

Troops put medical training to test in Ghazni

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

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Medics rushed out to the scene of a two-car accident for the second time during their week-long mission to Ghazni District, putting their military medical training to the ultimate test as they fought for the victims' lives.

The first accident occurred in Dec. 13 and jolted the medical team of the Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team into action.

"Once the accident happened, immediately three of our medics within our convoy were on the scene treating local nations that got hurt in the accident," said Capt. Dan Verich, operations officer. "There



1st Lt. Gordon Williford, head of the Ghazni PRT medical team, is aided by interpreter Homayun Safi as he examines one victim of a vehicle accident who is suffering from a head injury.

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U.S. clinic does its part to aid Afghan progress

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Dan Millbauer
3rd PSYOPS Battalion

CHAPMAN AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – It's almost 9 a.m. on a cool, sunny December morning as Afghan Militia Force and American Soldiers begin letting the citizens of Khowst through the North gate of Chapman Air Field.

Half are probably from right here in town, but the rest have traveled from villages up to four hours away. The people have come for medical care at a small clinic here.

The recently refurbished building has two examination rooms and a covered waiting area outside. The staff consists of one doctor, one Special Forces medic and one or more medically-trained Soldiers. Contract Afghan translators help the patients and the medics understand each other.



Capt. Steve Travis, 1st Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, listens to an Afghan man's heartbeat at the free clinic at Chapman Air Field in Khowst.

A U.S. Army doctor, Capt. Steve Travis, is the officer in charge here. "This is the only source of medical care that a lot of these people have," he said. In Khowst city, "there's the university hospital and a city hospital, but unfortunately, both have serious staffing and funding problems."

They also charge a fee to the patients. Travis says his clinic is trying to serve the people who can't afford the doctors in town.

Since the Chapman clinic opened in early November, Travis and his small staff have treated an average of 90 patients a day, five days a week between 9 and noon. Men, women and children receive medicine and advice for their ailments, which cover a broad range.

Medics have seen everything from the common cold, skin infections and respiratory problems to malaria, tuberculosis and the

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English/Dari phrase of the day: *Have a good day - Rose-e-khuob*

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



British Airways Flight 223 from Heathrow Airport sits on the tarmac at Dulles International Airport.

British Airways cancels flight from London to Washington

LONDON—A day after fighter jets escorted a British Airways flight from London into the Dulles International Airport at Washington D.C., the same flight on Thursday was canceled at the request of the British government, the airline said.

U.S. authorities had no immediate comment. Authorities have said they believe al Qaeda may try to use planes on international flights in possible attacks on the United States, similar to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, when four hijacked planes were used as missiles.

A British Airways spokesman would only say that Flight 223 – scheduled to take off at 6:20 p.m. (1:20 p.m. EST) was canceled for security reasons “on advice from the U.K. government.”

The flight was one of three to Dulles airport scheduled for the day; one of the other flights left as scheduled earlier Thursday. The B.A. spokesman said the remaining flight would not be affected.

On Wednesday night, British Airways Flight 223 was escorted by fighter jets to Dulles after authorities said the names of about a dozen passengers appeared to match those on a terrorist watch list.

Earthquake shakes Mexico

MEXICO CITY—A moderate earthquake near a coastal resort on the Pacific Ocean jolted the region Thursday and could be felt nearly 200 miles away in Mexico City.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake had a preliminary magnitude of 5.7 and struck around 5:30 p.m. (6:30 p.m. ET). The temblor

was centered about 25 miles east of the resort community of Zihuatanejo in the state of Guerrero, according to the USGS.

Zihuatanejo is located 200 miles southwest of Mexico City and 120 miles northwest of Acapulco.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. Authorities said aftershocks have been felt.

Doug Davis, who works at Hotel Las Palmas near Zihuatanejo, said the quake lasted about 15 to 20 seconds. He said lamps and statues swayed, but that he saw no major damage.

Zihuatanejo is a thriving fishing community of about 70,000 and a popular resort town where cruise ships make frequent stops.



People warm their hands around a bonfire Tuesday in Allahabad, India.

Biting cold chills kill 189

LUCKNOW, India—A bitterly cold winter in northern India killed 43 people overnight, raising the toll from near-freezing temperatures sweeping the region since Christmas to 189, officials said on Thursday.

Agra, the city of the Taj Mahal, and adjoining districts were the coldest, with heavy fog and an icy breeze during the day. The temperature dipped to three degrees Celsius (37 Fahrenheit) at night.

Day temperatures were 10 degrees Celsius below normal in most parts of the Uttar Pradesh state, officials said.

Weather officials said the cold snap would continue for another few days, putting at risk poor and homeless people, who depend on government agencies for relief.

“The administration is doing its best to ensure whatever respite is possible within our means. Beyond that we have to depend on

God’s mercy,” Ambika Chaudhary, revenue minister of Uttar Pradesh, told *Reuters*.



Earth spin baffles scientists

BOULDER, Colo. – In a phenomenon that has scientists puzzled, the Earth is right on schedule for a fifth straight year.

Experts agree that the rate at which the Earth travels through space has slowed ever so slightly for millennia. To make the world’s official time agree with where the Earth actually is in space, scientists in 1972 started adding an extra “leap second” on the last day of the year.

For 28 years, scientists repeated the procedure. But in 1999, they discovered the Earth was no longer lagging behind.

At the National Institute for Science and Technology in Boulder, spokesman Fred McGehan said most scientists agree the Earth’s orbit around the sun has been gradually slowing for millennia. But he said they don’t have a good explanation for why it’s suddenly on schedule.

Possible explanations include the tides, weather and changes in the Earth’s core, he said.

The leap second was an unexpected consequence of the 1955 invention of the atomic clock, which use the electromagnetic radiation emanated by Cesium atoms to measure time. It is extremely reliable.

Atomic-based Coordinated Universal Time was implemented in 1972, superseding the astronomically determined Greenwich Mean Time.

Leap seconds can be a big deal, affecting everything from communication, navigation and air traffic control systems to the computers that link global financial markets.

New construction begins at school in Khowst Province

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Dan Millbauer
3rd PSYOPS Battalion

HAYDARKHEL VILLAGE, Afghanistan – When class is in session at Haydarkhel high school near Khost, approximately 2,500 students attend.

The current building is not large enough to accommodate them all, so teachers frequently move some of the children outside. That’s about to change.

A U.S. Army civil affairs team here is helping to facilitate a major improvement project.

A new two-story, 28-room building will add capacity to Haydarkhel’s high school within months. According to Maj. Jim Smith, 407th Civil Affairs Team leader, the \$153,000 project is one of the largest the team has been involved with here in Khost Province.

“It puts money back into the economy, keeps people employed and rebuilds the infrastructure (in the area),” he said.

A teacher at the school said the local community appreciates the new building under construction, and is happy to have American assistance.

The teacher, Hamid, uses only one name according to the custom of some Afghans. He said, “Education is very important to these children, as they are the ones who will bring prosperity to Afghanistan. The new building will help us very much.”

The Afghan construction company that won the contract has six months to complete the building. Work began with a ceremonial ground-breaking on December 9th, with the 407th CA Team in attendance, along with teachers and hundreds of students.

The 407th is deployed to Afghanistan from Arden Hills, Minn. They operate out of Chapman Airfield, a small American outpost on the edge of the city of Khowst.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

“Timeline”

Showtime: 1530Z

A group of archaeological students become trapped in the past when they go there to retrieve their professor. The group must survive in 14th century France long enough to be rescued.

Tomorrow’s event: Dance Party Night



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Saturday
Uzbekistan:	Mostly Cloudy H: 35F L: 28F	Clear H: 45F L: 26F
Bagram:	Mostly Clear H: 41F L: 21F	Partly Cloudy H: 43F L: 23F
Kabul:	Mostly Clear H: 41F L: 19F	Partly Cloudy H: 43F L: 21F
Kandahar:	Clear H: 33F L: 21F	Rain H: 43F L: 28F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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was no other medical care on the scene other than our three medics.”

Their training went into action, he said. “They quickly responded, were able to assess each individual and provide each one with the medical care that they needed in order to help them.”

Three local nationals from the vehicle were hurt in the accident with one who appeared to suffer from a serious head injury. All four local nationals were treated immediately by the PRT medical team.

“That’s what they’re trained to do,” said Verich. “This wasn’t out of the ordinary; they do this all the time, but it was good to see it in action.”

The second accident on Dec. 15 tested

their knowledge once again as the vehicle revealed two injured local nationals. One of which was seriously injured and ended up going into shock in front of the medical crew.

All victims were transported to Ghazni Hospital and thanks to the Ghazni PRT medical team both men recovered well and were released within hours.

“They treated everyone quickly and accurately,” he said. “I know that a lot of the local nationals that gathered around the scene were very grateful and thankful to the medics that were on the scene to help out and give medical care.”

The three medics made an impact on not only the local nationals hurt from the accident, but on all the local nationals gathered at the scene as well as their fellow soldiers

who provided support to the medics.

“I was really proud to see our medical team act the way they did,” said Verich. “They did a very professional job and did very well.”

After both accidents the team conducted an after action review, though all were impressed with the way they handled the stressful situation and how they kept people around them calm.

“There’s always lessons to be learned when you treat casualties,” said Verich. “They are a team that always wants to improve (and) they always strive to improve.”

“They’ve been a really good medical team for the PRT,” he said. “That’s just one example of another way the Ghazni PRT is making a difference in Ghazni Province.”

CLINIC, from Page 1

parasitic skin disease leishmaniasis.

The clinic staff can handle minor surgeries like laceration repair, but their diagnostic tools are limited. For more serious cases, they make referrals for patients to visit other facilities for specialized care. For instance, one boy came in with severe burns on his face from playing with unexploded ordnance he had found. The Chapman medics arranged for his transportation and treatment at the U.S. hospital at Bagram Air Field.

Travis is proud of the quality of care he’s able to provide with limited staff and resources; but he emphasizes that the Chapman facility is supposed to be a temporary measure.

“Our clinic is meant to be a stopgap. In the long term, we want to build up Afghanistan’s own health care system. To really do that, we need the assistance of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other aid groups. Those groups want to come in, too, but until this area is stabilized, they won’t. That means we have to get rid of the Taliban and al Qaeda.”

“Anything the Afghan people can do to help Coalition Forces find and stamp out the Taliban and al Qaeda” will help improve stability, so that health care and other areas may progress in Afghanistan.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Guy

Clark is the Special Forces Medic at the clinic. He says the reason the clinic can operate in the Khowst area at all is because it’s on an American compound.

“We’re secure here within our own perimeter, where we have combat troops to maintain control.”

He says it’s not safe outside because of remaining Taliban and al Qaeda elements. “Bringing people in here for care is the way we can show them we intend to help rebuild this country. So we contribute (to Afghan progress) in the way that we can right now, which is medically.”

Clark re-emphasizes that the ultimate goal of coalition forces is Afghan self-sufficiency. “Our intentions are to help them out, get them on their feet, and eventually they can take care of themselves,” he said.



Translator Noor Ullah helps an Afghan father explain his child’s medical problem to Special Forces medic Sgt. 1st Class Guy Clark, 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, at the Chapman Air Field clinic in Khowst.

Clark sees the Chapman clinic as a small drop that has the potential to cause a ripple effect on the stability of Afghanistan – quality medical care will help local people understand that American and Coalition forces are here to help; citizens will consequently feel comfortable reporting anything they know about pockets of Taliban and al Qaeda; coalition forces will root out and eliminate those destructive elements; and the area will become safe for international aid organizations to move in and provide even more help toward the country’s development.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

USC handles Michigan in Rose Bowl

PASADENA, Calif. – Point made.

Top-ranked Southern California laid out its case for the national championship the best way it knew how – by dominating No. 4 Michigan with a 28-14 victory Thursday in the Rose Bowl.

Matt Leinart threw three touchdown passes and caught another to lead the Trojans past the Wolverines with a performance that should be enough to persuade voters to leave USC atop the poll.

The Associated Press' No. 1 team has never dropped in the rankings after winning its bowl, and it doesn't look as though it will happen this time, either.

"I think we just won the national championship," jubilant USC coach Pete Carroll said.

While the Trojans are primed to win their first title in 25 years, they would have to share it. Voters for the USA Today/ESPN coaches' poll are obligated to crown the winner of Sunday's Sugar Bowl between No. 2 LSU and No. 3 Oklahoma, playing in the BCS championship game.

The Trojans were left out of the Bowl Championship Series title game because of a weaker schedule, but they felt right at home in front of a sellout crowd of 93,849.



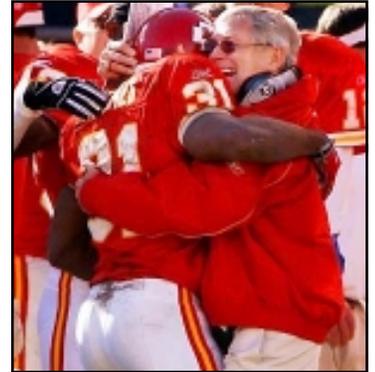
Darnell Bing (20), Marcell Allmond and the Trojans stifled Chris Perry and the Michigan offense.

Vermeil to coach another season

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The NFL's oldest coach figures staying around young people is the best way to stay spry.

"It's true," said 67-year-old Dick Vermeil. "My football team energizes me."

So Vermeil will be back next year with the playoff-bound Kansas City Chiefs, a decision he made after thinking how much he regretted leaving St. Louis shortly after the Rams won the 2000 Super Bowl.



Dick Vermeil can attribute a lot of the Chiefs' 13-3 record to MVP candidate Priest Holmes' season.

Chiefs general manager Carl Peterson, one of Vermeil's closest friends, talked him out of retirement in 2001 and gave him a three-year, \$10 million contract. Calling Vermeil "the best coach in the National Football League," Peterson has said repeatedly that as long as he is general manager of the Chiefs, Vermeil is welcome to be head coach.

"I don't even know if it will be a one-year contract or not," Vermeil said. "I just told Carl that I wanted to stay."

After going 6-10 in 2001 and 8-8 last year, Vermeil guided the 2003 Chiefs to a 13-3 regular-season record and the No. 2 seed in the AFC playoffs. He took Philadelphia to the Super Bowl following the 1980 season and guided the Rams to the NFL championship in the 1999 season; he could be the first coach to take three different teams to the Super Bowl.

Nuggets clipped by monster game

LOS ANGELES – An old acquaintance wasn't forgotten on New Year's Eve at Staples Center, when an unforgiving crowd gave Denver point guard Andre Miller the Danny Ferry treatment and booed him every time he touched the ball.

Quentin Richardson scored almost every time he touched the ball – or so it seemed. He scored a career-high 44 points and Elton Brand had 20 points and nine rebounds in the Los Angeles Clippers' 120-104 victory over Denver on Wednesday night.

"I was in a zone," said Richardson, who made a career-high 17 field goals on 30 shots and was 5-for-9 from 3-point range. "I felt like every shot I took was going in. You don't start feeling like you have the stroke until you start to make a lot more shots, but I had a sense I had it going when I made my first two bank shots."

Richardson, whose previous best output was 36 points in a 103-91 loss at Minnesota on Nov. 22, scored 11 points in the fourth quarter – including a three-point play and a 3-point shot in the final two minutes after the Nuggets cut it to nine.

Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

Saturday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ COLL FB: Clemson vs Tennessee (live) 2130Z, 0200L
- ❖ COLL BB: Villonava vs Kansas (live) 0100Z, 0530L
- ❖ NHL: Avalanche vs Canucks (live) 0300Z, 0730L
- ❖ COLL FB: Miss. vs Okla. State (taped) 0800Z, 1230L
- ❖ COLL FB: Kan. State vs Ohio State (taped) 1230Z, 1700L
- ❖ Sunday NFL Countdown (live) 1600Z, 2030L
- ❖ COLL FB: Georgia Tech vs Tulsa (live) 1430Z, 1700L

Sunday's schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ COLL BB: Alabama vs Xavier (live) 2030Z, 0100L
- ❖ COLL BB: Tenn. vs Mass. (live) 2230Z, 0300L
- ❖ COLL BB: Southern Methodist vs Okla. State (live) 0030Z, 0500L
- ❖ COLL BB: Arizona vs Arizona State (taped) 0300Z, 0730L
- ❖ COLL BB: Michigan State vs Syracuse (taped) 1230Z, 1700L
- ❖ NHL: Anaheim Mighty Ducks vs Detroit Red Wings (taped) 1800Z, 2230L

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Afghanistan's landmark constitutional convention adjourned until Saturday

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) – Afghanistan's marathon constitutional convention was adjourned until Saturday in a desperate bid to bridge divisions after a boycott by opponents of U.S.-backed President Hamid Karzai.

The decision, taken Thursday after scores of delegates refused to take part in a vote on several amendments to the draft charter, was the latest setback for the historic gathering, which has already been marred by acrimony and a dangerous ethnic rift.

Opponents are particularly angry over Karzai's insistence on the creation of a strong presidency, which they say could shut minorities out of the halls of power.

Officials said more than half of the 502 members of the loya jirga cast their ballots in voting Thursday – enough to make the results binding. But after hours of behind-the-scenes wrangling, the meeting was called off until Saturday to allow more time to seek a compromise.

Karzai insists a simple majority of those voting is enough to pass the charter, but most observers recognize that a constitution that doesn't win wide-ranging support will hamstring the country as it seeks to put two decades of devastating conflict behind it.

More Afghan trade routes to be opened

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan – More transit routes will be established to enhance trade links with Afghanistan.

The decision to this effect was taken during a meeting between Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz and the NWFP Chief Minister Muhammad Akram Durrani here on Wednesday. The two sides expressed satisfaction over the progress made on the opening of transit route to Afghanistan from Ghulam Khan and hoped that it would become functional shortly.

The chief minister assured full logistic and administrative support to put in place the customs and other formalities for the post at Ghulam Khan.

It was also decided to establish another transit route to Afghanistan from Shahi bin Shahi near Dir.

The finance minister stated that the government would soon finalize proposal for starting feasibility study of Lowari Tunnel for providing an all-weather communication link between Chitral and the NWFP.

The two sides also discussed the NFC and hoped that the next NFC Award, to be adopted through consensus, would cater for development needs of all the provinces and the federation. They also discussed the issue of net hydel profits and agreed that this should be settled through deliberations between the two parties in an amicable manner.

U.S. forces 'kill 14 in Afghanistan'

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) – U.S. troops and helicopters killed as many as 14 enemy fighters in clashes in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan, the military said Thursday.

Three U.S. soldiers were wounded in the battle Wednesday some 12 miles northeast of Shkin, a town in Paktika province near the Pakistan border.

The first three enemy fighters were killed in a gunbattle after a small group of insurgents fired on a U.S. patrol, spokesman Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty said.

One of the wounded American soldiers was evacuated and is in a stable condition. "He wasn't terribly badly hurt," Hilferty said.

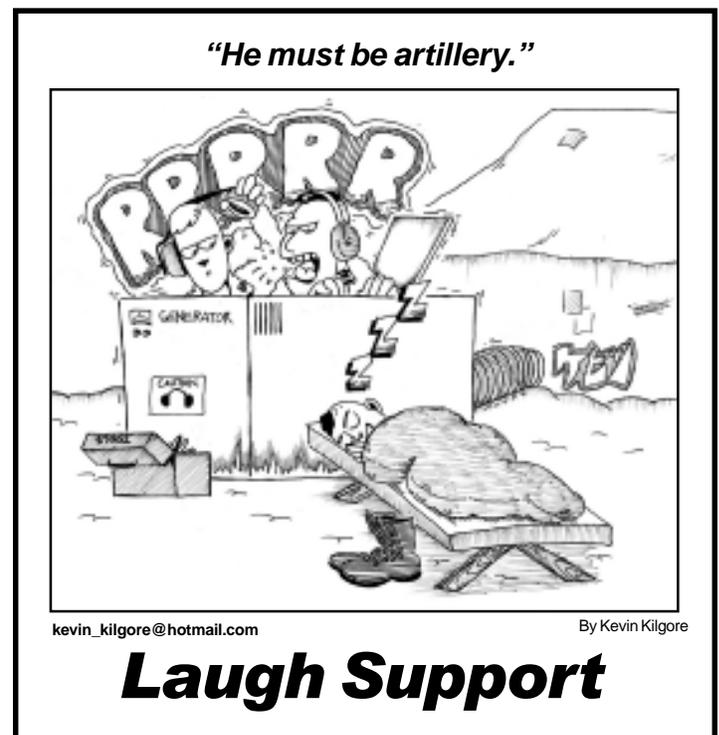
The other two immediately returned to duty.

The same patrol later caught up with the insurgents, and AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters flying in support inflicted several more casualties, Hilferty said.

"We don't know for sure, but we think 11," he said. "It was getting night and we didn't go to see the bodies."

Suspected Taliban and al Qaeda militants regularly attack U.S. and allied Afghan forces as well as government and aid workers in a broad swath of southern and eastern Afghanistan along the rugged Pakistani frontier.

The U.S. military, which still has more than 11,000 troops here, says it killed 10 militants and detained more than 100 people in a four-week operation in the border regions called Avalanche which ended Monday.



Slippery crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

ACROSS

- 1 Core group
- 6 Makes a pick
- 10 Printer's primary color
- 14 Bubbling on the stove
- 15 Butter substitute
- 16 Long-eared hopper
- 17 Novices
- 19 Racing's Luyendyk
- 20 Heavy hammer
- 21 Went to
- 23 Bring in, as a fish
- 25 Put a spell on
- 26 Like a fox
- 27 To-do lists
- 30 Producer De Laurentiis
- 32 Debate side
- 33 Midmorning hour
- 35 Clumps of grass
- 38 Britain, to the U.S.
- 40 Kelly's cohort
- 42 Scott of "Charles in Charge"
- 43 Alpine call
- 45 Bath add-ins
- 47 Sign of summer
- 48 Rams' mates
- 50 Surprise hit
- 52 ___ Quentin
- 54 Guitarist Montgomery
- 56 Cuzco native
- 57 Wiry-coated dog
- 60 Nobel-winning Mother
- 64 Gator's cousin
- 65 Trumpet great
- 67 Give a facelift to
- 68 Sitka of Three Stooges shorts
- 69 Heavenly spots
- 70 Org.
- 71 Patricia of "Hud"
- 72 Bowling button

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17					18						19			
20							21			22				
			23			24		25				26		
	27	28					29		30		31			
32				33				34		35			36	37
38			39		40				41		42			
43				44		45				46		47		
		48			49		50				51			
52	53			54		55		56						
57			58				59		60			61	62	63
64					65			66						
67					68					69				
70					71						72			

DOWN

- 1 Lynxes, e.g.
- 2 Explorer Tasman
- 3 Ready to serve
- 4 Mind teaser
- 5 Refined
- 6 Sock-in-the-gut grunt
- 7 "Not guilty," for one
- 8 Pearly whites
- 9 Beyond tipsy
- 10 Biggers detective
- 11 Pub purchases
- 12 Sharon of Israel
- 13 In dire straits
- 18 Melt down, as fat
- 22 Turnpike turn-off
- 24 Bering, Borge et al.
- 27 Woody's boy
- 28 Yellow flowers
- 29 Epic tales
- 31 Well-used pencil
- 32 Fork over
- 34 Prefix for "one thousandth"
- 36 Ballpark level
- 37 U.S./Canada's ___ Canals
- 39 Archery bow wood
- 41 Blockage relievers
- 44 Like a lecher
- 46 One leaving the union
- 49 Galleon crew
- 51 Thanksgiving Day event
- 52 Pelvic bones
- 53 Buenos ___
- 55 Goopy stuff
- 58 Bus. course
- 59 Marlon's "On the Waterfront" director
- 61 Holiday lead-ins
- 62 Trig ratio
- 63 Mgr.'s aide
- 66 Building wing

Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch