

Unprofessional aggression: Athletes often battle press

After the riot response to the unbelievable verdict in the Los Angeles police officers' trial in 1992, Rodney King, the victim, pleaded, "Can't we just get along," hoping to stem the tide of the violence that swept the nation. He helped bring peace to a troubled nation.

Kenny Rogers, the Texas Rangers pitcher whose brutal attack on two television cameramen a few weeks ago, demonstrated the kind of animosity some American professional athletes have built up against the press over the past few years.

Randy Johnson, in his first visit to New York to join the New Yankees after being traded by the Arizona Diamondbacks, also had a run-in with a cameraman, who was only trying to do his job of photographing Johnson's arrival in the Big Apple.

The oddity of the "Get that camera out of my face" responses of both of those highly paid athletes was that the cameramen aren't journalists who write the articles that some of the athletes find degrading in the current periodicals.

With the new wave of journalists coming from all angles, like television, radio, newspapers and magazines reporting on the athletes'



SPORTS PACE

By Huel Washington

achievements, as well as their private lives, hostilities have arisen over some of the things that have been revealed. But those two cameramen weren't paparazzi who follow celebrities around the world snapping pictures.

A few years ago, while Cazzie Russell was playing for the Golden State Warriors, a reporter who worked for the San Francisco Examiner, aroused Russell's ire with a couple of articles criticizing his style of play. Russell became so angry that he told another reporter he was going to beat the reporter who wrote the stories. He was advised not to give the reporter he didn't like any more interviews — and he didn't after that, and the situation reached a better conclusion.

A few years ago, professional franchise owners, like Oakland Raiders owner, Al Davis who, having been born on July 4, had his 75th birthday party in Las Vegas last year, had a great admiration

of the press.

Each year, for almost 25 years, Davis would allow the press to ride on the team's charter and he'd pay for the accommodations on trips. Also, he made sure the media got Christmas presents wrapped in silver and black, the team's colors.

This practice was reported in a national magazine and the National Football League questioned the media's practice to lean more toward the Raiders more than the opponents. Of course, local newspapers and magazines aren't impartial anyway. However, the Raiders stopped the gifts and also made the media pay their own way on road trips. Davis also became hostile to the media.

In a country with free speech prevalent, the communication devices are called the Fourth Estate given that the legislative, the judicial and the executive branches of government are the first Three Estates.

The power of the press is so big in the United States

that even President George W. Bush, goes out of his way to make sure the press understands his message.

Some baseball players like Hall of Famers Steve Carlton of the Philadelphia Phillies and Eddie Murray, who had been with a number of clubs, including the Baltimore Orioles, refused to talk to the media during their playing days. Both men played for over 20 years.

Barry Bonds, although he is out so far this season, has gone as far as having his own site on the Web and refuses to talk to the local or national media.

A few athletes, like Mike Tyson, seem to have a field day dealing with the press because they know how today's journalists are — very competitive and they want to have the best stories relating to a certain athlete. Tyson has become sort of a comedian, like Cedric the Entertainer.

However, the Rangers Rogers may have snapped under the constant media pressure, but it is not the cameramen who are the culprits who tell the people about anything a player does or says.

The reporters are the ones with the computers and notebooks who fill the readers' minds with athletes' misdeeds or accomplishments.

As far as some of the passengers on Subway Route 7, John Rocker was a nice guy until they read what he was supposed to have said about them in a national magazine. Rocker will never live his remarks down in Brooklyn. If a person was going to

take sides on the media versus the athletes, take the athletes side.

The media can't do anything without the athletes; and some athletes are willing to pay fines rather than talk to the press.

So far, in this country, the sports fans haven't gotten so wrapped up in the outcome of contests that they have killed an official (referee), as they did in a South American country.

A recent event reported in this newspaper did have a parent beating up a coach for not playing his son enough on a baseball team while the scouts were in the stands.

"Can't we just get along?"

pertaining to sports, has plenty of fans wondering about incidents like Auburn Hills Palace and others franchises on and off the fields. Isn't it only a game?

Or is it something more diabolical that causes a 40-year-old major league pitcher to go berserk on two poor, defenseless, cameramen.

The suspension of 20 games and \$50,000 fine weren't severe enough. How about the rest of the year, like the Indianapolis Pacers Ron Artest. Rogers didn't go into the stands. But the cameramen didn't throw any beer on him. They just pointed their cameras at Rogers and he snapped.

LEGAL NOTICES

INVESTING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS
INVITATION FOR BID
IFB# B05007

1. THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, herein called "LVHA," will receive sealed bids from General Contractors, Classification "A," "B," or "AB," for the following work:

Provide labor and material to complete the Comprehensive Modernization of 59 units, laundry facilities, community buildings, and the complete site to include, but not limited to: exterior improvement and ground work, complete interior modernization, and accessibility retrofit, as outlined in the attached drawings and specifications at Archie Grant Park, Parcel #1, located @ 1720 Searles Ave. (between Gragson & Searles Ave.) Las Vegas, NV 89101, (NV39002005) of the Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas. Labor rates in accordance with Davis Bacon General Decision #NV030006, Modification #2, 2/11/2005.

until 3:00 p.m. local time, July 22, 2005, at the LVHA's Contracts & Purchasing Office, 340 N 11th Street, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89101. At 3:05 p.m., proposals will be opened publicly and read aloud at the same office at 340 N 11th Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101.

2. Copies of the Contract Documents may be examined or obtained at the LVHA's Contracts & Purchasing Office at 340 N 11th Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101. A \$75.00 deposit, by check or money order made out to LVHA, will be needed for each set of documents obtained, maximum of two (2) sets. Such deposit will be refunded to each person who returns the plans, specifications and other documents in good condition within ten (10) calendar days after bid opening. Please direct any technical questions regarding the bid documents to the attention Mark Diaz, Contracts & Purchasing, at (702) 922-7030 or TDD (702) 386-0789. Please direct any technical questions regarding the bid documents to the attention Mark Diaz, Contracts & Purchasing, at (702) 922-7030 or TDD (702) 386-0789.

3. The LVHA encourages Women, Minority and Disabled Veteran Owned firms to apply.

4. Each bid submitted must be accompanied by either: (a) a certified check or bank draft, payable to the Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada; U. S. Government Bonds; or (b) a satisfactory bid bond executed by the bidder and acceptable sureties in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid. The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory performance and payment bonds.

5. Award will be made to the responsive and responsible low bidder who submits the low bid that meets all requirements of the conditions and Form of Bid, General Requirements, and Contract requirements.

6. A Pre-Bid conference will be held on Friday, July 8, 2005, 10:00 a.m. @ 1601 Gragson Drive. All prospective bidders should attend. The purpose is to consider prospective bidders concerns.

7. Bidder must be a duly licensed contractor in the State of Nevada for the category of work included. Bidder must also be licensed to do business in the City of Las Vegas.

8. The LVHA reserves the right to reject any and all bids at any time during the bid process, or waive any informalities in the bidding.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS

Parviz Ghadir, Executive Director

FAMU cutting athletic budget

Special to tSentinel-Voice
 TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (NNPA) - Florida A&M University has cut four of its sports to help balance its athletic budget for the 2005-2006 year.

The FAMU Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the budget that will eliminate the school's golf, men's tennis, and men's and women's swimming and diving programs. Interim Athletic Director E. Newton Jackson said the move would save approximately \$600,000.

Overall, FAMU's athletic budget would be reduced by \$3.3 million, to about \$6.7 million, a level comparable to before the school's 2003 attempt to move its football program from division I-AA to I-A. That also includes a reduction of \$1.7 million in scholarships.

Trustee R. B. Holmes voiced serious reservations about making such a move, but ultimately voted for the budget. He said the cuts made him uncomfortable because of the underrepresentation of Blacks in those sports.

However, noting that the budget is required to be balanced by law, Interim President Castell Vaughn Bryant said that the school would look at reinstating the programs at a later time.

Jackson said that the coaches, who are employed at FAMU in other areas, would be able to keep their other positions with the university. He said that they had offered to coach the teams for free.

He also said that the school would either honor the scholarships of the affected athletes or release them to attend and compete at other schools. NCAA rules would allow them to immediately transfer and compete at another school in the same sport that was eliminated here. He said that less than 40 students would be affected by the elimination.

"We all know that part of straightening out our fiscal situation is going to be painful," said Trustee Al Cardenas. Again citing the legal requirement for a balanced budget, he added, "But we need to get our affairs in order so that our alumni and

boosters will feel comfortable in giving money to the university."

Another part of the plan would see less traveling for FAMU's "Marching 100." Traditionally, travel for the 400-plus member band came out of the school's athletic budget. However, that funding will now come from somewhere else.

But university officials say that will not affect the band's appearances at the Atlanta Classic against Tennessee State and the Florida Classic in Orlando, against Bethune-Cookman.

Jackson and Bryant were commended by the board for making the tough decision necessary to balance the budget.

CHURCHES

Abundant Word Church
 Pastor Ray Grant
 732 W. Miller Ave.
 (702) 391-4105
 Service Time
 Sundays 8 a.m.

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED

The Las Vegas Valley Water District

MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES!

- PRESERVE PROGRAM SENIOR SPECIALIST - VOLUNTEER**
 Dvlps, implmnts, & manages the Vol Prgm for the Springs Preserve. Coord with Preserve mgrs and staff to identify vol needs & opportunities; mrkts vol opportunities to interest grps & the pub; coord outreach activities to recruit vol's from diverse communities, org's and disciplines; plans, schedules and coord vol assign's; dvlps & conducts new vol orientation & trng prgms; dvlps, implements & administers vol eval, rtrtion & recognition sys.

Req's grad from a 4yr coll or univ w/ a mjr in museum studies, educ, communications, mrktg, publ rltns, or a rel fld; + 5 yrs of increasingly resp prgm mgmt, dvlpmnt or coord exp for vol prgms in a museum, cultural or publ attrac venue, at least 2 yrs of which were at the lvl of Pres Prgm Spectrl; or an equivlnt comb of trng & exp. A Mstr's deg in museum studies, museum mgmt or a rlvt field is desired but not req'd.

Salary: \$41,537 - \$58,094 yr, DOQ + gen bnfts pkg. Filing deadline: Open till filled.
- MANAGEMENT ANALYST**
 Seeking highly motivated indiv to perform variety of prof'l analytical & research duties. Ideal candidate will have exp, knlg & skills in more than one of the following areas: govt affairs coverage, spl evnts coord, research & analysis, rpt writing, presentation dvlpmnt, & supprt to pub participation efforts such as citizen committees or prgs involving complex tech'l/policy issues.

Req's grad 4yr coll/univ w/maj coursework in bus or pub admin or closely related fld; & 3 yrs prof exp performing mgmt & policy analysis, intergovtl relations, grants mgmt & similar prog dvlpmnt responsibilities involving analysis & dvlpmnt of rpts, presentations & other written materials; or equiv combo T&E. Exp in govt or pub util setting is highly desirable.

Salary: \$62,254 - \$70,035 yr, DOE, + xlnr bnfts pkg. Filing deadline: 8am Mon 7/18/05.

The application package for any of the above positions may be obtained from:
 Las Vegas Valley Water District, Human Resources Dept., 1001 S. Valley View Blvd.,
 Las Vegas, NV 89153, or downloaded from our website at www.lvwwd.com.
 Faxes and resumes will not be accepted in lieu of the required application package.

www.lvwwd.com