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MICHAEL SNEED

Scoopville . . .

July 16, 2003

BY MICHAEL SNEED SUN-TIMES COLUMNIST

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Sneed is told Mayor Daley signed a petition to reinstate Buck Weaver, the disgraced third baseman who was ousted from baseball during the 1919 Black Sox scandal, back into into the rolls of the major leagues. To wit, Daley signed the petition being circulated by Weaver's nieces--ages 77 and 89--during Tuesday's All-Star game.

Q. What is the Average IQ?  
 80    100    130  
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Weaver, who claimed he was innocent and did not try to fix the World Series, was ousted along with seven others because he refused to squeal on his teammates.

More Scoops . . .

Watch for the tragic Lincoln Park porch collapse, which killed 13 young people, to raise the specter of a critical study of the City Building Department commissioned a decade ago by the city building commissioner . . . and then buried.

\*To wit: Sneed hears the study, which was commissioned in the early 1990s, not only slammed the Building Department, but blasted the quality of the inspection crews.

\*The upshot: The study, which was given to an outside consultant because of the urban renewal explosion, cost \$100,000 and was completed in several months.

\*The flipshot: "The report was useless," said a City Hall source. "The department was entitled to be criticized, but it was a terrible investigation. It was full of mistakes and inconsistencies. It was like a blind man wandering in a snowstorm."

\*The buckshot: Watch for critics of the city's Building Commission to use this

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study to wage war. Will this study become part of the Lincoln Park court battles aiming their guns at the city?

Stay tuned.

### **Dugout dirt . . .**

Dateline: The Pitcher's Mound . . . White Sox pitcher **Esteban Loaiza's** wife, **Ashley**, is over the moon her hubby was chosen the starting pitcher in the All-Star game.

\*\*The chat: "It seems surrealistic," she said. "We're still in shock. We threw a surprise party for him last night [Sunday] . . . We had a mariachi band and fajitas. . . . He [Loaiza] wants to scream. He wants to cry. He keeps saying, 'Can you believe it? I'm the starter for the game.' " P.S.: At last peek, 35 members of the Loaiza family were there.

### **An All-Star item . . .**

Syndicated columnist **George Will**, a baseball fan who hit town to catch the All-Star game, was so impressed by his drive through the city . . . he requested an interview with **Mayor Daley**--and got it.

### **\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ . . .**

GOP senatorial hopeful **Jack Ryan**, a wealthy investment banker who gave up a big bucks job to teach inner-city kids, has recruited big bucks businessmen to man his finance committee: former Secretary of Education **Bill Bennett**; **Michael Birck**, CEO of Tellabs Inc.; **Pat Daly**, chairman of Daly Group; **Bruce Rauner** of GTCR Golder Rauner; Goldman Sachs CEO **Hank Paulson**; and Best Buy chairman **Dick Schulze**.

### **What a compliment!**

Veteran actress **Jane Powell**, who is currently appearing in the **Hal Prince** play "Bounce," compared **Rich Melman's** Petterino's to the legendary Sardi's in New York. Not bad.

### **Zoo news . . .**

It was just too, too at the zoo zoo, when the hottest ticket in town--the Lincoln Park Zoo Ball--turned out to be the coolest place in town Friday night. (Word is 200 people were clamoring for tickets to no avail.) Those sporting masks at the Masquerade Ball under the circus tent were former U.S. Labor Secretary **Lynn Martin** and hubby, Federal Judge **Harry Leinenweber**; Federal Judge **Ilana Rovner** and hubby, **Dr. Richard Rovner**; U.S. Senate hopeful **Jack Ryan**; attorneys **Ted Tetzlaff** and **Steve Molo**; Chief Criminal Court Judge **Paul Biebel**; Illinois Film czarina **Brenda Sexton**; bond baroness **Diane O'Connell**, and **Dick** and **Michelle Klarchek**, whose tablemates opted to wear their white tux jackets in memory of the mega-million bash Dick tossed in Palm Beach earlier this year to celebrate his marriage, don'tchaknow.

### **Sneedlings . . .**

**Michael Flatley**, 45; **Phoebe Cates**, 40; **Will Ferrell**, 36; **Ruben Blades**, 55; **Corey Feldman**, 32; Live's **Ed Kowalczyk**, 32, and **Richard Colombik**, 50.

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