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## Mudslinging in NYC, plus an election in Calif.



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### CLASHING

Just what we love over here at The Heat Index: a good, old-fashioned, eye-gouging, nose-squeezing, lead pipe-on-the-noggin get-together.

Nyuk! Nyuk!

You might expect **Larry**, **Curly** and **Moe** to jump out of the page at you, but this one is a tango for two: **Lisa Olson** of the *New York Daily News* and the Diamondbacks' **Raul Mondesi**.

Mondesi last week implied his former manager, the Yankees' **Joe Torre**, played the race card - and if he thought that would be a one-day story, he forgot about the bulldog-ette of Gotham City.

"If Raul Mondesi has any decency running through his overpumped body, he'll back down and apologize," Olson wrote.

The racist theory, she said, is ludicrous, calling it "damaging nonsense propagated by a player whose credibility is below sea level."

Olson, who graduated from Shadow Mountain High and Northern Arizona, wonders why Mondesi didn't talk to Torre man to man. And don't worry, she'll let you know that answer if you can't figure it out: "It's so much easier to cast baseless slurs from thousands of miles away."

When Round 2 starts, Heat wouldn't want to be the third one in this ring.

### CROWDED

#### It's a slam dunk

If nominated, Heat will not run; if elected, Heat will take the money and run . . .

We usually like to leave the politicking to the know-it-alls, but what the hey. We'll vote early and often for **Nathan Whitecloud Walton** as the governor of California. Any kid of **Bill Walton's** has the No. 1 qualification a politico needs: a love of the spoken word.

Gov. Nate told The Heat Index how it evolved:

"We were sitting around talking politics, which is a pretty big topic of conversation at home, and my stepmom and dad said, 'You could do a better job than **Arnold Schwarzenegger**.' I said no, but they said it would be fun. Where else could I run for governor with so little entry requirements?"

"We need all the Lakers fans and Arizona fans out here to vote."

He's not expecting a miracle at the polls, and he said he would like to at least get more votes than pint-sized **Gary Coleman**.

So what about this Whitecloud thing?

"I was born on a farm, and my mother, who is one-quarter Native American, came outside and saw a white cloud hovering over the house," he said.

## NAME GAME

### Terms of endearment

The Heat's been called worse, so we can see why fullback **Dan Kreider** of the Steelers doesn't mind being known as Cement Head.

"When you think about cement, you think about someone who's not too smart, but obviously it has to do with how hard your head is," Kreider told reporters. "Hey, I'll take it."

**Craig Wolfley** is the Steelers announcer who gave old Cement Head the moniker. Wolfley is the brother of former Cardinals player **Ron Wolfley**, who wishes he would have had a cement head when he played. If so, he might not have suffered 23 concussions.

Anyway, we like Kreider's attitude. We'd like to offer a couple terms of endearment of our own:

**Leonard Davis:** Pancake House. Easy now, big boy. This refers to blocking, not that stack of hotcakes you're planning to wolf down tonight.

**Mark Grace:** Leadfoot. You might think this is about Grace's quicksand running style. No way. He just drives fast so he can get to the ballpark in plenty of time to ponder his disabled list status.

### Numbers game

**0** Bottom line of Professional Women's Bowling Association, which canceled its fall tour.

**100** Percent rise in hockey interest across United States after **Herb Brooks** led 1980 Olympic team to victory.

**0** Common-sense quotient in people who bet on preseason football games.

### Tony: A tiger in

Royals stripes

There's throwing at somebody, then there's throwing *at* somebody. Kansas City manager **Tony Peñ̄a** was irate that Devil Rays pitcher **Jesus Colome** threw behind the Royals' **Aaron Guiel** on Sunday.

"If they're going to keep doing this, somebody is going to get hurt and going to get hurt bad," Peñ̄a told reporters. "I want you to know I won't forget about this one ... somebody's going to get it."

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