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**SNEAK PEEK AT NEW
NORDSTROM**
MY THURSDAY, 1E

The Detroit News

Thursday, September 20, 2007 detnews.com Metro Final

UAW/GM CONTRACT TALKS

Retiree health fund stalled

Surprise move to put matter on back burner signals contract deal could be days away

BY SHARON TERLEP AND BILL VLASIC
The Detroit News

General Motors Corp. and the United Auto Workers on Wednesday temporarily tabled talks about creating a retiree health fund after

a five-day deadlock on the issue, sources close to the bargaining said.

The surprising development calls into question what has been GM's central focus in these negotiations. The shift is also a further

signal that, almost a week after the labor contract between GM and the UAW expired, a possible agreement could still be days away.

The automaker has maintained that a company-financed, union-run health care trust, known as a

voluntary employees' beneficiary association, or VEBA, is critical to restoring profits and closing the competitive gap with foreign rivals.

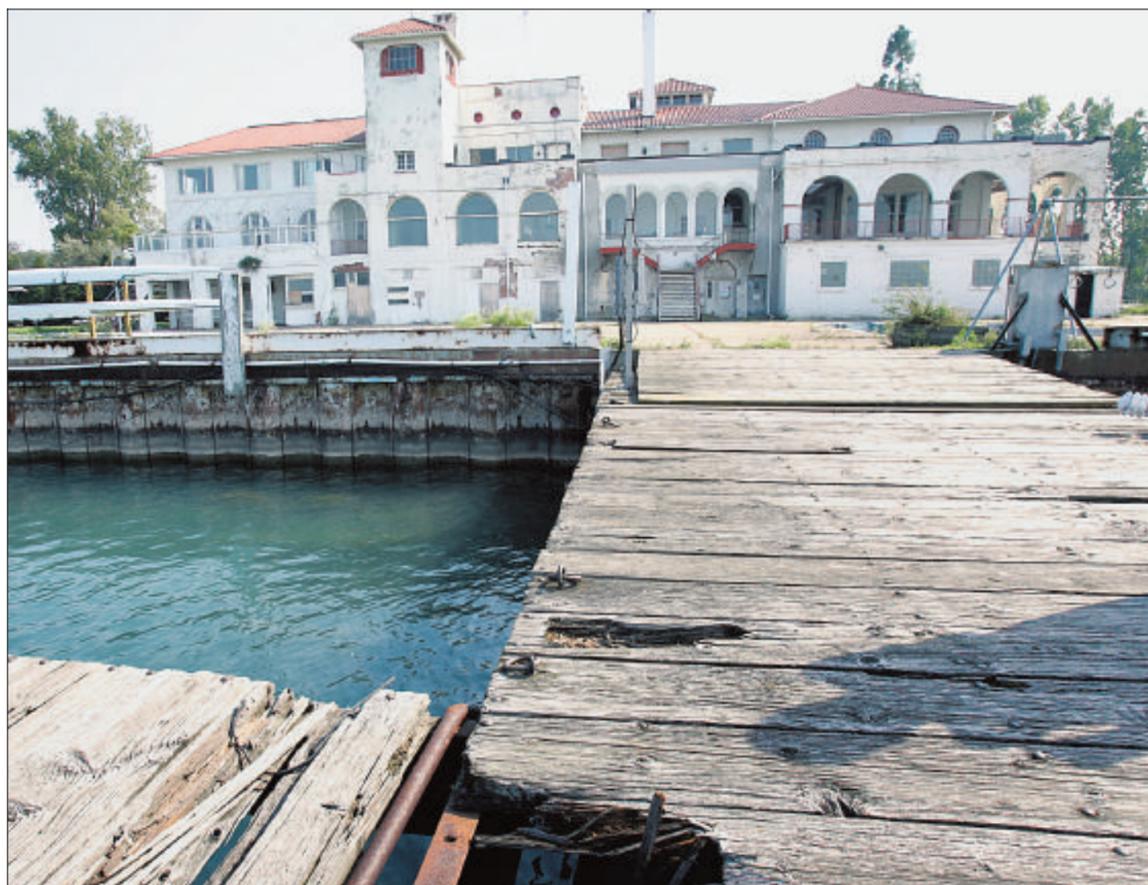
With a deal on a VEBA apparently nowhere in sight, the two

sides have agreed to focus for now on other key issues of a contract, including job security, plant competitiveness, wages and pensions, the sources said. Negotiations ended about 9 p.m. Wednesday and are expected to resume today.

Until now, the negotiations have centered on how GM can pay the union to take over \$50 billion in retiree health care liabilities.

But five days of morning-until-Please see *Jobs*, Page 11A

A SINKING FEELING



Photos by John T. Greilick / The Detroit News

Years of neglect have taken their toll on the Detroit Boat Club, a striking, three-story Spanish-style structure built in 1905 on Belle Isle.

Future of historic Belle Isle boat club becomes murky

BY JIM LYNCH
The Detroit News

DETROIT — There was a time when the Detroit Boat Club building provided a grand welcome to Belle Isle.

As the first building to come into view past the Douglas MacArthur Bridge, the striking, three-story Spanish-style structure — built in 1902 — epitomized a period in the city's history when the sky seemed to be the limit.

Now, years of neglect have taken their toll as the Friends of Detroit Rowing club — the building's tenant for the past decade — struggle to find the resources needed to restore the crumbling structure.

The Friends group, which maintains the building in lieu of paying rent to the city of Detroit, says it can't keep up with

repairs and is looking to move out. The group has proposed building a boathouse on five acres of adjacent Belle Isle property — a smaller home that will be for rowing only and far more manageable.

The roof on the existing building is full of holes, the ballroom is gathering dust and dirty water fills the pool out back. The organization for which the building was named no longer operates there, but rowers have used the city-owned building since its construction.

"There was a city study a few years back that estimated the price of completely repairing the boat club would be \$28 million," said Joe Callanan, a spokesman for Friends of Detroit Rowing and a

Please see *Boat club*, Page 10A



"Yes, it's salvageable. But who has the dollars?" says Joe Callanan of the Friends of Detroit Rowing.

MORE ONLINE

- Read about the history of the Detroit Boat Club in *Rearview Mirror*.
- Watch video and view a photo gallery of the club. Go to detnews.com/metro



Detroitters join protest for 'Jena 6'

■ Thousands head to Louisiana town rocked by charges of racial bias against six black teens.

BY FRANCIS X. DONNELLY
The Detroit News

Nooses hanging from trees. Busloads of protesters. Martin Luther King. Charges of racism in the Deep South.

Scenes from a half-century ago will stir awake today as thousands of demonstrators from across the nation, including Detroit, descend upon the tiny Louisiana town of Jena.

They will hold a rally to protest how local law enforcement handled the arrests of six black

teenagers accused of pummeling a white classmate.

Raising the specter of the 1950s South, they feel the criminal justice system has been overly harsh with the teens because of their race. The teens were charged as adults, not minors, and were originally arrested for attempted murder although the injuries weren't life threatening.

"I don't think Jena (pronounced JEE-nuh) or other places in the South have changed very much," said Detroit Councilman Kwame Kenyatta.

As he talked on his cell phone, Kenyatta was driving through Birmingham, Ala., with five other

Please see *Protest*, Page 11A



Detroitters Joshua Pelt, Kevin McIlwain and Micah Hood board a bus to a protest rally in Jena, La.
Clarence Tabb Jr. The Detroit News

Mr. Hockey faces off with spying neighbors

BY MIKE MARTINDALE
The Detroit News

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP — Hockey legend Gordie Howe says he's being checked by his neighbors — 17,000 times a day — and he's tired of it.

Howe, who has been the subject of a residential association dispute for more than a year, this week won a temporary restraining order barring the neighbor from spying on his home with a surveillance camera.

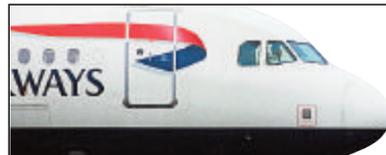
The order came after the former Detroit Red Wings star and his wife, Colleen, on Tuesday filed an eight-count stalking lawsuit in Oakland County Circuit Court claiming Lionel and Karen Dorfman, a retired couple in their 70s, have engaged in unlawful eavesdropping and inva-

sion of privacy for more than a year.

The lawsuit alleged the Dorfmans have had a camera trained on the Howes' home that takes one photograph every five seconds — more than 17,000 videotaped photos a day — and are using them for "publishing the irrelevant, harassing, private and personal information to neighbors, township officials and others."

The Dorfmans said their interest stems from their belief the Howes have used the address for

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COMING TOMORROW:

'JESSE JAMES'

