

## EOD convention collates coalition

Story and photos by  
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**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — An international Explosive Ordnance Disposal convention took place here Thursday. This is the third convention EOD coordinated since April. They do this for many purposes.

“This is one of the few times EOD nations get together,” said Staff Sgt. Shawn Prather, 705<sup>th</sup> EOD, Fort Polk, La.

Germans, Estonians, Italians, French, Polish, Spanish, British and American EOD personnel gathered for a full day of learning about the different militaries’ capabilities.

“So far this is the largest group that



*Staff Sgt. Shawn Prather, 705<sup>th</sup> Explosive Ordnance Company, Fort Polk, La. teaches a Polish and French EOD soldier about some of his company's equipment that was on display here Thursday during an EOD convention.*

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## Prime Power works to improve quality of life

By Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — In the States, when someone flips the light switch they think nothing of it, but here this is a luxury few expect.

A chief warrant officer, a detachment sergeant and 15 soldiers have provided this luxury here. Prime Power, 1<sup>st</sup> Detachment, Company A, 249<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, has provided electrical power, generation, distribution and construction for servicemembers in Afghanistan since March 2002.

Prime Power has turned generation and distribution here over to a civilian contractor, but is currently working on constructing new power lines to places on base without power. Currently Prime Power is only located at Bagram, but at one time they had personnel in Kandahar, Kabul and Manas, Kyrgyzstan. Although they no longer have personnel there, they are still responsible for solving any electrical problems there.

Prime Power is also responsible for the sidewalks because they put a power line down the center. They also hooked up everyone

currently connected to the power lines. In their time here, Prime Power has put in more than 20 miles of wire.

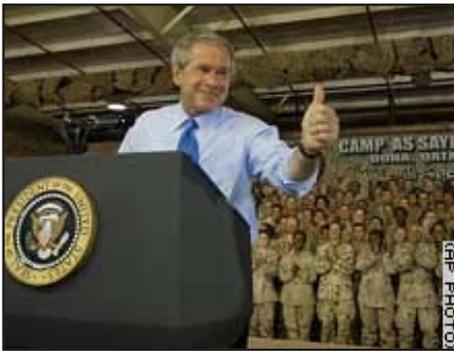
Electrical power is provided on base by diesel engine generators installed by Prime Power and civilian contractors. This provides a central power plant instead of using individual tactical generators.

“It is better to have the centralized plant because the tactical generators are not designed to run 24-7 for years. With centralized power, we use less fuel and less people have to take care of the generators. If we were running on the tactical generators, there would be at least 100 generators each needing someone to take care of them. With the centralized generators it only takes 10-15 personnel. This way units can better use their manpower,” said Sgt. First Class Mark “Smurf” Smeragliuolo, detachment sergeant, Prime Power, 1<sup>st</sup> Det., Co. A, 249<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn.

During scheduled power outages, Prime Power adds people to their system. Unscheduled power outages are usually caused by people digging or putting stakes into the ground. Before anyone

See **PRIME POWER**, Page 3

# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



*President Bush tells U.S. troops in Qatar that the United States is looking for Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.*

## Bush vows to 'reveal the truth' on Iraqi weapons

**WASHINGTON** — Facing growing criticism and calls for congressional hearings about his administration's pre-war assertions on the threat posed by Iraq, U.S. President George W. Bush vowed Thursday to "reveal the truth" about what he has described as former leader Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction.

Speaking to troops in Qatar as he headed home from a Middle East peace summit, Bush suggested it shouldn't be surprising that no such weapons have been found, despite the fall of Saddam's regime and the presence of coalition forces in Iraq for more than two months.

"This is a man who spent decades hiding tools of mass murder," Bush said. "He knew the inspectors were looking for them. You know better than me he's got a big country in which to hide them. We're on the look. We'll reveal the truth."

The president pointed to the recent discovery of what he described as two "mobile biological weapons facilities" as evidence of Saddam's interest in and Iraq's capability of producing biological weapons.

In New York, chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix told the Security Council Thursday that inspectors found no evidence before the March invasion that Iraq had reconstituted its chemical, biological or nuclear weapons programs.

"The commission has not at any time during the inspections in Iraq found evidence of the continuation or resumption of programs of weapons of mass destruction or

significant quantities of proscribed items, whether from pre-1991 or later," Blix told the Security Council in what is expected to be his final report.

## Top New York Times editors quit

**NEW YORK**— *The New York Times* Thursday announced the resignations of its two top editors.

The latest bombshell in a journalistic melodrama since a rising star reporter was forced to resign for plagiarism.

Executive Editor Howell Raines and Managing Editor Gerald Boyd had been particularly criticized for their roles in the scandal surrounding the reporting of 27-year-old Jayson Blair, who quit the paper May 1.

Blair resigned after a Texas newspaper questioned whether he had plagiarized a story about the family of missing U.S. soldier Jessica Lynch.

*The Times* ran a multipage self-examination of how the reporter managed to stay on staff after multiple errors and editors' suspicions that his reporting was fraudulent.

In a news release, the newspaper said Joseph Lelyveld, 66, former executive editor of *The Times*, has been named interim executive editor, assuming the jobs of both men.

Raines, 60, led the paper to seven Pulitzer Prizes last year — several for the *Times*' comprehensive coverage of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Neither he nor Boyd, 52, would comment on their resignations.

Blair responded to the resignations in a two-sentence e-mail to CNN:

"I am sorry to hear that more people have fallen in this sequence of events that I had unleashed.

I wish the rolling heads had stopped with mine."

Shortly after Blair left the paper, another reporter, Pulitzer Prize winner Rick Bragg, quit after the newspaper published an editor's note saying Bragg had written a story based largely on the reporting of a free-lancer who received no credit.

Contacted Thursday by CNN at his home in New Orleans, Bragg, the author of two

memoir-style books, said, "I can't say anything for the record. Right now, it would just be so stupid to say anything for the record."



*Uruguayan U.N. soldiers make their way to camp in Bunia, Congo. A civil war has been ongoing since Aug. 1998.*

## Congolese remember violent executions

**BUNIA**, Democratic Republic of the Congo — May was another brutal month for the residents of Bunia. People were terrorized and slaughtered, first by fighters from the majority Lendu ethnic group and then by members of the Hema minority who drove the Lendu out.

"They beat the refugees, shot at them," said Florent, an eyewitness to some of the violence. "And then they picked out those who were Hema. They picked them all out. They took them with them, and they left."

The fighting, which has left 450 people dead and hundreds injured, followed the withdrawal of neighboring Ugandan troops on May 7. United Nations peacekeepers are in the region but do not have the political mandate or the weaponry to halt the fighting. United Nations officials say they have never seen such "horrific" conditions as those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Those who returned last week from the north-east part of the country said they had never witnessed such an appalling humanitarian crisis on such a large scale. "We've seen the most horrible things in Bunia. Women who've lost their arms and legs, child amputees, men chopped to bits, women raped," said U.N. official Carolyn McAskie. The International Rescue Committee, a voluntary relief organization, estimated there were 200,000 deaths since 1998 as a direct result of the war. Almost 2.8 million have died from malnutrition or disease because the war has limited humanitarian aid.

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puts anything into the ground, they need to get a digging permit. This ensures they do not hit any live wires or phone lines.

Even here conservation is important.

“You should have the same habits here as in the States. We have a finite supply and any time you can conserve resources you should,” said Smeragliuolo. “You’re not paying for it, but every gallon of fuel we don’t use for the generators is a gallon we can use for something else. Conservation has a bearing, indirectly.”

According to Smeragliuolo, Prime Power greatly improves the quality of life here.

“We provide power for the lights, hot showers and hot food. You don’t have to worry about getting up in the middle of the night to fuel a generator. It’s a big comfort to soldiers to know they can plug something in and it will work. Plus, you don’t have to hear the generator all night.”

For more information on what Prime Power is responsible for, visit their website at <http://pps.belvoir.army.mil>.

If there are electrical problems, call Base Operations and they will fill out a work order so the proper crew may fix it.

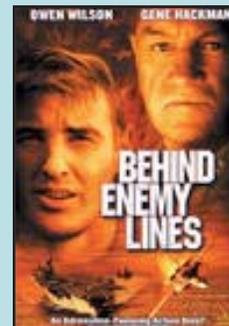


*Staff Sgt. Martin Blanchet, Prime Power production specialists, 1<sup>st</sup> Detachment, Company A, 249<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, takes the breakers off a unit to replace with another to upgrade power at the Post Exchange.*

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR Building: “Behind Enemy Lines.” A Navy navigator is shot down over enemy territory and is ruthlessly pursued by a secret police enforcer and the opposing troops. Meanwhile his commanding officer goes against orders in an attempt to rescue him.

Tomorrow night there will be an R&B and birthday party.



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>Bagram:</b>	<i>Mostly cloudy</i> H: 91F L: 63F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 91F L: 63F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	<i>Dusty</i> H: 106F L: 72F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 106F L: 72F
<b>Kabul:</b>	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 91F L: 59F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 91F L: 61F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	<i>Isolated showers</i> H: 92F L: 59F	<i>Sunny</i> H: 85F L: 58F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

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*Freedom Watch*, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

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All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

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*Italian International Security Assistance Force soldiers watch as a Talon Robot's capabilities are displayed during an EOD convention here Thursday. The robot is easy to take on missions and go in caves because of its size, said Staff Sgt. Shawn Prather, 705<sup>th</sup> EOD, Fort Polk, La.*

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we've had," said Maj. Charles Phillips, battalion operations officer for 184<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Battalion (EOD), Fort Gillem, Ga.

About 50 coalition members showed up to the convention, said Phillips. This number doesn't include the U.S. EOD companies at Bagram and representatives from Kandahar Air Field.

Some of the 705<sup>th</sup>'s equipment was displayed, including new mine detectors, two robots — a remote ordnance neutralizer called the Remotec and a mission-ready Talon robot — a .50 caliber rifle, improvised bomb suits, radio transmitters and receivers, disrupters and more.

A couple of months earlier, representatives from the British International Security Assistance Force came here for intelligence about what the EOD here does, said Phillips.

"We decided to improve upon that — to not have just one representative from the ISAF come — but bring our (team) and theirs together in a larger group so we can pass information and share a little bit better. So not only are we sharing intelligence, but also tools, techniques and procedures," he said.

According to Phillips, the convention is turning into a monthly event, and this is important for many reasons.

The biggest thing is that it's both Combined Joint Task Force-180 and ISAF EOD, said Phillips.

Both entities are facing the same type

of ordnance devices. If the two can share what they encounter, what problems they had and how they went about fixing it, the information can help for the execution of future missions.

"We can use that (information) to pass on to our companies that are supporting the coalition forces so they can provide better support as well and be more knowledgeable about the things encountered," said Phillips.

When the companies return to the States, they will have a better idea of what to look for future projects, said Phillips.

"Maybe the other countries had a little better piece of equipment or enhanced capability of what we have. It gives us an idea of what equipment to look for. We continue to improve our equipment. They get the same benefit," added Phillips.

The next EOD convention takes place in July at the German compound in Kabul.

He said he hopes this convention will continue in the future as well.

"It's developed into a very good program for us as far as intelligence, technology, etc. ... Hopefully even after our battalion rotates out, it is something continued and built upon."



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

## Laying the groundwork...

*Maj. Mark Cepiel, team leader, Civil Affairs Team-A, talks with some local teachers on the progress of the new girls school in Kapisa. The Kapisa girls school is one of the main projects on the CA list for the Kapisa area, because the girls presently have no place to attend school.*



# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Newman (12) held off Jeff Gordon to win at Dover on Sunday.

## Newman wins at Monster Mile

**DOVER, Del.** — Victory eased the pain Ryan Newman felt after muscling a 3,400-pound stock car around the track for half the afternoon.

Newman lost his power steering, but not his determination, and held off Jeff Gordon to win Sunday at Dover International Speedway.

“I’m definitely tired,” Newman said. “My arms hurt, my back hurts, my neck hurts, and I’ll be really sore tomorrow and probably Tuesday.

“But we had a fast race car, and I wasn’t about to pull into the garage and say, ‘That’s it, guys.’”

The victory in the MBNA 400 gave Newman what he hopes will be the momentum to move into contention in the Winston Cup points race. But he was cautious in his assessment of the future.

“You can feel the momentum, but all it takes is one of those things,” he said, alluding to the kind of problems that have plagued him this season.

After making a charge that carried him late last season to a sixth-place finish in the series and rookie of the year status, Newman has had a difficult start in 2003. No one had failed to finish more races, and that was costly.

This time, he overcame adversity.

“I lost the power steering with about 180 laps to go and that made it really hard,” he said. “I couldn’t even scrub my tires like the rest on the cautions because of it.”

But the burly driver had enough strength to keep Gordon behind him when the four-time series champion tried to dive underneath in Turn 1 after the green flag waved for the final time with six laps to go.

“He raced me clean, and I appreciate that,” Newman said. “He could have tapped me and got me loose. I was proud to race with him.”

Crew chief Matt Borland was proud of his 25-year-old driver.

“The Kid did an awesome job,” Borland said.

Gordon agreed.

“Ryan’s very smooth and runs a good line,” Gordon said. “He deserves to be in Victory Lane today.”

But Gordon and third-place finisher Bobby Labonte thought Tony Stewart would have won had it not been for a one-lap penalty from NASCAR for pitting slightly out of the box.

See **SPORTS**, Page 6

### Sports on local Armed Forces Network TV

#### Saturday’s schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Horse Racing: The Acorn Stakes (tape delayed) 0030Z
- ❖ ESPNNews (live) 0200Z
- ❖ MLB: Interleague: Chicago White Sox @ Los Angeles Dodgers (live) 0300Z
- ❖ Totally NASCAR (live) 0600Z
- ❖ 54321 (tape delayed) 0630Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0700Z
- ❖ NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: O’Reilly 400K (tape delayed) 0800Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1000Z
- ❖ Tennis: 2003 French Open - Men’s Semifinals (tape delayed) 1100Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1300Z
- ❖ 2003 NBA Finals Gm 2: New Jersey Nets @ San Antonio Spurs (tape delayed) 1400Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 1600Z
- ❖ Baseball Tonight (tape delayed) 1700Z
- ❖ This Week in Baseball (live) 1730Z
- ❖ MLB: Game of the Week - Interleague: NY Yankees @ Chicago Cubs (live) 1800Z

#### Sunday’s schedule (AFN Sports)

- ❖ Horse Racing: The Triple Crown 2003 (live) 0000Z
- ❖ NASCAR Busch Series: Trace Adkins Chrome 300 (live) 0030Z
- ❖ HBO World Championship Boxing - World Jr. Welterweight Championship (live) 0230Z
- ❖ MLS: Colorado Rapids @ Los Angeles Galaxy (tape delayed) 0430Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (live) 0700Z
- ❖ AFL: AFL Playoffs - Conference Championship: Orlando Predators @ Tampa Bay Storm (tape delayed) 0800Z
- ❖ SportsCenter (tape delayed) 1200Z
- ❖ NHL: 2003 NHL Stanley Cup Finals Gm 6 if nec.: NJ Devils @ Mighty Ducks of Anaheim (tape delayed) 1300Z
- ❖ MLB: 2003 NHL Stanley Cup Finals Gm 6.: NJ Devils @ Mighty Ducks of Anaheim if necessary: Seattle Mariners @ NY Mets \* (tape delayed) 1301Z
- ❖ USA Soccer: New Zealand @ USA \*JIP (live) 1800Z

## Do you like rock and roll?

The Doug Shock Band will be performing 1430Z Sunday at the Bagram Civic Center/Four Corners Stage. They will be performing a variety of music including The Black Crowes, Wallflowers, Live and others.

**SPORTS**, from Page 5

## Suit: Davis allegedly built Toyota a truck

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Dodge Motorsports is suing car owner Bill Davis for allegedly helping rival Toyota prepare for its NASCAR debut, a partnership that could have yielded many trade secrets for the Japanese automaker.

Dodge ended its association two weeks ago with Davis, who fields Winston Cup cars for 2002 Daytona 500 winner Ward Burton and Kenny Wallace, and sued him for allegedly building Toyota a truck.

Davis, who was one of Dodge's first car owners when it returned to Winston Cup racing in 2001, received substantial factory support from Dodge and had access to sensitive information, technology advances and competitive plans.

If he also had a side deal going with Toyota — as Dodge alleges — Davis had the ability to open up Dodge's playbook for Toyota to study.

The allegations provide a rare behind-the-scenes look at the back-room deals that often occur in the highly competitive, technology-driven world of NASCAR.

The lawsuit, filed in Oakland County (Mich.) Circuit Court, claims that Davis' employees built Toyota a truck with a Dodge engine, then installed and accompanied it to an April 30 wind tunnel test in Marietta, Ga.

The suit alleges that one or more of Davis' employees claimed to be a representative of Toyota at the test, and that the truck had Bill Davis Racing Co. decals on it in several places.

That broke a clause in the contract that says neither Davis nor his employees can "represent, endorse, or otherwise promote the vehicles, parts or service of a DaimlerChrysler competitor."

Dodge also contends that Davis obtained a license to do business at an address in High Point, with the sign on the front of the building reading "Tundra Race Truck Center." Toyota plans to make its NASCAR debut next season in the Truck Series by running Tundras.

Their arrival has angered some fans who point to NASCAR's policy of only allowing American-made cars to run in any of its series. Toyota skirts that requirement by manufacturing several of its cars and trucks in the United States.

The smaller teams are worried they won't be able to challenge Toyota's seemingly unlimited access to cash and technology.

"It's going to turn our world upside down," Dodge driver Bill Elliott said Tuesday. "It's going to be interesting. They're going to throw a lot of money at it, and a lot of smaller teams ... won't be able to compete." Dodge made sure Toyota won't get any of its secrets for free by terminating its contract with Davis — one of the original car owners DaimlerChrysler recruited when it returned to NASCAR in 2001.

In a six-year deal reached in February 2000, Dodge agreed to give Davis cash, cars, access to information and use of its Michigan wind tunnel for his Winston Cup teams. Because Dodge does not compete in the Busch Series, Davis was free to use Chevrolets in that series for driver Scott Wimmer.

But Dodge is heavily invested in the Truck Series. Twelve of the 33 drivers entered in last weekend's race in Dover, Del., were competing in Dodge Rams, and Dodge driver Bobby Hamilton is the series points leader.

So if Davis wanted to compete in the Truck Series, Dodge certainly would want him using its trucks.

Dodge has declined further comment on the split with Davis other, than to confirm that it was for a breach of contract.

Davis has not commented since word of his split with Dodge became known last week, and a spokeswoman for his teams said Tuesday he still has no comment.

The suit asks that Davis give back any unspent money Dodge gave him this year as a reward for running Intrepids. Dodge estimates he's spent 50 to 60 percent of his cash, which is believed to be in the seven-figure range.

The suit also asks the court to prohibit Davis from revealing any confidential information or trade secrets he has learned in his two-plus seasons with Dodge.

### Post Office hours change

In order to better process outgoing and incoming mail, the Bagram Post Office hours are changing.

The new hours, effective Monday, are:

**0430-1330Z** Monday, Tuesday and Thursday-Sunday

**0430-0830** Wednesday.

The reduced hours for receiving mail will allow the postal personnel to spend more time processing outgoing and incoming mail.

*"We have established an American presence, send in the mobile Starbucks."*



kevin\_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

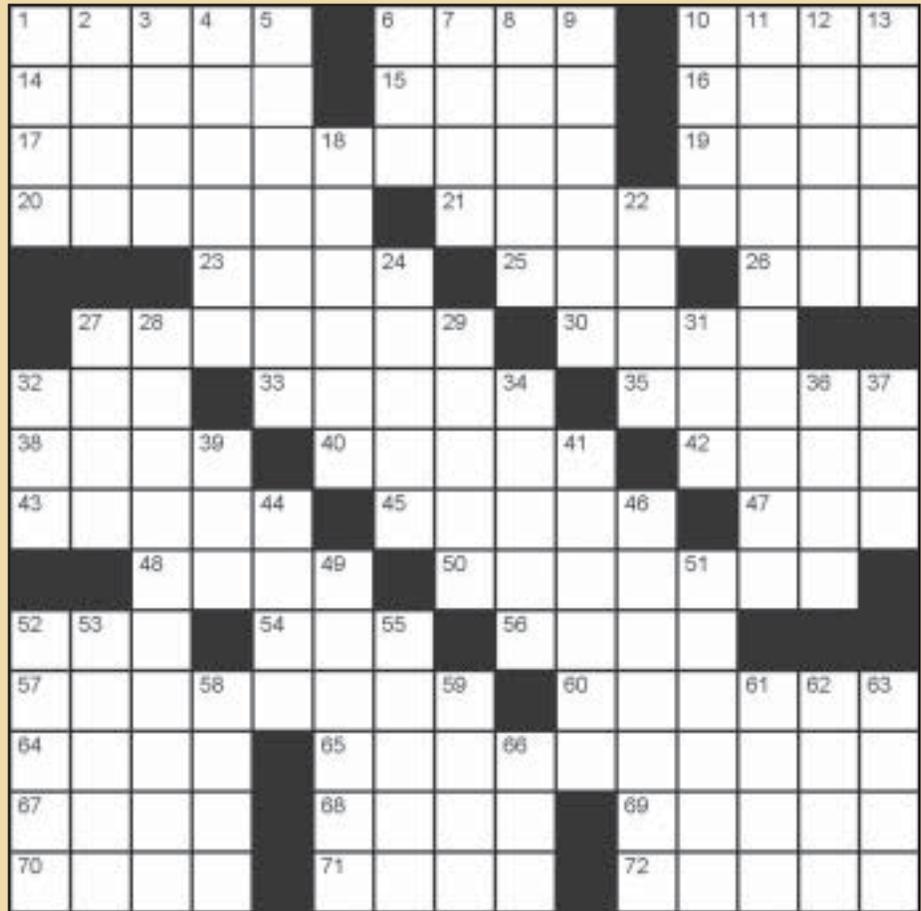
*Laugh Support*

# Measuring Up 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

## 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*