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Inqlings: Homesick exile calls our snow



By Michael Klein
Inquirer Columnist

Former Fox29 meteorologist **Rob Guarino** works in Albuquerque, N.M. But does he ever want to come home!

From 1,750 miles away, he claimed victory for his forecast of Tuesday's snowstorm. While Philly's meteorologists on the early evening news called a quick ending to flakes, Guarino was blogging on his personal site, MyWeatherLive.com, about a second part of the storm, starting after 7 p.m.

Late in the evening, riding the adrenaline, Guarino posted the headline "THE QUEST TO GET BACK TO PHILLY TV STARTS NOW!!!! (I NEED YOUR HELP)." He urged his readers to e-mail TV news directors.

Guarino told me yesterday that the problem is that other TV "mets" are "forecasting to be not wrong, not forecasting to be right." He further suggests that NBC10's 2001 "Storm of the Century" blown call had made local meteorologists gun-shy. "It's defensive forecasting."

(In a microburst of humility, NBC10 chief meteorologist Glenn "Hurricane" Schwartz yesterday apologized for his Tuesday forecasts.)

Tom Thunstrom, a hobbyist from Royersford who scores forecasters on Phillyweather.net, says Guarino did a "good job of setting it up in the evening." Thunstrom cautioned, however, that Guarino's forecast snow total (3 to 5 inches) was short of the official 8.4 inches at Philadelphia airport.

This storm, for which snowfall totals were all over the map, was a toughie, Thunstrom acknowledges.

As for how local stations are doing on storm-casting this season, Thunstrom yesterday updated his "Snow Challenge," and Channels 6 and 29 were in first place, followed closely by NBC10, CBS3, and the National Weather Service.

'Slumdog' star coming here

Dev Patel, star of *Slumdog Millionaire*, has been cast in *The Last Airbender*, the **M. Night Shyamalan** action film that gets under way here in March. For Saturday's open casting call at the Independence Visitor Center at Sixth and Market Streets from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., producers are looking for hundreds of people in good shape, particularly for people of Asian Indian descent. Info: <http://go.philly.com/airbendercall>.

Musical notes

Michael Tozzi, who programmed smooth-jazz station WJJZ when it was at 106.1 and at 97.5, is behind [ijazzglobal.com](http://www.ijazzglobal.com), a new Web station encompassing smooth jazz and real jazz. Since WJJZ signed off in September, no station has picked up the format. Given the climate, in which niche formats are out of favor, none is likely to pick it up.

Jamaican reggae star **Barrington Levy**, with **Kardinal Offishall**, **Wayne Wonder** and **Ninja Man**, shot a video yesterday for his peace song "No War" in several North Philly buildings, under director **Caesar Augustus**. Why Philly? "It's a war capital," Levy said, grinning.



Barrington Levy (center), here to shoot a video, with his wife, Kelisha Binns, and lawyer Kevon Glickman.

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