



MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2002

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Eric Wedge

Age: 34.
Born: Jan. 27, 1968, in Fort Wayne, Ind.
College: As an All-American catcher, led his Wichita State team to the 1989 College World Series title.
As a player: Drafted by the Boston Red Sox in 1989. Went to the Colorado Rockies in the expansion draft of 1992.
As a manager: Has managed Indians minor-league clubs in Kinston, Akron and Buffalo.
Recently: Named minor-league Manager of the Year by the Sporting News.



Tribe will choose Wedge as manager

PAUL HOYNES
Plain Dealer Reporter

ANAHEIM, CALIF. — Former big-league catcher Eric Wedge will be named manager of the Indians tomorrow, according to sources inside the team who requested anonymity. The hiring of Wedge by General Manager Mark Shapiro comes as a surprise for those who felt Joel Skinner would keep the job. Skinner started the year as the Indians' third

base coach and became interim manager July 11 when Charlie Manuel was fired. There are several candidates available with thicker resumes than the 34-year-old Wedge. Thirteen teams have changed managers since the start of spring training in February. Wedge has never managed in the big leagues, but has been on Shapiro's list for some time. When Shapiro was the Indians' farm director, he gave Wedge his first

managerial job, sending him to Columbus, Ga., to manage the Indians' Class A team. He has steadily climbed the organization's ladder ever since. Wedge spent the last two years at Class AAA Buffalo, the Indians' top farm club. The Sporting News named him minor-league Manager of the Year for leading the Bisons to a 87-57 record this season. Wedge's five-year record as a manager in the Indians' minor-league sys-

tem is 391-315. Anaheim pitching coach Bud Black was Shapiro's No. 1 candidate when the regular season ended. When Black withdrew from consideration before the start of the World Series, Shapiro turned his attention to Wedge. Wedge made a good impression during an informal interview with Shapiro in Winter Haven, Fla., in October.

SEE TRIBE | A5



DMITRY LOVETSKY | ASSOCIATED PRESS

A father and mother with their daughter, center, a freed hostage, leave a hospital in Moscow yesterday as doctors begin releasing some of the hundreds who had been treated after the theater crisis.

Gas used to rescue hostages killed 115

Hundreds hospitalized in Russia from exposure

SUSAN B. GLASSER
AND PETER BAKER
Washington Post

MOSCOW — The gas that Russian authorities pumped into a theater to knock out Chechen guerrillas during a pre-dawn commando raid Saturday killed at least 115 of the hostages in a tragic climax to the siege, Moscow's chief medical officer disclosed yesterday.

Just two hostages died from gunfire wounds before Russian special forces stormed the theater to end a 58-hour standoff, doctors said. The rest of the civilians had been weakened by the long ordeal and died "from the effects of the gas exposure," said Andrei Seltsovsky, head of the Moscow health department.

Of those who were rescued, 646 hostages remained hospitalized because of aftereffects of the gas, including 45 in critical condition and 105 others in intensive care, officials said.

The conclusion that nearly all the slain hostages died from the gas and not from their captors' bullets contradicted initial assertions by law enforcement officials that their "special means" had not been fatal.

The medical findings, and new accounts from former hostages, indicated the Chechen militants had not begun systematically killing prisoners as Russian authorities believed. Fifty of the Chechens were killed when Russian forces stormed the building early Saturday.

Some specialists said security agencies used an excessive dosage of the gas, which was funneled into the ventilation system of the theater.

SEE HOSTAGES | A4

U.S. hostage recalls how terror silenced music

ARIANA EUNJUNG CHA
Washington Post

MOSCOW — Natalya Aleshnya was enjoying the music when the rebels stormed in. She was seated in a balcony seat next to her oldest son and happy to be back in her homeland watching the tale of the Arctic explorers in a popular Russian musical,

"Nord-Ost." "We do not want your deaths," one of the terrorists announced. "We want only for Russia to allow Chechnya to be independent."

A man seated near her, an official with the Russian intelligence service, immediately hid his identification so as not to provoke the terrorists into targeting him. Thinking of her U.S.

passport, Aleshnya also decided that was a good idea.

She didn't have it with her anyway, and she determined to conceal from the terrorists that she was a U.S. citizen. Her son, 38, is Russian and she did not want to be released with the foreigners if he had to remain.

Besides, she added, "I am an old woman." There were other people,

including someone with epilepsy and two pregnant women, who deserved to be freed before her, she said.

Aleshnya, 64, a retired piano teacher who lives in Mountain View, Calif., was visiting her two sons and two grandchildren when she was taken hostage. She spoke by phone yesterday from her hospital bed.

SEE TERROR | A4

INSIDE

Schools dilemma
Ohio's political leaders still can't find a solution to the state's school-funding crisis. **B1**

'Left Behind' out on video
The second movie based on the popular series of novels about the apocalypse hits video stores tomorrow. **C1**

TV of future too scary today
On-demand video has television and movie executives fearful of lost revenue. **E1**

Classified ... **E4** Editorials... **B6**
Comics **C9** Movies..... **7C**
Deaths **B4** Television .. **C8**

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy and cool.
High 48, low 38. Map. **B8.**



CHUCK CROW | THE PLAIN DEALER

Devonta Brooks, 10, left, and Melvin Swinney, 11, run football plays on a new basketball court at Rainbow Terrace. In the background is one of the new buildings at the government-subsidized complex.

New landlord turning slum into gem

MICHAEL O'MALLEY
Plain Dealer Reporter

One of Cleveland's biggest and most dangerous slums — a 484-unit housing complex where generations of kids have played on hard dirt and broken glass in the shadows of ugly buildings and lurking drug dealers — is undergoing extensive renovation.

In fact, Rainbow Terrace off East 79th Street, home to hundreds of poor people, mostly women and children,

can no longer be called a slum. New construction and restoration — nearly half done — show promises of a dramatic transformation.

And the change is not just new bricks and mortar.

Each apartment is being equipped with high-speed Internet access. Tenants will receive free service and a new, free computer when they complete an on-site computer training course.

Behind this venture is Vesta Corp., a

Connecticut real estate company that bought the troubled 24-building complex a year ago and is pumping more than \$50 million in public and private dollars into it.

The for-profit company has a contract with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the so-called Section 8 program, to provide "decent, safe and sanitary" housing for Rainbow's low-income tenants in exchange for rent subsidies.

SEE RAINBOW | A8

Gerald Henley returns, zaps school debate

JANET OKOBEN
Plain Dealer Reporter

He has been portrayed as a walking advertisement for keeping Cleveland's mayor in charge of city schools.

Even those opposed to mayoral control have tried to keep him at arm's length.

But Gerald Henley, a former school board member known for his outrageous antics, proved yesterday that he can still clear a room.

He brought an otherwise low-key League of Women Voters debate on mayoral control to a screeching halt, yelling at a schools spokesman and calling him an "Uncle Tom" in front of a crowd of about 50.

The outburst prompted schools CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett, one of the featured speakers, to walk out of the debate at Trinity Cathedral on East 22nd Street.

Although Henley showed up in a yellow T-shirt promoting a return to an elected board, some members of the Committee to Save the School Vote fear the message was lost in his outburst.

Some yelled at Henley to remain quiet. Afterward, they stressed that Henley did not represent them. Tony Minor, committee chairman, said such incidents can distract voters.

"Gerald is definitely passionate about the issue," Minor said.

SEE DEBATE | A8



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