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Fung Shui and Sport

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SPORT AND SOCIETY FOR ARETE
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There really is something drastically different about California, the left coast, la-la land. I spent last week out in lotus land and was treated to the spectacle of an annular eclipse and people all agog over the possibilities for human improvement that such cosmic forces might bring. Solar and planetary alignment seem more important than front-end alignment in the land of the automobile.

Each trip to California puts you in touch with some new idea, some new cultural trend, something out there on the cutting edge. On previous trips I saw my first case of a driver reading a book while cruising the freeway at 65 miles an hour in heavy traffic. It was where I first saw the slogan of Reagan's America on a bumper sticker, "He who has the most toys when he dies, wins." It was also the source of the leisure suit.

On this latest trip I had my first encounter with the practice of Fung Shui, the 2000 year old Chinese art of building design, arranging furniture and positioning graves to promote health, wealth, and happiness, although it strikes me that at that latter point it might be a bit late. I learned about fung shui from a story in the San Diego Union and on a morning radio show, which featured an interview with fung shui practitioner, Katherine Metz, of San Mateo, California. After a riveting three minutes the interviewer suggested that the San Diego Padres might benefit from a visit by Ms. Metz to Jack Murphy Stadium where she could practice a little fung shui on the home of Padres.

While the Padres and Chargers may have their problems, no one is in more difficulty right now than our own Orlando Magic. They might well profit from this latest import from the left coast.

Before you dismiss this out of hand, let me point out that fung shui is getting notice in corporate board rooms, is taken into account by some marketing strategists, and the guru of fung shui, Lin Yun, has lectured at Harvard, the UN and the UCLA medical school. Yes, this is the same Lin Yun who blamed part of Richard Nixon's downfall on the drapes in the Oval Office.

There are a number of principle's to follow to bring good fortune to your home, and it seems to me that with a little creative thinking about the Orlando Arena and the Magic locker room, fung shui might be brought into service for our struggling

local heroes. If anyone has ever had bad karma, these guys have it. If the Magic can apply even a few of these ideas, all the negative ch'i that seems to be accumulating around the Magic and the Arena might be blown away.

For Clarity: Hang a brass wind chime just inside your front door. It strikes me that there are two possibilities here. First, put one just inside the Magic locker room door, and then consider the possibility of investing in a huge brass wind chime to hang from the scoreboard at center court.

To Reduce Stress: Place two mirrors opposite one another so that you can walk between them as you enter your home or office. Again this seems fairly easy to deal with. I would suggest having the Magic girls line up along the corner of the court holding large mirrors on either side of the players as they come onto the floor. And with some creative thinking about the use of the spotlights this could make the now spectacular entrance of the Magic, even more so.

To Increase Your Prosperity: Mirror the wall behind your stove, reflecting the symbols of wealth and prosperity. I'm not sure I understand this one, and it may be difficult to apply it at the O-rena, but large mirrors behind the concession stands might add something to the process of buying an overpriced hot dog.

To Cultivate Good Luck: Place flowers in your bedroom, study and kitchen. How about your locker-room?

To Enhance Your Ability to Move Forward: Move 27 objects in your home which have not been moved in the last year. The temptation here is to suggest that among those 27 objects that have not moved in a year are Stanley Roberts, Terry Catledge, and Marc Acres, although other immobile and less animate objects might be more appropriate.

In Times of Difficulty: Place yourself in the moonlight and breathe. Beyond the fact that it is wise to breathe whether in the moonlight or not, the Magic management might take a long hard look at this one. This certainly is a time a great difficulty, and a little heavy breathing in the moonlight couldn't hurt, especially if your in the right company.

Another major problem is the design of the Arena. The oval shape is working against the Magic, because it leaves nowhere for the negative ch'i to go, no way to let it escape. Perhaps Bill Frederick and the gang could kick in another few million for

Arena re-design. Or for a smaller price, only a few thousand dollars, the services of a fung shui practitioner can be had.

Magic fans can also contribute. When using the rest rooms Magic fans should be sure to keep the toilet seats down, because good energy goes down and bad energy comes up, according to fung shui experts. O-rena security might be instructed to do a sweep of the rest rooms just at the end of half-time activity to keep that negative ch'i in check.

So let's get the good vibes flowing, dump all that negative ch'i, and fung shui the Magic to victory. If that fails maybe we could bring back leisure suits.

On Sport and Society this is Dick Crepeau reminding you that you don't have to be a good sport to be a bad loser.

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