

LATE SPORTS



By Eric Gay, AP

**Duncan:** Spurs are defending NBA champs, too.


A sports gusher in Texas

The Super Bowl, NCAA men's Final Four, even the baseball All-Star Game — all in the Lone Star State

Cover story, 1C

USA TODAY

NO. 1 IN THE USA



By Kevin Winter, Getty Images

**Gotta tell ya:** Dennis Miller debuts on CNBC.

Politics is funnier than ever

The line between news and laughs blurs as comedy embraces the campaign ■ 1D

Monday, January 26, 2004

Newsline

News Money Sports Life

Winter storm mixes it up in East; flight delays expected

Snow, sleet and freezing rain sweeps through Carolinas, heads north ■ 3, 14A



By Dan MacMedan, USA TODAY

**Fashion rules Golden Globes; 'Rings' reigns among films**

HBO's *Angels* is tops in TV. Nicole Kidman, above, turns heads. Winners, memorable moments and stunning gowns ■ 1-3D

**U.S. Army helicopter crashes in Iraq**

Two soldiers are missing after their helicopter goes down in the Tigris River during a search for a fellow soldier; it is the fifth copter crash this month. 6A.

**Bird flu spreading, reportedly mutating**

Indonesia is latest to confirm outbreak of avian flu, which can be deadly in humans; seven countries are killing chickens to try to contain the disease. 11A.

**Group is investigating 9/11-related visas**

Panel will begin interviewing government officials today about visa procedures that allowed the 19 hijackers to enter the USA. Victims' families demanded an independent review of the 9/11 attacks. 3A.

**Money: Fed likely to leave rates alone**

Policy-making panel meets Tuesday, and experts expect a hold on 1% interest rates, a 45-year low, despite a new Commerce Department report expected to show robust economic growth. 1B.

**Sports: Drought ends for Mickelson**

Phil Mickelson gets his first victory in 18 months at the Bob Hope Classic. Golf. 1, 11C.

**Life: Remembering two legends**

Bob Keeshan — *Captain Kangaroo* for 30 years — made TV a magical place. Helmut Newton redefined fashion photography. 4D.

Politics is gaining interest among college freshmen after a 35-year decline, new survey shows; contentious 2000 election, 9/11 are factors in uptick. 7D.

By John O. Buckley



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Feels like the first time

Super Bowl countdown

As teams arrive in Houston, yesterday's stars advise Carolina's Jake Delhomme about their first Super Bowl, 7C

Super car ads, 5B

**Steve Young:** "You had to win." By Robert Hanashiro, USA TODAY

**Troy Aikman:** Was "as relaxed as I've ever been." By H. Darr Beiser, USA TODAY

Opportunity sets down on Mars; Spirit revived



NASA/JPL via Reuters

**First look:** Opportunity sent back this image of an outcropping of pale Martian bedrock. Mission scientists noted that the formation resembles layered rocks laid down by lakebeds and by lava on Earth.

Photos show first bedrock ever seen on Red Planet

By Dan Vergano USA TODAY

PASADENA, Calif. — Not everyone took it easy over the weekend. NASA triumphantly delivered its latest probe, Opportunity, to a Martian landscape described as darkly surreal and regained control of the rover's ailing twin, Spirit.

Opportunity arrived right on schedule at 12:06 a.m. ET Sunday, ending up 15 miles west of the bull's eye on its landing target after a trip of 283 million miles.

Elated landing team members maintained contact with the craft as it gently bounced to a rest on its side inside a shallow crater and began shooting pictures of Meridiani Planum, a Martian plain the size of Oklahoma.

The science team is absolutely thrilled to be here," said rover science team member Doug Ming of NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston. "If it got any better, I couldn't stand it."

Scientists hope the \$820 million twin-rover mission, essentially a pair of mobile geology labs, will reveal the role of water in Mars' history and determine whether the water may have sparked life. NASA began receiving the first of dozens of images from Opportunity about 3:45 a.m. ET Sunday. Bounce marks apparently left by the rover's air bags when it landed were clearly visible.

Scientists puzzled over a landscape of ruddy ground, the darkest soil yet seen on Mars. Most noteworthy was an outcropping of lighter stone, the first bedrock ever glimpsed on the Red Planet.

From the images, scientists know that the rover landed inside a crater about 65 feet across. Less than half a mile away from Opportunity, a

Cover story

Please see COVER STORY next page ►

Kerry pulling away in N.H.

Poll: Residents say he's best pick to beat Bush

By Kathy Kiely USA TODAY

MANCHESTER, N.H. — Out of a blur of pancake breakfasts, house parties, town hall meetings and sub-zero door-knocking, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry emerged Sunday with a double-digit lead in the polls for this state's Democratic primary Tuesday. The focus turned to who will finish second and third.

Kerry, struggling for third place in the polls here just two weeks ago, appears to be benefiting from last week's surprise victory in the Iowa caucuses. He enjoys an 11-point lead over former Vermont governor Howard Dean in the latest USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll, in which 56% rated Kerry as the Democrat with the best chance of beating President Bush in November. The next closest was Dean, at 16%.

Dean, the favorite of 40% of New Hampshire voters as recently as last month, said in an interview with USA TODAY that it's "absolutely possible" he will win Tuesday. He's toned down his speeches and is campaigning with his wife, Judy Dean, a physician who previously had avoided the campaign trail.

On the last weekend before the election, Kerry laced up skates for a charity hockey game and hosted small-town chili feeds; Dean's mother hit a bingo hall; retired general Wesley Clark stumped with actor Ted Danson and New York Rep. Charles Rangel.

Connecticut Sen. Joe Lieberman and his wife, Hadassah, courted neighbors around the Manchester apartment where they have been living. North Carolina Sen. John Edwards jammed so many people into a Merrimack bowling alley that owners called police.

Clark, Edwards and Lieberman appear to be in a tight battle for third place and momentum. All are hoping to score their first victories in the South and West, where the campaign turns next week. Seven states, stretching from Arizona to South Carolina, vote Feb. 3. Kerry signaled Sunday he would focus on the biggest prize: As soon as the vote is announced here, he'll head to Missouri, whose 88 convention delegates are in play since Dick Gephardt, a St. Louis congressman, dropped his presidential bid.

Despite the intense campaigning, many New Hampshire voters still haven't made up their minds. In the USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll, 28% said they might switch candidates. Further confounding prognosticators: about one-third of those expected to vote are "undeclared" voters — not registered Democrats but eligible to cast ballots in the primary. They are "the biggest wild card" of the election, says University of New Hampshire pollster Andrew Smith.

Snow is possible Tuesday. But Deputy Secretary of State David Scanlan says that it would take a "full-blown blizzard" to dampen turnout.

By Karl Gelles, USA TODAY

**USA TODAY/CNN Gallup Poll**

Jan. 17-19 Jan. 24-25

Which Democratic candidate New Hampshire voters lean toward most:

John Kerry 25% 36%

Howard Dean 32% 25%

Wesley Clark 21% 13%

John Edwards 7% 10%

Joe Lieberman 7% 10%

Other/no opinion 8% 6%

Source: USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll Saturday-Sunday of 970 New Hampshire residents most likely to vote in Tuesday's primary. Margin of error: ±3 percentage points. The Jan. 17-19 poll: 657 likely voters.

Kay: Bush not to blame on WMD

Former weapons chief cites faulty intelligence

By Richard Benedetto USA TODAY


WASHINGTON — Former top U.S. weapons investigator David Kay blames the intelligence community, not President Bush, for drawing a false conclusion that Iraq had large stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction prior to the U.S.-led invasion in March.

Kay, who resigned Friday as head of a U.S. inspection team that scoured Iraq looking for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, said Sunday on NPR's *Weekend Edition* that he believes Saddam Hussein had no such weapons before coalition forces invaded.

Kay said the challenge now is to figure out why intelligence indicated the Iraqi leader had them.


"It's not a political issue. It's an issue of the capabilities of one's intelligence service to collect valid, truthful information," he said.

However, the issue has major political implications for the 2004 presidential campaign. Bush has repeatedly staked his case for going to war in Iraq on the assertion that Saddam had banned weapons and might use them. Kay's failure to find them gives Democrats a strong argument that Bush went to war on a mistaken or exaggerated premise.



AP

**Kay:** Resigned on Friday.



AP

**Duelfer:** New top inspector.

Since Kay began saying publicly Friday that his team found no weapons and concluded that they probably did not exist, Democratic presidential candidates have been quick to fire at Bush.

"We were misled . . . not only in the intelligence, but misled in the way that the president took us to war," Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry said on *Fox News Sunday*.

Asked by NPR if he feels Bush owes Americans an explanation for starting the war based on apparently flawed intelligence, Kay replied, "I actually think the intelligence community owes the president, rather than the president owing the American people."

CIA Director George Tenet replaced Kay on Friday with Charles Duelfer, who served for seven years as the United Nations' No. 2 weapons inspector. Four high-ranking U.S. intelligence officials said they still fear weapons could be in Iraq, and that a high priority for the search is making sure that if there are any, they have not fallen into the hands of Iraqi guerrillas or foreign Islamic militants.

The White House and Vice President Cheney also say Iraq had banned weapons and in time they will be found. But Secretary of State Colin Powell on Saturday appeared to be backing away, saying it was "an open question" whether Iraq had such weapons.

Contributing: John Diamond, wire reports ► **Iraqi cleric holds critical role, 6A**

USA TODAY Snapshots

Youth care less about school

Percentage of parents who said their children<sup>1</sup> "care about doing well in school" and "always do homework":

Low-income families High-income families

1997 37.9% 47.2%


1999 38.5% 43.8%

2002 30.1% 37.6%

1 — children ages 6-11

Sources: Urban Institute and Child Trends

By Shannon Reilly and Adrienne Lewis, USA TODAY



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Crossword 7D  
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