

Bo tree on campus carries unique history

KIMBERLY YUEN
Staff Reporter

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa campus is home to over 500 species of plants and trees, but the roots to one specific tree trace all the way to Bodh Gaya, India, where Buddha is believed to have achieved enlightenment.

The Bo tree on campus (also known as *Ficus religiosa*, peepul tree, Sacred Fig or Bodhi tree) is located to the left of Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services (QLCSS) and to the right of Saunders Hall. Bo trees are recognizable by their heart-shaped leaves, long tails and thin veins.

A sacred tree of Buddhism, the Bo tree on campus is allegedly a descendant of the original Bo tree in India that Siddhartha Gautama (563-483 B.C.) sat under for seven weeks and achieved enlightenment to later become Buddha.

"The tree does not stand alone," said Patricia Masters, an academic program officer at UH West O'ahu.

She said that a lot of credit goes to the late Mary Elizabeth Mikihala Robinson Foster. Masters said Foster (1844-1930) was a spiritualist from Hawai'i with a keen interest in Buddhism and played a vital role in bringing the religion to the Islands.

"There's very little that's been done on her," Masters said.

She has been writing a biography of Foster for nine years and aims to have it completed by the end of this year.

Masters instructed a Buddhist studies program in northern India for Antioch University. One day she visited the city of Benares (Varanasi) and located nearby was a sacred temple of Buddhism. She saw a brass plaque on the door that read: "This temple was built because of the generosity of Mary Foster from Honolulu."

She explained that the plaque was the catalyst for her desire to learn more about Foster, since "I didn't know anything about her."

Masters told the monk at the temple that she was from Hawai'i and had no idea who Foster was.

"He took me to the back and talked to me about her story and told me what he knew about



ALEXANDER DANIELS / KA LEO O HAWAII'

Graduate student Mashuri Waite suggested the removal of the Bo tree to prevent its threat to native plants, which could harm ecosystems across the state in time.

her," Masters said. "It's very interesting."

The story, according to Masters, is that in 1893 Foster met a Buddhist monk named Anagarika Dharmapala from Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka). Dharmapala

was a keynote speaker for the Parliament of the World's Religion, a meeting to create a global dialogue of faith. He came to Hawai'i to raise money to restore the Mahabodhi Temple, a holy site of Buddhism.

He met Foster, who donated large sums for the reconstruction of the temple.

"She was so taken with who he was," Masters said.

Foster's other charitable acts also include the creation of the Foster-Robinson Hospital in Colombo, Sri Lanka; the financing of Honpa Hongwanji Mission (the first Buddhist temple in Hawai'i); and the sponsoring of Hawaiian children to attend Kamehameha School.

"In India, in the town of Bodh Gaya, they honor her every year," Masters said. "But in Hawai'i, no one knows who she is."

Upon Dharmapala's second visit to Hawai'i, he brought with him a cutting of the original tree as a gift to Foster. Foster had the tree planted in her garden, which she later handed over to the city in 1930. It is now known as Foster Botanical Garden, and the tree still stands there.

The history of the tree, according to Masters, begins around 270 B.C., when King Asoka, the King of India (reigned 269-232 B.C.) encouraged the spread of Buddhism and sponsored missionaries to travel all over India. He sent his son and daughter southward to Anaradhapura, Sri Lanka, to teach people about the religion and gave a cutting from the Bodh Gaya tree to bring with them.

The original Bodh Gaya tree no longer exists. Asoka's wife, who became extremely jealous of Asoka's passion to Buddhism, cut down the tree, according to Masters.

The tree in Anaradhapura is said to have propagated from the cutting that was brought by Asoka's son and daughter on their mission, which still stands there today.

In the book "In Gardens of Hawai'i," Marie C. Neal said that the tree in Sri Lanka is the oldest living human-planted tree in the world with a known planting date of 288 B.C.

"All the cuttings from that tree in Sri Lanka go back to the original tree in Bodh Gaya," Masters explained.

She said that the tree cutting that was given to Foster from Dharmapala was from the Sri Lanka tree, making it a direct descendant from Buddha's tree. The campus

Bo tree

from front page

Bo tree is said to be from a cutting of the tree in the Foster Botanical Garden.

“The belief is that the tree that was given to Foster was cut and the cutting was given to this botanist at UH Mānoa and he had it planted,” Masters said.

The plaque on the campus tree reads: “Planted May 12, 1912 By First Graduating Class.” Horticulture professor Richard Criley says that it is very likely Joseph F. Rock, a former UH botany professor (1911-1920) who is also responsible for most of the vege-

tation on campus, played a role in its planting; however, no known records of this exist.

Another Bo tree is on the corner of East-West Road and Maile Way, which was planted in June of 1969 in honor of philosopher Gregg M. Sinclair. Criley also says that this tree “may have been propagated from the one by QLSSC,” but there are also no records of this.

“Until recently, when the Ficus religiosa trees in Hawai’i began to set seed and plants started coming up from seed distributed by birds,” he said, “almost all Bo trees could claim heritage going back to the original one under which enlightenment was achieved by Buddha.”

The wasp capable of fertilizing the Bo tree, Blastophaga quadricaps, recently found its way to the Islands, which botany graduate student Mashuri Waite says may not be a good thing.

“Now, the flowers set seed and you see a lot of Bo tree seedlings,” Waite said. “It is probably only a matter of time before it starts to invade forest areas and threaten native species.”

Waite suggests that removing Bo trees in Hawai’i before the invasion becomes a bigger problem is one solution, but he acknowledges the impact it would have.

“It is very hard to convince people to cut down beautiful trees, especially ones with religious significance,” he said.



ALEXANDER DANIELS / KA LEO O HAWAI’I

The Bo tree is the sacred tree of Buddhism, and is said to be a descendant of a tree that Siddhartha Gautama sat beneath for seven weeks to achieve enlightenment.

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The world of slam: Where slam poetry is and where it's going

MICHAEL BREWER
Features Editor

Slam poets have come to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa before.

They've performed at Campus Center during reggae concerts and at the Ba-Le courtyard during open mic nights. They work with grungy musicians, undergrounds, hole-in-the-walls, nightclubs, stadium directors, and just about anywhere with a microphone to deliver their voice in the dramatic style of the 21st-century viral, young community.

They are transformers and heralds, prophets with a cause.

Recently I sat down with Kealoha, the Slam Master of Hawai'i, to discuss slam poetry in this generation, where it is and where it's going.

An MIT graduate with a degree in nuclear physics and engineering, Kealoha worked as a business consultant in the Bay Area until his interests in poetry and home brought him back to Hawai'i.

Michael Brewer: The students at the University of Hawai'i would like to know how to get involved with slam poetry.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Kealoha, a renowned slam poet, also has a degree in nuclear physics and engineering from MIT.

Kealoha: For students at the UH, the best resource is probably going to check out a slam poetry show. There's numbers of shows on the island. The one I host is

called Hawai'i Slam's First Thursdays. It happens once a month on the first Thursday of the month and it's the largest poetry slam in the world, so you can definitely get involved there, you know, there's a lot of energy and a lot of positive vibes.

M.B.: This is not your first profession. You graduated with ... ?

K: I graduated from MIT in nuclear physics and engineering. I minored in writing, though, so that was kind of like my side thing.

M.B.: Were you ever the poet in high school?

K: Yeah, you know, I was actually into poetry in high school, and even in elementary school. I ... was into hip-hop and writing little raps. When I got into high school, Lois-Ann Yamanaka came to my school and just totally freaked my brain out and got me stoked on local poetry. But then when I went off to college, ... I just stopped writing altogether because I was so focused on math and science.

M.B.: Do you ever put that kind of stuff in your poetry?

K: Oh, definitely. I mean, I feel like, in every piece I write, there's influences of my science background showing. In engineer-

ing, we're taught to break down problems, to analyze them, to take a large problem and break it down into smaller components and build each problem up into the larger whole, and I tend to do that a lot in my poetry. So, it's kind of a natural, logical progression of thought that my pieces follow.

M.B.: If you had to make a how-to list on how to build a slam poetry fest, what would you put on the list?

K: Number one, you've gotta get the word out to the poets and make sure that you've got a good show that's gonna come into play. Number two, you gotta bring the audience, so that means flying everything, poster, Internet, sending press releases, doing all the different things you need to do to get the word out to the general public. And then, three, you've gotta deal with all the logistics: sound, the stage, the theater, all that. Like wherever you're throwing the thing, you've gotta, like, handle that, you know? And, four, you just gotta be ready for anything that comes up that needs attention. It's a pretty intense process.

M.B.: How do slam poetry festivals and

See Slam, page 5



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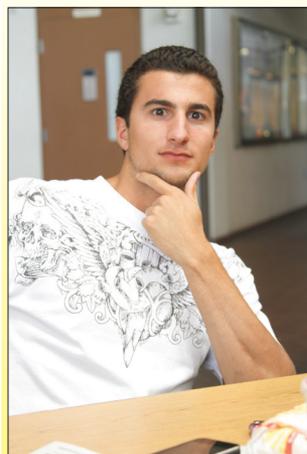
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What have you done to reduce your carbon footprint?

HUONG NGUYEN AND REECE FARINAS
Staff Writer and Associate Features Editor



"I take the stairs. I also live in a tent next to the homeless guy, but I don't do laundry."

- Zane Dulin, junior, geography



"I don't really eat meat and I conserve water. I'm going to recycle this bottle."

- Stephanie Wong, senior,
management information systems



"I try not to use plastic bags."

- Emmanuel Zibakalam, senior,
political science



"I recycle everything around. I turn off the lights at night."

- Megan Lum, freshman,
bioengineering



"I take the bus like crazy. I filter water at home. I run my business paperless."

- Jon Lewis, 2009 graduate, New Media Arts

Slam

from page 3

music festivals coalesce? What are the sorts of things you need to do to combine them?

K: Oh, I feel like they're kind of a natural fit for each other because slam poetry is so musical in essence, you know? We tend to write with a lot of rhythm in our pieces, so that lends itself to collaborating with musicians really easily. Musicians, on the other hand, are really into writing lyrics, and they're really into writing words, so when you put the two together, there's a pretty cool marriage.

M.B.: Do you see slam poetry more of an art of performance than the actual words in the poem?

K: Um, I see it as a 50-50 balance. First and foremost, the words absolutely matter. Your message – the message you're trying to convey – is everything. But at the same time, you have to be able to perform it. If you can't perform it well, no one's going to hear your words ... The two are equally important and both need to be focused on as much as possible.

M.B.: Do you see slam poetry as something that will continue?

K: You never know what's going to happen ... Slam poetry is an art form in itself, and we draw heavily from the beat poets. We draw heavily from all the oral traditions of the world throughout space and time. This goes back as far as Homer and "The Iliad" and ancient Polynesians chanting and the Griots, people sitting around fires and just talking and telling stories. This tradition has been going on forever, and really, this slam poetry is just another iteration of the same concept, which is to communicate stories, histories, lessons, commentary, all that.

M.B.: Do you think the format of slam poetry will change?

K: I would expect it to. I would expect things to continually evolve ... You look at visual art, right? Visual art has been changing through the centuries. And

theater and dance – I just don't see poetry as something that will remain stagnant, in the same style. It will change with time, and who knows what will happen?

M.B.: Have you thought about that change, like, will things be presented in a computer?

K: I do hypothesize about how things are going to change. You start to see trends, and those trends die out, and then you see new things come into play. So, right now, the trend is a little bit more hip-hop-influenced, and I see it moving towards definitely incorporating more music.

M.B.: What's different about Hawaiian slam poetry?

K: We have such a unique voice out here; we're the most isolated island chain in the world, so we've definitely our own style of cadence as well as the issues we tackle and the things that we talk about. I mean, it's totally specific to these islands. At the same time, you do see parallels with other cultures. Say, for example, when you've got sovereignty issues over here, you've got the Native American tribes and what they're going through up there, and we often times see a lot of bridges being formed through our poetry.

Kealoha will be the master of ceremonies for the Nā Hōkū Hanohano Music Awards, part of the Nā Hōkū O Hawai'i Music Festival on May 27 to 30. He will also be performing throughout the festival.

For more information visit Kealoha's official Web site at www.kealohapoetry.com or www.hawaiiislam.com

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Want to see more? Go to kaleo.org to see the interview with Kealoha and a surprise performance (really, he wasn't expecting to have to present).

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Friends aren't what they used to be

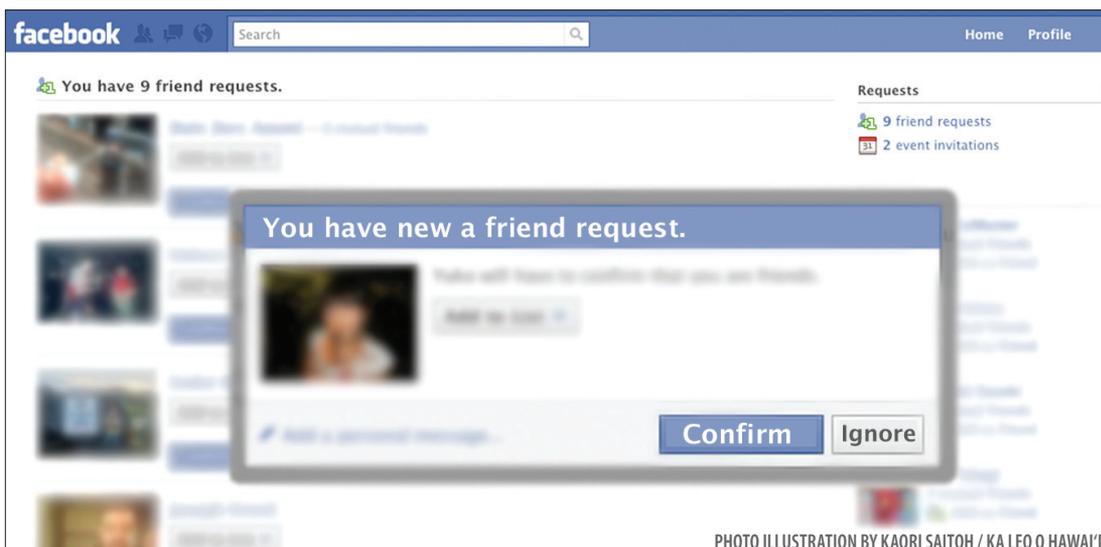


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RACHEL WAGENMAN
Staff Writer

Sometimes communication is a chore.

Like a chore, we all try to find a way to get it done as quickly and painlessly as possible. This helps to explain the popularization of social-networking sites and other quick, informal forms of communication.

Although people are easier to keep in touch with, such communication allows us to be lazy and nonchalant while also using the term “friend” more casually than ever.

It was easy to make friends when we were little because we could walk up to the kid with the same Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles shoes and ask if they wanted to be friends. Now that we're older, making friends feels more complicated.

But is it, really?

With social-networking sites, we don't even have to speak (Cowabunga!). All we do is click the “Add as Friend” button. Typical users do not restrict themselves to adding close friends or family. They also add acquaintances, co-workers, classmates and sometimes strangers or celebrities, yet they are all lumped into the category of “friends.”

Every other popular media site employs this same technique, whether they are called “followers” on Twitter or “fans” on You-

Tube. Everyone is looking for more “friends,” because more friends mean more “Happy Birthdays” on your wall on your birthday.

The standards that determined a friend in the past are substantially lower today. Typically, if we have seen or spoken to someone at least once, they can be considered a “friend” in Facebook terms. We have decided that we no longer have the time to cultivate a full-blown friendship and instead settle for quasi-friendships we can call up on Facebook whenever convenient.

Facebook is the high school of the world. It's all about popularity. It shows how many “friends” we have, and how happy, good-looking and successful we have become – a persona that we hope will attract more “friends.”

With this persona, we can portray ourselves as anything, be it a nonchalant hipster or a hardcore rock star. We can more easily create a pseudoidentity that allows us to reinvent ourselves, and we can show it off through Facebook.

Let's face it – if nobody knows you're a rock star, you're not a rock star.

Facebook is also a lazy form of communication, as well as one of convenience, because we can reply to a wall post or a message whenever we want. In a face-to-face conversation, we have to quickly think of a response that showcases our

wit and smarts. With online communication, the pressure is off. Even if we don't like our response, we can delete it.

There is no delete key in real life, and gems do not pop out of our mouths like they can from our fingertips after a few moments to collect our thoughts.

Another popular, impersonal form of communication is texting, which is now favored over making a phone call. Texting, like Facebook, also allows us to be lazy by having conversations at our leisure.

It allows us to be so lazy that a phone call can only be afforded if something extraordinary happens that can be considered “call-worthy,” meaning worthy enough to move our lips to produce sounds.

With such impersonal technologies, not only does the word “friend” begin to lose its meaning, but so do phrases like “I love you,” or rather “luv u,” in order to take up less space in a text message.

Although forms of communication like Facebook and texting might seem impersonal and appear to contribute to the weakening of the word “friend,” they still strengthen our ties with the people who matter to us most, wherever they may be. No longer do we have the excuse not to keep in touch with friends and family, because today there's always a way to say “hello” or “IMU” (I miss you).

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The Catch-22 of employers checking credit history

MORGAN CARMODY
Staff Writer

Recently, many companies have been checking credit history before hiring, but people are beginning to question whether one's spending habits are relevant to job performance.

According to the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, employers have the right to check the backgrounds of potential and current employees if the individual approves. And a 2009 survey by The Society for Human Resource Management showed 47 percent of employers did just that.

If the person does not give permission for a background check, it is likely they will not be hired.

Credit history includes information such as bill-paying history, account numbers, and if the person had been sued or filed for bankruptcy. They can carry this information as far as seven years, and 10 years for bankruptcy.

Yet, while companies claim that using a credit history demonstrates an applicant's level of responsibility, it bothers me that this practice has become so proliferate. Using credit history checkups to hire makes a large assumption that all applicants come from similar financial backgrounds.

Most of all, there is no evidence that supports bad credit equates to incompetent or untrustworthy employees.

Judging credit reports to determine responsibility

seems to perpetuate a vicious cycle. Those who do not have jobs cannot pay their bills, resulting in the inability to get a job. People are being denied the chance to redeem their credit and get back on their feet financially.

A Wall Street Journal article by Kristen McNamara told the story of Patricia Rosa, a 49-year-old single mother of three, who had been denied a sales job at Prudential because she fell behind on bills after losing her job in 2008. She is now hurriedly looking for a job outside of the financial sector with a company that will be more tolerant of her debt as her house is being foreclosed.

It may be logical for a credit check for jobs that require a level of financial responsibility, such as accountants, but in sales positions similar to Rosa's, there is little necessity to check one's credit history.

After all, many variables that make up a person's credit do not directly correspond to one's financial responsibility, such as significant changes in financial circumstances and identity theft.

It is also easily forgotten that being rich or having strong personal financial history does not mean the person has financial responsibility.

I am sure the non-executive chairman of NASDAQ, Bernie Madoff, had excellent credit history. Yet we all watched as he was exposed for using \$170 billion of other people's money.

Hawai'i and Washington are the only two states that have bans on using credit history as means to hire,

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY KAORI SAITOH / KA LEO O HAWAII

Credit card companies have started requiring "secure savings accounts" to be held when applying for a first credit card, making it more difficult for college students to build credit in a poor economy.

but in this economy, many Hawai'i students and residents will likely end up trying to find work in other states.

With the unemployment rate at over 10 percent, there are honest, hardworking people out there with flawed credit history.

But skipping a car payment due to lack of funds does not mean a mechanic cannot fix a car.

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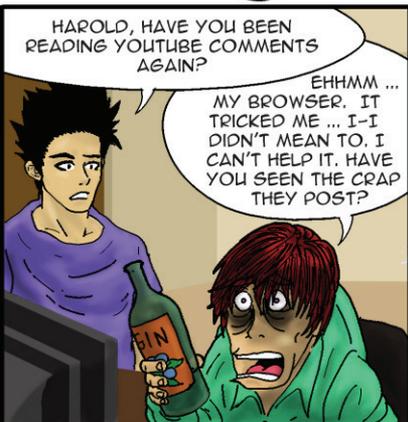
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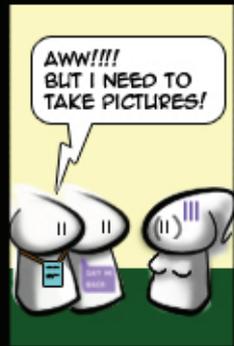
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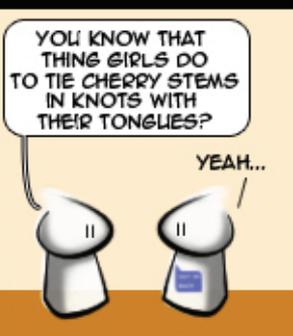
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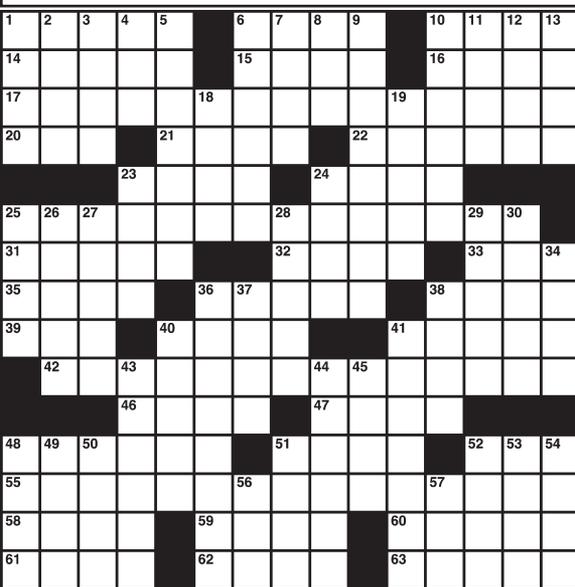
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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle
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By Donna S. Levin 4/21/10

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 10 One of Hammett's Charleses

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 15 Spooky-sounding lake
 16 Musician Clapton
 17 Consequence of the subprime mortgage fiasco
 20 Start of something?
 21 Accident investigation agcy.
 22 Lowly assistant
 23 Swindle
 24 Move quickly, as clouds
 25 Exit spectacularly
 31 Get out of bed
 32 Hunan pans
 33 Consume
 35 Cellar stock
 36 Blin, in Blois
 38 Chip's buddy
 39 Frat party staple
 40 Mindless repetition
 41 Championship
 42 Punished severely, with "on"
 46 Guns
 47 Word after open or seven
 48 Take big steps
 51 Hit or miss?
 52 Special ___: military force
- 55 Complaint from one trying to concentrate, perhaps—and this puzzle's title
 58 Aqueduct feature
 59 Lob
 60 Narrow canyon
 61 Cook in the microwave
 63 Tic, e.g.
DOWN
 1 Peel
 2 Martinique et Réunion
 3 "___, poor Yorick!": Hamlet
 4 Zilch
 5 Musically monotonous
 6 Zippy watercraft
 7 Like about 20% of Israeli citizens today
 8 Univ. near Harvard
 9 Stud muffin photos
 10 Chilean poet Pablo
 11 Algerian seaport
 12 Game played on a world map
 13 Sore
 18 Store in a hold
 19 Clover-shape d suit
 23 Artful stratagem
- 24 Engage in retail therapy?
 25 Stare in wonder
 26 Bay window
 27 New Wave band ___ Boingo
 28 Tammany Hall name
 29 "Peachy keen!"
 30 Carlo Rossi winemaker
 34 Be rife (with)
 36 Sports car named for a small warship
 37 Info in AAA TripTiks
 38 "That's mine!"
 40 Saxes and oboes
 41 They usually have strings attached
 43 Twist in pain
 44 Scary African fly
 45 Frau's spouse
 48 Ugly duckling, actually
 49 Drive___ window
 50 Pinion partner
 51 Still life subject
 52 Gumbo pod
 53 Things for hanging things
 54 Stern's opposite
 56 Emulate Kanga
 57 Radar gun aimer

>>>> ANDREW ITSUNO FOR ASUH PRESIDENT



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su | do | ku
 © Puzzles by Pappocom

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 thru 9.

Puzzles will become progressively more difficult through the week.

Solutions, tips and computer program at www.sudoku.com

Go to www.kaleo.org for this puzzle's solution.

			1	2	5	8		
	2		8					
5			7		3	9	2	
		6		1	7			
			4	5		6		
8	9	2		6				4
					9		2	
	3	7	4	2				

MEDIUM #64

Horoscopes

By Nancy Black and Stephanie Clements
 Tribune Media Services (MCT)

Today's birthday (4/21/10). Steer your craft through agitated emotional waters this year by focusing on the practical details. Release emotions in private when possible. Cool down before making decisions. Heal difficult relationships with compassion for all (especially yourself).
 To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most

challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- As carefully as you have defined each responsibility, you discover that some people didn't take notes. Review details privately to support the whole team.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 6 -- You almost have all the personal details figured out. There's one last thing: You have to let everyone in on the plans.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) -- Today is a 6 -- To wrap your mind around a problem, let your thoughts wander where they may. Take note. Then formulate a

solution.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) -- Today is a 6 -- If you keep your eye on the prize and adjust your demands to suit the group, progress will be made without additional stress.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Just about anything you do today will work out nicely. Consider balancing public appearances with a private financial conversation.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 5 -- Someone stresses out over faulty communication equipment. Resort to old-fashioned telephones. They may be retro, but they still work.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- Talk over any major decisions with co-workers. Devise a plan that reduces stress while accomplishing the desired changes.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 5 -- The beauty of having good luck today is that others find you especially clever. They don't realize you're just winging it. Keep them in the dark.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Responsibilities take you into a public forum, where you analyze confusing situations and make recommendations based on experience.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 6 -- Everything remains on an even keel. You've scoped out the details in advance and know exactly what needs to happen. Isn't it great?

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 7 -- Don't get agitated if some things don't go your way. View issues as opportunities to gain ground or grow a new skill.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 6 -- You wish you could have it your way, and you're tempted to ignore an older person's instructions. It would be much easier to adjust your desires to suit others today.

Classifieds

The BOP Business Office
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Security is a process, not a product: Part 2

PATRICK TRAN
Staff Writer

Last week, I outlined what I felt were some simple strategies to help with computer security. For this article, I will go over some software that will help to secure your computer. However, while software does help with security, it is not security in and of itself. Rather, like my title suggests, security is a process with products that are a part of it.



GRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION BY TONY GASKELL / KA LEO O HAWAII

College students who are constantly online may be prone to malicious spyware or viruses. Protection is needed to prevent potential disasters.

Free security programs are great programs for the average user. You don't need to pay \$60 every few months for a program that will catch a virus every few months and bog down your system in the process. Free solutions work just as well, such as AVG, Avast! and my personal favorite from Microsoft, Microsoft Security Essentials (MSE).

I highly recommend MSE in the place of your current security program. Its memory footprint is extremely light, it's effective at catching malicious software (even browser hijacking), it scans every file you download and every file you're viewing, and it doesn't impact system performance at all. And of course, it does quick full-time scans. MSE can actually identify malicious code from

nonmalicious code. One bothersome flaw I found with other antivirus programs were their false positives, but with MSE, I had no problems.

4. OPERATING SYSTEMS

You should be aware by now that there are three types of operating systems. Windows (Microsoft), Mac OS X (Apple), and Linux (open source). It's common knowledge that the majority of exploits, hacks and malware are written specifically for the Windows operating system. This is mainly due to the large user base that Windows has. However, this doesn't mean the Mac OS X and Linux are safe. Mac or Linux users may fail to take the same steps in security as Windows users, and as such are at risk for strikes by malware.

1. ADBLOCK

Adblock does as the name says – it blocks ads saving your bandwidth and whatever chance there was for an ad to infect your computer. You also get a nice, clean page to look up instead of a convoluted page with ads. Although, if you love your sites, you'll whitelist them so they can continue getting revenue off your visits to the site.

2. WEB OF TRUST (WOT)

Easy-to-use WOT tells you if the sites you visit are safe or not. If the icon is red, the site has some questionable content. If it's green, you're good. This is extremely useful for searching the Web, as it also shows you during Google searches the status of sites you are searching. And if you do end up going to a bad site, a pop-up window appears saying this site cannot be trusted. You can still continue if you want to, or panic and exit the site.

3. ANTI-VIRUS PROGRAMS: AVG, AVAST, MICROSOFT SECURITY ESSENTIALS

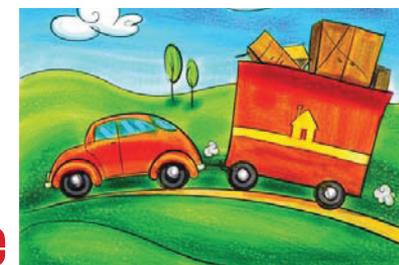
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STUDENT ACTIVITY PROGRAM FEE BOARD

'Bows host Sea Warriors in home finale

Senior Kobuch to be honored after match

RUSSELL TOLENTINO
Sports Co-Editor

The Rainbow Wahine tennis team may be 10-13 on the season, but it still believes it can compete with the best.

That's because eight of the team's 13 losses have come against ranked opponents.

"When you play against stronger players it forces you to become stronger yourself," said assistant coach Bridgette Strickland. "Our goal is to be in the top 10."

"Playing (ranked) teams during the regular season is always good because you know exactly what you need to work on afterwards," senior Sophie Kobuch said. "They exposed our weaknesses and pushed us to work harder during practice."

"We have come very close a few times (three losses were 4-3 decisions), which shows that we are not far from a top-30 team," Kobuch continued.

The 'Bows have bounced back

from a 2-11 start by winning eight of their last 10 matches.

During the streak, the team finished tied for third in the Western Athletic Conference at 5-3. The three conference losses were to No. 72 Nevada (4-3), No. 42 Boise State (6-1) and defending WAC champion Fresno State (6-1).

"Obviously the first half of our season was tough as far as our record is concerned," Strickland said, "but our girls have really come on strong the second half of the season."

"This is our most important time of year because we are playing our WAC opponents."

The WAC tournament is from April 30 to May 2. The 'Bows will be seeded fourth and the tournament champion receives the league's automatic berth into the NCAA tournament.

But before that, the Rainbow Wahine will host their final regular season dual match against the Hawai'i Pacific University Sea Warriors on Saturday at 10 a.m. at the UH Tennis Complex.

HPU is 18-3 overall and is ranked No. 11 in Division II.

ALOHA SERVE FOR KOBUCH

The match will also be Kobuch's final home game as a Rainbow Wahine. The lone senior, who is from Tournefeuille, France, has won 57 dual matches in her four-year career.

She joined the team in Spring 2006 under first-year head coach Jun Hernandez. Kobuch credits Hernandez for the team's improvement every year.

"Today we can compete with everybody in the nation," Kobuch said. "(Hernandez) does all he possibly can to recruit very good players and works very hard with each one of us to make us not only a better player but also a better person."

"Jun has been amazing," she continued. "He's always been here for me, no matter how great or how bad I was doing."

Kobuch earned all-WAC honors in singles in 2008 (first team) and 2009 (second team) and was an all-WAC second team honoree in doubles in 2009 with partner Aglae Van den Bergh.

"Sophie has been a very solid player," Strickland said. "She is someone that will work super hard on the court and also off the court. She is a very coachable player and is always looking at how she can help the team."

"I know the underclassmen look up to her," Strickland continued. "She is the ideal player you want on a team. She is disciplined in her school work, works hard at practice and in matches and is a great team leader."

Kobuch said she has many good memories as a Rainbow Wahine and will miss her teammates and coaches most.

"Every single road trip was an amazing experience, and (I'll miss) every person on the team," Kobuch said. "You spend so much time together and you're working so hard to achieve that one common goal."



BRIAN TSENG / KA LEO O HAWAII

Senior Sophie Kobuch has won 57 single matches in her four years as a Rainbow Wahine. She will play in her final home game this Saturday against HPU at the UH Tennis Complex.



BRIAN TSENG / KA LEO O HAWAII

Freshman Katarina Poljakova has 11 wins in dual-matches this season.

vs. Hawai'i Pacific University

Saturday, April 24, at 10 a.m.
UH Tennis Complex
Admission is free