

## SECDEF announces move to stability

By Spc. Steven Marroni  
109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — The emphasis of Operation Enduring Freedom is moving from combat to stability and security operations, U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld announced during his visit to Afghanistan Thursday.

“I look at the progress in Afghanistan, and we’re at the point where we’re shifting our weight from major combat to stability and reconstruction activities,” he said during a press conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

The transition does not mark an end to combat operations. Forces will continue to root out terrorist elements around the country, and the U.S. will continue to support the formation of



Photo by Sgt. Edward Zink, 109<sup>th</sup> Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

*Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld addresses soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Forces Group at Kabul Military Training Center, Thursday.*

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## Devils craft Vigilant Guardian in Kandahar

Story and photos by  
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**KANDAHAR PROVINCE** — Operation Vigilant Guardian kicked off April 23 with troops of the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, “White Devils” entering 12 villages in the Kandahar province.

The “White Devils” found and destroyed two hand grenades, multiple rocket-propelled grenades, six 107 mm rockets, approximately 40 mortars and a few AK-47s, according to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. James W. Tomlinson, the heavy weapons platoon leader for D Company, 1/504<sup>th</sup> PIR.

The operation’s mission was to search for anti-coalition militia and suspected weapons caches in an area American forces haven’t entered before.

When April 24<sup>th</sup>’s dawn arrived, PIR soldiers waited on the ground for fellow regiment soldiers to arrive in a CH-47 Chinook. The aircraft “took a hard landing” into a designated landing zone where the dust dis-

guised how far down the ground was, according to a recent press statement. Two soldiers suffered minor injuries.

Civil affairs soldiers, paratroopers and Afghan Military Forces soldiers filed into Loy Kariz, near Spin Boldak, which is 80 kilometers east from Kandahar Air Field. It is the first time AMF assets were used during an American operation, said Staff Sgt. Mark Charles, platoon sergeant with the 2/504<sup>th</sup> PIR.

Civil affairs soldiers asked to speak to the village leader, which is a routine for assessing a village. But the leader seemed to hesitate to greet his visitors, which led to the American forces’ suspicion. Usually the village leader will greet the Americans as soon as they arrive, according to Capt. Kevin K. Parker, 450<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Battalion at Kandahar Air Field.

The soldiers decided to search the village without the village leader’s presence because of reports of recent fighting and suspicion of weapons cache in the area. The



*U.S. soldiers talk with villagers as part of a village assessment routine during Operation Vigilant Guardian.*

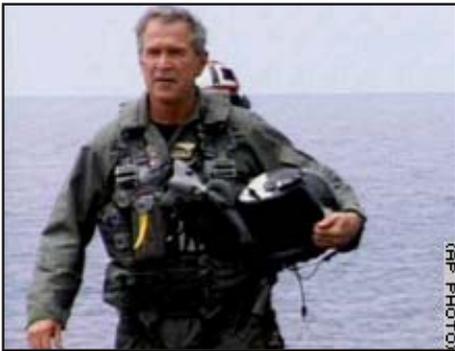
troops didn’t find any additional weapons caches or see any hostility of the villagers.

“This is the most bizarre situation I have seen since we started doing this,” said Parker. After doing village assessments just about every week for six months now, Parker said there was a lack of culture and customs displayed in this village.

Poppy plants, electricity assets, car parts, healthy cows and sheep all present in the village served as pieces in figuring out this

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



President Bush walks on the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln after landing in a Navy plane.

## Bush: Iraq is one victory in war on terror

**ABOARD USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN** — President Bush Thursday praised the toppling of Saddam Hussein as “a job well done,” but he warned that the battle in Iraq was but “one victory in a war on terror.”

Bush addressed the nation not from the White House, but from the dramatic setting of nuclear-powered USS Abraham Lincoln, and announced: “Major combat operations in Iraq have ended.”

Standing on the giant flight deck, with a banner reading “Mission Accomplished” overhead on the bridge, the commander in chief saluted the men and women of the U.S. military.

“Because of you, our Nation is more secure. Because of you, the tyrant has fallen, and Iraq is free,” was his message. “America is grateful for a job well done.”

Bush arrived at the huge carrier off the California coast on a Navy plane, sitting in the co-pilot’s seat. The ship will arrive in San Diego Friday after a 10-month deployment, including service in the Iraq and Afghanistan war theaters.

Reviewing the quick progress of the 6-week-old Operation Iraqi Freedom, Bush said it “was carried out with a combination of precision, speed and boldness the enemy did not expect — and the world had not seen before.”

## Sources: Suspect may know bin Laden’s location

WASHINGTON — Captured this week

in Pakistan, a nephew of a reputed al Qaeda mastermind may know the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, sources said Thursday.

The suspect, Ali Abed al Aziz, is a nephew of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the September 11 terrorist attacks, and a cousin of Ramzi Yousef, who was convicted in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, the sources said.

Aziz was among six suspected al Qaeda members captured Tuesday by Pakistani authorities in Karachi. In his mid-20s, Aziz is also known as Amer al Baluchi.

Also captured at the same time was Whalid ba Attash, who also is known as Khallad or Tawfiq.

U.S. officials consider Attash to be the alleged mastermind behind the USS Cole attack in Yemen in October 2000 and to have played a suspected role in the September 11 bombings of the World Trade Center and Pentagon that killed more than 3,000.

Sources told CNN that Attash and Aziz, because of their high-level connections in the al Qaeda terrorist organization, may know something about where bin Laden may be hiding



Rumsfeld, left, announces an end to major combat in Afghanistan at a news conference in Kabul with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

## Rumsfeld: Major combat over in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan — Major combat in Afghanistan has ended, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Thursday.

President Bush plans to make a similar announcement about Iraq later Thursday, the White House has announced.

Rumsfeld said that in regard to Afghani-

stan, Bush, U.S. Central Command Chief Tommy Franks, and Afghan President Hamid Karzai “have concluded we’re at a point where we clearly have moved from major combat activity to a period of stability and stabilization and reconstruction activities. The bulk of this country today is permissive, it’s secure.”

Still, he added, there are dangers, and “pockets of resistance in certain parts of the country,” which U.S. forces will help the Afghan government and army to deal with.

U.S. military sources said Afghanistan’s border with Pakistan, where remnants of al Qaeda and the Taliban are still operating, is of particular concern.

## S. Africa bus plunge: dozens die

**SAULSPOORT DAM, South Africa** — Police retrieved a bus containing the bodies of dozens of passengers who drowned when it plunged into a reservoir in South Africa on Thursday.

Some bodies were found on the bus, and police said others were being pulled from the water by police divers.

“We are still counting the bodies,” police superintendent Sam Sesing told The Associated Press. He said 44 bodies had been counted.

The bus had been carrying some 90 women and men, members of South Africa’s largest trade union, to a May Day workers celebration when their bus driver apparently lost his way and ended up driving down a gravel path that led to the dam.

About 200 people who gathered to watch the rescue operation were kept away from the shore where the bodies lay covered in white plastic sheets.

Several police mortuary vans ferried bodies from the scene and returned to collect more.

Ten survivors were pulled from the dam outside the town of Bethlehem, in the center of the country, and were hospitalized.

Hospital officials said the nine men and one woman who survived were treated and discharged.

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the Afghan National Army.

Rumsfeld said the Provincial Reconstruction Teams, or PRTs, play an important roll in the future of Afghanistan. They provide a link between the provinces and the new central government. Already established in Gardez, Bamiyan and Konduz, plans are in the works for five or six more teams.

Each team works closely with the local people of the region and consists of both civilian and military U.S. and coalition members, international and nongovernmental organizations to aid with Afghan reconstruction. Future teams are expected to be established in Mazar-e-Sharif, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Heart and Parwan.

Karzai added the teams are working well. His cabinet members are in constant contact with the outlying areas and they receive vital information almost instantaneously.

During his visit, Rumsfeld toured the Kabul Military Training Center, the U.S. Embassy and the Presidential Palace.

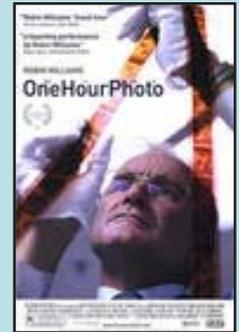
Prior to the conference, Rumsfeld and Karzai met privately and discussed the various successes in Afghanistan and future plans in the fight against terrorism and the progress of peace and stability.

“I was impressed with the marked that change I’ve seen,” Rumsfeld said about his tour of Afghanistan. “It may not be as apparent to those who are here continuously, but for me to come back after many months now and see the progress and feel the energy in the street and see the kiosks and people active and cars moving around and young children coming and going, it is a measure of the progress, the success here. It warms the hearts of those of us who wish the country well and look forward to the continued progress of the Afghan people.”

Rumsfeld made a similar statement about the shift to stability and reconstruction in Iraq several days earlier.

# Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR Building: “One Hour Photo.” Starring Robin Williams — An employee of a one-hour photo lab becomes obsessed with a young suburban family.



Tomorrow’s movie was unavailable at press time.

## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	Dust H: 68F L: 48F	Partly cloudy H: 66F L: 45F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dust H: 81F L: 55F	Haze H: 81F L: 50F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Scattered t-storms H: 66F L: 46F	Partly cloudy H: 63F L: 43F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Mostly cloudy H: 52F L: 42F	Partly cloudy H: 58F L: 41F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Photo courtesy CJTF-180 PAO

*Maj. Gen. John R. Vines, Coalition Task Force-82 commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Norvel Turner, the task force command sergeant major, furl the unit's colors during the inactivation ceremony.*

## Coalition Task Force-82 inactivates

Compiled by CJTF-180 PAO

In a small ceremony on Bagram Airfield, Maj. Gen. John R. Vines, Coalition Task Force-82 commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Norvel Turner, the task force command sergeant major, furl the unit's colors and cased it.

After nearly nine months as the unit responsible for conventional combat operations in Afghanistan, the task force was inactivated and the headquarters element of CTF-82 was merged with Coalition Joint Task Force-180.

The task force was established on August 12, 2002.

Although the two headquarters have merged, combat operations will continue as before.

"The mission is not over here," said Vines. He added that the unit will continue the mission to kill or capture al-Qaida/Taliban and deny them Afghanistan as a sanctuary."

According to Vines, the mission in Afghanistan has been successful. "We can measure our effectiveness by the fact that the citizens of our nation are safer now than they were two years ago."

"The terrorists thought they could attack our country and we would just give up, but they've found out that's not the American way."

Vines will become the deputy commander for CJTF-180, which is headed by Lt. Gen. Dan McNeill.

McNeill congratulated the task force on its hard work and successful missions, then shook Vines hand as he stepped up to the microphone.

Vines thanked his soldiers for their support and told them they could be proud of their time in Afghanistan. "You can be proud of having served with all the great soldiers in this task force," he said.

"When your nation needed you, you were there."

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village's puzzle. These are all signs of wealth and prosperity in a third world country, according to Parker. Yet the villagers claimed they didn't have any supplies to support the Taliban-vandalized school at the edge of the village.

The Taliban came and destroyed part of the school two or three months ago, according to the villagers.

2/-504<sup>th</sup> PIR paratroopers and civil affairs soldiers marched approximately two miles in the desert mid-day heat to seek out the village leader in his remote home in yet another poppy field.

"They're AMF soldiers," said one U. S. soldier approaching the residence. He was referring to six males dressed in military battle dress uniforms appearing to guard the village leader's residence.

The supposed soldiers didn't show any resistance, but it was yet another piece of the puzzle when they couldn't present any identification to show legitimacy of their claims, said Parker.

"Documentation is not easy to come by in Afghanistan," said Parker, "They should have it." The U.S. forces' suspicions led them to discover a small cache of weapons in the village leader's vehicle.

The American soldiers detained seven persons for further questioning, including the village leader.

The village leader claimed he was an Afghan Militia Force commander, but didn't have identification either.

The paratrooper's weapons-cache search in the village and the mountain behind it proved fruitless. Tomlinson remains positive even though the soldiers found a smaller number of weapons in the cache than what they usually find.

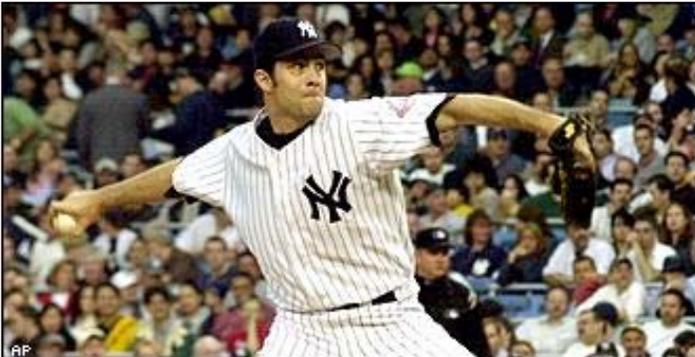
"The searches were very successful. You're always looking for something. You don't want to get complacent. Every time we go out, we find new information. It is always beneficial. The soldiers give 110 percent every time. Their families should be proud of what they're doing out here...I wouldn't rather be any other place. These guys give it their all," Tomlinson added.

The paratroopers returned safely to Kandahar Air Field April 27.



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)



Mike Mussina allowed one earned run to lower his ERA to 1.60.

## Mussina pitches eight innings, gives up hits

**NEW YORK** — When Mike Mussina struck out All-Stars Ichiro Suzuki, Randy Winn and Bret Boone in order to start the game, it was fairly obvious: The Moose was loose once again.

Mussina matched a career-high with his eighth straight win, backed by home runs from Alfonso Soriano and Jorge Posada, and the New York Yankees defeated the Seattle Mariners 2-1 Thursday night.

“I threw the ball well in the first inning and tried to keep it going and keep it close,” he said.

Mussina (6-0) became the first Yankees pitcher to win his first six starts since Bob Turley won seven straight in 1958 in his Cy Young Award season.

Mussina leads the majors in victories and his nine strikeouts boosted his AL-leading total to 51. Showing exceptional control of his curve, he gave up six hits and walked none in eight innings, lowering his ERA to 1.60.

“When you’re pitching with guys the caliber of (Roger) Clemens, (Andy) Pettitte, (David) Wells and (Jeff) Weaver, you’ve got to turn it up a notch or you’re going to get left behind,” he said.

Twice before Mussina won eight in a row in the regular season, most recently with Baltimore in 1997.

Mariners manager Bob Melvin has seen plenty of Mussina over the years. Back in 1991, Melvin was Baltimore’s catcher when Mussina made his major league debut.

“This year he’s been phenomenal, throwing all of his pitches and getting them where he wants them,” Melvin said.

“He’s a tough guy to set on when he has everything working. When he’s got his command, he’s a tough customer,” he said.

On a night when Joel Pineiro (2-2) was sharp for Seattle, the Yankees relied on Mussina’s pitching and Mariano Rivera’s first save of the season.

They also needed Soriano’s 10<sup>th</sup> homer and Posada’s all-around play.

Posada produced at the plate, hitting a tying home run in the fifth, and also behind it.

The catcher pounced on Winn’s bunt to throw out the speedy Suzuki at second base in the fourth, then threw a perfect strike to cut down Winn trying to steal in the sixth.

In the seventh, Posada raced back to the box seats and reached into the stands to catch Mark McLemore’s foul pop. In the eighth, Posada threw out Suzuki when he tried to steal second with two outs.

“My arm is feeling a lot better, that’s the bottom line,” Posada said. “I have a lot more zip on the ball.”

Yankees manager Joe Torre can see a difference.

“He seems so much more calm. I think he’s developing a lot more confidence,” he said.

Rivera, activated this week after being on the disabled list all season, pitched a perfect ninth. He did it against the middle of the Mariners’ order.

The Yankees won for the 11<sup>th</sup> time in 14 games. They also took two of three from Seattle, a rare feat for them — this marked the first time in the regular season New York had won a series against Seattle at Yankee Stadium since 1999.

Then again, the Yankees beat the Mariners in the AL championship series in 2000 and 2001.

Neither pitcher permitted a runner past first base until the fifth, when both teams scored a run.

The Mariners nicked Mussina with two outs when McLemore, Jeff Cirillo and Dan Wilson hit successive singles.

### Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

#### Saturday’s schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0300Z
- ❖ 2Day at the Kentucky Derby (live) 0400Z
- ❖ MLB: Kansas City Royals @ Baltimore Orioles (live) 0600Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 0830Z
- ❖ Visa Triple Crown: Kentucky Derby (live) 0900Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 1030Z
- ❖ NASCAR Winston Cup Series: Pontiac Excitement 400 (live) 1100Z
- ❖ NFL Europe: Frankfurt Galaxy @ Rhein Fire (tape delayed) 1500Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1800Z
- ❖ MLS: San Jose Earthquakes @ New England Revolution (tape delayed) 1900Z

#### Sunday’s schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0300Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (live) 0430Z
- ❖ MLB: Texas Rangers @ Cleveland Indians (live) 0500Z
- ❖ MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates @ Los Angeles Dodgers (live) 0800Z
- ❖ NHL: NHL Playoffs Second Round - Conference Semifinals Gm 6 If Necessary (live) 1100Z
- ❖ NHL 2Night (live) 1400Z
- ❖ RPM 2Night (live) 1430Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ Best Damn Sports Show Period (tape delayed) 1630Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1730Z
- ❖ PGA TOUR: HP Classic of New Orleans: Final Round (tape delayed) 1900Z

**SPORTS** from page 5

## Union accepts World Series home-field plan

**NEW YORK** — Baseball players agreed to a two-year experiment Thursday to give home-field advantage in the World Series to the league that wins the All-Star Game.

"It's always been fun," said Cleveland designated hitter Ellis Burks, a two-time All-Star. "But now, especially with guys from contending teams, it's really going to be fun. They're going to have a lot more to play for."

Owners approved the proposal Jan. 17, and players had been discussing it since before agreeing to it on a trial basis. Despite the approval, some players are against the new idea.

"I disagree with it, completely and totally," said Los Angeles pitcher Kevin Brown a five-time All-Star. "I think it just takes away from the whole idea of what the All-Star game is about, which is letting the fans vote and letting it be an exhibition game. Now they're trying to make it into something that it never has been."

Since the start of the World Series in 1903, home-field advantage has alternated between the American and National leagues. Commissioner Bud Selig proposed the change after last year's All-Star Game in Milwaukee ended in a 7-7, 11-inning tie when both leagues ran out of pitchers.

"Maybe at some point somebody will come up with a better solution for this. But until that happens, we can try it out," White Sox player rep Kelly Wunsch said. "I'm a gamer as far as giving it a shot and seeing what happens."

The team hosting Games 1, 2, 6 and 7 of the World Series has won 15 of the last 17 titles. The team hosting Game 7 in the last eight Series that went a full seven games has won every time, including Anaheim last year against San Francisco.

"I don't think it matters," Giants slugger Barry Bonds said. "The best team is going to win anyway."

Fox, baseball's national network broadcaster, has lobbied players to support the plan, meeting with members of the union during spring training.

Like network ratings in general, the All-Star Game rating has steadily declined. From a peak of 28.5 in 1970, it dropped below 20 for the first time in 1987. The game drew a 15.7 rating in 1994, then dropped to 13.9 the following year after a strike wiped out the World Series for the first time in 90 years. Last year's rating was an all-time low 9.5.

"Baseball's All-Star game is by far and away the highest rated of all the All-Star games. It's the granddaddy of All-Star games," Fox Sports president Ed Goren said. "We're just trying to make it better and bring back the years when people played to win the game. Now, it means something more than just individually."

The intensity of the All-Star Game has lessened in recent years, with increased player movement reducing the allegiance players have to their leagues. Also, managers have become more focused on getting every player into the game than winning it.

"It all depends on what they want: Do they want a showcase? Then do what they've been doing," Phillies manager Larry Bowa

said. "If they want intensity, then have it back the way it was played before, where you see Pete Rose knocking somebody into the stands, and the president of each league coming in and giving pep talks before the game. To me, that's what it's all about — pride."

Cubs manager Dusty Baker, who will manage this year's NL All-Star team, thinks the new proposal will increase the intensity of the game. "You might as well win it for the NL," he said.

"It's some incentive. But the incentive is to win. If I'm there I want to win. That would really help if it's us." The sides also agreed to increase the roster size from 30 to 32, and gave players, managers and coaches a say on who makes the team. Fans will select the starting position players — eight in the National League and nine in the AL this season because the game will have a designated hitter. A separate ballot of players, managers and coaches conducted during the final week of fan balloting will determine nine additional position players in the AL and eight in the NL, as well as eight pitchers in each league. "That would be cool. I like that idea," Los Angeles' Brian Jordan said. "A lot of times, guys are injured, but just because they're popular, they make the All-Star team and a guy who really deserves it never makes it."

**"So, tell me how you feel about this operation so far."**



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support

# Color Combination crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

## Across

- 1 Door-closing sound
- 5 \_\_\_ Alto, California
- 9 Friars Club official
- 14 Led Zeppelin's Jimmy
- 15 "Amores" poet
- 16 Massey of film
- 17 Grace ender
- 18 Prom wheels
- 19 12-inch stick
- 20 Beachgoing oater horse?
- 22 "\_\_\_ not amused"
- 23 Fancy home
- 24 Wild guess
- 26 A Ponderosa son
- 29 Slap the cuffs on
- 33 Prophetess of myth
- 37 Glacier breakaway
- 39 Stackable cookie
- 40 "Nonsense!"
- 41 Chinese philosopher \_\_\_-tzu
- 42 Drinks from a flask
- 43 List-ending abbr.
- 44 Lady's partner
- 45 Cuzco builders
- 46 Reggae legend Bob
- 48 "Kon-Tiki" author Heyerdahl
- 50 Treater's phrase
- 52 Snoopy, for one
- 57 Diner sides
- 60 Inexperienced Civil War soldier?
- 63 Pacific nation since 1968
- 64 Sound from Simba
- 65 Pew area
- 66 Fall bloomer
- 67 Old U.S. gas brand
- 68 Partner of anon
- 69 Crystal-lined rock
- 70 MTV viewer, most likely
- 71 Takes the plunge

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66						67					68			
69						70					71			

## Down

- 1 Sudden rush
- 2 Tibetan monks
- 3 Mulder or Scully
- 4 Brainy group
- 5 Solicited opinions from
- 6 Tel \_\_\_
- 7 Fruit for a twist
- 8 What your nose knows
- 9 Operation Desert Storm's beginning
- 10 Bummed-out footballer?
- 11 Gaucho's cattle catcher
- 12 Humdinger
- 13 Wrapper weight
- 21 Bologna is here
- 25 Put out on the basepaths
- 27 Up to the job
- 28 Had in mind
- 30 Actor Bogosian
- 31 Dreamcast maker
- 32 Prepare the salad
- 33 Son of Noah
- 34 I, as in Ithaca
- 35 Sow's mate
- 36 Cowardly baseballer?
- 38 Portnoy's creator
- 42 Paddy wagon sounder
- 44 Stairmaster site
- 47 Make certain
- 49 Merle of "Wuthering Heights"
- 51 White-plumed bird
- 53 Nixon's first veep
- 54 Like some accents
- 55 Washed up
- 56 Lookers
- 57 Negotiations glitch
- 58 Emit coherent light
- 59 La Salle or DeSoto
- 61 Valentine bouquet item
- 62 Let up

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