



USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76)

June 5, 2004 Vol. 1 Issue 5

NEWSPAPER NAME WINNERS: AS2 Michael Mack SKSN Christopher Conner DKSA Steven Haywood

Ronald Reagan Grants Vets' Last Requests

By JO2 Shane Tuck

Staff Writer

The ship's Ceremonial Guard and crew members of USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) stood at attention, Sunday, to pay their respects during the ship's first Burial at Sea ceremony.

"Those whom we commit to the sea this day have given record of being a servant -- a servant of peace ... a servant of hope ... and a servant of goodwill," prayed Chaplain (LT) Richard House, Religious Ministries department, during the ceremony. "By their testimony and sacrifice, may we be found faithful stewards of what they've entrusted to us."

According to AO1 (AW) Joe Swartout,

Ceremonial Guard petty officer in charge, the ceremony honored 11 veterans and family members.

"Our purpose today is to continue one of our honored and sacred naval traditions -- the burial at sea," said Capt. James Symonds, commanding officer, USS Ronald Reagan. "It is a hallowed event that gives recognition of our final tribute to honor our nation's veterans."

One Ronald Reagan Sailor fulfilled her great grandfather's request for a burial at sea aboard an aircraft carrier.

IS2 Takiesha Waites, Operations department, committed to sea Paul Lester Waites, a U.S. Merchant Marine from January 1940 to October 1971. His burial was the first to be honored on board Ronald Reagan.

"It's fitting, as well as historic, that the first burial at sea from the

decks of our ship is conducted by one of our own," said Symonds. "Shipmates ... this is our sacred hour; Therefore, let us stand tall, render

honor and do our solemn duty that their sacrifices will never be forgotten."

Satisfying her great grandfather's final request was an uphill

struggle, and took years for Waites to accomplish.

"I felt a sense of closure because my

Burial ... Cont. on page 2

Bath Time!



PH3 Kitt Amartniant

AT3 Ariana Gomeztorres stretches out a fire hose prior to washing down an F/A-18F Super Hornet of Strike Squadron Fighter Four One "Black Aces" (VFA-41) on board the ship. The aircraft carrier is underway circumnavigating South America on its way to its new homeport in San Diego.

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Ronald Reagan Sailors Strive for Fame

By AN Heather Beckham

Staff Writer

Some Sailors dream of making it big in the entertainment business, but three of Ronald Reagan's promising talents have gone far above the first rung in that ladder to success.

Striking Susan, a three-man punk-rock band comprised of crew members, released its first album, May 7, during the band's release party in Raleigh, N.C.

The band members include: FC3 Joey Palmer, lead guitarist; IC3 Kenn Bashaw, bass player; and AC3 (AW) Ken Oberle, drummer.

More than 150 fans cheered on *Striking Susan* while they performed at their release party.

"I wore a Spiderman costume onstage during our release party," said Bashaw. "We are just trying to go out, have a little fun and get noticed."

The band formed when Palmer, who came up with the name *Striking Susan*, was introduced to Bashaw through mutual friends in 2002.

But the band didn't truly come together until Bashaw met Oberle during the ship's first port call in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. in November 2003.

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Burial

Continued from front page

family waited two years for this occasion," said Waites. "It was a blessing and privilege for the command to present me the opportunity to participate in the ship's first burial at sea. It's a testament that good things do come to those who wait."

Waites was quick to thank all of those who made the burial possible.

"I'd like to thank all of the command chaplains for their compassionate devotion," said Waites. "I'm also grateful to AO1 Swartout for working so hard with the Ceremonial Guard."

The Ceremonial Guard spent many hours training to ensure the event was meaningful to all those involved and those who observed the ceremony as well.

"The Ceremonial Guard trained for more than 500 hours, on and off duty, for this event," said Swartout. "Because the ceremony honored one of our shipmate's family members, we strived for

greatness to express our respect."

"This entirely voluntary group contains some of the sharpest Sailors Ronald Reagan has to offer," said PNC (AW/SW) William E. Evans, Ceremonial Guard chief petty officer in charge. "We provided countless hours of instruction on details such as rifle maneuvers and facing movements to make them the best they could be.

"I'm always pleased to see our Sailors of the Ceremonial Guard," said Symonds. "They bring us honor while continuously exemplifying military dignity, professionalism and pride."

The event's coordination with Memorial Day made it's timing especially appropriate.

"This moment of reflection honors those who died for our country," said Symonds. "This solitary act demonstrates our gratitude and profound respect for our deceased veterans and the struggle



PHAN Jacob Childre

PNC William Evans honors veterans committed to the sea during the ship's first Burial-at-Sea ceremony Sunday. The guard buried 11 people during the event.

for liberty they desired to remain intact."

Other veterans and family members buried at sea were: Airman 2nd Class Costas Chakourides, U.S. Air Force from July 1955 to April 1958; Chief Information Systems Technician Richard DeTienne, U.S. Navy from December 1979 to October 2003; Air Traffic Controller 1st Class Robert Forman, U.S. Navy from April 1957 to April 1977; Master Chief Aviation Boatswain's Mate George Lechak, U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1974; Lt. Cmdr. Robert Latta, U.S. Navy from June 1941 to December 1945; Chief Machinist's Mate Warren Pollard,

U.S. Navy from 1940 to 1961; Electronics Technician 1st Class Robert Roman, U.S. Navy from November 1943 to December 1948; Elinor Summers, wife of Chief Personnelman (Ret.) Billy Summers; Radarman 1st Class Daryl Thompson, U.S. Navy from November 1948 to June 1968; Cmdr. Donald Vaden, U.S. Navy from July 1953 to July.

"This ceremony exemplifies the high-standing traditions of the Navy," said Chaplain (CDR) Steven Smith, command chaplain. "It's our honor, duty and privilege to respect these elder warriors' final request."

Evolution of Wogs to Shellbacks

By JO1 Lori Sawyer

Staff Writer

The warm air and occasional water mist curl over the edge of the flight deck on USS Ronald Reagan as the ship makes its initial voyage toward the horn of South America. This route will take the Navy's newest aircraft carrier into waters that are rumored to be the domain of King Neptune and his Royal Court.

As the ship nears Neptune's majestic doorway to the equator, where he rules, words such as "Shellback" and "Pollywog" can be heard from bow to stern.

The titles of Shellback and Pollywog (Wog) have a long naval history, however, these titles are not official ones awarded by the military or government and can only be earned by crossing the equator. In legend, a doorway, separating the Northern and Southern Hemisphere, leads to ships playing host to the fabled Davy Jones as he escorts King Neptune and his royal court.

The history of ships on the open ocean reveals numerous time-honored traditions. Vikings performed rituals when crossing the 30th parallel, and the Anglo-Saxons later adopted those rituals. The Phoenicians gave sacrifices to their god upon passing the Pillars of Hercules, later known as the Straits of Gibraltar, according to Aldershot's Customs and Traditions of the Royal Navy.

As far back as the 17th century, there have been recorded trips of naval vessels crossing the equator and being boarded by King Neptune's messenger Davy Jones to proclaim the king would be boarding the ship the next day. He would then summon a list of Pollywogs to appear before him.

The night before the arrival of King Neptune and the royal court, Pollywogs are given the chance to prove themselves before Davy Jones. The Pollywogs compete while performing talents and skits before an audience of

Evolution ... Cont. on page 3



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Reader's Choice...

What do You Enjoy Most About Being at Sea?



AOAN Kristin Makande
"Getting to really know people"



AOC Sam Oliver
"I love that I can rest and think about life"



LN2 Rosa Laturno
"The chance to get my qualifications"



MMFA Chris Jackson
"Traveling to places I've never been before"



QM1 James Hodge
"Nobody bothers me while I do my job"

Reel Time

Blue Crush

Tonight on
Channel 5

by **JO2 Paul Simonds**

Staff Writer

In the mood of *Big Wednesday*, *Endless Summer* and *Billabong Odyssey*, *Blue Crush* attempts to glorify the majestic world of surfing.

For anyone who has ever ridden waves, this movie will make your jaw drop.

Not because of the amazing riding or the scenic shots of the Hawaiian coast, but because this movie is flat-out silly.

The premise of this movie is not to overcome fears and persevere toward your goals; it is to exploit women.

Throughout the movie, there is a tough-guy feel. The mood attempts to show the viewer women can accomplish anything men can accomplish.

But in the end, the viewer is left with poorly digitized scenes of Anne Marie Chadwick, played by Kate Bosworth, riding oversized wave and a litany of young ladies

ACTING = C
DIRECTING = D
STORYLINE = D
CAMERA WORK = B
OVERALL = D

hanging around the beach in scantily-clad bikinis.

There is no true plot to this train wreck. The attempt was made by director John Stockwell to develop a story about a young woman who is trying to find her niche in a sport dominated by men.

In the end, I was just hoping Bosworth would get eaten by "the big one," and the movie would be over.

From a technical standpoint, the movie was shot relatively well. The editing was bad, but the underwater shots and surfing were very good.

At one point, I could actually tell it wasn't Bosworth riding the waves.

If you are in the mood for a little hang-ten action, seek out another surfing movie. By all means, stay away from this one!

If you are looking for a feminist view of a sport, this is your movie.

Today's Movies

Channel 2

Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring
Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
All About the Benjamins
Big Fat Liar

Channel 5

Bulletproof Monk
The Grind
Predator
Bounce
Mystic River
You got Served
The Hot Chick
Blue Crush

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I don't know if this is the right place to be voicing my concerns, but I figured this place was as good as any to put a urgent request out to my shipmates. Wednesday, the XO made ladders the main priority for cleaning. This might sound silly, but as I was transiting from one work station to the next, I noticed that many people were cleaning the ladders, but no one was wiping down the handrails. Think about how many people touch the handrails everyday as they hold on to go up or come down the ladder.

With the line of sickcalls in the morning, I can hardly believe we are not passing germs back and forth to

each other. So all I ask is that everyone please give the handrails a good rubdown when you are cleaning the ladders so some of our shipmates don't pass their colds to each other. Thanks,

— Clean and Happy

Dear Clean and Happy,

You actually make a good point. I keep some wet naps in my office to clean my hands once or twice a day. If anyone didn't notice, the mess decks' chow lines have hand-cleaning dispensers where the lines start. I use that before I grab my food. Thanks for the letter.

— Editor

Thank you for submitting questions to this column. Feel free to send your questions to apao@reagan.navy.mil with a catchy nickname.

Spanish Lessons...

"Como se llega al puerto?"

"How do you get to the port?"

Evolution

Continued from page 2

Shellbacks for a chance to win the title of Court Jesters, which allows them to sit with King Neptune during the ceremony.

The Royal Court, along with the Shellbacks, is charged with preparing the Wogs for presentation before King Neptune. Early history of Neptune's Royal Court produced a variety of beings such as Royal Baby, Royal Doctor and Royal Barber.

Today, Ronald Reagan's new "Shellbacks" have passed the 30th parallel for the first time and have shed their Wog skins forever. In the Navy, Sailors receive more responsibilities with each rank they achieve. Though Shellback is not an official rank in the Navy, it is a right of passage, and an achievement Sailors will talk about for many years to come.

Main Event

by JO2 Simonds

Staff Writers

Can someone please explain to me all the hype around the greasy world of NASCAR? I mean, c'mon, how can driving actually be a sport. If NASCAR is a sport, I am one heck of an athlete. Growing up in southern California, I spent a lot of time driving (at high speeds to boot) the Los Angeles freeways.

Tony Stewart has nothing on me especially when I was running late and caught in morning traffic.

I would weave in and out of traffic like a bat out of

NASCAR can't be a sport because they drive in one direction. Obviously, for an activity or past time to be considered a sport, the participants must be athletic. If the supposed

athletes are doing the exact, and I mean exact same thing over and over and over again, the activity can't be a sport.

I guess if NASCAR mixed in a right hand turn, then maybe they could be.

Jackie Robinson broke into the sports world in 1947 integrating Major League Baseball. 1947! Today there are exactly ZERO black NASCAR drivers in the NexTel circuit.

If NASCAR wants to be a viable player in American sports they need to do a better job marketing and recruiting to everyone in the United States.

Apparently NACAR has a bunch of teams. And on these teams are drivers, pit crews, owners and so on.

But if there are teammates, why then do

they compete against each other. I always thought being on the same team meant you work together for a common goal. In NASCAR, teammates work against each other and strive for victory as individuals, not as a team. The whole thing is backwards.

Look, I know a lot of people are in love with this past time, and I am sure many of you wholly disagree with my views, but the fact remains, NASCAR can't stack up with the fan base, traditions, history and athleticism of the NBA, NFL, MLB or even the PGA.

I know NASCAR has grown exponentially over the last decade, but even still, as a product, it can't compare to the other major professional sports in the U.S.

Band

"We blend all kinds of rock music together," said Palmer, a San Francisco native. "The three of us have really good chemistry together. We all want to play the same type of music."

Striking Susan's future goals include playing alongside such bands as *NOFX*, *Misfits* and *Green Day*.

"Eventually we are hoping to perform with a big tour company," said Bashaw. "The band intends on playing up and down the California coast."

Striking Susan plans to put together a press kit

and have its first album professional mastered in Los Angeles after the ship's

six months after the ship's arrival to San Diego.

"The album's lyrics are focused on middle-class life," said Palmer. "We wanted to tell everyone about the ups and downs of being us."

The ship's Morale, Welfare and Recreation division is giving *Striking Susan*, and other crew bands, a chance

to perform during a talent showcase on board while underway.

"It's all about getting your face out there," said Oberle. "We intend on making it big!"



Oberle keeps the band's rhythm during their CD release show.

arrival to the West Coast. A mastered album will allow the band to release and distribute a better quality record.

Their second album is slated for release within

Tuesday Sailor of the Day CS2 (SW) Stephanie Kendall



Dept: Supply
Where are you from?
Long Island, N.Y.

Why did you join the Navy?
So my could live on her own
Your favorite place to visit?

New Orleans
Your favorite movie?
Waiting to Exhale
What is your favorite book?

The Dorothy
Dandridge Bio
What inspires you?

My Family
Who do you hold
responsible for your
success?

My mom and God
What's your favorite
quote?

"Everyone will
complain, but
nobody want's your job"

Wednesday Sailor of the Day AO3 Dustin McCutchen



Dept: Weapons
Where are you from?
East Prairie, Mo.

Why did you join the Navy?
After Sept. 11, I was inspired
to serve my country.

Your favorite place to visit?
The Arch in St. Louis, Mo.
What is your favorite movie?

Behind Enemy Lines
Who do you hold responsible
for your success?

My Grandmother
What's your favorite quote?

"If at first you don't
succeed, try ... try again"
What advice would you pass
on to others?

Don't let one mistake put
a damper on your goals.
Just learn from it and keep
moving.



Palmer, lead guitar, and Bashaw, bass guitar, rock the house during *Striking Susan's* album release party May 7. The band played with other up and coming bands in Raleigh, N.C.