The Boxing Year That Was

Benn Schulberg reveals that his father, **Budd Schulberg**, considers the first **Corrales-Castillo** bout the best fight he has ever seen, due to the dramatic pendulum sway in the final round. I was amazed to read this, given that Budd has been watching fights for 70-plus years.

It should be no surprise, then, that Dan Rafael of ESPN picks Corrales-Castillo I as his fight of the year . Could there have been any other choice? Rafael lists a number of other slugfests which get honorable mention - including **Arce vs. Hussein**, one that I particularly enjoyed myself. Hopefully we will see more of **Jorge Arce** during 2006. Showtime, HBO ... are you listening?

USA Today offers its 2005 picks of the year and picks as its fight of the year - you guessed it - the May 7 title unification fight between Diego Corrales and Jose Luis Castillo. Amongst other awards, USA Today selects **Jermain Taylor** as its fighter of the year and **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** as number 1 in the pound for pound rankings.

Interesting take by the Australian Daily Telegraph which reports Zab Judah is dodging Kostya Tszyu . According to the headline at the Daily Telegraph, **Judah** does not want to face **Tszyu** again so he is fighting **Floyd Mayweather** instead. Obviously the editor resonsible for writing the headlines at the Daily Telegaph isn't a fight fan. Below the Judah-Tszyu lead in the same column at the Daily Telegraph is the tragic tale of former Tszyu sparring partner **Leonard Townsend**, who has been sentenced to 85 years in prison in Indiana. Townsend was found guilty of murder and attempted murder in October in a gun battle that started during a haircut. During a haircut?

If Joe Mesi is able to get licensed and he is willing, Vassiliy Jirov says he would fight Mesi again. "*He has warning enough. He is ignoring this. If he wants to hurt himself, it's strange*

," said Jirov.

Not really boxing news per se, but on Christmas day we linked to a **Jack Johnson** restrospective on the TheSweetScience.com boxing news links page. Part 1 and Part 2 on Jack Johnson's visit to Vancouver, Canada are well worth the read.

Finally, **Ricky Hatton** has been given the all-clear for a quick return to the ring after making a remarkable recovery. Hatton's father and manager, **Ray Hatton**, says the unbeaten Mancunian will fight again in the United States in the spring.

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