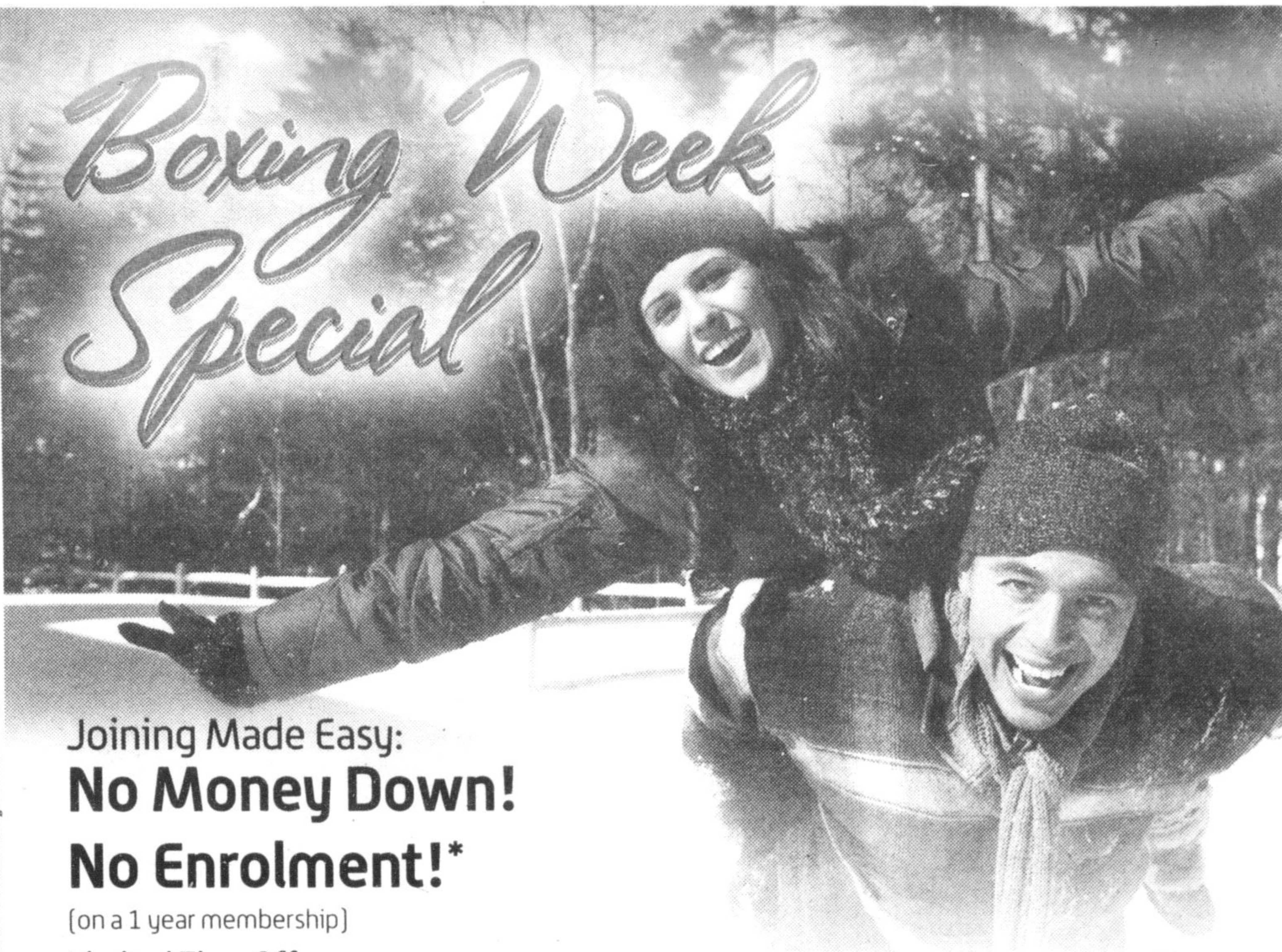


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That Boston night memorable

I once made a New Year's resolution to be less stupid in the coming year. It didn't work out. In fact, I can't remember a resolution that ever did, so I don't make them any more.

In any event, I was looking back at the year at some of the activities I was involved with, including the strangest. It was one late summer night in Boston. Boston is a nice city, but we were there mostly to go to Fenway Park for a baseball game, which was great.

The hotel was nice, too. But, just as an aside, you can't take beer to your hotel room in Massachusetts. It's an odd law, and one that takes covert action to circumvent, although we did get caught once and had to leave it with hotel security.

Okay, so there were four of us and we had fallen asleep at an unreasonable hour when the fire alarm went off, maybe around 2:30 in the morning. Everybody ignored it at first. Alarms are always going off in hotels.

It was too loud to ignore, though, and what people eventually do is look out in the hallway and see what everybody else is doing. And to see if you can smell smoke.

We were next to the stairwell and there was a constant pounding on the stairs from people going down. So, this seemed serious enough, maybe we should go. Nobody was in a rush, and certainly nobody was in a panic. We took our time and then joined the people on the stairwell.

We made it to the ground floor and then joined the throngs across the street where there was an empty park-like field. Firetrucks and emergency vehicles blocked the street, so there actually was a fire.



*On the
 loose*

with **MURRAY TOWNSEND**

Nobody could see anything, though, and never would. We later found out it was some electrical thing.

In the meantime, people were lying on the grass or finding any space where they could sit. I noticed that many people were talking on cell phones, although I couldn't imagine who'd be happy to hear from them at that time of night.

After an hour people began to get restless, and more importantly had to go to the bathroom. Our little group was one of the first to wise up to this and we walked about 10 minutes to the Boston Harbor Hotel, found a bathroom and very comfortable chairs.

I never slept a wink, but wandered around mostly, seeing if I could find out anything. I listened in to the hotel manager telling his people what to do, and then changing his mind on the spot. People were sleeping in almost every available empty spot on the floor, and he realized the best thing to do was just deal with it.

We all got back to our rooms late the next morning. The next day, the fire alarm went off again.

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