

## Wheelchairs deliver mobility, freedom and hope

Story and photo by Spc. Kelly Hunt  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – Residents of the Kabul area received a blessing Monday when more than 100 wheelchairs were donated to the disabled of Afghanistan.

The once immobile victims of war were granted mobility and dignity during a ceremony held in the Kabul area where contributors and recipients spoke of the importance of the gifts.

The Wheelchair Foundation, a non-profit organization established in June of 2000, joined forces with the Ministry of Martyrs & Disabled, the Comprehensive Disabled Afghan's Programme and the U.S. Departments of Defense and State to lead a private sector delegation to Kabul to begin the distribution of more than 5,000 wheelchairs given for the disabled of the country.

The foundation's mission is to lead "an international effort to create awareness of the needs and abilities of the physically disabled, to promote the joy of giving to the less fortunate, creating global friendship and to deliver a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult in the world who needs one, but cannot afford one," according to their mission statement.



*Mohammad Namain Ghayoor, Presidential Protective Service Academy, assists a disabled Afghan with his new wheelchair. More than 100 people received donated wheelchairs for disabled Afghans from the Wheelchair Foundation Monday.*

Founder, Kenneth E. Behring received inspiration for the foundation in 1999, when he donated shipments of wheelchairs to relief organizations throughout Africa and Eastern Europe as part of his personal mission to help those in need.

"When he saw what giving a wheelchair

to somebody who's been crawling or in a bed for years did for them, it was an instant gratification that was so amazing to him that he decided he would start buying big crates of wheelchairs and everywhere he would go, he

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## All aboard: Bagram offers shuttle service

Story and photo by Sgt. Greg Heath  
4<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** – Throw together thousands of coalition soldiers, hundreds of coalition vehicles and only one main road running the length of Bagram Air Base and one can run into a bit of a logjam at times.

To combat not only the increasing traffic problem along the two-mile long stretch of Disney Road, but also to service the still thousands of coalition service members without vehicles, the 213<sup>th</sup> Area Support Group that runs Base Operations has introduced a new

Bagram shuttle bus service.

The shuttle service is operated by a local contractor and includes a group of four buses. Two buses operate at a time running in opposite directions on Disney Rd. from 0800L to 2000L. Each bus takes about 15 minutes to make the loop on Disney Rd, from the main gate to the North Dining Facility, and with each bus traveling in different directions, coalition soldiers shouldn't have to wait very long for a bus, said Capt. Brad Antes, Base Ops S-4, 213<sup>th</sup> ASG.

This isn't the first time Bagram has attempted a shuttle bus service – the last one having failed six months ago – but hopefully

See **SHUTTLE**, Page 3

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*Iraqi and U.S. authorities investigate a suicide bombing near the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad on Monday. Twenty-two people were killed in a blast at the site last month.*

## 8 Iraqis killed in market explosion

**BAGHDAD, Iraq** – Eight Iraqis were killed and 18 injured late Thursday in an explosion at a market in Baqubah, about 30 miles north of Baghdad, 4th Infantry Division sources said.

The latest explosion, which appeared to be from mortar and was being investigated by Iraqi-Coalition team, came a few days after a bombing near the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad and the same day a bomb exploded outside a U.S. news bureau in the capital. On Thursday, the United Nations said it plans to further downsize its international staff in the country.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan made the move on the advice of security advisers, spokesman Fred Eckhard said.

Monday's suicide bombing killed an Iraqi security guard just over a month after the August 19 truck bombing that killed 22 people at the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad.

There were just over 300 international U.N. personnel in Baghdad and a similar number in the north around the time of the August attack, Eckhard said.

He said 42 U.N. workers were still in Baghdad and 44 were in north Iraq and said "those number can be expected to shrink further in the next few days."

"This is not an evacuation, just a further downsizing," he said.

Eckhard said "essential humanitarian activities continue" because of the efforts

of the more than 4,000 Iraqi staffers in the country.

Eckhard, speaking to reporters at a news conference, said there doesn't appear to be a relationship between this move and talks in the United Nations to bolster the multinational presence in Iraq.



*A fire broke out in Hokkaido following the initial quake early Friday.*

## Earthquakes rock Japan's northern island

**TOKYO** – An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 7.8 hit the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido early Friday, prompting authorities to issue tsunami warnings that extend as far as Hawaii.

Another temblor of similar intensity struck less than two hours later and multiple aftershocks have been felt. Residents on the eastern side of Hokkaido have been urged to evacuate.

Several million people live on the island but there were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage, although a fire broke out at an oil refinery afterward.

Japan's national broadcasting agency, NHK, reported 131 people had been injured.

Television reports include a train derailment and a landslide near a highway tunnel. Emergency officials are inspecting the tunnel, one station reported.

CNN Tokyo bureau chief Rebecca MacKinnon said tsunami waves measuring about 3 feet have begun hitting the eastern coast of Japan's northernmost island, and officials warned all residents in the region to seek higher ground.

The U.S. Geological Survey measured the

first quake at 8.0 according to the Richter scale — a mathematical device used to measure and compare the intensity of earthquakes.

Authorities in Japan gave the initial quake a preliminary magnitude of 7.8.



*U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. John Negroponte, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, from left, attend a luncheon Thursday.*

## Powell sees 'convergence' for U.N. resolution Thursday

**UNITED NATIONS** – U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Thursday he is "seeing some convergence of views" on a new Iraqi resolution among the five permanent U.N. Security Council members.

Powell said the members are working on language to "capture as much of that convergence as possible and to see what we are able to come to agreement on."

The United States is seeking a resolution that would allow more nations to join the U.S.-led coalition already in Iraq.

About 140,000 U.S. troops are in Iraq, along with more than 20,000 forces from other countries, principally Britain.

The United States has sought a third division, envisioning troops from India, Pakistan, South Korea and Turkey. But if it cannot get one, Washington will have to decide next month whether to fill the need with American reservists.

Powell said topics other than troops are being discussed.

"We also had a good discussion on the role of the secretary-general and his representative in the political process in Iraq and how it should be captured in a resolution," Powell said after a lunch with foreign ministers from the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China.

**SHUTTLE**, from Page 1



*A group of Marines wait for the Bagram shuttle bus that will take them back to their compound. The bus is available to all Bagram coalition members and runs up and down Disney Rd.*

with new changes this attempt can be a success, Antes said.

Although there are no predetermined “bus stops” yet, Antes said Base Ops intends to post signs at designated stopping points, like the Post Exchange for example, and possibly add benches for people to sit and wait. Antes added that they also hope to come up with a schedule to inform service members when the bus is due.

Currently there are no posted bus stop signs and service members who know about the shuttle simply flag it down, and those who don’t know are often made aware with a friendly honk given by the bus driver offering any walking service members a ride.

For Lance Cpl. Scott Schlinseg, Marine Attack Wing 513, the shuttle buses prove to be a convenient, timesaving service.

“Whenever we leave the Marine compound, if we see one we take it,” said Schlinseg, who said it normally takes 25 minutes to walk to the PX from his compound. “It’s not fun to walk to the Bazaar or PX when it gets really hot, so it’s nice to sit in a shuttle bus with the air conditioning.”

Antes emphasizes that the shuttle bus is for all service members’ convenience, and if they have any questions, concerns or suggestions, they should contact him at 318-231-4221.

## **Bagram Air Base MWR presents**

**1200Z at the Bagram Fest tent: “Latino Comedy Fiesta.” MWR is hosting a Latin dance and cookout in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. The cookout is open to all coalition forces and Bagram civilian workers.**

Tomorrow’s movie will be “Simone.”

## **Local weather**

### **TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:**

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b><u>Bagram:</u></b>	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 81F L: 48F	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 81F L: 46F
<b><u>Kandahar:</u></b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 82F L: 61F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 79F L: 57F
<b><u>Kabul:</u></b>	<i>Haze</i> H: 81F L: 50F	<i>Haze</i> H: 79F L: 48F
<b><u>Uzbekistan:</u></b>	<i>Clear</i> H: 74F L: 44F	<i>Clear</i> H: 75F L: 43F

*Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team*

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# Germans ponder Konduz PRT takeover

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Story by Spc. Wes Landrum  
Coalition Joint Task Force 180

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**BAGRAM, Afghanistan**—About 20 German soldiers came to Bagram Air Field via a German C-160 aircraft. Their mission was a simple one - to discuss options for taking over the Provincial Reconstruction Team Site at Konduz in northern Afghanistan.

Lt. Col Gunter Katz, spokesman for the German Ministry of Defense, said the thought of taking over a PRT was on the minds of German officials from the outset.

“Our government saw the need to support the PRT concept,” he said. “After an internal debate of how to support the concept, our government announced an intent to take over Konduz PRT under the mandate of ISAF (International Security Assistance Force).”

Katz said although there has been no firm political decision yet, the issue is being

discussed. Before Germany can take over the Konduz PRT, a number of things have to happen, Katz said.

“ISAF limits operations to Kabul and the surrounding area,” he said. “This has to be changed at the United Nations Security Council and at NATO.”

Col. Norbert Stier, commander of the German fact-finding team, said a timetable for getting the mandate hasn’t been set but it shouldn’t take long to get it.

“The German press said our government said it would take a short time to get it,” he said. “I’m optimistic that we will get the mandate within the next couple of weeks.”

Although the mandates seem likely, there are some people in Germany who do not want the military to take over the PRT. They are worried over another attack like what happened in Kabul in July when 16 German soldiers were killed in a bus explosion caused by an improvised explosive device.

Katz said there is some dissent but the

majority of the population favors taking over the PRT adding the incident in July hasn’t affected the German focus on the task at hand – rebuilding Afghanistan and helping the Afghan people emerge from despair.

“I think, in general, the majority of the population is in favor of this mission,” he said. “I’m rather confident that we will have the political majority to get the mission approved.”

Both Katz and Stier say the PRT concept is a noble one and Germany is ready to do her part to help in Afghanistan’s reconstruction.

“The people, after 24 years of war, are tired of fighting,” Stier said. “They are really looking to the future and a chance to have a normal life. I think the PRT can provide the help they need.”

Katz agreed, saying “It’s worthwhile conducting this mission.”

An official announcement from the German Parliament is expected in October.

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## MOBILITY, from Page 1

would deliver them himself,” said Cheryl Shaw Barnes of the Wheelchair Foundation.

The idea to deliver wheelchairs throughout Afghanistan began six months ago and the plan was organized through Afghan ministries.

“The goal is really mobility, independence and dignity,” said Barnes. “If we can just get them around their home or around their street – just put them beyond the world that they know at this time – that’s our job.”

Hundreds of people from around the world gathered together for the official ceremony where both Afghan dignitaries and American contributors acknowledged the suffering of the Afghan people and celebrated the benefits of beginning this international relationship.

“We’re here to show the love and friendship from all the people of the United States and we want you to know that we do care, we’re here to help and we hope we can make your life better,” said Bahring. “My hope is that we can give each of you hope, freedom and dignity so that you can enjoy the rest of your lives in this wheelchair.”

Contributors encouraged the disabled to see the wheelchair as their key to success and increased happiness.

“These wheelchairs will allow our citizens to regain mobility; the first step towards a successful integration into society,” said Minister Abdullah Wardak, Minister of Martyrs and Disabled.

This is a long-term project, said Gary Helseth, country coordinator, United Nations Office for Project Services/Comprehensive Disabled Afghans Program.

“(It) is a very good beginning and I know many proverbs in

Afghanistan refer to if you have a good beginning, there’s a good chance you’ll have a good ending and I hope that will be true here,” he said.

Making new beginnings around the world is what keeps foundation personnel motivated.

“It’s just a good cause,” said Barnes. “This is just the beginning,” she said adding that they’re not going to stop at donating wheelchairs, but are going to continue the fight for the disabled in Afghanistan by following up with wheelchair ramps in places such as schools, new clinics for the disabled to come to and a facility where they can work.

“We’re not going to come, forget and leave ... we’re going to get other people inspired,” said Barnes.

There are an estimated 100 to 130 million disabled people worldwide who need wheelchairs, but less than one percent actually have access to one, according to the Wheelchair Foundation, but the number is likely underestimated due to the difficulty in accounting for forgotten citizens who spend their lives in backrooms.

In many developing countries, such as Afghanistan, the leading cause of disabilities is attributed to land mines. According to the Wheelchair Foundation, nearly 26,000 people are injured or killed by landmines across the world each year.

Someone once said “if you don’t have the heart of a lion, don’t take the journey of love,” said Helseth. “This is going to be a journey of love and I think we are lead by two men with big hearts, Mr. Behring and the minister, so lets all find the same hearts to continue this work.”

For more information on the Wheelchair Foundation visit their website: [www.WheelchairFoundation.com](http://www.WheelchairFoundation.com).



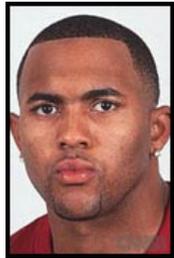
# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

## Chargers suspend wide receiver Boston one game Thursday for behavior

**SAN DIEGO** – Wide receiver David Boston was suspended without pay for one game by the San Diego Chargers on Thursday for behavior coach Marty Schottenheimer called unacceptable.

Schottenheimer was going to tell Boston of his suspension at a meeting Thursday morning, but the player didn't show up. The suspension, which will cost Boston \$32,353, came three days before the winless Chargers play at Oakland.



**David Boston**

Schottenheimer said, "There were a number of different circumstances that have taken place, and you all are aware of several of them," Schottenheimer said during a news conference. "It was time. I'm a tolerant guy, to a point."

Several problems involving Boston have come to light recently. He was involved in a shouting match with injured wide receiver Reche Caldwell in the locker room before Sunday's loss to Baltimore, and he had a run-in with strength coach Dave Redding on Tuesday.

The wide receiver, who signed a \$47 million contract in March, missed the home opener with a bruised heel and watched the game in street clothes. He was seen walking up a stadium tunnel toward the players' parking lot, talking on a cell phone, before the end of the 37-13 loss to Denver. He also declined to join his teammates in the locker room for Schottenheimer's postgame speech.

"We have certain standards that we set and we're going to have our people, coaches and players alike adhere to those policies and standards," Schottenheimer said. "The conduct is not acceptable."

By early afternoon, no one in the organization had spoken with Boston, Schottenheimer said.

By early afternoon, no one in the organization had spoken with Boston, Schottenheimer said.

This doesn't make David Boston a bad person. I think he's a good person. But we do things differently here maybe than they do other places."

The Chargers (0-3) said they investigated Boston thoroughly before signing him as an unrestricted free agent from Arizona. The Cardinals had no interest in re-signing Boston.

## Sosa passes Mantle but Cubs fall to Reds 9-7 Thursday in Cincinnati

**CINCINNATI** – Sammy Sosa climbed the career charts with two more homers, only to watch the Chicago Cubs let a big one slip away.



**Sammy Sosa**

Sean Casey's homer capped a six-run sixth inning that silenced thousands of Chicago fans and rallied the Cincinnati Reds to a 9-7 victory Thursday night.

After two days of being shut out and having their fans drowned out by thousands of Cubs supporters, the Reds put a big kink in Chicago's quest for the NL Central title.

The Cubs opened the day with a one-game lead over Houston, which hosted Milwaukee later Thursday. Chicago hasn't won a division title since 1989 and hasn't been to the playoffs since 1998, when the Cubs were the NL wild card.

They seemed to be well on their way to their overriding goal — taking a lead and momentum back to Wrigley Field — until a left-for-dead offense suddenly revived.

Sosa's two-run homer put Chicago ahead 3-0 in the third and moved him ahead of Mickey Mantle into 10th place on the career list with 537. It also gave him 100 RBIs for the ninth straight season, the first time it's been done in the National League.

## Delgado goes deep to make MLB history

**TORONTO** – Carlos Delgado hit four home runs Thursday night, becoming the 15th player in major league history to accomplish the feat in leading the Toronto Blue Jays over Tampa Bay 10-8.



**Carlos Delgado**

Delgado connected in four straight at-bats. His first homer of the game was the 300th of his career.

Delgado was the first player to homer four times in a game since Shawn Green did it for Los Angeles on May 23, 2002, against Milwaukee.

"I can't think of any other way to explain it, it just kind of happened," Delgado said. "It seems like everything you hit goes into the air and goes out. I wish I could do it more often."

The Toronto slugger was the fifth AL player to do it, the first since Mike Cameron for Seattle on May 2, 2002, against the Chicago White Sox. Lou Gehrig, Rocky Colavito and Pat Seerey also did it in the AL.

### Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

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

- SportsCenter 0230L
- MLB Atlanta Braves @ Philadelphia Phillies 0330L
- MLB Oakland Athletics @ Seattle Mariners 0630L
- College Football magazine 0930L
- NFL magazine 1000L
- SportsCenter 1030L
- MLB Milwaukee Brewers @ Houston Astros 1130L
- MLB Los Angeles Dodgers @ San Francisco Giants 1530L
- SportsCenter 1830L
- College Football GameDay Pregame 1900L
- College Football Missouri @ Kansas 2100L

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

- College Football GameDay 0000L
- College Football Air Force @ BYU 0030L
- College Football Tulane @ Texas 0330L
- College Football Iowa @ Michigan State 0630L
- ESPNNews 0930L
- NFL magazine 1000L
- SportsCenter 1030L
- College Football Navy @ Rutgers 1130L
- College Football Arizona State @ Oregon State 1600L
- NFL Sunday Countdown 1930L
- ESPNNews 2130L

# Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

## Bush hardens stance against Musharraf

Story by Chidanand Rajghatta

**NEW YORK** (*Times News Network*) – Notwithstanding its self-professed role as a frontline state in the war on terrorism, Pakistan finds itself cornered on the issue. The U.S., India and Afghanistan have come together to warn Pakistan's military government not to mess around in its neighbourhood.

U.S. President George Bush bluntly told Pakistan's military ruler Pervez Musharraf on Wednesday to "stop cross-border terrorism in Kashmir" and "infiltration" into Afghanistan.

Despite effusive public praise for Pakistan for its role in the war on terrorism, Bush appears to have got tough with Musharraf during their meeting on the sidelines of the UN session in the face of complaints from both Prime Minister Vajpayee and Afghan President Hamid Karzai about Pakistan's hostile activities.

"President Bush and President Musharraf had an 'excellent meeting' in which they talked about the challenges in the war on terrorism, talked about the need to stop cross-border terrorism in Kashmir," a senior U.S. administration official told reporters in a background briefing about Bush's engagements for the day.

It was the first time a high-level U.S. official has attributed such a blunt and direct expression as "cross-border terrorism in Kashmir" to Bush. The formulation is of Indian origin and US diplomacy and language in this matter has been a little subtler in the past.

The tougher language was also evident in the context of the Pakistan-Afghanistan problem. The official also said Bush had asked Musharraf "to go back and redouble his efforts" to deal with infiltration into Afghanistan, although she softened the message by elaborating on the difficult terrain in the region and Pakistan's change of heart while insisting there was more to do.

"If you look at where Pakistan was prior to 9/11 and where Pakistan is now, you've had a complete shift in the orientation of Pakistan's foreign policy, of Pakistan's policy towards Afghanistan and the Taliban, and Pakistan's policy towards terrorism," the official said. "It doesn't mean that there isn't more to do, but that has to be acknowledged."

In a separate briefing, External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha told reporters that Prime Minister Vajpayee informed the U.S. President that India had not seen any decline in cross-border terrorism or infiltration or in the matter of dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan. As a result, no sustained dialogue was possible because there was no change in the mindset of the rulers of Pakistan.

Pakistan's low-intensity hostility is also being blamed indirectly for India's rejection of troops to Iraq. Vajpayee told Bush that as far as the commitment of Indian troops to Iraq was concerned, New Delhi had to first consider its own increased security demand over the past few weeks.

Washington's hardening sentiment and language against Pakistan follows reports about the country's continuing subversive activities in both India and Afghanistan. Senior US officials in recent weeks have publicly spoken about it.

State Department's Christina Rocca recently stressed the need to contain terrorism emanating from Pakistan, while even the US envoy to Pakistan, Nancy Powell, wondered how Pakistan could not find Taliban activists when reporters from US media were interviewing them all the time.

The open indictment of Pakistan's role in fomenting violence in the region came even as Musharraf was sending mixed signals and tying himself in knots at his various engagements in New York. Sometimes he protested that Pakistan was not involved in terrorism and was not encouraging infiltration; at other times, he suggested terrorism could be contained by talks.

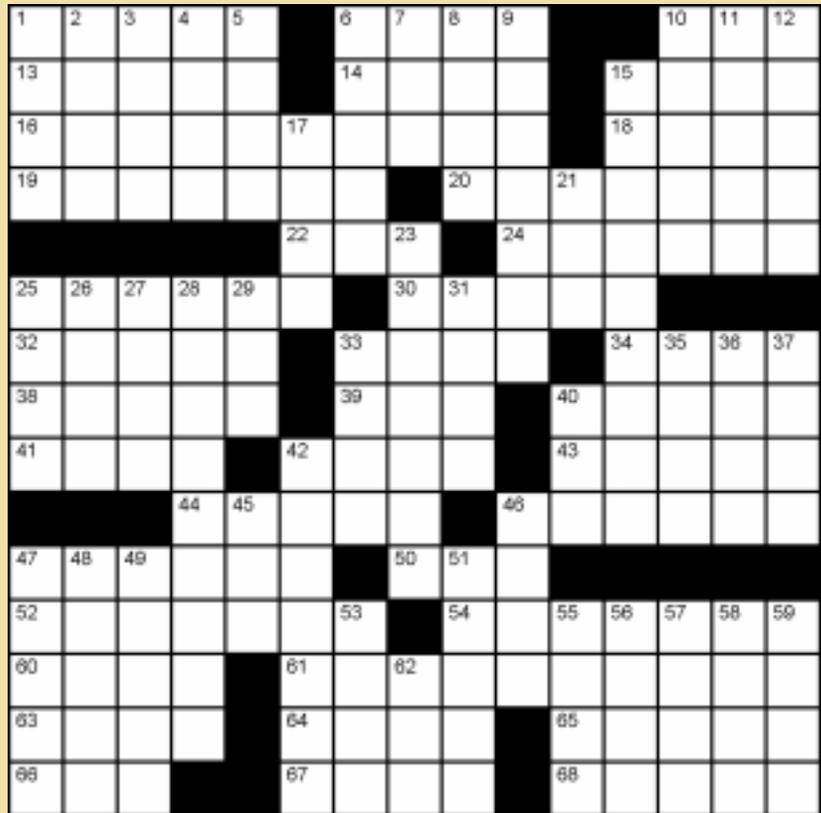
In his speech before the UN, Musharraf initially described the movement in Kashmir as indigenous. Two paragraphs later he admitted Pakistan had the leverage to stop the violence in Kashmir by the renegades he describes as freedom fighters and the rest of the world calls terrorists.

In its latest issue, *Time* magazine reports on how serving Pakistani military officials were caught operating with the Taliban.



# Doubled crossword

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)



Across

- 1. Defeated at chess
- 6. Frosty covering
- 10. UK leaders
- 13. Stand for
- 14. Garfield's pal
- 15. Pizazz
- 16. 1995 Sylvester Stallone film
- 18. After curfew
- 19. Took the helm
- 20. Descendant of Esau
- 22. Play the ponies
- 24. More uniform
- 25. 1995 Sandra Bullock thriller
- 30. Pay tribute to
- 32. Ulysses S. Grant's real first name
- 33. "\_\_\_ Make a Deal"
- 34. Artist's "Done!"
- 38. Chucklehead
- 39. Granola tidbit
- 40. Angler's boxful
- 41. Appear to be
- 42. A fan of
- 43. Best possible
- 44. \_\_\_ tube
- 46. Sell from a pushcart
- 47. Bluegrass strings
- 50. Shucker's unit
- 52. Wakens
- 54. Royal emblems
- 60. Cantaloupe cover
- 61. "Charlie's Angels" star
- 63. Marsh growth
- 64. Like take-out orders
- 65. Light on one's feet
- 66. Ballpark fig.
- 67. Put into the hold
- 68. Stallions' mates

Down

- 1. Cpts.' superiors
- 2. Touch on
- 3. It ebbs and flows
- 4. Beat by a nose
- 5. XING sign critter
- 6. Huge swarm
- 7. Work of praise
- 8. Details handler
- 9. Shows embarrassment
- 10. No-frills
- 11. Dull finish
- 12. Villainous look
- 15. Bugs Bunny torments him
- 17. Red ink entry
- 21. Lacto-\_\_-vegetarian
- 23. London's Globe, for one
- 25. De Niro's "Analyze \_\_\_!"
- 26. Take cover
- 27. Ashtabula's lake
- 28. Country music mama
- 29. CPR performer
- 31. Director Preminger
- 33. Without a partner
- 35. Ticked off
- 36. Oscar winner Patricia
- 37. Castaway's home
- 40. Fairway position
- 42. Bees, beetles et al.
- 45. Turndowns
- 46. Raptor's quarry
- 47. Wilkes-\_\_\_, Pa.
- 48. Sign of spring
- 49. Largish combo
- 51. Directional sign
- 53. Took a photo of
- 55. Alluring, informally
- 56. Pond plant
- 57. Thieves' hideout
- 58. Goofing off
- 59. Summer quenchers
- 62. Sense of self

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