For U.S. forces serving abroad

Stripes™

A news digest from The Stars and Stripes

Monday, April 27, 1998 Eight pages

Survivors of mass horrors mourn together

By New York Times

NEW YORK — Under a steady drizzle, survivors of two of this century's most infamous mass killings gathered Sunday not only to remember and to mourn, but also to celebrate the very fact of their existence.

At the Cathedral of St. Vartan on 34th Street, Armenian-Americans gathered to remember those who died at the hands of the Ottoman Turks during World War I, while 30 blocks to the north, at the Temple Emanu-El, three generations of Jewish Americans gathered to remember their kin killed by the Nazis during World War II.

Politicians at the temple pledged their allegiance to Jewish New Yorkers and to Israel.

Gov. George Pataki told the audience he would travel to Jerusalem this week on a trade mission. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato spoke of his efforts to help Jewish Americans recover their savings from Swiss Banks.

He then rushed to the gathering at St. Vartan, where about 700 congregated after the rain forced them to cancel a gathering in Times Square.

There, D'Amato expressed solidarity with Armenian survivors. The program marked the anniversary of the massacre of hundreds of Armenian intellectuals, artists and activists on April 24, 1915, in Constantinople.

U.N. to review sanctions on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States faces a major test today of its ability to hold the line on sanctions against Iraq when the Security Council reviews the status of the 7-year-old embargo and the U.N. campaign to rid the country of illegal weapons.

The 15 council members undoubtedly will continue the sanctions for now. No council member, including Iraq's sympathizers, is prepared to call for lifting the sanctions, imposed in 1990 after President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, touching off the Gulf War.

U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson told CNN's *Late Edition* on Sunday that he would veto any move to end the embargo.

During the review, council ambassadors will discuss a recent report by the U.N. Special Commission, which performs the inspections. The report said inspectors had made "virtually no progress" in determining whether Iraq had destroyed its banned weapons.

Iraq must convince U.N. arms inspectors that it has destroyed all banned weapons, including long-range missiles and chemical and biological weaponry, before the council will lift the sanctions.

But today's deliberations will show whether support for a hard-line stand on the sanctions is eroding. Iraq's foreign minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf, told The New York Times that support for the embargo is weakening "whether the Americans like it or not."

A growing number of council members privately suggest that the sanctions have run their course. Rather than forcing Iraq to comply, they believe the sanctions have destroyed the Iraqi middle class and caused unacceptable suffering among Iraq's 22 million people.

The review will be the first by the council since Secretary-General Kofi Annan struck a deal with the Iraqis in February to open all sites to U.N. inspectors, including Saddam's eight presidential compounds.

That reduced the threat of U.S.-led military strikes to force Iraq to grant unrestricted access to those compounds. U.N. inspectors later visited all eight sites and reported finding no banned weapons.

Al-Sahhaf will meet informally with council envoys in the afternoon to issue a personal appeal for ending the sanctions.

He is expected to argue that Iraq has met the conditions for ending the sanctions and that the United States and Britain are manipulating the inspection program to prolong the sanctions.

Several members, notably Russia, France and China, believe the council should acknowledge Iraqi progress.

Iraq to cut food rations, Page 5

Senate to resume NATO expansion debate today

By Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Senate plans to resume debate over NATO expansion into Eastern Europe today amid intensified efforts by foes to slow what they have called a steamroller pushing toward ratification of the alliance's admission of three former Cold War adversaries.

A vote is planned later this week. Both sides expect it will result in the two-thirds majority needed to give the U.S. blessing to the admission of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, marking its first expansion in nearly two decades.

Approval of all 16 NATO members is required for expansion, giving the Senate effective veto power over plans to admit the three countries next year to the alliance, which was created a half-century ago to contain expansion of the then-Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact satellites.

Opponents claim to be gaining strength — "crossing the 20-vote mark," as Sen. John W. Warner, R-Va., put it last week.

WWII veterans now fight for benefits

Radium treatment records loss, notification delays add to woes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Albert A. St. John, weakened by a life-threatening blood disorder, hasn't been able to work in years. He thinks the nasal radium treatments he got during flight training in World War II caused his illness, but he's been turned down for veterans' disability benefits.

"I'm hanging on for a cure or compensation, or both," said the 72-year-old retired postal worker from Jemison, Ala., who said he and his wife get by on less than $13,000 a year. "If I owed anything, I'd be in real bad trouble."

Eight months after the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments embarked on an outreach program to alert thousands of veterans who got nasal radium of possible medical problems, they say only 42 veterans have been notified.

In other cases, veterans say their claims for medical care or disability have been delayed or denied because there's no proof in their military records that they had radium treatments.

"All I want is a little sleep and a little relief," said Chic Sale of Asheville, N.C., a substitute teacher who blames the radium treatments he got during submarine training in New London, Conn., 45 years ago for the severe, nightly headaches he suffers from now.

The VA gave Sale a physical exam and told him to file a claim for further treatment. Five months later, he's still waiting for a response and doesn't hold out much hope because his military records — typical of Navy files — make no mention of radium treatments.

According to a 1997 Navy report to the White House Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, Navy records were routinely purged of anything that wasn't a standard Pentagon or Navy form before going into storage at the National Records Center in St. Louis.

Because Navy researchers found scant references to radium in a search last fall of 156 boxes of files, they concluded that the treatments were probably entered "on nonstandard forms other than medical records and ... not retained when the files enter records center."

Records — or lack thereof — also are at the heart of the notification effort. After combing thousands of files, the VA found documented proof of radium treatments for just 84 men, only half of whom could be located.

"It's a complete game they're playing," said Stewart Farber, a public health scientist from Pawtucket, R.I., who has spent years researching the radium issue.

School of Americas tries to spruce up image

FORT BENNING, Ga. (AP) — Weary of being portrayed as a training ground for assassins, the Army's controversial School of the Americas in west Georgia is trying to spruce up its image.

Just days before more than 500 people converged in front of the White House calling for the school's closing, the school for Latin American military officers invited journalists from a dozen news organizations around the world to participate in its first-ever media day.

It was a chance, school officials said, to show reporters its programs and provide a more positive spin on the facility, which has been the target of protesters and a move led by U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy to cut off congressional funding.

"I think it went very well. It gave us an opportunity to tell the truth about all the wild accusations that surround the school," Col. Roy Trumble, the commandant of the school based at Fort Benning near Columbus, said Sunday.

Meanwhile in Washington, hundreds of protesters in front of the White House on Sunday waved signs that read "The Truth Cannot Be Silenced — Close the SOA" and "Close the School of Assassins Now."

The school, which moved from Panama to Fort Benning in 1984, trains soldiers and police officers in military subjects ranging from basic marksmanship to mine removal.

Last Friday, reporters were given a tour of the school and were allowed to briefly sit in on some classes, which are all conducted in Spanish.

"There is a lot of misinformation ... false allegations about the school, and it's just not true," Trumble told the gathering.

ABM treaty still up for debate

By Congressional Quarterly

Fifteen years and $40 billion after President Ronald Reagan launched a drive for weapons to protect the United States from ballistic missile attack, there is little to show but a continuing debate between Republicans and Democrats over whether the nation is better off building such weapons or promising that it will not.

At the center of the argument is the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with the former Soviet Union, in which each side agreed that the best way to avoid a wholesale nuclear attack was to remain defenseless against one — the doctrine of mutually assured destruction.

Republican leaders from Reagan onward have detested the treaty. They now say that it stands in the way of building a defense against the emerging threat of long-range missiles with nuclear or toxic warheads in the hands of smaller, less predictable states such as North Korea and Iran.

"The current infatuation with the ABM Treaty is costing money, time and potentially lives," warned Henry F. Cooper, who ran the missile defense program for the Bush administration.

Stripes

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Battle gear real pain in the neck

By Stars and Stripes

GUARDIAN BASE, Bosnia and Herzegovina — The chink in SFOR's armor may be its armor.

Doctors once feared that American soldiers in NATO's Stabilization Force might fall prey to a host of deadly maladies. But the biggest drain on combat readiness may be the gear they wear strapped around and across their bodies, said staff members at the Armyís hospital in Bosnia.

Based on numbers gathered by the hospital's previous physical therapist, Capt. Scott Shaffer of the physical therapy section guessed that about 35 percent of the muscle and bone injuries suffered by U.S. troops were due to the combat gear.

"That is higher than you would see in a normal clinic" in Germany or the United States, where similar numbers would range from 10 percent to 15 percent, said Shaffer, a member of the 67th Combat Support Hospital in Würzburg, Germany. His unit recently took over Guardian Base's hospital, known to most SFOR troops as the Blue Factory because it is made up of a former factory, painted blue, and several trailers all linked together by canvas tents.

Although no studies have been done to pinpoint the cause of such injuries, a prime suspect is the gear that troops call "battle rattle" — flak jackets, helmets and rifles slung over their shoulders. Several servicemembers said that when the weight of this gear is added up, it comes to 25-30 pounds — and feels like quite a bit more.

Administration says U.S. fails chemical arms test

WASHINGTON (AP) — Concerned that the United States may be ill prepared for a chemical weapons attack, the Clinton administration is conducting a review of how the nation would respond to such a threat.

Under way for nearly a year, the review is expected to yield two new directives from President Clinton on enhancing the nation's ability to fend off chemical, biological or cyberweapons and on responding swiftly if such an attack occurs, according to a White House official who spoke Sunday on condition of anonymity.

The review addresses several "transnational threats" such as terrorism, international crime and attacks on critical infrastructure, the official said. The official would not say when Clinton might issue the directives.

Congress also has been addressing the issue with a series of hearings and reports by the General Accounting Office.

Rep. Ike Skelton of Missouri, ranking Democrat on the House National Security Committee complained last week that no single government agency is in charge of fighting terrorists in America.

"I hope this is all academic, but I'm afraid it won't be," he said.

He went on Thursday to urge Congress order the agencies involved — 43 in all — to develop government-wide priorities, create a chain of command and get training and equipment to local law enforcement agencies.

"There's a great uncertainty as to who's in charge, who coordinates it, who offers people to the scene and who works on preventing it," Skelton said. "I think it's going to be a year before you have any answer."

His remarks came a day after Attorney General Janet Reno and FBI Director Louis J. Freeh told a Senate panel the administration is working on a new directive outlining federal roles for counterterrorism.

Gunman dies, hostages safe at McDonald's

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (AP) — One of two gunmen who took about 15 people hostage at a McDonald's late Sunday was found dead after police crept into the restaurant. None of the hostages was injured.

The other suspect fled in a car with one hostage.

Police Chief Arthur Kelly said the gunman inside died of a gunshot wound, but he did not know if he had been hit by a police bullet during a shootout or had committed suicide.

Police said some of those held in the restaurant were employees and some were customers. Kelly said one was a child.

Police went to the restaurant about 9 p.m. after getting a call about two suspicious men. Kelly said the men were inside when police got there and officers tried to talk to them.

However, he said, the men shot at them with semiautomatic weapons and police fired back. As customers and police ran out, one gunman fled.

Train breakdown strands Denver airport passengers

DENVER (AP) — A routing cable damaged by a loose train wheel shut down Denver International Airport's computerized passenger trains for about seven hours Sunday, creating mass confusion among thousands of travelers.

Passengers were shuttled to and from outlying concourses on 30 buses until the train system was put back into operation in the early evening.

"I just feel really frustrated because nobody's letting us know what's going on and you're kind of nervous because you're afraid you're going to miss your flight and people are going to be waiting for you," said passenger Kelli Tassardi.

Passenger Judith Fisher said, "It was hot. No air conditioning. The emergency phones weren't working. Nobody seems to know what's going on."

United Airlines, the airport's largest carrier, said about 30 percent of its flights and an estimated 5,000 passengers were affected in some way.

On Thursday, federal regulators evacuated United's concourse after 23 passengers on a commuter flight from Wyoming entered the building without being cleared through security. The passengers were sent through security screening before being allowed back onto the concourse.

The $5 billion airport opened in February 1995, 16 months late because of construction delays and problems with its high-tech baggage system.

Grandparents prepared to end lives in prison

BOSTON (AP) — After years of house arrest and failed appeals, Raymond and Shirley Souza are preparing to spend the rest of their lives in prison.

"It's pretty simple to pack a bag for what they allow," Shirley Souza said. "My sister has gone out and gotten us black and navy clothes. We're allowed one chain. Now, I just have to figure out what one I will bring."

It has been more than five years since the Souzas were convicted of raping two granddaughters, 3- and 4-year-old girls who told of being forced to touch the private parts of "Grammy" and "Papa." Experts found physical evidence consistent with sexual abuse, but not conclusive proof of it.

The Souzas are 66. If they end up behind bars, they say they expect to die there.

Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Dolan, who convicted the couple, could order a new trial, reject the appeal, order the Souzas to prison for up to 15 years or leave them under house arrest. A hearing was scheduled for this afternoon

Whatever happens, a family has already been ripped apart.

It began in the late 1980s with the recurring dream of the youngest of the Souzas' five children. In the dream, which was interpreted by a therapist as a "recovered memory," the woman saw herself being raped as a child by her parents.

She warned her sister-in-law to keep her daughter away from the Souzas, and the 4-year-old was placed in therapy. The girl told her mother and her therapist she had been sexually abused by her grandparents.

In the spring of 1991, the other little girl told a therapist that she, too, had been abused by the grandparents.

The Souzas said their prime accuser — their daughter — was a rape victim led astray by a therapist.

Public funeral for James Earl Ray

By Cox News Service

James Earl Ray's ashes will be released from a Nashville funeral home today, and his brother will take them home until he can hold a public funeral service in about three weeks.

After that, Jerry Ray said Sunday night, he will travel to Ireland to bury his brother's ashes.

"I'm going to do that alone, with no publicity," Jerry Ray said. "That's one thing I'm going to do just between me and James."

James Earl Ray died Thursday of complications from liver disease. He was 70 years old.

At the time of his death in a Nashville hospital, Ray was serving a 99-year sentence for the April 4, 1968 assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis.

Ray pleaded guilty in March 1969 but recanted days later and tried unsuccessfully to win a trial. King's family expressed its belief last year in Ray's innocence and asked that he be given a trial.

Jerry Ray said he would like for the King family to attend the funeral.

Dexter Scott King, younger son of the slain civil rights leader, said Sunday night the family does not know whether it will be able to attend because of its busy schedule.

Secret Service grabs waiter with pistol

By Associated Press

NEW YORK — A waiter with a loaded pistol was grabbed by Secret Service agents at a restaurant where former President Ford was dining Sunday night. No threat was made and no one was injured.

Rama Djongalaj, 38, of New York was carrying the loaded .38-caliber pistol, police spokesman Robert Samuel said.

"No attempt was made on the former president's life," Samuel said. "The Secret Service had information that a waiter was carrying a loaded weapon."

The waiter has worked at the Manhattan restaurant, Primavera, for 10 years. He was charged with weapons possession.

3 teens found shot to death

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — Three teen-agers were found shot to death in a car parked along a trash-strewn backroad in this southernmost Texas city.

Police said Sunday that officers discovered the bodies late Saturday near the Brownsville International Airport.

No arrests had been made by late Sunday and police said they had no motive for the killings.

Houston official resigns

HOUSTON — The city's affirmative action director resigned Sunday following her suspension for laughingly referring to a city councilman who is a dwarf as a "midget."

"My unfortunate remarks have put such a cloud over a program that I truly believe in, and for me to continue would actually harm the mayor's efforts toward diversity, fairness and inclusion," Lenoria Walker said in a statement released by the city.

Last week, Walker apologized to Councilman Joe Roach.

Annual college party weekend turns riotous

STORRS, Conn. (AP) — An annual party weekend at the University of Connecticut culminated in a riot early Sunday as students pelted police with rocks and beer bottles and set a car on fire with a flaming couch.

More than 2,000 drunken revelers watched as students flipped a car and threw a flaming couch on it, prompting police to disperse the crowd with pepper spray. No injuries were reported.

"It was insane," said J.P. Rizzitelli, a senior. "Everyone was just going out to destroy stuff. It was like a war zone."

Three other cars were flipped, some car windshields were smashed and buildings were vandalized. Police arrested 58 people from Friday to Sunday. It's not clear how many were students.

Several thousand people gathered in a campus parking lot Saturday night, drinking and chanting expletives at police monitoring the party, witnesses said.

State and campus police in riot gear moved in at about 1 a.m. Sunday when some partiers threw the flaming couch on the Honda Accord.

The woman whose car was burned said she was in her dorm room.

Iraq says it will cut food rations

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Iraq says it will reduce the food ration for its 22 million people in May and blamed the United States and Britain for delaying deliveries.

The official Iraqi News Agency, in a report late Sunday, quoted an unnamed Trade Ministry official as saying that some goods had not arrived because of problems getting letters of credit under the U.N.-approved oil-for-food program.

He accused the United States and Britain of "inhuman and immoral methods to directly and indirectly obstruct the implementation" of the program, which is an exception from the U.N. trade sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

INA said the Iraqi government "holds the U.S. and British administrations responsible for the delay in the distribution of some food supplies and medicine."

In May, it said, rations of cooking oil, tea, lentils and baby milk would be reduced and that "no table sale is available" for distribution. The report was monitored by the BBC in London.

Iraq has long complained of delays in delivery of goods under the U.N. program, which allows Iraq to sell $2 billion worth of oil every six months to buy needed food and medicine.

U.N. officials acknowledge that there have been problems getting contracts and credit approved under the cumbersome U.N. bureaucratic process. But they also say Iraq's ordering and distribution systems can be inefficient.

Late last year, the Iraqis accused the United States and Britain of forcing a cut in the distribution of baby milk. It later was learned that Iraq hadn't ordered enough to meet the nation's needs.

Vote results signify changes

From wire reports

BERLIN — In a key barometer of voter sentiment five months before national elections, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling Christian Democrats suffered a sharp setback in legislative elections in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt, while the far-right German People's Union scored an extraordinary breakthrough.

According to preliminary returns, the Christian Democratic Union's share of Sunday's vote plunged to about 22 percent of the total, down from the more than 34 percent it won in 1994 elections. The Social Democrats, who hope to break Kohl's 16-year grip on national power this September, confirmed their status as the state's dominant party with 36 percent, while the reform communists of the Party of Democratic Socialism held their position as Saxony-Anhalt's third-largest party with 19 percent.

Bringing up the rear were the Free Democrats, Kohl's governing partner, and the Greens — neither of which cleared the 5 percent hurdle needed to qualify for representation in the state legislature.

Lebed advances to runoff

KRASNOYARSK, Russia — The former national security chief, Alexander Lebed, is in a strong position to capture the governorship of a Siberian province after a vote count on Monday assured him of a runoff with the incumbent.

Lebed, who wants the post as a platform to run for president, received 45 percent of the vote in Sunday's election for governor of the vast Krasnoyarsk territory. Incumbent Gov. Valery Zubov trailed with 36 percent.

Since no candidate received more than 50 percent of the vote, a runoff will be held on May 17.

In a television interview this morning, Lebed was already looking ahead to his governorship of the region, which occupies a chunk of central Siberia four times the size of France.

"The only condition under which I will run for president will be when the Krasnoyarsk territory is prosperous," he said.

Bangkok sticks with status quo

BANGKOK, Thailand — The Democrat Party of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai narrowly defeated the "Working Ants" group of independent Governor Bhichit Rattakul in Bangkok City Council elections, according to results released today.

The results raised hopes of greater cooperation between city government and the central government, which controls many of Bangkok's services, in cleaning up the city's massive traffic and pollution problems.

The Democrats captured 22 of the 60 City Council seats up for grabs, while the Working Ants took 20. The Palang Thai (Thai Power) party, meanwhile, won 12 seats.

Voter turnout was relatively high at 30 percent, despite searing summer heat.

Four Israeli soldiers injured in Lebanon

From Associated Press

TYRE, Lebanon — Shiite Muslim guerrillas detonated a roadside bomb today in southern Lebanon, wounding four Israeli soldiers, security officials said.

The bomb exploded as an Israeli patrol was traveling in the village of Chihine, about 1.8 miles north of the Israeli border and 7 miles south of the port city of Tyre.

Thai military to visit Laos

BANGKOK, Thailand — A 90-member Thai military delegation headed by Army Commander in Chief Gen. Chetta Thanajaro left Bangkok today for a two-day visit to neighboring Laos.

An army spokesman said the delegation was making a private visit and that Chetta would attend a krathin, or robe-giving ceremony, at a Buddhist temple in the Laotian capital of Vientiane.

Police officers killed in shootout

MEXICO CITY — A shootout in Mexico City between police and several unidentified men trying to dump two bodies in a vacant lot left four officers dead and one seriously wounded.

The officers saw the men stop their vehicle, get out and drop the bodies of a man and a woman in the lot, located near a hospital operated by the state petroleum monopoly, Pemex, said Gilberto Zedillo of the city attorney general's press office.

Wreck may be freighter

WHITBY, England — A wreck believed to be a cargo vessel missing since Saturday has been found near the ship's last known location in the North Sea.

Clinton steals dinner show

WASHINGTON (AP) — Paula Jones upstaged Warren Beatty and a host of celebrities Saturday night at the White House Correspondents Association dinner, but in the end it was President Clinton who stole the show.

Ignoring Jones' presence at the back of the cavernous ballroom at the Washington Hilton, a jovial Clinton let go a series of zingers that spoofed himself, congressional Republicans and the White House press corps.

"This is the night I get to poke fun at you. That is my definition of 'executive privilege,'" Clinton said, adding that he hadn't followed the news since the pope's trip to Cuba, which took place the same week in January that reporters made public an investigation of Clinton's relationship with former intern Monica Lewinsky.

"What have you been writing about since then? I hardly have any time to read the news anymore. Mostly I just skim the retractions," he said.

Lampooning his own tendency to express national repentance and his quandary over whether to apologize for American slavery, Clinton said in sorrowful tones, "I regret our long neglect of the planet Pluto. It took until 1930 to welcome Pluto into the family of planets. And that was wrong. And I am so sorry ... about disco."

Germans call for shutoff of sexy afternoon TV

By Associated Press

German officials are calling for a crackdown on television stations that broadcast sexy afternoon talk shows with themes like "I'm a slave to him" and "Pierced from head to foot — You're perverse."

Federal Family Minister Claudia Nolte, writing in Super Illu magazine Saturday, said the clamor for profits by private broadcasters should not come ahead of the emotional health of children, who make up a large part of the afternoon viewing audience.

Faces 'n' places

She called on network executives "to finally put an end to this trash on the tube or at least delay it until after 9 p.m."

Talk shows have burgeoned on German television in recent years. Following the precedent set by American television, they compete for viewers by offering sensational topics, usually involving sex and personal relationships.

Rocker asks for help

Irish rock singer Bob Geldof, who spearheaded a massive famine relief effort in Ethiopia in the mid-1980s, has called on the world to help save lives in war-torn southern Sudan.

He told BBC TV News Friday that an impasse between the Sudanese government and rebels has stopped aid from getting to 350,000 people who desperately need food.

"The individual is simply not powerless in this world in the face of that sort of inhumanity," Geldof said. "We can stop it."

The Sudanese government appealed last week to humanitarian organizations to supply food and medicine to parts of southern Sudan facing famine. The appeal came two days after the U.N.'s food operation accused Sudan of hampering efforts to feed people in the southern state of Bahr el-Ghazal.

Titanic profits can float

A tattered, 85-year-old scrapbook featuring photos of Titanic survivors in lifeboats sold for $50,000 Saturday, but it won't be the last time the mementos see the auction block.

The buyer plans to separate the scrapbook and sell the pieces at another auction this summer.

"If one person had bought this whole thing privately, the public would never ever see this again," said Dan Knoll, who made the winning bid on behalf of Mastro Fine Sports Auction.

The 60-page, three-ring binder was assembled by a passenger of an ocean liner that came to rescue survivors of the doomed ship. It includes photos of survivors, two watercolor paintings of the shipwreck by another witness and three handwritten survivor accounts.

In The Stars and Stripes

10 YEARS AGO

April 27, 1988 — Lt. Gen. Crosbie E. Saint was named to take command of U.S. Army Europe and the 7th Army. Saint succeeds Gen. Glenn K. Otis, who has served as USAREUR's top leader since 1983.

20 YEARS AGO

April 27, 1978 — Two federal agents charged President Carter's former budget adviser, Bert Lance, with civil fraud and asked that his banking activities be restricted.

30 YEARS AGO

April 27, 1968 — British dock workers struck, crippling the Port of London in a massive demonstration of support for the campaign to ban colored — mainly West Indian and Asian — immigrants from Britain.

40 YEARS AGO

April 27, 1958 — President Eisenhower said he would not accept a compromise on the essential provisions of his controversial defense reorganization program.

50 YEARS AGO

April 27, 1948 — In an emergency session, the United Nations General Assembly voted 56-0 to take immediate action to protect Jerusalem.

Skydivers drop auto on North Pole

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysian skydivers parachuted the national car to the North Pole last week. Many Malaysians wondered why.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad praised the feat, saying, "we might seem to be taking our economic problem lightly, but it bolsters our spirit." But some citizens derided the drop as a gimmick intended to draw attention from the flagging economy and a water shortage.

"This doesn't help us at all. It proves nothing," said construction manager John Choy.

The 16-member team that accompanied the Proton Wira sedan to the North Pole stayed there for two hours Tuesday.

Bobby Labonte claims win

TALLADEGA, Ala. (AP) — Bobby Labonte's first response when a crash sent 20 cars spinning at Talladega Superspeedway was to ask if his brother was OK. As the race came to a close, he had no room for such sentiment.

Labonte escaped the wreck Sunday, then pulled off a delicate pass of older brother Terry with two laps remaining to win the DieHard 500 at NASCAR's fastest and arguably most dangerous track.

It was a reversal of the showdown between the brothers at Talladega last fall, when Terry held off a late charge from Bobby to win for the second time.

Unlike that race, however, this one included a fiery crash that stopped the race for 27 minutes, but resulted in no major injuries.

"When I saw it happening behind me, I started screaming in the radio, 'Find out where he's at,"' Bobby Labonte said of his brother. "When I saw the rooster on his hood was still out on the track, I said 'Whew,' and kept on going. Then the end came and he turned into just another driver."

Using drafting help from Jimmy Spencer, Bobby Labonte made his all-or-nothing move coming out of turn 2, sealing himself just next to the wall, then leaving his brother behind to finish fourth, in back of Spencer and Dale Jarrett.

Labonte won $141,870 for his first victory on a restrictor-plate track after two straight second-place finishes. It also made him the first Pontiac driver to win at Talladega since Richard Petty did it in 1983.

And capping a day of milestones, the Labontes became the first brother tandem to win consecutively at the track since Bobby and Donnie Allison won back to back in 1971.

"I think the guys here will tell you when Bobby came on board we struggled with restrictor plates and it has been a gradual climb," said Labonte's car owner, Joe Gibbs. "I've been so pleased with our team over the last three restrictor plate races."

Those feelings weren't shared by Bill Elliott and Dale Earnhardt, two of the major victims of the type of crash that has made the track something of a dreaded stop on the circuit.

The accident began when Ward Burton nudged Earnhardt as a pack of about 20 cars was passing the start-finish line on lap 141.

Homecourt edge slides back

By Associated Press

The homecourt advantage now belongs to two more teams that didn't have it a few days ago — the Minnesota Timberwolves and New York Knicks.

The Wolves and Knicks, seeded seventh in their respective conferences, both earned victories Sunday that evened their best-of-5, first-round playoff series at 1-1.

That makes four teams who managed to win one road game over the first four days of the playoffs to head back to their own arenas with a newfound homecourt advantage awaiting them.

"Oh yeah, we can win the series," Minnesota's Kevin Garnett said moments after the Timberwolves won a playoff game for the first time in franchise history, 98-93 over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Garnett wasn't the only player whose optimism did a 180-degree turn following a surprise victory. The Knicks, for instance, were acting more giddy than they had all season after they defeated the Miami Heat 96-86.

"I think it's a confident, kind of cocky thing," New York forward Terry Cummings said.

In Sunday's other games, Chicago edged New Jersey 96-91 and the Los Angeles Lakers beat Portland 108-99 as both teams took 2-0 leads over their opponents, joining Indiana and Charlotte.

The Utah-Houston series and the Phoenix-San Antonio series are both tied 1-1.

Perhaps the most stunning victory of the weekend came in the final game.

Led by Stephon Marbury's 25 points, the underdog Wolves bounced back from a 25-point loss in Game 1 and stunned the Sonics by outplaying them throughout — and especially in the final three minutes.

Gary Payton's five-foot hook with 15.2 seconds to go cut Seattle's deficit to 92-90, but Payton committed his sixth foul.

Look back doesn't hurt mile victor

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Paul McMullen admitted he shouldn't have done it. In fact, he called it a "cardinal sin."

Sprinting the final 75 yards of the mile at the Drake Relays, McMullen looked back over his right shoulder — not just once, but twice.

McMullen felt he had a good reason, though. He had passed Terrance Herrington for the lead in Saturday's race, but with the sellout crowd of 18,000 roaring, McMullen couldn't hear Herrington and didn't know where he was.

"That's why I took a glance back, because if someone's going to challenge me, I wanted to speed it up even quicker ... and start using my arms and my chest and every muscle in my body," McMullen said.

"I know it's a cardinal sin, but you can't hear a thing and I wanted to win so bad. So I did cheat a little bit."

McMullen and Herrington produced just the third sub-4-minute mile in the 89 years of the Drake Relays, McMullen winning in 3:59.12 and Herrington running 3:59.35.

That was more than four seconds slower than McMullen's winning time at the U.S. indoor championships this year, but he said a race isn't always about time.

"This early in the season, it's tough to demand that out of milers, but you certainly get to see their heart and their desire as they come down that straightaway," he said.

"Even though the time might not be great, they're still pouring their heart out to that crowd and (the fans) responded and I thank them very much for it. Because it motivated me to get to the tape first."

Besides, it wasn't so long ago there were doubts that McMullen would ever post any sort of time in a meet.

While mowing a neighbor's lawn in Ypsilanti, Mich., McMullen sliced off part of the second and third toes on his right foot and crushed the bones of his big toe into about 15 pieces.

Rangers have two reasons to be 3-up

By Associated Press

Juan Gonzalez and Aaron Sele couldn't be much hotter, the main reason Texas has a three-game lead in the AL West.

Sele became the first five-game winner in the majors and Gonzalez homered twice and drove in four runs Sunday to lead the Rangers over the Royals 11-4 Sunday at Kansas City.

Gonzalez, who drove in five runs on Saturday night, has 32 RBIs in April, two shy of Tino Martinez's record for the month, and 33 in all.

"He's always hitting up there with guys on base and he's always bringing them in," Texas manager Johnny Oates said. "He's a special kind of hitter."

Kansas City manager Tony Muser was happy to see Gonzalez, who had 10 RBIs in the series, leave town.

"Gonzalez has done this to a lot of people," Muser said.

Sele (5-0) allowed four runs and eight hits in five-plus innings, becoming the first Texas pitcher to win his first five starts since Kevin Brown in 1990.

"I didn't have good command," said Sele, who's gotten 57 runs of support in five starts. "I didn't have too much, but I was able to get through five innings."

In other games, Anaheim beat Tampa Bay 2-1, Oakland beat Baltimore 12-4 and Minnesota beat Seattle 2-0. Chicago and Toronto played a 5-5 tie in a game stopped by rain after six innings. Boston's game at Cleveland was rained out, as was Detroit's game at New York.

At Kauffman Stadium, Gonzalez went 3-for-5 with three runs scored in the 28th multihomer game of his career. He has six three-hit games already this season.

Gonzalez had a solo homer in the first off Chris Haney (2-1) and a three-run shot in the ninth off Jeff Montgomery.

"When you are a good hitter and hot, it doesn't seem like you can get them out no matter what you throw," Muser said.

Whole new game in NHL playoffs

By Associated Press

Just because the New Jersey Devils finished 24 points ahead of the Ottawa Senators in the regular season, it doesn't guarantee them anything in the playoffs. The same thing goes for the Dallas Stars, who were 31 points better than the San Jose Sharks.

Both eighth-seeded teams knocked off the top seed Sunday as Ottawa beat New Jersey 2-1 in overtime and San Jose whipped Dallas 4-1.

"We're a team that has nothing to lose," Senators defenseman Lance Pitlick said.

The San Jose Sharks, who scored a decisive victory over the Stars, top team in the NHL, had dropped the first two games in Dallas.

In other action, Washington beat Boston 3-2 in double overtime to take a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference series. In the West, Phoenix beat Detroit 3-2 to go up 2-1 and Colorado beat Edmonton 5-4 in overtime.

Maddox proves to be human

It was the kind of day Greg Maddux has about once a decade.

Maddux, regarded as the best pitcher of his generation, was ripped for 10 hits and six runs — four in the first inning — as the Colorado Rockies defeated the Braves 7-6 in Atlanta.

Vinny Castilla hit two homers to take over the major league lead with 11 for Colorado, which became the first club to score four runs in the first against Maddux since June 30, 1991, a span of 217 starts.

"I made a lot of mistakes," said Maddux, who pitched five innings. "I left some pitches up. I didn't get away with anything. Usually, you get away with some mistakes. Not today."

Castilla, who went 4-for-4, said he noticed Maddux was off early on.

"He wasn't as sharp as he usually is," said Castilla. "In the first inning, he threw me a fastball right down the middle with an 0-2 count. That's something that usually never happens."

Elsewhere, it was: Los Angeles 4, Chicago 3 in 12 innings; San Francisco 8, Milwaukee 7; Florida 12, Arizona 6; Houston 15, Montreal 0; Philadelphia 9, St. Louis 3; and Pittsburgh 6, San Diego 0.

In New York, the Cincinnati Reds and Mets were postponed by rain.

Colorado, which has won five straight at Turner Field, completed a two-game sweep and improved to 7-5 on the road.

Jamey Wright (2-2) gave up five runs and nine hits in 5 2-3 innings. Jerry DiPoto got three outs for his fifth save in five chances, allowing Javy Lopez's sacrifice fly.

Maddux has a 6.92 ERA against the Rockies this season and a 0.56 ERA against the rest of the league.

"They probably felt like they owed me from last week," said Maddux, who beat Colorado last week in Denver. "Now I owe them."

Ditka comment raises speculation on Bulls 'new coach'

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bulls have interviewed New Orleans Saints trainer Dean Kleinschmidt about joining their staff, setting off further speculation that Iowa State's Tim Floyd will replace Phil Jackson as coach.

Floyd, a fishing buddy of Bulls general manager Jerry Krause, has been considered over the last few years as Jackson's most likely successor..

Floyd issued a statement saying he had received calls from numerous trainers around the country about speaking on their behalf regarding the Bulls training position.

"I told them they should call Jerry Krause. I have not interviewed Dean Kleinschmidt," Floyd said.

Kleinschmidt acknowledged he had talked with the Bulls but said Floyd did not contact him on behalf of the team.

"That's absolutely correct," Kleinschmidt said. "They called me, and I have talked to them. I don't know what you mean by interview. I talked with the Bulls. I've got to tell you, it's very flattering."

Kleinschmidt did not specify who he talked with, but former Bears coach and current Saints coach Mike Ditka said it was Floyd.

Asked who talked with Kleinschmidt, Ditka said: "The new coach."

Was that Floyd? "Yeah," Ditka said.