

Wednesday Paper Surprises

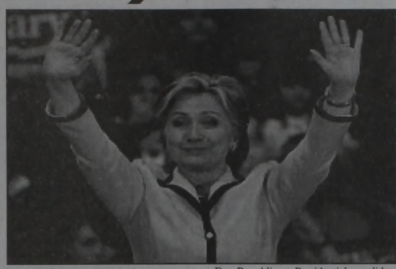
Casualties of War in Iraq

As of Feb. 7, 2008

Front and center were Hispanic voters who were credited with swinging the meter in Hillary Clinton's favor in this California where she won with nearly 30% of the Hispanic vote and in New York, Next, were Barack Obama who claimed victories in 12 of 22 states including: Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, and Missouri; his home state of Illinois, Alabama, Georgia, Minnesota, North Dakota, Connecticut, Delaware and Alaska. Obama won 75% of the delegates at stake; just 25 short of Clinton's take.

For Clinton, her 8 state wins garnered a total of 782 delegates from voters in California, Arizona, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Tennessee, her home state of New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

New Mexico also held its Democratic Caucus but the race there was so close be-



tween Clinton and Obama that votes were still being counted late Wednesday night. Five delegates are at stake and Clinton was leading slightly with 49% of the vote and Obama with 48%.

For Republican Presidential candidate John McCain, his wins in 9 states pushed his campaign to front runner status and sent a clear signal that he is the Republican candidate to beat. McCain won in his home

state of Arizona and in California, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Missouri, Delaware, Illinois, and Oklahoma.

His two opponents also claimed victory; although Mike Huckabee's wins were the most surprising. The former Arkansas Governor claimed victory in Alabama, West Virginia, Georgia, and Tennessee. Romney took his home state of Massachusetts, Utah, Minnesota, Montana, Colorado, and North Dakota.

In the Republican contest, McCain won up the night with 557 delegates; Romney with 251; Huckabee with 160 and Ron Paul would win with 14 delegates.

Next up for the candidates are primaries in several states; with growing speculation that the March 4 Texas Democratic and Republican Primaries will play a major role in deciding who the Democratic and Republican nominees will be.

Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Merger Plans Between Chamber and LCC Still Up in Air

Merger plans between Lubbock's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (LHCC) and the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce (LCC) have been put on hold, whether temporarily or permanently might depend on when and whether it can be determined who the Hispanic Chamber's official chairman is.

On December 13, 2007 the Hispanic Chamber's general membership, with 44 members voted, to merge with the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce. Despite some controversy and what some members called questionable voting and parliamentary procedures; the vote to merge passed with 99% of the members who were at the meeting voting in favor. The next step which had to occur before the merger could be completed was for

the LCC Board of Directors to vote on the matter. And while El Editor had been told by a source that the LCC would take up the matter at a January 31 board meeting, Eddie McBride, LCC Board President and Secretary says that the "merger proposal was never scheduled to come up for a vote" and that "additional planning details were required prior to any vote being presented to the Board for a potential merger proposal."

McBride also told El Editor in the email that "no discussion was held concerning the status of the officers of the Hispanic Chamber. Mike Arizmendez attended the Chamber Board meeting as the recognized Hispanic Chamber representative in accordance with our Bylaws that invites the Chairman of the Lubbock Hispanic

Chamber of Commerce to serve on our Board."

McBride also issued the following official LCC Board statement: "The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce has a well established relationship with the Hispanic Chamber and we strive to work with them to partner in the best interests of our Lubbock business community. Whatever new courses of action their elected officers consider, either continuing to operate as the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce or potentially merge with our Chamber, we will continue to support and partner as we have done in the past."

Prior to this latest development from the merger story, El Editor had heard from another individual involved that the vote to elect Mike Arizmendez as Chairman of the LHCC had; according to the individual, not been properly conducted. Whether that had been the case or not could never be corroborated since requests for comment to several individuals involved asking them to clarify what had happened; were not replied to. And Karamedia had reported that the LHCC had held a banquet to install its new officers; which included Arizmendez as its Chairman.

Then last week, a letter from El Editor Villanueva identifying himself as the "elected chairman" was sent to the LCC Board of Directors dated January 30, requesting that the board consider "holding the vote on the merger indefinitely." In his letter, Villanueva says: "I write you as the elected chairman of the Board of the Lubbock Hispanic Chamber of Commerce."

The letter indicates that LHCC "minutes of actions and deliberations taken on January 18, 2008" have also been sent to LCC Board members, apparently a reference to the meeting held by the LHCC to elect its Chairman. El Editor did not obtain the minutes referenced in Villanueva's letter. El Editor also obtained a copy of the recent survey conducted by the Lubbock Chamber, which shows that the majority of the respondents are in favor of merging with the Hispanic Chamber. The surveys were emailed to members and a total of 12% of those emailed responded. Chamber members responded in favor of the merger by a margin of 72%; 13% opposed it; and 15% were not sure or undecided. According to the executive summary included in the results, most of those who favored the merger felt that "it would create a greater sense of unity on the community". Some of those opposed "were generally split between either fearing the Lubbock Chamber would be taking on the debt and liability of a group who might still want autonomy and/or didn't see why the merger or even another chamber was necessary since Hispanic businesses already are welcome to join the Lubbock Chamber and participate in its existing divisions and programs". But the most important question of just who is the officially elected Chairman remains up in the air. According to McBride's email, "Arizmendez attended the Chamber Board meeting as the recognized Hispanic Chamber representative". But Villanueva's letter casts doubt on whether the installation of Mike Arizmendez as Chairman followed proper procedure by the organization.

Senatorial Candidate Rick Noriega to Visit Lubbock

By Abel Cruz

If the Democratic Primary election results turn out as most political observers think will, Texas State Representative Rick Noriega may soon be involved in one of the most watched United States Senate races in the nation; the race to oust current Republican Senator John Cornyn.

But before then, Texas Democratic voters must decide which candidate among the 4 who are running has the best chance to take on and defeat the incumbent Republican Senator. Many believe Noriega may be the one candidate with the necessary political experience and record of public service to take on Cornyn in November and reclaim the seat for the Democratic Party.

Four candidates will face off against each other in the March 4 Democratic Primary.

Prior to that though, at least 2 of the candidates; Noriega and one of his opponents, Corpus Christi teacher Ray McMurray are scheduled to debate each other on February 13 at the University of Texas at Austin; that according to the Noriega campaign.

On Friday, February 8, Noriega is scheduled to visit with Lubbock area voters at the Lubbock County Democratic Party Headquarters located at 2809 A 74th Street from 5:00 PM to 6:30PM according to Lubbock County Democratic Party Chair Susan Barick.

In anticipation of Noriega's visit to Lubbock, El Editor submitted questions to the candidate on several issues.

One of those issues is the ongoing economic stimulus package being debated in the Senate. Last week, the House passed a stimulus package bill which calls for rebates for taxpayers who meet certain requirements but does not include rebates to senior citizens who are on social security and pay no taxes.

Noriega tells El Editor that "The current stimulus package being offered by the House is too much compromise and too little stimulus. It is focused too much on giveaways to corporations, not help for ordinary Americans struggling to make ends meet. We need to pump money into the economy quickly in order to generate real stimulus."

Noriega also says that he supports the Senate's economic stimulus bill "which would extend unemployment benefits by an additional 13 weeks and which would make working-class families, 20 million seniors, and 250,000 disabled veterans eligible to receive a rebate from the government."

On the Iraq war, Noriega speaks as one who has been a battlefield participant as a veteran of the Afghanistan War and "has seen firsthand the toll the war is taking on America's families."

And Noriega believes that it is time for a new direction. "As a Senator, I would responsibly end the war in Iraq and bring our troops safely back home, with a phased military re-deployment that carefully extracts our forces from the country's cities. I would combine that with an aggressive diplomatic initiative that includes as many neighboring countries as possible to bring stability to the region".

(continued page 2)

News Briefs

Tech Basketball Coach Bobby Knight Resigns

For the past 42 years, the name Bobby Knight has been synonymous with college basketball. Most of the time in a record setting and winning way. The headlines and accolades were always too many to mention and as coach of the Texas Tech Red Raiders; he had reached at least 2 major victory milestones in his long career.

In 2007 Knight had recorded perhaps his greatest achievement when he became the coach with the most wins in men's Division I college basketball history with 880 victories; breaking the record held by former University of North Carolina Coach Dean Smith. And during the 6 weeks ago Knight had achieved his 900th win with a victory against Texas A&M. He resigned with a record of 902 wins and 371 losses.

Knight's career began in the 1965 when at 24 he was named coach of Army and continued in a 26 year career at Indiana University from 1971-2000. During his tenure at Indiana, Knight won 3 national NCAA titles and brought fame to the university but he also brought controversy to himself.

Knight's controversies included being indicted for assault in Puerto Rico during the 1979 Pan American games; which ultimately resulted in the charges being dropped, allegations of physically hitting students in his classes at Indiana University in 84 as an incident at the 26th Street supermarket in Lubbock at 58th and Indiana involving then Texas Tech University Chancellor David Smith.

But the controversy that followed Knight was a small price to pay for the huge amounts of publicity and name recognition Knight brought to the university; not just the basketball program. During his tenure the men's basketball program seemed to gain respect in the national arena and among the national media; although his teams were never able to achieve the same heights as Knight's Indiana teams.

In an interview with ESPN, Knight repeatedly referred to his having resigned from here and leaving accomplished all he could have "here." His repeated use of the word "here" seems to have the door open to the possibility that maybe the winning-est coach in NCAA men's basketball history is not yet ready to go "gentle into that good night" just yet.

His son Pat Knight succeeds Knight as basketball coach of the Red Raiders.

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Lubbock Police Officer Charged With Failure to Stop and Render Aid

A 19 year veteran of the Lubbock Police Department has been indicted by a Lubbock County Grand Jury for failing to stop and render aid, a felony charge.

Back on November 29, 2007 according to several media reports, LPD Officer Timothy White was driving his personal vehicle when he rear ended another vehicle, causing a chain reaction involving 3 other vehicles. Instead of remaining at the scene and doing what any citizen is required to do, White left the scene.

But other motorists were able to write down his license plate number and report it to the police. When White was questioned over the matter, he denied that he was driving the vehicle and blamed it on the person who was driving his pick-up truck at the time.

White was fired from the Lubbock Police Department and faces jail time if convicted. Email: eleditor@sbcglobal.net

Austin Couple Convicted of Child Endangerment

According to a news report in the Austin American Statesman, a couple who had left their children in the car while they went to a restaurant to drink "margaritas" was sentenced to "one year in state jail" this week.

The mother, Beatriz Pedraza pleaded guilty to one count of endangering a child and driving while intoxicated. According to the report, she will have to complete intensive outpatient care for alcoholism, parenting classes and any conditions that child protective services may require.

Her husband Miguel Pedraza also pleaded to 2 counts of "endangering a child". Miguel Pedraza will be deported after serving his sentence since it was discovered that he is in the country illegally.

The charges were charging after passively called police to report that 2 children were sitting alone in a car and arguing on September 30 of last year.

Beatriz Pedraza is 26; her husband Miguel is 33.

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Se despierta 'el gigante dormido'

Los latinos votan masivamente y lo hacen por Hillary

Pilar Munero

La gran noticia del Súper Martes, aparte de la competencia entre los candidatos, fue el impresionante aumento en la participación de los latinos, particularmente en California.

En todo el país "se abrió un abismo" entre el voto de los grupos-este martes aumentó la asistencia de votantes, pero ningún grupo tuvo el cambio del 81% más en participación que tuvieron los latinos en California.

Allí, los latinos son el 22% de la población votante de California y a muchos superaron todos los pronósticos: constituyeron entre el 29 y el 30% de los votantes.

"Esa fue realmente la gran historia de la noche", dijo Mark Baldassare, director del Instituto "Es una participación extraordinaria por parte de los latinos".

La segunda gran historia de la noche fue que los votantes latinos a nivel nacional, apoyaron solidamente a Hillary Clinton: 60% según las encuestas a boca de urna de AP. En California, la proporción fue aún mayor: un 69%, de acuerdo a los cálculos de CNN y más del 70% en algunos distritos.

"El gigante dormido ha despertado", dijo la congressista Hilda Solis, utilizando un lugar común muy socorrido pero que, en esta ocasión, parece reflejar la realidad. "En mi distrito el 71% votó por Hillary Solis".

Según Solis, quien apoyó a Clinton e hizo intensa campaña en favor de la senadora, "la campaña de Clinton hizo algo que Barack Obama no hizo: ellos no fueron puerta por puerta haciendo una campaña tradicional, haciendo llamados, hablando con la gente".

La campaña de Obama sí tuvo una intensa presencia en la comunidad latina, pero apenas en los últimos días, a lo sumo, en las últimas dos semanas antes del Súper Martes.

(Segue la página 2)

Read El Editor

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(Segue la página 2)

Voting for Tejano Music Awards open to all'

Do the names Jay Perez, Gary Hobbs, Ram Herrera, Shelly Lares or La Tropa Fstrum a note?

San Antonio. At that time, the artists men-

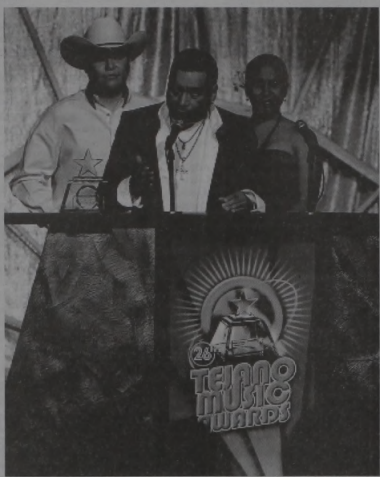
the Tejano Music Awards. You get on the list by

If they do then chances are you're familiar with Tejano Music — the pride and joy of the Lone Star State! Since its beginning, Tejano music has been evolving into the genre it is today. One that exceeds the borders of Texas and has created a fan base from Europe to Australia.

Tejano music stars like Selena and La Mafia were among the first to popularize Tejano music among mainstream music lovers who had never heard the ethnic sound of vocals mixed with accordion, guitar and trumpet.

Tejano music has come a long way. Recognized with its own category at the national Grammy music awards, the Tejano genre may showcase Tex-Mex musical talents, but its popularity (like all music) really depends on how well the genre on how well it the people likes them.

On March 6, 2008, the 28th Tejano Music Awards and Concert will take place in downtown



tioned above will be among those competing for best artist in their respective categories.

Yet, the winners aren't selected by a jury of industry experts. They are chosen by the same people who buy their records, attend their concerts and who appreciate their music — the fans.

Voting is now open to choose who was among the best in Tejano music in 2007. To vote, a person must be on the official voter list of

signing up for the organization's free newsletter. Then they give you directions on how to cast your ballot.

With so many good artists to choose from, it might take a while to whittle down the list to your favorite.

Unfortunately, time is running out. Deadline for voting is February 15, 2008.

However, if you'd rather watch the winners receive their awards and hear some great musica at the same time, tickets for the event go on sale starting Feb. 6.

Shakira Made \$38 Million in 2007

Forbes magazine put out their list of last year's highest-grossing female artists; the Colombian singer took fourth Wednesday Jan 30, 2008 1:00pm EST

Shakira came in fourth place on the list of the highest-grossing female artists of 2007, according to finance magazine Forbes. On the list of 20 women, the majority of whom are from the United States, the Colombian singer nabbed the number four spot after earning \$38 million in 2007, a figure that beat out artists like Beyoncé, Christina Aguilera and Gwen Stefani.

Topping the list is Madonna, who at age 49 made \$72 million between June 2006 and June 2007. A large portion of her earnings came from her concert series The Confessions

Tour. Barbra Streisand, 65, came in second place with \$60 million. The magazine notes that Streisand's was the most expensive concert of last year at \$300 a pop.

In third place, 39-year-old Celine Dion added \$45 million to her bank account last year. Beyoncé came in fifth with \$27 million; in sixth, Stefani with \$26 million. The list goes on with Aguilera (\$20 million), Faith Hill (\$19 million), The Dixie Chicks (\$18 million) and Mariah Carey (\$13 million).

Britney Spears also made the list, but not in the top ten as most people would have expected; the troubled pop star made just \$8 million in 2007. Fergie, Jennifer Lopez and Sheryl Crow each made \$6 million.

The publication calculated that together, the 20 list-toppers



made \$420 million dollars from concerts and album sales last year. As for Shakira, they took into account her 98 concerts and her earnings from the song "La despedida," which was featured in the film Love in the Time of Cholera.

Confirmed: Pewee Is Leaving Kumbia All Starz

The singer is moving on

decided to leave the group

reveal which other members of the band are leaving.



Kumbia All Starz in order to start a solo career.

A.B. Quintanilla III, the group's leader of Mexican descent, said the following in

"From the bottom of my heart, I wish you all the very best and much success in your individual careers. They are extraordinary guys and we've had some beautiful moments together. I ask all of you to continue to give your unconditional love and support to them, as they'll continue to be part of this big family," Quintanilla expressed.

The band leader clarified that he will remain the producer and head of Kumbia All Starz, as the group prepares for the launch of their new album Planeta Kumbia. It was also announced that the remaining band members will be looking for an addition to the group amongst their fans.

to a solo career, while the group searches for a new addition

The rumors were true. Singer Irvin Salinas, better known as Pewee, has

a press release: "In agreement with Pewee and other members of the group, we decided that they would continue their careers as solo artists." Quintanilla didn't

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Give credit to Knight for knowing when to walk away

Give credit to Knight for knowing when to walk away



ing when to walk away

Knight didn't live in a way that will win over everyone, or much of anyone. Although it seems to me like this was Knight's final showing of brutally tough love - his players are going to have to play for Pat Knight at some point, they might as well do it now - many will say he abandoned his team, his school, the athletics director who gave him this second chance at coaching and looked the other way when Knight pulled the inevitable Knight moves of bullying people, cursing people, even shooting people.

Many might be right, but that's OK. Right to the very end, Knight was trying to win over anyone. He's never about winning anything but games, and he was more of them than any college basketball coach ever has. Unless Mike Krzyzewski wins around long enough, Knight's 902 victories are more than any college basketball coach ever will win.

Knight left the way we should all leave, which is to say, completely on his terms. His terms weren't the terms most people would have chosen, but they were his terms nonetheless. No news conference. Hell, no news release. He just let the word trickle out unofficially through the local paper in Lubbock, then confirmed it officially so there would be no period of awkward speculation or rumor-mongering. He woke up Monday morning as the basketball coach at Texas Tech, and he went to bed Monday night without a word. Hello, Goodbye.

People are asking how it could be this way. I'd ask another question. How could it be any other way? Imagine Knight holding that news conference. The media would sharpen their teeth and fly into Lubbock to take one last bite, or the media would muzzle themselves and sit through a charade in which they pretended to have liked Knight all along. Either scenario would have been intolerable, and Knight avoided the whole thing.

Knight's boorishness has always obscured his righteousness, transforming this man - who won without cheating or sacrificing his academic ideals - into the cleanest anti-role model we've ever seen. But with his final act, he has given other coaches a blueprint for the best way to get out.

Sooner, rather than later. Knight has never been a guy to emulate, but Joe Paterno would have done well to replicate this exit plan any day. Paterno has hung around Penn State so long that the football program has become a hostage, the victim of a

stubborn old man who will coach as long as he wants to for no better reason than because he can.

Both Bowden would have benefited greatly from leaving a season too soon as opposed to whenever he does leave, which will be many years too late. Bowden is hanging around at Florida State for the two most selfish reasons imaginable: to stay ahead of Paterno as college football's all-time winningest coach, and to stay alive. Many times Bowden has said that, without his job, he would probably just die. So the once mighty Florida State football program is left to wither while an old man wrestles futilely with immortality.

Eddie Sutton could have left better - twice. First he stayed at Oklahoma State until the physical and mental wear-and-tear drove the recovering alcoholic to drink, which led to a DUI and a midseason departure in 2006. And now he has resurfaced at San Francisco, pushing out a coach in mid-season, for the sole purpose of reaching the 800-victory milestone. Lake Bowden and Paterno, Sutton has shaped his legacy as much in his final years as in the decades that came first. And not in a good way.

This could have been Knight. He's only 67. That's not terribly young, but with Bowden and Paterno redefining coaching old, it's not old, either. He could have stayed at Texas Tech as long as he wanted. If he could survive run-ins at the salad bar with the school president and various hunting/shooting incidents with friends and strangers, Knight could have survived as many as 16-14 seasons as he was willing to endure. He could have stayed long enough to put his career win total of Coach K's reach. It would have been ugly and obvious, but it would have been possible.

But, no. Knight left coaching the way he stayed in coaching. His way, or no way. He already had left Indiana on his terms, by violating a zero-conduct policy he knew he couldn't follow, and by violating it in the silliest, least necessary way imaginable. By putting his hands on a student who greeted him with the harmless, "What's up, Knight?"

And now he has left Texas Tech on his terms. There will be no sappy goodbye tour of the Big 12, a tour wanted by neither Knight nor those who would've had to give it to him. More importantly there will be no Woody Hayes moment, as so many of his critics expected and probably even hoped. Knight will not leave with his fist in someone's face.

Instead he has left with a subtle, silent finger. Those who love Knight will see that finger as a celebratory No. 1. Those who hate Knight, and there are many in that group as well, will see that finger as an upraised symbol of his defiance.

For Knight there is just one more exit to make, years from now, an exit he choreographed far back as 1994 on Senior Day at Indiana, when he used the occasion to swear some poetry to the crowd at Assembly Hall.

When my time on earth is gone and my activities here are passed and I want they bury me upside down so my shoes can kiss my ass.

I don't like the guy that he knows how to make an exit.

South Africa's Jacob Zuma cancels appearance with Mike Tyson after women's groups criticism

ANC leader Jacob Zuma's planned appearance at a charity banquet honoring former boxer Mike Tyson on Wednesday night has been criticized by women's groups in South Africa, which has one of the world's highest rape rates.

Zuma was found not guilty of raping a family friend two years ago, and Tyson served a three-year sentence for the 1991 rape of an 18-year-old beauty queen.

"It is in the face of this and the extraordinarily high level of violence committed against women in South Africa on a daily basis that this pairing of Zuma and Tyson is particularly distasteful and abhorrent," said the One in Nine Campaign, a group of women's rights organizations.

About 50,000 rape cases are reported each year in South Africa, almost 150 per day. Women's rights groups estimate that only one in nine rapes is reported to police.

They have called on Zuma, South Africa's president-in-waiting, to withdraw from the event and to clarify his position on women's rights.

"Any respectable leader would not have accepted the invitation, given the circumstances," said Carrie Shelver, of People Opposing Women Abuse.

Attempts to get comment from Zuma or the ANC were not successful.

Tyson, once called the "baddest man on the planet," will tour Soweto on Thursday and be a celebrity commentator at a boxing event on Saturday.

Zuma will be the keynote speaker at the banquet, and the two men will walk into the venue together. An auction of Tyson items will benefit children's organizations.

"The charisma on stage between the two of them is going to be electrifying," said Rodney Berman, chief executive officer of Golden Gloves Promotions, which is organizing Tyson's visit.

Both Zuma and Tyson are seen as fighters who have survived harsh upbringings to become powerful popular figures. Both have had run-ins with the law, and have poor records when it comes to women's rights.

The 41-year-old boxer, who famously took a bite out of rival Evander Holyfield's ear, also was accused of abusing his former wife.

Zuma, who is facing corruption charges, said during his rape trial that the woman had been wearing a skirt, which he interpreted as inviting his sexual advances.

Zuma has apologized for his statements during his trial, but recently earned more criticism

from women's groups when he took a second wife. Polygamy is in line with some South African traditions.

Zuma's "statements prior, during and post rape trial reveal his patriarchal beliefs on men and women's roles and rights in South Africa," the statement from the One in Nine Campaign said.

The women's groups said they were "deeply disappointed" they could not protect at the banquet venue, a casino and hotel on airport land, which is considered a key national security point.

Organizers promised Tyson would make a statement during the banquet denouncing violence against women.

At a press conference later, media were warned to stick to Tyson's sporting career, and questions were initially taken only from boxing journalists.

Mark Jakins, owner of the casino and hotel where the banquet will be held, acknowledged in line with some South African traditions.

"There is some skepticism about his rehabilitation and you need to be careful," she said. "The youth are an easy target. They love sporting heroes."



Suns join West's impulse buyers with high-mileage Diesel

The Shaquille O'Neal trade is already fairly well trevled by most folks who are charged with trade analysis. Given his injury and current level of conditioning, he would be a goody fit in a lot of places, but Phoenix? Is there a worse place for him right now?

So the logical thing to do is to ask the West's know that the rest of the suns don't? What do they see that everyone else is missing? Can Shawn Marion really be that much of a problem? Or another. Maybe it was Pau Gasol.

Either way, this seems like the kind of deal that would have been laughed off as improbable if not for the fact the process had already been jump-started in Oakland and then advanced in Los Angeles.

In other words, it's a West thing. When the eighth-place team is on a pace to need 50 wins to make the playoffs, you know shorts are riding up a lot of general managers' suits.

Now the Warriors getting Chris Webber out of the remainder bid to address what Dan Nelson perceived was a potential shortcoming was more odd than it was a blockbuster. Part of that was Webber's unpleasant history with Nelson, but more of it still was the fact Webber isn't an exact on-floor fit with what the Warriors lack. Webber isn't likely to cross his swords with Nelson because (a) the two men have mellowed and (b) the dressing room belongs to Stephen Jackson and Baron Davis, and they've got a good thing going.

But four days later, the Lakers offered a small goldfish bowl to the Memphis Grizzlies for Gasol, and suddenly it's the day after Christmas and the mall has just more.

The fun part is in figuring out what shoe drops next in the West's shopping spree. Ron Artest to Denver? Jason Kidd to Dallas? Suddenly, better isn't good enough.

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