



**Alan Small**

Sitting in **11 buck** seats which would cost \$15-18 in **Edmonton**, the lights are dimmed as you suck back some of the huge cup of beer you just got from the concessions. The two teams skate before you on the ice.

Sounds like **paradise** doesn't it? The **PA announcer** interrupts, "For the concern of all fans, please refrain from using profanity."

"Oh, bull----," explains one patron behind me, "Why don't you go to ----'n hell," yelled another.

No this isn't paradise, it's just another **Kings** game in the **Fabulous Forum** in **Los Angeles**

Everyone knows of the packed houses in the **Northlands Coliseum** every time the Oilers play. We also know that that packed house is as quiet as **Cameron Library** during finals.

The **8500** fans in the Forum made more noise than the Coliseum fans have ever made for a regular season game, even in a snoozer against a boring team like the **Washington Capitals**.

The fans ride the players endlessly here. **Bernie Nicholls** is called **Bernice** for not hitting anybody.

They want blood. Washington jumps out to an early lead. The fans start getting restless. The Kings get a power play and start to screw up, royally. Washington takes it down the ice and score a shorthanded goal. The anti-King fans cheer loudly. **Bronx cheers** are heard everywhere.

The Kings come back and score a goal that is disallowed, when the announcer says it is no goal, the infamous cher is let out: "Bull----, Bull----, Bull----" The sound was deafening.

During the second period, I move down to behind the Washington net. **Pete Peeters** takes his place in the Washington net. Thirty or forty rabid Kings fans start with the chant, "Peeters sucks, Peeters sucks . . ." So much for good sportsmanship.

Peeters doesn't disappoint. He lets in three soft goals to prove to this reporter that Kings fans are knowledgeable.

Then **Tiger Williams** scores. The crowd erupts into cheer as the Tiger does his memorable scoring dance across the Forum ice. The organist jumps on the bandwagon and plays **Eye of the Tiger**.

By now, LA is in complete control. The fans go crazy with every check. They want to see a fight. Even a lousy scuffle will do.

They are rewarded as suddenly a group of fans in the far end stand up and cheer. Is it a **wave**? No, it is a fight in the stands, as two patrons slug it out, toe to toe.

Before the **security** arrives, a man rushes into the melee to break it up. He throws and catches a few punches as well. The fans scream from where I sit, about the length of the ice away. The fight is broken up and sanity returns to the Fab Forum.

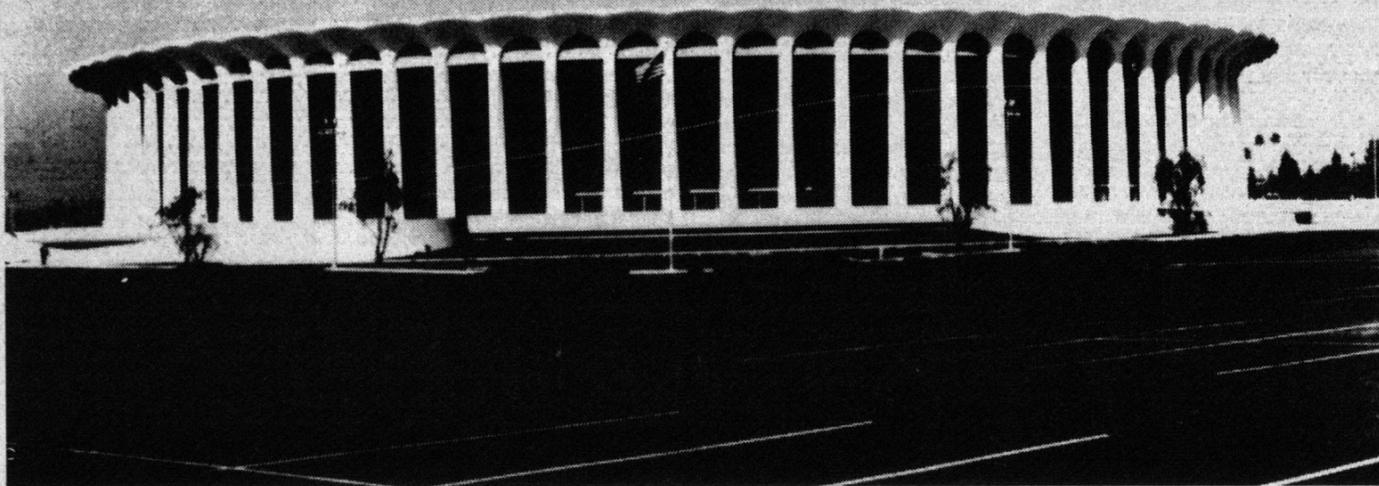
With the score 6-4, rookie sensation **Luc Robitaille** scores. The fans start the inevitable chorus of "Luuuc".

You don't have to be a superstar in LA sports. Just as long as part of your name can sound like a **raspberry**.

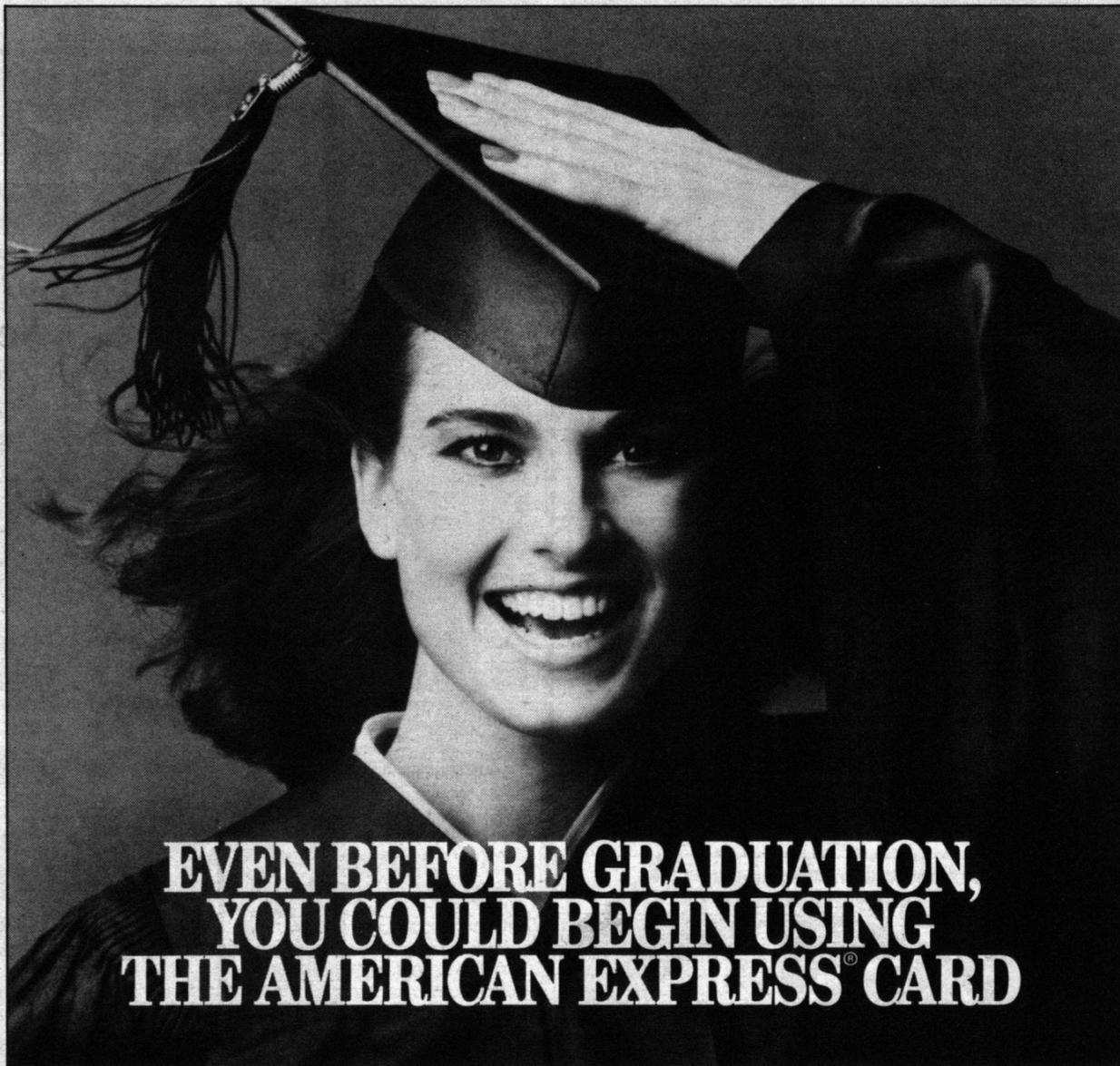
The final horn sounds. It doesn't matter who won the game. Just as long as there's violence. If they hadn't had their fill tonight there's no need to worry.

**Philadelphia** is coming on Friday.

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