

# EDITORIAL

*We are spending millions of dollars each year paying athletes to play sports. Not only that, they are demanding higher pay*

## HELPING TEENS RANT – THE RIGHT WAY

# Minimum effort, maximum wage

By Nikki Lumley

"This is your final wish," warns the Genie, "are you sure this is what you want?"

A droplet of sweat slowly drifts down the young man's forehead. "Yes... Yes this is what I want."

"You could be rich, immortal, anything, and instead you choose to see..."

"Do as I say, Genie!", commands the young man, with a firm but shaky voice.

The Genie is hesitant, yet he does as the young man orders, as that is his duty. Before them, beneath a cloud of smoke, a figure emerges. A low thumping can be heard, like a heartbeat that rattles the ground.

"It's him", the young man croaks. "It's the king."

The figure is barely visible, yet he glows like an angel, even from a distance. From the darkness he rises, his sneakers fresh and his wrists-a-flickin. The king of the court, the angel sent from heaven, Mr. Stephen Curry...

What? Too much? Take one look at any professional athlete's salary, and tell me this isn't what we think of them. Players in the NBA earn an average salary of 5.77 million annually. Now, I love basketball as much as the next person. I love watching it too, but no one deserves 5 of a million dollars. Especially not athletes, no matter how good they are. What purpose do they serve, how do

they benefit the world in any way? Care to know what the average nurse's yearly salary is? \$58,832. Of course, this is no minimum wage, nurses make pretty good money. But who is making a bigger difference, nurses or athletes? If anyone deserves 5 million dollars, it's the people who help create a better world, and who risk their lives to keep you in it. Nurses, doctors, firefighters, teachers. These are the people who make a difference, and they do it without having shoes named after them.

Just last year, Kobe Bryant earned 25 million dollars for playing with the Los Angeles Lakers. Surely, they came in first place, you say? Or at least qualified for the championships? How else would one earn such a ridiculous number on his/her pay cheque. No. For 25 million dollars, Kobe Bryant carried his team all the way to 15th place, with only 17 wins and 65 losses. For 25 million dollars. Just one percent of that could fund the construction of 30 wells in any developing country, each well providing clean water for an entire community. It could help educate over 135 children through World Vision.

With access to that kind of money, Kobe Bryant could literally save lives. Instead, he spends it on cars, and multi million dollar homes. Kobe once walked into a Ferrari dealership and wrote a \$329,000 cheque for a 458 Italia. I guess he was getting tired of clunking around in a Lamborghini, a Bentley, a Range

Rover, and a helicopter. Not to mention how hard it must be driving from house to house. You heard me, house to house. As in he owns three houses. All of which are in sunny California, with an estimated total value of \$18.8 million. Scratch that - earlier this year he sold his third house for \$6.1 million. Poor Kobe must've been low on cash.

Needless to say, the lengths we are willing to go for the sake of our own entertainment is pathetic. We are spending millions of dollars each year paying athletes to play sports. Not only that, they are demanding higher pay. In 2008 a contract was signed guaranteeing Joe Mauer, of the Minnesota Twins, \$140 million over the span of 8 years. The worst part is, we let them get away with it. We are so desperate for something to pass the time, that we are letting so-called celebrities walk all over us. How did they manage to get so much power? To obtain such an influence on the population? Are these really the people we want our children looking up to? Cocky athletes, who spend their billions on fancy cars and helicopters, rather than donating it to a worthy cause? If nothing else, these athletes could at least be positive role models for future generations, and yet here they are, demanding higher pay when they are already being payed too much, and throwing it all away. They have no idea what kind of effects they could have on people, the dramatic changes that they could help make.

According to recent studies, athletic endorsements pump up a brand's sales by approximately \$10 million a year. Simply getting a professional athlete to pose with a product significantly increases the recognition of a brand, has a direct economic influence on the brand's sales, and creates positive associations with the brand. Imagine what could happen if instead of advertising clothing and sportswear, athletes helped raise awareness concerning world events and charities? Endangered species, poverty, hunger, anything! I'm willing to bet that if Tom Brady or Wayne Gretzky went on National television and told the audience to tap their heads and rub their bellies while jumping on one foot, half of them would look ridiculous, and the other half would be greatly disappointed that they couldn't do it.

We idolize these athletes, treat them like superstars, to the point where they seem almost super-human. Ask any 15-year old boy who Stephen Curry is, and they'll tell you. Ask the same question about Mahatma Gandhi, Malala Yousafzai, or Mother

Teresa, and I'm sure you'll be disappointed. I mean, who cares about them, right?

They're not the ones making millions of dollars. No, it's true, they don't make much of an income, but I'll tell you what they do make: a difference.

# Hope for Dylan and Austin

faced with illness and hardships.

Meet eleven year old Dylan and one year old Austin; two brothers from the Cowansville area who have been diagnosed with D.M.D (Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy) for which there is no cure!

The symptoms of DMD normally start between the ages of 3 and 6 years old. By age 12 the boys will likely become wheelchair bound. By the time Dylan and Austin reach their early 20's they may die of respiratory failure.

Family and friends would love for them to have a more comfortable life with a home that is wheelchair accessible and also an adapted van so they can travel as a family. They are working to

gether to hold fundraisers in hopes of achieving some of these things. Any gift or donation will go to benefit the boys in the best way possible and any show of kindness is much appreciated.

A spaghetti supper and silent auction fundraiser will take place at the Knights of Columbus hall in Cowansville (224 Rue Christophe Coulombe), on Friday, November 11 at 5:00pm and will feature Scotyz's famous spaghetti sauce! Organizers are asking local businesses and artists to support the cause by donating items to the silent auction. Names of all who donate will be posted at the event in recognition of their generosity. Following the supper, attendees will enjoy the music of "Moon Jam."

They say that it takes a village to raise a child. In this case, all involved hope that Dylan and Austin will know that they are supported by many villages and some really kindhearted family, friends and neighbors both near and far as they face this disease.

If you would like to donate to this cause you may do so by contacting:

Cyndi Norris @ 450-243-5123 or Shannon McGovern @ 450-243-1933 or by sending a donation: cheques payable to "Hope for Dylan and Austin"

43 Ch. Montagne, Knowlton, QC JOE 1V0

Organizers are sending out a big thank you to everyone for their help and support.



## THE SCOOP

### MABLE HASTINGS

As most of us watch our children at play, it is hard to imagine what some families go through when

## THE RECORD

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	3 MONTHS	36.16	1.81	3.60	\$41.57

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	1 MONTH	6.49	0.32	0.65	\$7.46

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