

# SACRAMENTO SPECTATOR

**Y**es there's trouble my friends, right here in River City — but nothing about youngsters popping Sen-Sen or playing pool after school. It's about a possible full-scale meltdown for the Democrat statewide ticket. Your *Spectator's* many friends familiar with Donkey doings tell an unpretty tale — unless you're a Republican. So: a brief rundown, as heard over liberal libations at mostly liberal watering holes around town.

**G**ubernatorial nominee Phil Angelides loathes Steve Westly. Angelides, already thinking the state controller a rank opportunist for his cozying up to Schwarzenegger during the governor's post-recall "honeymoon," believes Westly's attack ads in the Primary were both "below the belt" and "border-line racist."

**W**estly returns the sentiment with gusto. He's described Angelides to friends as a "worn-out political hack," stuck in 1970s liberalism. While he and Angelides will certainly appear at the requisite number of "unity" events, most neutral observers I spoke with assume Westly will vote for Schwarzenegger and at least one or two other statewide GOP nominees.

**I**t isn't much rosier down the Democrat ticket. Republicans believe John Garamendi, the donkey banner-carrier for lieutenant

governor, holds no fixed convictions beyond self-advancement (a more charitable view of him than many Democrats hold).

**F**or his part, Garamendi, who considers Angelides a sure loser in November, can, because of his personal wealth, run a campaign totally separate from the top of the ticket. This news does not make Angelides' day, but should make for interesting consideration in the McClintock camp. Democrats think they can make a



little hay by pointing out policy differences between Schwarzenegger and McClintock. But the GOP Gov.-Lt. Gov. "ticket" — united, with a grudging respect and even some personal warmth between the two candidates — plans to turn the tables, making Garamendi respond to the Angelides platform, particularly on fiscal matters.

**O**n to the contest for insurance commissioner, pitting GOP nominee Steve Poizner against Lt. Governor Cruz "Mecha" Bustamante. Top Democrats view it, quite simply, as an un-

winnable disaster. They don't want to talk about it, and most certainly don't want to fund it. Things could grow ugly enough for Mecha-Cruz to play the race card against his own Party come the fall as explanation for his shortage of funds.

**L**ast and certainly not least is attorney general. Democrat angst here is not so much that their nominee, Jerry Brown, is a likely loser. The concern is that Brown, being by far the most recognizable name, and arguably the most interesting personality on their ticket, will "suck up all the oxygen in the room," which is politico-speak for hog the limelight and get all the attention.

**I**f that occurs, it would give the GOP ticket, especially Republican nominee Chuck Poochigian, an opening to make the election a referendum on Brown's tenure as governor. This in turn would highlight matters the Democrats dearly wish to keep away from the voters' attention: Rose Bird, Diamond Lanes, the Medfly, etc., with unpleasant consequences for the entire ticket.

**A** third house member said he'd heard "any number of [plausible] scenarios" for a governor-on-down GOP victory, he had "yet to hear a believable one that points to a Democrat victory." This turnabout from last spring, with Democrats fretting and setting their hair on fire, has your *Spectator* enjoying his *mojitos* even a little more than usual this summer.

— A.P.C.



# The Working Press

## One woman, one choice, one time.

*Feminists cheer women for taking high-profile media jobs, then jeer them for leaving them.*

GEORGE NEUMAYR

FEMINISTS CHEERED the *San Jose Mercury News* for naming its first female sports editor, Rachel Wilner. The *Mercury News* announced the appointment in June, noting with dismay that Wilner joins a distressingly small group of female sports editors across the country. At the 435 newspapers in the U.S., "only 14" women "have the top sports job," the *Mercury News* reported. Other newspapers with female sports editors include: the *Seattle Times*, the *Kansas City Star*, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, and the *Raleigh News and Observer*.

The *Merc's* story on the appointment chalked up the paucity of female sports editors to "lifestyle issues" (that women tend not to work late and so on) and to the media's favorite bugaboo, discrimination. It found an "expert" to say: "You're dealing with organizations that are primarily male-heavy at the top and all the way through. It's the good old boys' network times 10."

Feminists cheer women like Rachel Wilner for taking high-profile media jobs, then jeer them for leaving them. Ask Elizabeth Vargas. She ran into a storm of feminist criticism after she announced in May that she was leaving "ABC World News Tonight's" anchor chair due to pregnancy and a desire to spend more time with her family. She has really let the team down. "Some women disappointed in ABC's Vargas," ran one headline. So much for "choice."

Some feminist leaders, however, took the tack of assailing ABC for not setting up a special schedule for pregnant news anchors. "We see it as a demotion," snarled Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation. "We're worried. Is this a return to the days when it was tougher for women to get ahead?"

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Smeal and other feminist leaders fired off a letter to ABC executives, demanding that they in effect prevent Vargas from leaving (Smeal and company refuse to believe that Vargas wants to spend more time with her children and think ABC forced her out).

"This clear demotion signals a dispiriting return to the days of discrimination against women that we thought were behind us," read the letter as reported by *Associated Press*. The letter also demanded that ABC establish a work schedule sensitive to the needs of working mothers.

Kim Grandy, president of the National Organization for Women, blasted ABC for "eliminating two of the country's most visible women role models." Grandy was referring to Vargas and Geena Davis, the actress who played the president in the axed show, "Commander in Chief."

Meanwhile, pepping up feminist spirits, Katie Couric is set to assume the anchorman's chair of Dan Rather, who has let it be known he remains "confused" by the uproar over his use of forged documents against George Bush. O.J.-like, Rather still searches for the real ones.



The California Legislature is capable of passing laws on anything, no matter how trivial, provided the legislation moves the ball down field for the left. In May, the Assembly felt a need to shore up the rights of "student journalists," passing a law preventing public school officials from "censoring" content in student newspapers.

Democrat Assemblyman Leland Yee said he introduced the legislation after students informed him that a federal appeals court decision, *Hosty v. Carter*, could jeopardize their newspapers. *Hosty* held that college