

## NBC team protects through proactivity

By Pfc. Christina Carde  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — When troops consider the type of threat that is still present in Afghanistan, nuclear, biological and chemical warfare is perhaps the last thing that comes to mind. However, just because the threat is low it doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

According to the NBC team here, an NBC threat may not be present on a conventional scale, but there are still parties in Afghanistan that will use chemical and biological weapons against U.S. and coalition forces if obtained.

"Our mission is to advise the commander on all matters concerning chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear warfare that may be present during operations," said Maj. David Cooley, NBC director, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (Light Infantry). "We are also responsible for all NBC matters pertaining to defense measures and force protection."

Keeping the command informed on NBC threats on base and in

combat operations requires a team of NBC professionals to gather information.

"We are a three-man team that is responsible for gathering and providing intelligence data on possible threats and assessing logistical and combat situations in the NBC field for unit personnel and equipment," said Cooley. "We also assess the coalition protective posture and direct higher on how best to deal with all CBRN matters."

According to Stone, the NBC team's mission here is different than most NBC units due to the area of operation.

"We are not equipped with the NBC assets and equipment that most NBC units have in a deployed environment because any assessment or decontamination that needs to be done here can be done by the individual units," said Cooley.

"For this reason, we have taken a different approach to protecting against NBC attacks for this theater of operation," he added.

See **NBC**, Page 4

## Accomplishments make transition easy

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Terri Rorke  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — After being deployed for about seven months, Bagram's emergency service team is finally going home.

In their time here, they have an entire list of accomplishments that will make the transition for their replacing unit much easier, said Air Force Master Sgt. Gifton Lawrence. Lawrence is the assistant fire chief for the 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group Fire Department. His replacement, Air Force Master Sgt. Dave Wilson, said he appreciates the effort the team put in while deployed here.

"It is only going to get better for us," said Wilson. "We'll just pick up on what



*Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Blake Beasley, driver operator for the 455<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Operations Group Fire Department conducts Night Vision Goggle training Thursday for the team replacing his unit. "The biggest challenge we had going from stateside to a deployed location was having to wear NVGs. You have to adjust to that quick," he said.*

See **FIRE**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## White House defends Bush remark on Iraqi attacks

WASHINGTON — The White House found itself on the defensive Thursday for a comment President Bush made a day earlier that some Democrats say amounted to a dare for militants to attack U.S. troops in Iraq.

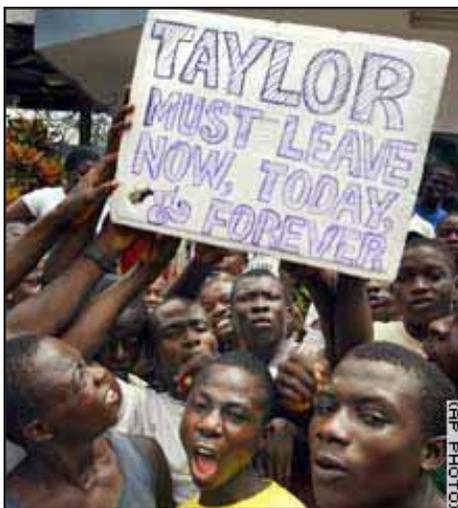
White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said Bush was only expressing his faith in the strength and capability of U.S. forces when, talking about militant attacks, he declared, "Bring 'em on."

"The president expressed it, said it, because he views it as a way to express confidence in the forces," Fleischer told reporters.

Privately, more than one White House official acknowledged that, at a minimum, the Bush line was open to misinterpretation.

Democrats took a more critical view.

U.S. Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri — who is seeking his party's 2004 presidential nomination — said the president should stop with the "phony, macho rhetoric."



Liberians outside the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia on Thursday hold up a sign asking Taylor to leave.

## Liberia reports U.S. ultimatum for Taylor

MONROVIA, Liberia — The United States has given embattled Liberian President Charles Taylor 48 hours to give up power and leave the country, according to a senior Liberian government source.

Although the source told CNN the ulti-

matum came directly from the United States and was delivered sometime Thursday afternoon, a senior State Department official in Washington said he was not aware of an ultimatum for Taylor to step down.

The Liberian government source did not provide an exact time for when the ultimatum would expire Saturday.

## Bush declares 6 terror suspects eligible for trial

WASHINGTON — President Bush Thursday designated six captives in the war on terror as eligible to be tried before U.S. military commissions, the Defense Department said.

"The president determined that there is reason to believe that each of these enemy combatants was a member of al-Qaida or was otherwise involved in terrorism directed against the United States," the Pentagon said in a statement.

Senior defense officials, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity, declined to discuss many details of the process. They refused to identify the six individuals by name or even by nationality, saying no charges have yet been brought against them, and said their identities may never be announced.

## Saudis: Key Riyadh suspect dead

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — A key al-Qaida fugitive wanted in connection with the Riyadh suicide bombings has been killed after being cornered by police, Saudi officials said.

The Saudi Interior Ministry said Turki Nasser al-Dandani died in a shootout with police on Thursday after authorities surrounded a home in northern Saudi Arabia.

According to a ministry statement read on Saudi television, al-Dandani and four other suspects fired on security forces with automatic rifles and threw hand grenades at them, Reuters reported.

## Extreme weather on the rise

CNN — Anecdotal evidence that the world's weather is getting wilder now has a solid scientific basis in fact following a

dramatic global assessment from the World Meteorological Organization.

A study released Wednesday by the WMO — a specialized climate science agency of the United Nations — says the world is experiencing record numbers of extreme weather events, such as droughts and tornadoes.

Laying the blame firmly at the feet of global warming, the agency warned that the number and intensity of extreme weather events could continue to increase.

## 3 missing in Texas fireworks blast

KILGORE, Texas — An explosion rocked a warehouse full of fireworks in this small Texas town Thursday, destroying the building with three people inside, authorities said.

The three workers were missing Thursday evening, Kilgore Mayor Joe T. Parker said. At least five people were injured.

"It's pretty bad," he said. "We've got houses in the neighborhood damaged, people out of their houses, and we're still fighting a fire although we've got the explosives contained, we believe."

## India, China face AIDS catastrophe

SINGAPORE — India, China and Cambodia are on the verge of an AIDS "catastrophe" as the disease spreads deeper into the region, an infectious disease expert has warned.

The situation in the world's two most populous countries was like that of Africa 10 years ago which since has been ravaged by the virus, said Julie Gerberding, the director of the U.S.-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"In some countries, for example, Cambodia, or in what we believe in China and India, the public health measures have yet to take hold and the epidemic really is in that phase of scaling up very, very quickly," Gerberding told a briefing in Singapore on Thursday.

"It looks like Africa did a decade or so ago," she added, in comments carried by Reuters news service.

# Redeployment tips to ease transition

By Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM**, Afghanistan — As units prepare to redeploy they think about their families and their reunion; there are things they can do before they leave to ensure that reunion happens as soon as possible.

According to Maj. Tim Widmoyer, transportation officer for Combined Joint Task Force-180, units may start the redeployment process before they have their orders.

“When units are ready to leave they can start the process by going to their deployment support team. They’ll start to collect all the data to get the unit out of here including the number of (passengers), cargo, the amount of equipment and (the dimensions),” said Widmoyer.

Each unit is given a window for when they will leave based on size. An individual is given a window of two to three days while a detachment’s window is usually about 10 days – the larger the unit, the larger the window.

“A lot of units get frustrated because on their first available load date the aircraft doesn’t show up so we ask units to be patient. It’s very important to stay in the window so the unit will leave in their window,” said Widmoyer.

Units should not expect to be on the plane on the day they are scheduled to leave because due to weather conditions aircraft cannot always take off with a particular load.

It is in the best interest of large units to send equipment back early on space available aircraft, according to Master Sgt. James Pindell, senior transportation noncommissioned officer in charge for CFTF-180.

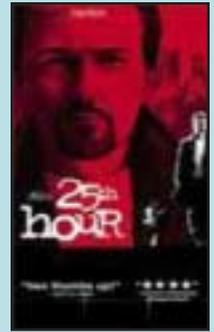
Servicemembers should also be sure to place their weapons in approved Federal Aviation Administration weapons cases. If this is not done the weapons must be placed in an ISU90 and sent back with a courier. Weapons should also

See **REDEPLOY**, Page 4

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR Building: “25<sup>th</sup> Hour.” Cornered by the DEA, Montgomery Brogan reevaluates his life in the 24 remaining hours before facing a seven-year jail term.

Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Recruit.”



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

|                    | Today                             | Saturday                  |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Bagram:</b>     | Dust<br>H: 102F<br>L: 70F         | Dust<br>H: 100F<br>L: 64F |
| <b>Kandahar:</b>   | Dust<br>H: 108F<br>L: 82F         | Dust<br>H: 104F<br>L: 81F |
| <b>Kabul:</b>      | Dust<br>H: 95F<br>L: 66F          | Haze<br>H: 95F<br>L: 64F  |
| <b>Uzbekistan:</b> | Partly cloudy<br>H: 96F<br>L: 76F | Sunny<br>H: 98F<br>L: 75F |

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

CJTF-180 Commander —

Maj. Gen. John R. Vines

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Rodney Davis

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Sgt. Maj. Harrison Sarles

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Commander — Maj. William Mott

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

Editor — Sgt. W. Cullen James

Journalists — Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw,

Pfc. Christina Carde, Pfc. Terri Rorke

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of Freedom Watch are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

Visit the CENTCOM Web site at [www.centcom.mil](http://www.centcom.mil) and click on the Freedom Watch or Forces in Afghanistan link at the bottom of the page to get the latest editions of the Freedom Watch. To be added to the daily distribution list email [william.james@us.army.mil](mailto:william.james@us.army.mil)

## REDEPLOY, from Page 3

be “red tagged” to ensure civilian air knows what baggage has weapons.

According to Widmoyer, it is also important for NCOs to ensure their soldiers are not bringing back any prohibited items listed on their orders. These items include wood, controlled substances, war trophies and switch blade knives. After the customs inspection here, units may have another in Germany or Baltimore. If any forbidden items are found units may be delayed and all of the unit’s baggage may be searched.

Pindell also suggests units make sure to have hazardous-material-certified personnel identified. Hazardous material must be identified to avoid being delayed. Also, if documents are lost during shipping before the equipment is placed on the ship, a servicemember will need to redo the paperwork or the equipment will not be shipped.

If soldiers are changing to civilian aircraft on the way home, there are a few things they need to keep in mind. Widmoyer suggests keeping civilian clothes in an easily accessible carry-on because soldiers may not wear their uniform on civilian aircraft.

When changing to civilian aircraft soldiers need to keep in mind the size of their baggage. If baggage is over 70 pounds or 103 inches, soldiers may have to pay an extra fee per bag.

When beginning to outprocess, Staff Sgt. William Green, strength management NCO for personnel, CJTF-180, suggests units allow a week to go through the process.

Soldiers need to ensure they have a statement of service so they may wear their combat patch and NCOs and officers must ensure they have their evaluation complete, according to Green.

Green also encourages soldiers to know the hours of outprocessing places.

“People can get hung up because of the hours – know what they are before you go.”

If soldiers have any questions they should contact their DST, supporting movement control team or transportation.

“We’ll get them an answer. It’s better to answer the question when it comes up than to wait until the last minute,” said Widmoyer. “Don’t assume. If you have a question, usually it’s been asked before.”

## Upcoming MWR events

**Saturday:** Weekend Jam -- R&B, rap, reggae, salsa, etc. 1630Z at the Civic Center

**Sunday:** 3 pt. shootout contest, 0430Z. Sign up at the Dragon Palace.



## FIRE, from Page 1

they’ve done.”

The EST from Spangdahlem and Ramstein Air Bases, Germany, was in action from the very first day they arrived here, said Lawrence. They had an emergency call that an F-16 fighter jet crashed on the runway. They responded on numerous other occasions, including helicopter crashes and many calls of Entry Check Points on fire. On Christmas day they responded to a C-130 Hercules rollover on the runway.

“It was a good experience for them ... They got to see a lot of stuff they were only trained on,” said Lawrence.

With all the experience the team received, now some of the fire fighters are qualified for higher responsibilities, according to Lawrence.

“We got our guys trained one level above what they are required to do,” said Lawrence.

Now the airmen firefighters are certified to be crew chiefs.

The team also made their extended stay here more comfortable for themselves by refurbishing the hangar

## NBC, from Page 1

The NBC team’s strategy to combat CBRN consists of proactive measures instead of reactive — “find them before they find us.”

“The information we gather enables us to assess where possible chemical or biological agents may be that the enemy has access to,” said Cooley. “Our mission while we are here is to locate them and remove them so they can’t be used against the U.S., coalition or anyone else.”

Due to the fact that Operation Enduring Freedom has not been known for NBC attacks, some may think NBC professionals are not needed here. Cooley said this is not the case.

“The enemy is still actively pursuing chemical and biological agents to harm coalition forces here,” said Cooley. “Until they voluntarily decide to stop, we are here to stop them.”

they reside in.

The team took a bombed-out, broken, condemned hangar and built a work center with phone lines, electricity and necessities for their mission.

The fire department also improved on other essential entities for the emergency mission here, according to Lawrence.

“When we got here, we only had three (fire) trucks in service,” said Lawrence. Now the team is leaving their replacements with seven fire trucks.

The 27-firefighter team’s recent project was constructing the new fire department building that should be finished later this month, said Lawrence.

They also created continuity books and wrote Standard Operations of Procedures manuals for their replacements.

“These guys are making the transition as easy as possible,” said Wilson.

Because the fire department is providing enough transition time for their replacements, Wilson said, “We’re hoping that everyone gains some experience here. We will provide Bagram Air Base with the services we can provide ... this is one team, one fight.”



# Happy Fourth of July, Bagram



## President's July 4<sup>th</sup> message

On July 4, 1776, our Founders adopted the Declaration of Independence, creating a great Nation and establishing a hopeful vision of liberty and equality that endures today.

This Independence Day, we express gratitude for our many blessings and we celebrate the ideals of freedom and opportunity that our Nation holds dear.

America's strength and prosperity are testaments to the enduring power of our founding ideals, among them, that all men are created equal, and that liberty is God's gift to humanity, the birthright of every individual. The American creed remains powerful today because it represents the universal hope of all mankind.

On the Fourth of July, we are grateful for the blessings that freedom represents and for the opportunities it affords. We are thankful for the love of our family and friends and for our rights to think, speak, and worship freely. We are also humbled in remembering the many courageous men and

women who have served and sacrificed throughout our history to preserve, protect, and expand these liberties. In liberating oppressed peoples and demonstrating honor and bravery in battle, the members of our Armed Forces reflect the best of our Nation.

We also recognize the challenges that America now faces. We are winning the war against enemies of freedom, yet more work remains. We will prevail in this noble mission. Liberty has the power to turn hatred into hope.

America is a force for good in the world, and the compassionate spirit of America remains a living faith. Drawing on the courage of our Founding Fathers and the resolve of our citizens, we willingly embrace the challenges before us.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a safe and joyous Independence Day. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

GEORGE W. BUSH



Photo by Marine Cpl. Denyele D. Spillane

### Unwavering support...

*Sophie Willette, 2, shows her patriotism and excitement for the Albany Marine Band during the concert held at Overman Park in Cedar Falls, Iowa, June 28. Every year Cedar Falls, Iowa, holds the Sturgis Falls Celebration to celebrate music including the Albany Marine Band from Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, Ga. Events such as this are planned across the country July 4 to show support for deployed troops.*

## Fourth events to highlight nation's support for troops

By Denise Brown

*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** — More than 4,000 military troops and Defense Department civilians will take part in Independence Day events across the United States as part of Operation Tribute to Freedom, the DoD initiative encouraging Americans to thank and support U.S. troops.

These service members and civilians will be supporting more than 2,000 parades, military bands, color guards, speeches and military aircraft flyovers as the nation pauses to celebrate its independence and extend its thanks to troops serving worldwide in the war on terrorism.

"The events extend from July 1 through July 6," said Brent Krueger, director for community relations and public liaison for the assistant secretary of defense for public affairs.

"We have events happening everywhere. From the smallest town to the largest city, American citizens around the country will be thanking and supporting our troops over this patriotic holiday," Krueger added.

The week's events began with a Tuesday White House re-enlistment ceremony to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the All Volunteer

Force. President Bush will re-enlist 30 military personnel at the ceremony, while 65 Military Entrance Processing Stations across the United States will conduct enlistment ceremonies for new service members.

The "Hometown Heroes" program is sending more than 1,000 troops back to their hometowns to participate in Fourth of July events. Army Chief Warrant Officer Ronald D. Young Jr., former Iraqi prisoner of war, will be the grand marshal of Atlanta's July Fourth parade. About 200 fellow Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans will join Young.

Senior Defense Department military and civilian personnel will also be traveling to communities to participate in Fourth of July events. Peter Verga, principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for homeland defense, will attend July 4 events in McLean, Va. Navy Rear Adm. Nancy Brown, Joint Chiefs' vice director of command, control and communications, will attend the day's ceremonies at Mount Vernon, Va., site of George Washington's home estate.

"This is definitely the largest outreach effort in recent memory designed to support the troops," Krueger said. "The events range from 20 people to 30,000 people, with some events even larger. It's amazing."



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Gary Sheffield will be in, but will Andruw Jones be joining him?

## Willis, Jones sit on NL All-Star fence

ESPN — Andruw Jones is one of the most talented players in the majors. He's having another excellent season, with plenty of statistical reinforcement behind his effort. Preston Wilson has already driven in 70 runs.

Yet both are in serious danger of winding up on the cutting room floor when Dusty Baker makes the final call on the National League roster for the upcoming All-Star team.

Along with rookie lefty Dontrelle Willis and recently disabled 11-game winner Shawn Chacon, to name just a couple, Jones and Wilson might not fit on the final 32-man roster, which will be unveiled on Sunday.

Like Anaheim manager Mike Scioscia, Baker must react to the results of the new, three-tiered selection process, which gives players a direct say in the naming of 16 NL All-Stars. He'll be in a huge bind if the players do a poor job.

It will already be impossible for him to take the best team possible as he must find a semi-qualified representative of four teams (Cincinnati, the Mets, Pittsburgh and San Diego) that do not have anybody with commanding presence.

Baker also must make adjustments because it appears the fan vote will send Sammy Sosa to U.S. Cellular Field despite his least productive first half since 1992.

The vote totals released Tuesday also showed Atlanta's Marcus Giles ahead of Jeff Kent at second base. That could provide a complication as Giles does not have as compelling of an All-Star case as Kent or Montreal's Jose Vidro.

## Sisters to meet again in final

WIMBLEDON, England — Swinging so hard she lost an earring, Serena Williams won her rematch against Justine Henin-Hardenne and advanced Thursday to the Wimbledon final.

Her opponent will again be older sister Venus, who aggravated an abdominal strain in the third game but still rallied beat Kim Clijsters 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Serena Williams won 6-3, 6-2 to avenge her traumatic loss against Henin-Hardenne in the French Open semifinals four weeks ago. Fans at Roland Garros jeered Williams and cheered her mistakes, but the Centre Court crowd at Wimbledon had only applause for the defending champion.

"I'm just happy to be in the final of Wimbledon again," Williams said. "I've been able to realize at the French that you can't always make it to the finals. Now that I'm back, it's definitely exciting."

The Williams sisters have met in four of the past five Grand Slam finals, including Wimbledon last year, with Serena winning them all. They've won the past three Wimbledon titles.

With Serena watching the second semifinal from a Centre Court seat, her sister won despite a stomach injury that first bothered her two months ago. Two-time champion Venus grimaced and hunched over after hitting a serve in the third game, and during the ensuing changeover she took a medical timeout and left the court for treatment.

## Former teammates sign one-year deals

DENVER — Paul Kariya and Teemu Selanne used free agency to team up again in a quest to win the Stanley Cup.

The former Anaheim teammates both took major pay cuts Thurs-

### Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

#### Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Baseball Tonight (live) 0000Z
- ❖ Tennis: Wimbledon, The Championships 2003: Men's Semifinals (tape delayed) 0100Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0600Z
- ❖ USGA: 2003 U.S. Women's Open Championship: Second Round (tape delayed) 0700Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks @ Los Angeles Dodgers (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (tape delayed) 1400Z
- ❖ Wire to Wire (tape delayed) 1430Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (tape delayed) 1600Z
- ❖ MLB: Boston Red Sox @ NY Yankees (live) 1700Z

#### Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ MLS: NY/NJ Metrostars @ D.C. United (tape delayed) 0100Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0300Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (live) 0400Z
- ❖ 2003 National Swat Challenge (tape delayed) 0500Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0600Z
- ❖ USGA: 2003 U.S. Women's Open Championship: Third Round (tape delayed) 0700Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (tape delayed) 1000Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ MLB: Anaheim Angels @ Oakland Athletics (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (live) 1630Z
- ❖ MLB: Montreal Expos @ Atlanta Braves (live) 1700Z

**SPORTS**, from Page 6

day in agreeing to contracts with the Colorado Avalanche.

Once linemates on the Mighty Ducks, Kariya and Selanne became business partners on the open market. They joined the Avalanche in a package deal.

"When we both became free agents, we made a hockey decision," Kariya said at a news conference. "We both said, 'Forget about the money, where's the place we want to play?' And Colorado jumped out at both of us immediately. So we made things work monetarily."

**Tiger finally puts it all together**

**LEMONT, Ill.** — Here's one way to quiet all that talk about a slump.

Tiger Woods tied a course and tournament record with a 9-under 63 Thursday, taking a one-stroke lead at the 100<sup>th</sup> Western Open. It was his lowest round of the year, and his best since he shot a 63 in the final round of the Disney Golf Classic last October.

And it should be enough to answer all those critics who questioned his game — not that the doubters ever mattered to Woods.

"It's certainly not because of that," he said when asked if there was added satisfaction to this round. "It's because of the fact that the things I've been working on came together today."

**Dotson not involved, according to wife**

**WACO, Texas** — The attorney for Carlton Dotson, the former roommate and teammate of missing Baylor basketball player Patrick Dennehy, said Thursday that the suspicion swirling about his client and even the idea that Dennehy was shot are based on speculation.

"I know of no shooting that took place at all," attorney Grady Irvin said. "I think there's only a rumor that perhaps Mr. Dennehy has been shot. They don't even know if that's accurate."

Dennehy, 21, was last heard from almost three weeks ago. No charges have been filed in his disappearance. Authorities, however, have described Dotson as a "person of interest" and, on Thursday, returned for the second time to a 50-acre section of land northeast of Waco in their search for Dennehy.

A Department of Public Safety helicopter, equipped with a heat-thermal imaging device, flew over the property in an attempt to locate a body.

**Deal worth almost \$13 million**

**CLEVELAND** — LeBron James has signed yet another multi-million dollar deal, but this one isn't for anything he'll drink or wear on his feet.

James signed his three-year, \$12.96 million rookie contract Thursday with the Cleveland Cavaliers, who selected the 18-year-old Akron high school phenom with the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA draft.

"I'm thrilled that he signed," general manager Jim Paxson said. "It will start his journey of being an NBA player, and that is exciting for us."

James, who already has signed endorsement deals worth more

than \$100 million and will soon add more to his bulging business portfolio, will be paid \$4.02 million next season.

**Junior knocks Kahne off top spot**

**DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.** — Dale Earnhardt Jr. was as strong as usual Thursday at Daytona International Speedway, winning the pole for the Busch Series race.

Earnhardt was the last of 48 cars to qualify and ran a lap at 186.308 mph to bump Kasey Kahne off the pole for Friday night's Winn-Dixie 250.

Kahne ran a lap at 186.243, and withstood challenges from Winston Cup regulars Michael Waltrip and Joe Nemechek — two typically strong Daytona competitors. But Kahne dropped to second after Earnhardt's lap.

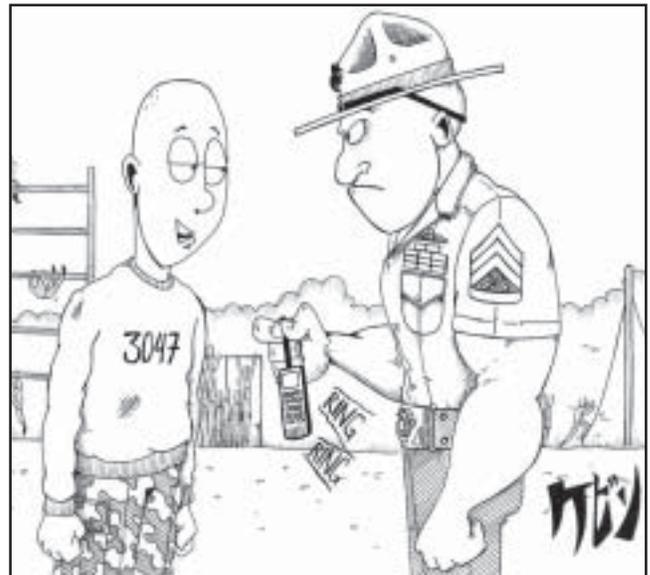
**Lewis wants to know Klitschko's eye will be ready**

**NEW YORK** — WBC heavyweight champ Lennox Lewis is weighing two options for his next fight, but his decision depends upon the health of Vitali Klitschko's left eye, according to the New York Daily News.

Lewis said he wants Klitschko to have the eye examined by an independent doctor in the next couple of days to determine whether the Ukrainian would be ready for a rematch on Dec. 6. Klitschko had the cuts around his eye repaired by a plastic surgeon immediately after the fight. Last week, the doctor said it would take six months for Klitschko to be healed enough to take punches.

"I don't want to go into training for the fight and then find out that the eye won't hold up," Lewis said to the Daily News yesterday from Manhattan.

**"Be a good chap and take a message."**



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

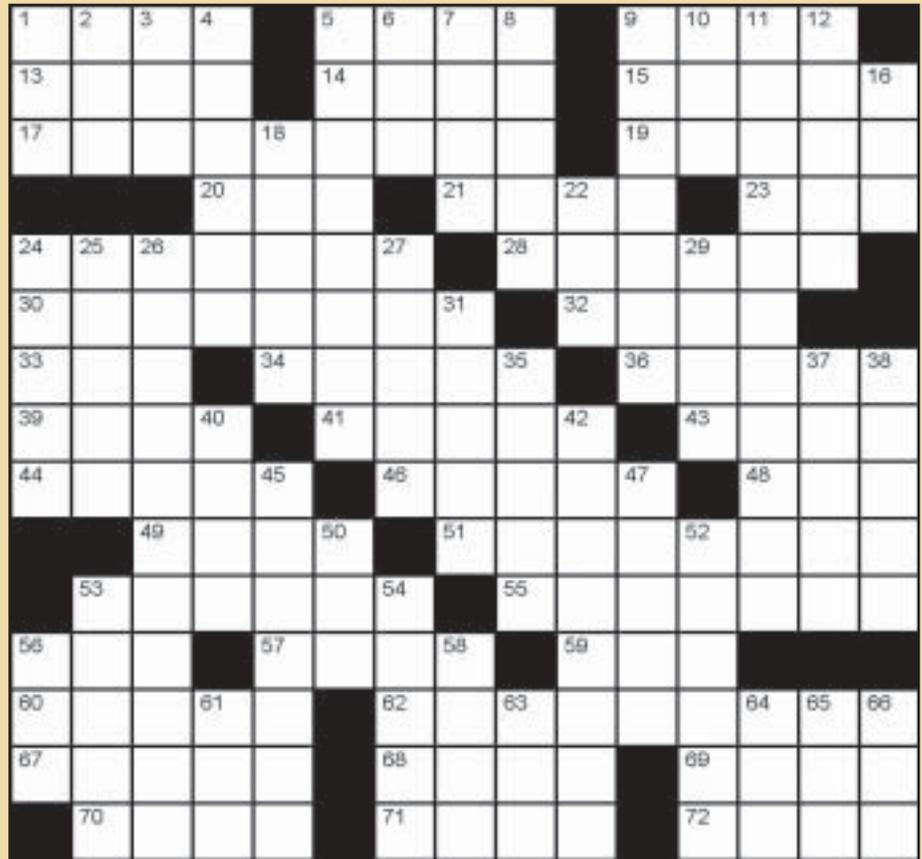
**Laugh Support**

# Air Balls crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

## Across

1. Publisher \_\_\_-Davis
5. Beggar's duds
9. Places to enjoy pints
13. Love personified
14. Baldwin of film
15. China's Zhou \_\_\_
17. List of choices on a computer, maybe
19. Be skeptical of
20. Nitrogen, for instance
21. High: Prefix
23. Loop trains
24. Economic warfare tactic
28. Track down
30. Bald as a \_\_\_ ball
32. Army chutist, briefly
33. \_\_\_-mo (replay option)
34. Rating units
36. Fedora parts
39. Slaughter in baseball
41. Inventor Howe
43. Pig food
44. Katmandu's country
46. A natural, at the craps table
48. Pharmaceutical-approving org.
49. Love personified
51. Went off the track
53. Rural road surface
55. Give a new look to
56. Felix or Garfield
57. Skater's leap
59. "Uh-uh!"
60. Backup strategy
62. Top draw at a concert
67. Fend off
68. Intro to culture?
69. \_\_\_ Scotia lox
70. Campbell of "Scream"
71. Easy victory



72. Had down pat

## Down

1. Microwave, slangily
2. "Editorially speaking," in cyber-shorthand
3. Vain fellow
4. Cost-conscious
5. Seaport of Kent, England
6. Libation served at 9-Across
7. Filmdom's Rowlands
8. Racing shell
9. Human-powered taxi
10. Numero \_\_\_
11. Burl Ives hit
12. Fancy fur
16. Part of TGIF
18. Arch of Triumph site
22. Blouse or shirt
24. Buddy of "Barnaby Jones"
25. Winnie-the-Pooh's creator
26. Collection of outtakes, perhaps
27. Some graduate exams

29. Terminal listings: Abbr.
31. Like prunes and raisins
35. Passbook holder
37. Runway walker
38. Sam the sleuth
40. \_\_\_ Lee cakes
42. "The Three Princes of \_\_\_" (fairytale)
45. Like a cute puppy, say
47. Twangy, as speech
50. Driver's license datum
52. "\_\_\_, therefore I am"
53. Ancient Greek physician
54. "The Merry Widow" composer Franz
56. EMT specialty
58. Toy brick brand
61. Carson City's state: Abbr.
63. Tattoo place
64. "Smoking or \_\_\_?"
65. Adam's madam
66. Like steak tartare

*Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch*