

7th popularity with his constituents. If the GOP is to regain the treasured seat in its long-time stronghold, its candidates — whether entering or leaving the race — had better begin giving a better appearance of having their act together.

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Some are whiners

Editor:

A report released by the legislative fiscal analyst for education regarding Utah teacher compensation generated some controversy. An Alta High School math teacher, was quoted in a Salt Lake City (AP) article saying "the figures distort the truth about teacher salaries and slant the public against education."

A more fallacious conclusion could never be reached. My own reaction was not against education but against cry-baby teachers. Perhaps they should stop whining about their own poverty. (No one promised them great wealth when they decided to become teachers) and start worrying about their students.

Higher salaries will not decrease the student to teacher ratio. Pay raises will not make poor teachers better. Increased teacher compensation will not increase students' test scores. More money for teachers will not build much needed facilities.

I am always suspicious of teachers who cry about their earnings. In my 15 or so years as a student in the Utah public education system, I have observed two types of whiners. The first type is incapable of getting a better job but dislikes teaching, so you get an attitude of apathy toward students and resentment of a system in which they feel imprisoned.

The second type of whiner could get a better job and dislikes teaching but likes three months off in the summer and numerous holidays during the school year, so you get an attitude of apathy toward students and envy for the teacher's higher paid contemplative

types of whiners are bad news for

Magic is star in attack on morality

The apotheosis of Magic Johnson as a "hero" and "role model" turned last Sunday's NBA All-Star contest into high political theater. Although some players — most notably Philadelphia's Charles Barkley — had expressed reservations about competing with the HIV-positive star, by game time all of them had been properly "sensitized" regarding Johnson's symbolic significance. Even the tansured, truculent Barkley had been coaxed into uttering the prefabricated platitudes about the importance of "the AIDS Awareness message."

The All-Star MVP award given to Johnson was little more than a formality. It was a political gesture, a token of gratitude for Johnson's work as the point man for the continued assault upon what's left of America's sexual mores.

During the past several years, America's public life has offered many spectacles of curiously misplaced moralism. When actor Rob Lowe was caught in a statutory rape situation, he was sentenced to tour high schools and offer lectures on moral probity. When "singer" (observe the quotation marks) Donnie Wahlberg was arrested for attempting to ignite a hotel room, he was commissioned to make public service announcements about the evils of arson. When Magic Johnson contracted the HIV virus as a result of tireless concupiscence, he was exalted as a "role model" because of his "courage" in confronting the disease.

In an age less congenial to euphemism such "role models" would be dismissed as hypocrites. La Rochefoucauld observed that hypocrisy is the tribute vice pays to



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AT HOME AND ABROAD

virtue; however, modern role models like Johnson et al. teach that there is virtue in being vicious; at least with regard to desires of the flesh.

Johnson apparently obtained his affliction by (in his delicate phrase) "accommodating" as many women as he could. (Perhaps his sobriquet should be "Howard," rather than "Magic" Johnson.) La Rochefoucauld also warned that "nothing is so contagious as example"; the moral virus being spread by Johnson is much more contagious than HIV.

When Johnson announced that he was HIV-positive, the Media-Intelligensia Complex moved quickly to eulogize him. The Chicago Tribune exulted, "In Magic Johnson the war against AIDS has a new volunteer, a superb spokesman, a fresh hope, a peerless teacher, an almost mystic symbol." Make that a symbolic distraction. Commentator Michael Fumento has pointed out that the opinion cartel has largely forgotten the cancer deaths of Actors Michael Landon (at 54) and Lee Remick (at 55), which occurred within a few days of each other.

During the lifetime of the AIDS epidemic, cancer has claimed 50 times as many victims. Yet spending on cancer research is (in real terms) below the 1980 level, while spending on AIDS research continues to escalate. Johnson has said that "What I'm trying to do is save lives." Were he sincere, he would urge AIDS avoidance through a monogamous, drug-free heterosexual lifestyle and encourage more public spending on cancer research.

First Things magazine has collected some examples of AIDS-related political opportunism. The publication points out that "those who would (use AIDS to) salvage the sexual revolution believe that chastity and abstinence are unnatural and unhealthy."

Up until recently many insisted that abortion was necessary because of the failure rate of condoms; now teen-agers in New York and elsewhere are given condoms at school, supposedly for protection against a fatal venereal disease.

The National Commission on AIDS has a 1-800 telephone number used to instruct teens in the intricacies of condom use. Among the groups who offer AIDS education in New York public schools are ACT-UP (a radical homosexual group) and the Gay Men's Health Crisis. One defender of New York's assault upon chastity explains that "We're going to give public-school kids the opportunities denied other kids in this uptight, homophobic society."

Such "opportunities" have provided Magic Johnson with quiet, unlit moments of moral dread, long after the crowds have fled and the cameras departed in pursuit of other "heroes."

Secret report reveals Desert Storm chaos

WASHINGTON — One year ago, Operation Desert Storm was raging in the Persian Gulf with

to couriers hand delivering the pictures to the battlefield units. One A-10 attack plane