

New school brings hope for Afghan youth

Story and photo by Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment

PAKTIA PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Twenty-three years ago formal education, along with the schoolhouse for the children of Dara and the surrounding area, vanished.

The schoolhouse in Dara – which serviced thousands of families – was destroyed during the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, and since then has left a generation of children suffering.

New hope emerged when the U.S. Provincial Reconstruction Team out of Gardez laid down the foundation for the renewed education of Paktia youth when they helped rebuild the Dara School. The school had its grand opening Aug. 27.

“A good education will prepare these children and give them the tools to be future leaders in the community,” said acting commander of Combined Joint Task Force 180, Maj. Gen. Zannie Smith, who attended the school opening along with other dignitaries including Paktia provinces’ governor Asadullah Wafa and the senior political ad-



A young child stands in front of the new Dara school he will soon attend. Dara and the surrounding area haven't had a schoolhouse for more than 20 years leaving a generation to suffer.

visor to U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, Ambassador Victor Jackovich.

Built on a concrete base and reinforced steel frame, the vibrant, new school stands out like a beacon among the mud and brick walled homes which dominate the area.

The new school took four months to

build and cost \$76,000, according to Maj. Mark Donlon, 407th Civil Affairs Battalion, Gardez PRT.

Initially the school is expected to enroll

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CNN researches progression in Afghanistan

Story and photo by Pfc. Kelly Hunt
4th Public Affairs Detachment

GARDEZ, Afghanistan – *CNN* Foreign Correspondent Christiane Amanpour made a stop at the Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team location Aug. 18-19 during a trip designed to explore the changes and progress being made throughout the country.

“Gardez is part of a broader picture of Afghanistan that we’re trying to get,” said

Amanpour. “The United States has pledged a billion dollars (to the rebuilding of Afghanistan) and essentially wants to accelerate its reconstruction efforts.”

The crew is working its way all over the country, visiting as many locations as they can and speaking to various leaders and officials along way to collect information about the area’s progress.

“We’re talking to American military and Afghan officials just trying to get a picture of how it’s going,” said Amanpour. “Coming to this PRT was part of seeing

some of the rehabilitation that Civil Affairs (is) involved in.”

Amanpour said she was interested in seeing what PRT personnel are doing within the Afghan communities and the construction efforts that are being made in the area.

The *CNN* crew has visited various locations throughout the country including villages in the west, Kandahar, Kabul and

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



N. Korea's Kim leaves the talks. Pyongyang says U.S. proposals are "beyond tolerance."

Stalemate at N. Korea nuke talks

BEIJING – Six-nation talks on North Korea's nuclear crisis have ended with conflicting signals on the outcome and discordant notes from both Pyongyang and Washington.

Participants, however, have agreed in principle that the issue of Pyongyang's nuclear program needed to be resolved peacefully and that the Korean Peninsula should remain nuclear free.

North Korea put forward a "package of solutions" at the opening of the talks in Beijing, aimed at curbing its nuclear ambitions, but warned that future negotiations may be in jeopardy because of what it regards as U.S. intransigence.

Pyongyang's official media outlet, KCNA, was reported as saying North Korea would not build nuclear weapons if the United States would agree to a non-aggression treaty — a stance largely unchanged from its position before the talks.

"It is not our goal to have nuclear weapons," the head of North Korea's delegation was reported as saying Friday at the close of the three-day talks.

"The demilitarization of the Korean peninsula was our initiative and it is our consistent stand and the desire of all Koreans to realize it," Kim Yong Il said in a speech released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency.

"The U.S. is, however, standing in its way."



Israeli armored vehicles mass near a border crossing into Gaza Thursday.

Hamas militant killed in Israeli helicopter attack in Gaza

CNN – Just hours after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon instructed forces to "take all necessary steps" against Hamas, an Israeli helicopter gunship late Thursday struck a donkey cart in southern Gaza, killing a Hamas militant and wounding three people nearby, Palestinian sources and witnesses said.

The cart was traveling in a residential neighborhood in Khan Yunis in southern Gaza when it was struck.

Witnesses said the Hamas member was traveling alone in the cart when it was struck by three rockets fired from an Israeli helicopter.

They said he was killed instantly. Three other people near the cart were wounded, witnesses and hospital sources said.

Palestinian security sources identified the man killed as Hamdi Khalaq, a member of Hamas' military wing, Izzedine al Qassam.

A spokesman for the Israel Defense Forces said the Hamas militant was en route to carry out a mortar attack on a Jewish settlement. "The IDF thwarted a mortar shell attack," he said.

He said Khalaq had been working alongside another militant in preparing mortar attacks against Israel. The IDF spokesman said that in the past week, more than 50 mortars have been fired at Israel, including 14 Hamas-made Qassam rockets.

"The IDF will continue to act against Hamas and other terrorist organizations," he said.

Earlier Thursday, a Qassam rocket was fired from northern Gaza into Israel, landing

in an industrial area of Askelon, Israeli authorities said. No one was wounded and there was no damage, they said.



The United States is considering a U.N.-sponsored, U.S.-led multinational force in Iraq.

Official say U.S. considering multinational force for Iraq

WASHINGTON – The Bush administration is considering having a multinational force in Iraq to be sponsored by the United Nations but under U.S. command, a senior State Department official said.

The concept is among options the White House is considering to bring more countries into the security effort in postwar Iraq, Armitage said in a roundtable discussion with newspaper reporters. The State Department made the transcript public Wednesday.

A senior Bush administration official said that U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan put forward the idea of a U.N.-sponsored force and that the United States has been seeking feedback on the idea from Security Council members.

Nations on the U.N. Security Council have been calling for the United States and Britain to make power-sharing concessions. But U.S. administration sources have said that the White House, which favors a widening of responsibility in Iraq for other countries, intends to maintain its primary military or political control of the postwar transition.

"It is important to have unity of command," a senior Bush administration official said, but added that other countries could take "sub-command" of various areas of Iraq as part of the force.

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CNN Foreign Correspondent Christiane Amanpour, meets with Maj. Dean Fremling, 407th Civil Affairs Bn., CA Team 13, and Gardez PRT leaders and local elders to gather information on progress being made in Gardez..

is expecting to participate in a combat mission within some of the eastern locations.

The trip is an adventure as well as a learning experience for the *CNN* crew and Amanpour who said she is excited to see the efforts put forth in rebuilding the country.

“I love Afghanistan and it’s interesting to see some of the changes that are taking place,” said Amanpour.

CNN is one of the leading news networks in providing coverage of international events.

Most recently, Operation Iraqi Freedom and the post-war events of the U.S. and Allied Forces have been a central focus of the network.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR Building: “Rules of Engagement.” An attorney defends an officer on trial for ordering his troops to fire on civilians after they stormed a U.S. embassy in a third world country.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Sum of All Fears.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
Bagram:	Partly cloudy H: 91F L: 70F	Rain H: 91F L: 64F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 100F L: 75F	Dusty H: 102F L: 73F
Kabul:	Dusty H: 90F L: 70F	Scattered showers H: 90F L: 66F
Uzbekistan:	Clear H: 98F L: 54F	Clear H: 97F L: 59F

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.

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Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

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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 4th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

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300 students, but the numbers are expected to quickly grow, according to Paktia Director of Education Abdul Moslin.

Years of fighting Russian occupation and then living under the Taliban had driven many of the families of Paktia province to neighboring countries Pakistan and Iran.

“We will encourage the refugees from Iran and Pakistan to return home,” said Wafa. “After the people hear about this (and the other programs being started by the PRT) hopefully they will return.”

By next year the school is expecting to enroll more than 1,200 students. The school day will be split in half, with boys being taught in the morning and girls in the afternoon.

“We are very happy because education is very important to making things better for the Afghan people,” said Mahammed Aqbal, one of the future students. “I want to become a doctor or engineer and to help keep peace in our country.”

For now the school will train new teachers to prepare for the group of Afghan youth that will become the future leaders of their country.

“This is a great gift,” Wafa said. “We will not forget this.”

Operation Enduring Freedom: The local view

Story by Spc. Zia Ul Haq
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – When the Taliban came to power many of the Afghan people fled to other nations leaving their homes behind.

The presence and accomplishments of the Coalition Joint Task Force have brought the Afghan people back to a nation free of al Qaida and the Taliban. Many people in Afghanistan are pleased to have the Americans here to protect them from the Taliban.

“We were told that America was coming to free our nation and they have done so,” said Sami, an Afghan soldier that works on the Kandahar base.

The Afghans, or “Hajjis,” consider the American soldiers on “hajji watch” as allies, but when they hear the soldiers’ negative comments and racial slurs used in reference towards them it is a low blow on their pride. Some of them not only understand English but they can speak it.

Despite all of this, they are overjoyed to have the coalition support them in their goal.

As Sami clears the Kandahar airport terminal, two armed guards from the 10th Mountain Division watch him. It does not bother him that he is being watched while he works. To the two soldiers that watch Sami he is just a Hajji, but to Sami they are his allies, people who are watching out for his well-being.

The fear of being punished by the Taliban is a hard emotion to forget for the average Afghan. With the CJTF around, the people of Kandahar can begin to live free of

fear. When the Taliban were in power there were many restrictions put on the people.

Alliamama, a worker from Kandahar reluctantly stated, “The Afghani people lived with many hardships because of the Taliban”.

There were many rules and regulations that the people were forced to live by. In Afghanistan the Taliban made the laws and no one stood to tell them otherwise.

“It was against the law to watch movies or play cards and you had to go to the mosque on Fridays for prayer no matter what you were doing,” said Alliamama. Friday is considered the day for prayer for all Muslims.

Freedom of speech meant nothing to the Taliban. It was against the law to talk negatively about the Taliban, even if it was true, stated Sami. It seemed as though there was still some fear in the minds of these people who lived under the archaic rule of the Taliban. Looking over his shoulder to see if anyone was listening in, Sami said, “We could not cut our beards or even do things as simple as listen to music”.

“If the Afghans broke any of these rules they would be punished by the Taliban,” said Alliamama.

The penalty for playing cards was having their faces painted black, and to be walked around the market place for three or four days.

The simple things that Americans take for granted, Afghans of Kandahar were going to jail for.

“If a male was caught with a shaved or trimmed beard then he would be put in jail for three months, and would also be horse whipped,” said Alliamama.

The Taliban were running the country in such a harsh manner that all the honest and hard working people left the country.

After years and years of being oppressed, the Afghans were delighted to receive help from the many nations that came together to hold the Taliban accountable for their actions.

“Fortunately, the CJTF came, because there was no work in Kandahar,” said Sami. “Now that the Taliban have been eradicated, or run off to different countries, by the CJTF we are finally able to work.”

The women had been forced to hide behind a veil for many years. Now they are not just housewives anymore.

“Our women can go to school and work now,” said Sami.

“We are now able to live the way we want, not the way the Taliban wants us to live,” said Sami. “The Americans are giving us more opportunities to better our way of life.”

Many Afghans have been given jobs here. Some are in the Afghan military, others are civilians that are just trying to get business started, and most just want to help the Coalition. These people perform different tasks that are essential for a smooth operating installation. The jobs that the Afghans have range from trash disposal, landscaping and food preparation, to building and renovations.

“We are glad to work with the Americans. Hopefully Kandahar will be a great place to live if we continue on this path,” said Sami.

“When no one in the world cared to help the people of Afghanistan, the CJTF stepped up and fought for our freedom,” said Alliamama.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



In his first game back after knee surgery, Frank Gore rushed for 118 yards.

Rolling full force, No. 3 Miami routs La. Tech

SHREVEPORT, La. — A decent debut for Miami's new big three was enough for the Hurricanes to win their opener going away.

Antrel Rolle returned an interception and a punt for touchdowns and Frank Gore ran for 118 yards as No. 3 Miami beat Louisiana Tech 48-9 Thursday night.

The game marked the starting debut for Gore, quarterback Brock Berlin and wide receiver Ryan Moore.

The trio has a long way to go to keep Hurricanes fans from missing Ken Dorsey, Willis McGahee and Andre Johnson.

"I wouldn't say it was great," Berlin said. "I'm glad to get it out of the way and now just ready to get on with next week."

The Hurricanes host rival Florida on Sept. 6.

Making his Miami debut in his hometown, Berlin was OK in a little less than three quarters of work. The Florida transfer was 14-for-28 for 203 yards with two touchdowns and an interception.

"I love Shreveport and the people here. And the fans. That was an excellent environment to play in tonight," Berlin said.

Gore, who missed all last season after major knee surgery, showed good burst and power on 21 carries and caught two passes for 33 yards.

Gore said he feels even better than before the injury.

"I feel like I got a lot stronger to take on linebackers," Gore said. "As the game goes I get better and better. Next week it's going to be different so I've got to pick it up even more."

Carter superb, Cowboys blowout of Raiders

IRVING, Texas — Bill Parcells knows better than to get too giddy over anything that happens in the preseason.

But he also recognizes that beating the Oakland Raiders 52-13 Thursday night can have residual benefits for the Dallas Cowboys

— especially considering they set a franchise-record for preseason points, scored on all five drives led by newly named starting quarterback Quincy Carter and got touchdowns from the defense and special teams.

"It means something to me because I think it gives the players something to build on, something to think about," Parcells said. "You can only get confidence if you demonstrate an ability to do something. We did that tonight."

The Cowboys (2-2) scored 31 points in the first half, then added three more touchdowns — including a 96-yard kickoff return by Reggie Swinton — to break the team record for points in a pre-season game was set by the 1971 club that went on to win the team's first Super Bowl title.

This wasn't exactly the Oakland team that played in the Super Bowl last January.

Quarterback Rich Gannon and his top receivers played only five snaps. Gannon was 0-for-3, with his first pass bouncing off Jerry Rice's shoulder and being returned 24 yards for a touchdown by cornerback Mario Edwards.

Carter was 11-of-16 for 239 yards, leading Dallas to four touchdowns and a field goal. His best plays were a scrambling 69-yard touchdown pass to Joey Galloway and a 49-yarder to Terry Glenn off play action, both against Oakland's first-stringers.

On the Hunt, Pistons trade Curry for Hunter

DETROIT — The Detroit Pistons traded Michael Curry to the Toronto Raptors for Lindsey Hunter on Thursday in a move that will give Detroit more depth at point guard.

Curry started at small forward last season for Detroit, which had the best regular-season record in the Eastern Conference. Hunter, a former draft pick of the Pistons, joins point guards Chauncey Billups and Chucky Atkins with Detroit.

Hunter played in only 29 games last season because of an assortment of injuries, averaging 9.7 points and 2.4 assists. He missed 11 games with a sore right knee, three with a strained hamstring and 39 with a sore back.

Hunter, 32, spent the first seven seasons of his 10-year career in Detroit.

"We're very comfortable with Lindsey after having him play here in the past," Detroit's president of basketball operations Joe Dumars said. "We know what type of energy and effort he brings to the game."

Curry, a 35-year-old defensive specialist, started 77 games last season, averaging 3.0 points and 1.6 rebounds. He shared time at small forward with Tayshaun Prince and Corliss Williamson.

Curry has one year and \$2.8 million left on his contract. Hunter has one season and \$3.3 million — \$2 million guaranteed — left on his.



Lindsey Hunter

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

U.S. jets bomb suspected Taliban positions

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (*Associated Press*) – U.S. fighter jets and helicopters bombed suspected Taliban hideouts in the rugged mountains of southern Afghanistan on Thursday — bombardments triggered by intense fighting between the insurgents and Afghan troops, officials said.

The troops were trying to flush out the Taliban when the guerrillas attacked with heavy machine guns in the Chinaran mountains in Zabul province, Haji Granai, an Afghan military commander, told *The Associated Press* by satellite telephone from Chinaran.

Three Taliban bodies were found, and four Afghan soldiers were lightly injured, Granai said as explosions boomed in the background.

Two U.S. bombers and two helicopters helped in the battle with the insurgents, he said.

Zabul has seen heavy fighting this week. The province's governor, Hafizullah Hashami, has said that about 40 Taliban and three Afghan soldiers have been killed in the ongoing operation to clear out guerrillas hiding in the mountainous area.

Khalil Hotak, the head of intelligence in Zabul, said troops were also searching village homes. He said the insurgents were being led by Mullah Arif, who is in contact with the Taliban's fugitive chief, Mullah Mohammed Omar. He gave no evidence to back his claim, saying only that he had intelligence information.

A spokesman for Kandahar's military chief, Mohammed Yaqub, said two other prominent Taliban commanders, Mullah Dadullah and Mullah Shafiq, were leading the fighting in the area.

Dadullah was a powerful commander in the Taliban regime who is suspected of spearheading attacks against foreigners in southern Afghanistan in recent months.

Shafiq was a Taliban governor of the southeastern province of Khost.

The U.S.-led coalition dismantled the Taliban in late 2001 for harboring terrorists.

Two fighters arrested in the area two days ago told investigators they were recruited by the Taliban and fighters loyal to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. They said they received 38,000 Pakistani rupees (US\$650) from the two groups, Hotak said.

A former prime minister who has since fallen into disfavor, Hekmatyar has so far eluded U.S. efforts to arrest or kill him. The renegade warlord has issued calls for a jihad, or holy war, against foreign troops in Afghanistan.

Also on Thursday, Col. Rodney Davis, spokesman for the U.S. military at Bagram Air Base, just north of the capital, Kabul, said a band of insurgents attacked coalition forces Wednesday near the village of Shkin in eastern Paktika province.

The guerrillas fired small arms and rocket propelled grenades at the coalition soldiers, he said.

The insurgents fled toward the Pakistani border after the coali-

tion forces fired back and called in air support, he said. No casualties were reported.

Afghanistan constitution postponed two months

Story by Mike Collett-White

KABUL, Afghanistan (*Reuters*) – Afghanistan will postpone adopting a new constitution by two months, allowing more time to inform the public about what is at stake, in a move that could delay elections due next year, a senior official said on Thursday.

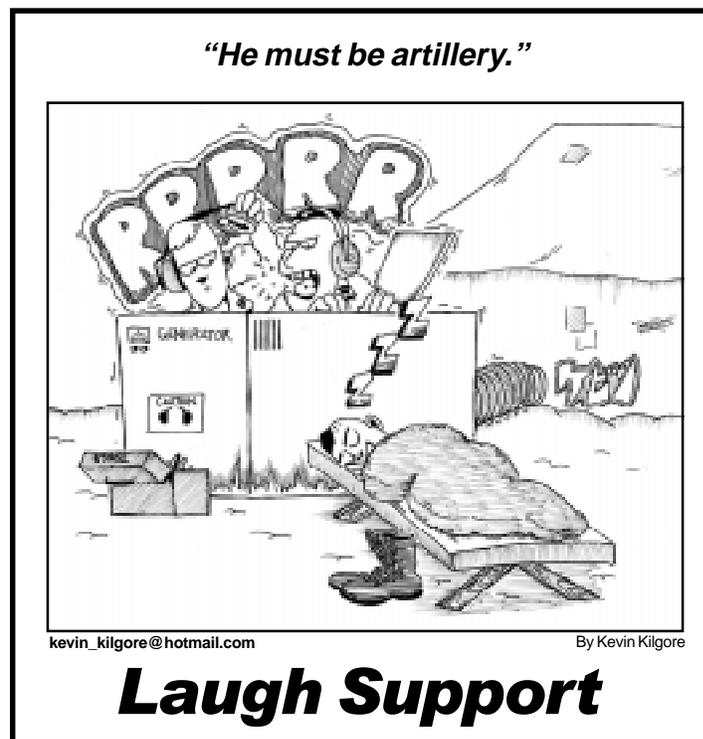
The constitution will help define post-Taliban Afghanistan, including its political system — presidential, parliamentary or back to a monarchy — the role of Islam in the conservative Muslim state, and how much power Kabul has over the regions.

Western diplomats and aid workers have complained that the process has been rushed through, leaving little time to consult a population still emerging from the trauma of war and occupation.

Farooq Wardak, director of the secretariat of the Constitutional Commission, told *Reuters* that the constitution would not be adopted until the end of December from the original target date of end-October.

"I was under extreme pressure, including from UNAMA (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan), to stick to the time stipulated," he said in Kabul.

"I was not willing to go with that as I was almost 100 percent certain that if we stuck to it we would deliver a document of a quality we were ashamed of," Wardak said.



Tuning-up crossword

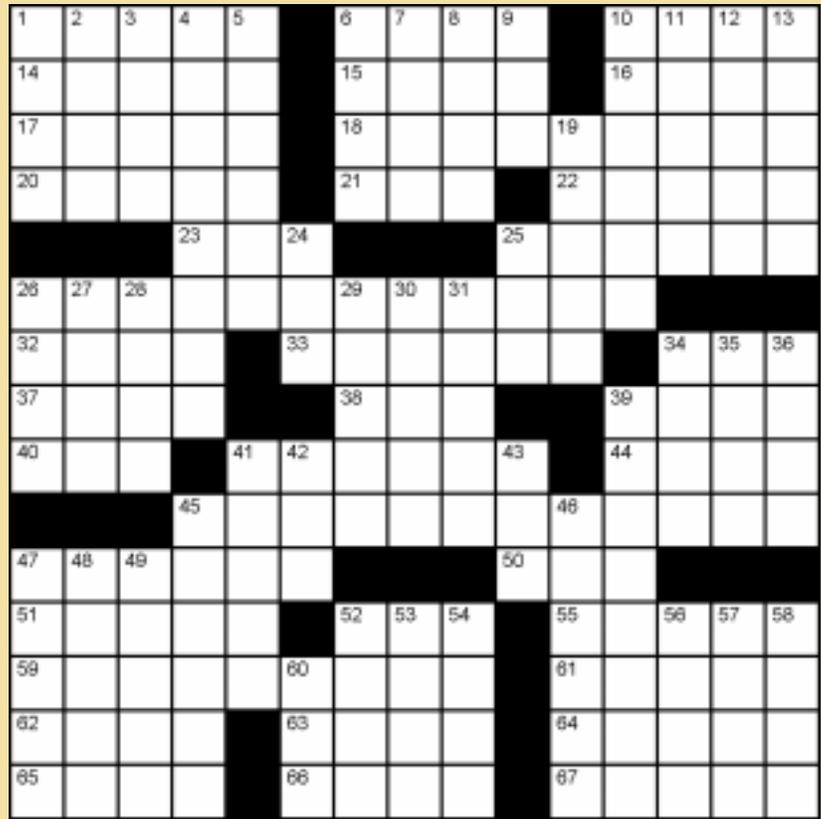
(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

Across

- 1. Marked for removal
- 6. Grabbed the tab
- 10. Morsels in fried rice
- 14. Rudimentary seed
- 15. Not fooled by
- 16. ___ arms (angry)
- 17. Show as similar
- 18. Musical shootout site?
- 20. Send to Washington
- 21. Sidelines yell
- 22. Country's Haggard
- 23. Beer source
- 25. Have a ___ interest
- 26. Musical literary detective?
- 32. ___ sapiens
- 33. Geneticist's study
- 34. Tie the knot
- 37. "The Virginian" author Wister
- 38. Slower, in mus.
- 39. Stir up
- 40. Check endorser's need
- 41. Like the Six Million Dollar Man
- 44. "If all ___ fails ..."
- 45. Musical voting method?
- 47. Strut showily
- 50. ___-mo
- 51. At full speed, on the briny
- 52. Margery of nursery rhyme
- 55. Shell games
- 59. Musical city and its surroundings?
- 61. Ankle bones
- 62. "Put a lid ___!"
- 63. Tailless cat
- 64. Playful swimmer
- 65. Fruity drinks
- 66. ___-bitty
- 67. Has to have

Down

- 1. Loser to Clinton in '96
- 2. Devil's work



- 3. Skywalker of sci-fi
- 4. Nucleus orbiter
- 5. Kind of plate or implant
- 6. Flat busted
- 7. "Puppy Love" singer Paul
- 8. Scratch inducer
- 9. Cry from Homer Simpson
- 10. Least tainted
- 11. Dizzying designs
- 12. Lunar valley
- 13. Knock-___
- 19. Signs to heed
- 24. Orchestra's place
- 25. Vintner's vessel
- 26. Right away, when doubled
- 27. Hockey great Gordie
- 28. Prayer closer
- 29. Fielding average lowerer
- 30. Queeg's ship
- 31. Jazzman's "go!"
- 34. Humorist Rogers
- 35. "Born Free" lioness
- 36. Scout's doing
- 39. Move with one's job
- 41. Form of bingo
- 42. Hazardous for driving
- 43. "60 Minutes" network
- 45. Tees, e.g.
- 46. Longtime Dodgers skipper
- 47. Mead research site
- 48. Make changes to
- 49. Abstract composer Erik
- 52. "Shucks!"
- 53. "... and that ___ hay!"
- 54. Like artificial fruit
- 56. Johnson of "Laugh-In"
- 57. Teacher's deg.
- 58. Lancelot and others
- 60. "___ seeing things?"

Walter

Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch