



Don't feed the homeless

One group fights for their right to share food in public parks

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Will Dwight stay?

A look at the Magic superstar's options and fans' efforts to keep him in Orlando

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Feeding frenzy

Valencia students arrested for sharing with the homeless

By Shay Castle
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Most Valencia students can be found whiling away their Mondays in class. Brock Monroe and Dylan Howeller spent the day in jail.

Recent Valencia graduate, Monroe, 20, and current student, Howeller, 21, were arrested on Monday, June 6 at 10:30 a.m. as they ladled out food to disadvantaged citizens at Lake Eola Park in Orlando.

"I was just helping set things up," said Howeller. "I wasn't feeding people directly. The cops just swarmed us."

"Police cars, bike cops, three undercover cops and eight officers," Monroe said. "They brought out the whole cavalry."

Monroe and Howeller spent eight hours at the Orange County Correctional Facility on 33rd



Brock Monroe and Dylan Howeller face charges of violating a city ordinance.

Street before being bailed out by lawyers for Orlando Food Not Bombs, an activist organization dedicated to eradicating hunger and bringing awareness to poverty.

Two other members of the organization, Steve Willis and Noelle Bivens, were also booked on charges of violating a city ordinance against large group feedings. They will go to court on July 6 along with Howeller and Monroe. Fifteen arrests have been made so far.

All of the arrested members have been issued trespass warnings for Lake Eola Park, but that hasn't stopped them from attending the feedings. A loophole exists that allows violators to return to the park

after submitting a request to the city. Members who have been trespassed face arrest if they assist the food share in any way.

"We can't help, just be there for moral support," Howeller said. "They can't stop you from using your first amendment rights in a public park."

Ironically, that is the right that OFNB says is being violated by the city's ban on large group feedings. (For more on the ordinance and the legal battle between OFNB and the City of Orlando, see accompanying article on page 3.)

Howeller agreed, saying: "If we were in business suits nobody

Please click to **Homeless**, page 2

'Big Meeting,' big changes

Valencia staff discuss improvements as college grows

By Rofkens Petit-Homme
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Faculty and staff of Valencia College gathered on Thursday June 2 for the school's annual 'big meeting.'

"This is a moment for the college to sit back and really review what the strategic goals are," said Jessica Morales, Director of Transition Services. "To find out where we are and where we want to go."

The focus of the meeting was to further progress on a set of goals called 'The Strategic Plan,' The plan, originated in 2007, is divided into four parts: Build Pathways, Learning Assured, Invest in Each Other, and Partner with the Community.

"We took a look at data about the external world and about the internal college, thus comprising our S.W.O.T. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis," Strategic Vice President Susan Kelly explained. "There are many organizations that share very little information about their own plan to

advance, we are broader based and transparent. Our data includes input from the community, focus groups of current and prospective students, and alumni."

Of the 11,560 public high school students that graduated from Orange and Osceola counties in 2010, 31.2% attended classes at Valencia the following fall, a one percent increase from 2009. With the college adding two bachelor programs for the 2011 fall semester, officials expect that percentage to rise. Expansion plans were also discussed at the meeting to deal with the rise in student enrollment, including the completion of the Lake Nona Campus, and future plans to add a third building on Osceola Campus.

Last year, \$153 million was distributed in financial aid for the college. That number grew by \$20 million for this academic year, according to the Valencia Financial Aid Office. With financial aid becoming more important for students, the F.L.I.R.T (Financial Learning Initiative Research Team) Program was initiated

Please click to **Meeting**, page 2

College update

VALENCIA COLLEGE

Phase one of Valencia's name change completed June 11-12:

- Atlas has changed to atlas.valenciacollege.edu
- Valenciacc.edu is now valenciacollege.edu
- Atlas email is now @mail.valenciacollege.edu

Valencia gun arrest update

By Jeff Shedden
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New information has surfaced regarding the gun incident that occurred on Valencia's West Campus, May 26.

The gun that was dropped was owned by Hudson Capi, as reported by an eyewitness to the event.

The fight was initially between Rony Boyer and the victim, still unnamed. Capi arrived soon after and dropped the gun, which was recovered by an off-duty police officer, and then fled with Boyer.

Police were alerted and given the description of the fleeing vehicle, which was stopped at the 300 block of S Hiawasse Road. Four suspects were extracted from the car at gunpoint.

Both Boyer and Capi were charged with possession of a firearm on school property, with Capi charged for the handgun, and Boyer charged for the AK-47 assault rifle in his trunk. Boyer candidly admitted to the arresting officer that he had brought it to the campus before.

The victim also provided a sworn statement to police, but declined to press assault charges for the altercation.

Academic disciplinary hearings were held for Boyer and Capi, but the dean has not reached a final decision regarding their academic future with Valencia College. Both Boyer and Capi have been issued trespass notices and are currently banned from the campus.

Criminal hearings have not yet been scheduled for Boyer and Capi, and both men are currently free on bond.

Homeless

Continued from page 1

would have an issue. It's like the city is saying that some members of the public are more worthy than others."

Monroe and Howeller got involved with OFNB as part of a Peace Studies course they took at Valencia. Students in the class had to participate in a service-learning project to help the disadvantaged.

"Food Not Bombs called us back and told us to come on down and start helping," said Monroe. "I wasn't our intention to stay, but once we saw the hearts of the people there, we stayed."

"We have this one guy, some weeks he comes and helps out, and other weeks when he doesn't have money, he brings his kids to go through the food line," said

Howeller.

The duo sees the publicity of the case as a hindrance to the good work they are trying to do. They say that every time arrests are made, fewer people show up for the next food sharing.

"The worst thing is that it scares the people we are trying to help," Howeller said. "The city is literally taking food out of people's mouths."

The boys remain committed to their cause. But the big question remains: How do their parents feel about their sons' criminal activity?

"My mom is pretty supportive," Howeller said. "I called her from jail and she told me she was proud of me."

"I told my parents the day before that it was a possibility that I might be arrested. They tried to talk me out of it," said Monroe. "But if we have to go to jail to take care of people in need then we will."

Meeting

Continued from page 1

in order to help students with budgeting, credit cards and student loans.

The meeting also focused on how to keep students informed of all the changes going on at the college. Vice president of student affairs, Joyce C. Romano, explained: "We use focus groups, surveys and campus forums to ask for students input on a variety of issues." Romano believes it is beneficial to the culture and hallmark of Valencia itself.

College president Sandy Schugart shared Romano's sentiments about Valencia and the school's commitment to student success. "We are the trailblazers," she said. "We are a bridge, not a destination."



PROGRAMS

UCF VALENCIA OSCEOLA

- Applied Science (B.A.S.)
 - Criminal Justice
 - Health Services Administration
 - Information Technology*
 - Legal Studies
 - Supervision and Administration
- Business Administration (B.A.)
- Elementary Education (B.S.)
- Interdisciplinary Studies (B.A., B.S.)
- Psychology (B.S.)

UCF VALENCIA WEST

- Applied Science (B.A.S.)
 - Criminal Justice
 - Health Services Administration
 - Information Technology*
 - Supervision and Administration
- Architecture (B. Des.)
- Business Administration (B.A.)
- Criminal Justice (B.A., B.S.)
- Electrical Engineering (B.S.E.E.)
- Elementary Education (B.S.)
- Interdisciplinary Studies (B.A., B.S.)
- Legal Studies (B.A., B.S.)
- Nursing (Concurrent, R.N. to B.S.N.)
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Ending food share 'non-negotiable'

Local activists jailed for refusal to stop feeding the homeless

By Shay Castle
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Three more members of Orlando Food Not Bombs were arrested Monday, June 13 at Lake Eola Park as the City of Orlando continues to enforce its controversial ban on large group feedings.

The ban, which was passed in 2007, prohibits groups from sharing food when more than 25 people are present without first applying for a permit. OFNB refuses to apply for a permit because of a ban they see as unconstitutional.

"It is a ridiculous ordinance," said OFNB media liaison Ben Markenson. "It is intended to keep people from sharing food with the hungry and poor in public spaces."

The city maintains that the ordinance was a necessary response to complaints from area residents and businesses.

"We originally started the ordinance in response to our local residents who want to use the park and can't," said Heather Fagan, press secretary for Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer. "They don't want this in the park."

Central Florida ACLU filed a suit in conjunction with OFNB to fight the ordinance. The groups contend that the ban is a violation of first amendment rights, and view food sharing as a form of free speech and expression.

The ordinance was originally struck down, but upon appeal by the city the court reversed its opinion. OFNB was granted a rehearing and lost their final appeal on April 12, 2011.

A city official attended two feedings and forced permits on the group. Arrests began on June 1, and now total fifteen. More are ex-

pected at tonight's 5:30 p.m. food share.

The activists have been receiving overwhelming support from all over the world. An Orlando Sentinel story about the arrests

can be served at one time to 130.

"I'm here to show my solidarity," said Fitzpatrick, who traveled to Orlando to serve with OFNB at Lake Eola on Monday, June



Palmer Harrell and Ashley Albinson serve food to residents before being arrested

on June 6 was shared over 80,000 times, and the story ran in the London Daily Mail. Numerous calls and letters have been sent to the city expressing outrage over the ordinance.

Volunteers from other anti-poverty organizations have stepped in to fill the holes in OFNB membership.

Pat Fitzpatrick is the Peace and Justice Coordinator for the Secular Franciscan Order in Gainesville, Florida. He is also a member of the Coalition to End the Meal Limit NOW, which fights against city ordinances limiting the number of people who

13. He was one of three arrested that day.

One of the founders of Food Not Bombs, Keith McHenry, traveled from New Mexico to spend the summer fighting alongside the Orlando chapter. McHenry has been involved with the group for 31 years, and has been arrested over 100 times. He was arrested most recently on June 1 at Lake Eola.

"July might be a good time for me to get arrested again," McHenry said, adding that he has a speaking engagement this weekend in Kentucky. "I'm trying not to get arrested this weekend."

Despite the negative press, Fagan says the city has no intention of ceasing the arrests, but they are open to compromise. Mayor Dyer has reached out to the group, even offering to serve food with them. But so far, Fagan said, no one from OFNB has responded.

"On Friday we reached out to their lawyer," she said. "Then they released a statement to the press with their list of demands and fired their lawyer for trying to compromise with us. That is not how we negotiate."

The mayor has offered alternative locations for the group to share food, but OFNB says the spaces are inadequate for their needs. The proposed space is at Sylvia Lane and the 408, a 100 x 50 area fenced with barbed wire-topped chain link, a few tables, and no running water.

"Food sharing at Lake Eola is non-negotiable," said Markenson. "The area we are in is the picnic area, designated for food consumption. We are members of the public and we deserve to use public areas."

Fagan thinks that the attractiveness of Lake Eola is not its amenities, but its potential for press.

"They want to stay at Lake Eola because that's where they feel like they can draw the most attention," said Fagan. "It's not really about feeding the homeless. Hunger isn't really the issue in our community. Food is not the problem."

Markenson says the number of people who show up for food indicates that hunger is an issue, and a big one. "One-sixth of the city's population is on food stamps," he said. He also refutes Fagan's claims that the group's intent is publicity.

"We have been doing this since 2005," said Brock Monroe, a member of the group who was arrested on June 6. "They passed the ordinance because of us."

Monroe said that as more attention is drawn to their cause, fewer people show up.

"The worst thing is that we are losing our clients," he said. "I just want the cameras and cops to go away and leave us alone."

Hunger Stats

1. 55% of clients served by Second Harvest Foodbank of Central Florida report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities.

2. Adults in 19.6% of client households had to cut the size of meals because there wasn't enough money for food almost every month of the previous 12 months.

3. 48% had to choose between paying for gas for a car

4. 11% of clients with children said that their children skipped meals because there was not enough money for food during the previous 12.

5. On average food stamps last for 3 weeks

6. Approx 55,000 different people receive assistance in any given wk

7. 20.7% of the pantries, 10.1% of the kitchens and 33% of the shelters turned away clients during the past year.

8. 47% of the people served by SHFCF are children.

9. Central Florida is at a 17.1 % food insecurity* rate, with a total of 672,090 food insecure people.

All facts are compiled from the Second Harvest Food Bank website.

Advocates for the poor

Drug testing mandate based on stereotype

By Jeremy Cox
The Florida Times-Union

June 06--State Rep. Jimmie Smith can sympathize with the plight of people on public assistance. He's been there.

Fresh off two decades in the Army, he found himself working as a building supervisor. Money was tight and he had an infant at home, so he signed up for a federally funded program that helps poor families buy food for children up to 5 years old.

"I wanted it to be a hand-up and not a handout," said Smith, adding that he never bought as much food as he could have and canceled the assistance before it was scheduled to expire.

What the Lecanto Republican doesn't sympathize with: aid recipients who use illicit drugs. Smith sponsored a bill, signed into law last week by Gov. Rick Scott, requiring applicants for temporary cash assistance to pass a drug test.

Smith and other proponents say the law is aimed at ensuring that taxpayer money is spent properly -- on the needs of a family and not someone's drug habit. But critics of the law charge that it's unconstitutional and unfair to people who have done no wrong.

Moreover, the action is premised on a painful myth about aid recipients, critics say.

"There's no logical connection being in need of government assistance for your family and the presumption that you may have used drugs," said Jacksonville defense attorney Thomas Bell. "Essentially, the effect of the law is to deter people from getting benefits, both the cost and the intrusion."

That presumption takes on a note of irony, critics note, given that the law was sponsored by a lawmaker who fed his child at the benevolence of taxpayers and signed by a governor who lived in public housing as a child.

Estimates of drug use among welfare recipients conflict on whether it is greater than that of the general population. Some suggest there is no difference; some say it's slightly higher.

A 2002 analysis of existing research by the New York-based Legal Action Center, an advocate for people with histories of addiction, found that 10 percent to 20 percent of welfare recipients have drug and alcohol problems. The rate in the population at large stood at about 6 percent.

In Florida, a pilot testing

Continued on Page 5

War on the poor continues

Bill mandates drug tests for welfare recipients

By Jeff Shedden
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Why is the least politically influential group in this country is also public enemy number one? The poor don't get out and vote as much. The poor don't contribute to political campaigns. The poor do not have the time to volunteer for political causes. So why are the legislators in Tallahassee doing everything they can to drive the poor further and further down?

The latest example is Governor Rick Scott's signing of a bill that requires anybody who applies for welfare benefits to undergo a drug screening, supposedly to prevent people from using their welfare money to buy drugs. The applicant has to pay for the screening out of his own pocket, to be refunded if the applicant passes. If the applicant fails the test, then assistance is denied for an entire year for the first offense and three years for a second failure.

The idea is sound, and popular: nobody wants their tax dollars going to buying drugs. The problem is that there is no data suggesting that people using welfare money for drugs is a widespread issue. It's merely a holdover from the Reagan-era myth of the "welfare queens."

Welfare doesn't pay that much. With the cost of rent, food, clothes, and utilities, it is amazing that people can even live on the meager benefits they are provided. Florida's welfare system allows benefits to be collected for a maximum of 60 months and benefits barely work out to minimum wage.

OPINION

This bill is going to end up costing taxpayers more in the long run than they can even begin to suspect. A welfare recipient typically receives less than \$15,000 a year in cash assistance. If that recipient stays on welfare for the entire five year limit, they'll receive less than \$75,000.

People who fail the test, and those who would normally seek assistance but who would knowingly fail a drug test just won't apply. This doesn't make them any less needing of assistance, but it does mean they will get their money one way or another, and that usually means turning to crime.

Say a welfare recipient is denied benefits for failing a drug test. To get money for food and to support their habit, that person attempts to rob a convenient store. Armed robbery in Florida carries a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison, with the average cost of



Drug tests were also proposed for all state employees.

housing an inmate at around \$30,000 per year.

The \$75,000 in welfare benefits, of which some may or may not be used to feed an addiction, has now potentially become \$900,000.

In addition to the rise in crime, this will also lead to a rise in homelessness. The whole point of public assistance is to prevent homelessness, and our new policy seems to actively promote it. It's not as simple as relocating to another state with less strict policies, because moving is expensive enough for people who do have money.

This bill also punishes the families of drug users. If we deny assistance to drug users, we're also denying assistance to the children of drug users. If a parent fails the drug test, then they are supposed to find someone else to apply on their children's behalf.

This is shortsighted and completely unrealistic. Why should a child be forced to go hungry simply because his daddy has a substance abuse problem? It could even be argued that this could increase the type of desperation that would lead to criminal activity.

Scott's plan also doesn't take into consideration other forms of "misuse" of welfare funds. People can use their cash assistance to buy alcohol or tobacco easily. In 2002, there were almost a million reported alcoholics in the state of Florida. They can spend their funds on lottery tickets or on gambling addictions.

A policy of drug testing for people applying for temporary public assistance can be done properly and compassionately. Instead of having a black-or-white policy of denying drug users, it would be easier and cheaper to set up a program of mandatory drug counseling and rehabilitation.

This bill is just another in a long line of the extreme-right using

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Drug tests not necessary

Continued from Page 4

program was shut down in 2001 after it showed no significant difference in drug use among aid recipients.

The Washington, D.C.-based Center for Legal and Social Policy wrote in a February study that tests in Michigan, the only state to have ever randomly tested its recipients, showed 10 percent failed. Of those, only 3 percent were for so-called "hard" drugs, such as cocaine. Both rates were "consistent" with the state's general population, according to the report.

Federal law allows states to screen applicants. But the Michigan law was halted after only a few weeks in 1999 and eventually ruled unconstitutional by an appeals court. The Florida chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has warned that the Florida law faces the same fate as its Michigan counterpart.

"The wasteful program created by this law subjects Floridians who are impacted by the economic downturn, as well as their families, to a humiliating search of their urine and body fluids without cause or even suspicion of drug abuse," Howard Simon, the chapter's executive director, said.

The law is expected to be challenged in court. The ACLU has already filed suit against a similar law passed during the

spring session requiring state employees to be screened.

When the law takes effect July 1, aid applicants will have to pay upfront for the drug test, which can cost anywhere from \$10 to \$70. The state will reimburse them if the tests come back clean.

But assuming that the screening costs are closer to \$70, that would amount to a week's pay for many recipients, said Megan Wall, an attorney for St. Johns County Legal Aid. A family of three receives \$303 a month in cash benefits.

"And right during this really low point, this is when they need to be drug-tested? It's just really punitive," she said.

If they test positive, applicants can enter a drug rehabilitation program and reapply six months later, according to the new law. Parents who test positive can designate someone on their behalf to receive their child's benefits.

At a time when the state is having to overcome billions in lost revenues to a collapsed housing market, every taxpayer dollar must be spent wisely, one Northeast Florida lawmaker said in commenting on the testing measure.

"I believe in the golden rule," said Sen. John Thrasher, R-St. Augustine, according to the Florida Independent. "He who has the gold makes the rules, and the rule should be: If you're taking public assistance, you will not use drugs."

—MCT Campus

Public enemy number one

Continued from Page 4

scapegoats to hide the real problems. There's no current plans to apply the same policy to people receiving Social Security, but I'd be willing to bet more than one person has used their check to load up on Oxycontin.

The people with the least amount of resources are not causing the problems in this state.

As fewer jobs become available in the state, the number of people requiring assistance is going to continue to rise. The biggest issue with welfare isn't monitoring what people are spending it on, but rather to keep our citizens from having to resort to public assistance in the first place.

FEEDBACK

Enough hand-wringing

In your article about FSU accepting a 1.5 million gift, you stated "The Koch brothers, as business men, are not beholden to a moral standard of objectivity. But the administration of Florida State is." Really? Since when?

One of the most predictable outcomes one can come up with is the idea that there are more liberal leaning professors on university campuses.

The experience of my daugh-

ter over the last 4 years at another state university backs up the idea that the overall thought process of the average university professor is marinated in liberal thought. She experienced it on a weekly basis.

The emotional hand-wringing over conservative ideas being taught at FSU is laughable.

Sincerely,
Bruce Hubbell
Orlando, FL.

One-sided issue

Great article in the Voice on the free market vs. libertarian lessons in the classroom. I don't think it's right that Chambliss will only teach one side of the issue, but hey. I guess that's politics for ya.

—Shannon Scheidell, via Facebook

For print feedback, e-mail letters@valenciavoices.com or fax to 407-582-5504. Letters are edited for accuracy, clarity, and length.

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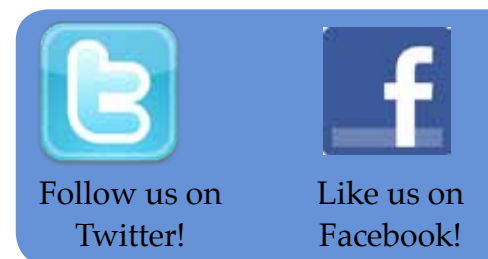
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Two guys, one convo

By Rofkens Petit-Homme and Bryan Levine
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RPH: Okay, so the NBA season is over and now I have to wait another season to see LeBron James get denied another NBA title. This is so unfair, why can't there be a year-round professional basketball league; AND 1 doesn't count.

BL: I think LeBron could have just stayed in Cleveland, and not won the championship, instead of highly disappointing two franchises.

RPH: That's it? That is all you have to say about an NBA season that was characterized by drooling over the MIAMI HEAT. Sir, I am slightly disappointed, but not as much as I am about Dwight Howard.

BL: The Dwight Howard situation is a mess. You have a guy who clearly wants to stay in Orlando, but the Magic front office won't do anything about it. He's made it clear what its going to take to keep him. Do you think the Magic will be able to keep Superman in his city?

RPH: They know what it takes, but unfortunately the GM is afraid to do it. The truth is, Gilbert Arenas is not what he used to be. Agent Zero is truly no superhero. That's why Superman is well... I got nothing to rhyme with superhero.

BL: If you want to talk about a superhero, let's talk about Timmy Thomas. He's been unstoppable at home in the playoffs. The Bruins forced a game 7 against the Canucks last night, who do you have hoisting Lord Stanley's Cup?

RPH: Who the heck is Timmy Thomas, and what is a "Canuck?" What are you watching man? I do not recall another

playoff sport going on. Is Lord Stanley in England and isn't he the Duke of Sandwich or something?

BL: I'm sorry, I forgot we were in Florida for a minute. I'm talking about the NHL. Its a hockey league.

RPH: I'm not ignorant I know what hockey is. I just can't stand the Boston Bruins, or any Boston sports fan.

BL: I'm right there with you. As much as it pains me to admit, I think I'm rooting for the Canadian team to win the Stanley Cup. Canada is the lesser of two evils.

RPH: Just like Saddam. Speaking of fallen empires how about your Yankees. Jeter is out!

BL: Continue to hate on Derek Jeter all you want. Keep calling him the most overrated player in baseball. The numbers speak for themselves. In a matter of days, Derek Jeter will become the first player in a Yankees uniform to reach the 3,000 hit milestone. How 'bout them apples?

RPH: Them apples taste horrendous, plus everyone in baseball knows the Phillies are taking October by storm. New York fans just live in denial. Like Rex and his 'Boyz' taking the NFL Superbowl. "Can't Wait," until the day that happens.

BL: You couldn't be any more wrong. Even Yankees fans realize the Red Sox are the best team in baseball right now. Its also unfair to group all New Yorkers in as Jets fans. The Jets are the Heat of the NFL. All talk and no walk.

RPH: Just like the NFL Labor Union, who at the end of it all will cave-in and meet the owners demands. Everybody knows, as soon as the Stanley Cup is over, ESPN and all major sports networks will be focused on the NFL Lockout. Got to go man.

BL: The Stanley what?



Orlando Magic's center Dwight Howard seeking a foul during game 6 vs. Atlanta Hawks.

Will he stay or will he go? Orlando rallies to keep their Superman in town

By Bryan Levine
blevine@valenciavoice.com

"I'm gonna take my talents to South Beach." Those eight simple words spoken by LeBron James last summer ended the one-superstar-per-team era in the NBA and introduced a new one.

Instead of a team building a strong supporting cast around its superstar, now teams are signing two or three superstars and create a "big three" of their own. This trend has caused superstars on mediocre teams to abandon their home cities, and move to a city with a team full of other stars.

The next superstar who may fall victim to this trend is Orlando Magic center, Dwight Howard. Though Howard has said multiple times that he wants to stay in Orlando, he has made it very clear he's not staying with-

out a stronger team around him.

"I just told [the Magic ownership], 'We've got to have guys who are going to play hard 48 minutes and who are going to battle the other team, who are going to fight night in and night out for a championship,' " Howard said in an interview with NBA.com.

Rather than wait for the Orlando Magic front office to make the first move, Magic fans have already started the StayDwight campaign. This campaign is committed to keeping Howard in Orlando.

"I wanted to come up with a way to rally the fans." said StayDwight creator Ryan Totka.

Fans all over the city have been spotted wearing the StayDwight t-shirts and sporting bumper stickers on their cars. Throughout all of next season Tatka expects fans to show up to games wearing

the StayDwight t-shirts and letting Howard know they want him to stay.

An effective way to support the StayDwight campaign is to donate to the D12Foundation. Howard is the president and founder of the foundation dedicated to improving the community and encouraging education and leadership among youth.

"I want to thank the people out there who have created some websites trying to keep me in Orlando. That means a lot to me seeing that outpouring of love," wrote Howard on his blog. "I'll never be able to thank each and every one of you Magic fans out there, but your cheers and support keep me driving and pushing to better myself so we can win a title here."

Though the Magic have offered Howard a contract extension, while in Italy he told NBA.com he doesn't expect to resign next summer, saying he plans to enter free agency unless the Magic make keys moves to improve their team.

More than just the Magic's ineffectiveness to build a team stands in the way of him resigning. The Orlando Sentinel recently created an interactive page on their website where fans could put Howard in different jerseys of teams in the NBA.

"I thought it was wrong what they did," said Totka.

Howard thought so as well.

He posted this on Twitter: "Y does it seem like the writers of Orlando sentinel are tryna push me out of Orlando with dumb articles. It's annoying. Can I enjoy my summer and get ready for next season in Orlando. Pls. Same thing u guys did to Shaq. Smh"

Its clear what it will take to keep Howard in Orlando. It has very little to do with money, and everything to do with winning a championship. The Magic have an entire year to put together a championship team or risk losing the biggest superstar in the NBA.

For more information on the StayDwight campaign go to StayDwight.com.