

Magic: athlete, husband, father, legend

by Jeff Kemp
Staff Writer

I am writing this opinion piece in rebuttal to the recent article written by my colleague of *The Print* Paul Valencia. Although I do respect Mr. Valencia as a fellow writer, I do not agree with his views of the great athlete, man, husband and father, Earvin "Magic" Johnson.

I would like to ask my fellow journalism enthusiast to look more closely at the issues. If he did understand the issues, I think he would have to reconsider a lot of the things he wrote. Magic has done more for the black community than possibly any other man in recent history.

Only about 1/100th of a single percentage point of the entire population of the United States is fortunate enough to come from where Johnson and his fellow blacktop buddies came from. The streets of Lansing, Mich., are not an easy place to attain millionaire status. That says a lot to kids (especially young black youths) trying to pull themselves out of the depths of hell they live in.

Magic Johnson has admitted his wrongdoing and is currently trying very hard to promote "safe sex" to people of all ages across

the United States. Johnson even has a video out that he worked on in cooperation with Arsenio Hall and Malcom Jamal-Warner that is designed to inform people about HIV and AIDS. All of the profits of the sales of the video will go to

pressure on these individuals from thousands of adoring fans that spans not only from coast to coast, but globally as well. I understand that this is not an excuse for Johnson or any other person for that matter, but it should be a consid-

would be, to look at what he loved about Magic instead of dwelling on the negatives that now surround his boyhood idol. There is already enough hate in this world.

My associate also said that he did not think that sleeping with

news of Magic's illness. I wonder if he ever stopped to think how Johnson and his wife felt when they received the news.

Valencia said that Johnson was stupid. I feel that a man with a college education is not stupid. I think the instructors at Michigan State University would agree. Earvin Johnson made a mistake, like all humans do, plain and simple.

Furthermore, I would like to echo some of Ashe's words, whom Valencia covets so much, "This disease knows no names, colors, or lifestyles. It can affect anyone."

Johnson is not the only person to make this mistake, but he is the only one with enough media exposure to make a lot of people take a long, hard look at this terrible disease. He is far too important to give up on.

I respect Valencia's article in that he pays tribute to a great athlete in Arthur Ashe; he shouldn't cloud his attempt to pay respect to an admirable man by slamming a greater one. Johnson has already been plagued with a disease which will take his life; let's not kill him with our words.



research. I've even seen copies of the video, to look at for a night, for free at most video rental outlets.

My co-worker also seems to have forgot how difficult it is to be a professional sports player. There is a constant amount of

eration.

Valencia said in his article that he used to look up to Johnson while he was growing up.

"He was the top of the world. He was a champion. He was the greatest," Valencia wrote.

My suggestion to him now,

a thousand women is acceptable. Neither do I, nor does Johnson. He has already said he regretted his actions and has done everything humanly possible to amend his mistakes.

Valencia said that he was "let down" when he heard the

Difficulty understanding how Measure 5 passed

by Daniel J. Mala
Staff Writer

I was told that I might be flogging a dead horse by writing on Ballot Measure 5, the property tax limitations.

The problem I had understanding was how it ever passed in the first place. I thought that this country was founded "for the people, by the people." Obviously, somewhere in the growing of our nation this idea became "for the special interest groups (with the most money), by the special interest groups (to insure that they continue to have plenty of money)."

This cutting of the taxes has a lot to do with ignorance. There is this huge picture that needs to be looked at when deciding which lever to pull in the voting booth. Most people choose not to study this picture and put their faith in one special interest group or another.

other.

Unfortunately, even though you no longer have to make decisions for yourself, if you're helping to sponsor a group that sounds nice enough, but has lots of dough, chances are this group is living off your labor. There are two that

the deficit. Reaganomics cut taxes, which increased spending and investment, but also cut into our social services and left us with this huge bill. During Reaganomics I was attending the fifth-through 12th-grades. I didn't really get any tax cuts or extra

groups are working hard to make sure they get a steady supply of monetary power, while the rest of us get less and less for our tax dollars.

Ballot Measure 5 was written by a man who lives in California and owns fitness centers in

and find as many people that agree with you to help support your campaign.

If you feel that we are paying too much in taxes and vote on every measure that your're told will lower your taxes, you are an ignorant fool. Through your blind-sightedness, you are taking away educational rights from your children and creating a debt that our under-educated, minimum-wage earning, next generation will be expected to pay. Your kids may wonder where the meal went, for this time they will be the ones stuck with the bill.

The important thing is to not only vote, but to vote with an educated opinion that will allow you to make the decisions that will allow the country to be run by us, not these different lobby groups. If you can't understand an issue or measure, don't turn to one source for information, look at many sources. Then go back and reread the measure or issue and formulate your own opinion.

On a closing note, I'm not flogging a dead horse. Ballot Measure 5 will be completed (the 15 per \$1,000 limit will be reached) in 1995. It has been estimated that tuition will be around \$2,500 a TERM at the state Universities (including more cut courses). Still feel like you're saving money by doing your first two years at the local community college?

Don't worry too much, though. The state will probably issue more grants to help curve the cost and we can pass the bill down to our kids. Sweet dreams...

"If you feel that we are paying too much in taxes and vote on every measure that you're told will lower your taxes, you are an ignorant fool."

come to mind: the health insurance lobby, and associated business and industry lobby.

These organizations get their money from charging you more for products and services. In return they retain the power to continue to charge you more and more and more...

If your are under 25, you should be very concerned about

privileges; as a matter of fact, during this time the quality of education was steadily dropping as it continues to do even today.

So now we have the bill. Yeah, you know ... the thing you get after you eat a big meal. Oops, I forgot we didn't have a big meal; we just got the bill.

That is country wide. In our state these same special interest

Oregon. He knew what would happen. He knew that he would get a huge tax break, and what does he care about services here, the man lives in California.

Measure 5 was designed for the sole purpose of giving bigger businesses a property tax break at the expense of everyone else. Yes, we lose. Lose school funding ... lose police officers and fire protection ... lose roads ... lose jail space.

But I'm sure a lot of you are still going to celebrate your own ignorance; "listen to the bleeding heart, tree hugger trying to take my money away," followed by laughter.

Well I'm not a Democrat or Republican and would never want to be either. What I am is concerned about the fact that a lot of people are getting ripped off because they are blind to the facts.

If you feel that we are paying too much in taxes and would like to see the government cut back, I applaud you. Go get a copy of the state budget (it's open to the public), look for areas that are worthless (I'm sure that there are plenty)

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor
In regards to Staff Writer Tully:

Mr. Tully,
Upon reading your recent editorial (Dole represents old Republican agenda, Feb. 10, 1993), I found myself so incredulous at the blatant misstatements and falsehoods in it I felt compelled to respond.

It was stated in your article that because Mr. Dole and the Republicans were "thoroughly squashed" in the election they have to do something to ensure that their "agenda" remains on the books. On this point I would ask Mr. Tully to please check his facts in regards to the elections results. In the house of representatives the Republicans gained 10 seats, a 20 seat-swing. This gain has been occurring for 20 years now, as the suburbs gain more and more voting power, and is going to continue well into the foreseeable future. Yes, Mr. Tully, 40 years of disastrous liberal Democratic rule is coming to an end in the House. In the Senate, the Republicans

gained two seats and are poised to increase their 44 seats in the 1994 elections as 22 Democrats will be up for re-election.

At the local and state level, the same results are occurring. You see, people are realizing they don't need big-brother government in their lives to take care of their every need. The people are saying, and more importantly voting, "Government, get out of my life."

In regards to the presidential race Mr. Tully, one question comes to mind, "Where were you?" Not only did Clinton win with only a plurality and not a majority, but he won with a smaller percent of the vote than Michael Dukakis received in 1988. Looking at this another way, almost 6 of 10 Americans voted for someone besides Mr. Clinton. I would ask you to please redefine the term "squash."

On the point of our legislative process, despite what you seem to believe, it is in place so that all the people's voices may be heard, not just the minority who voted for Clinton. I'm sorry if you expect Mr. Dole to roll over and let Clinton charge forward with anything he wants but thank

God he will not and cannot for the Republican opposition is all the rest of us have.

Your argument also falls short in defense of Clinton's ability to "sign any executive order he wishes allowing gays to openly serve in the military." Mr. Clinton has not signed any such executive order, sir. The reason being he does not even have the support of most of his own party. No, he had to break, or at least put off yet another campaign promise because it is a losing issue for him. Social engineers like Mr. Clinton would do well to leave the military alone, Mr. Tully. It is one facet of our society that still works.

I long ago came to the realization that our dominant media, and you guys too, lost any claims to objectivity with your liberal world view. Next time, however, could you please at least check your facts.

Sincerely,
Eric Christianson
Assistant Track Coach/Teacher

Clarification:

In a comic appearing on last week's Opinion page, we incorrectly reported the campus speed at 35mph. The campus speed limit is actually 30mph. The Clackamas Print regrets the error.