

Missing journalists safe, out of Iraq

By Frank Eltman
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MELVILLE, N.Y. (AP) — Two Newsday journalists and two freelance photographers who were missing for more than a week in Iraq sent word Tuesday that they were safe and had left the country. A sister of one of the journalists said he told her that they had been imprisoned but were treated well.

"We're just euphoric," Newsday publisher and chief executive Raymond Jansen said in a statement on the newspaper's Web site. The two Newsday staffers told their colleagues they were crossing into Jordan. The two freelancers were with them Newsday correspondent Matthew McAllester, 33, and photographer Moises Saman, 29, had been out of contact since March 24, when they e-mailed the Long Island-based newspaper from Baghdad to say they would be filing material.

"I just shrieked at him, because he was alive. I couldn't stop crying. It was the best news we could wish for."

—Janey McAllester
sister of one of the missing
journalists

The journalists used a satellite phone to call their loved ones. McAllester called his sister, Janey McAllester, in London, where she works at an art gallery.

"I just shrieked at him, because he was alive. I couldn't stop crying. It was the best news we could wish for," the sister said.

"He said they had been held in prison, but they had been treated OK. I asked him if he was held by people from Iraq's Ministry of Information and he just said: 'That's a nice name for them.'"

Teachers on leave due to war posters

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Two high school teachers said Tuesday they have been placed on leave for refusing to remove war-related student artwork posted in their classrooms.

Highland High School teachers Allen Cooper and Geoffrey Barrett said they were told Monday night that they would be suspended if they did not remove the posters.

Barrett, who teaches history and current events, said the student art carried both anti-war and pro-war messages, and was created as part of a class assignment.

"I think this is mostly a violation of the students' rights to have a voice and express their opinions," Barrett said. "Asking me to take down the posters was taking away the voice of the students and I was not going to do that."

Cooper said one of the signs in question in his classroom read "No War Mr. Cooper." It was written by an Afghani student who has had family members killed in U.S.-led bombings in Afghanistan, he said.

"I really agonized over this," said Cooper, an English teacher. "I don't want to be suspended. I just want to teach my classes."

Both teachers said the posters in question were taken down by school officials before classes began Tuesday.

Air Force Academy agrees to outside investigation

DENVER (AP) — The Air Force Academy, which has been urged to submit to an outside investigation of its sexual assault scandal, has agreed to turn over files to local prosecutors.

Academy officials told the El Paso County District Attorney's Office it would be given the sexual assault reports

it had requested last week. They, however, did not say when the records would be sent over.

The Defense Department and Air Force are investigating how the academy dealt with 20 cases of rape and 36 cases of sexual assault reported since 1993. Cadets who say they were raped say that they were blamed and punished by their superiors and ostracized by classmates.

The district attorney's office began its investigation last month at the request of

a female cadet who was not satisfied with military's handling of her complaint. A number of senators have also called for an independent investigation.

New center to guard against bioterror attacks

ATLANTA (AP) — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has a new \$7.1 million emergency operations center to guard against bioterrorist

attacks and help it track outbreaks of emerging diseases such as West Nile virus or severe acute respiratory syndrome.

The center allows health officials to receive data and information from disease detectives in the field, and officials can quickly confer with international and federal agencies during a health crisis.

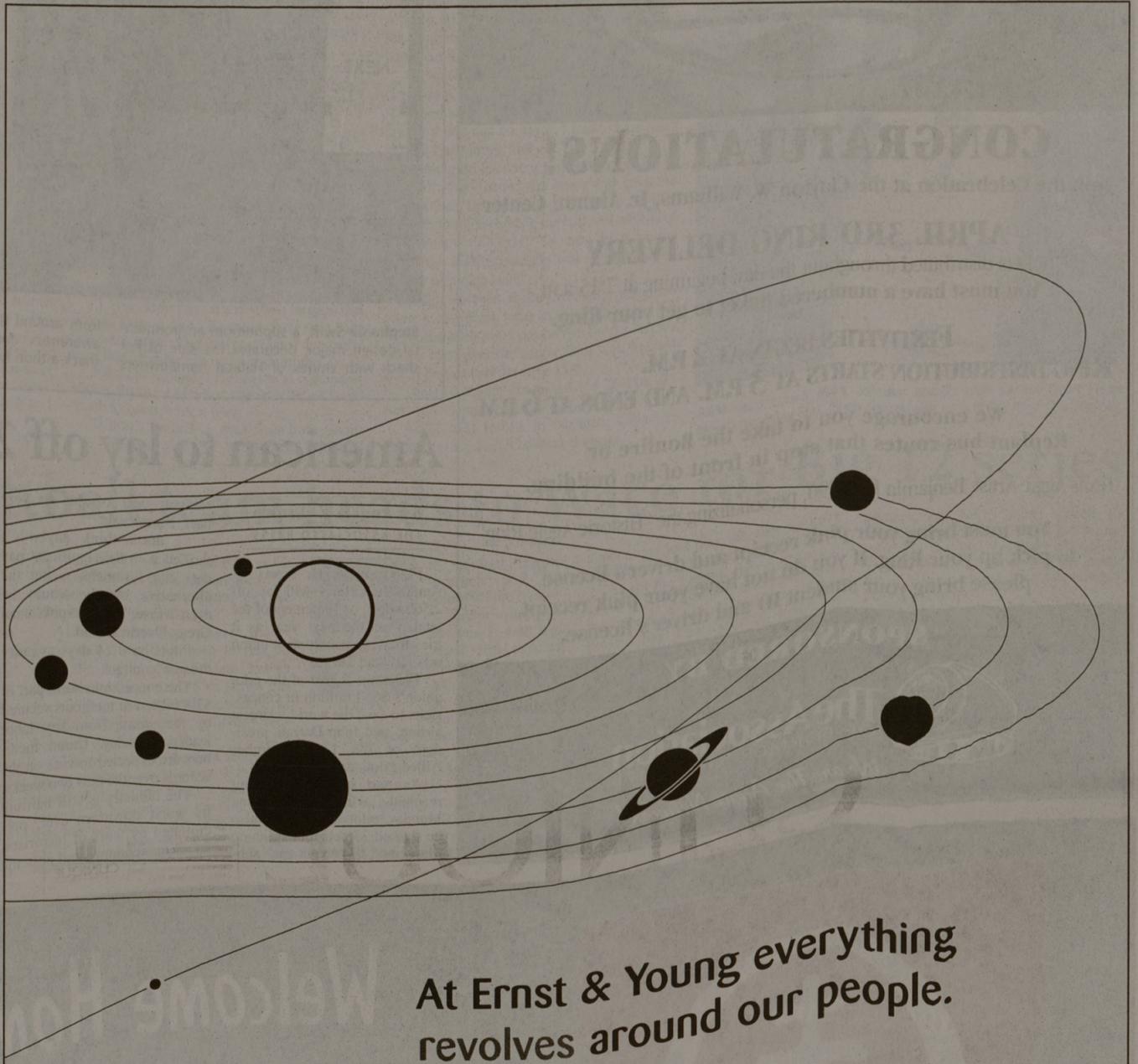
"This is a war room for health," said Gov. Sonny Perdue. "Any forensic or criminal investigator will tell you the best thing they can have at their fingertips."s

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sickle cell anemia
The disease
Sickle cell anemia is an inherited disorder caused by improperly formed hemoglobin, the part of a red blood cell that carries oxygen through the body. The result is sickle-shaped blood cells.
Symptoms
Fatigue, paleness, shortness of breath, pain in joints or chest, eye problems, yellowing of the skin and eyes, infections and a decreased ability to defend against disease.
Origin
The genetic mutation that causes the defective hemoglobin is common in thousands of years ago to the African continent and the Middle East. It is believed that the trait for sickle cell anemia survived the malaria outbreak because it passed the gene on.

Hydroxyurea
The study
Hydroxyurea was found to lower the risk of stroke in people suffering from the disease.
Never taken hydroxyurea
The drug over a nine-year period.

Leukemia
The potent drug may be used to reduce work for doctors, researchers say. The drug is used to adjust dosages and schedules. Patients are generally advised to take the drug in small pills in the first phase of the follow-up, from 1996 to 2000. The results in patients who started taking hydroxyurea



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