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Spring is in the air



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The Word p/15

From 'Potter' to tab fodder



PHILADELPHIA • THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008

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Clemens

Clemens: I'll never have my name restored

WASHINGTON. Separated by only a few feet, Roger Clemens and his accuser were never further apart. There they sat, the star pitcher and his former personal trainer, Brian McNamee, sharing a wooden witness table yesterday while speaking to Congress under oath and facing blistering questions. For 4½ hours, both men stuck to their versions of the he-said, he-said disagreement over whether McNamee injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone. Clemens insisted it never happened. McNamee insisted it did.



Students rally yesterday, blocking rush hour traffic at Broad and Spring Garden streets, during a protest against struggling city schools managed by private companies. It was the first of three Valentine's Day protests yesterday and today.

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See the 'Light'

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Mayors gather to tackle guns

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Maybe a Valentine's flick?



On V-Day, protesters are showing the love

Advocates passionate about getting their message out

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PHILADELPHIA. Millions of people in love or like or whatever else will give out gifts of chocolate and roses across the country today in celebration of Valentine's Day. In Philadelphia, they'll have protests. With protests planned from Casino-Free Philadelphia against Gov. Ed Rendell and Friends of Philly Zoo Elephants against the Philadelphia Zoo, the international day of love will become a day to air grievances in the city. "Valentine's Day is about love,"

Sharing the love

While Valentine's Day in Philadelphia may be filled with protests, plenty in the city have stories of love to share. Check out what Metro readers have to say about their loved ones and find out about one special couple on page 12.



said Daniel Hunter of Casino-Free Philadelphia. "The reason people do protests is because they love their city, they love the issues people are working on." Casino-Free will hand out

cards outside Rendell's Center City office this morning and present him with a petition signed by 1,330 people asking him to retract statements saying City Council had "no guts" and was being "extorted" by community groups. No plans for a heart-shaped box of candy, though, Hunter says. Meanwhile, at the zoo, Marianne Bessey will hand out vegan chocolate and literature about the zoo's plans to move its three elephants to a breeding center in western Pennsylvania. "The whole thing with Valentine's Day is it's a very positive holiday," Bessey said. "It's about

hearts, sweetness, candy. It's kind of a lighthearted way to get the message out." Meanwhile, as last-minute shoppers headed to florists and jewelry stores and wherever else TV advertisements said to go last night, activists were slowing rush hour traffic at Broad and Spring Garden streets, protesting education management organizations running struggling district schools. "I guess it's because we love our students and our young people," said Erika Almiron, 30, assistant director of the Philadelphia Student Union. "We really love education and we should really talk about what that means."