

ENTERTAINMENT

It's a family affair...



AARON

During a recent benefit concert sponsored by Northwest Airlines for the Nevada Chapter of Juvenile Diabetes Foundation the Neville Brothers performed at the Cashman Field Theater to a VIP audience. The group will be appearing with blues legend B.B. King at The Blues Music Festival in Primm next month.

Sentinel-Voice photos by John Broussard



CYRIL



ART



CHARLES

Magic Johnson to host fun, star-studded weekend in LA

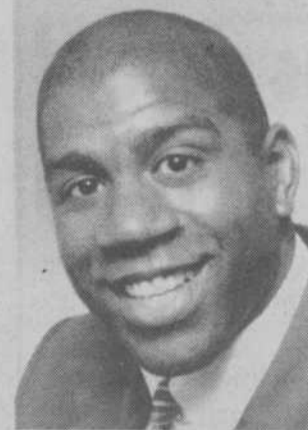
Special to Sentinel-Voice

Former Los Angeles Laker Earvin "Magic" Johnson is hosting the 13th Annual "A Midsummer Night's Magic" Weekend culminating with the popular celebrity basketball game and the fast paced all-star basketball game.

Activities for the three-day event begin Friday, July 31 in Los Angeles. The charitable event will benefit the Magic Johnson Foundation Scholarship Fund and The College Fund/UNCF.

The weekend begins with a concert on Friday at the Universal Amphitheatre, followed on Saturday by Magic's Mardi Gras Party on the backlot of Sony Studios in Culver City.

The backlot will be turned into a festive New Orleans setting with food, dancing, games, a silent auction and the traditional Zydeco band. There will be music including jazz and rhythm and blues rooms. The stage will light up with live musical performances by Chico DeBarge and other top entertainment. Rachel Stewart of BET's Planet Groove will emcee.



EARVIN JOHNSON

"The Mardi Gras is the best way to have fun and at the same time contribute to a worthy cause — scholarships for young people seeking advanced education," Johnson said. "We encourage everyone to come out and enjoy this unique night of entertainment and merriment."

The event committee has a special offer to the general public for the Mardi Gras extravaganza: If tickets are purchased by July 24, the regular \$90 ticket price will be reduced to \$75.

The celebrity game is scheduled for 5 p.m. Sunday at

the Great Western Forum. Coaches Vivica A. Fox and Robert Townsend will lead their teams. Confirmed celebrity players include: boxing champion Roy Jones, Jr., television soap star Shemar Moore, Bill Bellamy, Chico DeBarge, Flex, Ronnie DeVoe, Tony Hall, Duane Martin, Keith Washington, Nathan Morris, Michael McCary, and Sean Stockman. Joining the men will be Dawnn Lewis, Salli Richardson and Michelle Thomas.

The double-header will be highlighted by the all-star game beginning at 7 p.m. The nonstop basketball action will feature pro veterans versus 1998 rookie draft picks.

Confirmed to play alongside Magic Johnson are Kenny Anderson, Toby Bailey, Mike Bibby, Geral Brown, Kobe Bryant, Michael Finley, J. R. Henderson, Robert Horry, Jim Jackson, Antwan Jamison, DeMarco Johnson, Kris Johnson, Jelani McCoy, Tracy Murray, Paul Pierce, Jalen Rose, Bryon Russell, Miles Simon, Steve Smith, Damon Stoudamire, Maurice Taylor, Nick Van Exel, Keth Van Horn.

Essay

(Continued from Page 8)

life, she suggests, would all contribute to a lessening of gang violence.

Laub's piece is plain, personal and honest. Possessed of extraordinary insight for a thirteen-year-old, Laub pointed out that much of the real violence in people's lives is less melodramatic than the homicides covered in full gore by news teams. "Many people may not realize that violence includes arguing and yelling," he wrote.

Throughout his prose essay Laub focused on what the individual can do in daily life to step away from potentials for violent interactions. Sentence by sentence, he showed a mature understanding of the root causes of antagonism and of alternatives that lead to more positive relationships. "A way I can control the violence in my life is by promoting an open non-defensive climate for communication," he wrote. "I could also try to understand and appreciate people and their feelings."

When the finalist didn't show up at the Recognition Dinner, a worried McDonald made a few phone calls and received some startling information: Laub, a straight "A" student, and his family are homeless.

Though proud of their son, his parents felt unable to send him forward to receive the rewards for his efforts because he doesn't have any

appropriate apparel in which to attend a formal event.

McDonald made a few more calls, wrote letters, and unleashed an outpouring of support. Laub will have nice clothes for his trip to Washington and hopefully his family will soon have a roof over their heads. For McDonald, the "warm and fuzzy" feelings created as a result of "Do the Write Thing" just keep growing.

Alexis Clark, a 7th grader at R. O. Gibson Middle School, was one of the semi-finalists. Her poem begins with a catalog of violent activities - gang murders and drive-by's, domestic abuse, armed robbery and drug abuse - that Clark says she has witnessed on television and during trips to California.

Clark suggests self-pride, spirituality and communication as means by which "you and I" can make a difference. She emphasizes individual initiative and hope, as in the lines, "Stop saying, 'You can't help those people in the ghetto.' / Show them how to put down a gun and pick up a book. / Maybe we'll save a fellow."

Clark says she wrote the first draft in fifteen minutes, then revised the poem at home. She wants to be a paralegal and a writer. Her English teacher, Ms. Williams, encouraged her to enter the contest, and Clark had the confidence to try.

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