NAKED CAME POLONSKY:

I would like to take this occasion boxing for three years for his heavyweight boxing match conjurs to announce that I shall be passing refusal to participate in the up images of the good old days a collection plate around the central square tomorrow in order to procur sufficient funds to enable me to afford the price of admission to Maple Leaf Gardens on March 8. Eight dollars entitles me to a back row seat to view on screen perhaps the greatest sports event of the decade - the Joe Frazier Muhammad (Cassius Clay) Ali Heavyweight Championship Fight. For three years now I have been patiently awaiting this gala oc-casion, and I will not allow my poverty to keep me from attending the match.

the World Series (ever since Sandy the magnificent Yankees in four get beaten by goody two shoes like straight), the Super Bowl barely Frazier, And that's that. fizzes me, I watch the Stanley Cup
only out of patriotic purposes, but
upcoming spectacle though, is not
And he is more of the Malcolm X championship bout.

There simply is nothing nobler, save a good chariot race, than a And the biggest bout of them all of the street culture. happens in just ten days. Beautiful We live in, as any York academic indeed beat the shit out of goody Muhammad Ali, banished from will tell you, a sick world. A two shoes.

Vietnamese war (Joe Namath by when life was pure, when Ed the way was excused from the War Sullivan was a syndicated sports because the poor fellow has bad columnist, and Fred Allen feuded knees) goes up against the sup- with Jack Benny. I must confess posed Champion of the World, my colonial consciousness. Days of "goody two shoes" Joe Frazier. innocence for me do not conjure up Two of the finest boxers in history images properly Canadian, such as get to battle it out for sixty minutes and I'll be there to see it all.

are apparently placing their Cantor, Ethel Merman and Mormoney more on Frazier than on timer Snerd. Ali. I find this most distressing. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind, a mind well endowed with Boxing is the king of the sports the ins and outs of the boxing world. And a heavyweight boxing scene, that Ali shall duly defeat to hear anything bad about the match is the king of boxing. I have Frazier. All is perhaps the long gone lost my enthusiasm for classiest boxer of all time, other than the great Sugar Ray Robin-Koufax and company knocked off son, and classy boxers just do not

never will I pass up a heavyweight whether Ali will prove to be the variety than the Martin Luther victor, for I have full confidence in, King. He is also a draft dodger. He pardon the expression, my boy. is into Eastern religions. He spends Rather it is the spectacle of horror his time on college campuses championship bout. Two men in in my comrades shocked ex-rather than on buying sprees with perfect physical conditioning stand pressions of outrage at my ap- Derek Sanderson. Ali is the sports face to face in an exhibition of parent acceptance of such a brutal hipster. And therefore it is within strength, beauty, and grace that would make Rudolph Nureyev look on all of you, I say. Boxing is no On March 8 then, I hope to be at pale in comparison. No event can crueler a punishment on a man Maple Leaf Gardens if only to compare with the excitement, the than playing the power game in the catch the fight on a screen a grandeur and for that matter, the civil service, or the money game hundred yards away. It shall be a money that surrounds the big bout. on Bay Street, or the pusher game

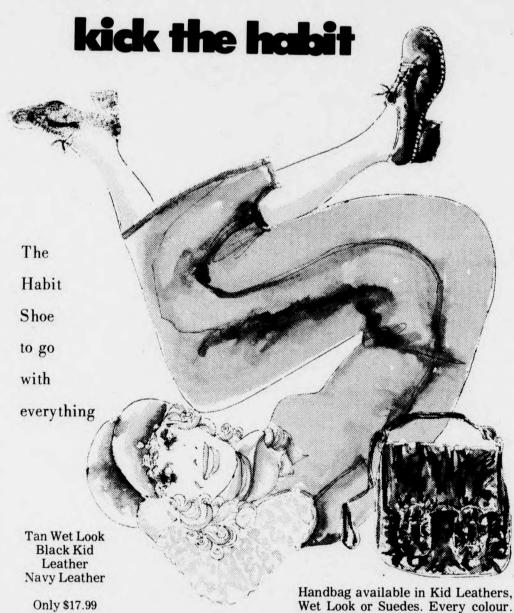
with Jack Benny. I must confess innocence for me do not conjure up my days as a child on a prairie wheat farm or on a Maritime I confess to reading with some schooner, rather I remember the dismay that the Toronto bookies old days of Walter Winchell, Eddy

metaphor of my innocence, and heavyweight boxing at Madison Square Gardens is an integral part of the metaphor. Therefore I refuse

sport of boxing.
Fortunately though, I still can be reasonably hip and counter cultural in my support of boxing thanks to Muhammad Ali. Why Mr. Ali is just the sports hero for

On March 8 then, I hope to be at grand day. And I have full confidence that Muhammad Ali will

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