



The Skater

The Tonya Harding Fan Club Monthly

Volume One, Number Eight

J.A. Haran, Editor

November, 1993

TONYA BRAVES DEATH THREAT, SKATES EXHIBITION

ICE CHALET, Clackamas Town Center—

She skated in the spotlight, beautiful in her French braid and peach Skate America International costume. She received rousing cheers with every jump, every move. It was a special night, a very special skater was performing and thousands of spectators were there to see her: jammed into every nook and cranny of the Ice Chalet's environs were fans, anxious to see the person cognoscenti know to be the finest figure skater in the world.

It was Saturday night, November 13th, one day after Tonya Harding's 23rd birthday and she was starring in a figure skating exhibition marking the completion of Clackamas Town Center's remodeling. And the stated common denominator among the spectators was this:

"Isn't it great to see Tonya skating again?"



November 13, 1993

And everybody nodded in agreement, yes! It was great to see Tonya skating again after the tragic ruination of her long-awaited homecoming nine days previous: the Thursday at 4:00 p.m. when a demented person's telephone message ended Tonya's day in the sun.

"If Harding skates she'll get a bullet in the back," the caller said. Thus ended Tonya's certain victory in the Northwest Pacific Figure Skating Championships. Thus began several days of anguish, pain, stress and soul-searching for

Tonya—days when moral support was forthcoming for her, days when rumors were taken as fact, when otherwise intelligent people succumbed to mendacity, when Tonya's drive and determination overcame

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ELAINE'S LINES: PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Elaine Stamm

What a privilege it is—and has been—to be in my position with The Tonya Harding Fan Club. I have met the best people in the world either in person, on the telephone or through the mail. Thank you, all of you who have made contact with me through our mutual interest and caring about Tonya and our belief in her. Someone recently told Tonya a prerequisite for his firm's supporting Tonya was that she "...forget the Fan Club." She refused, primarily because our "being there" is more important to her than financial aid. But through our memberships, donations from members and "in-kind" services we have really been able to help. Our multitude of very real "Davids" to other mythical "Goliaths" has proved that Fan Club doubter wrong, wrong, wrong. Hundreds of us gather together in spirit, doing what each can do to support, encourage and promote Tonya. She is inspired by you—and she is inspirational.

When I recently saw a video tape of Tonya performing her technical program at Skate America International, I got tears in my eyes—not only for her artistry and brilliance, but I wondered: how did she put it all together? I have never witnessed her in practice being able to do her whole program without dodging another skater or bailing out of a jump because someone skated into her path. Somehow, though, she puts it all together when it counts. She creates it—magically, mystically, spiritually. She's got it!

Aren't we lucky to be on Team Tonya? Say a prayer for her—for her confidence, her peace of mind and physical ability and health. She's going for the gold—and we are with her.

FLASH! ICE TIME FOR TONYA!

Tonya will have more ice time in her training regimen leading up to the Nationals in January. Beginning Monday the 20th, Tonya will skate Monday evenings between 5:45 and 6:45p.m., Wednesday and Friday evenings between 6:15 and 7:15p.m., and Sundays(tentative) between 6:45 and 7:45p.m. She will, of course, continue her morning practices as usual. So come on out Clackamas Town Center, have dinner at the food court and watch the world's best skater train on clear ice!

TONYA SKATES FOR CBS

Tonya skated an exhibition in Charlotte, North Carolina, on November 7th. She skated two perfect programs for the "Champions on Ice" program taped for the Columbia Broadcasting System's (CBS) television network. Contact your local CBS affiliate and let them know you want to see this program—and you want to know when it will be broadcast. And don't forget to mention Tonya's name! Don't be shy! By the way, Tonya gave us an insight into how these figure skating exhibitions are taped for television. Any parts of a skater's program that aren't done correctly are re-skated and re-taped—and edited into the original tape—so it looks like everyone skated perfectly. Tonya did her two programs in one take: no mistakes, done perfectly! The same could not be said for other big-name skaters, but there's only one Tonya.



STEINBRENNER STEPS UP TO HELP TONYA

George Steinbrenner—of New York Yankees baseball club ownership fame—has stepped up to the plate to help Tonya achieve her goals in skating. Mr. Steinbrenner has made a generous contribution to Tonya's skating fund at the U.S. Figure Skating Association—and he's going to continue to help her in her quest for the Olympic Championship. Thank you, Mr. Steinbrenner, for helping our friend Tonya.

FAN CLUB TO MEET ON DECEMBER 19th, NOT THE 26th!

The general membership meeting of The Tonya Harding Fan Club will be at 3:00p.m. on Sunday December 19th—due to the coming holidays at the end of the month. As usual, the location of the meeting is the third-floor community room at the Benjamin Franklin Plaza building, located at One Southwest Columbia Street in downtown Portland. Remember, there's free parking in the basement! Tonya will be there and so should you (if you can)!

TONYA TONYA DOES GYROS GYROS

Our friend was an integral part (i.e., the "star") of Gyros Gyros ads on television for the past several weeks. (For those who don't know: Gyros Gyros serves Greek sandwiches.) The nice folks at Gyros Gyros are displaying a banner showing their support of Tonya.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor of *The Skater* are welcomed. Please be aware the deadline for such material is the 20th day of the month, for inclusion in that month's edition. Be sure letters are double-spaced and contain a valid telephone number and address. Remember, the editor edits! Send letters to: Joseph A. Haran, Jr., Editor; *The Skater*; The THG Corporation, Suite 585 - 12042 SE Sunnyside Rd., Clackamas, Oregon 97015-6394.

TONYA'S FAN MAIL ADDRESS

Want to write to Tonya but don't know the address? Well, here it is:

Tonya M. Harding

Ice Chalet

Clackamas Town Center

12000 SE 82nd Ave Suite 1085

Portland OR 97266-7731

EDITOR EMERITUS BROUGHT OUT OF MOTHBALLS

We are delighted to be once again editing *The Skater*, after a brief encounter with retirement. Congratulations to Maggie Morris for the fine job she's done during the past few months! She's busy getting ready for an extended tour of Europe following Nationals.



TONYA BRAVES DEATH THREAT

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her fears and an exhibition at a shopping mall became a testimony to Tonya's force of will and courage: the will and courage to remain in charge of her own life rather than react to a hateful person's sick mind.

That first day, November 4th—the day of the death threat—was to be Tonya's debut in regional competition on her home ice.

The senior ladies technical program was scheduled for 4:35 p.m. Tonya was in costume, lacing up her boots. The Zamboni had made its two passes over the ice. The moment the competitors and several thousand spectators at rinkside waited for was at hand, yet unbeknown to Tonya and the other skaters a death threat had already been received in the skating rink office. Law enforcement agencies had been contacted and security precautions had begun. Then, while most of the competitors gathered at the barrier gate, the public address announcer requested the skaters meet with Chief Referee Joseph Driano. As the brief meeting ended, the public address announcer told the throng the senior ladies technical program was "...postponed due to extraordinary circumstances." (It was rescheduled for 9:30 p.m. that night.)

Tonya, in the venue area, was informed by a law enforcement officer that a threat had been made against her personal safety. Journalists on the scene to report Tonya's program soon realized they had a new and unexpected story to cover! After changing out of her costume, Tonya was escorted from the premises, via back hallways, by law

enforcement officers who then informed her the threat against her had been a **death** threat. Tonya, in the company of her husband Jeff Gillooly, went directly home in their vehicle—followed in a separate vehicle by her father, Al Harding. [*We accompanied Mr. Harding in his vehicle. We had met Tonya shortly after the postponement was announced and remained with her throughout the evening.*]

Back at the Tournament site, the mall buzzed with the news: Tonya had been threatened—but by whom? Why?

During all this time Tonya remained somber, yet bursts of self-effacement came through from time to time: trying to relax at home, Tonya proposed we watch a video. "But I can't handle anything violent," she laughed, her grim face showing a smile for a moment. "Let's watch something by Walt Disney." Of course, there were times when the day's events and implications became too much for her; but she bore herself with dignity throughout.

Not long after arriving home, Tonya was telephoned and informed she would have to return to the skating venue for a meeting with United States Figure Skating Association (USFSA) officials. Tonya was asked to return to the very site where her life had been threatened only a few hours before, but she nevertheless said, "I have to go." Met by law enforcement officers upon her arrival back at Clackamas Town Center, Tonya was thus escorted to the skating venue, her husband constantly by her side

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DEATH THREAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Shortly after Tonya's arrival, the chief referee approached her for a brief interview, after which Tonya was seen in tears.

The proposed meeting with skating officials commenced shortly after Tonya's attorney, Dennis Rawlinson, arrived—having rushed to the Ice Chalet from his offices in downtown Portland. After the 45-minute meeting, a news release was issued to waiting journalists stating Tonya had accepted a bye. Tonya—the day's events having caught up with her emotionally (and she had, in the meeting, heard for the first time the actual death threat message)—was advised to forgo a news conference and was hurriedly escorted from the premises by law enforcement officers, a news videographer in hot pursuit.

The next day—Friday—Tonya issued a news release through the local media, apologizing to her fans for not having been able to skate for them—and stating her concern for the safety of the other skaters and all in attendance on the day the death threat was made.

Fantastic rumors are inevitable under such circumstances as had occurred that day: one "witness" reported Tonya shopping in the mall right after the meeting with USFSA officials—even as Tonya was being driven from the premises in the company of three other people! Another more cruel rumor was begun, the gist of which was Tonya—or someone she knew—originated the death threat! Anyone who spent time with Tonya that afternoon and evening could see and feel

the anguish, fear and pain she was experiencing—hardly byproducts of a conspiracy. Tonya had looked forward to skating before her home-town fans. She needed neither the publicity nor the bye from competition resulting from the death threat. Yet there were people in positions of responsibility who chose to give credence to these absurd rumors by passing them along as fact. (One wonders just who stood to benefit by the spread of such rumors. And who stood to benefit if Tonya did not skate—or if she had been compelled to skate, impossibly distracted in the wake of a death threat?)

Tonya returned to Clackamas Town Center two days later, on Saturday, in order to meet briefly with her coach, Diane Rawlinson. While there and in the company of law enforcement officers, Tonya was approached by dozens of people wanting to know how she was, stating their care and support of her and—inevitably—wanting her autograph. Charming toward visitors, Tonya was nevertheless still upset, anxious and fearful—and left the premises as soon as she had met with her coach.

As life goes on, so Tonya's career in figure skating went on. On Monday, four days after the death threat, she was back at the rink bright and early for practice. Still a bit nervous, Tonya nevertheless put into action her commitment: "I'm not going to let somebody else run my life!" And there was an exhibition to get ready for—and a tournament in Japan.





BE PART OF TONYA'S TEAM!

WEAR A "TEAM TONYA" T-SHIRT!

Designed by Tonya herself, these T-shirts are a big hit at Tonya's home ice. Tonya wears one and so should you! Show your support of our favorite skater. Step up, pitch in and help Tonya on her quest for Olympic gold by purchasing Team Tonya Sportswear '94. Team Tonya T-shirts are hard to miss in a crowd—they're bright yellow and feature the Team Tonya logo. Help Tonya achieve her goals and get yourself an excellent souvenir at the same time. Simply fill out the form below, enclose \$15 for each shirt and mail the form and your check or a money order (made out to Tonya M. Harding)—no cash, please—to:

The THG Corporation
12042 SE Sunnyside Rd Suite 585
Clackamas OR 97015-6394

Please allow two weeks for delivery.

Yes! I want to be a part of Team Tonya!

Please fill the order below as soon as possible!

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Number of shirts _____ | Size: Medium _____ |
| Number of shirts _____ | Size: Large _____ |
| Number of shirts _____ | Size: Extra Large _____ |
| Number of shirts _____ | Size: Extra Extra Large _____ |
| Total number of shirts _____ | X \$15= TOTAL _____ |

Please enclose your check or a money order made out to "Tonya M. Harding."

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS (OR P.O. BOX OR RFD) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH AREA CODE () _____

THANKS FOR JOINING TEAM TONYA!



TONYA HARDING FAN CLUB HONOR ROLL

CATEGORIES OF GIVING

The Skater would like to acknowledge those contributors to Tonya's cause by category of giving.

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Boring, OR (anonymous)
East Coast couple, (anonymous)



HOW TO JOIN

- ☐ **YES**, I'd like to help support Tonya Harding, our local figure skating champion, by joining her international fan club.

MEMBERSHIPS

- ☐ Senior/Fixed Income\$5.00
- ☐ Individual Adult\$10.00
- ☐ Family\$15.00
- ☐ Junior (ages 7-18).....\$5.00
- ☐ Tots for Tonya (under 7)\$1.00
- ☐ Business\$25.00

DONATIONS

- ☐ I'd like to donate, in addition to, or in lieu of, membership, \$_____

- ☐ Or, this "in-kind" donation of goods or services: _____

Membership runs for one year from date of entry. Members receive a TONYA! bumper sticker, a photo button, *The Skater* and a membership card.

For back issues of The Skater, Please add \$.50 per copy. (First issue was April, 1993)

Enclosed is my check for: \$_____

Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thanks!

PLEASE MAKE THE CHECK OUT TO:

The Tonya Harding Fan Club

MAIL TO:

Elaine L. Stamm, President
The Tonya Harding Fan Club
4632 SE Oxbow Parkway
Gresham, OR 97080-8967

Please complete the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

I CAN FURTHER SUPPORT TONYA BY:

- ☐ Fund raising
- ☐ Calling sports talk programs
- ☐ Donations of money
- ☐ Photocopying
- ☐ Hair Care

- ☐ Making phone calls
- ☐ Sending Tonya encouraging cards
- ☐ Getting endorsements
- ☐ Film for Club snapshots
- ☐ Nail Care

- ☐ Writing letters to editors
- ☐ Bringing more people to meetings
- ☐ Putting an ad in your local paper
- ☐ Cosmetics
- ☐ Clothing

I heard about the Fan Club from _____

FOR MORE INFO, CALL ELAINE AT (503) 663-5554