

Take pride in Tyson fight

by Ajay Bhardwaj

Mike Tyson is coming to Edmonton. The world heavy-weight boxing champion will make an appearance at the Northlands Coliseum in November. The Tyson-Razor Ruddock match up will make Edmonton a truly international city.

I know, I know, we've had the Commonwealth Games (in 1978) and the World University Games (in 1983). Those two events alone created a high profile for the city. They brought a great deal of prestige to Edmonton, too. But nothing has ever brought as much attention to Edmonton as Mike Tyson.

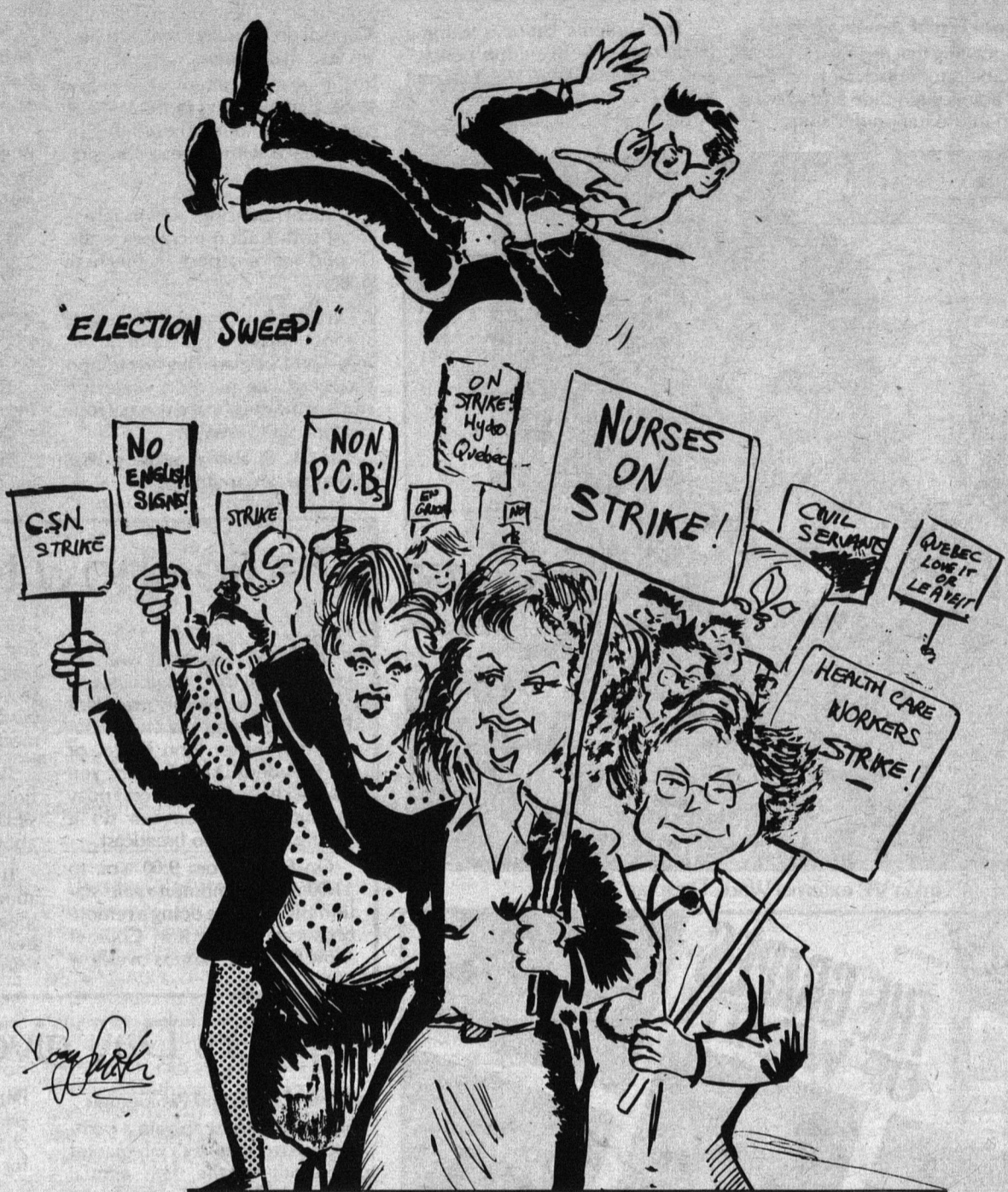
Now many people would say "who wants to see two thugs beat the hell out of each other?" Surely boxing is a brutal sport. One only has to look at the Bobby Czyz-Virgil Hill fight when Czyz wanted to quit but his cornerman disagreed. Czyz couldn't see out of one eye but his crew disagreed. Finally, Czyz told the referee that he couldn't continue and the fight was stopped.

But if boxing is brutal, so is almost every other sport I don't think I have to prove that football and hockey are brutal. Triathalons have been known to be heavy burdens on participants. You only have to recall some of the grotesque scenes of runners trying to finish the courses. These are the same people who later find out that they've done permanent damage to themselves. Then there are the tennis players with knee and back and elbow troubles. All of these injuries are self-inflicted, and may be even more brutal.

To return from that tangent, Tyson is a world champion. As a global champion, he should be doing his fighting on all five continents, not just in Las Vegas and Atlantic City. Tyson has to come to Edmonton, and we should welcome him. We should welcome him just like we welcomed the athletes who came to the Commonwealth Games and Universiade.

Moreover, the fight will generate money for the city (just like the Commonwealth Games and Universiade). Television crews and print media and radio crews will follow Tyson around for a month. That means that they will be in the city in a hotel, spending money on rooms and food and maybe even clothing. And, of course, Tyson loves to shop and he does have a lot of money.

Although the Tyson fight is something brutal, it's something that will make Edmonton an even bigger city of the world. Be proud of that.



LETTERS

Fraternities slighted in story

Re: Ron Kuipers' "Backstage with Johnny Diesel at Bear Country".

I was very disappointed with Mr. Kuipers' article which stated that Bear Country was "a collective of frat boys, girls, and alot of other people trying to get, well, you know."

I am a "frat girl" who has attended Bear Country during my four university years in that capacity. As a matter of fact, Bear Country is a mandatory event for my fraternity: but we cannot dance, socialize, or drink there. We arrive an hour and a half before the doors open, and stay an hour and a half after the party animals go home.

Over 100 U of A "frat girls" serve at the event in this capacity. We work security, dealing with loud, obnoxious people, sit in stuffy little ticket booths, pour thousands of beers, and pick up the garbage, puke, and disgusting mess left after everyone clears out: eight hours without a break, for less than minimum wage.

Why?

Contrary to Mr. Kuipers remarks, it is not because we are "trying to get" something that he know, or because we are trying to be seen. Our chapter uses this event as a fundraiser. In my four years we have donated thousands of dollars raised at Bear Country to various charitable organizations.

It is a loud, long, dirty, stinky evening, and if we were so inclined I am sure that we could find a much more enjoyable way to spend it. It remains, however, one of the many ways that we are able to raise money to invest in our community.

Perhaps in the future Mr. Kuipers could refrain from derogatory remarks against identifiable groups, especially when they are totally unfounded.

Thanks.

Brenda Bauer
Canadian Studies IV
Vice President, Kappa Alpha Theta

Front page wisdom missing

Every Tuesday and Thursday we anticipate the arrival on the front page of your newspaper the profound and mind expanding statements on life, the universe, and everything. These witty gems of wisdom make for superlative conversation and thought provoking discussion. Lately, however, these words are gone. We, of course, assume that this is merely an oversight on your part and will eagerly await the next edition with hopes that this situation will be rectified.

Troy Lymburner, Arts III
Bill Ross, Science II

SU accepts just dessert

Well, we've met our comeuppance. The mighty SORSE crew eked out a narrow victory over our stellar SU squad. We're graceful losers, though, and will be receiving our rewards (desserts?) this Saturday at the Shrine Bowl football game.

After the first half of the Bears-Dinos game, the SORSE winners will be herding us out - in costumes to be announced later -and

throwing us into a pool of green and gold jello.

I think, though, that this will just provide us with the little extra push we need to win the cheer challenge that the Kappa Sigma fraternity is sponsoring at the game. This time, we'll emerge victorious. No bets, though; it's getting cold out.

David Tupper
Cheering Captain and President

The Gateway

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