

PRO WRESTLING  
**TORCH**  
W E E K L Y

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"THE MOUNTIE"

CANADA'S FAVORITE SON?

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## HOGAN DENIES STEROIDS USE ARSENIO HALL SHOW FEATURES HOGAN MONOLOGUE

HOLLYWOOD, CA: On July 16, Hulk Hogan appeared on The Arsenio Hall Show to talk about recent accusations that he was a steroid user and abuser. Many expected Hogan to confess to steroid use and show regret for his past mistakes. Instead, Hogan denied use of steroids except for three occasions when he used them for rehabilitation purposes through a prescription.

Hall began the segment with an introduction where he regrettably and sympathetically said, "Now one of the wrestling world's true superstars has come to discuss the charges against him, in a sense. Please welcome Hulk Hogan." Hogan, ironically, before coming on stage flexed his arm from behind the curtain.

Hogan began the interview by mentioning that he saw Hall interview Lyle Alzado and throw his name into the conversation. When Hall defended his mention of Hogan referring to all the newspaper references, Hogan interrupted and said, "Well, that's the problem. People read the paper to be informed. Sometimes people read the paper and get misinformed... Basically, I was one of the patients of this doctor and then later down the line he got into all of these other things. But, a federal judge basically said, 'Hulk Hogan, you don't have to testify, this trial has nothing to do with you.'" (see page 6 for article by Chris Cruise on Hogan's escaping the bench.)

For the record, the official statement made by the court said the private and personal concerns of Hogan outweighed the benefit his testimony would have on the trial, which is different than "the trial has nothing to do with Hulk Hogan."

"When my name got thrown into the ringer, it became the Hulk Hogan trial and they didn't direct the focus on what this thing was all about, someone who got involved in all this illegal mischeif, I would call it and basically. When the paper speculated and when all these lies got stated in the courtroom, the papers printed these lies as fact, and it hurt me and it hurt my family... It put a dark cloud over everything that I believe in..."

Then Hall made the second attempt of many to turn Hogan's monologue into an interview by saying next, "Okay, so let me do it like Mike Wallace might do it." But before Hall could finish, Hogan interrupted, "No, no, let me do like Hulk Hogan might do it." The crowd laughed as Hall added, "We both have to assume a role." To which Hogan responded, "Right on. Now let me straighten you out." To which Hall quickly added, "Now wait, I read the paper, Hulk. You're not straightening me out, Hulk."

Then Hogan shouted, "The paper don't mean nothin', man. Listen to Hulk Hogan."

Hogan then returned to his monologue and Arsenio Hall resigned to being, for all intents and purposes, a member of the audience.

"First off, what I am is what I am. I am a real American, I love my family, I love my god, I love all of my people that believe in me. And basically this isn't a Lyle Alzado story you're going to hear out here." Then a photo appeared on the screen of Hogan as a kid, what he said was him at 10 years old, and Hogan claimed that in the picture he weighted 196 pounds. "I was 196 pounds when I was ten years old and when I graduated from high school, I was 300 pounds. Right now, I'm about 295. So basically I was insulted when basically the inferences or speculation said all you have to do is take a pill or take a shot in the butt every day to look like Hulk Hogan. And basically I trained 20 years - I'm 38, 37. I'll be 38 in a couple of months. Oh my god, why did I say that? But I trained 20 years, two hours a day to look like I do. But there's two things I'm not. I'm not a steroid abuser and I do not use steroids. But..." Then Hogan referred to him winning the World Title in 1983 - actually January of 1984 - and how he had treated arm injuries with sports rehabilitation that included steroids. Such an injury would have caused him to miss dates, even without surgery and just rehabilitation. But, in 1983 and 1984, the only dates he missed was due to a leg injury and he was never out as long as such an arm injury would dictate. He concluded that was the extent of his steroid abuse.

Arsenio Hall asked Hogan if the doctor who prescribed the steroids was Dr. George Zahorian and Hogan refused to answer, saying it was just his "personal physician." He then compared what happened to him to having every judge in the supreme court accused of using marajuana because Judge Clarence smoked dope in college.

"You have to turn negatives into positives," Hogan continued, "And... if you train, say your prayers, eat your vitamins, and believe in yourself just like I have done, brother, you can have all you want out of life. And I'm not ashamed of anything I've done."

After a commercial break, Hall asked Hogan if he knew of steroid abuse in the WWF. Hogan said, "I haven't seen these guys taking the pills, taking the shots." And then he referred to Vince McMahon announcing a new steroid testing, education, and rehabilitation policy in the WWF. Hogan added, "We want to be the role models for people like the NFL (whose) steroid tests have a hole in the bottom of the bucket a mile long and the baseball and the boxing. Nobody tests for steroids, nobody's checked Mike Tyson or these good guys - I'm not speculating anybody - but the thing is we'll know in a couple weeks exactly who is on steroids, who's not on steroids. And when

you see me in the ring and my opponent is bigger than me, you're going to know he's not on steroids. We look at it as a positive because this is good for us. We got trashed in newspapers by a bunch of people who were insinuating things, if it was true or not, they just took it way, way far out on limb. And now it made us wake up and we're going to prove to be role models for all the other athletes and anybody else who is ready to drug test. I mean I wish the NFL would adopt Vince McMahon's drug policy."

Hall brought up that Alzado mentioned the Human Growth Hormone cannot be tested for and asked if the WWF's tests would detect HGH. Hogan denied knowing anything about growth hormones. He quickly changed the subject to how he used to hit homeruns on the inside of the bat.

Hall asked Hogan about Superstar Graham. Hogan responded, "He just came out during all these drug trials and admitted steroid use and abuse and basically is saying that is the reason his body is falling apart. But basically, there are other wrestlers like Bruno Sammartino, who didn't have any problem working with Billy Graham during the time he was on steroids, putting all the money in his pocket and now have turned into hypocrites, and knocked Hulk Hogan, saying Hulk Hogan has never seen the inside of a church and I doubt if he even says his prayers. There have been all kinds of allegations. But Billy Graham was a top draw in the seventies and apparently he was a big time steroid abuser."

Hogan then made a concluding statement. "As far as kids trying to get into athletics - this is the nineties, the era of physical fitness - stay away from those type of drugs because basically they're all kind of side-effects and adverse reactions. From what I can tell you, I have a wife and two kids, and I don't want to miss one second or do anything that will take one second away from my life to be with my wife and kids. As far as these kids go, if you work hard, and you train 20 years like I do, and start early, you can get what you want out of your body, it's just a little more intense and you gotta' be a little more dedicated. And be a leader, not a follower. Hulk Hogan and the WWF, we are a bunch of leaders, not a bunch of followers... But you cannot use this stuff and get away with it. Number one, it will kill ya', and number two, you're gonna' get busted."

## NEWS & ANALYSIS

### WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

STAMFORD, CT: Besides Hulk Hogan's appearance on Arsenio Hall, Vince McMahon earlier in the day held a press conference announcing the WWF's new steroid testing policy as reported last week in *Torch*. For virtually the entire transcript of the press conference, see page 7 in this issue.

There was apparently a meeting last week, although some within the WWF are denying it, where Vince McMahon told the wrestlers that the steroid testing they would be starting is going to be legitimate and that they better get off steroids or get out of the WWF. This reportedly upset a few wrestlers who threatened to accept the second option and leave. If the testing indeed proves to be legitimate and comprehensive, experts in the field say steroids are virtually impossible to detect given the user is familiar with masking agents, some of which are as simple as a dose of Alka-Seltzer. If that is the case, then the WWF telling its wrestlers that the steroid testing will be legitimate does not mean they have to get off steroids. It simply is a way of telling wrestlers that they better be good at masking steroid use or they will be fired. The only way the steroid policy of the WWF can effectively eliminate the use of steroids is to stop pushing Warlord, Davey Boy Smith, Barbarian, Hercules, and Ultimate Warrior and make a statement by hiring a few wrestlers below average size, such as Sam Houston to prove that using steroids is of no advantage to you in the WWF. Combining a solid policy of not rewarding wrestler's for their physiques in addition to steroid testing would result in a solid policy and a safe working environment for wrestlers. Some wrestlers I have talked to and some wrestlers others have talked to were happy with the new policy, as this is a sign that steroid use will not be as necessary as apparently they believe it is now. Other wrestlers, who have jobs because of their muscles, were less thrilled with the possibility that extraordinary size

would no longer be rewarded or encouraged. It is still very possible, though, that in six months, when the media pressure disappears, that the WWF will return to where it was yesterday and that the steroid testing will slacken in its intensity.

**BRIEFLY:** At the last set of tapings in Canada on July 8 and 9, Sid Justice continued to get an increased push as special referee for Summerslam. On the 8th in Calgary Justice squashed DiBiase in an unscheduled challenge match. Justice pinned DiBiase after a powerbomb in less than a minute. Also at the tapings, Lou Spicoli and Biff Wellington got try-outs, Dino Bravo turned babyface as he will be battling The Mountie to see who is Canada's greatest athlete... There is worry that Curt Hennig's back injury is so severe, he may have to take quite a bit of time off, possibly after returning for one match at Summerslam, which could say something about Bret Hart's chances of winning his first WWF singles title... Sid Vicious told General Adnon, Slaughter, and Mustafa that he was not on their side, making it more likely that he will end up turning on Hogan at Summerslam setting up Wrestlemania. But there is still speculation that Ric Flair will show up at Summerslam, although word is that he is not going to do anything in the ring before September, but may do something with the GWF, but not wrestle, and he is scheduled to participate in John Arezzi's two day wrestling convention on August 24 and 25 (more details on that next week). With Summerslam the 26th, Flair's commitment to Arezzi's convention seems to indicate he will not be debuting at Summerslam. My guess at this point is Flair will lie low until the end of the year and see if Jim Herd and Dusty Rhodes are on their way out of WCW's office. If they are on their way out, it is safe to say whoever replaces them will welcome Flair back and he could then return for a mega-huge pay-per-view return match against whomever is the WCW Champion at the time...

### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

ATLANTA, GA: WCW continues to ignore the steroid issue, hoping that they can hide under the covers until the storm blows over. So far, it has worked, which actually is an indication of how insignificant WCW has become in the eyes of the mainstream media. Jim Ross has continually berated WCW for their lack of action on the steroid issue. He said on the Power Hour that the first amendment protects his right to say what he wants on his 900 line and if WCW management tries to stop him, he will quit. Although it sounds like a way to get more people to call his 900 line, all indications are that he is serious about believing WCW's is totally irresponsible for ignoring the steroid issue, pretending it is not a problem.

**BRIEFLY:** Black Blood is the next in the line of WCW characters to last less than three months. He was released from WCW and will likely be working Global's North American Tournament as Billy Jack Haynes... Tony Schiavone was on Jim Ross's radio show and defended Hulk Hogan, saying what a great friend and great guy he is and that he never took steroids... The one-night U.S. Title tournament will be at the Omni on August 25 and the World Tag Team Tournament will air on television featuring eight teams... Bobby Eaton has been challenging Lex Luger in uninspired matches since the Bash in which fans have no idea for whom to cheer since the turn still is not clear... In case you have not noticed, Junkyard Dog has been released from WCW... Bill Apter is working with WCW and London Publishing will be publishing the new WCW Magazine to debut on August 6. Bill Apter now has exclusive rights to shooting ringside. Despite Apter's new alliance, next week's *PWI Weekly* headlines with a story on steroids. This will be the first mention of the steroid controversy by Apter. Better late than never... Ric Flair obviously did not accept WCW's obligatory re-offer of his contract as there was no guarantee that he would not be buried... Just for the record, Jim Herd will no longer return my calls, answer questions, or talk to me. If I said the things he says to the press, I would put a gag order on myself, too... The pre-taping of WCW Main Event caught up with WCW this weekend as Missy Hyatt and Jim Ross talked about how happy Missy must be with her performance Sunday at the Bash.. Oops...

### GLOBAL WRESTLING FEDERATION

DALLAS, TX: The tag team tournament is set for next Friday and Saturday at the Global Dome

(Sportatorium) in Dallas, Texas. The teams involved are: Scotty Anthony (formerly Scotty the Body) & Rip Rogers, Johnny Ace & Bill Irwin, Chaz & Terrance Garvin, Kenny the Stinger & a partner to be named, Chris Gemmany & Chico Torez, Cactus Jack & Muchum Singh, Jim Brunzell & Firecat (Brad Boone), Randy Rhodes & Bubba Fangman, Je Gaylor & Action Jackson, D. Masters & Dark Ninja, Stan Lane & a mystery partner, Chris Walker & Steve Simpson, John Tatum & Rod Price, Dos Azteca, The Royal Family, Wet & Wild (Steve Rey & Sonny Beach), The Dirty Davis Brothers (Mike Davis & Tom "Davis" Burton), The Patriot & Pvt. Terry Daniels, Bad News Brown & Big Bully Busioch, The Renegade Warriors (Chris & Mark Youngblood), The Cuban Assassins, The Handsome Stranger & Steven Dane, Joel Deaton & Billy Black, and Iceman Parsons & Hammer. The first round does not have promise to be classic, but from the second round on, there should be some pretty good matches.

A taping for Dallas television took place at the Global Dome on July 19 which saw Skip Young return and beat Tugboat Taylor. Steve Simpson beat El Bandelero, Chris Walker beat Sweet Daddy Falcone, Randy Rhodes beat Brian Adias by countout, Gary Young beat Bill Irwin by DQ, Royal Family beat Steven Dane & Terrance Garvin, Paul Bunyan beat Mean Mike & Slick Rick, Iceman & Hammer beat Chris Gemmany & Billy Joe Travis, Terry Daniels beat Tom Burton, Big Bully Busich beat Chaz, Danny Davis & Kenny the Stinger beat Gary Young & Brian Adias, Steve Simpson beat John Tatum, Randy Rhodes beat Terry Daniels, Paul Bunyan beat El Diablo & B. A. Dawson, and Chris Walker beat "Big Bully" Busich by DQ.

**BRIEFLY:** The Cartel will feature Cactus Jack & Muchum Singh wrestling strictly as a team, while Rip Rogers will compete exclusively as a light heavyweight, and Scotty Anthony strictly as a heavyweight contender... Shaun Simpson is recovering from emphazema... The GWF has some house shows scheduled for the Cobb County Civic Center in GA on August 19, in Wichita, KS on August 11, and in Ada, OK on August 17.. The Boss is going to end up being Scandor Akbar... Early ratings for Global on ESPN a up from USWA ratings...

### UNITED STATES WRESTLING ASSOC.

MEMPHIS, TN: Monday, July 15 at the Pipkin Building in Memphis, TN, Rob Zakowski beat Sabu, Bill Dundee defeated Judge Dred, Jeff Jarrett & Robert Fuller defeated The Barroom Brawlers to recapture the USWA Tag Team Titles, The Dirty White People defeated Tom Prichard & Miss Texas by DQ in a mud pit mixed tag match where everyone ended up in the mud, Eric Embry defeated Eddie Marlin & Paul Neighbors and as a result both Marlin and Neighbors has their heads shaved (give USWA credit for fulfilling their stipulations), and Jerry Lawler successfully defended the USWA Title against Leatherface.

On television Saturday live on WMC, Embry complained about Dirty White Boy interfering in his business. Dirty White Boy hit Embry with a 2 by 4 and Embry was dragged out of the studio. Then Dirty White Boy & Danny Davis were to face Tom Prichard & Eric Embry, but Chris Candido replaced Embry. During the match, Dirty White Girl at ringside attacked Miss Texas. Embry snuck in and stole Dirty White Girl, reminiscent of The Hardliners and Missy Hyatt the previous Sunday. Dirty White Boy looked for Girl for several minutes and when Girl finally returned to the studio, she was crying, implying that she had been raped. Announcer Michael St. John said, "There's no telling what Eric Embry did to her."

Next Monday night at Pipkin, Doug Gilbert returns to take on "Heartbreaker" Randy Harris, Danny Davis defends against Brian Christopher, Tom Prichard faces Bill Dundee over that ever valuable Texas Title, Jeff Jarrett & Robert Fuller defend against the Barroom Brawlers in a "Barroom Match" where the ring is rigged with bottles, chairs, and a card table, all of which can be used in the match, and Jerry Lawler defends against number one contender Awesome Kong.

### PORTLAND PRO WRESTLING

PORTLAND, OR: Last weekend's television show opened with The Grappler (Len Denton) in a great match with Bart Sawyer. Sawyer was especially good, showing he has a lot of potential. Grappler won

**LAW & POLITICS & WRESTLING**

The June 1991 issue of *Minnesota Law & Politics* features a picture of The Legion of Doom and their agent, Larry Rapoport. The headline reads, "Larry Rapoport Meets the Legion of Doom." And it is not what is in the issue that is noteworthy, but - as the cover boldly lists the following was, "Not In This Issue:"

- Is Wrestling Fake?
- Should the Sleeper Hold Be Outlawed
- Getting the Most Out of Your Toe-Hold
- How Bad Does It Hurt To Be Hurlled Into a Tumbuckle?
- Thirty Days to Better a Full Nelson

Inside the same issue of *Minnesota Law & Politics* Larry Rapoport states: "This wrestling work has made me a better overall attorney, because I'm dealing with

**MISSED MOVES**  
BY: WADE KELLER

more and different people. It's a whole new side of life. You can get into a rut as an attorney sometimes, doing the same things, seeing the same people. But working with wrestling has given me a chance to recharge my batteries."

He should try negotiating with Jim Herd and see if he still says "recharges" his batteries.

Rapoport also talked about the time he first met Hawk of the Legion of Doom. "When Hawk came in here, we just hit it off; he took an instant liking to me," Rapoport says. Hawk, a 270-pound hulk, and his 290-pound tag-team partner, "Animal," asked Rapoport to negotiate their contract with a wrestling association. He agreed, "even though I didn't know a thing about wrestling."

See, he would probably get along well with Mr. Herd.

**SUMMERSLAM: WHAT YOU DID NOT KNOW**

Pro wrestling columnist M.L. Curly of the *Detroit News* has a unique approach to covering and reporting on upcoming wrestling events. For instance, he wrote concerning the wedding at Summerslam: "The wedding between Randy Savage and the Lovely Elizabeth was announced, but the identity of the opposition team in charge of ruining the reception (Ted DiBiase and Sensational Sherrin) is still a secret."

He added later, "Earthquake and Typhoon face Bushwackers Butch and Luke with Andre the Giant in their corner, in which the losers must behave like idiots for the rest of their careers if they wish to stay in the

**WCW HELPING HOMELESS PROBLEM?**  
PLUS CLIPS FROM CURLY, LAW JOURNAL, AND REFLECTOR

WWF. The Big Bossman battles The Mountie in a jail house shock match, in which the loser must spend the entire night getting zapped with The Mountie's shock stick at the nearest prison. Of all the matches, this one should provide the most wholesome family entertainment, according to calculations made by moronic WWF President Jack Tunney."

In a story M.L. Curly broke, he reported, "Last Saturday on Superstars of Wrestling, Savage thrilled the nation when he asked Miss Elizabeth for her hand. Liz eagerly accepted the proposal, and looks forward to a marvelous wedding at SummerSlam. Unknown to the happy couple, however, Paul Bearer, the ghoulish mortician who runs the WWF Funeral Parlor and also manages The Undertaker, pleaded with Tunney to let him preside over the wedding ceremony so that Bearer can gain Elizabeth's confidence. Little does she know that Bearer plans to brainwash her to leave Savage as soon as possible and join The Undertaker. Tunney is expected to rule on Bearer's plan as soon as he determines whether it would provide a positive example for the youth of America. In any case, the odds against a peaceful, successful wedding ceremony have skyrocketed to 4,999 to 1."

**WCW HELPING THE HOMELESS PROBLEM**

Speaking of breaking news stories, Jeff Mullins of

*TORCH COMIC CORNER* by John Hitchcock



The York Foundation takes a turn toward heavy metal. Can "The Rockin' Rooster" and "Axle York" be fa behind?

*Pro Wrestling Sushi* broke the story last week that WCW indirectly will be working to rid Atlanta of the homeless in time for the 1996 Summer Olympics.

"...Mayor Maynard Jackson will use pro wrestling as a way of motivating the homeless to flee the city in droves. From now on, beggars who panhandle, sleep in doorways, and hang out in parking lots will be jailed for 60 days, fined \$1,000, and forced to attend WCW cards at the Omni. Says Mayor Jackson, 'If fines and jail time don't motivate the homeless to get out of town, and if the threat of having to watch Barry Windham, Arn Anderson, and Butch Reed wrestle hair versus hair matches against Missy Hyatt, Jason Hervey, and P.N. News doesn't encourage these drifters to head for greener pastures, nothing will.' Mayor Jackson says he is placing a lot of hope on the plan working, since whatever it is Jim Herd and Dusty Rhodes are doing is 'sure as hell keeping the wrestling fans away from the Omni in droves.'"

To stay up to date on the all Sushi News Service late breaking stories, immediately send \$6.00 for four monthly issues or \$1.50 for a sample to *Pro Wrestling Sushi*, c/o Jeff Mullins, P.O. Box 36189, San Jose, CA 95158. Each issue features ten pages of humor, commentary, comics, and - oh, did I mention gut-wrenching humor?

**FLATTERED BY PUNKY**

Rodney Leighton's weekly pro wrestling publication for fans of wrestling fandom has available, "The Best of Rod's Reflector" from R.R. #3, Pugwash, N.S., Canada B0K 1L0 for \$5.00 in North America and \$7.00 overseas. Order the "Best of" edition and find out such things as the following, revealed in an interview with the girlfriend of J.Z. Travis, a newsletter subscriber, Sandy Watting:

When asked in an interview whether anyone ever thought she was a "rat," Sandy responded, "I'm not sure, but we were in a bar in Chicago after Halloween Havoc last year and that rooster guy (Terry Taylor) said that I 'wasn't safe here tonight.' And Ricky Morton gave me the eye all night. I guess I was a little flattered, but Jeff was not too happy and shot Morton dirty looks back."

To which Rodney responded, "Muchas gracias! Hell, Zinger, one would think it would be an honor to have Punky want your girl, no?"

[Missed Moves is a monthly feature in Torch featuring the lighter side of news and news reporting concerning pro wrestling. If you have any humorous or strange stories or clippings, pkesae forward them to the Torch's address.]

with a reversed roll-up and a fist of tights. Mean Mike Miller came out and explained to the referee how the pin occured and referee C.W. Bergstrom reversed the decision.

Mike Miller asked Grappler how it felt to get pinned and Dirty White Boy (different from the one in Memphis) attacked Miller from behind. Grappler threw powder in DWB's face and ripped off Miller's shirt and rammed him with his own 2 by 4. Demolition Crush and Steve Doll made the save.

Al Madril lost via DQ to referee Sandy Barr in a double blindfold match where the fans helped tell Barr where Madril was. Barr at one point grabbed the referee and put on a spinning toe hold, not noticing referee Bergstrom had on long pants. Madril then jammed a foreign object into Barr's throat. Then Madril leaped over the top rope. Bergstrom saw Madril fly over the top rope and assumed Barr did it and DQed Barr. Madril then returned to the ring to beat on Barr some more. Next week will be a return strap match with blindfolds.

Johnny Rambo returned and pinned Dirty White Boy in a short match. Mike Miller entered the ring and challenged Grappler and his henchment to sign a match against him. Then, in the Northwest Tag Team Title match, The Bruise Brothers defended against Crush & Doll. There was good action, ending in a double countout when Doug Masters and Dirty White Boy interfered. Crush clobbered the Brothers with a chair and all the heels fled. A cage rematch will be next week. The program ended as Larry Oliver battled Doug Masters.

**REGIONAL NOTES**

Herb Abrams held his latest TV taping at the War Memorial Auditorium in Palamento, FL on July 20 in front of an estimated 200 fans. The only known names were Paul Omdorff and Bob Orton who fought in a dark match. Otherwise it was mainly squash matches with The Blackharts getting the top tag team push.

The PWA will be in Shakopee, MN at the VFW this Thursday, July 25 with Lightning Kid vs. Jerry Lynn on top, plus Frank Anderson from Sweden against former NFL player Randy Thorton and Tony DeNucci & Charlie Norris vs. The Punishers. August 12 is the next show at Roper's in Fridley, MN. August 2 the PWA will be in Colleraine, MN, August 3 in Muncine, MI, and August 25 at a free outdoor show in NW Minneapolis.

Heartland Championship Wrestling held a free outdoor show in Ferguson, MO in front of an estimated 350 fans on July 4. Gary "Nightrain" Jackson won his match while the main event featured "The Rock & Roll Kid" Larry Williams & Hoss Elliot beating Vladimir Romanoff & The Russian Nightmare accompanied by their manager Jeffery Emerson Tate III.

Windy City Wrestling held a television taping in front of an estimated 400 fans at DiVinci Manor in Chicago, IL on July 20. Bad Boy Butch beat Sam Cougar, Hawkeye Cody Hunter pinned Lance Christopher, Shogun Assassin lost to Lightweight Champion Mike Anthony, Johnny K lost to Trevor "Don't Call Me Tully" Blanchard with a top rope knee drop, Motor City Hitmen lost to The Italian Connection. The Dazzler beat Kathy T, Frank the Tank

Melson beat Ron Powers, the Windy City Heavyweight Champion, by DQ. After the bout, Melson was beat to a bloody mess by Powers and his manager Joey "Baggs" Baglia, Firefighter Jim lost to Captain Fantastic, The Chainsaw Thrasher lost via pinfall to Middleweight Champion K.C. Knight with a top rope dropkick, Madd Maxx fought Ken Patera to a double DQ in a match where Patera's back rarely touched the mat, Bad Boy Butch got squashed by Champion Ron Powers, Sonny Rogers lost to "Mr. Electricity" Steve Regal when Baggs tripped Rogers, and in the match of the night, The Dream Warriors, Screamer & Brood, lost the Windy City Tag Team Titles to The Untouchables, Buster & Ice, in a really good cage match full of blood, energy, and flying moves. The first referee was knocked out and special referee, promoter "Super Maxx" Sam DiCero, ran into the cage, hit Brood, and counted the pin. DiCero was beat up after the match and did a bloody interview for TV afterward. Mr. Bill, the huge ring announcer, was also attacked and beaten to a bloody mess earlier in the card.

Thanks to everyone at the fans convension in Chicago for a great time, especially Jon and Pat Babler. It was great to finally meet Tom Burke, Diane DeVine, and see some old friend again.

I apoligize for making a pattern of mailing on Tuesday for the past four weeks. I will try to get back to Monday mailings so you get the Torch on Wednesdays or Thursdays again. Thanks to everyone for their compliments on the new format. I appreciate everyone's support. Until next week with a few surpsires in mind, see ya!

"This will be good old-fashioned rasslin'," Fabulous Moolah promised to the Las Vegas radio audience, hyping her June Ladies International Wrestling Association benefit card and banquet at the Alladin Hotel and Casino. She promised her potential audience not the slightest possibility of contamination by modern "sports entertainment," dismissing the vast majority of contemporary female wrestlers, in her best Southern Belle lilt, as "strippahs."

Which begged the question: Who, exactly, would be putting over the old-timers Moolah intended to push

## BILL KUNKEL

### "WRESTLING POTSHOTS"

on her Friday night card? The answer was too, too obvious. This, after all, was a Moolah Fantasy Event. Miss Lillian was bringing back the tough grannies who were stars in my youth and, in some cases, my father's, so they could beat up cute, young girls in cutaway tights. Names like Donna Christantello, Betty Clark, and Kitty Adams were being dredged up from the mists of public indifference so they could prove the intrinsic superiority of their skills and style against glorified mud wrestlers.

I had heard the original plan was for LIWA to rent the entire Alladin Ballroom. Thank the gods that saner heads prevailed, because, even with the room cut in half, the place was approximately 75 percent empty. Of the attendees, I would guess three-quarters were freebies. They were virtually heaving tickets out of the window on the radio show Moolah did, but, apparently, you cannot even give away tickets to "old fashioned" female wrestling in Las Vegas.

Belle Starr opened the show, looking like one of the older ladies who hangs out in the shady area down at poolside. Her skin had a lobster-red tint tonight, however, and I immediately guessed that she had tried to pick up a tan for the big show and had overdone it. Belle was accompanied to the ring by Gladys's "Kill Em" Gillem, a woman so old she looked like she could have breast fed Don Owen. Gillem is a round, tiny thing with a history of heart problems; Moolah was overheard backstage, in fact, commenting that, "Gladys has a patch on her heart, you know; I sure hope it doesn't pop off." Looking like the dwarf psychic from "Poltergeist," Gladys followed Belle to the ring apron, then almost broke her neck trying to get through the ropes, climaxing with a brutal header, nose-first, into the mat that prompted instant titters from the ringside throng.

"Don't laugh," Starr threatened through clenched teeth, rounding on the audience with blood in her eye. This was no work; Belle was pissed. The audience fell silent and Gladys continued her odyssey through the ropes, a nightmare ballet that continued sporadically throughout the match. Every attempted bit of interference by Gillem seemed to evoke the same thrills a wire-walker generates when he or she pretends to lose their balance while crossing over Niagra Falls on a thread of a fishing line. Would this old lady actually survive her latest attempt to interfere on Belle's "behalf?" Starr was working with one of Kowalski's trainees and the match was a genuine nightmare, the styles blending in the worst oil-and-water fashion. The coup de grace was delivered by the ref, who screwed up a pinfall and Belle wound up doing an obviously unscheduled job! Her face a mixture of rage and shock, Starr began shoot-gripping to the ref while Gillem tried valiantly to get back through the ropes without further maiming herself.

Things got back to normal in the ensuing matches, with the kids unfailingly doing jobs for the grannies. The star of the show turned out to be the ironically named, Mae Young, strutting to ringside in a Jerry Lawler-style crown, accompanied by Gorgeous George's widow (who carried the obligatory atomizer), all to the strains of "Pomp & Circumstance." The elderly Ms. Young was a delight, taking wild bumps over the top rope (well, not wild for Cactus Jack, perhaps, but wild for anyone that side of 70, certainly), throwing stiff punches and doing some classic comedy turns.

As for the rest of the show, the audience was more entertaining than the wrestlers, especially the

# FABULOUS MOOLAH RETURNS

## EVENT GENERATES APARTMENT WRESTLING NIGHTMARE

mega-mark sitting next to me who unfailingly urged every face to "pop [the heel] like a zit! Pop her like a zit!" Kitty Adams looked dreadful, as did Donna Christantello, who was being inducted into Moolah's personal Hall of Fame. Even Moolah's match was a matter of supreme indifference to the heavily comped audience - barely qualifying as a "crowd." - with the exception of referee Ric Carter's spectacular bump, which he sold like a deadman. Not that it was not fun to chant "Ref bump! Ref bump!" from the opening bell, but the idea that somewhere, anywhere, there is actually an audience for this stuff is a sad delusion. Forget that you have 80 year old women beating teenagers, this is a style of wrestling that is totally kaput in this country, even when it is practiced by "strippahs." The idea is that Moolah will build a Retirement Home for Lady Wrestlers with the profits from this show, the banquet, and the videotape of the matches. Good luck, Lillian, you are going to need it.

The best thing about the whole night was the dream it inspired. In fact, I think I will tell you all about it...

### APARTMENT WRESTLING DREAM #734:

"You advertised for a maid?" she asks, her angelic face and thick, black hair framed in a nimbus of sweet sunlight.

"Yes," I respond. "Of course; come in."

"Thank you. I haven't much... experience... I'm afraid, but I'm a 'willing' worker, Mr. Kunkel."

"I'm sure you are, Ms.--?"

"Passionfruit. Amanda Passionfruit."

"I... see."

"I've just arrived in your beautiful city, and I really need this job. You won't regret hiring me, I swear..."

"Swearing isn't very nice, Tandalaya," comes the cynical, bell-like response from my patio, followed by the opening of the sliding screen door and the appearance of a statuesque, blonde goddess. "I'm here for the maid's job," she announces, with remarkable self-assurance. "My name is Samantha B. Foxe, and, unlike this... Polynesian piglet, I have quite a bit of experience. I'm sure you'll find my 'references' quite convincing." She smiles knowingly, causing an instinctive twitching in my external occipital protuberance.

I rise, my Chinese bathrobe billowing suavely in the air conditioned atmosphere, and walk to the fireplace in order to consider the situation. Surely, this is a problem worthy of a Solomon. Solomon Grundy is working a small independent show in Rangoon, however, so I agonize over the decision myself for several seconds before the solution comes to me. "Ladies," I begin, turning to face them. "You seem to be women of the world; I presume you've both heard of... Apartment House Wrestling?"

They nod (they always nod in these dreams). It is obviously agreeable.

"When?" asks Samantha.

"And where?" Amanda Chimes in, enthusiastic for a chance to gain revenge on her haughty competition.

"Here," I respond, "and now!" With a wave of my arm, the room is suddenly transformed. A moment earlier, it was almost deserted; now it is alive with sophisticates. Mike Tenay, garbed in a classic white tux, moves easily through the crowd, chatting up Bill Apter (who is here to capture the event on film; I owe Bill that much, as this dream would not be possible without him), Jeff Walton, Terry Funk and Dick Beyer (who is otherwise engaged in discussing the possibility of Samantha renaming herself "The Sensational, Intelligent Samantha B. Foxe").

The hubbub of urbane chitchat resonated through the living room and dining area. Here is Jeff Bowdren, theorizing on the best way to book Passionfruit vs Foxe and there stands Jason Herpes, explaining to Fred Blaisse the best way to make pimples go away. The Conversation freezes, however, at the sound of a silver spoon striking a crystal goblet. It's the "bell" which signifies the start of action.

I step to the center of the livingroom to welcome my guests, when a gruff, white-haired man pushes his way through the crowd.

### "THE MOST MERCILESS MATCH IN APARTMENT HOUSE WRESTLING" (Sports Review Wrestling Annual 1991)

If you think the dream is strange, here is an actual excerpt of an "Apartment Wrestling" story:

"Have you seen the iron lady's charms? That's the question apartment house wrestling fans are asking each other these days. The iron lady is Clea, a woman who has traveled the world and continues to do so. For the time she intends to spend in New York, apartment wrestling has the honor of her participation... Clea became the newest apartment wrestler. Her opponent wasn't difficult to recruit. Many women vied for the privilege. Whenever a new woman enters the apartment wrestling scene, especially if she comes bearing legend, the best competitors want to prove the newcomer is less than she appears. It's a cruel initiation rite, one that has discouraged many novices from trying a second time. Of the 15 women requesting to be Clea's torturer, Clarisse was chosen... Exhausted, spent, Clarisse's body collapsed. What had an instant before seemed magnificent now lay pathetically upon the carpet. No one had to tell Clea she had won. The splendid brunette rolled off her foe and lay beside her, also exhausted. The two women lay within inches of each other, their bodies gasping for air. Moments before they had been locked in mortal combat. Now, each woman seemed in a different world. Wordlessly, the two women walked back to separate bedrooms, their steps awkward from exhaustion..."

"Apparently, Jim Herd has something to tell us..."

Herd grabs the mic, reaches into his pocket, and unfurls a piece of paper. As he reads, his voice is enriched through electronic modulation: "Once, a long time ago, there was a magical land called... The South. And in this land there lived a princess and her name was... Scarlett!" Suddenly, the room fills with the strains of "Gone With the Wind's" familiar theme. "Scarlett lived with her father, and with a winged monkey and with a Wizard - not the Wizard of Oz or the Grand Wizard or the Pinball Wizard - the rights for which we are close to obtaining and will mean the first deaf, dumb, and blind wrestler..."

I make a small motion with my index finger and suddenly Billy Robinson escorts Jim into an adjoining room in order to demonstrate how he once unexpectedly blocked a move by Antonio Inoki which resulted in Inoki swallowing his pride and nearly choking to death.

Vince is there, too, but I notice he's taping a segment for "Fam Film Blow-Up" with Big Jim McBob so I let him go to it. Then Amanda makes her appearance at the upstairs balcony railing. Jiggling down the stairs, she draws considerable early support from the fans, dressed as she is in a tattered t-shirt and workout glove. I'm about to introduce her when I sense a shudder rippling through the audience.

"W-w-where's Samantha?" I ask in a choked whisper.

"You didn't need that strippah," Moolah tells me flatly, "so I mugged her. Now I'm here to squeeze the juice outta this heah' passion fruit tart. And when I'm finished..." She turned toward me, her eyes undressing me while her mouth twisted unpleasantly. "I'll take care of you, honeychile!"

"No!" I scream. "NONONONONONONO!"

And I woke up screaming.

Speaking of screaming, next month we're gonna talk about Vince's Press Statement, Hogan on Arsenio, and the Future (?) of Pro Wrestling. Aloha!

[Bill Kunkel of Las Vegas, Nevada has been writing and drawing "Wrestling Potshots" since the January 12, 1989 edition of *Pro Wrestling Torch*. He has written and taken photos for wrestling magazines since the early-seventies. He currently writes for *Video Games and Computer Entertainment* and publishes his own newsletter on computer software called *Megagaming*. "Wrestling Potshots" appears monthly in *Pro Wrestling Torch*.]

## BALTIMORE BASH

Thumbs down for the Bash. Always a great competitor, Big Dust beat the WWF at its own game. He gave us not just one "Match Made In Hell," but ten matches made in hell. The parade of comy gimmick performers without personality or charisma, lack of action, unsatisfying and predictable finishes, and Tony Schiavone's smirking condescension made this the worst pay-per-view I have ever seen. To top it off, they have added EricBishoff to their cast of third raters. Turning Luger was a good move, but at this stage, who cares?

Best match? One Man Gang vs. El Gigante; Kevin Sullivan's introduction of the wrench was a nice touch! Worst match? Hard to pick, but I will go with

## READER RHETORIC

the scaffold match - too bad Jim Herd and Virgil Runnels were not up on the scaffold with... oh, let us see... Ric Flair and Terry Funk?!

RANDY NORDQUIST  
St. Paul, MN

I was at the Bash live and I give it a 5.5. Dusty ruined the whole premise of a scaffold match and Russian chain match. Fans want to see wrestlers hit the mat. The scoring of the chain match changed it into just a typical match. The whole Oz introduction worked this time as it led to a huge pop for Simmons and made his victory meaningful. Morton vs. Gibson was a good 3 1/4 stars. Gibson was over big time. Stud vs. Zenk was decent. Pistols & Rhodes vs. Freebirds was excellent and generated a lot of heat, but Armstrong should have been unmasked. My brother and I really got some "Dustin sucks" chants going, though.. This whole Yellow Dog situation has been going on way too long. Josh vs. Black Blood was average at best. Surprisingly, Gang vs. Gigante was pretty decent. The mixed tag and the kidnapping of Missy were worthless. Lex Luger vs. Barry Windham was a great main event. Too bad Barry did not win because he showed that he was truly worthy of carrying the strap. I hope that those who chanted for Flair paid attention to the match and saw how hard Windham worked. Barry may have proven that he is the best worker in WCW, with or without Flair. Though I like Lex better as a heel, his turn made no sense.

IAN GOODWIN  
Brooklyn, NY

Virgil, you screwed up big this time. Let us start from the bottom and work our way up. The scaffold match was useless for three reasons: Everyone but Eaton was scared to do anything up there, these guys were not feuding, and it was a slow opener killing the mood of the event. Of course, Dustin got the pin in the six-man, but I am sure I am not alone in being disappointed he did not come back after a three on one. Granted, though, that dropkick and bulldog thing was good enough. But they made up for it by having him save Big Josh later. Since Gigante is improving, I can almost excuse that midget thing. I am still trying to figure out Dusty and Herd's thinking on that chain match: Herd: "Dusty, I am sick of that same old chain match where they actually use the chain." Dusty: "I got it, Jimbo. Let's only use the chain to hit each other in the rootie-tooties and then in the cage match, we will not use the cage." Herd: "Good ideas, Dust. That will prove WCW is in a new era."

The Luger vs. Windham was far from a classic. In the mixed match, Rick Steiner should have been carried off, leaving Missy to powerbomb and pin Anderson. Or he could just swing around and knock him with it. Best: Sting vs. Koloff. Worst: Anything else.

MASKED TORCHER  
United States of America

The Great American Bash pay-per-view was bad. Really bad. Much too slow. Too much stalling. How many times do we have to see managers interfere in one night? Luger vs. Windham was decent, but not nearly what it should have been as you so astutely put it in issue #130's BBL. This looked like nothing more than a U.S. Title defense. If they wanted a Luger turn, it should have been done all the way at the Bash. The business with Hughes and Race was confusing to most fans and confused is not the feeling fans should get after watching a PPV they have just paid 20 dollars

# REACTION TO BALTIMORE BASH MORE ON FLAIR'S FIRING AND THE STATE OF WCW

for. Very disappointing. Dusty, I have finally given up on you. The best was Luger vs. Windham, only two stars. Worst: Anything else.

MARC WARZECHA  
Dbn. Heights, MI

Well, the powers-that-be at WCW have finally succeeded in their real ultimate goal - they have alienated the hardcore. You see, Herd, Runnels, and even Flair to a certain extent hate the hardcores so much, they figured if they did nothing that made any sense, they would finally succeed in driving away their most loyal fans and customers who just happen to be critical in their almost religious desire to see WCW thrive. I can just see Herd and Dusty talking about their one area of common ground. "Those damn sheet guys expose the business and are destroying it, and if we can get them turned off, we will be able to succeed."

Hey, you guys certainly succeeded in your goal. Judging by the reactions to the Bash and the Flair firing, no one seems to care anymore. But do not worry, now house show numbers can only sink by, at the most, 1000 people. Of course, the fact that only 1000 people show up for any pathetic excuse of a house show (or as they should be renamed, "no-show") could be somewhat important.

In other news, say it ain't so Joe! I know you are just starting out and financing is probably tight, but you are the hardcores' last hope. Push workers and bring in some talent, please! The time is right because the wrestling world is in a huge state of flux right now. I really respect you firing someone for refusing to do a job, even if it was only Skip Young. Your announcing is great because it tries to present wrestling as an athletic contest, even if the announcers do fabricate Global's history every three seconds.

One final question: Why does Flair hate the sheets so much, seeing as hardcores basically kiss his royal ass?

ERIC KROL  
Chicago, IL

## RIC FLAIR

I sit here clutching my Ric Flair/7-Eleven plastic drinking container obtained from my pilgrimage to the New Jersey Meadowlands for the Great American Bash tour. I reflect on the tragic announcement uttered by Gary Michael Capetta with respect to the departure of the true "immortal one." Yes, there was denial. Yes, I held my sweating hands on my brow in anguish. Yes, my wrestling life passed in front of me: Bruno, Pedro, Verne, Bockwinkel, Race... But there is only one man that sits on Space Mountain, one man who, whether we liked it or not, we have learned to love and respect. Ric Flair is the best wrestler to walk that aisle. He is the man - and nobody, not Mr. Herd, Mr. Runnels, or Mr. Turner can ever beat the man. Long live the man. Whooo!

DAVID CHORNOMA  
Maugatuck, CT

Now that Ric Flair is without a binding contract to any federation, he is a free man. The WWF is a dead end with either his name being destroyed or losing to the vastly less talented Hulk Hogan. Now we the true fans would love to see the return to regional promotions and the touring World Champion. Here is how it could be done and carried through successfully.

Ric Flair is the only man who could make all the frequently arguing promoters shut up and listen. The promotions do not have to take talent here and there, but only Flair would have to travel. Instead of making yet another World Champion, he becomes the independent National Champion. This allows him to travel where he wants and at his pace. It would give the smaller promotions credibility and their stars a chance to go against the best. This also would allow Flair to pin and pin cleanly guys who are big. Eventually, after becoming the god of independent wrestling, he could make one area his turf. This would in effect be like the old NWA of the early eighties. There is only man who can take us there.

MATT RILEY

By his dealings with Steamboat, Funk, Muta, Comette, Cruise, Blanchard, and now Flair, Jim Herd has removed every possible reason for wanting to watch his television shows, purchase his pay-per-view shows, or attend his house shows.

To me, the day Flair was bounced from WCW will be the day the music died. Watching that group is

now something I will do if I am home and if I feel like it, just like I do with the WWF. If I want to see good wrestling, my only outlet is videotapes of Japan and old Stampede tapes from the Owen Hart era. Seeing the Desperado skit a couple days after watching a Stampede tape made me yearn for the days when wrestling shows only had wrestling and interviews.

Joe Pedicino has a shot at instant credibility and all he has to do is pay for it. To be one of the men, he has to pay THE man. Whooo!

Finally, I must compliment you on issue #130. Bruce Mitchell's article on Homophobia was excellent, as was Mark Madden's review of the Meadowland's card. Great stuff!

JOE LANCELLO  
Thief River Falls, MN

## HOGAN ON ARSENIO

"I'm 38... 37. I'll be 38 in a couple months. Oh my god, why'd I say that."

When Hulk stated this on the Arsenio Hall Show, my instant impression was, "Gee, what an up-front thing to say. He sure is being honest considering that commonly people his age, on the early fringes of middle age, typically avoid mentioning their age, much less increasing it to their next birthday prematurely. This is especially the case for someone in Hulk Hogan's position as an athlete.

After that initial instant, I realized that possibly many people will think that anyone being so honest about their age must be being honest in general. Then I came back to reality and figured, oh yeah, that was the plan.

NANCY KELLER  
Bloomington, MN

## TORCH TOP TEN LIST

From the home offices of Ron Dobratz are the top ten reasons the Baltimore Bash destroyed interest in WCW...

10) As one would expect, Dustin Rhodes was left against two Freebirds, but he easily overcame them, plus an interfering manager, to win for his team. The WCW Title is not far off.

9) Not only didn't The Yellow Dog lose, but Jonnie B. Badd was not really defeated either.

8) El Gigante still cannot impress anyone with his power or acting ability. One Man Gang has to roll over for him and lie still for a pathetic pin.

7) Eric Bishoff and his cameraman letting an angry, dark-haired Missy Hyatt intimidate them out of her shower.

6) I watched a scaffold match where no one fell off the scaffold.

5) Fans were deprived of the implied Missy Hyatt vs. Paul E. Dangerously confrontation, it appears because WCW officials have no control over Murdoch & Slater, who were not scheduled to wrestle on the card.

4) Managers interfered in four matches, twice decisively, as old Dustin Rhodes, ruining what was supposed to be a settle it once-and-for-all lumberjack match.

3) Two cage matches with blood spilled.

2) In the booker's biggest card yet, he demonstrated the belief that the quality of the card is secondary to "cliffhanger" angles, but wondering about Lex Luger's relationship with Mr. Hughes & Harley Race, and what happened to Missy Hyatt does not give anyone \$19.95 worth of entertainment.

And the number one reason Ron Dobratz lost interest in WCW after the Baltimore Bash...

1) Two top ranked wrestlers in WCW wrestled an uninspired match for the vacant title. It lasted less than twenty minutes. The wrestler that looked the best and would make more sense to be the victor was the loser.

["Torch Top Ten List" is a regular feature in which all readers are welcome to send in their version of a top ten list, be it humorous, political, serious, or otherwise.]

# TORCHUNFAIR TO FEDERAL JUDGE

## MADDEN IRRESPONSIBLE, KELLER IMMATURE

Mark Madden, call your journalism professors and tell them you need to take Journalism 101 all over again. Then write a letter to U.S. District Judge William Caldwell apologizing for attacking his integrity when not one shred of evidence existed that would justify such an attack.

I am disgusted by Madden's "You May Not Like It..." column in the July 4, 1991 *Torch*, headlined "McMahon's Power Is Scary: Hogan Getting Out of Testifying is Just One Example." Wrestling fans are pleased when members of the so-called legitimate media pay any attention at all to our sport and Madden

have always wondered about that, but never more so than now."

Did Madden write the words "Judge Caldwell took a bribe"? No, he did not. Was the effect of what he did write pretty much the same? Yes, it was. If you have an accusation to make, have the guts to make it and the proof to back it up. Otherwise, refrain from vague and indirect statements impugning a man's integrity. Anyone even remotely familiar with U.S. history can tell you how a coward by the name of McCarthy used this technique to drag this country into a vicious period in which Americans turned on Americans. If I were an editor and one of my reporters came to me with an accusation as unsupported as Madden has made, and, make no mistake, that is just what it is, an accusation, I would fire the guy on the spot. I mean, how can a supposedly trained journalist make an error even a rookie would be too smart to make? At least Madden is concise with his errors - in one column he manages to be naive, irresponsible, disparaging, and disappointing. He manages to violate almost every principle of good journalism in the name of McMahon-basing. It is ironic and sad that Madden's hate for McMahon, whom he has accused of corrupting wrestling, has led to Madden corrupting himself.

## CHRIS CRUISE

### "GUEST EDITORIAL"

has been particularly active in giving wrestling the fair, accurate, and prominent coverage it deserves. We look for incisive analysis, documented findings, and accurate quotes, and we usually get them from him. This time, however, Madden has let his emotions, and his paranoia about Vince McMahon, run wild to the detriment of both his reputation of *Torch* readers. He has unfairly maligned a federal judge who did absolutely nothing improper. The inclusion of the column in the *Torch* proved the weakness, immaturity, and inexperience and the *Torch's* editor. A stronger, more mature, more experienced editor would never have let this outrageous trash in his publication.

Madden's main argument is with Judge Caldwell's decision to grant Hulk Hogan (identified in court documents only as John H. Doe) his motion to quash the subpoena to testify at Dr. George Zahorian's steroid distribution trial. ("Quash" is a legal term for, essentially, nullifying or throwing out the subpoena.) There were fifteen counts in the indictment handed up against Zahorian. John H. Doe was one of five wrestlers names in the indictment. It was prosecutorial overkill. (That is not a criticism. It is accepted prosecutorial practice to throw as much at the defendant as possible and let the judge and the defense sort it out.) The judge has a duty to protect the defendant and the judicial system, among other entities, and forcing Hogan to testify when the case could be made without his testimony would have only turned the case into a media circus without improving the prosecution's case one whit and at the same time showed the court to be a place where the state could drag anybody in and force them to reveal intimate details about their lives. The judge said as much in his order granting the motion to quash the subpoena:

"[John H. Doe claims that there will be an] invasion of privacy that will or may occur if he is required to testify... [that there are] private and personal matters that should be protected if the government's prosecution is not prejudiced by quashing the subpoena... [The] effect of quashing the subpoena is outweighed by the potential threat to the privacy interests of [John H. Doe]... Those interests can be honored with no significant detriment to the government's case or the public interest." (1-CR-91-23, June 21, 1991)

Guess what? The judge, as it turns out, was correct. Dr. George Zahorian was convicted easily without Hogan's testimony. Madden's contention that allowing Hogan to get out of testifying was akin to a rapist being freed from responsibility because the judge was concerned about the reputation of the pinball machine company on whose machine the rape occurred is an outrageous slander on Hogan and McMahon. That is just so bizarre, yet Madden claims:

"That is no exaggeration. It is exactly what happened, an exact parallel. Criminal charges against one man were dropped to protect the reputation of another man..."

It was one criminal charge out of fifteen and if Madden had bothered to read the judge's decision as I did and had talked with anyone with any knowledge of the law, he would have known that federal judges do not make decisions based on whether a person's reputation is protected or not - they make decisions based on the law, in the public interest, in the interest of fairness and justice, and I believe that is what occurred in this case. I have to believe that Madden, upon reflection, will regret his scurrilous implication that the decision was made because of McMahon's "Blackmail, bribery, just plain ol' - good god! - b-b-b-bullshit? Or something else beyond my imagination."

Madden accused a federal judge of taking a bribe when he wrote:

"A federal judge's integrity speaks for itself. I

besmirched. Until recently no federal judge had ever been convicted of accepting a bribe. While ambassadors have traditionally gone to those who contribute or raise large amounts of money for the winning presidential candidate, federal judgeships have rarely been used as this kind of political payoff. The federal judiciary in this country is recognized as the toughest, fairest, most omnipotent in the world, maintaining its integrity in the face of untold millions available for bribes in drug cases. To accuse Judge Caldwell of accepting a bribe, or succumbing to blackmail, is to dwell in the gutter of the disgruntled and disaffected. Those who write and publish such garbage are hardly the kind of journalists I want writing what I read.

[The author of this week's guest editorial, Chris Cruise, is currently the announcer on the IWCCW weekly television program. Cruise formerly was the host of World Championship Wrestling's "World Wide Wrestling" from October of 1989 to April of 1990 and worked for the WWF in the media and public relations department briefly in 1985. Before that, Cruise worked for CNN as an anchor on CNN Headline News. Cruise is also currently working part time on finishing his law degree. Guest editorials can be submitted for possible publication by sending a signed transcript to the *Torch's* address.]

## RESPONSE BY MARK MADDEN

In response, I would like to open by making two points.

Number one, I have spent the last thirteen years working for a major metropolitan newspaper on a regular basis. I hardly need a lesson in journalistic ethics. If I did not know when to draw the line, I would have been fired long ago.

Number two, I agree with you, Chris. This is the greatest country in the world and we are damn lucky to be living in it. But, as for my recent column on Steroidmania I in Harrisburg, I see no reason to apologize to anyone. A column, Chris, is a device which gives journalists a forum for their opinions. Opinions are not right or wrong, Chris; they are like Kiss albums - almost everyone has one and most of them are stupid. I am entitled to mine, whether you think it is stupid or irresponsible or whatever.

I especially offer no apologies to Judge Wapner, er, Judge Caldwell. Did I have the right to write that he took a bribe? No. But I did not write that. Did I have the right to insinuate it was a possibility? Based on the information I and others working on the same story unearthed from sources off the record, well...

You say that no Federal Court Judge has been convicted of taking a bribe, Chris. I am sure that is true. But if you believe that no federal court judge ever accepted a bribe, you must believe that for every drop of rain that falls a flower grows. You must live in a gingoistic fantasy land. That is not bad as being irresponsible, unprofessional, or immature, to be sure, but it is a bit naive.

To sum up what I insinuated about Caldwell, it was not libelous. A bit sensational, maybe. But there is nothing wrong with a little sizzle to go along with the steak. Just ask "Nature Boy" Ric Flair.

If Caldwell dismissed the charges involving Hogan to keep the trial from becoming a media circus, it did not work. And he sure did nothing to tone down the circus once the tents went up. He allowed Apter-mag photos of Hogan with Zahorian, photos that were totally irrelevant unless you are a big believer in the decidedly non-USA concept of guilt by association, to be admitted as evidence. That sure toned down the media.

Basically, I think Judge Caldwell did not want a media circus he could not be the undisputed ring master of.

As far as the pinball machine comparison, that may have been a bit sensational, too - not unlike comparing me to Joe McCarthy. But I think my comparison was accurate. Chris, even as Wade Keller read me your letter, Hulk Hogan was on Arsenio Hall telling lie after lie after lie after lie. If you are going to address anyone's ethics within the context of a *Torch* guest editorial, I think addressing his would be much more appropriate.

By the way, slander applies only to the written word. Liberal use of legal-ese tends to be boring. At least be accurate when you use it.

Vince McMahon, representing the World Wrestling Federation, participated in a press conference on July 16 in New York. Although the pro wrestling reporters who contacted the WWF were not given information regarding the press conference, John Arezzi of "Wrestling Spotlight" managed to attend the conference. He, and reporters from the mainstream press, asked Vince McMahon questions for approximately a half hour. The following is a partial transcript of the conference; the questions have been paraphrased.

## VINCE MCMAHON PRESS CONFERENCE

"Thank you very much for coming here today. This is a very important day for me, a very important day for my family, and a very important day for the World Wrestling Federation. Important because this affords us the opportunity to address some of the issues that have been raised as of late, notwithstanding the fact that I believe some of those issues have been outlandish. Nonetheless, more importantly, it is an opportunity to make a promise and be held accountable to that promise, a promise that the World Wrestling Federation will be the standard bearer for drug-free sports and entertainment. Approximately three and a half, maybe four years ago, I personally experimented with (steroids) for a very short time... It was applied to me by a Doctor Zahorian. Many of you are familiar with a Doctor Zahorian and familiar with his recent trial. As a result of his trial and subsequent publicity I can categorically state it is probably one of the best things to happen to the World Wrestling Federation because again it gives us an opportunity to be held accountable as we should be, the opportunity to bring in experts notwithstanding the already substantial drug program that already exists. An opportunity to bring in further experts that are independent, that will set up a program that will be the standard bearer for programs for all of professional sports. And now I would like to open it up to questions.

Question: Since the Human Growth Hormone is undetectable, will the WWF change its policy from pushing physiques and muscularity to pushing wrestlers based on ability?

Vince McMahon: Firstly, you're assuming the wrong thing as far as I am concerned. You are assuming that we have been what you just stated. The WWF does not push wrestlers in terms of size. The WWF doesn't push wrestlers. The public decides whom they like, whom they're gonna support, and largely, more than anything else, it's based on personality and charisma. If you were to look at the roster of talent in the WWF, I think you would find a wide variety of different body sizes and types.

Question: How does this press conference relate to the Zahorian trial. Is this taking place because of the trial?

McMahon: We were planning to do something, just as before in 1987 when we began a drug policy with no outside pressure, so-to-speak. Nonetheless, I believe this trial and the subsequent publicity pushed us a little faster than we normally would have been pushed.

Question: How serious is the steroid problem among WWF wrestlers?

McMahon: It is nowhere near as serious as stated but nonetheless, whether it is my opinion or someone else's opinion, we are going to find out very soon.

Question: What percentage of wrestlers in the WWF are on steroids would you guess?

McMahon: I wouldn't want to guess as far as that is concerned, but some of the projections from some former wrestlers who have not been in the dressing room of the WWF for three years are just outlandish, outrageous.

Question: How long ago and for how long did you use steroids?

McMahon: I just stated approximately three and a half to four years ago for a very short period of time and that is all I'm going to say about that subject.

Question: Are you going to release the names of the wrestlers who test positive for steroid use and has Hulk Hogan been in the eye of the storm of this

## TRANSCRIPT OF VINCE MCMAHON PRESS CONFERENCE FROM JULY 16 IN NEW YORK

controversy?

McMahon: Hulk Hogan is going to make his statement. I would believe he is going to make it tonight on the Arsenio Hall Show. But to answer your first question, there is unquestionably a degree of confidentiality in all of drug testing, but nonetheless when someone is suspended and I would suggest after conversing with our experts whether or not and when that should become public knowledge.

Question: Concerning your other drug testing program, has any wrestler ever failed the drug test and were they suspended, plus how often have you tested in the past and how often will you test for steroids?

McMahon: We have had, on occasion, a substance abuse situation with wrestlers and it has been dealt with suspension, has been dealt with rehabilitation. As far as the second part of your question, currently we test weekly for substance abuses. Whether or not that is practical for steroids, I don't know. I am going to be conferring with our experts; we have one arriving on the scene in our offices, David Lee Black tomorrow. And we are going to confer with other experts that work with the NFL and all the major leagues.

Question: Who will hold you accountable for your test and does the New York State Athletic Commission test for steroids?

McMahon: Because you are going to be looking over our shoulder, our tests are going to be the most credible of any tests anywhere. We have nothing to hide, we have nothing to lose by testing for steroids. The New York State Athletic Commission does not test for steroids for boxers, or whomever they look over, they never have.

Question: Has all of this controversy caused a drop in popularity and attendance for WWF events?

McMahon: I don't believe so. I think our fans know very well that we are going to do the right thing, we always have, we've always stood by them. As far as business, business is up everywhere. We are not recession-proof, however. There's been a dip in live attendance, which is a high ticket item. But in other areas, business has done very, very good and our fans have been supportive of us.

Question: Could you give us a few details about the steroid testing program and when it is going to be instituted?

McMahon: We are the only entertainment company, to my knowledge, that has imposed these restrictions upon ourselves, going back to 1987 in establishing a drug testing, education, and rehabilitation program. Notwithstanding the fact that we are entertainment, it is important now that we go beyond that avenue, it is important that we go into a new drug testing and education policy that will include steroids, and will be determined by the experts in this field, and it will be held accountable to you, held accountable to the WWF and the public at large. As to the actual specifics of the steroid testing, it has yet to be determined (but will be) in a very short period of time.

Question: Do you know of any wrestlers in the WWF who have become ill because of use and abuse of steroids?

McMahon: No.

Question: Do you believe the media has treated the WWF unfairly through the course of the trial through today?

McMahon: To a certain extent, perhaps, yes. Again, I think many fail to recognize as I have stated before that we are an entertainment company and the first and only entertainment company thus far to do drug testing. And again, to take the word of certain individuals in my mind who have not been credible and printing some of what they have stated is somewhat irresponsible and those are my views.

Question: Will this policy also cover the bodybuilding venture?

McMahon: Bodybuilding unquestionably will be subject to anabolic steroid testing. Yes.

Question: Have wrestlers who are involved in outside marketing run into problems? Has Madison Avenue asked them to clean-up their act?

McMahon: No. Indeed not. Madison Avenue and

our fans know that we are going to do the right thing and we always have.

Question: Can professional wrestling survive without steroids?

McMahon: I would suggest to you the vast majority of them do now.

Question: Hulk Hogan will be making a statement tonight on Arsenio Hall. Will other wrestlers be making public statements or be available for public statements?

McMahon: Our wrestlers have always been accessible to the media through normal channels.

Question: If it comes out that Hulk Hogan did take steroids, how will that affect his merchandise and vitamin sales?

McMahon: I think Hulk Hogan is everything he has ever stated that he has been and always will remain. I think Hulk Hogan is one of the greatest role models in the history of sport or entertainment and he will stay that way.

Question: Is there going to be a grace period for those who want to get off steroids and will there be rehabilitation?

McMahon: We will have to deal with the experts to determine how early we can institute this. As soon as we determine that, we will go for it.

Question: Who is going to administer the tests. Will it be yourself or an independent firm.

McMahon: No sir. Definitely an independent firm. Thus far all of the testing has been overseen by myself and the administrator. That's going to change immediately so there will be no doubt by anyone whatsoever, nobody in this room, nobody in the general public that in a very short period of time, the World Wrestling Federation will be totally sports-free... (laughs) drug-free sports entertainment - it's also sports-free.

Question: If a month from now, if everybody shows up at 155 pounds, how will that affect your business?

McMahon: I don't believe that that's the case. But nonetheless, if somebody showed up at 155 pounds, it would be because we are displaying their personality. If you have ever seen any of our performers in terms of a live venue, you would note that they are very gifted in terms of athleticism, perhaps the most gifted of any athlete today. In addition to that, they're extremely charismatic and it is their performance and their charisma that sells, not their size.

Question: Back in 1984 when Hulk Hogan became champion, Titan Sports began pushing wrestlers based on their size rather than wrestling ability. Did you encourage wrestlers to become as big as possible for the biggest push?

McMahon: First of all, I don't believe that is the case, what you just stated. We take wrestlers from all walks of life. It is extremely important from a business standpoint to do that because not everyone would want to look at a very muscular individual. It's very boring. You want to have what is known as a product mix which in a product mix, you bring out all different sizes and shapes and definitions and personalities of bodies. That is what the WWF's talent roster is all about.

Question: Do you have any evidence that the public really gives a damn about all of this, whether your wrestlers are on steroids?

McMahon: I think it is important that we give a damn. I think that is the most important aspect of this. I don't want anyone in the general public ever questioning what they see when they turn on professional wrestling and go to a live event or be associated in any way with the WWF product. I don't want anyone ever again to question in their mind, "what if this is not wholesome good family entertainment?" and therefore we care, even if the general public will not. I think that the general public cares about what we do in general, so I would guess they care (about this).

The World Wrestling Federation has made the sports pages lately thanks to you guys. We want to continue to make the sports pages in a positive way. We want you to continue to write about us. We want you to follow this story all the way through and we want you to compare our drug testing policies and

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 procedures. We want you to do that. Every single day, every week, whatever it may be. We want you to completely follow this story so you can write, "Gee, why can't the rest of you guys be like the World Wrestling Federation?" That's what we want. We want to continue to be on the sports pages of America.

Question: Is the WWF doing anything to relieve pressures that the wrestlers are on to continue on steroids?

McMahon: I would suggest that the wrestlers know that already, but with the new drug testing education and rehabilitation program, that will definitely be reinforced.

By the way, concerning what I stated about experimentation about four years ago with me personally, I would like to also state that I am approximately 230 pounds, give or take 5 or 10 pounds, and I train every day for about two hours. I train very rigorously. I train very hard. I myself would like to think of myself as a role model in a way, and notwithstanding what happened four years ago, if anyone here at anytime today or anytime in the future - five years from now, ten years from now, whatever it may be - would like to take Vince McMahon to the nearest testing facility and test him to see if he has been taking any form of anabolic steroid and any other kind of illegal drug, I would be happy to comply as long as you will write about it.

## BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE

By: Wade Keller  
 Editor/Publisher

It is about this time when the public's attention span begins to wane and the steroid story is going to diminish in importance and priority in most people's minds. It is that pattern that a lot of people in the business are counting on. It is that attention span that allows politicians to get away with most of the bad things they do. George Bush knows that the vast majority of the public is not going to hold a grudge against him for two years for backing out on his "no new taxes" pledge and Vince McMahon knows that one year from now, barring another huge scandal or revelation, he can be through with this public relations nightmare; he just has to handle himself correctly while the story is hot and while the mainstream media is covering it regularly.

It is that attention span which allows him to invite reporters to test him for illegal substances anytime and he will comply. He knows no reporter is likely going to accept that offer a year or two from now, and he also

# LEGIT STEROID TESTING MEANS LITTLE BUT THE MEDIA WILL BE SATISFIED WITH TESTING

realizes that he can become the scapegoat that the media needs. And it is better that he is a scapegoat than Hulk Hogan, because Vince McMahon dolls and posters are not what is keeping Titan Sports in the black.

It is also the short attention span of the public which allows Vince McMahon to institute strict and legitimate steroid testing. He realizes that he has to do something or when the public's attention on this subject ends and moves onto some other subject, that they will leave the story with a bad impression of Titan Sports. However, if he can get away with conducting beatable tests and talk about how he will definitely be testing WBF competitors for steroids, he will be the good guy until the public forgets about this story. Vince McMahon is a smart man and he is doing the right thing. If making money is the sole goal.

Hulk Hogan, from a business standpoint did the right thing last Tuesday also. Ethically speaking, he deserves no respect. As a business person, he did what he could to create a storyline which his adoring public will be able to justify to themselves. His appearance on Arsenio Hall's show last Tuesday created a story which Hogan fans can cling to and use to justify their future purchases of Hulk Hogan vitamins and dolls. It really does not matter that most people thought Hogan lied throughout the interview. Those people who did not believe what he said have always figured he used steroids and rarely purchased Hogan merchandise. Hogan, in a business sense, did not need to satisfy you and me. He needed a storyline which the non-fan parents of ten year old kids will buy. If someone unknown like Bruno Sammartino or Superstar Graham comes out with a story that they shot steroids into Hogan's butt in a weight room, it means nothing to lifetime Hogan fans. Who are the parents and kids going to believe. Superman or Mr. I don't know who you are? Superman might be corrupt, but a lot of people need a fantasy world to cling to, and Hulk Hogan created that fantasy world, from claims of being 196 pounds as a ten year old (labeled as him being 12 by his mother in the January 1986 issue of PWI featuring the same photo) to claims that he only used steroids to help rehabilitate his arm in 1983 while he was World Champion. Never mind the fact that in the photo he showed, he looked to be maybe 130 and that in 1983 he was still in the AWA and did not win the WWF Title until January of 1984 and never once missed a date due to an arm injury, which according to his testimony, the arm injury would have been the level of Scott Steiner's injury.

Hogan did his job. Vince McMahon did his job. And most of the media, because this is pro wrestling, will not do theirs.

The world works pretty well. There is a nice set

of checks and balances given the free press which usually keeps people credible. But at times it fails. Usually the weak link in the chain is money, be it bribery or blackmail. In this case it is simply total lack of responsibility and knowledge.

There is more than one columnist and radio show host who has treated this story as a joke because "they are only pro wrestlers." One sports journalist said on the radio, "Who cares if Randy Savage gets a tumor in twenty years," and that comment came after a substantial amount of air time dedicated to a football player not attending a pre-camp which he was not required to attend in the first place. Some columnists in newspapers have just made fun of wrestling and added nothing to what is a serious subject in all of sports. When columnists in sports pages cover pro wrestling, often times their total lack of education on the subject results in an immature article reduced to children's playground mentality.

And because a lot of the media is not going to research this subject and follow through with their reporting, a lot of wrestlers are going to end up still feeling the side effects of steroids ten and twenty years from now because they beat the tests and the WWF did nothing to discourage steroid use.

Vince McMahon knows that the media will leave this "unimportant" story as soon as the public's attention span runs low and then it is back to business as usual. In the mean time, he is telling wrestlers "get off the juice, or get out." Sincere or not, as soon as the media lets up on the pressure, will McMahon's pressure on the wrestlers also relax?

I hope not. I would like to see Davey Boy Smith, Warlord, and Ultimate Warrior fired or have their push reduced. Because as long as Warlord, Warrior, and Davey Boy headline shows, it is inherently encouraging others to become as big as them through any means. The public buying Ultimate Warrior is no excuse to push him just as the public supporting an unsafe ride in a fairground is not right. If the speed of a ride is so fast it may behead the employee operating the controls under it, the ride should be slowed down. And if wrestlers are so big that it threatens to kill or cripple them, no matter what the public buys, it is the boss's job to create a safe environment for his employees.

Vince McMahon knows that steroid testing does not create a safe environment for his employees. He knows his wrestlers will just buy more expensive HGH and mask the drugs when it comes time to test. But he also realizes that the checks and balances system has a kink, and that is the media does not care enough about wrestling and does not know enough about steroid testing to hold him accountable. And as Vince McMahon says, accountability is everything.

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