

IN THEATERS THIS  
SUMMER: A CIRCUS OF  
FLUFF AND FIREWORKS A&E



TRUEX DOMINATES AT GATEWAY

SPORTS

SEE BRANSON'S BEAUTY BY RAIL

TRAVEL

# SUNDAY POST-DISPATCH

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MAY 9, 2004

\$1.25

## MPs were bitter, overwhelmed, report says

### Despite support, Rumsfeld is likely to remain target

By PHILIP DINE  
Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Though he survived Friday's grilling by members of Congress over the abuse of Iraqis by American forces at the Abu Ghraib prison and heard members of the White House inner circle offer strong support of him on Saturday, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is likely to remain on the hot seat for some time to come.

He survived, in large measure, because he exhibited

traits not often seen during his three years as defense secretary — including contrition and a willingness to explain what he thinks he did wrong and how he plans to correct it.

"I give him high marks for saying we screwed up," Sen. Lindsay Graham, R-S.C., said after Friday's hearing. And Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., applauded Rumsfeld for "the fact that he apologized, which is not a frequent act on the part of this secretary."

See Rumsfeld, A6

#### More coverage inside:

■ British soldiers beat back attacks by militiamen loyal to a radical Shiite cleric; U.S. forces stormed Muqtada al-Sadr's stronghold in Baghdad. **A4**

■ Documents emerge of an official policy permitting interrogators to use physically and psychologically stressful methods during questioning of captives in Cuba. **A8**

■ Accounts of abuse, deprivation and death were reported by freed prisoners as early as last October, and were met by public silence. **A6**

### Inquiry tracks collapse of discipline at prison

By JIM KRANE  
The Associated Press

ABU GHRAIB, Iraq — A U.S. Army investigation into abuses at Abu Ghraib prison depicts the military police running the penitentiary as a motley lot, overwhelmed by one of the worst assignments in Iraq and bitter about the military's broken promises of going home.

When Pentagon investigators arrived at the prison west of Baghdad, they found command authority had been replaced by old friendships, said a report written by Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba. "We were stretched thin and



Karpinski  
"We were stretched thin"

(headquarters) continued to assign us more missions far outside of our capabilities," the unit's commander, Brig. Gen. Janis Karpinski, told The Associated Press in an e-mail.

Taguba's report, which relates the abuses of Iraqi inmates at the sprawling prison, also describes numerous breakdowns within the 800th Military Police Brigade, especially its 320th Battalion,

the unit running the prison.

The report blasts Karpinski for giving the 320th, the brigade's most troubled unit, the formidable task of running the huge penitentiary. Battalion members already were stigmatized by their beatings of Iraqi inmates last May at Camp Bucca, a prison in southern Iraq.

The 320th, an Army Reserve unit based near Scranton, Pa., was woefully unprepared to operate the 280-acre prison holding some 7,000 detainees, Taguba's report said. That is almost twice as many detainees than are supposed to be handled by a battalion, which usually contains no more than 500 soldiers.

See Prison, A7

MOTHER'S DAY

## Don't tell mom

A mother in Lincoln County is being flooded with letters and postcards. She doesn't know why. Her son and thousands on the Internet do. Can you keep a secret?

ROBERT COHEN / POST-DISPATCH

**Celeste Shepp studies a collage that arrived in the mail at her home in Winfield on Friday. The envelope was postmarked San Jose, Calif. About a dozen pieces arrived in Thursday and Friday's mail, including birthday cards, a package of catnip, a postcard from Sri Lanka, a parking pass and a tiny "voodoo love doll."**

By TODD C. FRANKEL  
Of the Post-Dispatch

Every afternoon after she gets off work, Celeste Shepp sits down at her kitchen table, letter opener in hand, and reads the mail — hundreds of pieces of mail over the last seven months, all of it from people she doesn't know.

She's received letters and postcards from nearly every state and all over the world. Wishes of happy birthday and sweet notes. Business cards and mementos.

She doesn't know how these people got her address. She doesn't know why they're writing her. She is confused and flattered by all the attention.

"I'm just a nobody," Shepp, 50, insists.

The mail says otherwise. A sampling: "This is it! We finally got our rings! I'm so excited to be sharing this with you! Don't forget the wedding in September! Love, Jen and Eric," a couple from New Britain, Conn., wrote her.

If only she knew them.

Going into this Mother's Day weekend, Shepp still doesn't know what to make of it. She's accused everyone in her family of being behind it. But the cards keep coming, a steady stream of what she calls "silly mail" pouring into her home in Winfield in Lincoln County. Unable to stop it, she's learned to like it.

"I look forward to the mail now," says Shepp, who works as an aide at a St. Peters school helping a disabled kindergartner.

Shepp's son, Will Hanke, who lives in Arnold, knows all about the mail. But don't tell his mom.

What started as a small joke on his mother has ballooned to include thousands worldwide thanks to online word-of-mouth and Hanke's Web site postcardsformom.com.

This story is about more than just a fine-tuned practical joke. It's about mom.

See Mail, A10

**A day for moms at home and at war. A10**

**Big heart, big home: Mary Barfield has made more than 100 foster children over 30 years feel safe and loved. EV1**

CAMPAIGN 2004 | PRESIDENT

## Campaigns are in full swing with ads

Presidential hopefuls are setting a record pace on TV, underscoring Missouri's bellwether status.

By JO MANNIES  
Post-Dispatch Political Correspondent  
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With six months to go before Election Day, Missouri television stations already have aired more than 9,100 commercials praising or pummeling President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry.

Those commercials cost the presidential campaigns and independent, pro-Kerry groups more than \$8.1 million — a record-setting pace — in the state's three largest media markets.

That tally doesn't count the ads the campaigns are airing on national cable stations and in smaller regional markets, including Cape Girardeau and Columbia, Mo. The figures also don't include

**Where the ads are**

Top 10 TV shows for Missouri presidential ad placement

SHOW	NUMBER OF SPOTS
Good Morning America	374
The Today Show	337
Wheel of Fortune	315
Early Show	292
Judge Judy	187
Jeopardy	156
Everyone Loves Raymond	132
Dr. Phil	131
Entertainment Tonight	115
Oprah	93

NOTE: The ad counts are for spots from Bush, Kerry or independent groups that ran between Jan. 1 and May 1 in St. Louis, Kansas City and Springfield.  
Source: TNM Campaign Media Analysis Group  
POST-DISPATCH

Kerry's latest statewide ad buy of roughly \$1 million for May, in an effort to catch up with Bush's heftier purchases in recent weeks.

Still, that partial total recedes down to almost \$2.25 for each of the state's registered voters — a per-person rate that is among the highest in the nation.

See Ads, A4

## Bonner envisions Zoo as champion for wildlife

He wants more focus on the "hard emotions" of conservation

By DIANE TOROIAN KEAGGY  
Of the Post-Dispatch

Perhaps the only wild creatures Melody Noel studied in law school were F Lee Bailey and Alan Dershowitz. But today, Noel is an expert on penguins, cheetahs and addaxes. "Farmers in Botswana are shooting cheetahs because they eat their livestock," Noel said. "It's going to take some creative



Bonner  
"There are no simple answers"

Bonner's world — whether for two decades, like Noel, or two years, like the Zoo's 1,000 employees — invariably adopts his passions.

"I am a perfect example of a convert," said Noel, who practices domestic law. "These are not things I thought about before, See Zoo, A3

solutions and some time to work through the problem."

Noel has no background in biology, but she is married to St. Louis Zoo president Jeffrey Bonner. And anyone who lives in

Week of tumult may mark turn in public sentiment on war in Iraq

NEWSWATCH

Both sides of battle over Lemay casino air their views ahead of council vote

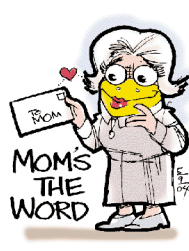
NEWSWATCH

With summer on the horizon, class helps boaters steer clear of trouble

METRO

Some foodmakers doubt FDA rules starting over summer will prevent bioterrorism

BUSINESS



**SUNDAY**  
Partly sunny, very warm. High 87.  
**MONDAY**  
Still warm. Low 68. High 85.

WEATHER | B8

