

## School project projects brighter future

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**MEYAN SHAKH**, Afghanistan – It cost the Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force \$72,000. But, when one viewed the excitement and gratitude on the students' face it could have cost a million dollars and it still would have been a relatively small price for their exuberance as members of CJCOMTF and the Parwan Province Reconstruction Team attended the reopening ceremony of the Meanshakh High School here Wednesday.

The high school, a refurbishment project of the Parwan PRT and coalition forces commitment to helping rebuild Afghanistan, was destroyed during the conflict with the Taliban. The loss of the high school left the children of Meyan Shakh area without an institution to conduct learning.

"It is a great honor and pleasure to witness the opening of this much needed school," said Col. Mackey Hancock, CJCOMTF commander and one of the ceremony's guest speakers. "The completion of this facility improves the educational capabilities of not only this community, but the region and improves the overall education system of the nation."

More than 200 students, school facility members, Mayan Shakh elders, Afghan dignitaries and U.S. Army representatives attended the ceremony.

"It was a wonderful feeling to be a part of the event that is significant to improving this country," said Maj. Carman Oldre,



*A Soldier with the 364th Civil Affairs Brigade pulling security chats with a little Afghan girl as she enters into the newly renovated Meanshakh High School.*

See **FUTURE**, Page 4

## Cheney addresses terrorist threat, U.S. security

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** – In a speech that often evoked the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Vice President Dick Cheney emphasized Jan. 14 that the global war against terrorism is a long-term struggle.

Cheney spoke to the Los Angeles World

Affairs Council.

"Remembering what we saw on 9/11, and knowing the nature of these enemies, we have as clear a responsibility as could ever fall to government," Cheney said. "We must do everything in our power to keep terrorists from gaining weapons of mass destruction."

He said the issue is an urgent responsibility that has shifted the country's national security strategy. "There are certain moments

in history when the gravest threats reveal themselves," the vice president said. "And in those moments, the response of our government must be swift, and it must be right."

Cheney told the group the U.S. national security strategy during the Cold War that emphasized deterrence and containment is not sufficient to meet the threat of terrorism today.

See **CHENEY**, Page 4

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



Carol Moseley Braun announces her departure from the race and her endorsement of Howard Dean on Thursday in Carroll, Iowa.

## Braun drops out, backs Dean

CARROLL, Iowa – Four days before the Iowa caucuses, the first Democratic presidential contest appeared to tighten Thursday and the field of candidates shrank to eight.

Former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun dropped out of the Democratic presidential race, throwing her support behind former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean.

"I am here today to thank those Iowans who were prepared to stand for me in Monday's caucuses and ask that you stand instead for Howard Dean," Braun said Thursday.

She told supporters that she hopes they "will stand for him with the conviction and courage with which you would have stood for me."

Dean, leading in national surveys, and U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa, who also recently endorsed the front-runner, joined Braun in her announcement.

Dean thanked Braun for her backing and encouraged supporters to turn out for Monday's caucuses, which he said were the first step toward wresting the White House from President Bush.

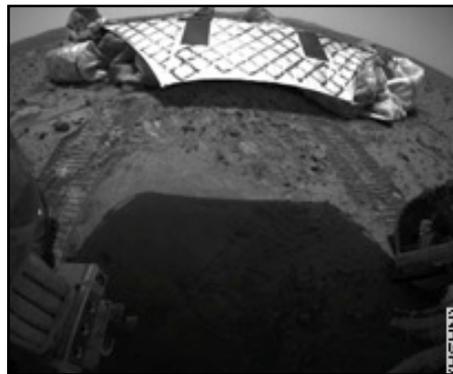
## Bush promotes faith-based programs in southern swing

NEW ORLEANS – President Bush said Thursday the "miracle of salvation" is the key to solving some of societies most intractable problems as he sought increased support among black voters for his plan to let religious charities in on more federal spending.

Bush used himself as an example of the good that religion can do, referencing his own deci-

sion to stop drinking at age 40 "because I changed my heart."

"My attitude is, the government should not fear faith-based programs – we ought to welcome faith-based programs and we ought to fund faith-based programs," he said from the pulpit of the packed Union Bethel A.M.E Church in a run-down, crime-plagued neighborhood near this city's downtown. "Faith-based programs are only effective because they do practice faith. It's important for our government to understand that."



View from Spirit after it rolled from its lander onto Mars' surface.

## NASA rover rolls onto Mars

(CNN) – A NASA robot rumbled from its lander onto the surface of Mars on Thursday, a crucial first step in a mission to investigate alien rocks and soil for evidence of water and perhaps life.

The short drive begins a trek that could take the craft to a variety of sites of scientific interest during the next three months, including shallow depressions and nearby hills that it observed in earlier photos.

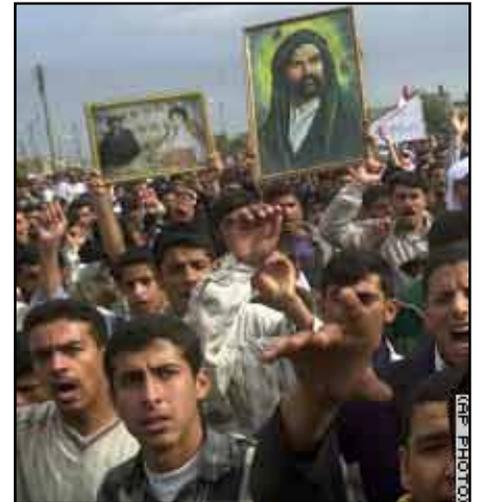
The successful rolloff by Spirit, which came almost two weeks after its risky landing in Gusev Crater near the Martian equator, left mission controllers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory ecstatic.

"We have six wheels in the dirt. Mars now is our sandbox, and we are ready to play and learn. I have to tell you, I've never seen so many people so excited about just seeing two tracks in the dirt," said Charles Elachi, director of the Pasadena, California-based laboratory.

The test drive began with mission controllers sending a radio transmission to the \$400 million machine, commanding it to move three

meters (10 feet) down a ramp onto the surface.

Within 90 minutes, they received a signal from the golf cart-sized craft that it had successfully negotiated the exit.



Demonstrators rally Thursday in Basra calling for a transitional Iraqi assembly to be chosen by direct elections.

## Iraqi people call for elections

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched through the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Thursday, calling for elections and more international involvement in their country.

People took to the streets in support of a call by Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, Iraq's foremost Shiite cleric, for the direct election of a transitional national assembly instead of selection under a regional caucus system that the United States favors.

But Adnan Pachachi, current president of the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, warned Thursday that creating procedures for a direct vote would delay the transition to sovereignty, which is scheduled for June 30.

One witness described the Basra demonstration as "anti-coalition." The crowd carried banners reading "Elections now" and "Where is the U.N.?"

There also were small demonstrations for early elections in the Iraqi capital and in Ramadi, west of Baghdad.

Pachachi told reporters that he backs direct elections in principle but believes the caucus-style elections for an assembly is more realistic in view of the June deadline.

## Soldiers increasingly trying to carry prohibited items on airliners

WASHINGTON—A junior Soldier was stopped from boarding a commercial airliner after an inert landmine was found in his checked baggage this month.

Increasingly Soldiers are attempting to carry prohibited items on commercial airliners either going to or returning from an overseas assignment, officials said. This act could be a career ender for Soldiers under the Uniformed Code of Military Justice, said Chet Spangler, Air Traffic Control staff specialist, Headquarters, U.S. Army Aeronautical Services Agency.

“Recently, the Transportation Security Administration confiscated various items to include five pounds of fireworks, brass knuckles with a four-inch knife blade, a loaded BB pistol and a nine-millimeter pistol during airport security checks,” Spangler said. According to the United States Code of Federal Regulations, a person who attempts to carry prohibited items on an airplane is subject to a \$10,000 civil penalty.

The junior Soldier who was detained for checking a landmine in his baggage was not charged with a criminal offense, but could face civil penalties, according to an article by the Denver bureau of the *Associated Press*.

Violations committed by military service members in the performance of official duties requires the TSA to refer such cases to the appropriate military authority for disciplinary action appropriate under the UCMJ, Spangler said.

Spangler said the staffing process for Soldiers who are caught with prohibited items in their carry-on baggage is as follows:

The TSA will provide a certified case file to Headquarters, U.S. Army Aeronautical Services Agency with a 90-day suspense. Next, the Headquarters, U.S. Army Aeronautical Services Agency will send the case file to the appropriate major command with a 60-day suspense.

The MACOM will be required to determine if the Soldier was within his right to carry the item because he was performing official duties. In the event the MACOM determines that the violation was not in performance of official duties, the TSA would take enforcement action.

*(Editor’s note: This article was submitted by the Headquarters, U.S. Army Aeronautical Services Agency.)*

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

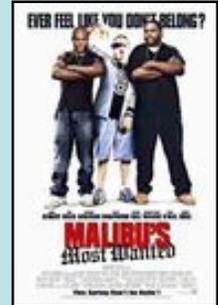
### “Malibu’s Most Wanted”

0830Z at the MWR Building:

A senator arranges for his son, a rich white kid who fancies himself black, to be kidnapped by a couple of black actors pretending to be murderers to try and shock him out of his plans to become a rapper.

1530Z: Tournament Night

Tomorrow’s movie: “Guilty by Suspicion”



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Saturday
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Cloudy/Rain H: 54F L: 39F	Cloudy/Fog H: 63F L: 36F
<b>Bagram:</b>	Cloudy/Rain H: 48F L: 32F	Cloudy/Fog H: 48F L: 30F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Cloudy/Rain H: 46F L: 32F	Cloudy/Fog H: 46F L: 28F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Cloudy/Rain H: 64F L: 45F	Clear H: 63F L: 48F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Parwan Civil Affairs Team leader. “More than 1,200 children will get the opportunity to improve their future because of the high school. Education is so important to fundamental growth of children, and helping these children today means helping Afghanistan’s future tomorrow.”

In the ceremony Afghan dignitaries such as the Director of Education and Bagram’s mayor praised the U.S. and coalition forces for their efforts.

One speaker told of his attendance of the Meanshakh High School decades before it was destroyed by the Taliban and how the school was the bedrock of his education saying, “What I learn here as a child helped me develop into the man I am today.”

The ceremony included a celebratory song by a young girls group and school officials giving the U.S. representatives Afghan rugs as a token of their appreciation.

“It has been a humbling experience in helping bring projects (such as the Meanshakh High School) to life,” said Staff Sgt. Chelly Fuchs, Parwan PRT civil affairs Soldier. “There are areas in my life that were brought into perspective because of my opportunity to serve with the local citizens. I saw people literally take nothing and make it into something and that’s something I’ll never forget.”

The ceremony concluded with a ribbon cutting that included the CJCMOTF commander and local Afghan dignitaries, but the spirit of the day continues to live in the hearts of the attendees.

“We have a short time here, but the impression we make lasts



*Col. Mackey Hancock, Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force commander, along with local Afghan dignitaries, cuts the ribbon officially opening the school.*

a lifetime,” said Oldre. “By our actions we can change perception which changes behavior and I think we were able to accomplish that with our efforts.”

The refurbished school took about four months to be completed. The school was configured to have 11 classrooms and a bathroom.

Included in the renovation was replacing 46 windows, replacing 17 doors, replacing the interior ceiling and replacing the concrete walkways to the classrooms.

Before the completion of the project students attended classes under tents provided by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) according to CJCOMTF officials.

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day.

“It’s hard to deter an enemy that has no territory to defend, no standing army to counter, and no real assets to destroy in order to discourage them from attacking you,” he said. “Containment is meaningless in the case of terrorists. And neither containment nor deterrence offers protection against rogue regimes that develop weapons of mass destruction and are willing to pass along those weapons secretly to a terrorist on a suicide mission.”

Today’s world, he said, calls for a very different strategy. “Given these realities,” he added, “There can be no waiting until the danger has fully materialized. By then, it would be too late. And so we are waging this war in the only way it can be won – by taking the

fight directly to the enemy.”

The vice president said that on the night of 9/11, President Bush declared what has become known as the Bush doctrine: “Any person or government that supports, protects, or harbors terrorists is complicit in the murder of the innocent, and will be held to account.”

The vice president said that although the more than 125,000 U.S. troops serving in Iraq are confronting terrorists every day, the use of military force by the United States always is the last option in defending the nation and its interests. But, he added, “Sometimes the last resort must be taken.”

Cheney said the U.S.-led coalition’s actions in Iraq not only removed one danger – Saddam Hussein – “but made it more likely that other dangers can be dealt with through diplomatic means.” He cited Libya’s decision to dismantle its program for weapons of mass

destruction and to invite international oversight of the process.

By making its intentions clear and by “matching resolutions with actual resolve,” Cheney said, the United States has sent an unmistakable message: “The pursuit of weapons of mass destruction only invites isolation and carries other costs. By the same token, leaders who abandon the pursuit of those weapons will find an open path to better relations with the United States of America and other free nations.”

The vice president said the undoing of Saddam’s regime and the “welcome commitments” from Libya will bring greater security to the United States and its allies. But he cautioned that “especially in moments of success, we need to remember the long-term nature of the struggle we are in, and the serious dangers that still exist.”



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

## L.A. victorious for Jackson's 800th win

**LOS ANGELES** – Even without their three injured stars, the Los Angeles Lakers were far better than the Denver Nuggets.

Slava Medvedenko had 22 points and nine rebounds, Gary Payton added 21 points and six assists and the Lakers beat the Nuggets 97-71 Wednesday night for their third straight victory since an embarrassing 22-point loss in Denver last week.

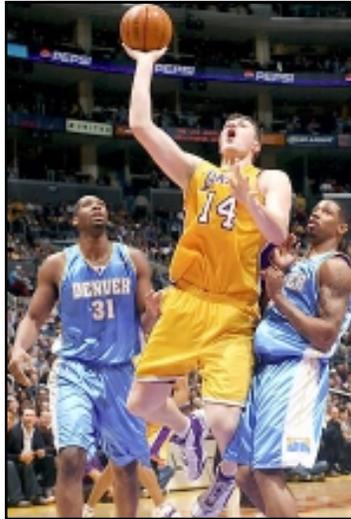
The victory was the 800th for Lakers coach Phil Jackson. He accomplished the feat in 1,101 games, making him the fastest to reach 800 wins in NBA history.

Playing without Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal and Karl Malone, the Lakers (24-11) took command by playing a near-flawless first half in taking a 55-35 lead.

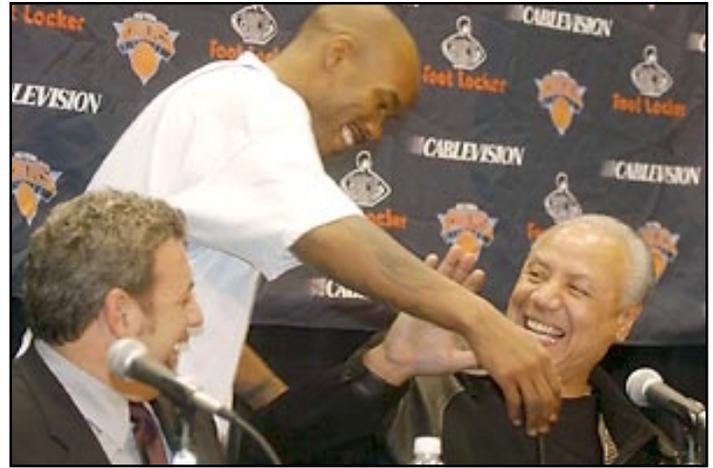
They shot 54.3 percent to Denver's 35.1 percent; outrebounded the Nuggets 20-14, and committed four turnovers while forcing eight in the opening 24 minutes.

The Nuggets (23-17), who had won three of their previous four games, including a 113-91 romp over the Lakers, didn't threaten after that.

Probably the most impressive aspect of the Lakers' performance was their defense, especially considering what Denver has accomplished this season.



*Slava Medvedenko scored more than 20 points for the second time in the past three games.*



*Welcome home: Stephon Marbury greets fellow Brooklyn native Lenny Wilkens during Thursday's news conference.*

## Wilkens ready to turn Knicks around

**GREENBURGH, N.Y.** – Lenny Wilkens was wrapping up his introductory news conference Thursday when a grinning Stephon Marbury strode over to the dais.

"Here comes another Brooklyn guy," the New York Knicks' new coach said before receiving a big hug from the team's point guard.

Marbury delivered the warmest embrace to Wilkens as the Knicks welcomed aboard another of the best playmakers ever to come out of New York. First, new team president Isiah Thomas traded for an All-Star (Marbury), then he hired a Hall of Famer (Wilkens).

Wilkens ran a brief practice in the afternoon, preparing the revamped Knicks to play the Seattle SuperSonics on Friday night. He replaces Don Chaney, fired Wednesday.

"The opportunity to come back to New York is just tremendous. It's not anything that I thought could happen," said Wilkens, who had been out of work since being fired by the Toronto Raptors at the end of last season.

## Wie makes impressive PGA Tour debut

**HONOLULU** – Michelle Wie hardly looked out of place Thursday at the Sony Open. Give her time, and the 14-year-old might prove she belongs on the PGA Tour.

Wie, believed to be the youngest player ever on the PGA Tour, made three birdies in a respectable round of 2-over 72 that left her nine strokes behind early leader Carlos Franco.

Still, the ninth-grader from Punahou made quite an impression beyond the two drives she hit over 300 yards.

"I looked at her today as another player," said Craig Bowden, her playing partner who posted a 70.

Wie is the third female to play on the PGA Tour in the last eight months, following Annika Sorenstam at the Colonial and Connecticut club pro Suzy Whaley at the Greater Hartford Open.

### Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

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

- ❖PGA Tour: Sony Open – 2<sup>nd</sup> Round (live) 0000Z, 0430L
- ❖Boxing: Diosbelys Hurtado vs Joe Hutchinson (live) 0230Z, 0700L
- ❖NHL: Coyotes vs Red Wings (taped) 0800Z, 1230L
- ❖NBA: Spurs vs Pacers (taped) 1200Z, 1630L
- ❖Motorcycle Racing (taped) 1500Z, 1930L
- ❖COLL BB: Iowa vs Illinois (live) 1700Z, 2130L
- ❖COLL BB: St. Joseph's vs Xavier (live) 1900Z, 2330L

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

- ❖COLL BB: Connecticut vs North Carolina (live) 2100Z, 0130L
- ❖COLL BB: Syracuse vs Notre Dame (live) 2300Z, 0330L
- ❖PGA Tour: Sony Open – 3<sup>rd</sup> Round (live) 0100Z, 0530L
- ❖COLL BB: St. Mary's vs Gonzaga (live) 0400Z, 0830L
- ❖COLL BB: Kansas vs Texas A&M (taped) 0800Z, 1230L
- ❖NHL: Sharks vs Avalanche (taped) 1130Z, 1600L
- ❖NBA: Spurs vs Celtics (live) 1730Z, 2200L

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Hail of rockets aimed at U.S. base

**KABUL**, Afghanistan (AP) – About a dozen rockets were fired at a U.S. base in eastern Afghanistan, but they caused no casualties, Afghan and U.S. officials said Thursday.

The rockets exploded in fields near the Khost airport, about 90 miles southeast of Kabul, at about 11 p.m. Wednesday, said Hayatullah Taniwal, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

“So many rockets have never been fired at the airport before,” Taniwal told *The Associated Press*.

He said the fire came from mountains to the south of the city.

Rockets are regularly fired at U.S. bases around the country. The projectiles, sometimes just propped on a rock and launched with a crude timer, rarely hit their targets.

Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Kabul, confirmed the overnight attack and said there were no injuries or damage.

Khost airport is home to more than 500 U.S. and allied troops, as well as American aircraft, making it the third-largest coalition base in the country.

Khost province and neighboring Paktika are the focus of American military operations against al Qaeda fighters believed to slip back and forth across the nearby Pakistani border.

In an effort to improve relations with Pakistan, Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Thursday he released 49 Pakistanis jailed for fighting for the ousted Taliban regime.

Karzai has said only a hard core of fugitive leaders of the Taliban are to be pursued as criminals and terrorists. The gesture matches a pledge by the Pakistani government to release Afghan prisoners from its jails.

At least 40 people, including Taliban suspects, Afghan troops and civilians, have died in an outburst of violence since the ratification of the country’s first post-Taliban constitution on Jan. 4.

Aid groups and deminers are also being targeted. A time bomb exploded at a mine-clearance site between the eastern city of Jalalabad and the Pakistani border on Tuesday, but no one was injured, said Fazel Karim Fazel, director of the OMAR demining agency. Another device was discovered and defused.

Three deminers’ vehicles were destroyed in another blast about two weeks ago, he said.

Karzai is also trying to demobilize the country’s many militias, which control vast swaths of the country.

On Thursday, militia fighters moved more than 100 heavy weapons out of the capital, taking a big – if belated – step on the country’s road toward peace.

The equipment, mostly artillery and multiple rocket launchers, was marshaled on a roadside next to the shell-scarred ruins of the city’s former royal palace for a brief ceremony.

Afghan and Western military officials lauded the equipment’s transfer to a barracks south of the capital, where it will be kept until a new national army is up and running.

Fighting between militias in the 1990s destroyed large areas of the capital.

## China’s one-man Afghan mission

(*BBC News*) – China’s contribution to the peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan may prove a heavy burden for one policeman from southern China.

Zhang Ming has been chosen as the sole member of a Chinese contingent to join the international effort, according to China’s state-run *Xinhua* news agency.

China shares a small stretch of its border with Afghanistan and Mr. Zhang’s presence is to help boost the fight against drug-trafficking.

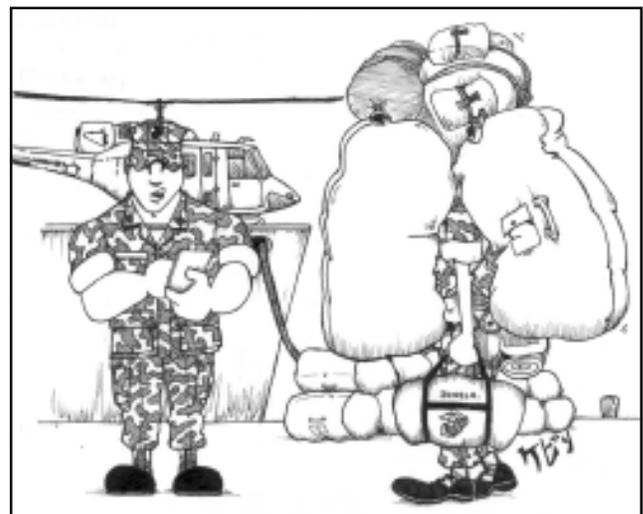
He will take up his new international posting on Friday.

He has experience combating the illegal narcotics trade in his native Hainan province, *Xinhua* said.

China does not have a significant role in international peacekeeping operations, although it has previously sent police officers to East Timor, Bosnia and Liberia.

It is not clear why China has decided to send just one officer to Afghanistan but analysts say it may be to play a symbolic part in helping a neighboring country.

**“Has anyone seen Pvt. Jones?”**



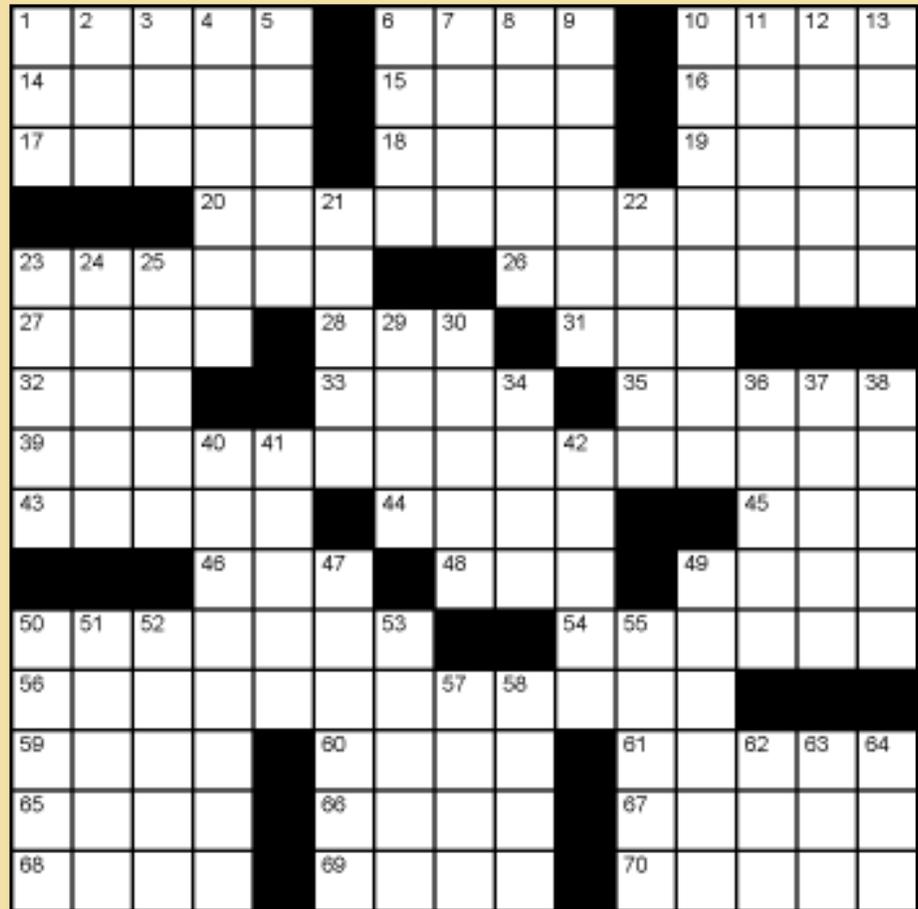
kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support

# Slippery crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)



## ACROSS

- 1 Take in or let out
- 6 Dalmatian's marking
- 10 Like two peas in \_\_\_
- 14 Swiss miss
- 15 Walk off with
- 16 Burn a bit
- 17 Savory jelly
- 18 Nation in an '80s war
- 19 \_\_\_ d'Azur
- 20 Clams for '60s British invaders?
- 23 Yachter's lodging
- 26 Sunday speeches
- 27 Car loan figs.
- 28 Tick off
- 31 Eminem's genre
- 32 President pro \_\_\_
- 33 A Ponderosa son
- 35 In the vicinity
- 39 Clear of difficulties, like '60s British invaders?
- 43 One of the Carpenters
- 44 Billing unit, for some
- 45 Grab a bite
- 46 Matterhorn, e.g.
- 48 Javits Center architect
- 49 Cracker spread
- 50 Algonquian language
- 54 Pianist's exercises
- 56 Some frat boys for '60s British invaders?
- 59 Polynesian carving
- 60 Trig ratio
- 61 Lagoon's boundary
- 65 Author Bagnold or Blyton
- 66 Keynesian subj.
- 67 Brown tone
- 68 Baseball's Sandberg
- 69 Tear to pieces
- 70 Nursery purchase

## DOWN

- 1 "Gotcha!"
- 2 Bandleader Brown
- 3 Bellboy's bonus
- 4 Formal decrees
- 5 Nouveau \_\_\_
- 6 Use a swizzle stick
- 7 Catherine \_\_\_ (Henry VIII's sixth)
- 8 Signs off on
- 9 Less at ease
- 10 Fait \_\_\_
- 11 Record player, for short
- 12 Like Cheerios
- 13 Get decked out
- 21 Philanthropist Yale
- 22 Sprinter's milieu
- 23 Dyeing method
- 24 "Pagliacci," e.g.
- 25 Strong suit?
- 29 \_\_\_ IRA
- 30 Block, legally
- 34 Andrew of "Melrose Place"
- 36 Hoopster Shaq
- 37 Do figure eights
- 38 \_\_\_ Park, Colo.
- 40 Semimonthly ocean phenomenon
- 41 Dental restoration
- 42 IRA-establishing legislation
- 47 Sci-fi weapon
- 49 Soft hue
- 50 More fitting
- 51 Like much Seattle weather
- 52 Alan of "Catch-22"
- 53 Getting chilled
- 55 Envelope closer
- 57 Barge \_\_\_ (interrupt)
- 58 Patch up
- 62 \_\_\_-Locka, Fla.
- 63 Writer \_\_\_ Yutang
- 64 Long. crosser

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