

"Real Wild Child" by Iggy Pop (Qwest Field, 4/27)



Real wide child—one-quarter of eighth graders (per state obesity study)

High Maintenance Bitch, divisive new Wallingford pet store



Hearing offended Wallingford neighbors bitch

Google 101, new UW college course



Googling Owen, old college crush

Proposed NASCAR track near Bremerton



Condescending NASCAR snub by Gov. Gregoire

Hearing the thunderclap of hooves at Emerald Downs (season opens 4/20)



Hearing that Enumclaw story, again, about the guy, the horse, the taboo

The new coffee wars (See pp. 39 and 60)



Starbucks boss Schultz bemoaning lost soul



THE PITCHER LAUREATE

The M's new mound man mixes sliders and similes.

The Mariners have hardly been poetry in motion of late; they've finished dead last in the American League West for three seasons. But help is on the way. Dominican-born Miguel Batista, the veteran right-hander signed in December, didn't just win 11 games for Arizona last year. He's also the first active major leaguer to publish a book of poetry and a murder mystery. Cerebral Seattle, which has embraced Ichiro Suzuki as the thinking fan's ballplayer, now has a player appealing directly to its bookish side. As Batista's former manager at the Toronto Blue Jays once told *USA Today*, "He's a different cat."

With Batista expected to take the number-four spot in the M's rotation, fans should be able to gauge his pitching in mid-April. They'll have to look harder to find his slim volume of verse, *Sentimientos en Blanco y Negro* (Feelings in black and white), from MCB Producciones. We found a used copy online and translated its contents. Sad to say, Batista is no Borges or Cervantes, though he invokes both in his dedication. His *sentimientos* are mostly love poems, sometimes brooding and tinged with sadness but always looking on the bright side, and any curves are more likely to describe a woman's body than a pitcher's secret weapon. But Batista the poet still extols the never-say-die hustle that may carry Batista the pitcher through, and even seems to reach out to Seattle's long-suffering fans: "I would like the power to save / the souls in agony / who sustain the hope / of improving some day."

If Batista's pitching follows through on that promise, he may wind up signing books *and* balls at Safeco Field. —Greg Shaw