

Boxed into a corner

Judges' decision tragedy for boxing fans, leaves promoter Don King as only winner



AARON COHAN

It had to come to this. It was not like every other sport has not already succumbed to political and monetary scandals. It is the only real sport left in the planet where two men get in an enclosed area and try to beat the other into oblivion. No, it was not World Championship Wrestling or World Wrestling Federation, but boxing.

The fight of the century that everyone was waiting for took place less than two weeks ago. It featured the best of the best in Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis.

One was getting over a recent ear problem and the other was busy pummeling opponents until promoter Don King could set a date for them to meet. It was supposed to unify the belts and give boxing aficionados a true champion. But no, something had to go wrong.

When the last punches were thrown (by Lewis), and the millions around the world eagerly awaited the decision to hand the belts over to an undisputed heavyweight champion — Lewis — the announcer surprised everyone when two words slipped from his mouth: split decision.

How could this be? The big Briton seemed to control the 12-round bout. He landed as many punches as Holyfield attempted. Lewis made the left side of Holyfield's face look like a burnt pancake.

It's disheartening to watch boxing disintegrate to this — as if sports fans needed something else as bitter the taste in their mouths. They have watched every sport slowly drift away from the sports from which they first started. One-hundred million dollar contracts, championship teams dis-

mantled due to "owner's reasons" and now the sport of ages dealt them a heavier blow.

Was it the fault of the judges? The panel seemed impartial when the judges hailed from England, South Africa and New Jersey. The two score cards that really messed up the whole thing were Eugena Williams's of New Jersey and Larry O'Connell of England.

After scoring the fight in favor of Holyfield 115-113, and watching a replay of the fight, Williams said she would have scored it differently had the photographers not been in her way.

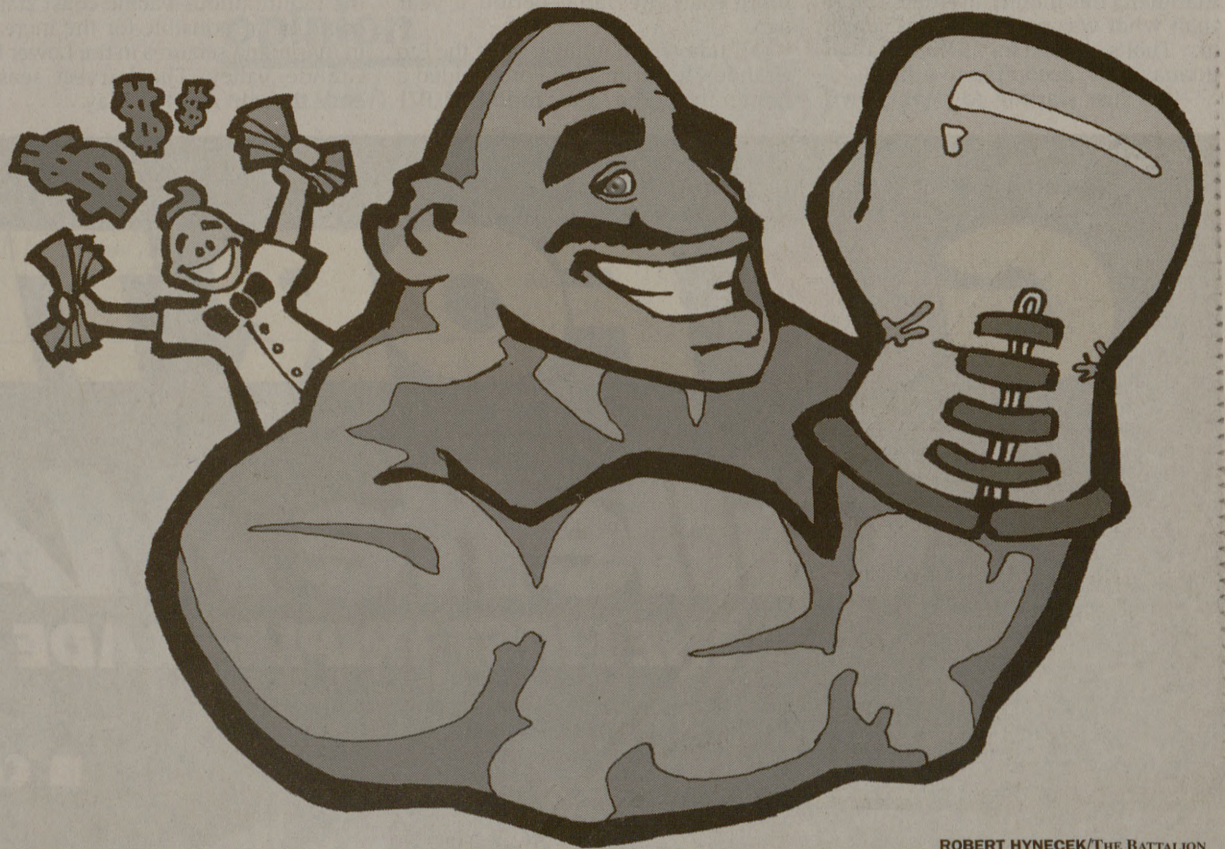
And a few days ago, O'Connell said he scored the fight wrong and should have favored Lewis instead of giving out a draw. But, they did not.

The winner once again is Don King and his clan of promoting gurus. Yes, everyone got shafted again by one of the most brilliant minds in the sports world. Fans should be ashamed of themselves for throwing away \$70 million just to get another slap in the face.

What do the fans get out of this — nothing. What does King get out of this — the ultimate devious scheme he conjured up while listening to his previous client Mike Tyson being sentenced to yet another jail term. King gets his rematch, another lucrative contract signing on behalf of the fighters and a sport that is quickly deteriorating away.

What is worse than this is the fact that the greatest heavyweight of all time is even disgusted about the outcome. Muhammad Ali, who helped mold this sport into the glorious entity of which it has become, said even he knew who the winner was.

"As the former three-time heavyweight boxing champion of the world, I believe I have the credi-



ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

bility to say Lennox Lewis won this bout without question and should have been named the clear and decided victor," he said. "I pray justice will be done, and somehow along the way, honor can be restored to this sport."

It is a shame that the sport itself is now receiving criticism from its own icons. But, with everything said and done, a rematch has been set for September to try and rebuild what has been lost. Hopefully, the three boxing federations will be

able to unify the belts, and each of the governing bodies will not be able to choose their respective judges.

Hopefully, this time fans will not hear Don King yelling "rematch" at the end of 12 rounds, and the sport of boxing will rise from the shambles that it has been decimated to.

Aaron Cohan is a junior speech communications major.

MAIL CALL

Leaders defend preacher, fight to speak on campus

In response to Manisha Parekh's Mar. 24 opinion column:

Righteousness is the Issue

I do not know whether to laugh or cry after reading Manisha Parekh's diatribe against Tom Short. Of course, I am not surprised.

For those underclassmen who may not know the popular sport of taking Tom's words out of context, we've already (years ago) been over the ground of Tom's "anti-evolutionism."

The full statement was that if evolution was true (and can be extended to society), then Hitler didn't go far enough. Short is an advocate of neither evolution nor Hitler, quite the opposite.

The main problem with our friend's column is that she supposes all religion is based on humans as her own. Granted, most religions are humanistically based, including the pseudo-Christian sect called the Unitarians.

What about God?

Christianity, according to the Bible, is based on the righteousness of God. It is not for humankind's psychological comfort, material blessing or any other warm fuzzy. It is not for world peace. Christianity is about the breaking of the unrighteous, into salvation by Christ, but breaking nevertheless.

God will not tolerate unrighteousness. Christians are called to expose righteousness (Ephesians 5). There will be no appeals on Judgment Day.

Her closing sentence, "the truth is Short's message of intolerance is intolerable," reveals that she contradicts her own goal of tolerance.

She is intolerant to anyone who is less tolerant than herself. She is, in actuality, just like Short.

While she claims that Short should not push his intolerant beliefs on others, she herself is demanding that all subject themselves to her own views of tolerance.

This reveals the flawed nature of her tolerant stance. If one were to become truly tolerant, instead of the limited tolerance that Parekh backs, he would have to accept everyone's views, no matter how insane or hateful or off-color they might be.

He would have to tolerate such loathsome beliefs of those such as Hitler, or anyone who chose to break the law, terrorize nations or otherwise buck authority.

Obviously, the complete tolerance that is needed to eliminate the hypocrisy of the limited tolerance shown by Parekh is impossible and would lead to chaos.

In addition, the limited tolerance supported by Parekh is truly too intolerant of others' views to even be considered a form of tolerance.

Jeff Becker
Class of '02

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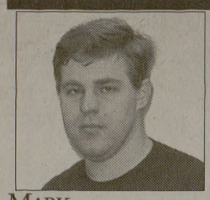
Joshua Hill
Class of '99

Manisha Parekh's hypocrisy has reached its height with her last column.

Americans should hesitate to take public opinion polls at face value

"Your eyes can deceive you; don't trust them." Sage words of advice from an aging Jedi to his talented young pupil?

Of course — but they should also be written at the bottom of any poll that gets printed. Polls, in this day and age, are the tools of people who want to advance an agenda. They are no longer accurate gauges of public opinion.



MARK PASSWATERS

When Juanita Broaddrick's (also known as Jane Doe #4) allegations of sexual assault were leveled against President Clinton, CNN ran a poll stating that 40 percent of the people polled did not believe the allegations were true, while 20 percent did. On the very same day, Fox News Channel released a poll reporting that 55 percent of the people they polled did believe it, as opposed to 23 percent who did not. Now, what does this mean? Does it mean that 76 percent of the American population believes that our sitting head of state is guilty of sexual assault, as opposed to 63 percent that do not? Only Yogi Berra could make sense of those numbers ("90 percent of baseball is mental; the other half is ability.")

Not quite. What it means is that polls can be easily manipulated. Evander Holyfield could probably produce a poll showing that a vast majority of the people believed that

he beat Lennox Lewis in their supposed "draw" on Mar. 13. The poll probably would have only covered the members of Holyfield's immediate family and one blind judge, but it can be done.

Anyone who has ever taken a statistics class knows how to properly run a poll. It would appear that these same people have no interest in going into a career as a pollster, or the methods that are currently used would drive them nuts. In this day and age, a poll of "1015 adult voters" in a nation of a quarter billion people cannot possibly be representative. Also, the location of the people polled has a great deal to do with the answers the pollsters would receive.

If a pollster wished to show that President Clinton retains a high approval rating, he or she would be very tempted to ask questions to people in more liberal locales, such as San Francisco. Someone opposed to the President would probably quiz a person from a place like Round Rock, Texas, where people are interested in hanging Bill Clinton from the highest tree, since the nearest one will do just fine.

Fox News has developed a reputation for being a more conservative media outlet, and a poll suggesting that the nation believes that Clinton may be guilty of a serious felony caters to their audience. CNN, whether deserved or not, has developed a reputation as being soft on the President. A poll incriminating him probably would be counterproductive to the network.

The latest polling fad concerns ask-

ing questions of people on the Internet. While this may get a broader base of people, it is not exactly reliable either. The Washington Post's Website, Washingtonpost.com, ran a poll where visitors to the site could vote for the greatest movie of all time. The final two movies were Casablanca and Star Wars.

Mark Hamill steamrolled Humphrey Bogart, 96 percent to four percent. So 96 percent of America likes Artoo over Rick? People on the Internet tend to be young, and Casablanca is probably before their time. As a result, this poll is about as accurate as a SCUD missile.

After the death of Joe DiMaggio, ESPN.com ran a poll in which people could vote for the greatest living baseball player. Ted Williams, the Hall of Famer from the Boston Red Sox, won with 38.9 percent of the 106,000 votes. However, ESPN could not stop a person from voting more than once, which skewed the poll.

For years, candidates for elected office who are trailing in the polls have claimed that they do not look at them because they cannot be trusted. It would appear that these candidates were right, even when they lost. Polls today are not accurate gauges of the American people; they are the adult version of an etch-a-sketch. Go ahead, run a poll. People may find out that they are a lot more popular than you ever thought. Then again, they also may find that the world is made of snow.

Mark Passwaters is a graduate electrical engineering student.

Hillary Clinton's possible bid for Senate good, bad for New York

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, or perhaps Senator Hillary Rodham — either way it has an eerie ring to it.



ZACH HALL

To think that the more liberal, opinionated and shrewd half of the Clinton duo may be soon running for senator of New York is a frightening thought for any Republican candidate, if not for anyone in general.

While a Hillary bid for the senate is bad news for New Yorkers, it might be the best thing to happen to Bill since being elected president.

Here is the good, the bad and the ugly of a Hillary Clinton run at the New York senate:

The Bad

Unfortunately for New York City May-

or Rudolph Guiliani and other potential Republican or Democratic challengers, Hillary has three main factors in her favor, though none of them have anything to do with the issues.

First of all, Hillary will be able to ride the wave of Bill Clinton supporters, i.e. those who still think the President never had an affair. This crowd thinks Bill has done a wonderful job during his six years as President thus far, though it is more likely they are just blinded by their own economic security and think Clinton had something to do with it.

Secondly, she will have the support of voters who are sympathetic to her being the passive victim of her husband's extramarital affairs. The thinking of this crowd is that if she could handle the negativity and publicity of Bill's infidelity then she can certainly handle anything the Senate puts before her. This sympathy will get her many female votes.

Finally, because of her First-Lady-

celebrity-like status, she will not have to publicize many of her extremely liberal views. She will be able to waffle on the hard issues like abortion and take somewhat firm stances on easy issues like taxes and health care. The public will be more engrossed in her social status than in her extremist views.

Guiliani and others will have to defend their views and policies; Hillary's only public policy and views come from her husbands presidency. She can pick and choose from his policies what she agrees with, giving her the opportunity to throw out all the failed views and policies.

Which brings up another interesting point to a Hillary run for the senate. While she was in charge of health care reform, she frequently kept the public, as well as those she worked with, uninformed about what she and the committee were doing. In fact, little is known about what she actually accomplished in terms of working

toward health care reform.

Furthermore, it is Hillary who is believed to have "misplaced" important White House documents during the Whitewater investigation.

As if these are not reasons enough for her to run, she is not even from the state. Are New Yorkers sure they want to open another can of Clinton worms, this one in their own back yard?

The Good

Hillary's bid for the senate is everything Bill could possibly hope for. To think that his wife's possible legacy as a senator, and perhaps more, could erase the stain he has left on American democracy and the presidency should be all too appealing to Bill. But even better is the numerous instances for Bill to meet more Monicas and Jennifer Flowers.

With Hillary away on Senate business or at campaign rallies, Bill will have ample opportunities to invite "guests" over;

he can teach them how to play his sax.

Or perhaps if he chooses to stay faithful to Hillary (about the same chances as Hillary asking Pat Buchanan to be her campaign manager), she will use him as an office intern. Will Hillary keep a box of cigars on her desk too?

The Ugly

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton and President Albert Gore: both are two possible outcomes of the 2000 elections. If this happens, one would have to wonder where the common sense and morality of a country could have gone. It would have elected two main tumors of the newest American political cancer known as the Clinton presidency. For the sake of New Yorkers and the future of America, let us all hope that Hillary decides to stay at home and babysit Bill and not run for the New York Senate.

Zach Hall is a senior philosophy major.