



THE LOCKER ROOM

BY ULYSSES TUCKER, JR.



A.C. Green camp more than basketball

By Aaron Fentress
Los Angeles Lakers forward, A.C. Green, is winding up his annual youth basketball camp at Concordia College in N.E. Portland this week. The two week camp, which started in 1986, provided an opportunity for approximately 180 children, ranging in age from eight-to-15, to learn about basketball from an All-Star. But according to Green, the camp stressed not only the fundamentals of basketball but the fundamentals of life.

Along with giving instructions on dribbling, rebounding, passing and shooting, Green, and a host of assistant coaches, including Concordia head basketball coach Joel Schulguide, conduct bible study classes and hold devotion periods.

"We're trying to teach these kids that there's more to life than basketball," said Green. "If they can hear that coming from me, then maybe they will listen."

Indeed Green is someone children should listen to. Unlike most people who attempt to inform children that athletics is not everything, like teachers or guidance counselors, Green is an accomplished athlete who has walked the path of athletic fame. When someone of Green's stature tells you there's more to their life than basketball, you're bound to listen.

"A camp is a good way for me to influence youth," Green continued. "I like having them here in the gym and not outside maybe getting into trouble. By starting this camp I can give something

back to the community and show these children that athletics is fun but not life."

The community Green has chosen to give that something back too is a special one to Green. Growing up in North East Portland, Green attended Benson Highschool where he led the Techmen to the Oregon highschool state basketball championship his senior year, in 1981. Green noted that he never had the opportunity to attend a camp as a youth and feels good about being able to offer something to children that he missed out on himself.

"I love this city a great deal. This is my home town," said Green. "I wanted to put on something here in the state of Oregon that I never had growing up. I want to awake the kids spirit, put a seed in their heart, try to open them up. A lot of these kids are closed."

In a sports world where star athletes exploit their fame simply to make more money A.C. Green is doing something positive. And according to Green there are many others who try and do the same thing.

"The players I know in the league and my teammates all try to give something back to their communities," said Green. "They do these kind of things out of the kindness of their heart. Not for profit."

Children attending the camp were divided into eight teams determined by age and size by Coach Schulguide. "What I did was take the two tallest kids and split them up and so on and so on down the line," explained Schulguide.

"That way the teams are fair."

Team names included the Bulls, Pistons, Blazers, Timberwolves and of course, the Lakers. Each game consisted of two 12 minute halves. Although time was kept, score was not. Coach Schulguide explained that the object of the camp was for kids to have fun.

"We're trying not to stress the importance of winning or keeping score at this point in the camp," said Schulguide. "We're just letting them play for fun now. Later on we'll keep score."

When asked if putting on a basketball camp has maybe influenced him to coach in the future Green quickly pointed out that a serious career in coaching is not in his future.

"I don't plan to stay in basketball all my life," said Green. "If I coach it will be in a church league or boys club."

While four different teams engaged in two separate games Green opted to run the time clock in order to give this interview. At the end of a session of games, a boy, no more than 10, approached Green in an attempt to offer his services and help Green operate the clock. Green informed the boy that he was supposed to be down stairs with his team watching a video tape. The boy, who realized his plan had failed, turned with a smile and headed to re-join his teammates. With a playful tone Green yelled out after the boy calling him, "Sneaky!!," then laughed.

Green definitely seemed to enjoy the children as much as the children enjoyed him.

Ali: Great Men Die Twice

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

"...every black champion until Muhammad Ali has been a puppet, manipulated by whites in his private life to control his public image. His role was to conceal the strings from which he was suspended, so as to appear autonomous and self motivated before the public. But with the coming of Ali, the puppet-Master was left with a handful of strings to which his dancing doll was no longer attached..." Soul On Ice, 1968.

swept all of his early fights as a professional and it was not until after his victory over Sonny Liston (February 25, 1964) in Miami Beach, Florida that he

There are not many men who have enjoyed greater recognition than Muhammad Ali. Whether cruising through an American ghetto or making his annual pilgrimage to the Holy City of Mecca, Ali is always in the limelight. He is the only man to get three keys to New York City.

In many ways, I wished that I had never met and talked with Ali because it made me rearrange my perception of him. Gone is his quick tongue, lighting movement, intellectual spontaneity, and showboating. I was happy to see him and sad at the same time. Slowed



Ulysses Tucker, Jr. with Muhammad Ali

When I saw the Louisiana Pacific helicopter about to land on the estate of the corporations CEO/President,

Harry A. Merlo, my heart danced a tango because one of my childhood fantasies was about to come true. I had always dreamed about meeting Muhammad Ali and now he was dropping out of the sky, like an angel from heaven.

Within moments, my mind flashed back to the Louisville Lip, the movie entitled "The Greatest", and to the controversy surrounding Alis' decision to not participate in the Vietnam. Ali was always his own man. If I learned nothing else from Ali, I learned that it is important for all people to stand up for what they believe in. It may cost you at some point, like the loss of a heavyweight title and millions of dollars in his case, but at least he can live with himself and sleep at night. At the time he refused to take proper induction steps into the United States military, Ali said that he "was 90 percent a Muslim minister and 10 percent a fighter."

Born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr. forty-eight years ago in Louisville, Kentucky, the late Clay Sr. believed that his son would be great one day because he had a large head like a king. Throughout his early career, Ali fought under his "christian name", which he later criticized as a "slave name". He breezed through the 1960 Olympics at age eighteen and captured the gold Medal. Ali

announced his name change. Some experts say that the name change, his association with Malcolm X, and the Nation of Islam led to the "system" trying to bring Ali down. The system took from Ali and he took it back, the heavyweight title that is. Who could forget the classic fights against "Smokin" Joe Frazier, Ken Norton, George Foreman, Ernie Shavers, Leon Spinks, and Floyd Patterson. Muhammad Ali brought some golden moments to the boxing ring and inspired some great boxers.

When the helicopter finally landed, Ali got out slowly with the help of the pilot, who left him for a moment to secure the champs baggage. Ali had traveled, via lear jet, from South Bend, Indiana to Portland for the P.A.L. (Police Activities League) Benefit put on by Paul Brown Productions, Inc. Like a magnet pulling a piece of metal, I gravitated towards Ali and his small entourage waiting for him on the ground. While others reached for his hand to shake or pat him on the back, I asked him if I could help him with his bags and put them in a safe place. Ali acknowledge my suggestion with a positive nod and a wink of the eye. Imagine, carrying the bags of a great King and hero/role model for millions of people around the world.

by the effects from the medication he takes for Parkinsons disease, Ali is not the man I once knew. He was sluggish in his movement, and he chose his words very carefully. Ali cracked a few jokes and talked about his experiences in the brutal sport of boxing. Ali has no regrets about his choices or how he lived his life. Despite his physical limitations, Ali signed every autograph and agreed to take pictures with all those who made a request. A true champion.

Before he was taken to his limo, I slipped near Alis' ear and asked the champ how he felt. "old and tired", he replied. "But you're still pretty", I responded like his left jab of old. "I guess you have a point", he countered after rubbing the smooth jaw that Ken Norton once broke while Ali was running his mouth during a fight. "You could be old, tired, and ugly like Joe Frazier", I whispered. "I guess Joe is kinda ugly now that you mentioned it", he said. Slowly, Ali walked to the white limo and before getting inside, he turned to me, winked, and gave me the victory sign. He then thanked me for putting his bags in a safe place...

It has been stated that great men die twice. The first time when they fall from grace and later when they are laid to rest. Ali will never die in my heart and mind.

Handy Tips for Preparing Sports Gear

Dreaming of getting out into the fresh air to cure your cabin fever? Before you head for the great outdoors, make sure that your recreational equipment is ready for you. The following is a collection of sports equipment preparation tips compiled from a free booklet, sponsored by the Bon Ami corporation.

Bicycles should be checked or overhauled before you take them out on the road. Make sure that tires are inflated to their proper level and that the

chain is free of any mud or rust. To thoroughly clean the chain, remove it from the bicycle and soak it in a pan of used motor oil overnight. Wipe with a rag the next day, and it is as clean as new. Chrome on bicycles can be restored to its natural luster by polishing it with a rag and a mildly abrasive cleanser.

If you plan on "roughing it" for the family outdoor vacation, check your tent for any rips and make sure that the zippers work. Test your lanterns and

cookstove so they'll be ready when you need them. Don't forget the sleeping bags and insect repellent!

Use these tips and suggestions to help get the most from your outdoor recreation. You can get more cleaning advice from a free booklet: "When You Care About What You Are Cleaning". For a copy, write the Faultless Starch/Bon Ami Company, 1025 West Eighth Street, Kansas City, MO 64101.



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Letter to the Editor Portland Observer

The House of Umoja is planned for two buildings owned by the Black Education Center a NE 16 and Alberta. Their addresses are 1626 and 1634 NE Alberta. Both are in redemption for back taxes. This means the BEC has not paid property taxes for three years, and will be foreclosed upon by the sheriff shortly. Not only that, but the taxpayers picked up the tab for cutting the grass at 1626 after it was posted for the nuisance, even though BEC offices are mere yards around the corner. In other words, BEC management has been so inattentive that they didn't notice their own property had been posted for a nuisance!

The House of Umoja project will bail out BEC. Its director and Ronnie Herndon are tight. He is chairman of the outfit which will get the funding together for this project.

If all this happened among white politicians, they'd be hounded out of office. I think the matter deserves exposure.

Call 248-3326 for exact information about the back taxes owed. This is the county tax info number. Give the property address and they will give you the exact dollar amount.

This is the "piece of the Pie" mentioned in your recent issue: one politician bailing out another with the public's money.

-Anonymous

Final Weekend of "Hunter" Arrives

PassinArt: A Theatre Company would like to remind the public that this weekend, July 20-22nd, is the last four performances of *Hunter* by Nuba-Harold Stuart at the Intersate Firehouse Cultural Center located at 5340 North Interstate. Show times are 8:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday (July 20-21); and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday (July 22nd). Tickets are \$9.00 for evening performances on Friday/Saturday (8:00 p.m.), and Sunday at 7 p.m. You pay \$9.00 and your guest will be FREE. Discount prices for groups of 10 or more, and \$5.00 for seniors. For reservations please call 243-7930 or 323-5731.

Paasart would like to thank those of you who have already attended the play. We appreciate your support. PassinArt is a non-profit, community-based, seasonal (summer) theatre group that has performed within the Northeast community and Portland Public Schools since 1983 focusing on male and female relationships, and highlighting primarily African-American writers. The Company also provides a forum for new and seasoned artists to perfect their craft. For more information please write PassinArt at P.O. Box 8582, Portland, Oregon 97207.

If a child you know has suffered serious orthopaedic or burn injuries, there's a place that can help. Shriners Hospitals accept and treat children up to their 18th birthday if, in the opinion of the hospital's chief of staff, the child can be helped, and if treatment at another facility would place a financial burden on the family. Shriners Hospitals are open to all children without regard to race, religion or relationship to a Shriner. There is never a charge to the patient, parent or any third party for treatment.

To refer a child to Shriners Hospitals, or for free brochures, call toll-free 1-800-237-5055. (In Florida, the number is 1-800-282-9161.)

Methodist Groups ask U.S. to Halt Israeli Aid

A coalition of U.S. and Canadian organizations, including several United Methodist groups, is calling on the U.S. government to suspend aid to Israel until that nation ends violations of Palestinian human rights and is willing to seriously commit itself to peace talks. Several resolutions regarding the Middle East were passed during the annual symposium of non-governmental organizations at the United Nations June 27-29 in New York. United Methodist Board of Global Ministries officials sent President Bush a message calling U.S. suspension of dialogue with the Palestinian Liberation Organization a "serious obstacle" to peace negotiations.

Free Money From Uncle Sam

The federal government has many programs to give money to just about everyone: students, teachers, artists, farmers, would-be business owners, single mothers, veterans, the elderly, and others—maybe you. For example, the government gives away up to \$25,000 to help people write books or poetry. Those with a college degree can get \$4,000 to further their careers.

You can learn more about government give-aways from a report called *Free Money From Uncle Sam—Yours For The Asking*. For a copy, send \$12.50 to the Government Information Service, P.O. Box 96901, Washington, DC 20090-6901. Government Information Service is a private publishing company not affiliated with the U.S. Government.

Around two million retired Americans each get almost \$300 a month over and above their regular Social Security checks. Moderate income families can get \$18,000 from the government to buy a new home. That's just for starters...

Drug Help Stations Open in Washington

Sprawling, dun-colored, 20 by 50 foot tents, dubbed "United Methodist Saving Stations" opened at five churches on June 27 in Washington D.C., the centerpiece of the bishops' initiative against drugs and violence.

The saving stations will operate 24 hours a day until late August to minister to parents, children, drug addicts, crack cocaine dealers, the homeless and hungry. The name was suggested by the pastor of A.P. Shaw United Methodist Church here, the Rev. Everette Stevenson, after the bodies of two young men shot to death were found on the church steps, apparently in a vain effort to get inside the locked church and escape their assailants.

Bishop Felton E. May, on special assignment to lead the anti-drug and violence initiative, said the tent ministry is designed to "garner the whole family" and bring the word of God to children in the community. The programs will vary from site to site, but most will offer drug and family counseling, African culture and history, Bible school for youth and adults, shelter and food to "folks where they are," the bishop said.

PORTLAND-TROUTDALE AIRPORT RUNWAY CONTRACT AWARDED

The Port of Portland Commission has awarded a contract to rehabilitate the runway at Portland-Troutdale Airport (PTA) to Western States Paving of Camas, Washington.

The asphalt concrete pavement runway at PTA is more than 40 years old. The contract includes reconstruction of 4,200 feet of runway, pavement marking, and shoulder grading. The Federal Aviation Administration is funding 90 percent of the \$415,330 project. The project will begin approximately August 1 and take 45 days. Taxiway B will be used as a temporary runway during the project.