

Afghanistan struggles toward 'Free Press'



Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

An Afghan press operator applies ink to the printing rolls during a recent publication of one of the local newspapers. Four government-funded newspapers share this one printing press, which has forced the newspaper to abandon daily runs in favor of weekly or bi-weekly publication.

By Spc. Jim Wagner

109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan – Abdul Waleh, editor-in-chief of the weekly *Kabul Times*, has been in the media business for more than 20 years, but it wasn't until recently that he has been able to report the news that really happens here.

A newspaper publisher and lawyer during the dictatorship leading up to the Russian invasion in 1979, Waleh said news critical of the central government was suppressed.

"When the Communists came I was in jail," he said. "They didn't like liberal people."

For more than 23 years, Afghanistan has known little besides constant warfare: First against the Russians, then civil war throughout the early 1990s, culminating in the Taliban religious uprising and occupation of Kabul in 1996.

During that time, Afghanistan newspaper, radio and TV reported only what the current leader of the country wanted, many times suppressing news and always eliminating information critical of the regime in power.

Wataru Fujishita, a correspondent with Japan Broadcasting Corporation, has covered Afghanistan as part of his beat for more than seven years. Until the Taliban regime ended, he wasn't allowed in the country to report the news he saw, but instead had to rely on second-hand information.

"I lived in Pakistan and had to rely on anonymous sources to bring me the information of what was really happening in the country," he said.

Recent events have improved the situation. Hamid Karzai,

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Local nationals ease soldiers' workload

Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Local nationals work all over base constructing buildings, tarring roofs, assisting the dining facility and many other odd jobs to improve the conditions here.

There are 500-1000 local nationals working here on about 95 percent of the current construction projects, according to Maj.

Mike Colon, contracting officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Joint Logistics Command, 1st Corps Support Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.

However, these local nationals are not chosen at random or individually by the United States.

According to Colon, there are 20-30 local national companies that bid on projects.

Companies walk through every Wednesday and their bids are due on Monday.

"The purpose of the walk-through is to orient them to the project, have them understand what is to be built, and the size, scope and parameters of that project," said Colon. "We go over what's needed on that particular project, how long it may be – 30 days, 60 days and any special types of wood or concrete."

After the walk-through, the engineers

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

White House rejects lengthy inspections process

WASHINGTON — The White House has not set a cutoff date for U.N. weapons inspections in Iraq, but the United States will not tolerate inspections that continue for months on end, senior administration officials said Friday.

White House officials dismissed reports that a lengthy inspections period might be allowed in a bid to win support from more U.S. allies for military action against Iraq. However, a senior administration official said the United States will let the inspections continue as it consults with allies and has not set a timetable for ending them.

Chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix is to present to the Security Council an interim report Monday on the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission's first 60 days of inspections.



When a jumbo jet ripped through the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2001, it set off an avalanche of debris, according to an engineers' report. Shown here is a scene from a video animation released Friday.

Columns kept Pentagon standing

WASHINGTON — A forest of steel-reinforced concrete pillars in the Pentagon saved many lives and prevented more serious damage to the building during the attack Sept. 11, 2001, structural engineers said in a report released Friday.

When the hijacked jumbo jet plowed into the Pentagon near ground level, it penetrated 310 feet through the building's outer three rings in less than a second, according to the report by the American So-

ciety of Civil Engineers.

That sent debris through the west side of the building like an avalanche, according to the engineers.

The attack killed 189 people — 64 aboard the aircraft and 125 inside the Pentagon.

"While this loss of life exceeded that of the Oklahoma City bombing, it is very remarkable that it was not worse," said Paul Mlakar, a team leader for the study. The bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, killed 168 people April 19, 1995.



Spanish authorities search a Barcelona apartment Friday, in an image taken from a police video.

16 arrested in Spain terror raids

MADRID, Spain — Sixteen suspected Islamic terrorists arrested Friday in Spain were "preparing for attacks with explosive and chemical material" in Europe, the Spanish prime minister said.

"The police have arrested 16 activists, dismantling an important network linked to al-Qaida and the Algerian Salafist group," Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said during a nationally-televised news conference.

"They had links to terrorists recently arrested in France and Britain, and they were preparing attacks with explosive and chemical material," he said. The British group was arrested earlier this month after authorities allegedly found traces of the deadly poison Ricin in a London apartment.

American intelligence officials told *The New York Times* that British authorities believe they were plotting to poison food at a British military base with the toxin.

Saddam son warns U.S. of losses

BAGHDAD, Iraq — President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday has warned the United States of huge losses and a calamity worse than the Sept. 11 attacks if it goes ahead with plans to invade Iraq.

"It is better for them (the Americans) to keep themselves away from us," Uday was quoted as saying on Thursday night by al-Shabab (Youth) television which he owns.

"Because if they come, Sept. 11 which they are crying over and see as a big thing, will be a real picnic for them, God willing," Uday said, referring to suicide hijacker attacks in New York and Washington which killed about 3,000 people in 2001.

"They will be hurt and pay a price they will never imagine," he added, repeating similar comments in an editorial in Thursday's Babel Daily, which Uday also owns.

Americans abroad warned in case of evacuation

WASHINGTON — The U.S. State Department sent a cable Friday telling embassies to alert U.S. citizens living overseas to be prepared for possible evacuation, the department said.

A senior State Department official said the alerts will be sent to remind people to take routine precautions in the event of "all possible and various unforeseen" circumstances. He did not deny that a possible war with Iraq is behind the timing of the advisory.

"I didn't say it was totally routine," the official said. "I said we are doing this and have done it before. It's just that we thought it was appropriate to remind people to take precautions."

Ambush survivor getting better

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait — A U.S. civilian wounded in a deadly ambush in Kuwait said Friday his health is improving — but said he didn't remember anything about the attack.

"I'm getting better," said David Caraway, 37, survivor of Tuesday's ambush that has resulted in the arrest and reported confession of a Kuwaiti man. His condition has been upgraded from serious to stable.

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elected interim president after Coalition Forces removed the Taliban, has pledged his 100 percent support for an independent press, inviting international media and creating government-funded newspapers, TV and radio news stations.

Just because the president supports and encourages a free press doesn't mean everyone understands the concept. Sharif Bha, a reporter with the Kabul newspaper *Anis* (with a circulation of roughly 5,000 subscribers), said clashes with government officials and the media still happen today.

"During the Taliban, we had no (freedom of the press)," he said through an interpreter. "Even today, there are some things we can't say, though it is much better now."

As one part of the overall objective here in Afghanistan, Coalition Forces have been encouraging the country's media to ask "tough" questions of the forces stationed here. While Waleh wants to emulate some of the techniques used by the Western press, his culture and disposition prevents him from embracing today's media practices entirely.

"The American media is very aggressive; here we have to take into consideration who is in power and the radical Muslims," he said.

"We're more restrained; we don't want to offend anyone. We (also) don't want to be libelous," Waleh added.

For some media outlets, getting the news out isn't a problem; it's getting the right equipment.

Mir Eytullah Sadaat is news chief of the *Hewad*, a



Photo by Spc. Jim Wagner, 109th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Col. Roger L. King, Coalition Joint Task Force-180 public affairs officer, talks to members of the Afghan press. One of the goals of the U.S. Army is to accommodate the national press and encourage them to ask the "tough" questions of American involvement in the country.

Pashto-language newspaper serving 8,000 subscribers in Kabul and provinces throughout Afghanistan and Pakistan.

One of the older publications in the country, the 60-year-old newspaper, several years ago, had to switch from distributing the newspaper daily to only two or three times a week.

The constant warfare and bombardment, he said, has damaged much of the equipment used to publish the paper.

Today the company uses a hand-operated printing press that would have been prevalent circa 1950 in the U.S. and shares it with three other newspapers.

"But, in two or three weeks we'll get a new printer, so we can go to a daily newspaper

again," he said through an interpreter.

A new printing press solves one problem, but doesn't address the many other problems affecting Afghan media outlets today.

The standard wage for a journalist in the country is the equivalent of 40 U.S. dollars per month which is paid by the government.

There's not much incentive to excel over other media companies, which may seem odd to an American observer used to media success being determined by subscriber numbers and Nielsen ratings.

In addition to printing presses, many Afghan journalists don't have camera equipment, personal computers or other equipment to get the job done. If they want something,

reporters need to buy one themselves; with a \$40 per month paycheck, many can't afford to do so.

Even so, the *Anis* and other media outlets continue to deliver the news.

Sadaat said conditions are improving, and has not experienced problems with the government suppressing news, though he has heard of the problems experienced by other publications.

In a country expressing its freedom for the first time in decades, it will be some time before Afghanistan takes freedom of the press for granted. But change is already happening; the *Kabul Times* will soon return to its daily publication schedule, and Waleh said he is planning to privatize the newspaper.

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become more involved.

The engineers compile and rank bids according to their review of the technical specifications. From that list, the engineers choose the top three, then the contracting office, engineers and base operations choose from those choices, according to Colon.

“We try to spread projects between companies as much as possible,” he added.

The age of the workers is a company decision. The United States does not impose a maximum or minimum age.

The U.S. pays the company for the work done, then they are responsible for paying their workers. The average pay for a local national is \$5 a day.

“For us that seems like ‘oh-my-gosh,’ but for them that’s really great pay,” said Colon. “A lot of projects here are hard work – dirty work and it helps that they are willing to do it. They get paid; they’re happy – it’s a win-win for everybody.”

The companies are responsible for their own equipment.

According to Colon, the local nationals bring their own tools and construction methods. If the engineers have specialized requirements, they’ll tell the workers up front.

“Nine out of 10 building projects go very well – within the timeframe and according to the specifications. They work extremely hard – whether it’s cold, whether it’s hot, whether it’s raining,” said Colon.

Although the construction techniques are old-fashioned, the buildings are functional.

“You’ll look at their buildings and they look antiquated – it looks like a very low-tech process, but the buildings come out

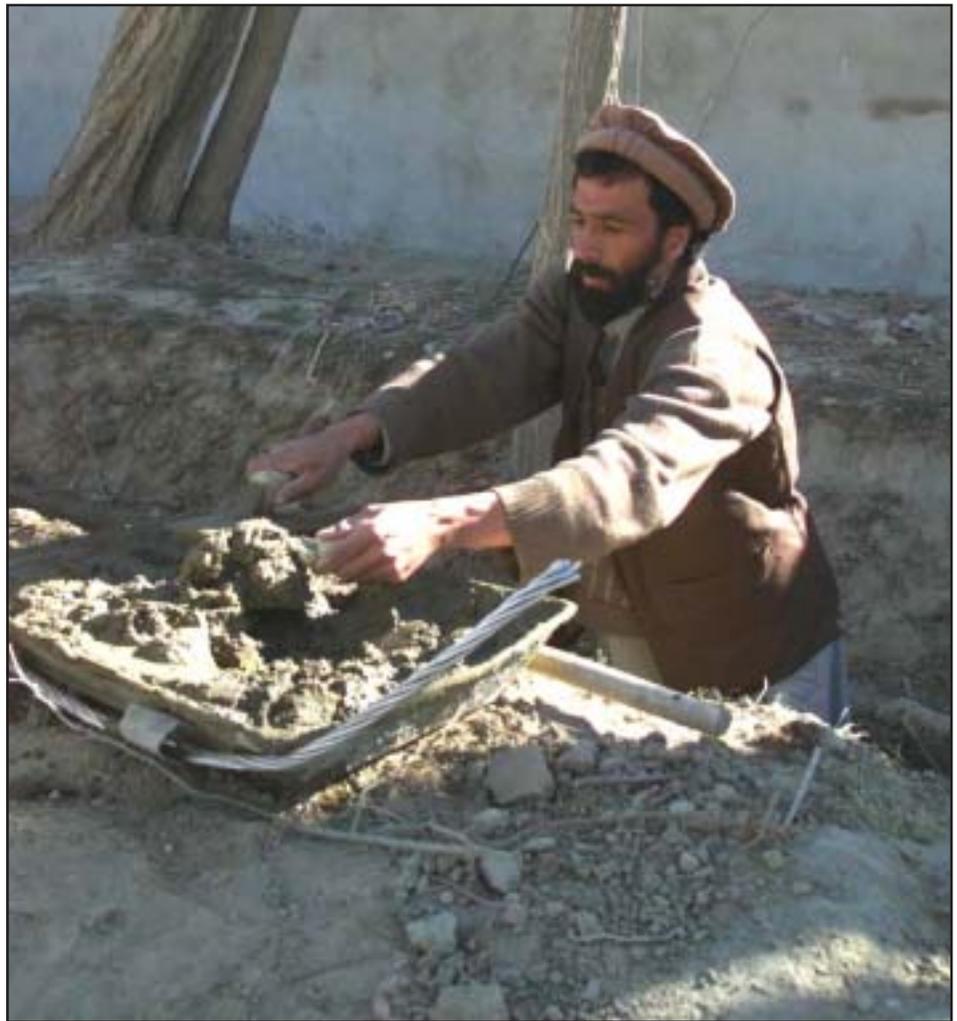


Photo by Pfc. Debralee P. Crankshaw

Local nationals work on a variety of projects around Bagram like improving the drainage ditches alongside the major roads.

good,” said Colon.

The building Colon works in is a local national built building and he thinks it is fantastic.

According to Colon, the number of engineer projects are lessened by the local national work.

“The engineers have an unbelievable workload. They have more than 600 projects

right now, about 70 of those are active contracts for projects and about 40 are currently being worked. There is an unbelievable volume of work from the construction perspective,” said Colon.

Local national workers are an asset here. They construct buildings, make money and ease the workload of soldiers while improving the conditions.



The Bagram Air Base Base/Post Exchange will be closed Tuesday for inventory. The exchange will reopen Wednesday for normal operating hours.



FREEDOM'S VOICES

Super Bowl continues gender war

Just her Opinion



Pfc. Christina Carde
11th Public Affairs
Detachment

It's that time again. American men all over the world start the largest annual chip, dip and beer run, argue over who has the biggest television and pay homage to the Super Bowl gods, a.k.a. put their money where their mouths are.

So for all the female troops here who think they are safe from the annual pig-skin ritual, heads up ladies; there is no escape even in Bagram.

The grunting, jumping, shouting, face-paint festival (or perhaps camouflage in this case) will commence promptly at 2300Z.

As you well know during this time, having a conversation of any kind with the male gender is not only pointless but in some Super Bowl sects, forbidden. So if you feel like unwinding Sunday night with a movie, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation building would probably not be the best choice.

If you decide to instead call home to speak with your favorite male relative and you get the machine, or long drawn-out

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Just his Opinion



Sgt. W. Cullen James
11th Public Affairs
Detachment

Today's sports figures have a lot going for them. They are faster, stronger and have the benefits of new technology. But let's get right to it — that's not why men watch sports. And definitely not the Super Bowl.

Through the ages, men have always admired sport. There are countless types of rigorously trained aggression. From the Olympics and the gladiatorial feats of the Coliseum to the martial exhibitions of the Shaolin — men love sports.

But that's not why we watch the Super Bowl.

There is something special about someone who can run 100 yards on the gridiron. Somebody who has the talent to score over 30 points in b-ball deserves the laudatory comments that follow. Every eagle and birdie that screams home and perches softly on the green sings the praises of how it was pummeled.

But that's not why men are zombified by football.

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STREET TALK

Who's going to win the Super Bowl?



"I like the Raiders better so I'm rooting for them."

Spc. Mike Peden,
82nd MP Company
Fort Bragg, N.C.

"I really like Florida so I'm giving Tampa my support this year."

Sgt. Dawn Helena Neal
HHC, 229th Regiment
Fort Bragg, N.C.



"North DFAC is rooting for Tampa! 24 - 14."

From left: Jerry Groce, Shannon Stewart, Darryl Clark
North Dining Facility,
Kellogg, Brown and Root

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Football is a religion. There's a mythology, a lineage and pantheon. We have modern prophets, apostles and clergy. Football is church and fans are the parishioners. Super Bowl Sunday is like unto the holiest of holy days. Lets call it — Man Day.

Every religion has its variety of worshippers. There are the occasional watchers, the Sunday jocks, the never-miss-a-game evangelists and the zealot statisticians. For each level, a corresponding level of understanding must be present.

This varies from the guy who catches a game when he can to the guy who never misses a game, has a library of games on tape and watches old reels in his spare time. The median is somewhere in between — the guy who watches Sunday football.

I know the counterpoint commentator has pointed out some of the problems with men and women and football. After defining the median football watcher, I now feel I can argue on solid ground.

The median football watcher asks for Sundays. Football season Sundays. Only a

few hours at that. For some reason, many women can't seem to grasp that we'd want to spend some fleeting hours with our part-time religion rather than listen to the sometimes incoherent rambling of our admittedly better halves.

These women, lets call them Heathens, think that our desire to watch football, on a reoccurring basis obviously means that we don't care enough about them. As faithful as we are to football, they are equally opposed to our watching.

Is it the testosterone talking to us that they can't stand? Is it that we zone out and pay no attention to them during our hours of football services? I honestly can't answer the questions. I don't even want to offer a point-counterpoint.

I will say this, anybody who is so obsessed with anything that they pay no attention to their loved ones needs help. Football can be an addiction. And any addictive substance needs to be taken in moderation. I can't justify living your football dream vicariously through the television any more than I can justify being a crack head.

However, for those median watchers —

ladies, give us a break. We put up with shopping, ladies' nights out, ladies' days in and a host of other seemingly harmless activities. What you do in bits in pieces, we take out in one big burst on football Sunday. Honestly, if your husband, father, boyfriend or whomever is a median football watcher and you can't deal with it, you need counseling.

Back to Man Day. This holiest of holiest days draws not only the regular worshippers, but followers of other religions as well. It's like Christmas. Even atheists celebrate.

I understand having issues with an over-footballled guy who disappears into TV land for days. But Man Day, it's one day of the year when testosterone rules, aggression is unchecked and we can gather in a harmonious bludgeoning of advertising ad nauseam.

However, male and female relations regarding football will never be solved. It's like the old mythological quandary of war versus love, Mars versus Venus. It's an eternal battle that will never be solved.

The rhetoric of the debate, while interesting, goes nowhere. My advice, if you're really into football, marry a very tolerant woman.

Super Bowl specials:

Bagram Air Base is hosting two Super Bowl parties for the price of one!

Morale, Welfare and Recreation's Dragon Palace will be hosting a party staring at 2300Z, 0330L Monday.

At the same time, Viper City's MWR tent will be hosting its own party.

Both events will offer plenty of food, drinks and fun.



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pauses during the conversation followed by a deafening bark, don't get frustrated. They can't help being a Y chromosome.

However, as a woman, if you feel these little male bonding events happen more than once a year, you are correct in your intuition.

Aside from the Super Bowl you have the World Series, championship boxing matches, college football, and of course, we can't forget the graceful and charming entertainment brought to the set by the World Wrestling Federation, now known as World Wrestling Entertainment.

Once it's all said and done, there are only two days out of 365 in which there are no televised sports, according to ESPN. In a nutshell, "Honey, it's only once a year" is in-accurate by 363 days.

So what do you do if your significant other or favorite male figure is a sports

fanatic? Here are some suggestions.

When that time of year or many cases week or day comes around, act interested and humor him.

Or, for every hour he spends with his eyes glued to the screen with a look on his face that says "I wouldn't miss this

When that time of year or many cases week or day comes around, act interested and humor him.

play if you were choking to death," take an hour of your time to turn the tables.

After football, baseball, boxing

and every other testosterone-ridden event, you'll have a good few hours to work with.

Spend those hours after the channel has been changed preoccupying yourself with everything other than him, disregarding any knowledge of his existence.

A few hours of that on the relationship's personal time and he'll get the hint. If he doesn't you may need to make an appointment with the unit chaplain.

Entertainment

January 25, 2003 ❖ Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom ❖ Bagram, Afghanistan

An unlikely cowboy

Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — A lump forms in his throat. “Eight seconds, I have to hold on for just eight seconds,” are the only words he hears in his head over the roar of the crowd.

Then the moment of truth arrives. Head down and hanging on for dear life the gate opens and the bull is released. A wave of adrenaline rushes and replaces the nervousness. In seconds the ride is over.

Marine Pfc. Jeremiah Strong, 21, gets up after being thrown from the 2,000-pound bull and brushes off the dirt while simultaneously getting out of the angry animal’s way.

“It’s such a rush,” Strong said. “There is nothing like it in

the world.” Strong, who is with the Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, 29 Palms Marine Corps Base, Calif., started riding bulls only two years ago.

Strong, a self-proclaimed adrenaline junkie, said that he would try anything and has tried a lot of different activities that most would categorize as “a little nuts.” But his true passion now is bull riding.

As a child growing up in Paola, Kan., this mid-western boy centered his life around sports, but never really gave much thought to rodeos even though he had been exposed to the sport by his neighbor.

“They had a huge ranch. I would go over there and help break in the horses or groom them. The sport looked cool back then, but I was doing too much



Marine Pfc. Jeremiah Strong

else and couldn’t risk a sports injury.”

“(Back home,) I played sports to get away,” he said. “Home sometimes was just too much.”

Strong described his family life as “less than normal.” His mother and father divorced when he was young leaving him and his two siblings with his father, while his mother moved on.

“It was hard sometimes,” he

said, his easy smile fading for a moment. “I mean, my dad is great and I love him, but there was a lot of conflict.”

His only escape was school and sports—both of which came easily for him.

After high school, Strong was banking on making sports an even larger part of his life.

But life didn’t turn out the way he planned.

He gave up full-ride scholarships to three Division II schools to join the Marine Corps.

“School and sports were what my dad really wanted, but not me. I needed something to kick my butt into shape—mentally and physically.”

He was a reckless youth, who spent a lot of time in trouble and knew he needed to straighten himself out.

— See **COWBOY**, Page B2

Getting the game on ...



Members of the 924 Korean Medical Group, play an afternoon game of chok gu, Wednesday.



A soldier of the 924 Korean Medical Group kicks a ball over a pole in a game of chok gu. This game is very popular with Korean soldiers.

Photos by Pfc. Christina Carde

Afghan Info

Compiled by the 11th Public Affairs Detachment

Important holidays/occasions/festivities celebrated in Afghanistan.

The religious holidays in Afghanistan are celebrated according to the lunar calendar, and other holidays such as Independence day, and New Year's day are celebrated based on the solar calendar. During many holidays, Afghans usually visit friends and families, prepare lavish meals, and attend special prayers.

EID AL-FITR

Day: After a month of Fasting (Ramadan).

Many start out the day by wearing new clothes, and going to prayer. Afterwards, people visit or entertain their friends and families. Children usually receive gifts or money called "Eidi".

EID AL-ADHA

Day: Tenth day of the twelfth month of

the Islamic (Hijra) calendar.

The day commemorates the Prophet Abraham's devotion to God. He was willing to slay his son Ismael as a sacrifice. Ismael was never killed, instead, Allah provided a lamb for the sacrifice.

Muslims performing the Haj (pilgrimage to Mecca) sacrifice a lamb, and the meat is given out to the poor. This holiday is celebrated in the same fashion as Eid al-Fitr, people visit friends and families, gifts are exchanged, etc.

ASHURA

Day: Tenth day of the month Muharram in the Islamic calendar.

This is a day of mourning. It commemorates the martyrdom of Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussain and his followers at the battle of Kerbala.

MAWLEED AL-NABI

Day: The 12th day of the month Rabi al-

Awal in the Islamic calendar.

On this day, people celebrate Prophet Muhammad's birthday. They attend prayers, remember Muhammad, and entertain/visit friends and family.

NOWROZE

Day: March 21

This is the first day of spring (New Year's Day for the solar calendar). The Taliban have recently declared this holiday as anti-Islamic and is trying to crack down on its celebrations. Despite this, people continue to celebrate it.

JESHEN

Day: August 19

August 19 marks Afghan independence day. Even though, Afghanistan was never a British colony, the British did have control of its foreign policy due to an agreement signed by a former Afghan King. The Third Anglo-Afghan War ended this agreement.

COWBOY

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"If it wasn't for the Marines I would be in jail or dead by now. My life was going nowhere," he said.

He left that troubled life behind Sept. 2000 to start his new life as an Aircraft Recovery Specialist, whose main job is to be in charge of a runway.

But Marine Corps life doesn't leave much time for a personal life. Between deployments and training, it is difficult to have time for the simple pleasures.

"I am always in the field, so anytime that I have I enjoy it to the fullest," Strong said.

After joining the Marine Corps, Strong decided that he would no longer play baseball or football, but heard about the Military Bullriding Association, of which he is now a member.

"It is an aggressive sport and I am a very aggressive person, so it fit. Plus it sounded re-

ally fun and it was something new," he said.

Most weekends and some Wednesday nights Strong and a group of friends load up into his gas-guzzling truck and travel an hour and a half to Riverside, Calif., to enjoy their passion.

"When I first get on, I'm nervous," he said. "But once the gate is released, it's just adrenaline taking over. There is no way to really describe it. Adrenaline is the best drug out there."

Despite the rush of riding, there are real risks involved. In the short time Strong has participated in the sport, he has suffered three dislocated shoulders, has been stepped on and kicked buy the huge animals.

"Considering what could happen, I have been extremely lucky," he said. "People have been seriously injured or killed in riding incidents."

To lessen some of the danger, there are specific articles of

clothing and gear he has. "I always wear some sort vest — almost like a flak vest and spurs to help keep me on the animal."

Getting his company commander to let him participate was another challenge he had to overcome. "Since it is not sponsored by the Corps, I had to sign a waiver, but my CO was against it," he said.

So he did what anyone else would do. He was persistent. He made full use of his aggressive nature.

"I made a Power Point presentation and showed it to the commander. I went over all of the safety precautions, about bullriding and the competitions," he said.

The commander bit off on it and the next weekend he was at Riverside on the back of a bull.

The MBR sponsors competitions throughout the year, and Strong participates anytime that he can.

"This sport can get really ex-

pensive," he said. "Since it is not sponsored by the Marine Corps, I have to pay all of my entrance fees and practice fees. So I go whenever I have money."

Judging consists of two factors. The first is the bull. The judges are looking at how the bull moves. "The more twists and turns makes that animal more difficult, and that is a factor in the final score," Strong said.

The second is how well the rider rides. "It's all about balance and how well a rider can read the bull. Eight seconds doesn't sound like a lot of time, but it's a lot when you are out there. There is so much to concentrate on," he said.

He has only won one event, but has placed in several.

"I am not doing this for profit or glory. Most of the time I end up in the hole or the winnings are just enough to cover my gas expenses," he said. "I do it because it's addicting and it's a pure adrenaline high."

Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



MJ should be talking comeback

ESPN — I know what the schedule says. I know what Michael has said. You put the two together and — *voila* — you have instant story. Tonight is Michael Jordan's final game in Chicago, the city to which he brought six titles and then soon abandoned. Or, depending on your point of view, was unceremoniously and foolishly pushed out the door.

Don't be so sure.

I have it on tape that Michael has every intention to hang them up after this season. He said it, right to me, unequivocally and without hesitation. He wants to finish out the season and then go on to the next stage of his life, which, of course, would be the previous stage of his life.

Why do I have trouble believing him? I have no inside source or mole telling me that Jordan has his fingers tied behind his back when he's speaking. I just go by what I see and what I see in Jordan is the same thing I saw in Karl Malone last fall when the Mailman floated his "retirement" trial balloon and it turned into the Hindenburg.



Michael Jordan had 14 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists in a 101-98 win at Chicago on Jan. 8.

He's still too good to leave. It's that simple.

Have you happened to notice what he has done in the month of January? He's averaging over 20 points a game. He's averaging over seven rebounds and five assists a game. He's going to be 40 next month! There is no earthly reason why he shouldn't play next season unless he categorically does not want to, or somehow comes down with a crushing injury over the second half of the season.

He's been Jordanian durable as well. All those nicks from last season and bouts with tendinitis?

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Music Notes

(Compiled from MTV.com)

Eminem, DMX team up for 'Cradle 2 The Grave' soundtrack

DMX is continuing to build on his bond with Eminem's Shady Records camp. First was a collaboration with 50 Cent that'll most likely pop on X's spring release, *It's Not a Game*, and now comes word that he's teamed up with Marshall Mathers himself.

According to a spokesperson for the Dog, as he's affectionately known, Eminem and Obie Trice will appear with DMX on a track called "Go to Sleep." Produced by Slim Shady, the song will be featured on the "Cradle 2 the Grave" soundtrack, which has been pushed back to February 18.

"Go to Sleep" is one of a handful of last-minute additions to the album, such as "Stomp the Sh— out You," a posse throwdown between Capone-N-Noreaga and M.O.P. Mixtape favorite Joe Buddens and Foxy Brown have recently handed over

tracks as well.

X, who also appears on the soundtrack's "Getting Down," "Right/Wrong" and "X Gon' Give It to Ya," is gearing up to not only star in his next film, but to produce it as well.

Hip-hop 'Woodstock' planned

Leave it to Russell Simmons to one-up the National Basketball Association. Although a host of rappers are planning to participate in the multitude of festivities surrounding the NBA's All-Star game next month in Atlanta, it's looking like that event won't be the biggest wordsmith-attended fiesta in the ATL this year.

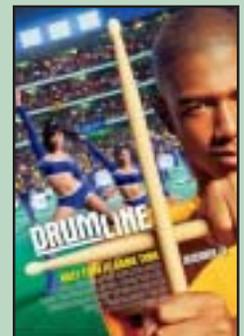
Tuesday, Simmons announced plans for not only his second national Hip-Hop Summit, but for the first Urban Hip-Hop

Music Festival, with both scheduled to take place in Atlanta.

The festival is slated to commence on April 12 at Turner Field, with a second concert to follow the day after at the same venue. Being called the "Woodstock of hip-hop," Simmons promises a two-day extravaganza featuring a who's who of rappers, with a portion of the proceeds to go to charity.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Drum Line." A fish-out-of-water comedy about a talented street drummer from Harlem who enrolls in a Southern university. He initially flounders in his new world, before realizing that it takes more than talent to reach the top. Tomorrow's movie will be "Bagger Vance."



SPORTS, from Page B4

They may still be there, but he has yet to miss a game. In a recent game in Boston, surrounded by twentysomethings who think they know how to play, Jordan was, at worst, the second-best player on the floor. You walked away from that game wondering why the guy should retire.

"I'm focused with finishing this year off with no anticipation of playing next year," he said.

Kobe top vote-getter with 1,474,386 votes

NEW YORK — When the ball goes up for the opening tip at the NBA All-Star Game Feb. 9 in Atlanta, Yao Ming will be the center trying to win the jump ball for the West.

The 7-foot-6 Houston Rockets rookie from China will be starting for the Western Conference after defeating Shaquille O'Neal by almost a quarter-million votes in final fan balloting totals released Thursday.

In the Eastern Conference, Allen Iverson of Philadelphia drew almost 73,000 more votes than Michael Jordan to earn the second guard spot.

Bryant was the leading overall vote-getter with 1,474,386 out of more than 4.5 million ballots cast.

Solution from Saturday's Tree Folk Crossword in the *Freedom Watch*

(Courtesy of QUIZLAND.com)



2002 NBA standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic

- (2)New Jersey 28-14
- (4)Boston 25-18
- (6)Philadelphia 22-21
- (7)Orlando 23-22
- (8)Washington 17-24

Central

- (1)Indiana 31-12
- (3)Detroit 28-14
- (5)New Orleans 23-20
- Milwaukee 20-21
- Chicago 16-27



Western Conference

Midwest

- (1)Dallas 34-8
- (3)San Antonio 26-15
- (5)Utah 25-16
- (7)Minnesota 25-18
- (8)Houston 23-18

Pacific

- (2)Sacramento 32-12
- (4)Portland 25-15
- (6)Phoenix 26-18
- L.A. Lakers 19-22
- Golden State 19-23



By Mark Baker

Pvt. Murphy's Law

Kandahar chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 1130Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel choir practice

Tuesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox/Catholic Bible study
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 1130Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice

Bagram chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0500Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 0630Z — Protestant worship
- ❖ 0830Z — Latter-Day Saints worship
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel service

Monday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers

Tuesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0700Z — Roman Catholic mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Protestant mid-week service

Thursday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Bible study

Friday

- ❖ 0700Z — Rosary and prayers
- ❖ 0830Z — Islamic Jumaa'h prayer
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian hymn service
- ❖ 1430Z — Jewish prayer

Saturday

- ❖ 0530Z — Seventh-Day Adventist worship
- ❖ 1130Z — Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy
- ❖ 1430Z — Gospel Choir practice
- ❖ 1500Z — Rosary and prayers

K2 chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0330Z — Liturgical service
- ❖ 0430Z, 1200Z — General protestant service
- ❖ 0600Z — Roman Catholic Mass
- ❖ 1300Z — Latter Day Saints

Monday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass

Tuesday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study

Wednesday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Midweek Praise service

Thursday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass

Friday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1245Z — Catholic Rosary and Mass
- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study

Saturday

- ❖ 0430Z — Devotions and prayer
- ❖ 1200Z — Roman Catholic Mass

CJCMOTF

chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0630Z — Nondenominational service

Tuesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Catholic service (every other Tuesday)

Wednesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Bible study



	Bagram	K2	Kabul	KAF
W Today	 Hi — 55F Lo — 27F	 Hi — 37F Lo — 30F	 Hi — 50F Lo — 31F	 Hi — 59F Lo — 37F
e Sunday	 Hi — 55F Lo — 30F	 Hi — 40F Lo — 29F	 Hi — 54F Lo — 28F	 Hi — 57F Lo — 39F
a Monday	 Hi — 55F Lo — 28F	 Hi — 46F Lo — 30F	 Hi — 55F Lo — 29F	 Hi — 59F Lo — 36F

KMTC chapel hours

Sunday

- ❖ 0430Z — Protestant Service
- ❖ 0530Z — Roman Catholic Mass/Eucharist
- ❖ 0630Z — Latter Day Saints
- ❖ 1630Z — Protestant Service

Wednesday

- ❖ 1430Z — Bible Study

Friday

- ❖ 1530Z — Thank God It's Friday fellowship and singing

All events are held in FOB195 Chapel/Conference Room area.