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Sat Sep 25 10:44pm PDT

[Albert Haynesworth: I am not a slave](#)

By [MJD](#)

[Washington Redskins](#) defensive tackle and former good football player [Albert Haynesworth\(notes\)](#) did an interview yesterday with DC's 106.7 The Fan.

In it, [Haynesworth attempted to defend his offseason actions](#) --specifically, refusing to attend mandatory practices and team activities because he was upset about a potential position change, despite the fact that the Redskins have given him \$32 million for just over a year of "service". He likely didn't win anyone over with his argument.

Here's what he said:

"I guess in this world we don't have a lot of people with, like, backbones," Haynesworth said. "Just because somebody pay you money don't mean they'll make you do whatever they want or whatever. I mean, does that mean everything is for sale?"

"I mean, I'm not for sale. Yeah, I signed the contract and got paid a lot of money, but ... that don't mean I'm for sale or a slave or whatever."



Oh, Albert.

First, about few people having backbones: You refuse to play in a different formation because you're afraid you won't be good at it, but it's *everyone else* who lacks a backbone. Right.

And no, Dan Snyder's money doesn't mean "everything" is for sale. I think we can all agree on that. The Redskins would have no right to ask you to read and summarize the works of Ayn Rand, wear a rainbow wig 24 hours a

day, or sell your body on the streets of Washington, DC.

I'm pretty sure they have a right to ask you to play football, though.

Also, with your \$100 million contract and body that is clearly not malnourished, I'm pretty sure most people would be able to tell the difference between you and a slave. But thanks for the clarification.

I'm one of the few people who actually believe that Haynesworth could make a reasonable argument that he's been wronged. If he ever just said, "Hey, the Redskins signed me under the agreement that I'd play this position in this formation, now they've changed that on me, and careers are too short and this game is too dangerous for me to spend anytime playing somewhere where I can't reach my full potential," then maybe I could sympathize.

At every step of the way, though, he's just done and said the exact wrong thing. That, plus the fact that he's not productive on the field anymore -- [not even a little bit](#) -- makes him pretty much impossible to defend.

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MJD

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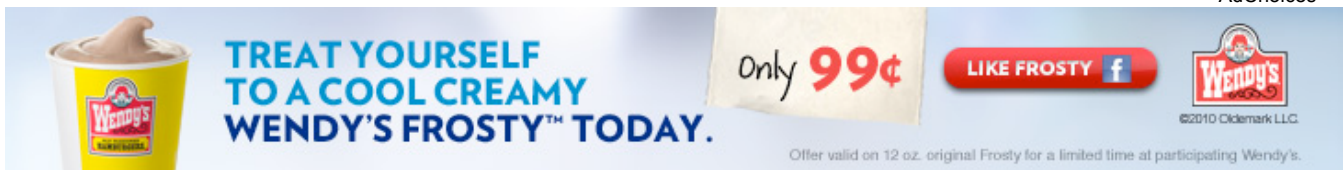
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