

Magic Johnson says that AIDS medications should be cheaper

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Affordable medications to treat AIDS should be available to more people, especially minorities living in the inner cities, former basketball great Earvin "Magic" Johnson said.

"What we want to do now is prolong life," Johnson, 43, said last week. "There might never be a cure."

Johnson, a former Los Angeles Lakers star who was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame last month, remains free of AIDS 11 years after he first tested positive for HIV, the virus that causes the disease.

Johnson was in Des Moines to give the Martin Bucksbaum Distinguished Lecture at Drake University, "An Evening With Magic Johnson: A Perspective on HIV and AIDS."

The event, held at the Knapp Center, drew an estimated crowd of 4,000.

Johnson said he exercises regularly and takes medications. He also said his positive attitude and religious faith have helped keep him healthy.

"I'm the face now of HIV and AIDS," Johnson said. "I wear it as a badge, I'm happy to be that face, but there's a lot of pressure that goes along with it."



Johnson

Johnson gave a brief speech on living with HIV, saying that new cases have been reported among blacks and women. He stressed the importance of AIDS education, especially in inner-city neighborhoods.

Johnson said a person is diagnosed with HIV or AIDS every five minutes.

"This has been a fight that sometimes we thought we were close to winning, but we have a long, long way to go," he said.

"People think it can't happen to them. I'm living proof that it can happen."

As of Sept. 30, 1,025 Iowans were infected with HIV or had AIDS. It's the first time the state topped the 1,000 mark since officials began tracking the disease in the 1980s.

Iowa had 39 AIDS deaths in 1990 and 105 in 1995. That number dropped to 27 last year, mostly because of new medications, officials said. An estimated 42 million people live with HIV or AIDS worldwide.

NFL's first black GM ready to do his best in Baltimore

(Special to the NNPA) — Ozzie Newsome has become the first black general manager in the National Football League after signing a five-year contract with the Baltimore Ravens.

Newsome's promotion from senior vice president of football operations comes at a time when the league is under scrutiny from civil rights organizations for lack of diversity in coaching and management. There are currently two black head coaches among the league's 32 teams.

"From a historical standpoint, this is very significant," said Newsome, 46, during a news conference at the Ravens' Owings Mills complex. "I think a lot of things have been about timing and where you are and when you are some place. In my life, growing up in the South and in the state of Alabama, there have been a lot of times where I was one of the first."

Ravens owner Art Modell met and formed a relationship with Newsome, as a player and as an administrator, before the franchise moved from Cleveland.

"I am proud to do this for him, not because he asked me, but I think that he deserves it," Modell said. "He is, without a question in my opinion, the best, most proficient personnel man in the NFL."

As a player, Newsome redefined the tight end position, setting a record with 662 career receptions from 1978 to 1990, which earned him a spot in the NFL Hall of Fame. As an administrator, he was the architect of the Ravens' Super Bowl championship team in the 2000 season and has surprisingly transformed a salary-cap-strapped team into a competitive one this season by digging up unknown talent.

"I guess you could say that it will open some doors because I am a minority, I've had some success and been a part of a Super Bowl-winning team," Newsome said. "(But) I don't think I will be under the microscope more than usual. I've always looked at this job through the eyes of a player. You're always under the microscope. You just go out there and do the best that you can."

Duke negotiating with federal authorities

NEW ORLEANS — An attorney for David Duke says he is trying to negotiate a deal with federal prosecutors to settle allegations of fraud and income tax violations against the former Ku Klux Klan leader.

Duke, a former Louisiana state lawmaker who ran for the U.S. Senate in 1990 and governor in 1991, has been overseas for the past two years.

Attorney James McPherson said recently that he has been negotiating with the U.S. attorney's office in New Orleans for about four years since a grand jury investigated the \$100,000 sale of a list of Duke supporters to Gov. Mike Foster. No one was charged.

"It's nothing unusual for a defense attorney to talk with a prosecutor about whether a client will be indicted and what he will be charged with," McPherson said.

U.S. Attorney Jim Letten said only that his investigation of Duke is continuing.

McPherson said prosecutors are looking at two areas: Duke's failure to report the payments from the Foster camp on his income taxes, and possible mail fraud violations stemming from a Duke fund-raising drive.

The lawyer said Duke's accountant failed to report the payments, and as soon as Duke learned of that, he refiled and paid the tax.

Duke was in Russia on a speaking tour in 2000 when federal agents raided his home in Louisiana. Duke has not been hiding out from the law overseas, McPherson said, and is "tending to his business," making speeches and promoting a new book.



Duke

— Compiled from staff and wire reports

2000 census missed more than a million black and Hispanic kids

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

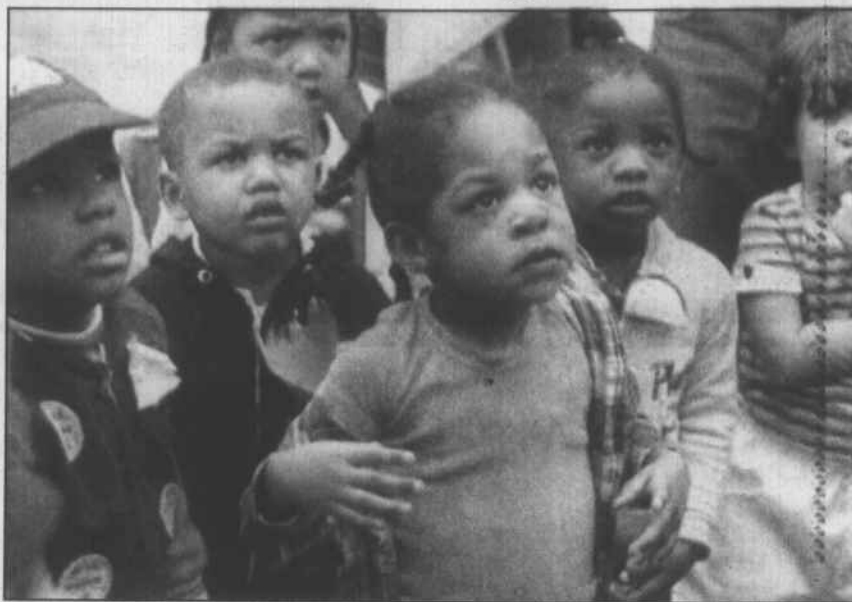
WASHINGTON — Black and Hispanic children made up about half of the 1.1 million children missed in the 2000 census even though they make up one-third of all U.S. kids, according to newly released estimates by the government.

Census data adjusted using statistical sampling also show urban areas such as Los Angeles County and Cook County, Ill., which includes Chicago, were among the places with the highest minority undercounts of children and adults. Sparsely populated rural counties across the West and Midwest also had some of the highest rates of people missed.

The data released by the Census Bureau recently under court order offered a more detailed look at previously announced national undercount estimates. In March 2001, the bureau said about 3.3 million people, or 1.2 percent of the U.S. population, were missed.

Nearly 29 percent of the children missed were black, a disproportionately high figure since blacks make up only 15 percent of the youth population. Hispanics were about 20 percent of the child undercount, compared with 17 percent in that population.

Nationally, about 45 per-



Black and Hispanic youngsters were missed by census workers throughout the country but especially in large metropolitan areas such as Chicago and Los Angeles.

cent of those children missed were white, less than their 60 percent share of the total population of children. There was also a slight overcount of Asian children.

California, the most populous state, had the largest undercount, 509,012 people, while Alaska had the highest percentage of people missed, 2.4 percent, or 15,136 residents.

"It was unfortunate that we had to fight so hard to get this information, but now that we have, I hope we can use it to its fullest advantage," said Rep. William Clay, D-Mo., who supported the data release.

The data released recently was based on bureau research done through March 2001. Preston Jay Waite, an associate census director, said more

study done since then shows the national net undercount may have been reduced to less than one-tenth of 1 percent.

"We envision no official use of this file" because of the flaws with adjusted data, said Waite, who added that still-unfinished additional research may be released in the future.

The government takes a census every 10 years. The

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Affirmative action on court's short list

BY HAZEL TRICE EDNEY
NNPA CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON — At stake in the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to hear two affirmative action cases challenging undergraduate and law school admissions policies at the University of Michigan is not only the amount of



Holmes Norton

access people of color will have to higher education but the kind of job opportunities they will have upon graduation, according to civil rights experts.

"This is particularly dangerous because affirmative action in education is the key to every other opportunity in this society," said Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), who was chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission during the Carter administration. "If you want to cut the legs out from under the minority community, you take back their right to become qualified for jobs by making it difficult to attend colleges and universities."

And what factors are permissible for admission officers to use is central to the cases now before the Supreme Court.

"The stakes in this case are very high because the stakes are whether or not any college or university, public or private, can take race into account in selecting its students from among the qualified group of applicants," said John Payton of Wilmer Cutler and Pickering, a Washington, D.C.-based law firm. "There's no surprise to anyone. The Michigan cases were put together with the clear understanding that this issue could make its way back to the Supreme Court.... We're quite optimistic."

The cases, to be heard by

the court during the first half of 2003, are the first time the Supreme Court has considered the use of race in college admissions policies since 1978. That year, the court ruled in "University of California v. Bakke" that race can be a "plus" factor a college uses to admit students. That ruling also outlawed the use of fixed quotas.

Generally, the court will rule on whether "Bakke" is



Payton

still good law by deciding two specific issues. First, the court will decide whether diversity is a compelling state interest. Second,

it will decide whether the programs are narrowly tailored to accomplish diversity without violating other interests, such as equal protection under the law, Norton explained.

Payton will defend the university's undergraduate admissions policy, which was pending in the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati. Maureen Mahoney of Latham & Watkins, another

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