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Sports

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Book portrays Tyson as puppet of King

By Jon Saraceno
USA TODAY

A new book on Mike Tyson says the heavyweight fighter was manipulated and controlled by those around him for their own financial benefit.

The Inner Ring (Oliver Publishing, \$19.95; 1-800-619-2BOX) is co-authored by former Tyson confidante

BOXING

Rudy Gonzalez with Miami lawyer Martin A. Feigenbaum.

Gonzalez worked for Tyson for 5½ years as chauffeur and personal assistant. Among his allegations:

► Tyson was overcharged and improperly billed for untold sums of money by promoter King, his family, and Don King Productions employees. Gonzalez claims he discovered the financial discrepancies in 1991 when Tyson received a \$100,000 monthly bill for cellular phone services. No invoices were attached to Tyson's bills, only memos saying, "Sign and return."

► Tyson broke down crying after informing Gonzalez he couldn't read. "All I do is keep signing," Tyson told him. "I'm tired of signing."

► King, Gonzalez claims, is a student of Nazi propaganda techniques, and Tyson co-managers Rory Holloway and John Horne incessantly bombed Tyson with "black rap" about whites controlling his career and money.

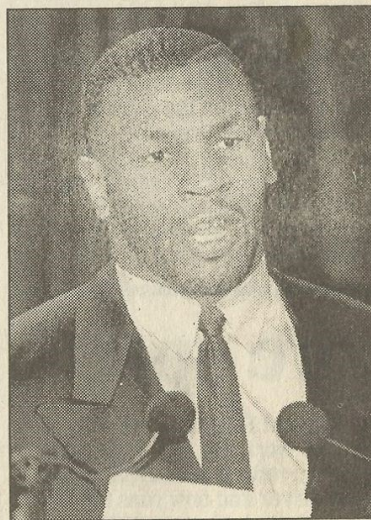
► Tyson loved to watch Tom & Jerry cartoons, but King made him watch documentaries featuring Hitler and the Nazis.

King declined comment, said spokesman Mike Marley.

Horne, through Marley, issued this statement: "Rudy Gonzalez was a fired employee. He was fired for stealing, for insubordination and for criminal involvement. He had too many ghosts in his closet, and he had to be let go."

Gonzalez added that King was responsible for Tyson losing his title to Buster Douglas in 1990 in Tokyo. "King had Tyson running all over the country, and by the time I got there, my boss was exhausted," doing promotional work for Don King Productions, Gonzalez writes.

Six weeks prior to a rematch vs. Razor Ruddock in June 1991, Tyson flew into a rage when he found the



By John Ruthroff, Agence France-Presse
MIKE TYSON: Book says he had to watch Hitler documentaries.

Jamaican-born heavyweight sitting in King's office.

Tyson shouted "I'll kill you" at King before a melee broke out with Ruddock's bodyguards. Ruddock later attacked Tyson downstairs — and a Tyson roundhouse dropped him.

Tyson knocked out Ruddock cold, leaving him bloody and with "hands folded on his chest like he was on display inside a coffin at a funeral home," according to the book.

That same day, Gonzalez says, King purchased an \$850 bulletproof vest.

The truth on Tyson?

A New book offers intriguing insights on how former champ was handled

BY MICHAEL O'NEILL — For all the talk about how Mike Tyson was handled, the details of his fall from grace are often overlooked. A new book offers a detailed look at the boxer's life and career, from his early days in the ring to his fall from grace.

The book, "The Fall of Mike Tyson," by Michael O'Neill, is a detailed look at the boxer's life and career, from his early days in the ring to his fall from grace. It covers his early days in the ring, his rise to fame, and his fall from grace.

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Pens knot Caps; Sampras upset

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SPORTS WIRE

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Vaughn belts 2, Bosox zip Brews

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Tyson bodyguard's book lowers boom on King

IT'S A SCATHING book with a ring of truth to it, especially since the targets aren't talking about litigation. As Don King's publicist said, "He's not even bothering with it," as if the only hope of lessening the impact of Rudy Gonzalez's accusations is to ignore them.

Gonzalez was a bodyguard and limousine driver for Mike Tyson between 1987 and 1992. His recently self-published book, "The Inner Ring," has been underpublicized but it's fascinating reading.

Co-authored by Martin Feigenbaum, the book is 260 pages of virtually nonstop allegations of underhanded conduct, misuse of authority and criminal misuse of funds by King and Tyson's current managers, John Horne and Rory Holloway. It also includes accusations of King conspiring to keep Tyson sedated, as well as stories on drug use of boxing superstars Julio Cesar Chavez and Hector Camacho, plus an account of a murder attempt on Gonzalez that he presumes was orchestrated by King.

It's going to be impossible to see Team Tyson - which moves its training camp to Las Vegas this week in preparation for an Aug. 19 bout with Peter McNeeley at the MGM Grand Garden - and not think of Gonzalez's claims.

In a telephone conversation last week, Gonzalez said there has been an additional threat to his life.

"I was shot at again," he said from his New York home. "Luckily, I've taken to wearing a bulletproof vest."

Gonzalez, who will be in Las Vegas for a book signing at Borders Book Shop on Decatur Boulevard just prior to the Tyson vs. McNeeley fight, comes across as not only outspoken, but sincere.

"I wasn't looking to get rich and have a best-seller," he said. "The big publishers told me they thought it was too legally controversial, so I invested my own money to get it published."



DEAN JUIPE

He and Feigenbaum, as well as King publicist Mike Marley, said no litigation has been filed since the book's first printing.

"The only thing I hear in a legal sense is that the U.S. Justice Department has started looking into King because of the book," Feigenbaum, an attorney, said from his office in Miami. "There's no litigation, no actions filed against us."

Marley, speaking on behalf of King from offices in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., offered the remark that King was not "even bothering with it." Further, he said: "Rudy is a disgruntled ex-employee of Tyson's. No reputable publisher would touch the book. It's a little wacky."

Yet the stories included in the book sound very much authentic. No question Gonzalez qualifies as a disgruntled ex-employee, but he tells a dramatic story in detailed fashion. And he dislikes King, Horne and Holloway with a passion.

"I'm looking forward to the day those guys are escorted from Mike's life," Gonzalez said. "Right now they're holding Mike hostage. Something happened there ... they've got something on Mike."

"Horne is villain No. 1 as far as I'm concerned because he's nothing but a street punk from LA who came in the back door and took control of Mike's life. Holloway's not much better, then you have King, who's like the Joker in the Batman movies: You want to laugh at him, but he scares you at the same time."

"The world does not need these people."

Tyson must feel he needs them, as he returned to the trio following his release from prison in March. Many who follow the sport were disappointed in Tyson for not remaining independent and steering clear of King and his cohorts.

Gonzalez was always an outsider as far as King, Horne and Holloway were concerned because he predated them in Tyson's life. And everyone who predated them was eventually run off or fired, the result, Gonzalez says, of King using racial propaganda and intimidation.

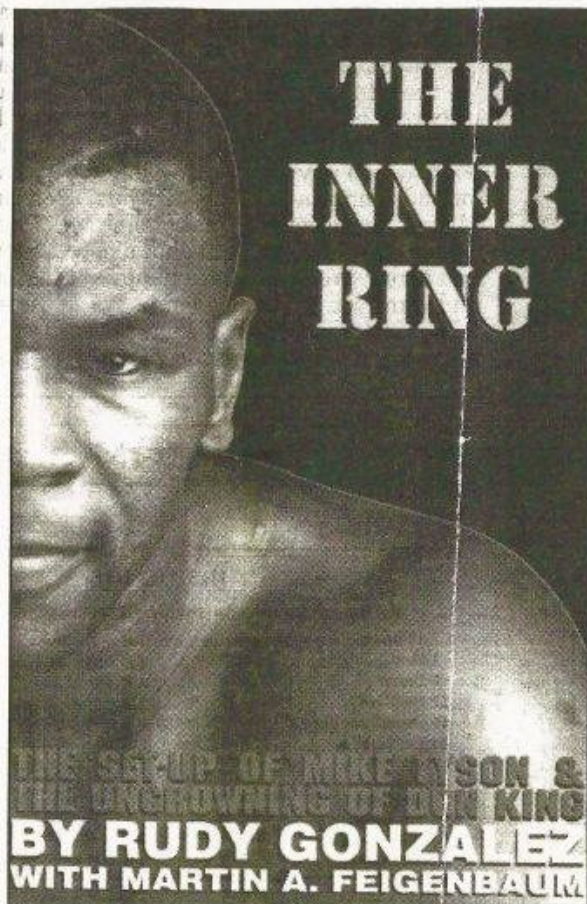
King was so clever in his use of race that he was able to mastermind a plot that allowed him to take over Tyson's career, Gonzalez contends in the book.

Although Tyson had friends of all races as a young man - as a teen he lived with an elderly white woman and his first managers, Bill Cayton and Jim Jacobs, were white, as was his first trainer, Kevin Rooney, and Gonzalez is Puerto Rican - King continued to harp on his theme "that the white man still enslaved the black man, especially in the world of sports," Gonzalez writes.

So King used Horne and Holloway, who are black, to get to Tyson in 1988 via Tyson's wife at the time, Robin Givens, and her mother, Ruth Roper.

"Horne and Holloway were stoking the fires of discord between the couple," Gonzalez writes. "And they were pounding Tyson with a black rap. Horne told Tyson the white man is 'evil' and that 'You're a nigger and you've got to hang out with niggers.' Don King, chess player extraordinaire, must have been having a good laugh as these pawns marched across the gameboard to his tune."

Gonzalez cites a quote from former heavyweight champion Larry Holmes to bolster his position. "(King) sells black," Holmes said. "He's the black



MIKE TYSON is a hostage of Don King, according to book written and published by his former bodyguard, Rudy Gonzalez.

KKK, the black supremacist."

Tyson wasn't quick to buy in to King's advances and once jumped in one of his many fabulous cars and had Gonzalez attempt to evade King during a wild chase through New York City. But eventually King's ploy worked, as Jacobs died, Rooney was replaced as trainer and Cayton's contract with Tyson was allowed to expire.

By the time Tyson fought Frank Bruno (Feb. 25, 1989) at the Las Vegas Hilton, King was in and Tyson's "lack of

training started taking its toll." A loss to Buster Douglas followed, and even comeback fights against Razor Ruddock at The Mirage (March 18 and June 28, 1991) were loaded with distractions for Tyson, who had free rein in the hotel.

A Tyson vs. Ruddock confrontation in King's New York offices that received minimal exposure at the time is replayed with extensive detail in the book. It turns out Tyson knocked Ruddock down not once but twice in the office during a full-scale brawl that

didn't come to an end until Gonzalez pulled a Glock 9 mm handgun. The incident was precipitated by Tyson learning King had made \$9 million on the first Tyson-Ruddock fight, while Tyson took home only \$5.7 million.

Tyson exploded again when he came to learn that King was billing him for items normally paid for by a promoter, including \$52,000 a year to King's daughter for being vice president of Tyson's fan club. "Rudy, I can't read," Tyson told Gonzalez after Gonzalez asked the fighter why he signed everything King put in front of him.

After Gonzalez sorted through Tyson's bank statements, Tyson confronted King and demanded, "Why am I paying for your family?" With Tyson becoming more confrontational, Gonzalez also relates a story from this time frame in which a chef for the fighter admits he has been ordered by King to slip a sedative into Tyson's food.

Shortly thereafter, Gonzalez was shot twice by an assailant in Los Angeles while on a car-retrieving mission for King. Gonzalez was not robbed during the assault, which he laid at King's doorstep.

Of course the Desiree Washington incident gets its play in the book, with Tyson's explanation of the incident a simple "She freaked out after we did the wild thing." After Washington charged Tyson with rape, King solidified his position with Tyson further.

"Now you need my help, nigger!" Gonzalez quotes King as screaming to Tyson.

There is plenty of screaming, plenty of hostility throughout the book. To this date, with the stories taken at face value, Tyson is shown as something of a pitiful figure, manipulated, drugged and used as a "blank check" by those he has somehow decided to trust.

DEAN JUIPE is a Las Vegas SUN sports writer. His columns also run Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

A turkey giveaway in A.C.

Catholic agency runs program

By W. LEON POPE
Staff Writer

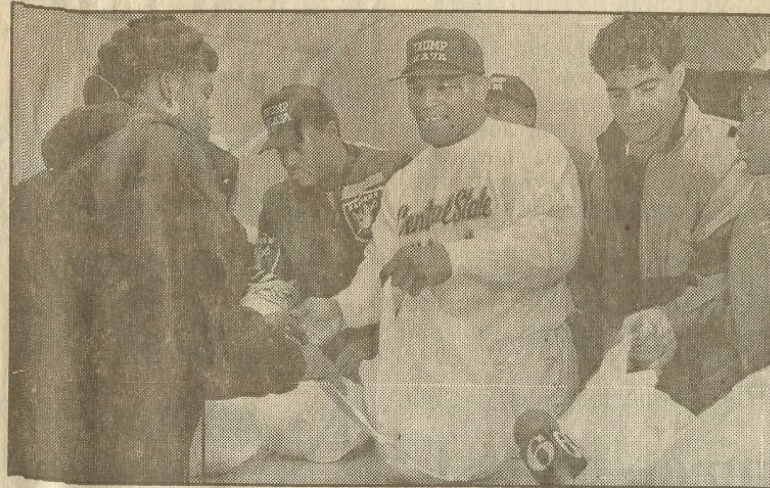
ATLANTIC CITY — Thanksgiving came early for people like Louise Gant and Nokimis Massey.

They were just two of the nearly 400 people who received free turkeys or chickens Tuesday compliments of the Catholic Social Services, located on Georgia Avenue here.

Not only did Gant and Massey get the turkeys free, they also got everything needed to prepare a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

"They get a complete dinner," said Sister Grace, who has been overseeing the non-profit organization's preparation of the annual turkey giveaway for

□ See **Help**, Page D4



Staff photo by Vernon Ogradnek

Police weren't the only ones handing out turkeys in A.C. Tuesday; ex-heavyweight champ Mike Tyson was on hand at the Uptown Complex to help distribute food to the needy

month.

Figures compiled by an expressway consultant also showed that traffic fell by 1 percent on the Garden State Parkway in September. Traffic rose on the New Jersey Turnpike by less than 1 percent for the same month. Those two toll roads had only minimal traffic growth for the 12-month period ending in September.

Despite the dropoff for September and October, expressway traffic was up overall by 3 percent for the first 10 months of this year, said Edward F. Sullivan of URS Coverdale & Colpitts, the authority's consulting traffic engineer.

Sullivan attributed the decline in September and October to the recession in the Northeast. The economic slump has cut deeply into the leisure travel market, such as that to the Atlantic City casino hotels.

The struggling casino industry reported last week that only two gaming halls recorded higher profits in the third quarter of this year compared to the same period in 1989.

The advent of legalized gambling in 1978 transformed the expressway from an obscure highway to Atlantic City's busiest thoroughfare with 44.4 million

Miss America Pageant dethrones Texas' Magness

By MICHAEL PRITCHARD
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — B. Don Magness, the cigar chomping ex-head of the Miss Texas Pageant,

Magness pleaded his case before Miss America Pageant officials, who conducted a highly secretive investigation of the colorful Magness.

quotes Magness as saying "Come on in, sluts," to a group of contestants and paints him as a dirty old man who is often lewd to Miss Texas hopefuls.

ment imposed (on) all of the volunteers running local and state pageants across this country is to conduct themselves with a dignity and professionalism at all