

War fighters give helping hand



Sgt. Chano Peek, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C., downloads Meals-Ready-to-Eat to give to Aghans near Afghanistan's eastern border during Operation Unified Resolve.

Story and photo by
Spc. Rick Robinson
11th Public Affairs Detachment

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — Soldiers from Company D, 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C., conducted humanitarian assistance near Afghanistan's eastern border during Operation Unified Resolve.

The 82nd Airborne Division is one of the Army's largest war-fighting units. However, these soldiers can do more than put rounds down range.

Company D, along with civil affairs personnel from the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion, Utica, N.Y., assessed villages and distributed construction tools, radios, food, water and medical aid in the valleys surrounding Jalalabad.

"There are two sides to the mission in Afghanistan," said 1st Lt. Russell Wagner, com-

————— See **RESOLVE**, Page 6

Afghan airline reopens Kabul route

Story and photo by
Cpl. Keith A Kluwe
109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — Ariana Airines, the national air carrier of Afghanistan, reopened its route between Kandahar Air Field and the nation's capitol in Kabul Wednesday.

One hundred nine passengers boarded a Boeing 727 for the short flight leaving Kandahar. This is the first civilian flight to be allowed to fly to and from Kandahar Air field since the flights taking Muslims to and from Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for the annual pilgrimage to the Hajj, said Lt. Col. R. Stephen Williams, the airfield commander for Kandahar Air Field.

The flight is a step towards making Kandahar International Airport, as the Afghans call it, the international hub for southern Afghanistan.

It's not known when the air route will become routine, Will-

iams said. "The decision to continue the flights rests with the staff up at (Combined Joint Task Force-180)."

"My brief is going to list the reasons why the flights are good for the country, how we should continue them, etc.," said Williams, who's other hat is to help the Afghans rebuild their civil-aviation program in the Kandahar region.

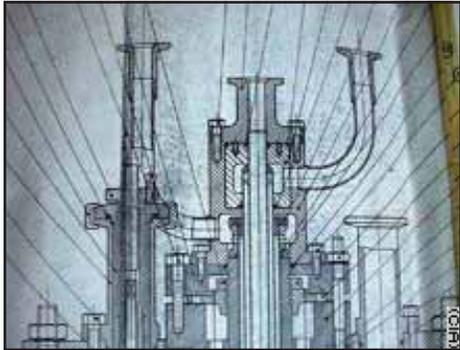
Many different units were involved in successfully bringing the Ariana aircraft in and out of Kandahar. Civil affairs and psy-



Passengers board an Ariana Airlines Boeing 727 Wednesday for a flight to Kabul from Kandahar Air Field.

————— See **AIRLINE**, Page 4

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A blueprint for an upper centrifuge, which the CIA says is now in their possession.

Progress reported in Iraq weapons hunt

CNN — U.S. personnel searching in Iraq for unconventional weapons and their components are making rapid progress and the world could expect surprises soon, the CIA's chief weapons inspector told CNN.

The progress is being made because key Iraqis are finally beginning to open up — men like Dr. Mahdi Obeidi who turned over documents and parts of an Iraqi gas centrifuge system for developing nuclear weapons material.

Obeidi buried the materials beneath rose bushes in his back yard 12 years ago.

“My suspicions are that we'll find (things) in the chemical and biological areas. In fact, I think there may be some surprises coming rather quickly in that area,” chief CIA weapons inspector David Kay told CNN over a secure teleconference between Baghdad and CIA headquarters in McLean, Virginia.

Woman panicked after touching man in windshield

FORT WORTH, Texas — Chante Jawan Mallard testified tearfully Thursday afternoon just hours after a Texas jury convicted her of the murder of Gregory Biggs, a 37-year-old homeless man she hit with her car.

With the jury out of the courtroom during the initial part of the punishment phase of the trial, Mallard took the stand to testify about the incident. The jury later returned to the courtroom briefly, and the judge ordered everyone to reassemble Friday at 9 a.m.

She faces up to life in prison on the mur-



Mallard testifies Thursday afternoon: "I was ashamed to tell my family."

der conviction and 10 years stemming from her guilty plea to tampering with evidence.

Supreme Court strikes down Texas sodomy law

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court Thursday struck down a Texas state law banning private consensual sex between adults of the same sex in a decision gay rights groups hailed as historic.

The 6-3 decision by the court reverses course from a ruling 17 years ago that states could punish homosexuals for what such laws historically called deviant sex.

Legal analysts said it enshrines for the first time a broad constitutional right to sexual privacy, and its impact would reach beyond Texas and 12 other states with similar sodomy laws applied against the gay and lesbian community, and into mainstream America.

Suspected Riyadh bombings ringleader gives up

WASHINGTON — The man described by U.S. officials as the ringleader of the May suicide bombings in Saudi Arabia has turned himself in, according to U.S. and Saudi officials.

Ali Abd al-Rahman al-Faqasi al-Ghamdi, who authorities said has deep ties to al Qaeda, surrendered Thursday to Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the third ranking official in the Saudi Interior Ministry, a Saudi official told CNN.

This official said no deal was struck. “He will be judged according to Islamic law,” said this official.

A statement read on Saudi TV, quoting a senior official at the Interior Ministry, said the fact al-Ghamdi surrendered will be considered during his trial.

New attacks kill one American in Iraq

BAGHDAD — A member of U.S. commando unit hunting for Saddam Hussein was killed Thursday and eight other special operations troops were wounded in an ambush by anti-coalition urban guerrillas, the U.S. military said.

Two other Americans were wounded and an Iraqi driver was killed in other attacks against coalition targets — the latest in a series of incidents one U.S. military official called a “classic phase of insurgency.”

In addition, Pentagon officials in Washington said an extensive search was under way in the Baghdad area for two U.S. soldiers missing since late Wednesday. They were last reported traveling in a HMMWV near a checkpoint when military officials lost contact with them.

Saddam's mouthpiece re-emerges

BAGHDAD — Ex-Iraqi information minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf has re-emerged on Arab television screens claiming the U.S. released him after questioning.

The former minister, who was ridiculed in the U.S. and UK for his daily media briefings alleging Iraqi successes during the war, said Thursday the battle had been a “very difficult time. Not just on one man, but on all.”

With white hair and without his trademark beret and grin he appeared subdued compared to his usual combative style.

He appeared on Arabic news channel Al-Arabiya and Abu Dhabi TV. The interviews were recorded in Baghdad Thursday. Both TV stations declined to say where the interviews were conducted.

Speaking to Al-Arabiya, Al-Sahaf said he made contact with U.S. forces through friends after the war. He was questioned about his job and later released.

Al-Sahaf was not on the U.S. list of 55-most wanted Iraqis.

New HHC policies for health, hygiene, safety

By Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — Before troops pick up their laundry, throw out the trash or light up a cigarette, there are certain new policies that every servicemember residing in Dragon City should know.

According to the soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combined Joint Task Force-180, health, hygiene and safety are a few of the reasons these new policies and procedures have been implemented and must be followed to avoid reprimand and/or citing.

“Some of the problems we’ve been having lately have to do with the condition and appearance of living quarters and the areas around them,” said 1st Sgt. Allan Williams, HHC first sergeant, CJTF-180. “Things like weeds, trash and cigarette butts that have been found lying around the tents attract critters and reptiles which cannot only be a health hazard but a safety one as well.”

In order to improve the health and safety conditions of the troops living in Dragon, some changes have been made to living quarter policies.

“Smoking is not allowed in front of or within 50 feet of tents for fire safety reasons, and butt cans should be utilized when troops are finished smoking to avoid fires.” said

See **POLICIES**, Page 4

Show seeks talent

Come show off your talent or just watch at the Talent Show 0230Z Saturday at the Civic Center. Sign up at Dragon Palace or at the show. Refreshments will be served and prizes will be awarded to everyone who participates. There will also be an after party following the show.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR Building: “The Guru.” Dance teacher Ramu leaves India to go to America and join his cousin who is rich and successful. He sets out to be a film star and auditions for a role in a porno with actress Sharonna, but he can’t go through with it. Later he becomes a sex guru but has to get lessons from Sharonna whom he begins to fall for despite using her.



Tomorrow’s movie will be “The Good Thief.”

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Saturday
Bagram:	Mostly clear H: 99F L: 63F	Haze H: 99F L: 63F
Kandahar:	Dust H: 104F L: 75F	Dust H: 106F L: 73F
Kabul:	Dust H: 95F L: 63F	Haze H: 95F L: 64F
Uzbekistan:	Sunny H: 97F L: 59F	Sunny H: 99F L: 62F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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CJTF-180 Commander —

Maj. Gen. John R. Vines

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Rodney Davis

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Sgt. Maj. Harrison Sarles

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Commander — Maj. William Mott

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti

Editor — Sgt. W. Cullen James

Journalists — Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw,

Pfc. Christina Carde, Pfc. Terri Rorke

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Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

Spc. Bridget Connolly, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combined Joint Task Force-180 gives a soldier her laundry. To keep soldiers familiarized with the challenge and password for force protection exercises, troops are required to know them to pick up their laundry.

POLICIES, from Page 3

Williams. "Also, all vehicles must be parked around Motel 6 or along the HESCOS and not in front of or alongside of tents, to avoid hindering fire trucks or rescue vehicles that may need to pass through."

"Additionally, trash is not allowed to be thrown in the trash bags at the hand-washing stations," Williams added. "We have had some incidents where bottles containing urine were found in the trash bags which is very unsanitary. All trash must be taken to the dumpsters."

Other policy changes involve the different sections of HHC in Motel 6 such as the supply, mail and laundry facilities.

AIRLINE, from Page 1

chological operation soldiers helped with the passengers in their waiting area and along the flight line. Military police provided security at both sites as well.

U.S. Army air traffic controllers tracked the aircraft in and out of the local air space. As a safety precaution, a Pashtun speaking air traffic controller was also in the tower.

"I've developed a transition plan, and part of that plan is training Ariana and the Afghan Ministry of Civil Aviation how care for their equipment, maintenance programs, base operations programs for their aircraft and passenger procedures," Williams said. "During the Taliban's reign, I think a lot of time, anything went. They didn't care if the aircraft were maintained. Planes would come in, load up and take off."

"From now on, all unit mail clerks are responsible for assisting the HHC mail clerk (noncommissioned officer in charge) with the immediate pickup, assortment and distribution of their unit mail," said Williams. "This is because there aren't enough people to handle all the mail being received or enough space in the mail room to hold everyone's mail."

"Another change we have implemented is the use of a challenge and password when picking up laundry," said Williams. "The reason for this is we've realized that during force protection exercises, almost no one knows the challenge and password. By requiring them to know it to pick up laundry, we ensure they are constantly familiarizing them-

selves with it for the next exercise."

To make sure everyone adheres to the new policy changes, measures have been taken not only to inform troops of regulations, but enforce them if necessary.

"We have meetings ever Saturday at 0500Z in Motel 6 with the NCOs of every section to put out the new policy changes and make sure soldiers stay informed," said Williams. "We have also hung no smoking signs on bunkers and other areas around the tents to constantly remind soldiers of safety regulations."

"Other measures we have taken include the citation of any vehicle found parked illegally," Williams added. "If we see a vehicle parked in the wrong spot, we will leave a written warning, but if the military police see it, it will be ticketed."

In addition to the new rules and policies, other changes have been made to make troops lives a little easier.

"Our supply office is now open on Sundays to better accommodate troops' needs," said Williams. "We have also started installing air conditioning units in tents. Presently, 24 nightshift tents have units installed, and we plan on having units placed in all the Dragon tents by the end of the summer."

Williams said the reason for all of these changes is not only to adhere to policies but for the safety and welfare of servicemembers.

"Safety and hygiene are big concerns out here," said Williams. "We want to do as much as we can to make sure troops practice good hygiene awareness by policing their areas and adhere to safety regulations to avoid unnecessary accidents."

Williams and other U.S. Army soldiers are trying to help Airana and MCA get up the international aviation standards.

Williams received help with his plan for jump-starting Afghan civil aviation from contact with the United States Federal Aviation Administration and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

"Today's flight went very well," Williams said. "We still have to work with Ariana about their ticketing procedures and passenger security. I think it will only get better. They are improving all the time."

If approval is given to continue commercial flights, Ariana's improvements will open up new opportunities for more and more flights, Williams said.

Once passenger flights become fairly routine, we may allow them to start moving cargo, said Williams. This will involve more training because of the required customs inspections and tariffs.



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



No. 1 pick LeBron James checks out his new Cavs gear.

Cavs make James No. 1 pick

NEW YORK — LeBron James was chosen No. 1 in the NBA draft Thursday night and strode onstage wearing an all-white suit, appropriate garb for a player expected to be the savior of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

James, the 18-year-old prep phenom from Akron, hugged his agent, Aaron Goodwin, then turned and did the same to his mother, Gloria, before pulling on a Cavaliers cap and shaking the hand of commissioner David Stern.

“I just think I look pretty good in all white,” said James, whose suit was custom-made by a Charlotte fashion designer. “My guy made it for me and said he’d make the best suit in the draft.”

The most heralded high school player of a generation, James is

considered a can’t-miss prospect with the skills of a guard, the body of a forward and the potential of a superstar.

James turned to the audience and beamed a wide smile, although the audience at Madison Square Garden didn’t exactly embrace him. Many in the raucous crowd were already busy chanting “Fire Layden” — a reference to general manager Scott Layden of the hometown Knicks.

“It was great. This is a longtime dream — to finally accomplish this,” James said.

Serbian 7-footer Darko Milicic was chosen second by the Detroit Pistons, stopping to kiss the cheeks of his family who sat with him at the table next to the James entourage.

Miami puts off decisive vote until Monday

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — The University of Miami, while continuing to mull an invitation to join the Atlantic Coast Conference, said Thursday it had received counterproposals to remain in the Big East and will make a final decision Monday.

The university’s executive committee of its board of trustees met with Miami President Donna Shalala and athletic director Paul Dee for more than an hour Thursday to discuss the ACC invitation. Shalala said that no vote was taken.

The ACC has scheduled a news conference for Monday at 7:30 p.m. ET to address the situation.

Shalala said the delay was at least partially attributed to the fact the school received counterproposals from other Big East schools Thursday. She declined to provide any specifics on those proposals.

“The Big East has informally sent a proposal, or at least a list of proposals, to us and we feel a responsibility to review them,” said Shalala, who acknowledged she was not ruling out any possibility, including remaining in the Big East.

ACC Commissioner John Swofford said Thursday conference officials are keeping the lines of communications open with Miami and continue to remain optimistic that the Hurricanes will join the ACC.

Pierce now must face Henin-Hardenne

WIMBLEDON, England — Feeling rusty but healthy, two-time Grand Slam champion Mary Pierce upset No. 14-seeded Eleni Daniilidou 6-4, 6-1 on Thursday in the second round at Wimbledon.

Pierce, ranked 86th and plagued by injuries in recent years, advanced to the third round of a major event for the first time since Wimbledon last year. She lost in the opening round at this year’s French Open, and in the second round at the Australian Open.

Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

Saturday’s schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ MLB: Los Angeles Dodgers @ Anaheim Angels (live) 0200Z
- ❖ Billiards: 2003 WPBA Classic Tour Finals (tape delayed) 0500Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0600Z
- ❖ USGA: 2003 U.S. Senior Open Championship: Second Round (tape delayed) 0700Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ MLB: St. Louis Cardinals @ Kansas City Royals (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ 2003 International Ironman Triathlon (live) 1600Z
- ❖ MLB: NY Mets @ NY Yankees (live) 1700Z
- ❖ Tennis: Wimbledon, The Championships 2003 (live) 2000Z

Sunday’s schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Suntrust Indy Challenge (live) 0000Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (live) 0200Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0300Z
- ❖ NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series (tape delayed) 0400Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0600Z
- ❖ USGA: 2003 U.S. Senior Open Championship: Third Round (tape delayed) 0700Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ MLB: Los Angeles Dodgers @ Anaheim Angels (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1500Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (live) 1630Z
- ❖ AMA Motocross (250cc) (tape delayed) 1700Z
- ❖ NASCAR Busch Series (live) 1800Z

SPORTS, from Page 5

"I'm just happy to be healthy and competing," she said.

The 28-year-old Pierce, who is French but lives in Florida, has battled back, shoulder, abdominal, ankle and groin injuries.

"There was one time where I was doubtful if I would be able to play again," she said. "I know I'm not at my best form right now. I'd like to be able to give myself probably at least six months."

Top-seeded American Serena Williams rolled into the third round as well, beating Els Callens of Belgium 6-4, 6-4.

Also, No. 8-seeded Jennifer Capriati hit nine aces, including one on match point, to beat Marie-Gaiane Mikaelian 6-2, 6-1.

"I served well on big points," Capriati said. "It makes things a little easier when you can come up with big serves."

Stackhouse opts not to test free agency

WASHINGTON — Rather than test the free-agent market, Jerry Stackhouse agreed to a two-year contract extension worth about \$18 million with the Washington Wizards on Thursday.

Stackhouse had until July 1 to opt out of the final two years of his present contract, which is worth about \$15 million. The new deal starts when the current one expires, committing him to the team for the next four years for about \$33 million.

"Where the market stands right now, to be able to secure four more years going into my early 30s was an opportunity I couldn't pass on," Stackhouse said. "It's like the first real commitment I've had from any team since I've been in the league."

Stackhouse, acquired from Detroit in the Richard Hamilton trade a year ago, averaged 21.5 points last season, but he was unhappy with his role and was sometimes critical of Michael Jordan and coach Doug Collins.

RESOLVE, from Page 1

pany executive officer, Co. D, 2-505 PIR. "There's the side the media plays up — going out, hunting bad guys and chasing the al-Qaida and Taliban. The other side of this, is that we're out here to help the Afghan people get back on their feet and help lead them to prosperity."

"People are seeing the 'double-A' patch and realizing that the individual soldier really cares about the future of Afghanistan," said Capt. Stan Gajda, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion. "It's not just about the combat operation, it is about the long term for this country."

Company D not only helped distribute humanitarian assistance, but provided security for the mission as well, adding emphasis to the phrase "Unified Resolve."

"The area of operations that we are in now is a lot less friendly than some of the other areas that we've been in before," said Wagner. "Sometimes, civil affairs feels comfortable going out on their own. Other times, they would like an escort, and this happens to be one of those times."

Upon completing Operation Unified Resolve, the soldiers left Jalalabad feeling as though they had made a difference.

"We care about this country," said Gajda. "We want to support the present government and we intend to see the future reconstruction through."

Jenkins' clout lifts Brewers in the ninth

CHICAGO — After all those strikeouts, Mark Prior was worn out. Moments later, his Chicago Cubs were cooked, too.

Prior struck out a career-high 16 in eight innings, but wound up with a no-decision when Milwaukee's Geoff Jenkins hit a three-run homer in the ninth to rally the Brewers to a 5-3 win Thursday.

Prior was brilliant, allowing two runs and four hits with no walks. His strikeout total was the highest in the majors this year.

But with his pitch count at 126, Cubs manager Dusty Baker pulled Prior with a 3-2 lead — an edge built on Sammy Sosa's two-run home run.

"It wasn't very tough," Baker said of the decision. "It was tough to send Mark out there in the eighth. That was the tough one, he had 112 or 14 pitches before he started that inning."

"You get chastised if you take him out and you get chastised if he goes too long. He's such a valuable commodity, you couldn't stretch him any further than that," he said.

Martinez earns first win in four starts

BOSTON — Pedro Martinez finally got a win, hardly shocking since he faced the lowly Detroit Tigers.

The Red Sox ace picked up his first victory since May 15 as Boston completed a sweep of baseball's worst team Thursday, 6-4.

"It's something we anticipated doing," Todd Walker said of four straight wins against a team that has lost 18 of 20. "Then again, they're a big league team and you have to do your best every time."

Martinez (5-2) had trouble with the location of his pitches and allowed four runs in 6 2-3 innings against a young team with a .225 batting average, the lowest in the majors.

Martinez struck out eight and allowed seven hits and three walks.

"If this is the light infantry, I'd hate to see what the heavy infantry is like."



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support

Smasheroo crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)

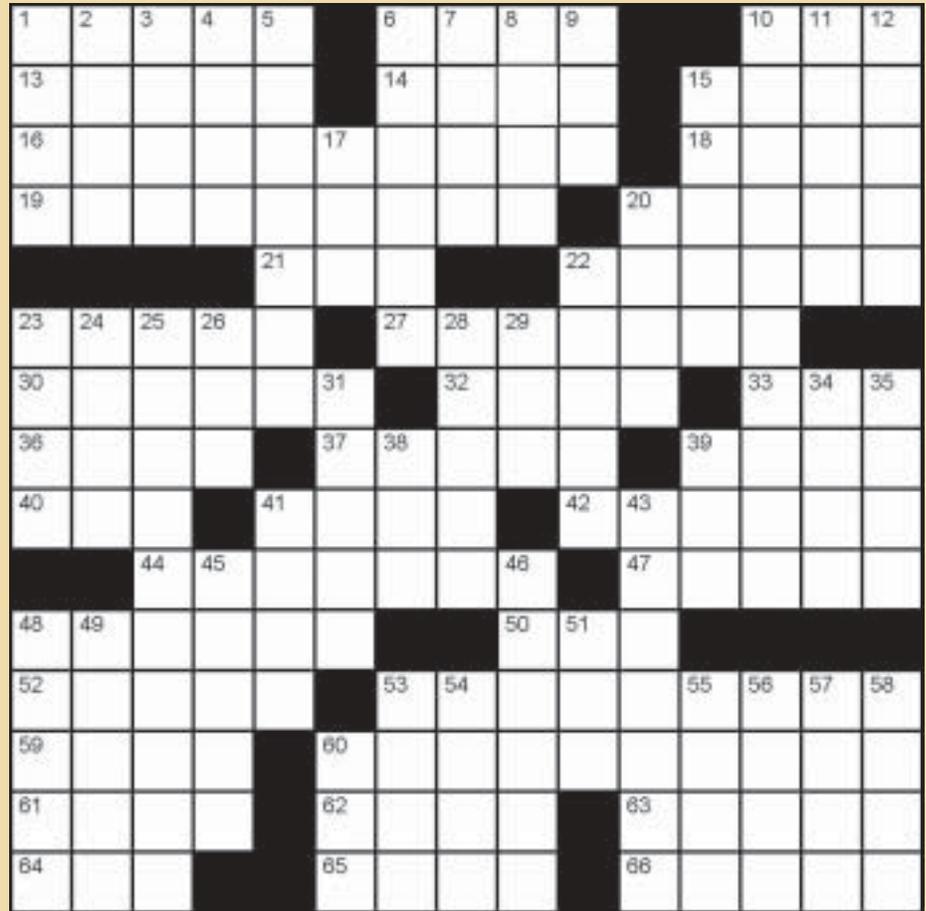
Across

1. Gondola propeller
6. Willy Wonka's creator
10. Garment bottom
13. Early rocket stage
14. Nobelist Wiesel
15. ___ Valley, Calif.
16. Do some successful sleuthing
18. Electric co., e.g.
19. Nervous state
20. Lord or Lady
21. Rock's Steely ___
22. Choice word
23. Low men at the Met
27. Board member, perhaps
30. Go to
32. Not fooled by
33. Steal from

36. Cause to yawn, maybe
37. Eat away at
39. Othello was one
40. "... what a good boy ___!"
41. Flip through
42. Sordid stuff
44. Massaged
47. Wound up
48. Nodding off, maybe
50. Clean air org.
52. Washington's ___ Sound
53. Ketchup spills
59. Texas shortstop, familiarly
60. Get acquitted
61. Be dependent
62. Fitzgerald of jazz
63. Tickle pink
64. Late-night announcer Hall
65. Drinks on tap
66. Stitch anew

Down

1. Kellogg-Briand ___



2. Beastly sort
3. Low in fat
4. SASEs, e.g.
5. Gathered, as wealth
6. Clothed, informally
7. Word of regret
8. Snake's sound
9. Spike or Ang
10. Take off
11. Griffith of the ring
12. Four-times-around-the track runner
15. Honeymooners' accommodations
17. Santa ___, Calif.
20. Former Yugoslav leader
22. Adlai's 1956 running mate
23. Rummy cake
24. Tiny particle
25. Get lucky while prospecting
26. "Told you so!"
28. TV exec Arledge
29. Sturm ___ Drang
31. Tooth problem
34. Slimy stuff
35. Raised, as dogs
38. Cool, in the '90s
39. Chess pieces
41. Labor Day mo.
43. Biker's wear
45. Poverty-stricken
46. River-mouth formations
48. Bowler's pickup
49. Drew in
51. Touch gently
53. Auction off
54. Lacking color
55. Prefix with photo
56. Notable times
57. Do a critic's job
58. Gush forth
60. Arthur of "The Golden Girls"

Solutions will be posted in Saturday's Freedom Watch