



NEWS: McNair scholarships face cuts p. 2

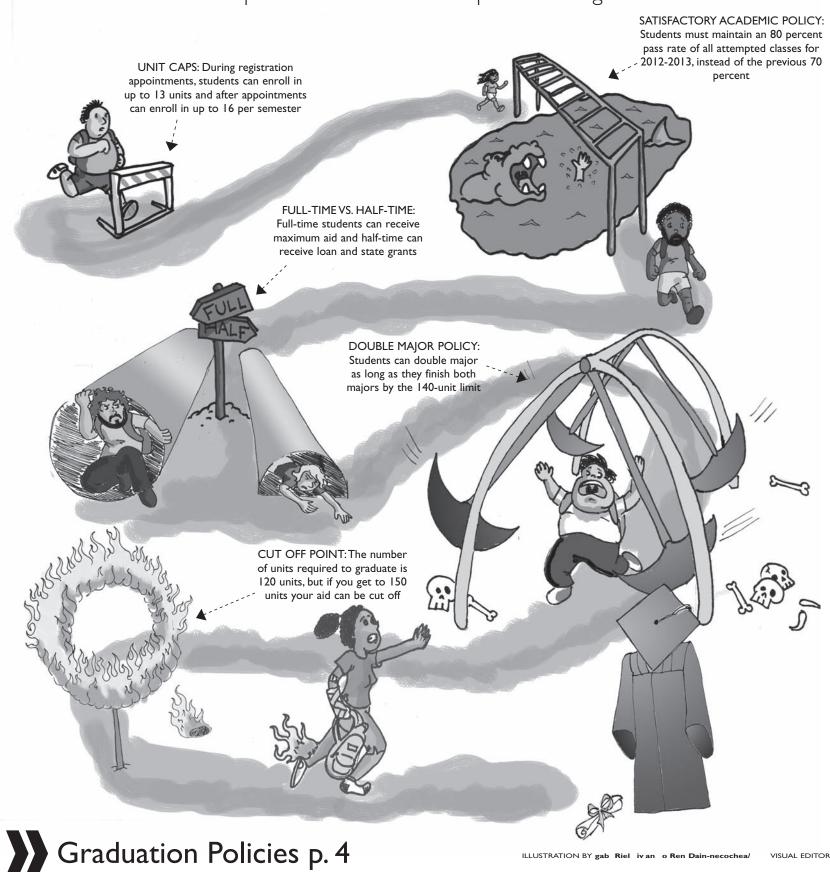
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Running the graduation gauntlet

New policies hinder students' path to a degree



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Scholarship program faces cuts

McNair Scholars program for low income students to face \$10 million cut by U.S. Department of Education

Mayra Escob Edo DAILY SUNDIAL

his Month, the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program will be hit with a \$10 million cut made by the U.S. Department of Education affecting more than 200 McNair programs nationwide.

The McNair Scholars Program is one of eight TRIO programs funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The program is meant to help students who are interested in pursuing graduate studies with the goal of obtaining a Ph.D. It is designed for low-income, first generation college students and underrepresented racial/ethnic minorities in graduate education, said Renee Moreno, program director and Chicano/a Studies professor.

"The focus of the program is mostly on upper division students like juniors and seniors and puts them on a path to a Ph.D.," said Moreno. "It trains students to take the GRE, on contacting faculty, to be good grad students and gets them to do critical research with a faculty mentor that works with them on an original research project."

The cuts will result in one in every three programs being eliminated from institutions, said Moreno. This means that the CSUN McNair Scholars Program will be in jeopardy of receiving no funding and being cut.

"Having a program like this is so rare for people that really want to make a difference and it's devastating to see the priorities continue to be misplaced on the federal level," said Jorge Moraga, former McNair scholar and CSUN student who is in a doctoral program for American Studies at Washington State University.

The reason behind the funding cuts made to the McNair Program is that the funding will instead be given to the Upward Bound Math-Science Program, another TRIO program, said Moreno. The Department of Education is "pitting one TRIO program against the other and they both deserve funding."

The consequences of cuts to the McNair Program mean fewer scholars of color and a loss of jobs.

"McNair is the pipeline for the diversity we might expect to see in the future," said Moreno. "People will lose their jobs that are employed by their program if the cuts are made."

The McNair Program here at CSUN will not know if it will continue to receive funding until late September when award letters are sent out, but Moreno says she is hoping the program will get prior experience points for the grant program.

"I hope that someone will recognize that CSUN is incredibly diverse as an institution and is able to get the students who the program is designed for," said Moreno. "I'm optimistic. I think the grant I wrote is very strong. The program here has very good success rates at placing students in graduate programs."

Nationally, the McNair Program has a 53 percent success rate placing students in graduate programs and CSUN's program has a success rate of 75 percent, said Moreno.

Moraga, who first heard about the McNair Program from Central American Studies professor Alicia Estrada in May 2011 and was strongly encouraged by her to apply,



KEN SCARBORO/ SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHI

d irector of the McNair s cholars program, dr. r enee Moreno, shows off student research projects from recent McNair s cholars at cs UN. The program faces a \$10 million cut in federal funding this fall that could eliminate one in three of the more than 200 McNair programs on campuses nationwide. cs UN is among the 10 percent of McNair programs at Hispanic s erving Institutions and Historically black colleges and Universities.

credits the program for the scholar that he is today.

"I wouldn't have been able to develop into a scholar if it hadn't been for the resources and my mentor," said Moraga. "Without the program I wouldn't have chosen academia; I would have chosen law"

There is a lot of action being taken to try and stop the

cuts to the McNair Program.

"I'm writing tons of letters, making phone calls and encouraging students to be active," said Moreno. "I'm writing to President Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Congress, senators and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, asking to advocate for the McNair Program, keep the program going and keep its

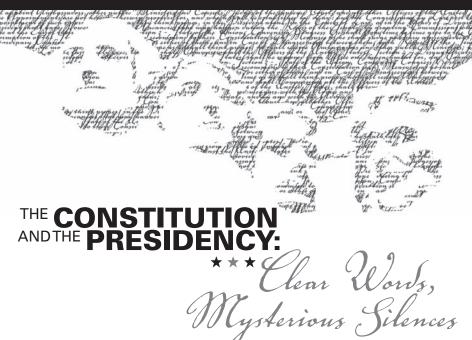
funding."

There is also an online petition that is asking the Senate to stop the \$10 million cuts to the McNair Program.

For now Moreno says she is strategizing.

"If we get the grant it's five more years of funding. If not then I can request a one year extension; it's negotiable," said Moreno.

Please join us for the California State University, Northridge Celebration of Constitution Day



Saturday, September 15, 2012

University Club Orange Grove Bistro Continental Breakfast 8:30 a.m. Panel Discussion 9:00 a.m.

There is no cost for the program, but **RSVP**s are required **by Friday, September 7, 2012**. Please email EXL-DeanSA@csun.edu or call The Tseng College at (818) 677–2270.

Free parking is available in the parking lot adjacent to the University Club.

A timely topic in light of the forthcoming presidential elections, the program will examine the evolution of the presidency – why the framers gave the president certain powers, and why the document says little or nothing about others.

Manelists

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Department of History
California State University, Northridge

Professor John Evans, Ph.D.

Department of Political Science University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire

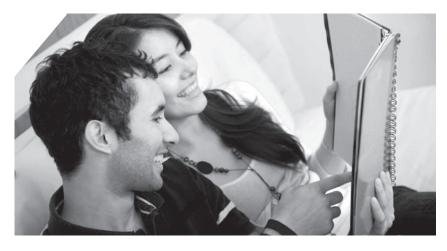
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Professor teaches students self-improvement

Support system necessary for student success, says chair of child and adolescent development department

Christina DAILY SUNDIAL **B**ennett

f you have ever wondered about what path your life will take or which direction you should go, you are not alone.

David W. Wakefield, chair of the child and adolescent development department (CADV), was not sure of his calling until graduate school.

Since early schooling, Wakefield noticed his natural curiosity as to why some students excelled in school while others struggled. This curiosity peaked while taking a general education psychology course as an undergrad at UC Berkeley. And so he pursued a bachelor's degree in psychology.

When he continued on to graduate school, the puzzle pieces came together.

It was clear that being an educator was his passion.

This epiphany was encouraged by others, principally a crucial support system of family, friends, and professors who pushed Wakefield to achieve higher goals.

Wakefield said these support systems are integral to finding success in education, especially for those in ethnic minority groups who may be the first of their families to

attend college.

"Historically there has been limited access to higher education (for ethnic minority groups and first generation college students)," Wakefield said. "That has somewhat changed now (although) the odds are still against you if you don't have that support system."

Coming from a family of educators (his parents and grandparents were also teachers), the desire to help others reach their long-term goals and find their path is a family trend.

"We need to do a better job building pathways for people," he said. "We have a really good group of faculty at Cal State Northridge that are committed to...helping students identify how to navigate college."

Wakefield takes pride in providing the highest quality education for the 900 students in the child and adolescent development department, although he admits the CSU budget issues have not left the department unscathed.

When it comes to budgetary constraints, trying to be as economical as possible is difficult, he said. Instead of offering more sections with fewer seats, the department opted to offer larger lecture courses with more seats, giving students an opportunity to get into classes they

need, according to Wakefield.

"Teaching larger lectures may change some of the ways a professor teaches a class," Wakefield said. "But faculty at Cal State Northridge are choosing to teach here because they enjoy closely working with students."

Counseling services is another area where Wakefield's CADV department has adapted, in particular, by revamping the advisement model.

In an effort to reallocate resources and maximize the benefit for students, mandatory advisement appointments have been replaced with access to online tools and informational workshops on topics like networking and applying to master's programs.

While faculty has been working hard to maximize student benefits, they have also been bargaining for their own.

This pass Friday the teacher's union, the California Faculty Association (CFA), and the CSU Chancellor's office reached a tentative agreement on a new contract for faculty members that extends through June 30, 2014.

Competitive salaries and comprehensive benefits have been a steady concern for faculty members, but the faculty is also aware of the financial circumstances and budget issues the state faces.

"I think most (of the) faculty, including myself, hope that the taxpayers of California pass the initiative to put more money into education," he said. "Otherwise it seems that things are only going to get worse before they get better."

Wakefield began teaching at CSUN 13 years ago and describes the experience as fulfilling in many ways. Working closely with students has been the most enjoyable part of his

Mentoring students on their research projects in the Presidential Scholars program, which has served as a springboard to the next step for many students, has been a true highlight, he said. In child and adolescent development it is a treat to see students active in the community where they are working with children, families, school districts and community organizations.

Looking back, he recalls the influential people who helped him along the way and the pivotal role their guidance played. Now he is paying it forward.

One lesson he hopes students gain from his classes goes beyond getting an 'A'.

"Learning ways to selfimprove is something I want

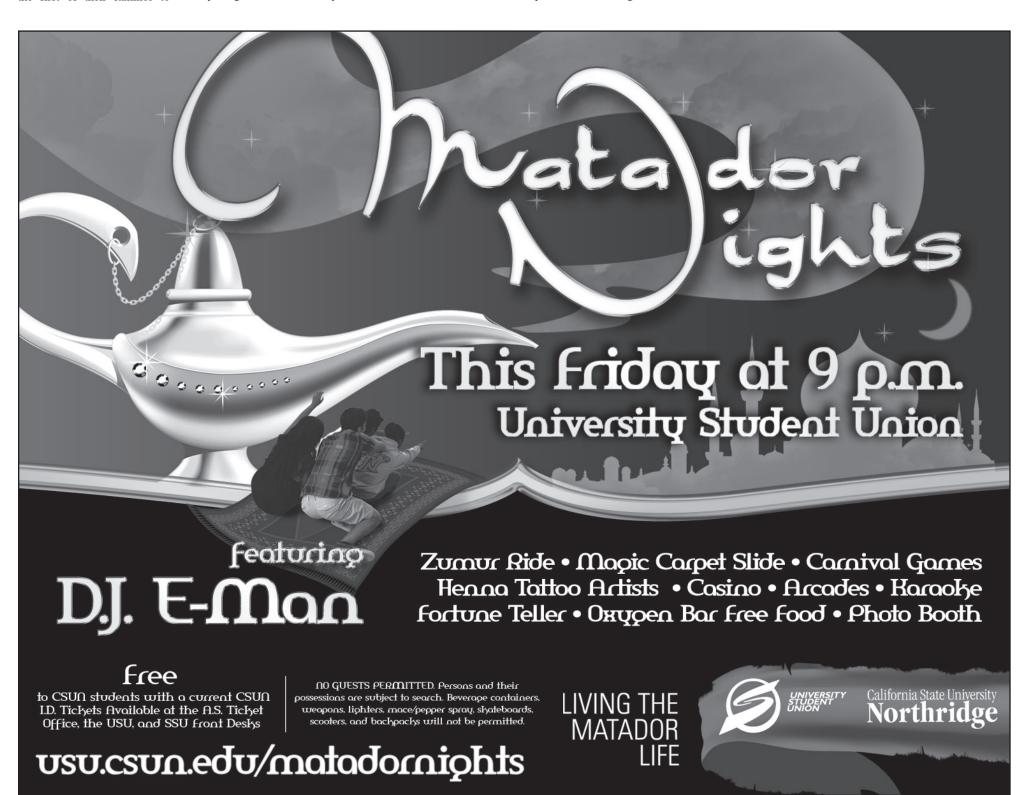


DANIELLE HALE / DAILY SUNDIAL

David Wakefield, department chair of Child and a dolescent Development, sits in his office at C s Un on Monday, a ugust 27. "Learning ways to self-improve is something i want students to take away," he said. "(it is) one of the most important things you can learn from the college experience."

"(It is) one of the most impor-

students to take away," he said. tant things you can learn from the college experience."



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Melo Dy c he Rchian DAILY SUNDIAL

ith only a semester left until receiving his bachelor's degree in Asian-American studies, Marvin Jordan struggles to pay for his tuition. He is the first person in his family to go to college.

Jordan, 23, first encountered financial aid problems through an email he received in February notifying him of his failure to comply with the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy.

His financial aid was subject to cancellation if he did not raise his pass rate by the end of this spring to meet the new requirements.

He filed an appeal, but was denied after he was unable to provide a compelling reason for not meeting the standards. Jordan's financial aid was taken away after six years at CSUN and he was faced with the possibility of not graduating.

"I didn't have enough time to bring up my pass rate," Jordan said. "I only brought it up to 74 percent and now my family is struggling to pay for my education. I wouldn't be at CSUN anymore if it wasn't for them."

In February, the CSU system sent an email to all students stating a change to its SAP policy. The new policy would call for students to maintain an 80 percent pass rate of all attempted classes for the 2012-13 financial aid award year instead of the previous 70 percent requirement.

This means students are required to pass at least 80 percent of all units they enroll in. Repeated courses and courses in which students received a fail, incomplete, no credit, withdrawal or withdrawal unauthorized also count toward the number of units attempted.

In accordance with the current SAP policy within the CSU, students receiving financial aid also face a 150-unit cap policy that threatens to cut off their aid, thus delaying their projected graduation date if they are unable to pay.

Students only need 120 units to graduate and cannot exceed 140 units if they are double majoring, according to the University Catalog.

"Students can have up to two majors and two minors as long as they can be completed in 140 units," said Elizabeth Adams, senior director of CSUN's Undergraduate Studies.

Daniel Mulato, a graduating senior double majoring in psychology and Chicano/a studies,

is having trouble paying for the five units he has left this semester in order to receive his diploma. Having reached his 150-unit limit, he now faces disenrollment if unable to find the funds.

Mulato works at the Educational Opportunity Program office as a transitional program student assistant and sees first-hand how first-generation, low-income freshmen are faced with these challenges.

"What concerns me is the fact that these policies only affect a certain population," Mulato said. "They don't affect rich kids with parents who pay for their education. They affect low-income students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds."

Loans and state grants require a minimum of half-time enrollment for eligibility, said Armenka Khashmanyan, CSUN financial aid representative. Although federal grants can be given to students with less than half-time enrollment, the aid amount is very minimal.

"Students who maintain full-time enrollment receive the maximum amount of aid," said Khashmanyan. "Otherwise, assistance can be reduced or cancelled depending on the source."

Financial aid is helping students getting an education, but in return students have the responsibility to maintain good academic standing, said to Khashmanyan.

"Some students flip-flopping between majors take courses that aren't required, or are just being 'professional students,' which are students who are only here for financial aid money rather than an education," Khashmanyan said. "It isn't CSU policies that are slowing down their expected graduation, it's the student."

This year, the number of units a student was allowed to take per semester was capped. What used to be a maximum of 17 units during registration appointments changed to the current 13 units. Once it is open enrollment, students can take up to 16 units. With a limit on the amount of units per semester, students are meeting the 120-unit graduation minimum at a much slower rate. Less units per semester means more semesters spent in school and delayed graduation dates for CSUN students.

According to Vice Provost Cynthia Rawitch, the 13-unit limit per semester and 150-unit cap on financial aid have actually improved graduation rates within the past few.

"We encourage students to graduate in a timely manner and be smarter about the units they take, but our students lead different lives with busy schedules," Rawitch said. "Some will graduate in four years and others in six. But my focus is on units, not years."



Don't miss day two of Meet the Clubs!

When: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m Where: Bayramian Lawn

Welcoming all Freshman

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he Freshman Convocation, an annual ceremony welcoming freshmen students to CSUN, will take place Thursday at 6 p.m. on the Oviatt Lawn.

"Convocation is the first bookend of a student's career," said Cheryl Spector, director of academic first year experiences. "The student's career begins with convocation and ends with graduation."

President Dianne Harrison will open the event with a speech officially welcoming freshmen and will introduce keynote speaker Chitra Divakaruni. There will be a reception after the ceremony where free finger foods will be served.

Divakaruni is the author of "One Amazing Thing," the 2012-2013 freshman common reading book. She will speak about themes presented in the book and will also be doing a signing after the ceremony.

"The freshmen love it," said Dustin Beech, student coordinator at the Student Development Office. "They were having discussions in their 100 (level) classes about the book and the keynote speaker."

The Student Development Office is preparing for 2,500

students to converge on the Oviatt Lawn for the ceremony, ranging from freshmen to the dorm living community to athletes, Beech said.

"It's great to see everyone in their CSUN gear and apparel walking together," Beech said. "There's a real sense of connectivity and camaraderie."

Also attending the event are faculty who will march to the lawn in their caps and gowns, Spector said.

In its sixth year, the convocation is "a party of the mind," Spector said. "Convocation is another symbol of the way student affairs and the academic side come together."

CFA vote to ratify contract

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DAILY SUNDIAL

alifornia Faculty Association members ratified the tentative faculty contract between the CFA and the California State University system on Friday.

The CFA members and the CSU have been in negotiations on a contract since June 2010, when the last contract expired.

As of August a tentative agreement on a new contract was created, but needed ratification from both parties.

After three weeks of voting, 91 percent of CFA members voted in favor of the new contract, according to a CFA press release from Aug. 31.

The new agreement saves members from pay cuts and layoffs, provides better procedures for sabbaticals and teacher evaluations, and gives priority for pay raises to some faculty who were scheduled to receive a raise in 2008.

The CFA can also begin negotiations with the CSU board of trustees for salary increases for all other members in early October.

The contract will still need approval from the CSU board of trustees, who are scheduled to vote on Sept. 18-19. If approved, the contract will be effective until June 2014.



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$\overline{D101010}S_{\text{opinion@sundial.csun.edu}}$

The Talk

Wink, poke and get in bed

Apps like Grindr and Skout make casual sex easy to find, but are they replacing our personal charm?

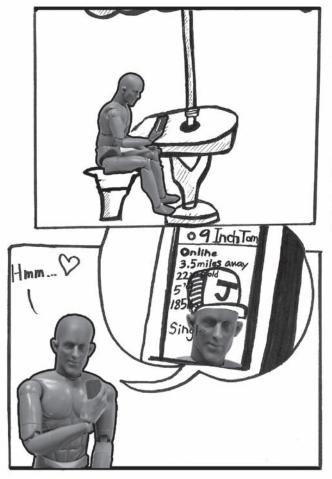




PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CAITLIN SHIEH AND JEFFREY ZIDE/CONTRIBUTORS

Fred y Tla Tenchi

ince what seems like the beginning of time, ticking hormone-bombs faced a wonderful dilemma: they wanted no-strings attached sex. And up until 10 years ago, people in search of partners joined niche chatrooms, awful party lines and had to cruise bars - risky adventures that didn't always pay off.

Smart phone applications like Skout and Blendr changed that, offering easy-to-get sex with willing strangers who might be around the bend. The efficient applications have proven to be an international success, with a reported 3.5 million Grindr users in the world, according to PR Newswire.

Sex apps are a positive force in our society enabling individuals to express their sexuality in healthy ways; people once restricted by community taboos or social circles are suddenly surrounded with liberating and fun possibilities. However, these touch-screen-tools also have downsides and should not replace real-life socializing even if it is just for some casual sex.

Before making judgements, I decided

to test out the Grindr app, popular in the gay male community, for one week. What I found in sex apps was the same outcome of Twitter and Facebook: an elimination of social skills (thanks to people using them as substitutes for social lives). People's flirting skills might be heading that direction

Set up was a hot and sweaty breeze. Once the application has been downloaded, users are asked to provide a profile picture and their exact location. You will soon find out that this part caused me the most problems.

Once registered, the app throws your image into a sea of people who can be divided into two groups: the ones with a fair amount of social grace and the people you will most likely witness grabbing a fistful of boob from unsuspecting women in clubs.

During my seven-day trial, I encountered my fair share of unwanted explicit photos (a picture of you mid-orgasm isn't wooing material) and more disturbingly, an online

I met my obsessed fan on night three of the trial. The man sent a friendly message saying, "what are you into?" I would soon learn that he didn't want to know about my hidden passion for vintage clothing.

"Lol cute. U a bttm?" the man asked. "I'm here for friends," I replied.

What followed were 15 minutes of me softly rejecting a man who could not take a hint. As previously mentioned, the app's location feature was the source of my trouble, allowing him to vaguely figure out what street I lived on.

"I'm nearby where you are," the man messaged me. "Let's meet up."

The fear of being murdered wasn't previously in my mind, but I started racing and swearing like Clint Eastwood at the RNC. Covering all my bases, I blocked the man from my profile and promptly deleted it. Grindr definitely wasn't home to charming Casanovas.

The tragedy of it all? Physically, the stalker was 100 percent my type and I would have talked to him under normal circumstances. I am not alone in discovering that a seemingly attractive person online has the seductive skills of a shotgun.

"I've done it with a couple of guys met online," said Kimberly T., a 19-year-old community college student who used Skout a few times before meeting her girlfriend at school. "They've been cool... because I'm super picky."

While using the Skout application, Kimberly remembers the unsolicited nude pics that appeared randomly in her chats with

"I got this message from this guy I've never even talked to," Kimberly said. "Muscle, in his 30s and a little gray hair... the message had a [picture] of his wang and the text 'hey cutie."

Twenty years ago, if a man wanted to flirt with a woman who was way "out of his league," he risked being ridiculed by the "classy" drunk folks at a bar or party. Now, all one has to do is write a simple 'hey' to a woman and pray she believes him when he says, "yes, that is a picture of my nine-inchpenis on my profile." In the end he might be rejected, but will face no real repercussions.

While we no longer have to waste time seducing Mr. or Ms. Right-Now at the local McDonald's or waiting until last call at the Tonga Hut bar, the applications can also rob us of the little remaining social muscle we as Internet beings possess.

The result is an attractive, yet awkward individual with poor skills whose lost an essential part of living in a diverse society. Picture a drunken Kristen Stewart and the story writes itself.

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California State University Northridge



Dwight Howard: Hero or villain?

The new Lakers big man has LA fans gushing but other NBA fans may see the trade in a different light

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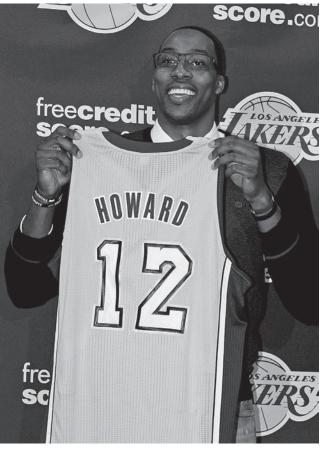
the Three" of Miami took the 2012 championship, the same tears cried by Cleveland over Lebron James soaked the faces of Orlando Magic fans with the trade of Dwight Howard. A new "Big Four" was assembled in Los Angeles after my home team's franchise player made his tumultuous exit.

Howard once said, "I love the way (Stan Van Gundy) coaches us." Fast forward to this past year's "Dwightmare" and we have a very forward display of dissatisfaction with the coach after alleged reports surfaced of Howard's request to rid the Magic of Gundy.

This would not be the last time Howard contradicted himself in the face of his Orlando fans. Just last week, he took a full-page ad in the Orlando Sentinel to "thank" his fans and rub the trade in Orlando's face one last time. Along with a giant photo collage of Howard and his charities are captions of his undying love for Orlando and its "beautiful" fans. He cited his time with the Magic a privilege and

Now, the Magic will attempt to move forward without Howard and Gundy. Instead, the Magic get firsttime head coach Jacque Vaughn. Quite frankly, I don't recognize this team is

Let me make one thing clear: I am not mad at Dwight Howard for leaving the Magic. Howard, like James, wanted to leave because he had to do what was best for him, and I support that motion. But can he please stop with the pleading for acceptance?



All-star center Dwight Ho ward playing alongside kobe Bryant and Steve n ash will create headaches for the n BA.

Jon At HAn Bue DAILY SUNDIAL

he NBA has become the Lakers, the Heat, and everybody else. This summer's trade was bad for basketball because it sets up a dangerous precedent in the minds of GM's across the league.

Up until the Miami Heat took home last season's Larry O'Brien trophy, the idea that the amount of stars on your roster resulted in championship rings didn't "ring" true.

But the Heat won and the Lakers responded and now everyone's expectations seem reminiscent to the one we had for the London Olympics' "Dream Team."

And that was boring to watch. Seriously. It was like charity basketball.

But there was a glimmer of hope resulting from the

trade and that was guardforward Andre Iguodala's move to my hometown Denver Nuggets.

For the Nuggets, the acquisition of Iguodala puts an All-Star on a young team full of potential. On the surface, Iguodala's presence will shore up a defense that was amongst the league's worst in points allowed and his 15.3 career points per game average will help make up for the loss of both Al Harrington and Aaron Afflalo.

Including Harrington and Afflalo, last season's Nuggets had six players who averaged over 10 points a game. Simply put, the Nuggets are deeper than an Adele album.

If it happens, however, then the Nuggets could become David in a tale of two goliaths, and the rest of professional basketball would have a cause for hope.

ron rok Hy ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

his offseason's blockbuster trade between the Lakers, Sixers, Nuggets and Magic not only neutralized the point of last season's lockout to spread out talent in the league, it created another title-contending super

team by adding the best center in the league to an already starstudded Lakers' lineup.

Last year, Laker fans, such as myself, knew the team had glaring holes in the lineup -they didn't have a point guard who could create shots for others, they had no bench and they were stuck with a center who gave up too easily. All of these flaws were exposed when the Oklahoma City Thunder stomped LA in the playoffs.

This summer, the Lakers addressed all of their problems by pilfering Steve Nash from the Suns, signing Antawn Jamison and Jodie Meeks for chump change and sending Andrew Bynum to the Sixers for Dwight Howard, who's addition will take the Lakers into the NBA finals over OKC.

So how exactly does Howard lift the Lakers over their main competitors?

Offensively, Howard solves all of the Lakers' problems. He can get wide open shots for anyone because he commands a double team, he's the best pick and roll big man in the game as he scores 78 percent of the time when involved in the play, and he's statistically

a better offensive rebounder and finisher at the rim (he scores on 64 percent of his offensive rebounds) compared to Bynum, negating the free throw percentage disparity. Not only that, Howard has a higher field goal percentage in post up situations compared to Bynum (50.2 to 46.8).

Defensively, Howard blocks and alters more shots than Bynum. He's won Defensive Player of the Year three seasons in a row, meaning the Lakers' perimeter defenders can tighten up on defense because they know Howard will be behind them to protect

Book it -- the Lakers are coming out of the West, setting the stage for the first ever Kobe vs. LeBron finals.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Haina, Gedryn lead CSUN

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SUN women's volleyball team defeated Idaho (2-5) in four sets 28-26, 25-17, 21-25, 25-20 in their first game in the newly refurbished Matadome.

Junior outside hitter Mahina Haina led the Matadors (4-2) with 19 kills while junior opposite hitter Natalie Allen added 17 kills, three service aces, and supplied defensive support with 11 digs.

"Everyone hit well tonight," Allen said. "It makes it hard for the other team to block and defend us. When everyone's hitting strong, the blockers don't know where to gang up on us."

Matador head coach Jeff Stork praised the performances of Haina and Allen.

'Nineteen and 17 kills apiece is very good," Stork

good, she'll do some things that an ankle injury. a lot of other players can't get away with. Most of that has to do with her hand control and her vision. (Sydney Gedryn) did a wonderful job tonight distributing the ball and following the game plan."

Gedryn, junior setter, coordinated the offense with 52 assists while senior libero Cindy Ortiz led the CSUN defense with 24

"Our passing was really good," Allen said. "That led to our setting being really good, and our hitters being able to find holes in their blocks and their defense."

In the first set, Matador freshman middle blocker Cieana Stinson helped open up an early 2-0 lead. She finished with seven block assists and seven kills. Stinson was one of two middle blockers who helped step in for the injured

said. "Nat's always been very Casey Hinger who was out with sets, the Matadors fell early to

Idaho's Allison Walker had a game-high 20 kills and 12 digs to lead the Vandals.

Haina got the Matadors to set point by spiking the ball right through two Vandal defenders.

"The first game was a real back-and-forth, but once we figured out our side of the net, it was a lot easier," Haina said.

Stork sized up his team's efforts after the game.

"I don't think we played the best volleyball that we've played so far this year, but I think cumulatively, it's one of our better efforts overall," Stork said. "The first set, I think we were confident in our ability to sideout, I think we were siding out at like 70 percent in the first two sets, and when you're doing that, it's hard to have teams keep up with you."

After taking the first two

ered in the third set.

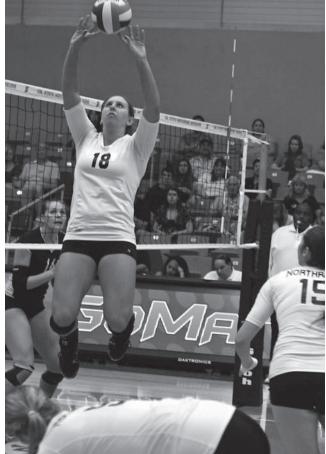
"I'd hate to think we were giving sets away," Stork said. "But Idaho played a little bit better, they started blocking the ball a little bit better, but we knew that being up 2-0 or 2-1 is a better situation than being down 1-2."

Idaho miscues in the fourth set led to an early 3-1 Matador lead and Haina added another kill to make it 4-1.

"I give a lot of credit to our middles," Haina said. "It's the best feeling when you have nobody up and you just see clear net, it's exciting."

The Vandals' implosion continued while Haina pounded Idaho defenders to make it 10-4.

Despite helping Idaho recover and close the deficit to 24-20, Walker ended the match by hitting a powerful shot out of bounds.



LOREN TOWNSLEY/ PHOTO EDITOR

Junior setter Sydney Gedryn goes for the set against Idaho.