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MONDAY
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Yule traditions diverse, distinct

Christmas in Iraq includes burning thorn bushes, making a wish

By Beth Fukumoto

Ka Leo Associate News Editor

After reading about the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve, families make a bonfire with thorn bushes in the yard and sing until the fire dies. If the thorns turn to ashes, the family will have good luck after they all jump over the ashes three times. Then each person makes a wish.

It doesn't sound like the typical American Christmas because it's not. The ceremony is part of the Iraqi Christmas tradition, according to the Web site christmas.com as viewed on Dec. 12.

Though less than 3 percent of Iraqi's celebrate Christmas, their traditions are an example of the diverse ways Christmas is celebrated.

According to Bill Egan, a Christmas Historian, the people of Japan do not officially celebrate Christmas. However, one of the gods from the Japanese pantheon, Hoteiosho, brings gifts for the children around Christmas time.

And in Israel, the birthplace of Christ and the Christmas tradition, Christmas is celebrated three times in the city of Bethlehem. According to Egan, "the Western Church and Russian Orthodox Church both celebrate Christmas on Dec. 25" while their neighbors, the Russian

Church, and the Armenian Church celebrate Christmas on Jan. 7 and 19 respectively.

The University of Hawai'i at Manoa is home to a variety of international and mainland students who each celebrate Christmas in their own way. But the university also houses students who have lived in Hawai'i their whole lives.

For these students, Christmas trees come in a container shipped over from the mainland, Santa has no chimney to slide down, and it's never a white Christmas aside from the sand at the beach.

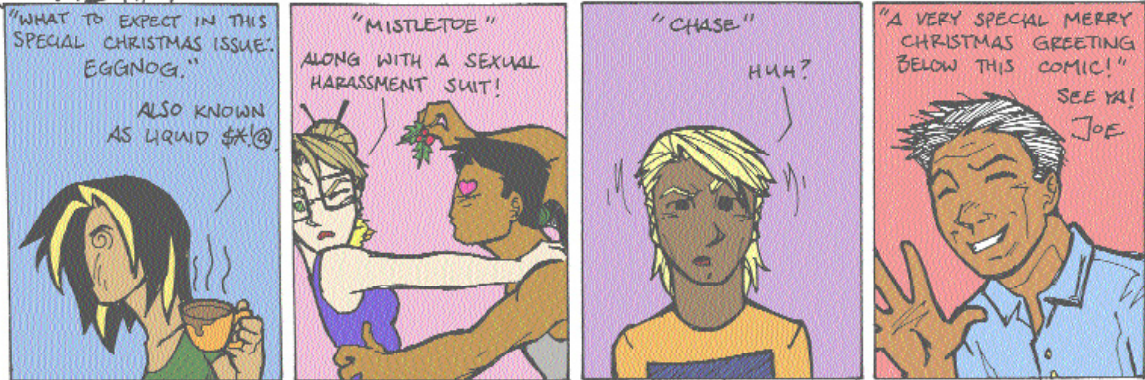
But Hawai'i residents have developed their own customs.

According to the melekalikimaka.com Web site viewed on Dec. 12, Hawaiians did not celebrate Christmas prior to the arrival of the missionaries. But the introduction of Christianity also brought the celebration of Christmas.

As immigration to Hawai'i increased, new items were added to the Christmas tradition especially in regards to the food. According to melekalikimaka.com, sushi, lumpia, manapua, poke and haupia are often found alongside the turkey on the table.

Aside from the replacement of mash potatoes with rice, Christmas in Hawai'i includes some mainland traditions with a twist.

A POOR BOY'S CHRISTMAS



For example, every year a giant tree is set up in front of Honolulu Hale and building inhabitants all over downtown decorate their office buildings with lights and other Christmas memorabilia.

This may sound like a miniature version of New York City's Rockefeller Center, but here's the twist.

Next to the giant tree are two

oversized statues of Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus dressed in an aloha shirt and a mu'umu'u with their barefoot splashing in the fountain.

Another example of a modified tradition is the Christmas song "The 12 Days of Christmas." Written by Eaton Magoon Jr., Edward Kenny and Gordon N. Phelps, the "Numbah One Day of Christmas (The 12 Days of

Christmas local style)" contains coconuts, a mynah bird, beer, poi, shrimp, hula, and more in place of the traditional gifts mentioned in the original song.

Hawai'i has found its own way of celebrating Christmas, like other places around the world. There maybe no fireplaces or snow but it's a celebration nonetheless.

Club says housing fees unwarranted

Newly-formed Campus Improvement Committee says students pay Internet fees, get nothing in return

By Beth Fukumoto

Ka Leo Associate News Editor

In an effort to promote change on the University of Hawai'i at Manoa campus, a group of students created the Campus Improvement Committee at the beginning of this month.

CIC chairman Norman Kukona, who is also a columnist for Ka Leo, said, "The CIC was created by the students and for the students ... to find solutions to problems that may arise at UHM. Our intention is to facilitate positive change on campus. We hope to help policymakers, help the students."

Kukona said the committee was created because "members felt that individual student grievances were not being resolved in a satisfactory manner. By collectively forwarding student grievances to the appropriate campus administrator, the CIC believes that the

probability of a satisfactory resolution being reached is much greater."

The first issue the CIC has chosen to tackle is the Resnet fees. Resnet fees are technology fees that on-campus residents are required to pay.

Kukona said students paid anywhere from \$50 to \$100 for technology fees. Which, according to Kukona, were supposed to be used to provide networked Internet and cable access to each room.

Kukona said the problem arose because "Student Housing failed to fulfill their end of the contract. The networked Internet and cable access was not provided 100 percent of the time. In some instances, they were unavailable for one week and, in other instances, for the entire semester."

In the past month, the CIC has gone door-to-door in the Noelani Apartments and stood in front of the

Gateway House Cafe to gain a better understanding of resident grievances, Kukona said.

Later, a petition was created by the CIC, listing proposed solutions to residents' concerns. Currently, 351 residents have signed the petition that request the following: 1) A reimbursement of technology fees that equals the amount of time the technology services were not available; 2) A technology fee price-cap of \$40 per semester; 3) the right to refuse technology services; 4) a student and administrative committee formed to discuss any future room rate increases."

Kukona said that he has no doubt a compromise will be reached with the administration and housing departments.

He added that all people who are interested in improving campus life are invited to take part in CIC activities.

UH administration explains petition misunderstanding

By Lisa Huynh

Ka Leo Associate News Editor

University of Hawai'i at Manoa Chancellor Peter Englert could not address questions about the student and exchange visitor information system because he didn't understand the question according to Jim Manke, a UH public relations official.

The subject of SEVIS came up on Dec. 11 after Not in Our Name, an anti-war organization, presented a petition comprising of more than 400 signatures to Englert at Bachman Hall. The petition requested that the university withdraw from military involvement.

"It is certainly not true that Chancellor Englert knows nothing about the SEVIS tracking program. A petitioner's question on this matter was incomplete and unclear at best," Manke wrote in an e-mail to the Ka Leo.

In addition, he says President Evan Dobbelle's absence was due to personal matters involving a family member.

Englert's apparent, momentary

lack of knowledge about SEVIS surprised petitioners that were present.

"I was shocked, completely shocked," said Caroline Hatfield, a member of Refuse and Resist and NION.

Hatfield said she is not surprised that the university intends to comply with the student tracking system.

"They face a possible loss of federal funding but a lot (of) other universities say they are very dissatisfied. They comply under protest and explained to the community what this program is," she said.

Following the petition presentation, Refuse and Resist and NOIN held a meeting and agreed that they would follow-up on the petition as soon as the new semester starts, according to Hatfield.

Manke says that the university is prepared to respond to questions about UH compliance with the law that are presented in the petition. He said that the petitioners appeared to be trying to provoke a confrontation for the TV camera that was present.

YOUR WINTER BREAK HOROSCOPE

By Lance Collins

♈Aries: If you find yourself starting dramas with your family and friends, it's not ruined — believe me. The sun is shining on a path to your own you. You may want to spend some time reflecting on what it is exactly that you want in this lifetime. While you have your whole life to figure it out, it would be a waste if you discover what it is you want on your death bed.

♉Taurus: It's that time of year my Taurean friends. You will notice your life gravitating towards the kitchen sector of the galaxy. Have some fun with food and invite a couple of friends over to partake in your creations. It's a good thing. A facial wouldn't hurt and perhaps a nice hot Hawaiian salt bath on a cool night may be just the pampering you need.

♊Gemini: First, get a massage. Second, get a physical. Third, see a therapist. If things seem a little frenetic, it may be a good idea to relax a little. You may seem a little more anally retentive right now, but as long as you are trying to organize your life, it's okay. Your body will be reflecting how you treat it or don't treat it.

♋Cancer: This month is the month of relationships for you Cancer. But, be careful, there is the possibility of being overly sensitive to the world. A brick is not a wall. Be careful not to start romantic relationships just because you feel safe — your mate is not your mother. If you're in a relationship, now is the month to practice patience and compassion.

♌Leo: This month will be full of money, sex and dramas. But, the middle path is probably your safest bet. Lots of sex doesn't necessarily mean good sex. Lots of money doesn't necessarily mean good fortune. Try to find less material ways of transcending yourself — ones that don't involve money, sex or mind altering substances. If you're in a relationship, this is not a good month to decide whether to end the relationship.

♍Virgo: Have you ever seen the movie Matrix? You must remember this month that it's all just an illusion. Aristotelian logic's "the law of the excluded middle" is perhaps your worst enemy right now. You must come to accept that sometimes something can be both true and false. Looking at coincidences as having a deeper significance may be helpful.

♎Libra: The Latin word for power is "potentialis." Does this root word ring any bells? Potential, maybe? Energy is sometimes bifurcated into two classes — actual and potential. Energy is the same whole, yet the actual is transformed potential and potential is untransformed actual. This is the name of the game this month, Libras. You must focus on your potential and actualize it. Otherwise, you will stagnate in your potentiality.

♏Scorpio: The social beast within is dying to come out. You will surround yourself with beautiful people (like you) who are unique and who allow you your uniqueness. But, there is a deep-seeded chaos. While everything seems to be orderly, it came by chance and is not firmly grounded. Remember that traveling salesmen have a different return policy than the longtime community general store.

♐Sagittarius: Chances are your life has been changing quite dramatically from the unconscious. You may enjoy taking long hikes this month and becoming more aware of how you are part of the universe — regardless of your position or prestige. You should be aware that everyone you encounter is really a part of you. Emotional reactions towards others are your emotions and reactions. It is not an easy time, but by cultivating awareness of the deeper meaning of existence you will reap a happy life.

♑Capricorn: Now is a good time to reflect on your career choices and economic investments. But, it is best to leave serious financial decisions off until later. Take a break from life and talk about the world with friends. You may discover new ways of seeing the world so don't resist new ideas.

♒Aquarius: The gods are calling, can you hear them? You are coming to the end of a turbulent several years. It is best to stay away from mind altering substances and seek out intrinsic forms of spirituality like going to Church or just meditating. Making positive change in others' lives may be very rewarding.

♓Pisces: Today's a good day to look at the bigger picture. You may be having an urge to reconnect to a bigger whole — but be careful not to get sucked into a cult. You may have an extraordinary tendency this month to be Mother Theresa, but remember, she was a poor nun that lived in a ghetto in Calcutta. Unless you're planning on making dramatic lifestyle changes, remember what your context is.

The Voice of Hawai'i

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The Ka Leo Building
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
1755 Pope Road 31-D
Honolulu, HI 96822

Newsroom: (808) 956-7043
Advertising: (808) 956-7043
Facsimile: (808) 956-9962
E-mail: kaleo@kaleo.org

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Consumerism creates crap carols

By Jason Paz

Ka Leo Associate Editor

While the Christmas season may magically conjure up nostalgic images of chestnuts roasting on an open fire, I see a tank full of Christmas music crap rolling ahead on the horizon, set to crush any hope of keeping the genuine Christmas spirit alive.

It's a sure bet: take advantage of the season's sentiment, compact it into a quick jingle, and lay some dirty pop behind it. The solution is always a gallon of regurgitated yuletide charm, rolled into a sour-dough fajita of spoiled pop tunes.

As I walked around the malls this past weekend, my ears were tortured by snippets of the pathetic capitalization of Christmas by the music industry. The saddest thing about it all is that people buy into it like a bad addiction to Ex-Lax. I heard five Destiny's Child Christmas renditions in a row ... and they all sucked. Honestly, I doubt that even the most serious clubbie dons red butterfly shorts on Christmas Eve to boogie down under a mirrorball draped with strings of Christmas lights. If there is someone like that, then that someone needs to be exiled from civilization forever.

Still, record producers refuse to understand the public's general reaction. The 40-something record label CEO, living on a diet of carrots and Viagra, does not have his stethoscope on the pulse of America's youth.

Instead, his stethoscope may be feeling the pulse of angry, annoyed listeners forced to hear horrible renditions of the Christmas cheers. Record producers need to realize that there is no need to make Christmas cool. Fonzie was cool, free beer is cool, but Christmas is not, nor should it ever be, cool. The musical tradition of Christmas is historic and should be preserved without the kitty litter of teeny-bopper Christmas jingles.

The history of the Christmas carol, pre-*NSync, dates back to St. Francis of Assisi in the 12th century. As a patron of the arts, he encouraged churches to participate in the singing of Christmas songs. Unfortunately, the rise of the Dr. Laura prototype, aka the Puritan Oliver Cromwell, instituted Christmas as a day of somber reflection during the mid-1660s. So when the Protestants fled from Puritan persecution to America, they brought with them a revival of the joyous music of the season.

Then, in 1649, John de Brebeur wrote the first American Christmas carol, called "Jesus is Born." From there, a series of obscure Christmas carols were created, none ever having enough staying power to remain in history's scope. In 1818, an Austrian assistant priest named Joseph Mohr debuted the most popular Christmas carol of all time. On hearing news that the church's organ was broken, Mohr sat down and wrote three stanzas that could be sung to the strum of the guitar.

That song was "Silent Night" and would eventually be sung in 180 languages around the world.

The Austrian hit parader sparked a revolution in the phenomena known as the 'carol,' which literally means "dancing around in a circle" in French. In 1850, New York organist Richard Willis spawned "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear," and in 1865, Rector Brooks wrote "O Little Town of Bethlehem" after a trip to Jerusalem.

Carol hit after carol hit pumped out of churches, praising the birth of Jesus, until Satan decided he could cash in

on a

royalty check. Around the 1940s, Christmas music stopped focusing on the birth of Jesus and turned a cocked eye to the birth of Christmas capitalization. Even though this trend can be seen as negative, even the harshest critic must admit that these early years produced some of the most memorable Christmas classics that redefined the Christmas carol.

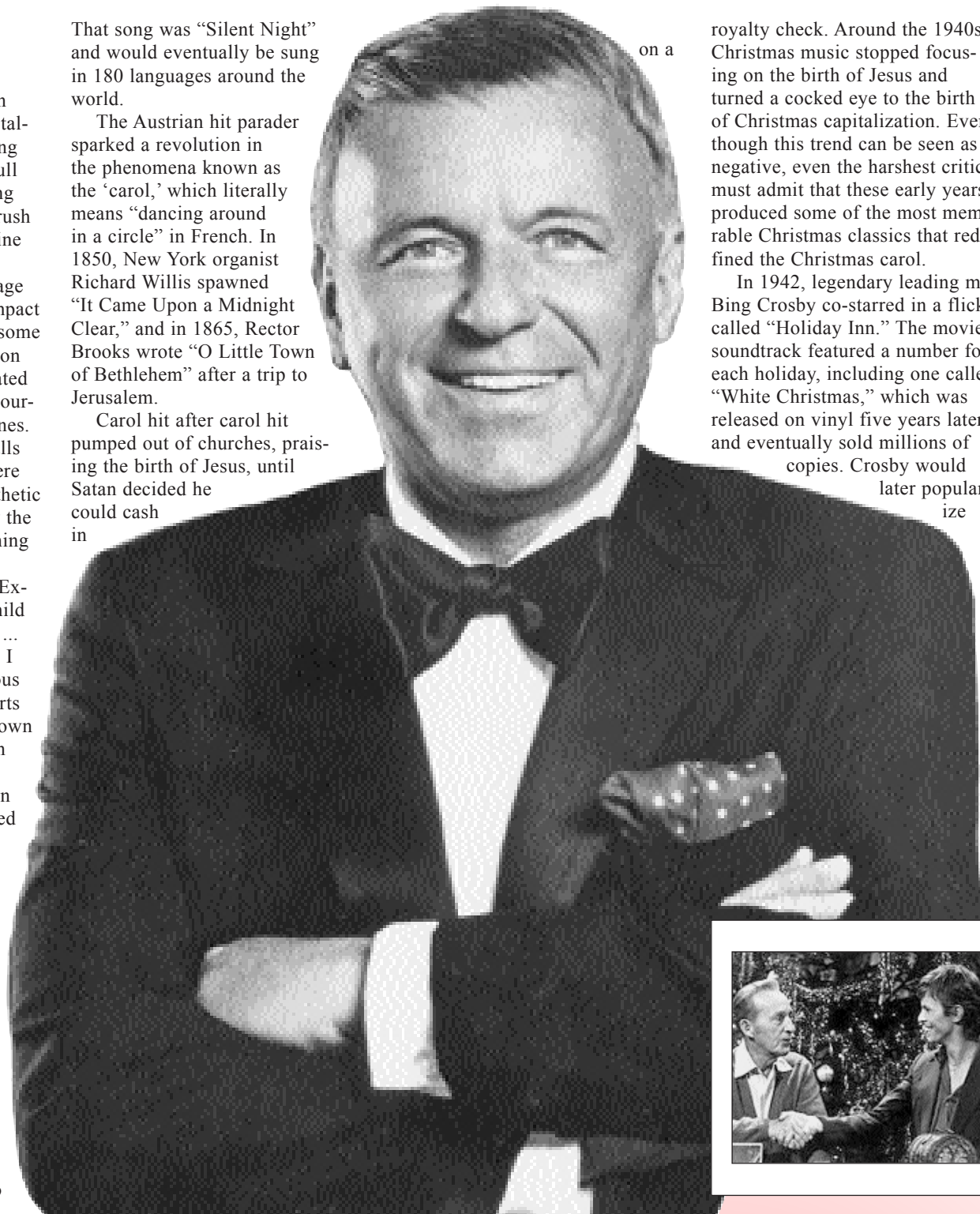
In 1942, legendary leading man Bing Crosby co-starred in a flick called "Holiday Inn." The movie's soundtrack featured a number for each holiday, including one called "White Christmas," which was released on vinyl five years later and eventually sold millions of copies. Crosby would later popularize

classics like "I'll Be Home For Christmas" and "Santa Claus is coming to Town" (with the Andrews Sisters).

Hollywood cowboy Gene Autry popularized some jingles himself around this time. After reading a tripped-out story about a freak reindeer, Autry recorded the enduring classic, "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," without the "like Pinocchio" interludes. Later, after watching children turn into hyperactive monsters during a Santa Claus parade, Autry created another classic, "Here Comes Santa Claus." His Christmas albums eventually sold 60 million copies.

And of course, who can forget the old school heartthrobs? Elvis had a Christmas hit with "Blue Christmas," and ol' blue eyes Frank Sinatra became the star atop the Christmas tree with "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas."

The works of these three legends brought Christmas carols out of Christian churches, into mainstream radio waves and back into the pockets of record companies. Twenty years later (in 1984), while not quite being the scene that George Orwell had predicted, the



See Carols, page 5

David Bowie/Bing Crosby: Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy (1977)



The video was scarier than an all-male Moulin Rouge revue. The androgynous Ziggy Stardust meets the half past dead movie icon defrosted from his cryogenic sleep. It was reported that Crosby had no clue who Bowie was, and Bowie, so high on coke, had no idea where he was.

Wham: Last Christmas (1984)



Before George Michael found his faith and became a father figure, he and some other guy popularized butterfly shorts and polo shirts. The single shot to #2 on the billboards, only to be held back by a group of hypocritical 80's singers (Feed the World), bent on feeding the world as long as it didn't come out of their pockets.

Hall And Oates: Jingle Bell Rock (1985)



The 80's remake of the classic 1957 single by Bobby Helm demonstrates that Hall and Oates really do suck. Everyone knows that the only "one horse sleigh" Oates ever rode was somewhere on the midsection of Hall.

Bruce Springsteen: Santa Claus Is Coming To Town (1985)



What could be better than a middle-aged white guy in ball busting jeans, who looks like your garbage man? How about a middle-aged white guy in ball busting jeans, who looks like your garbage man singing a Christmas song that's been covered more times than a French whore.



Brenda Lee: Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree (1958)

Imagine this. A group of people encircling a tree and dancing around it in a new old-fashioned way. Either it's a manic cult that's mistaken the tree for a Corey Feldman shrine, or a group of kids tripped out on X that's ... well, mistaken the tree for a Corey Feldman shrine.



Darlene Love: Christmas (Please Come Back Home) (1963)

Later spawned by Bon Jovi, U2 and Mariah, this 1963 classic chronicles the prototypical boy meets girl at Christmas, boy leaves girl next Christmas, so girl writes song for Christmas story. With the sexual revolution of the '60s, I don't think he's ever coming home.



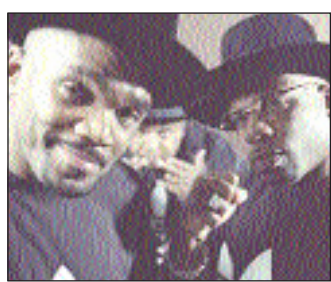
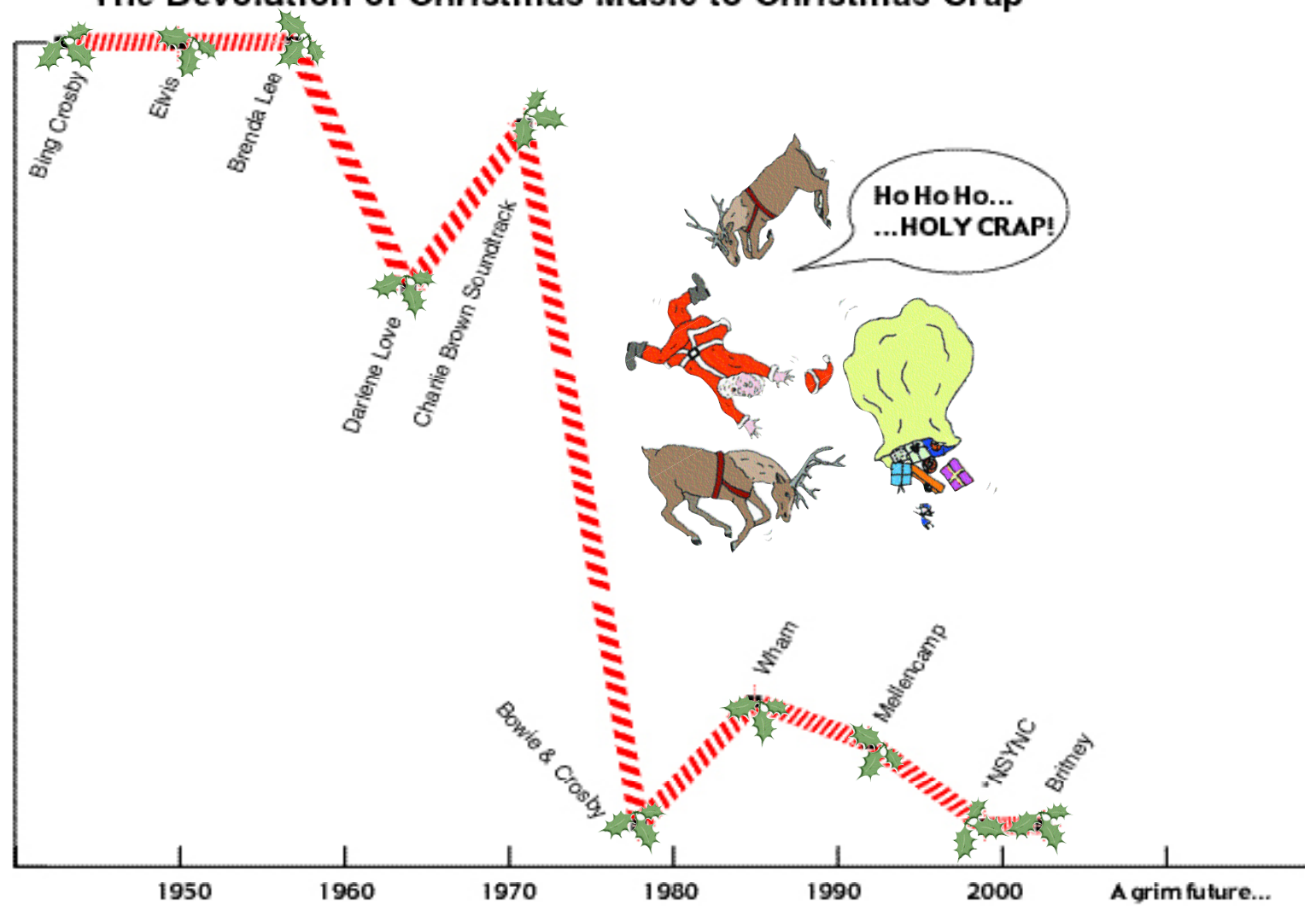
Charlie Brown Christmas Soundtrack (1965)

When Christmas makes you want to say "Good Grief," this album is perfect. The original soundtrack, from the 1965 CBS special chronicling Charlie Brown's quest for the meaning of Christmas, resurrects nostalgic Christmas sensations that walk the line between jazzy and kindergarten.

FEATURES

The Christmas Crap-O-Meter

The Devolution of Christmas Music to Christmas Crap



Run-DMC: A Christmas Time in Hollis (1985)

The song retells the classic Christmas tale of a young homie who stumbles into an enchanted park where he finds a million G's belonging to St. Nick. The climactic monologue is the deliberation of whether he should return the money, or buy some 40's.



John Mellencamp: I Saw Momma Kissing Santa Clause (1989)

Before he added the surname Cougar, Mellencamp dedicated this ditty to his trailer park following. Basically, Momma's a slut, and Santa's a Pimp.



Bon Jovi: Please Come for Christmas (1998)

After a decade of sold-out arenas, masses of screaming groupies, and a series of bestselling albums, Jon is reduced to begging Cindy Crawford to come back home. Too bad he's turned into a hairy-chested wuss, who relives childhood with his 40-something boy band and Young Guns II.



Quad City DJ's: An All-Star Christmas Album (1999)

With tracks like "Where Dey at Yo," "What You Want for Christmas," and "Watchugot 4 Christmas" this album is sure to be a classic with every Sri Lankan immigrant struggling to learn English.

Carols: Crap today, classic tomorrow

From page 4

era brought on an age of cocaine, Ginger Lynn, AIDS, and the guys with short-shorts and bad hair, the ultra-gay Wham.

"Last Christmas" became the first hit Christmas song of the

'80s. The single became their second million-selling single after "Careless Whisper" and peaked on the charts at number two. Today, the single is still on the charts at 45 in Germany.

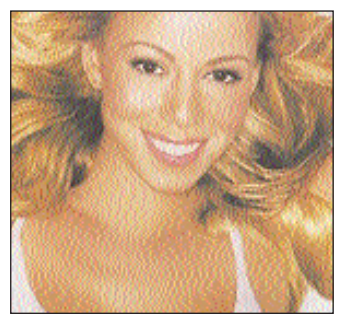
The single that kept "Last Christmas" at bay was one of



*NSYNC: Merry Christmas

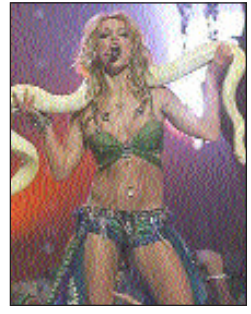
Happy Holidays (2000)

Crap.



Mariah Carey: All I Want For Christmas Is You (2001)

Last year, there was this guy who proposed to his girlfriend to this song at Ice Palace in front of a 10-year-old's birthday party. He slit his wrists with ice skates when she told him no. Don't ask me what I was doing at Ice Palace.



Britney Spears: My Only Wish (This Year) (2001)

Let me put it to you like this: You can burn all the anal plugs in the world and the stench still couldn't smell worse than this single.

George Michael's projects, the Feed the World single, "Do They Know It's Christmas." The single was a collaboration of the '80s' best (U2, Sting, Duran Duran) and worst (Spandau Ballet, Culture Club), with proceeds going to feed starving masses in Africa. Amazingly, the artists made the videos draped in their Gucci chains and Armani suits. Somehow, that just robbed the whole concept, even if George Michael claimed "the song will bring tears to radio listeners' eyes." Even so, Wham donated the profits of "Last Christmas" to Feed the World.

Today, Christmas music has gone from classic to tasteless. Artists take their everyday single and throw some kindergarten Christmas lyrics over it to call it a Christmas song.

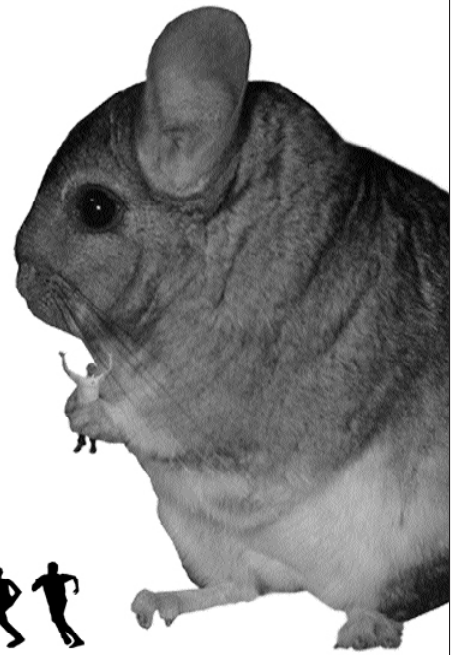
Ironically, the crap of today might be the classics of tomorrow. I have no doubt that there existed a spitting version of me in the '30s, ranting on his typewriter in his underwear about how Bing Crosby sold out Christmas. Now his music is called classic, with children's Christmas programs all around the world doing their own renditions. So I guess Nelly's Christmas rendition, "Ho Ho Hooos!" with the line that raps, "I want a bitch under the mistletoe, dressed like Santa, and dancing like a dirty ho," could be a classic years from now. <http://www.popculturemadness.com/Music/Christmas.html>

COURTESY PHOTOS.

Design by Visual Editor Brian Russo. Chart by Page Designer Matt Bell.

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Final Four, here we come!

'Bows shuck Huskers in 4

By Daniel Nunes

Ka Leo Staff Writer

Prepare the welcome mat, New Orleans. Kim Willoughby's coming home ... and she's bringing her friends.

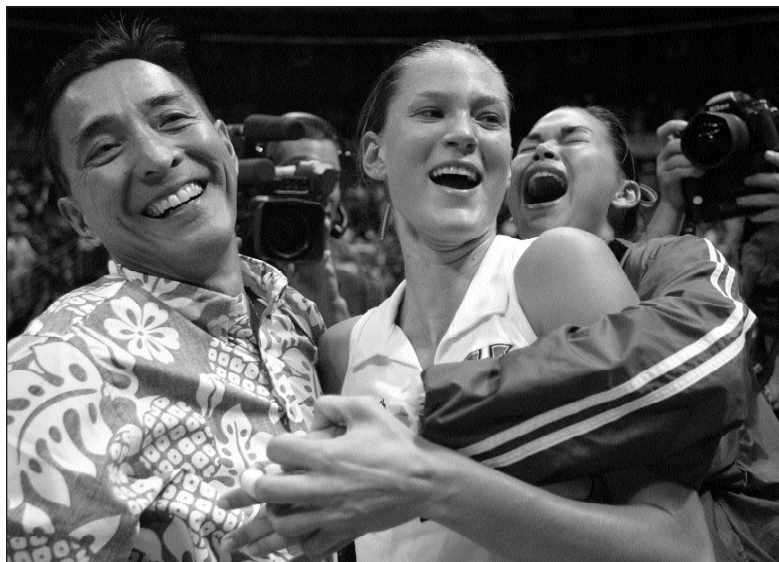
Willoughby and the second-ranked University of Hawai'i Rainbow Wahine volleyball team (34-1, 13-0 Western Athletic Conference) handled a boisterous Nebraska crowd Saturday, beating postseason rival Nebraska (31-2, 20-0 Big 12), 30-25, 25-30, 30-27, 30-21, to advance to the Final Four in New Orleans.

The Cornhuskers, who are almost invincible in NU Coliseum, had won 63 straight home matches and 29 matches overall. But that ended Saturday as the Rainbow Wahine sent a crowd of 4,357 home silenced and disappointed.

"We were ready to play tonight," said UH head coach Dave Shoji. "There was a lot of pressure on Nebraska. We thought we could free it up, relax, go and play loose and not worry about anything. This is a huge win for our program."

All-Americans Kim Willoughby and Lily Kahumoku led the 'Bows with 25 kills apiece. All-West region selection Lauren Duggins added 10 kills, hitting a match-high .429. All three players were placed on the All-Central Regional Team.

Nebraska also had three players on the team: setter Greichaly Cepero (46 assists, 15 digs), middle hitter Amber Holmquist (17 kills,



ANDREW SHIMABUKU • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Dave Shoji, Lauren Duggins and Nohea Tano celebrate after a second-round win over Washington. The 'Bows are heading to the Final Four in New Orleans.

4 blocks) and outside hitter Laura Pilakowski (17 kills, 9 digs).

"We're not used to losing," said NU head coach John Cook. "We didn't play our best in a critical match. You have to give Hawai'i credit. They had to travel and they played great. They hung in there in a tough environment and they deserved to win the match."

Hawaii's defense also shined brightly in the match, out-digging Nebraska 91-77. Libero Melissa Villaroman (19 digs) and defensive specialist Hedder Ilustre (18 digs) were spectacular at times, sending pinpoint passes to setters Margaret Vakasausau (32 assists, 10 digs) and

Jennifer Carey (28 assists, 4 blocks).

"They're an awesome defensive team," Pilakowski said. "If we keep hitting the same shots, they'll keep digging you, so you have to mix it up and do other things and tonight, that didn't happen."

Next up for Hawai'i is the only blemish on the 'Bows otherwise perfect record this season: Stanford. The defending national champions swept the 'Bows in the Stan Sheriff Center last month.

The rematch is scheduled for Thursday and will be televised on ESPN2. The winner will play either USC or Florida on Saturday for the national championship.



JORDAN MURPH • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Seniors Hedder Illustre and Jennifer Carey smile despite losing on senior night to Stanford. The volleyball team went on to win the WAC championship.



ANDREW SHIMABUKU • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Bearcat Marvin Allen got the worst of the Cincinnati-Hawai'i postgame scuffle. The national controversy came near the end of a 10-3 season for UH.

The Color of Sports

The realm of sports can be colorful. Toss between 10 and 100 personalities into an area with finite boundaries, add in a desperate desire — no, a need — to win, and you wind up with brilliant, and sometimes horrifying, explosions on the court, on the field, on the course, on the track.

University of Hawai'i athletes are among those who have provided us with such colorful moments. Unfortunately, we at Ka Leo Sports are not able to capture the brilliance of these moments on a daily basis ...

However, when we perused our year-end books and sold unnecessary office fixtures, like the Features Desk, we happily came up with a large surplus of monies, even apart from our slush fund.

After buying one of those big industrial cappuccino machines and a 22-inch television for the Sports wing of Ka Leo's building, we thought maybe we could spend some cash on providing readers with improved coverage.

So, with the help of egg nog, and some unidentified funny-colored pills from the Opinions Desk, we brainstormed and came up with the idea of color ink ...

We hope you enjoy some of the most colorful moments the Warriors and the Rainbow Wahine have provided us.

Good luck on finals. Happy holidays. See you next year.



ANDREW SHIMABUKU • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Freshman striker Natasha Kai, seen here taking out UCLA keeper Sarah Lombardo, set conference records for scoring, earning WAC Player of the Year.



ANDREW SHIMABUKU • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Bruins put on the bruise, but April Atuaia and the Wahine beat UCLA to take their 14th consecutive season opener. UH next plays in the Paradise Classic.



JORDAN MURPH • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

After almost five months of construction, a resurfaced Cooke Field was officially opened when the Rainbow Wahine track team took its inaugural lap.