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Letters to the Editor

I Tried to Draft Richardson and His Fast Ball

A RECENT EDITION of the Boston Globe carried a wire service article that challenged some of Gov. Bill Richardson's biographical information. Specifically, the author questioned whether he had actually been drafted by the Athletics as a pro-baseball prospect.

The piece went on to say that all the scouts who could have decided the truth of the matter had passed away. Thus, some doubt was planted in the reader's mind.

Well, I ... am very much alive, and I have quite vivid recollections— as a scout for Houston— of seeing Richardson pitch at the Middlesex School in Concord, Mass. ... Richardson, a righty, had a very loose, live arm, a fluid delivery and showed an exceptional moving fast ball. At this level he completely overpowered the opposition. ...

A supervisory scout came in to see Richardson and agreed that he was a definite prospect. I was authorized to offer a signing bonus in the amount of \$25,000— a substantial amount at that time ... and I had at least two conversations with his dad.

He finally conveyed to me that his son's baseball career should be placed on hold until Richardson completed college. ...

I know that young Richardson went to Tufts University after Middlesex and became intensely scouted by a number of major league teams. ...

I retired from baseball in 1994, and my player records and notes are long since gone. But my memory of outstanding players is strong, and for me Richardson was one heck of a big league prospect and thus was undoubtedly drafted by some club, only not mine. ...

Hope this letter answers any doubting Thomases.

JACK JOHNSTON

Arlington, Mass.

King George Revisited

... IN 1776, this country ... was tired of "taxation without representation" and couldn't stand for another minute the fact that King George III thought he could do what he wanted to the colonists, when he

wanted, and without worry of consequences.

Sort of reminds us of what's happening today with the king of our empire. Trump up a war, authorize eavesdropping and torture, and he insulates himself from the "common man."...

Yep, we've come full circle. I'm throwing my tea into the sea.

BOB HUBBERT

Los Lunas

Make Depot a Priority

THE ARTICLE "This Place is a Dump" by Toby Smith clearly shows where the priorities of our city lie.

How can we discuss the increasingly "hot" East of Downtown or discuss a new Downtown sports arena or begin the countdown to a New Mexico spaceport or complain that not enough tourists come here—when there is no train station for those who pass through here by rail?

What happened to the insurance payout for our beautiful but destroyed by fire old station? Did that settlement find its way into the new Alvarado bus depot? How can we spend money on Rail Runner stations and not have working (toilets for) international travelers who witness the horrors of the current Amtrak building?

We have the most beautiful airport on many continents; why not a rail depot to be proud of?

JEFF HARTZER

Albuquerque

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