

Eddie McCoven
COMA 215. Dr. Wells
Sp. 15

Writing for Communication Careers Broadcasting and Print 2

INSTRUCTIONS: *Use the set of facts below to write a print story and a 30-second broadcast story. These WILL be graded. **Both** versions are due at the end of class today. NO EXCUSES. NO EXTENSIONS. NO EXCEPTIONS. This assignment WILL be graded.*

Print Version:

Medical professionals cite new evidence of life-threatening injuries in attempt to push for a ban on boxing in the state of Washington.

In a speech delivered at the Washington Health Care Workers annual conference Monday morning in downtown Tacoma, Dr. Leonard Hamilton, President of the Washington State Medical Association, championed the cause for the ban.

Dr. Hamilton insisted that the state Legislature should immediately ban boxing in Washington to protect athletes from what he called “serious and permanent harm and possibly even death.” He admitted that boxing allows some disadvantaged young people to achieve wealth and fame.

“But for each one who succeeds, thousands of others not only fail to become champions, but they suffer long-term, disabling physical trauma,” Dr. Hamilton said.

Hamilton went on to say that new evidence shows that 15 % of all boxers suffer brain damage, and that thousands of amateur and professional boxers become “punch-drunk,” and end up suffering from memory loss, slurred speech, tremors, and abnormal gait. In the worst cases, boxers lose their grasp of reality.

“Boxing is barbaric. The only purpose is to hurt someone – to knock him unconscious or to injure him so badly that he is physically incapable of continuing a fight,” Hamilton added.

Manny Fernandez, a former boxer and Washington native who competed in the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, said he is also concerned about the health of boxers.

“Boxing helps keep a lot of kids off the streets and out of trouble. Banning the sport goes too far. We should improve the head gear worn by young boxers and make sure that we do a better job of preventing concussions and head injuries. But no way should ban a sport that helps so many people.”

Fernandez coaches boxing at the Tacoma Boys & Girls Club, and feels that Hamilton’s call for a ban is drastic.

Broadcast Version:

Slug: Boxing Ban

Page: 1

Directions:

Script

One Shot

Anchor

STATE HEALTHCARE OFFICIALS CALL FOR A BAN ON BOXING.

IN A SPEECH DELEIVERED MONDAY MORNING, DOCTOR LEONARD HAMILTON, PRESIDENT OF THE WASHINGTON STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, SAID THAT NEW EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT AS MUCH AS 15 PERCENT OF BOXERS EXPERIENCE LONG TERM BRAIN AND OTHER SERIOUS INJURIES.

Show Hamilton speech graphic

DURING HIS SPEECH, DOCTOR HAMILTON SAID:

“BOXING IS BARBARIC. THE ONLY PURPOSE IS TO HURT SOMEONE – TO KNOCK HIM UNCONSCIOUS OR TO INJURE HIM SO BADLY THAT HE IS PHYSICALLY INCAPABLE OF CONTINUING A FIGHT,”

Anchor

ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS SUPPORT THE BAN, OTHERS CONSIDER THE BAN TO BE TOO DRASTIC OF A MEASURE TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT THIS TIME.