

Sorry dudes, don't wanna coach the Lakers tonight

Magic is at it again. Saturday night, I decided to watch the Blazers and the Lakers (I was bored, all right?) I figured what the hell, I can see how stupid Magic Johnson looks as a coach and see if he puts on one of those rehearsed explosions directed at the referee.

Then I learned 15 minutes before the game that Magic would not be on the sidelines coaching the Lakers this particular night. So instead, I get to watch two average teams play slopball, and one of the coaches is, of all people, Michael Cooper (luckily you couldn't see his knee-high socks).

Since 1991, when Magic Johnson announced he had acquired the HIV virus, he has made one ridiculous move after another.

When Magic announced he

had HIV, he did it with class and courage that went far beyond what should be expected of someone who knows he has a deadly, incurable disease.

But the class stopped there.

It all started when Johnson opted to leave his name on the all-star ballot despite not playing a single game during the 1991-92 season. He was voted on to the team by NBA fans, and then decided to play in the game.

To make things worse, Johnson spent the whole season wavering about whether he would return to the Laker roster for the playoffs. He ultimately didn't, but people were beginning to get annoyed.

Next, he played on the 1992 Olympic "Dream Team." After the team returned home with the gold medal, Johnson started



DAVE CHARBONNEAU

to hint that he may be considering returning to the NBA for the 1992-93 season.

Finally, Magic bailed out and decided to retire from basketball altogether.

Or did he?

No, he didn't.

With less than 20 games left in this season, the Lakers decided to fire head coach Randy Pfund and replace him with Magic.

So Magic, in true showtime

form, begins coaching and puts on a little show for the crowd, laughing with the refs one minute, and yelling at them the next.

He's having a great ol' time doing this coaching thing.

Oh, but wait. Magic has a prior engagement on Saturday so, sorry Lakers, but Magic won't be able to coach tonight. He'll probably be back for the next game. That's OK isn't it?

Then, on Monday I read that Magic is considering not even returning to coach next season. Give me a break.

The guy is a clown.

Now, he wants to be a part owner of a team. So what about when he burns out on that?

Does he want to be a referee? That stupid Phoenix Gorilla? Bat clean-up for the Birmingham

Barons?

I have to say it: I'm sick of Magic Johnson. Any respect I had for him when he played for the Lakers, and any sympathy I felt for him when he announced he was HIV positive, is gone.

I'm not saying he should hide in a closet and just wait to die. What I am saying is quit being such a damn flake. Having an incurable disease does not give you the right to dabble in coaching or team ownership because you think it might be a neat-o hobby.

If you want to play, play. If you want to coach, and a team is dumb enough to give you the job, coach.

But please Magic, make up your damn mind.

Dave Charbonneau is a sports writer for the Emerald.

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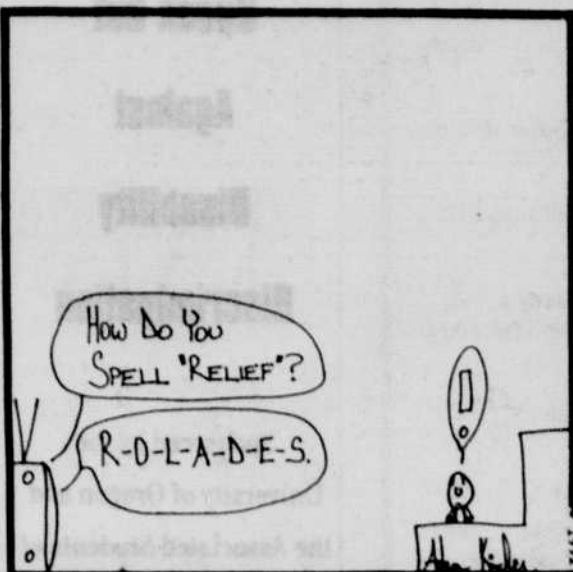
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Small Scene by Adam Kincher



Why Dan Quayle quit his career in commercials and entered politics

An ad for the pinning of Leslie from the Alpha Chi Omega sorority and Brandon from the Kappa Sigma fraternity ran on the wrong date. The ad was scheduled for April 12th not April 11th. The Oregon Daily Emerald apologizes for any inconveniences caused by this error.

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