

“The Rumble in the Jungle” turns 50

WILL LIVINGSTON

SPORTS EDITOR

Before McGregor vs. Mayweather, before Tyson vs. Douglas, there was a fight which has yet to be surpassed. 50 years ago, “The Rumble in the Jungle” took place, and the boxing world has still never seen anything like it.

In one corner of the ring stood “Big” George Foreman. In 1974, Foreman was on top of the boxing world. Just two years prior, Foreman had defeated then-heavyweight champion Joe Frazier in just two rounds. Foreman was notorious for his immense strength and punching power, as well as his reputation for being anti-social and silent. In his defense of his title in 1973, Foreman knocked out Jose Roman in just two minutes, which remains one of the fastest knockouts in a heavyweight championship bout. Needless to say, Foreman was a beast.

In the opposite corner was a boxer that was on quite the opposite trajectory, Muhammad Ali. In the ‘60s, Ali was considered by all to

be the greatest boxer on God’s green earth. By 1974, Ali was a has-been. An old man. Washed up, some said. His famous 1967 boycott of the draft for the Vietnam War had resulted in his exile from professional boxing for three and a half years and his heavyweight title being stripped from him. When he returned to boxing, Ali had “lost his touch”. He was slow and out of shape, and even lost his comeback fight to Joe Frazier in 1971. For this heavyweight bout, Ali was, for perhaps the first time in his career, the underdog.

“The Rumble in the Jungle” almost never happened. Boxing promoter Don King promised both Foreman and Ali a \$5 million purse for the fight, which is about \$33 million today. A key issue was that King didn’t actually have the money, he didn’t even have a venue. This resulted in King going to a very peculiar place for funding: Zaire. Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) had just had a change in government. The new dictator, Mobutu Sese Seko, was looking to improve his image after his assassination

of the former leader, Patrice Lumumba, who had been very popular with civil rights leaders around the globe. Mobutu had been advised that if his country hosted the fight, it would generate positive headlines about Zaire. So, Mobutu helped foot the bill along with Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, though it would be through an undisclosed method.

“The Rumble in the Jungle” was more than a boxing match, it was a cultural event. Famous musicians performed at a three day music festival called “Zaire 74,” including influential voices like James Brown, B.B. King, The Spinners and Bill Withers.

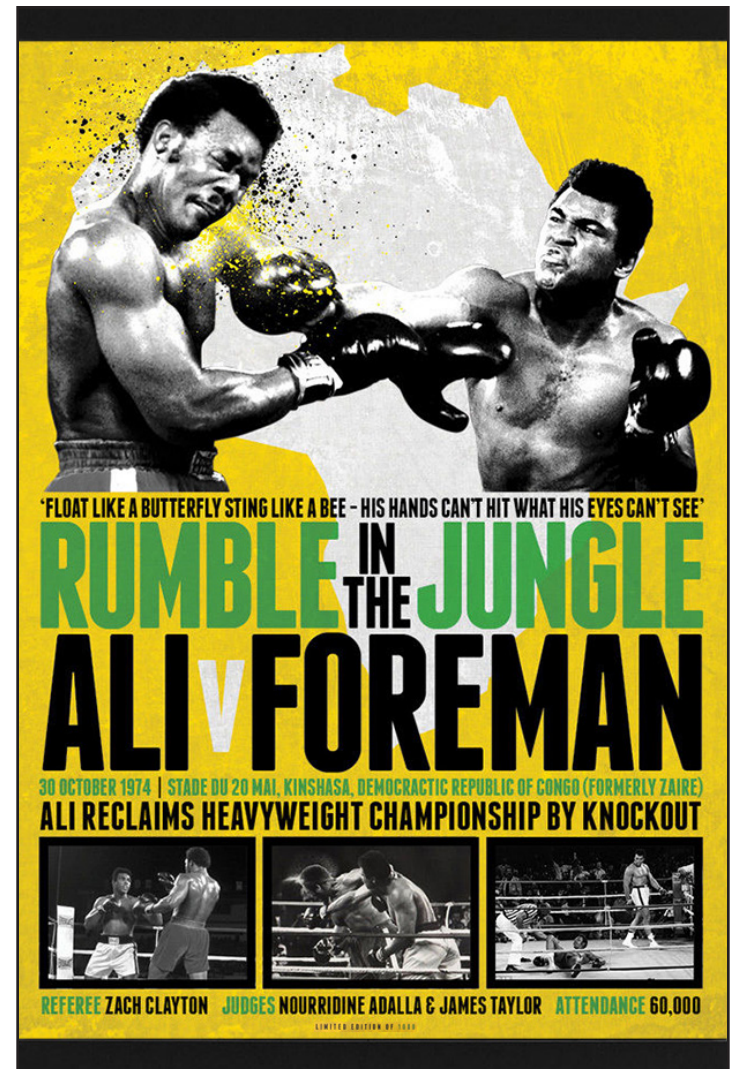
The fight turned out to be everything promoters had hoped for. In the first round Ali got aggressive, scoring several hits on Foreman. But in the second round, Ali debuted his “rope-a-dope” style to the world. Rope-a-dope involves a boxer putting himself on the edge of the ring, using the ropes as a wall to lean on and taking blow after blow in order to tire out their opponent. This tactic would be successful only if Ali was able to withstand Foreman’s powerful blows,

which many believed he would be unable to do. Most thought that Foreman’s strength would win him the fight, but Ali had conditioned himself to withstand the assault that Foreman gave him.

As Foreman began to tire, Ali took advantage of the exhaustion by taking shots at Foreman’s face – punching, taunting and calling him overrated and a poser. In the eighth round, Ali landed a six-punch combination which brought Foreman down, ending the fight in a knockout.

The fight was aired live on pay-per-view in venues all over the world, to an estimated 50 million viewers, grossing an inflation adjusted \$620 million dollars in revenue. In addition to the closed-circuit television broadcasts, it also aired on free television and was reportedly watched by an estimated one billion people, a fourth of the world’s population in 1974.

“The Rumble in the Jungle” continues to impact the sport today and is considered to be one of, if not the single greatest fight of all time.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TAYLORMADE MEMORABILIA

Custom poster with details and results of the fight.

“Halloweentown” is a classic

ALLIE CARSON

STAFF WRITER

The Halloween season has its fair share of movies and just like Christmas, many debate over the best movie. To me, the correct answer is “Halloweentown.”

“Halloweentown” was one of Disney’s first original movies and, honestly, it shows. It came out in 1998 but in reality, it feels like it should be older than it is. However, that’s what brings charm to the movie: how bad it looks.

To me, it’s a classic. It’s not Halloween unless I watch this movie. There are many funny moments in the movie which make me laugh and even foreshadowing moments I’ve never noticed before.

This movie primarily focuses on different family dynamics which causes all of the main characters to develop into better people throughout the movie. It feels so cozy compared to other Halloween movies because it’s not a dark shaded movie like “Hocus Pocus” or even “Nightmare Before Christmas.” The movie is bright and colorful, even in the town of “Halloweentown,” something you wouldn’t expect with its name.

The score for this movie is one of the best, it’s very iconic even if you haven’t watched the movie. The opening music in the movie gives the audience a warm feeling when it plays because of the bounciness and uniqueness of the score.

To me, it’s one of the reasons why this movie is so great.

It’s easy to get attached to the characters in the movie. When Marnie, our protagonist for the film, does something stupid or overlooks something obvious, it’s easy to call her out as audience members. Or when Dylan, the little brother, denounces magic throughout the entire movie, being on the mom’s side the whole time, the audience can easily hate his character because it’s relatable to many.

This movie does look extremely bad but it’s relatively old and was given only a \$4 million dollar budget to work with.

The camera movement throughout the movie is horrendous as well. There’s many extreme closeups on

the cast when a zoomed out shot would look and flow a lot better. It just makes the movie feel awkward and rushed, which is more than likely true given the fact the filming of this movie only took 24 days.

On top of Kimberly J. Brown playing the main character for the better half (and I do mean better) of the “Halloweentown” franchise, the late Debbie Reynolds played the grandmother, Aggie, throughout the franchise, and they are both terrific.

All in all, “Halloweentown” has its issues, but it’s still a great film to watch during the Halloween season. It’s one of the true feel-good Halloween movies which is sure to get audiences laughing and in the Halloween spirit.



COURTESY OF IMDB

THIS WEEK’S POP PICK

LAILA CASIANO | OPINION EDITOR

“CHROMAKOPIA” TYLER, THE CREATOR



COURTESY OF GENIUS

Tyler, the Creator has returned again with another great album.

His highly anticipated seventh studio release “CHROMAKOPIA,” reiterates his musical genius in a unique, adventurous, fun and self-reflective record.

Tyler, the Creator is one of the most beloved hip-hop and rap artists in the music industry today, and this 14-track album highlights his artistry in songwriting and production.

One of my favorite albums of all time is Tyler, the Creator’s “Flower Boy,” so I always eagerly await any new music from him, whether it be singles or full-length albums. “IGOR” “CALL ME IF YOU GET LOST” and tracks from his previous work for Odd Future were essential to getting me engrossed in this genre. So,

listening to his newest project was a no-brainer.

This album transcends everything we’ve heard from Tyler before. The production is fast-paced, smooth, tribal, rock-inspired and features a ton of vocal layers imitating choirs and chants, fully immersing listeners.

His songwriting is vivid and visceral, but he contradicts himself and his sentiments – the album illustrates Tyler’s path to vulnerability, self-reflection and anger toward his past actions.

The transitions between songs feel as if you’re turning the pages of Tyler’s memoir, with each track embodying his essence. He’s clear-cut, vocal and introspective, giving us a direct path into his mind — his fear, his hypocrisy, his guilt, his passion and his desires.

My favorite track is “Darling, I,” featuring Teezo Touchdown. The track showcases Tyler’s journey as he reflects on love, freedom and self-awareness, along with the nuanced feelings around commitment and the temptation of new experiences.

Teezo Touchdown adds depth as the background vocals for this song, backing Tyler’s sentiment with the idea of struggling with your identity, individuality and life fulfillment.

The album feels both familiar and new, and I can see this album being a real contender for Album of the Year.

Official Score: 10/10

Puppies, pancakes and positivity at A-State

LAILA CASIANO
OPINION EDITOR

Wilson Counseling Center, in partnership with Volunteer A-State and Jonesboro Animal Control, invited Arkansas State University students to start their day with free pancakes and puppy cuddles. The event was designed to lift spirits, encourage students to grab breakfast and experience the joy of petting puppies, all while highlighting mental health resources on campus. Carnesha Ben, a student life counselor from the Wilson Counseling Center, said the staff meets each summer to brainstorm mental health

initiatives for students. “We came up with the idea of Pet-a-Pup, collaborating with animal control because we know that there are so many puppies that need loving and what better way to expose them to that love by bringing them on campus,” Ben said. She said mental health can feel daunting for students, so she values events like Pancakes and Puppies to show seeking help doesn’t have to be intimidating. “There is a way to navigate it, to get help and also to expose them to these services,” Ben said. “So, yes, we have the puppies out, but they also have the opportunity to see the counselors, to get to know the Wilson Counseling Center

a little better and know that we are here to support them in the best way possible.” Jonesboro Animal Control brought two puppies (Trish and Derry) and an adult dog (Worm) to campus to spread awareness about pet adoption. Traci Troutman, from Jonesboro Animal Control, said the campus visits help spread the word about the importance of adopting sheltered animals. “It is very important to adopt and give these guys a second chance,” Troutman said. “We don’t know where they come from, what they’ve been through, but we believe that they all deserve a loving home, so it’s very important for us to get out and share

what we do and see if we can help find these guys at home.” Volunteer A-State supported the event as part of its mission to address hunger and food insecurity. Allison Webber, a sophomore nursing major from Highland, Arkansas, serves as the director of food recovery for Volunteer A-State. She said the organization is always conducting events to spread awareness on hunger and food insecurity, so teaming up with the Wilson Counseling Center for a mental health and pet adoption event during Mental Health Week at A-State was a natural fit. “We wanted to kind of

incorporate that with free pancakes and we talked to the humane society to get the puppies out, and so this is just kind of a chance for you to come and take a break,” Webber said. “The pancakes are free, so you don’t have to worry about paying money because that’s just as mentally stressing as anything else. So grab a pancake, pet a puppy!” Webber said college can be overwhelming and stressful, so making initiatives like Pancakes and Puppies is essential, especially when it comes to encouraging students to make the steps to seeking help. Jordan Dodd, a first-year nursing major from Sherwood,

Arkansas, said seeing the puppies outside the Reng Student Union caught her attention after leaving her Making Connections class, when her instructor didn’t show. Dodd said she appreciates A-State’s effort to promote mental health awareness because everyone needs help sometimes and it’s important to have someone to talk to, especially as a college student. “I know it’s nice for me, getting to talk to someone I trust and know when I’m struggling,” Dodd said. “So things like this are great, because puppies are therapeutic, and people can come over, pet the dogs, but also learn a little bit.”



Photo by Shelby Russom | Photo Editor

Aubrey Defries, a communication studies graduate student from Jonesboro, playing with Trish at the “Pancakes and Puppies” event.



Photo by Shelby Russom | Photo Editor

Jordan Dodd, a first year nursing major from Sherwood, Arkansas, and Emily Martin, a first year nursing major from Viola, Arkansas, playing with Derry outside of the Reng Student Union.

HOROSCOPES

Shailey Wooldridge

MYSTIC CORRESPONDENT

Aries:
The scariest thing this Halloween will be confusion in your love life and financial instability.

Taurus:
Relationships and self worth take center stage in your life this week, don’t ignore red flags.

Gemini:
Unexpected changes in your health or routine may arise. Focus on creative pursuits to find stability.

Cancer:
Family life and personal relationships will come to the forefront this week, as well as opportunities for spiritual growth.

Leo:
Embrace surprises in your social life and keep a grounded approach in love and professional goals.

Virgo:
Romantic and idealistic energies are strong, stay grounded by focusing on practical priorities and communication.

Libra:
Mercury is messing with your finances this week. Don’t let surprises derail your plans.

Scorpio:
Sudden shifts in personal goals may occur, but you can trust your gut and talk to your family for stability.

Sagittarius:
This week invites you to look deeper into yourself. You may feel more grounded in family and home life by the end.

Capricorn:
Unexpected developments in close relationships may occur this week, seek clarity if things get weird or confusing.

Aquarius:
Your career may see some unexpected shifts this week, but your financial goals will gain some structure.

Pisces:
Emotions may be heightened this week. Make room for self reflection or it could influence relationships.

Student Speaks:

“What are your Halloween plans?”



Dustie Hall, a senior music education major from Paragould.

“This year for Halloween, I’m dressing as Dorothy and I have a one-year-old puppy, named Lucky and she’ll be Toto. On Friday (10/18), I went to a Halloween bash with my Greek organization and I dressed up as Dorothy, and I had my Toto.”

“I was actually planning what we’re gonna do this weekend, we were just gonna throw a party! I wanna be a nun. I’m dressing up for a nun, like a real nun — like ankles to feet, like, no makeup, very modest nuns, like going full out.”



Paeli Humway, a sophomore sociology major from Jonesboro.



Braeden Flynn, a first-year undecided student from Jonesboro.

“My birthday’s Halloween, so I’m just gonna have a little get-together! Have some of my friends come over either Sunday or Saturday or sometime eventually. I’m just wearing these black pants, and I have a little zip up jacket with a rib cage on it and I’m going to just do a face paint as a skull. You can’t go wrong with it.”

All photos by Shelby Russom | Photo Editor