



## Throw it Down, Little Man! Throw it Down!

Today's practice was a spirited affair, sparked by two pretty cool happenings. For starters, every player, coach and member of the P.R. staff (and yours truly, since membership occasionally has its privileges) received a copy of *On The Shoulders Of Giants: My Journey Through the Harlem Renaissance*, the new book by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (with Raymond Obstfeld). It's all about The Captain's experiences growing up in Harlem during a period of significant cultural growth and how he came to see a connection between jazz and hoops. History told through music and basketball. Heady stuff, but it's what one would expect from Kareem, who always looks to teach young players about black history (which begins its celebratory month in February). For his prize pupil, the lessons are typically accompanied by a friendly critique. "He always tells me the music I listen to is terrible," smiled Andrew Bynum. Some of you may worry about a potential rift between Kareem and Phil Jackson, who'll soon give his players books for the upcoming roadie. But fear not, because according to Phil, there's enough room on the team plane for two sets of novels. "They'll get an A+ if they read that book and they'll get a star if they read mine."

**AK**