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Zucker Calls, Fey Says 'You Betcha'

Thanks for Shelly Silver, who kept the laughter viable.

Tina Fey took her Sarah Palin impression out of mothballs for Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and his Democratic caucus earlier this month. NBC boss Jeff Zucker asked her to do it, according to Fey's manager, David Miner. "He doesn't ask every day for something," Miner says. The lawmakers voted for legislation this year expanding tax credits for New York film and television productions, like *30 Rock*. Miner says Fey was happy to be there, but

one lawmaker in attendance isn't convinced. "She seemed incredibly uncomfortable," he said. "It was like she didn't know what she was doing there. Someone said, 'Do a Sarah Palin!' and she did a Sarah Palin." Fey posed for pictures before racing out to finish a script for a *30 Rock* episode shooting the next day. "The tax breaks helped save our show" and its city jobs, says Miner. But he promised that for now, "Palin is still retired."

Amid Downturn, An Uptick in Doing Good

New York Volunteerin' City.

CITY NONPROFITS are flush with volunteers. New York Cares—a clearinghouse matching volunteers with community projects—has all of its 1,000-plus projects fully staffed through the end of the year, with attendance rates at 94 percent, versus 89 percent a year ago. One theory for the explosion: Activists energized by the Obama

campaign needed new outlets after the election. "Obama's campaign mobilized grassroots support in an unprecedented way, and activated a new generation of young and older people who may be inspired to continue working in the community," says Gary Bagley of New York Cares. Indeed, VolunteerMatch.org reported a surge of traffic to its site in the week after Election Day. Organizers are counting on the goodwill continuing, planning service events into next year. "Obama's election, and also the economic downturn, have driven this spirit of willingness about volunteerism," said Elizabeth Mitchell of Learning Leaders, which has seen 712 new volunteers since the beginning of November, up from 599 in the same period last year.

—Laura House



Boxing Helena

Don't worry about the face.

HOW DOES A former Victoria's Secret model stay in shape? Helena Christensen's case, by getting punched. "I'm not really into exercising, to be quite honest," she said at a screening of *The Wrestler* on December 8. "But I realize that you have to do something to stay in shape, so I box. I've boxed for almost two and a half years." She spars twice a week at Chelsea Piers, where she works with a private trainer. "It's the conditioning I'm really into, the skip-roping," she said. "We do rounds too." Isn't she worried about damaging her face? "You just have to avoid being hit," she said, laughing. But I would never really worry if anything went wrong. They just take it out in the retouching."

—Bennett Marcus