Litke: Say it ain't Sosa

By Jim Litke

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Five summers ago, when the

bottle of andro found in Mark

McGwire's locker threatened to

douse the red-hot home run race

that had people talking baseball

once again, Sammy Sosa called

a handful of reporters over in the

He wanted to head off any

questions about the source of his

straight face, then pointed to the

top shelf of his locker. There sat

a bottle of Flintstones vitamins.

"I use that bat for batting

practice," he said after his ejec-

tion. "It's something that I take

the blame for. It's a mistake, I

apologize to everybody that are

sticking to it — at least until

major league baseball reports

otherwise. A security guard

carted away an armful of bats

of his alibi will depend on how

many others — if any — were

said, "and you will see the dif-

We better. The game's credi-

That is Sosa's story and he's

know that. I feel sorry. I just

Though nobody was laughing

SOSA

power, Sosa explained with a

Cubs clubhouse.

Tuesday night,

was going on

when a bat shat-

the pieces of cork

in every direction.

that went flying

embarrassed.'

similarly corked.

bility is riding on it.

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Answer to previous puzzle

A L T O T E L L CREPT

SEAR AREA ROMEO

HOURGLASSFIGURE

ROSS ISU

REDWINE ASPERSE

AMIENS HUTS EPA

MAGIC TONI AVIS

NIGHTWATCHMEN

BATH HERS EARNS

ATA MRED ACHIER

HELLION ANTLERS

INN ALAI

BIOLOGICALCLOCK

ENOLA CLIO OHIO Answer to previous puzzle

6/5/03

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tions, water paid, 609 Turner, \$415/mo.

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- Newsday Crossword **ACROSS**
- 1 Guffaws, à la Variety 6 Finish third 10 Dachshund doc
- 13 __ of Two Cities 14 Cut back
- 15 Irene of Fame
 16 Small samples
 18 Zillions
 19 Dead Sea, e.g.
 20 Line to the
- audience
- 21 Have a tab 22 Radar-gun 24 Beaded calculator 28 Budweiser
- alternative 29 Chuck Yeager,
- for one 30 Mallet game 31 Sprinter's terminus 35 Rebuke to Brutus
- 36 Low point 37 Gls' hangouts
- 38 Use a
- barbecue 39 Cooled down 40 "Later!" 41 Helps oneself to
- 43 Gwyneth's
- mom 44 Cast material 47 USAF officer 48 Nouveau
- 49 Kit's partner 54 Opposed to 55 Knight wear 57 __-six (toss out) 58 Comic Meara 59 Lions' locks
- 59 Lions' locks

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IT'S LEGAL by Fred Piscop Edited by Stanley Newman

- 60 Roulette bet 61 Industrious 12 Spud 15 Business-school one 62 Rub out
- 1 Back muscles, for short 2 Razor name 3 Go on the fritz 4 Pitched too
- 5 Standing-room-only affair
- activity 28 Secret 6 Jones or Jonze 7 Skyline obscurer 8 Miner's strike 9 Director
- writings
 30 Indiana
 hoopster
 32 __ were
 (so to speak)
 33 Milne bear Craven 33 Mil 10 Not yet lapsed 34 In 11 Eat away at (ac (actually)
- of victory
 40 Sinatra tune
 42 Had a bite
 43 Newsom of
 baseball analysis
 17 Old sayings
 20 Lingus
 21 Threedimensional 44 Madrid museum 45 Like notebook
- 23 Worth a D
 24 Kong's kin
 25 Take the bait
 26 Utah ski spot
 27 Suitor's paper 46 Played a role 47 Furnish
 - food for 49 Movie theater 50 General

36 Goddess

- Bradley
 51 Comic Carvey
 52 Commits
- 55 Down in the dumps 56 Numero

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read the fine print.



Baseball spent countless dollars and the latter half of the last decade casting about for the next big thing. First, it was supposed to be wild-card races,

ference."

then interleague games like the one that dropped the unsuspecting Devil Rays at the doorstep of Wrigley Field. What the lords of baseball settled on, ultimately, was having rag-armed pitchers try to throw golf balls to hitters bulked up to the size of line-

backers. They reasoned that if one Mark McGwire-Sammy Sosa duel sold tickets, then dozens of them would sell more. What followed were ballparks with at least one very short home-run porch, NASAquality video machines, batting cages, weight rooms and protein shakes the size of buckets.

expansion diluted the pitching. Still, cynics said all those factors combined didn't explain the quantum leap in power over the last few years. For that, for-

Strike zones shrunk further and

mer ballplayers Ken Caminiti and Jose Canseco blamed rampant steroid use, a claim that made sense since the only thing that swelled faster than homerun hitters' biceps were their bank accounts. Throughout the magical

summer of 1998, Sosa played the good guy to McGwire's sullen slugger. More recently, as Barry Bonds was cast in the role of the heavy, Sosa continued to benefit from the reservo of goodwill he built up. Remember how he chafed at

the offer of a surprise drug test

to back his claims about being

steroid-free? Now, he will need every drop to convince people he wasn't cheating all along. Predictably, Cubs manager Dusty Baker and Sosa's teammates insisted it was an honest mistake, one that ultimately wouldn't detract from his considerable accomplishments. But opponents and even fans weren't

as quick to forgive or forget. Yankees manager Joe Torre called the episode a "dirty mark." Atlanta centerfielder Andruw Jones, who hit a gamewinning, two-run homer the same night against Texas, said that like the blanket allegations of steroid use by Caminiti and Canseco a year ago, it would cast suspicion over every long ball hitter. It was left to former teammate and current Arizona Diamondback Mark Grace to take a swing at Sosa's reasoning

from his locker and the strength "It's weird," Grace said. "Instead of hitting them 500 feet, he wants to hit them 550, I guess. "They took all my bats," Sosa At the start of the second

inning, Troy O'Leary ran out to right to replace the ejected Sosa and a fan in the bleachers yelled, "I didn't pay \$35 to see you play!" But he might not have shelled

out \$35, either, to see the Sosa

who's been slumping much of this season. That Sosa was beaned by a Salomon Torres pitch that cracked his helmet last month, and his power numbers have been trending downward ever since. That Sosa just came off the disabled after missing 17 games and was just 2-for-15 in three games since, including a five-strikeout performance could have used the kind of lift psychological or otherwise-

a corked bat provides. "I guarantee to you that I never use anything illegal," he said.

A moment later, Sosa added, "I really don't need to use that, because I'm a very strong guy and a fighter.

in the days ahead.

He will have to be to survive

what's about to be thrown at him



Sworn Enemy As Real as it Gets **Elektra Records**

The best way to describe Sworn Enemy's new album, "As Real as Gets," is cliched and unimaginative. Falling under the category thrash metal, this quintet has put together a typical album full of mindless lyrics that are screamed in hopes of salvaging some dignity. Cookie-cutter double bass drumbeats and loud palm-muted guitar is all Sworn Enemy has to offer.

Quite possibly the saddest part of this album is that the first track is dedicated to "all the innocent lives that were taken on Sept. 11. You are gone but not forgotten. Rest in peace."

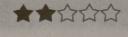
The song is a scattered conglomeration of words that are screeched, but seem to have nothing to do with the World Trade Center tragedy For example, "Time is pain. What's your gain when nothing's left? Alittle something is more than nothing in my eyes. The entire album follows a similar path of jumbled thoughts that

bring nothing new to the table. Sworn Enemy is reminiscent of the

early Acid Bath or Cannibal Corpses and has stayed inside this mold.

The final track, "These Tears," may be in reference to the heartfelt

sorrow felt for those that purchased this album -By Daniel Chapman



Clic tion. then familiar "pu ment." In it cle pulls up

he glances t a moment, s ken the law. in his seat, however, to Was he c woman in th trunk? No, t ing his seat

Mus

The A

last y Sultaana Fi gone to cou that the sta is thwarting gious freed Freeman, a unveil for h graph. Prev allowed Fre on, so that ing reveale

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Freeman

Sept. 11, th

remain veil now a new taken and t ing to acco gious pract stances, the fied in its a

Freeman

of the Ame

Union, pres

(U-WIRE) Texas — Wh Since 9/11, n desperately so why so many oathe us that our destruction purpose in lif fling still, hov active hatred without our re planes started buildings? Ho

have known? The media attacks, and o actions, have a contentious anti-American Americanism mean?

The term of