

DAILY NEWS

Voice of the People

Tuesday, January 29th 2008, 4:00 AM

Good sport

Teaneck, N.J.: It was a truly exhilarating experience watching Brian Leetch being honored at the Garden last week. With recent turbulent times in sports, it's reassuring that there are athletes like Leetch who are incredible performers and teammates who work tirelessly to benefit the community. I wish that every time we have to read about an athlete at a strip club, steroids, dogfighting, refereeing scandals or a court case, you would also publish a story about Leetch putting others ahead of himself. He reminds us that athletes can be role models and restores our faith in sport.

Eric Distenfeld

Clifton, N.J.: Thursday night the Rangers retired Brian Leetch's No. 2. He is an icon of New York sports, and probably the greatest Ranger ever. On Friday, I woke up expecting to see a great shot of Leetch on the back page of The News. Nope, we got Plaxico Burress. I love your paper, but someone should be smacked in the back of the head for this one.

Dan Swaluk

Race and sex

Brooklyn: To Voicer Michael Balton: Suggesting that Hillary Clinton drop out of the race and support Barack Obama in order to help "advance" the African-American community is about as dumb a suggestion as telling Obama to drop out to help women.

Maurisa Charest

Bernie's last chance

Medford, L.I.: I'll give you one guess who is the biggest loser in Rudy's political demise. Bernie Kerik: no presidential pardon.

Peter J. Kelly

Overpriced

Brooklyn: This Sunday, Super Bowl XLII will be played at the University of Phoenix Stadium, which is 1-1/2 years old. The air-conditioned stadium has about 73,000 seats, with a retractable roof and a retractable field. Approximate cost: \$455 million. Giants season ticket holders, including myself, travel to New Jersey to root our team on. Soon we will be going to a new stadium with no roof. Approximate cost: \$1.4 billion.

James Flynn

The out-of-towners

Jamaica: How does a football club from across the river call themselves a New York team? Someone please tell me why they are shown so much love from New Yorkers. Can we please get a football team in town that we can really call our own?

Brian Williams

Out of control

Manhattan: The handcuffing of a 5-year-old and sending him for psychiatric evaluation is yet another example of the failure of the city to meet the challenges of educating children, even very young children, with behavioral difficulties. The chancellor's regulations provide that corporal punishment may be used only to restrain a pupil when alternative methods cannot. Surely, a 5-year-old could be restrained without handcuffs and a trip to the hospital.

Lisa Isaacs New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Kid gloves

Somerset, N.J.: Handcuffing a 5-year-old was extreme, but if some had tried to physically restrain him, there would have been hell to pay. I understand why the family is upset, but I'm sure a big lawsuit against the city will make all the bad feelings disappear.

Willard Chartier Jr.

Rough treatment

Manhattan: The handcuffing of a 5-year-old is an extreme example of the mistreatment thousands of students face. Students are often harassed, handcuffed, patted down or arrested for being late, shouting in hallways and talking back - behavior that was once dealt with by teachers and principals. While inappropriate, this behavior is typical adolescence, not a crime. Instead of police, schools need mediation and counseling services to meet students' academic and emotional needs.

Elizabeth Sullivan National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

No respect for the grieving

Levittown, L.I.: An actor has passed, his family and fans are heartbroken and all the press can do is dig for an unlicensed masseuse or some phone calls to so-and-so. He was dead when he was found and in the Hollywood world it is probably the norm to call someone in hopes of avoiding all the press before his poor family finds out.

Liz Nielsen

Twin bill

Manhattan: Tina Turner and Beyoncé will be singing at the Grammys. Wow. They are "simply the best."

Maura McGee McMahon

The best choice

Brooklyn: To Voicers Catherine Brennan and Rita Cushing: I appreciate your views on Jamie Lynn Spears' keeping her baby instead of aborting it. However, perhaps if she were to have waited until she was older to have sex, she would be seen as a bigger heroine, at least in my eyes, as I am a 16-year-old who doesn't see the need to lose her virginity before college or marriage. It's not a bad idea to wait.

Angelica Rodriguez

Not quite

Baldwin, L.I.: To Voicer Patrick Bartholomew: Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone" was not played in its entirety on AM radio. His voice trailed off halfway through the song. The only place to hear the whole song back then was on FM radio.

Robert Nielsen

Wrong song

Manhattan: To Voicers Paul Kokoski and Patrick Bartholomew: You are both wrong. The first song to break the 2-1/2-minute barrier for radio airplay came in December 1964 with the Righteous Brothers' "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" at 3 minutes 45 seconds. By the way, Cher sang backup on that recording.

Gil Schwartz