

OPINIONS AND TIMEOUT

SPIDER WEBBS



A CHRISTMAS TALE

Amy Webb  
staff columnist

Christmas is probably one of the best times of the year. People are cheerful and happy. Malls are full of busy shoppers. Moms and dads are buying computers for Sue and CD's for Tim. Kids are dreaming about candy canes and Santa Claus. It is truly a time of giving and remembrance of Christ's birth. This feeling should continue throughout the year; not just on Christmas Day. Sometimes we need to be reminded of the sacrifices that love ones make and their unconditional love during the holiday season. The following story, written many years ago, is a perfect example:

There once lived a young man and his wife. They were poor and Christmas was only a few days away. Besides their love for each other, they had two prize possessions: the young man's watch and the wife's long flowing hair. Of course the watch was worth lots of money, but it belonged to his great, great grandfather and they would starve before considering to sell it. The husband refused to let his wife cut her beautiful hair that dragged the floor. One day while walking home in the cold winter breeze, she saw a gold chain in the window of a store. She went into the store and just stared at the chain. She thought of how lovely it would look attached to her husband's watch. He had to have it for Christmas, but how could she afford it? She rushed home and counted her few coins. It was not enough. The days passed and it was Christmas, and she feared the chain might be sold. She knew what she had to do. She went to the local wig makers's shop. "How much is my hair worth?" she asked. The wig maker gave her an estimate and it was what she needed to buy the chain. That night the couple ate their supper and the wife kept a bonnet on the whole evening. After supper, they sat by the window and gazed at the falling snow. The husband stood up and pulled a package from the closet. "Merry Christmas!" he said. She reached in her jacket pocket and retrieved his present. They exchanged gifts and opened them at the same time. A tear rolled down her face when

TIME OUT!

Miriam Bellamy  
guest writer

Being home for Thanksgiving reminded me of something I had really missed while here at college. What I missed was having that one person who is a medium of Godly wisdom. At school it is impossible not to be influenced by the world and its philosophies and teachings. It becomes easy to lose sight of God-even if you're striving to understand Him better. A lot of us get wrapped up in trying to reason everything out-trying to make sense of some of the Christian teachings we've grown up with. Focusing on details, we forget to center it all on Jesus Christ and Him crucified, resurrected and alive in us. Our God is the God of love. He is the perfecter of forgiveness and the owner of patience. His wisdom points us in the direction we should go just when we think time has run out. God has said, "Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee."

The message that I want to give to you is that what you see and hear and are continually exposed to has an effect on your performance. Philippians 4:8 is a well known scripture, and it reads like this: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things." Remember these words and in this alone you will be following what they ask. Remember these words and apply them to your daily activities. See what joy God can bring you even under the most mundane circumstances.

she saw her gift. It was a silver brush and comb set. She had always wanted one, but it was of no use to her now. Her husband cried when he saw the chain for his watch. "Why are you crying?" he said. She answered, "I cut and sold my hair to buy the chain for you." Then she removed the bonnet. He replied, "And I sold my watch to buy the brush and comb set for you." They stared at each other and then they hugged. That night they took the chain along with the brush and comb set, and put them in a drawer. They realized that their love was greater than any material gift in the world. And that Christmas is not just receiving, it is giving. The most-precious gift anyone can give is love.

It wasn't magic, Magic

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

By now, anyone who is even remotely in tune with the national sports scene is aware of the fact the Earvin "Magic" Johnson, former pointguard of the Los Angeles Lakers, is infected with the HIV virus. There is nothing new about that. It is an event that has literally rocked the sports world, sending shock waves through most every living room in America. It is an event that has transcended the boundaries of age, race, and gender, and has opened many eyes to the reality of the AIDS epidemic that is currently spreading at an alarming rate through most every country in the world. Seeing the impact that he, as a sports hero, can have upon the public awareness of this fat

is now using his profile to attract much-needed attention to the seriousness of this issue. With his charisma, personality and public relations ability, he will undoubtedly make a notable impact upon national and global awareness of AIDS and the HIV virus. He is a brave man and a strong individual. But, folks, as a nation we are evading the real issue entirely!

Magic Johnson is a well-known, identifiable, public icon. He is loved by the media, and has gotten all kinds of support in his moment of crisis. This is all well and good, but aren't we missing, or better yet forgetting something here? I like Magic as much as, and probably more than, most people. He is an asset to professional sports. But, as he has already informed us, he didn't get the virus from a dirty needle or a dentist, and that is precisely what everyone is failing to truly notice. Because Magic Johnson is Magic Johnson, we are showering this man with love and compassion when we should be, and I'll state it bluntly, exploiting the fact that this guy contracted the virus through promiscuous sexual activity. Because Magic is so likable and popular, we are failing to do justice to the situation. The point that is being brought out is that "it can happen to anyone," when the point that should actually be stressed is "see what happens when you take chances?" What is the real focus here? The man or the mistake? It is obviously, and sadly, the former and not the latter.

This article is not an attack upon Magic Johnson. I am a true fan of his, and I admire his accomplishments in the sport of basketball. But the manner in which we are handling this issue as a nation is sickening. It is good that the AIDS hotlines have been lit up since this catastrophe, and it is good that public awareness is growing. But are we seeing this issue as we truly should? Are we accentuating the fact that it was

free-lance intercourse with, most probably, a number of women that has lead to this condition? Or are we simply seeing this as an immortal-sports-star-turned-victim-of-HIV needing our support in return for all of the years of pleasure he gave us as a professional basketball player? In any event, one fact remains: Until we look past the immortality of this man as a sports legend and see him simply for what he is - a well-known person who was too frivolous and/or careless in his sexual relationships - then the US, and the world for that matter, will never truly capitalize upon the potential that an issue of this magnitude has for helping people come to terms with this incurable and dreaded disease.

Phil Coley



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"Bill

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