th green Friday during the second round of the LPGA Championship at Bulle Rock in Havre de Grace, Md. Davies finished the round two strokes off the lead.

Huskers outduel Canes

The Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Josh Chamberlain struck out 13 while outdueling first-round draft pick Cesar Carrillo, and Nebraska beat Miami 3-1 Friday in the opener of their NCAA super regional.

Daniel Bruce hit a tiebreaking home run in the fifth inning for the Cornhuskers (5-13). Third-seeded Nebraska needs one win to wrap up the best-of-three series and advance to the College World Series.

Tennessee 3, Georgia Tech 2: At Atlanta, Rob Fitzgerald's two-run homer in the ninth inning gave Tennessee the win in the opener. Fitzgerald's sixth homer came on the first pitch from reliever Matt Wieters (3-3).

Florida 8, Florida St. 1: At Gainesville, Fla., Brian Jeroloman, Brandon McCarty and Brian Leclerc hit consecutive home runs in the fifth inning to lead the Gators over their rival in the series opener.

Cal State Fullerton 3, Arizona St. 2: At Fullerton, Calif., Cal State Fullerton scored two runs in the bottom of the ninth, the second on a balk during an intentional walk, to take the opener.

Aussies take over Booz Allen

The Associated Press

BETHESDA, Md. — Aussie! Aussie! Aussie! An invasion from Down Under has taken over the Booz Allen Classic, where Australian Robert Allenby is on top with countrymen Adam Scott and Steve Elkington right behind.

Allenby shot a 65 in Friday's second round to give him a 9-under-par total of 133, two strokes ahead of first-round leader Matt Gogel, Lee Westwood, Elkington and defending champion Scott.

The leaderboard hardly isn't surprising, given that rarely a week goes by without someone from the growing Oz contingent making some noise at a PGA Tour event.

"We have so many," Elkington said. "I haven't gotten around to introducing myself to all of them yet... As a rule, Australian sportsmen travel really well. They're always down well in the Olympics and big events for some reason. Australians can leave their home and compete and do well."

Allenby's round was the best of the day on the unusually player-friendly Blue Course at Congressional Country Club.

Allenby's solid iron play Friday helped overcome his lack of feel while putting. He didn't make a putt longer than 10 feet, and he

Golf roundup

didn't have a three-putt. He took advantage of an early tee time to birdie four of his first six holes as Congressional played considerably easier in the morning than in the afternoon for the second straight day.

To even consider putting "easy" and "Congressional" in the same sentence might have been heresy in the past. "I'm glad we're in the U.S. Open here in 1997 with a score of 4 under. But heavy rain Monday night left the course soft and manageable. The earlier the better has been the rule, with the greens more smooth, the winds calmer and the humidity a tad less overbearing in the morning hours."

"I don't think we thought it was going to play like this," said Phil Mickelson, who followed an even-par afternoon round Thursday with a 4-under morning round Friday. "It's playing as easy as it can because of the softness of the greens, and guys have been able to attack some pins."

Eaks shakes off Shank, shares lead with Morgan

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. — R.W. Eaks overcame a shanked sand wedge on his third hole to

shoot a season-best 7-under 65 on Friday for a share of the first-round lead with Gil Morgan in the Champions Tour's Bayer Advantage Classic.

Jim Ahern opened with a 66, and hometown favorite Tom Watson, playing with Jack Nicklaus on a course the Golden Bear designed, was in a group at 67 along with Dana Quigley, Roderger Davis, Don Pohl, Lonnie Nielsen, Gary McCord, Mark McNulty and another Kansas City native, Jim Colbert.

Play was suspended for 1 hour, 24 minutes when rain and wind blew through this suburb south of Kansas City, causing several players to finish late. The same storm system on Wednesday night uprooted trees in the area and destroyed the media tent at the Nicklaus Golf Club at LionsGate.

Eaks, starting on the back nine, bogeyed the 592-yard par-5 12th hole after shanking his sand wedge.

Then he made a 17-foot birdie putt on the par-3 14th and, one hole later, launched a string of four straight birdies.

D.A. Weirbach, coming off a playoff loss to Tom Jenkins last week in the Allianz Championship in Polk City, Iowa, was at 68 along with Jim Dent, James Mason, Morris Hensley and John Harris.

Jenkins opened with a 69.

Nationals make move, trade Ohka for Spivey

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Making clear they won't stand pat, the NL East-leading Washington Nationals acquired second baseman Ryan Spivey from the Milwaukee Brewers in exchange for pitcher Tomo Ohka on Friday, and claimed right-hander Ryan Drese off waivers.

The trade for Spivey, a 2002 NL All-Star who fills a hole left by Jose Vidro's injury, hinged on the Nationals being able to replace Ohka. Drese was designated for assignment Wednesday by the Texas Rangers.

"Our feeling is that Drese could do what Ohka was doing, and we can solve our infield situation," Nationals general manager Jim Bowden said. "Every game is important. This is a race where we all see how close it is, and this makes us a better team today. It allows people to be in their right positions on the team."

Washington entered Friday on a seven-game winning streak and 1½ games ahead of Philadelphia in the tight NL East.

Lions pick up McQuarters

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — The Detroit Lions have agreed to terms on a one-year deal with

Sports briefs

former Chicago Bears defensive back R.W. McQuarters.

The Bears released McQuarters on May 23. He had signed a \$21 million contract extension with the Bears in January 2002 that ran through 2006.

The 31-year-old shown interest in McQuarters and former New England Pro Bowl cornerback Ty Law. But Law is recovering from a broken foot and Lions President Matt Millen said he didn't want to lose McQuarters while waiting on Law's rehabilitation.

Pats' Seymour still absent

FOXBORO, Mass. — Richard Seymour missed his second straight day of the New England Patriots' mandatory minicamp Friday, but teammates didn't seem overly concerned.

The three-time Pro Bowl defensive end has complained about the six-year contract he signed as a rookie in 2001, and coach Bill Belichick has called his absence "unexcused."

Seymour has two years remaining on a \$14.3 million deal he signed in 2001 after being drafted in the first round out of Georgia.

Garland gets 10th victory with a strong outing vs. S.D.

By **BERNIE WILSON**
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Jon Garland and Aaron Rowand pitched right in for the Chicago White Sox.

Garland pitched seven innings to join Donnell Willis as the only 10-game winners in the big leagues, and Rowand, the center fielder, made a key throw as well as a nice catch as the White Sox beat the San Diego Padres 4-2 on Friday night.

Garland (10-2) also got his first career RBI with a single right field during Chicago's two-run second.

"Nothing feels any different," Garland said. "I just want to go out and give my team a chance. Things have been going my way this year and hopefully they'll continue to go that way."

The AL Central-leading White Sox, who at 41-19 have the best record in the majors, won their fourth straight and eighth in nine games. Dustin Hermanson, who was with the Padres in 1995 and 1996, allowed a run on Brian Giles' RBI groundout in the ninth before getting his 15th save in as many chances.

Giles drove in both runs for the Padres, still atop the NL West despite hitting lost seven of nine. They've scored only 19 runs in those nine games and have already lost more game in June (7) than in May, when they went 22-6.

Garland allowed one run and six hits in seven innings, struck out four and walked one. He held the Padres hitless until Phil Nevin doubled into the right-field corner with one out in the fifth.

Giles homered to right-center on the first pitch he saw from Garland with one out in the seventh. His ninth homer pulled the Padres to 3-1.

Two clutch plays by Rowand later in the inning kept the Padres from scoring more.

Nevin singled to center, and Ramon Hernandez singled to center, with the ball deflecting off Rowand's glove enough for Nevin to try to take third, only to be thrown out by Rowand on a close play.

Nevin tossed his helmet aside and argued with umpire Marty Foster, and manager Bruce



Jon Garland became the AL's first 10-game winner by going seven innings to beat San Diego 4-2 in a clash of division leaders.

Bochy came out to argue, too, and was ejected.

"I'm not going to get very upset unless I'm right, and I was," Nevin said. "It came at a bad time."

Nevin said he didn't look at a replay. "I didn't have to. I'm going to feel him if he tags me," he said.

"I knew it was close," Bochy said. "It was a bang-bang play and you want it to go your way."

Rowand said the ball stayed down on him.

"When I looked up and saw he tried to go, I knew I had a chance to get him," Rowand said.

"The good thing is, Rowand never gives up," manager Ozzie Guillen said. "He goes and gets the ball when he missed it and he throws the guy out."

Robert Fick then doubled into the right-field corner to move Hernandez to third, but Rowand made a nice diving catch of Khalil Greene's sinking line to end the inning.

In the White Sox seventh, A.J. Pierzynski homered off Woody Williams with two outs, his ninth. Joe Crede singled leading off the eighth to chase Williams and eventually scored on a wild pitch by Rudy Seanez.

The White Sox took a 2-0 lead against Williams (2-4) in the second, with the bottom of the order doing the damage.

With runners on first and third and two outs, No. 8 batter Crede singled to center to score Jerome Dye, who had singled with one out. Crede had just 127 in his last 23 games. Garland then singled to right to score Uribe, who had reached on a fielder's choice.

Garland 'embarrassing'

Yankees, Red Sox red-faced after being routed

The Associated Press

Joe Torre thought his team's performance was embarrassing. Bronson Arroyo felt the same way about his pitching.

Two of Friday's most anticipated interleague games turned into routs, mostly because of the New York Yankees' sloppiness in the field and Arroyo's ineffectiveness on the Wrigley Field mound.

New York tied its season worst with three errors, ruining Torre's return to St. Louis with an 8-1 loss to the Cardinals. The night ended with Torre holding a closed-door meeting after the Yankees lost for the eighth time in 10 games on a season-high 12-game trip.

"I'm just not very happy. It was an ugly game," Torre said. "We didn't play hard enough, we didn't do anything to help ourselves win. It was an embarrassing game."

Jason Marquis (8-3) allowed a run and six hits in eight innings and Albert Pujols singled, doubled and homered for St. Louis, which opened its second straight high-profile interleague series. The Cardinals took two of three in a World Series rematch with the Red Sox, winning the first two games by a combined 16-3.

Chicago opened another series with a bad loss Friday. The Chicago Cubs had four homers — one by winning pitcher Greg Maddux — among 20 hits in a 14-6 victory.

Arroyo (4-3) allowed seven runs and 10 hits in four innings, quickly taking away the suspense in the first meeting between the teams since the 1918 World Series.

"It's a worst-case scenario. Going out there against a guy like Greg Maddux, to give him seven runs early, it's putting us in a hole that's almost impossible to get out of most of the time," Arroyo said.

"You never want to go out there and get embarrassed, like I did today," Maddux (5-3) allowed seven hits and three runs in 6½ innings to earn his 310th career victory.

Rocks 2, Tigers 0: At Denver, Jamey Wright pitched six-hit ball into the eighth inning and Garrett Atkins hit a two-run homer off Mike Maroth (4-7).



New York's Jason Giambi saw nothing to smile about during Friday night's 8-1 loss to St. Louis, the Yankees' 10th setback in 12 games.

Pirates 7, Devil Rays 2: At Pittsburgh, Jason Bay and Daryle Ward each drove in three runs as Pittsburgh won for the eighth time in 11 games to move within one game of 500.

Orioles 4, Reds 3: At Cincinnati, Melvin Mora hit a three-run homer off Aaron Harang (4-4) in Baltimore's first visit to Cincinnati since the 1970 World Series.

It was the first time three 500-homer players appeared in the same game — Sammy Sosa (580), Rafael Palmeiro (559) and Ken Griffey Jr., who hit a solo shot in the eighth for No. 511.

Nationals 9, Mariners 3: At Washington, Brian Schneider hit a go-ahead two-run single and the Nationals took advantage of five walks in the eighth inning to break open a tie game for their eighth consecutive victory.

Athletics 6, Braves 4: At Atlanta, Eric Chavez hit a tie-breaking, two-run homer in the seventh inning and Oakland snapped an 11-game road losing streak.

Astros 4, Blue Jays 2: At Houston, Willy Taveras, Morgan Ensberg and Jason Lane homered and Wandy Rodriguez (2-2) pitched out of several jams over six-plus shaky innings.

Marlins 12, Rangers 5: At Miami, reliever Doug Brocail (3-1) walked Luis Castillo on four pitches to force in the go-ahead run in the eighth and Mike Lowell hit a grand slam one out later.

Indians 10, Giants 2: At San Francisco, C.C. Sabathia (5-3) allowed five hits in eight innings and also hit a two-run double off Brett Tomko (5-8) in Cleveland's first trip to San Francisco.

Dodgers 6, Twins 5: At Los Angeles, Hec-Seq Choi hit his second homer of the game off Terry Mulholland (0-2) in the ninth inning to give the Dodgers a victory over Minnesota.

Diamondbacks 12, Royals 11 (10): At Phoenix, Troy Glaus led off the 10th inning with a home run against Mike MacDougal (2-3). It came after the Arizona bullpen blew an eight-run lead in the last two innings. Shawn Green drove in five runs, three with a pair of home runs.

National League

Phillies 5, Brewers 2: At Philadelphia, David Bell's three-run homer with one out in the ninth inning led the Phillies to their 13th victory in 15 games. Jim Thome added a two-run homer.

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Guerrero returns, Angels break out

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Vladimir Guerrero didn't need to provide the big hit in his return from the disabled list. His mere presence in the Los Angeles Angels' lineup was enough.

Guerrero had three hits and scored three runs, a more modest offensive output than teammates Steve Finley and Darin Erstad, who each homered in the Angels' 12-2 victory over the New York Mets on Friday night.

Bartolo Colon won his fourth straight decision in Guerrero's

first game since the reigning AL MVP partially dislocated his shoulder May 20.

"He makes everyone around him better. There's no question what he does to a lineup," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "It's not going to relate to 12 runs all the time."

Colon (8-3), with four victories in six starts since losing May 7 to Detroit, went six innings, allowing two runs and seven hits. He struck out three with no walks.

Ishii (1-5) was overpowering his first two times through the An-

gels' order, but his dominance ended in the sixth.

He gave up a four-pitch walk to Chone Figgins and allowed a tying homer to Erstad.

Bloop singles by Guerrero and Garret Anderson set the stage for Finley's three-run shot to right-center.

Finley, who went 3-for-4, also had a sacrifice fly, giving him 16 RBIs in his past 13 games.

Orlando Cabrera capped the Angels' outburst with a three-run homer in the ninth.

Esteban Yan finished up the Angels' ninth win in 14 games.

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NCUA
National Credit Union Administration

Translation: Language barrier hindering Latinos

TRANSLATION, FROM BACK PAGE

every day in the majors after being a seven-time batting champion in his native country. When a team makes such a financial commitment to one player, hiring an interpreter just becomes another aspect of the investment. Years later, he still uses an interpreter for most interviews.

Short of providing translators, many teams try to make their Spanish-speaking players' transitions smoother by sponsoring academies in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere that offer English training and guidance about cultural differences.

Some teams also organize activities and teaching sessions during spring training that deal with everything from how to use a bank to the appropriate tipping standards at a restaurant.

"I think Major League Baseball as well as individual clubs have the last few years made more efforts to make the baseball experience more than just playing the game," said Giants assistant general manager Ned Colletti. "It's giving many players who English is not their native language the chance to not only learn the language but learn the customs. We go to great lengths to teach our Latin kids."

Still, Boston's David Ortiz and others in the majors have said Hispanic players sometimes either misunderstand memos, such as baseball's steroid rules, or miss messages altogether. Some players say they've accidentally thrown away paperwork left in their lockers because they were unable to read it.

"We're kind of used to it," said Ortiz, a native of the Dominican Republic and one of baseball's most outspoken players on language issues. "There are lots of Latinos and only a few from Japan."

Francona can relate to the frustrations of his star player, whose timely hitting last October helped the Red Sox win their first World Series title in 86 years.

"I understand what he's saying. If that's the case, it shouldn't be the case," Francona said. "That's a little bit scary. We have an obligation to follow through on a lot of things."

Giants manager Felipe Alou had no help when he came to the United States in 1956 from the Dominican Republic as a minor leaguer. He was not only one of the first Latino players, but a black man living in the South.

He once almost missed a road trip because he didn't know the team was leaving town. He boarded the team bus with the clothes he was wearing and nothing else.

Alou would get stumped by certain words: "I was taking English classes in school, but it's not the same."

By his third year, he had reached the big leagues with the Giants, and had learned English. Still, he became furious when reporters didn't correct the grammar in quotes from him and his Latino teammates. Alou believes the media deliberately mocked the players' limited English and accents — quoting Hispanics phonetically with phrases like "I heet de ball" — despite the players' efforts to communicate in an unfamiliar language.

Alou, his brothers Matty and Jesus, and Hall of Famers Juan Marichal and Orlando Cepeda even collected clippings of their unflattering quotes.

"After time went by, we found out that a lack of respect it was, what an insulting way to put down our countries and our language," Alou said. "The only reason the in-

terview was taking place was because we knew a little English."

Colombian-born Luis Torres, 56, began covering baseball in the United States in 1980. He wound up translating for Hispanic players, carefully compiling a list along the way of baseball words for each Spanish-speaking country. A player from Mexico might say something differently than a player from Puerto Rico.

Torres, now employed by the Giants' media relations department, believes his vocabulary list of nearly 2,000 words is the most extensive in the country.

"Even translating was hard," he said. "So I put together a dictionary of the words."

Decades later, are teams doing enough to prepare players for the language barrier?

Not according to Oakland reliever Ricardo Rincon, who speaks little English and rarely does interviews. Because he played professionally in his native Mexico for seven seasons and worked only a few innings in the minors in three stints before coming to the majors, he missed opportunities to become comfortable with English.

He thinks some young Latin American players are so eager to rise through the system that they might unknowingly take supplements that are approved in their countries but banned by baseball, simply because they can't read the rules.

A review of birth places earlier this season by The Associated Press showed that players from Spanish-speaking countries were getting tripped up by baseball's new steroids rules at a disproportionate rate.

About half of the first 50 players suspended for positive tests on the major and minor league levels were born in Latin America. Three of the five players suspended under the big league policy so far were

born outside the United States: Minnesota reliever Juan Rincon (Venezuela), Tampa Bay outfielder Alex Sanchez (Cuba) and Texas pitcher Agustin Montero (Dominican Republic).

"They need to use their heads," Rincon said in Spanish. "Baseball can do more to help make sure every Latino doesn't take these things after the season."

San Francisco's Edgardo Alfonzo, a Venezuelan who came up with the Mets, initially was so worried about doing interviews in English that he'd start planning what to say even while rounding the bases after a home run.

"Every time you're doing good, you're thinking, 'Now I've got to deal with the press and speak English,'" Alfonzo said. "You want to say something from your heart, and a translator says things with no feeling. Times when I had a great game, I was thinking what I was going to say to these people. You get nervous because you don't want to say something wrong."

Despite their language challenges, they have each other. Before the Giants hosted the Padres last month, Alfonzo and teammate Yorvit Torrealba stood behind the batting cage, socializing with San Diego's Ramon Hernandez and Miguel Ojeda. It's a common scene among Hispanic major leaguers.

Japanese players, meanwhile, are often alone in their clubhouses.

Francona is among those who think the major leagues could do more to help players adjust.

"I think it's a very misunderstood subject," he said. "I think we as Americans who speak English, we thumb our noses at everybody. If they don't speak English, they're dumb. You know what, everybody tries to speak English."



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Nationals send disgruntled starter Ohka to Milwaukee for 2B Spivey, Page 26

Different translation



Seattle outfielder Ichiro Suzuki, MLB's first Japanese position player to play every day, was given an interpreter upon his big league arrival in 2001. He still uses one today.

In big leagues, Japanese players get interpreters, most Latinos don't

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — When Keiichi Yabu and Brad Fischer argued about string cheese while sitting in the clubhouse before a game, they had a former anthropology professor, Andy Painter, with them to translate every word.

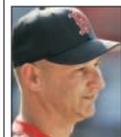
"You're always eating cheese. Is cheese good for you?" Yabu said in Japanese, smiling as Painter quickly put the pitcher's words in English for Oakland's first-base coach.

"It's better than sushi!" Fischer barked back.

Engaging in such casual conversation is an important step for foreign players who come to the majors, but it's a lopsided luxury — while Japanese players have interpreters to help them with everything from getting a driver's license to communicating with team-



Boston's David Ortiz, a native of the Dominican Republic, believes Latino players who do not speak English are typically not given ample help in dealing with media and learning U.S. culture. He says the language barrier contributes to Latino players violating baseball's steroid rules.



"I think it's a very misunderstood subject. I think we as Americans who speak English, we thumb our noses at everybody. If they don't speak English, they're dumb."

Terry Francona, Boston Red Sox manager

mates and coaches, most Latin Americans are left to fend for themselves.

Fair or not, there are just a handful of Japanese players in the big leagues, all of whom get translating support if needed, while hundreds of players from Spanish-speaking countries must rely on each another to figure things out.

"You look at some of these kids, they're 18, 19 years old, they're scared to death," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "They're away from home probably for the first time. They're in a foreign country. Just because we like hamburgers doesn't mean they do. It's very unfair. I think we have a responsibility to help them."

"The quicker they can communicate, they do better off the field, which I think directly translates to them succeeding on the field."

Of 829 major league players on opening day rosters and disabled lists, 23.5 percent were born in the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Venezuela or Cuba, according to the commissioner's office. Nearly 40 percent of minor leaguers are from those five places.



San Francisco infielder Edgardo Alfonzo, a Venezuelan, used to be so worried about speaking English in postgame interviews that he'd think about what to say while rounding the bases after a home run. "Every time you're doing good, you're thinking, 'Now I've got to deal with the press and speak English.'"



Garlerr becomes first 10-game winner in AL as White Sox win in San Diego

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