Students speak out to state legislators

By Robert Shikina
Ka Leo Associate Sports Editor

State legislators listened to concerns from University of Hawai'i students and faculty yesterday on issues covering student housing, advising, classrooms, library hours, athletic facilities, class availability, and a student-run television station.

"The conditions of buildings is quite appalling," Waters said. "Modern equipment, expensive equipment in substandard rooms... it was horrible and unfair."

Representative Lyla Berg of east Honolulu said her interest in hearing concerns from students and faculty was part of her vision of an "authentic dialogue."

"Dialogue should be happening on campus and my question to you and everybody in the audience is what degree is there an authentic dialogue by the students in planning priorities," Berg said.

Advocated Students of the University of Hawai'i (ASUH) Mānoa President Grant Teichman opened the discussion talking about classrooms that are decades behind in maintenance, advising hours being too limited, and the need for a 24-hour library facility.

Speaking on behalf of non-orthodox and single parent students, Teichman said, "It'd be great to make accommodations for them and keep those (library) facilities open and maintained."

Vice President of Graduate Students' Organization Steve Rodney spoke on behalf of 5,000 post-graduate students about ruined bicycle lanes and run-away housing costs.

"The bike lanes in major thoroughfares to and from campus are in sore need of repair and improvements," Rodney said. "These are small things that can really make a difference in the quality of graduate students' experience here at UH."

"Housing prices all across the city have skyrocketed in recent years," said Dodson. "Grad students are being pushed out of the market... [and] will not be able to afford housing in or around the university area in a matter of years."

"The university needs to look into providing adequate and affordable housing for graduate students on campus," Rodney said.

Carl Ingstrom, a representative for student housing, described how maintenance on student dorms is behind the university's priorities, "Berg said.

"We need to have a median... one where RAs and security are the good people. The way it is right now, they are so distant and authoritarian that the students are scared of them."

Andrew Ogata, vice president of ASUH, added insight into student difficulties. Ogata included problems like shortages in academic advisors, limited class availability, and lack of parking for 13,000 undergraduate students.

On Dec. 15th a joint house committee will meet at the state capitol to discuss the state capital budget at University of Hawai'i, a $1 billion dollar budget covering 10 campuses.

Friday, December 2, 2005

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Bolla completes coaching staff for the ‘Bows

By Robert Shikina
Ka Leo Associate Sports Editor

At 26 years old, the Australian has more experience in this business than his age would suggest.

The new addition rounds out head coach Jim Bolla’s coaching staff of five. Last year, only Bolla and his assistant, Pat Charity, coached Rainbow Wahine basketball.

“Larry Brown, the assistant coach of the Philadelphia 76ers in the United States. Sitting in the crowd behind the Philadelphia team were two of them were Australian.

“Sitting courtside, I guess it’s reassuring that the game doesn’t change from that level to this level,” Paton said. “They have the same problems; they have the same joys. It was good to get that perspective.”

Paton grew his beard while traveling through the United States for the respite it offered from constant shaving. Living in youth hostels at the time, the less he had to shave the easier it was to look respectable, he said. But there was another reason he decided to keep the bristles.

“At last year’s Final Four in Indianapolis, Bolla first met the young Australian. They had held conversations over the phone before. “He did come to the final four and I probably spent two hours with him there. Informal, nothing official,” Bolla said. “We just kind of talked.”

At the final four, Bolla had tens of coaches approaching him for the position. When Bolla reduced the list of applicants to three, two of them were Australian.

“We did our final interviews and Mathew was clearly our top choice,” Bolla said.

After accepting the job in early fall, it was a matter of finishing the paperwork. Applying for the visa and getting the approval took six weeks.

Now in Hawai‘i, Paton has his own office, desk and computer. On his desk are three DVDs of high school students hoping to be recruited to Hawaii.

“The whole time I was over in the States, especially that first time, I was fighting a bit of a stereotype against age. Even though at that stage I had been coaching for four or five years, people look at 21 and they say, ‘you’re technically just a college graduate’.”

[The beard] kind of leveled the playing field for me … rather than going from, say, looking like school boy,” Paton said.

But now that he’s has reached the Division I collegiate level, he doesn’t need to look older to prove his ability. “I’ll probably try [shaving] in the summer,” Paton said. “I haven’t really even thought of when exactly.”

Ka Leo Staff

University of Hawai‘i football team bids aloha to its seniors and the 2005 campaign in the season finale against the Aztecs of San Diego State. Kickoff is scheduled for 6:05 pm tomorrow, Dec. 3 at Aloha Stadium.

Warriors take on Aztecs for season finale

The Warriors (4-7, 4-4 WAC) will face San Diego State (4-7, 4-4 WAC) in their season finale in Honolulu. This will mark the 27th time Hawai‘i faces off with former Western Athletic Conference foe San Diego State.

The Warriors are 8-15-2 against the Aztecs and are 5-8-2 when competing in Honolulu. The last meeting between the teams was on Dec. 7, 2002, in Honolulu. Hawai‘i managed to pull out an 11-9 victory.

The Warriors (4-7, 4-4 WAC) suffered a 47-24 loss to No. 24 Wisconsin last week at Aloha Stadium. Warrior quarterback Colt Brennan passed for 403 yards (33-of-53) and three touchdowns against the Badgers while receiver Ryan Grice-Mullen stepped up and led the Warriors with a career-high 11 catches for 139 yards. Fellow receiver Davone Bev left the game with a bruised lower back, but not before making four catches for 34 yards and two touchdowns.

Bess and Grice-Mullen became the first in UH football history to lead the team in receiving for a season. Bess (averaging 98.4 yards per game) has managed to record 85 grabs for 1,082 yards and 14 touchdowns in his first year. Bess was recently named first-team Freshman All-America by Rivals.com. Grice-Mullen (averaging 96.5 yards per game) enters his final game of his rookie campaign with 75 catches for 1,061 yards and nine scores.
New ‘Manhunter’ series shows glint of hope in the shadows of its flaws

By Matt Ishitani

Written by Marc Andreyko, the newest version of the comic book series Manhunter dares to go where others won’t, by killing off one of the most well-known villains in the DC comic book world.

By the ending of the first episode of the new, the rookie incarnation of Manhunter, Kate Spencer, murders Copperhead, a recurring character in DC comic books. While the series begins strong, it leaves plot holes that draw interest or disdain.

The Manhunter series has since produced eight different incarnations of the character. The “Manhunter” title has also come to include other DC characters, such as the Martian Manhunter and the Manhunters that rebel against the many incarnations of the Green Lantern.

The history of Manhunter is vague and loaded with continuity issues, and Kate becomes this vigilante, leaping off rooftops just to wear a body suit with some claws attached. Her powers are somehow manifested by a few pieces of “villian weaponry” confiscated by the police. Now, I ask you: why put all the weapons of every super-villain in one place? Apparently, I misunderstood the fictional elements of comic books because I fail to accept that one character can turn into some ninja by putting on red tights.

What I like about the comic deals with the aspects of character instead of action. As a divorced mother, Kate’s dutiful zealotry and irresponsible parenting threaten the joint-custody of her son. Also, the notion of fascism surrounds her character. She identifies herself more as a judge rather than a prosecutor. Kate becomes aware of her actions through a nightmare where Batman beats her in disgust.

Themanantagoniststheopen arc is Shadow Thief, a superhero that fuses with shadows in order to defeat his enemies. Shadow Thief mirrors Gollum/Smeagol from “The Lord of the Rings” by talking to himself at great length, yet he lacks Smeagol’s conscience. He also has the bad habit of trying to torture the not-so-helpless, same as every villain in comic book history. Surenough, his ongoing monologue leads to his temporary defeat.

Still, the characters that affect Kate’s private life – son Ramsey and ex-husband Peter – appear to be missing from the series. Perhaps it can all be explained in later issues.

The essence of “Batman: Year One,” a story about the realization of a hero, seems fairly present, but only to the point of mockery. Manhunter doesn’t do for Kate’s character what “Year One” did for Bruce Wayne’s development. Instead of developing Kate before the first issue, it seems to just slams her as a non-character into such a position that it forces the series to animate a central protagonist production.

Of course, Kate’s personal issues save the series from falling flat into mediocrity. The story also extracts concepts from the archives of Marvel comics by placing the protagonist in a real city and including human dilemmas like infidelity rather than just key events to develop the character.

Though I’d rather not see a character that turns to stalking and killing criminals, from the get-go, at least this was blatantly less fascist than Marvel’s “hopelessly satirical” Green Lantern, which is like a counter-terrorism version of The Avengers displaying patriotic undertones. With this in mind, the latest Manhunter shows, I have faith that the series will better itself.

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Torque converter repair a difficult process

Take it to the mechanic or do it yourself

By Justin Sumida
Ka Leo Staff Writer

Q: How would one go about fixing a torque converter for a Toyota SR-5 Corolla that constantly rattles and bucks?

By Justin Sumida
Ka Leo Staff Writer

A: A torque converter is a fluid-coupling device that acts as a torque multiplier during initial acceleration. Because the converter is sandwiched between the engine and transmission, the transmission will have to be removed while performing this job. Although it may be pricey, I feel it's easier and more convenient to have a mechanic repair the converter yourself or get the torque converter properly diagnosed, and then get a repair manual. The best manual for any car is the manual made by the vehicle's company. If possible, find a manual specifically made for the 1988 SR-5 Corolla. Only available from the dealer, these manuals are expensive, but step-by-step instructions and specifications on how to remove and replace components are detailed. If you're lucky, you might find a manual at a discounted price at a used bookstore. If this repair manual is not available, then go with a Chilton or Haynes manual. Although not as good as the company books, they provide enough information and can be found at most auto parts stores for less than $20.

Because this job requires the removal of the transmission, which is extremely heavy — you'll need a lot of tools. Although you could get along with a standard set of tools, you may need larger sockets, 1/2 inch drive ratchets and breaker bars. You'll need smaller tools as well, such as a small screwdriver, a free quote on labor and parts prices, so you should take advantage of that.

But if you feel that you're experienced and determined enough to get this done yourself, get the torque converter properly diagnosed, and then get a repair manual. The best manual for any car is the manual made by the vehicle's company. If possible, find a manual specifically made for the 1988 SR-5 Corolla. Only available from the dealer, these manuals are expensive, but step-by-step instructions and specifications on how to remove and replace components are detailed. If you're lucky, you might find a manual at a discounted price at a used bookstore. If this repair manual is not available, then go with a Chilton or Haynes manual. Although not as good as the company books, they provide enough information and can be found at most auto parts stores for less than $20.

Tips for the do-it-yourself mechanic

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Most shops will charge a small fee or give you a free quote on labor and parts prices, so… take advantage of the that.

Getting started

The first thing you must do is ask whether you have enough skills and experience to take on replacing the torque converter yourself. I encourage people to work on their cars because it can save money and provide a good learning experience. However, a torque converter replacement is not something a novice should try to tackle, as this service requires experience, preparation and work.

A torque converter is a fluid-coupling device that acts as a torque multiplier during initial acceleration. Because the converter is sandwiched between the engine and transmission, the transmission will have to be removed while performing this job. Although it may be pricey, I feel it's easier and more convenient to have a mechanic or transmission shop do the work for you. Most shops will charge a small fee or give you a free quote on labor and parts prices, so you should take advantage of that.

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Tips for the do-it-yourself mechanic

Because this job requires the removal of the transmission, which is extremely heavy — you'll need a lot of tools. Although you could get along with a standard set of tools, you may need larger sockets, 1/2 inch drive ratchets and breaker bars. You'll need to get the car off the floor, so you'll need a sturdy floor jack and a set of jackstands secured and safely. Because this car is front-wheel drive, a few transmission mounts if they are worn must be used.

There is a lot involved for this job — the above tools are just for preparation. But if you're going to go through with it, be sure to have friends around to help with the transmission removal or in the case of an emergency. Be sure that all electrical connections and the automatic transmission fluid cooler lines are disconnected before removing the transmission.

This job is complicated, and if possible, you don't want to complicate things more by breaking anything. A general rule of thumb is to replace the engine rear main oil seal. If necessary, replace the transmission lines and transmission mounts if they are worn while the transmission is out of the car.

Once the transmission is removed, you may have to refer to the car manual's section on transmissions in order to remove or replace the torque converter. If you need further guidance, you should ask part distributors, transmission shops and mechanics for tips and advice. Although they can't give you in depth step by step guidance, they should be more than happy to lend out a few extra hints and tricks. But just remember that you always have the option of taking this to your mechanic or transmission shop. Good luck!

Most shops will charge a small fee or give you a free quote on labor and parts prices, so… take advantage of the that.

Too lazy to get your car to the mechanic? need of an explanation for that funny smell?

Ask our car guy, Justin Sumida. Justin is eager and willing to answer all of your automotive questions. He has been working on cars since 1998, and is a self-proclaimed backyard mechanic.

Send your automotive questions to features@kaleo.org.
News media needs less sensationalism, more focused coverage

Journalists need to learn from past mistakes

By David Newstead
Ka Leo Contributing Writer

The national media has received a great deal of praise for its coverage of Hurricane Katrina and the horrifying events that followed. That spotlight helped to expose failures at all levels of government and our overall lack of preparedness as a nation. For this, American journalists deserve credit for a job well done.

They also deserve some scrutiny for their performance, and here is why: A variety of media sources from the nightly news to late night comedians were quick to ridicule the qualifications of FEMA director Michael Brown after the disaster happened. Yet, the same level of attention to detail at the time of Brown’s appointment in January 2003 was missing.

As Brown occupied a major position in the United States government, his lack of qualifications came to light only after chaos and mismanagement enveloped FEMA. It is disturbing to wonder how many other totally unqualified officials are scattered throughout our government.

If Hurricane Katrina was an indicator of how our media works, then it takes a disaster of massive proportion to garner attention and hold it long enough for a change to occur. Instead of asking hard-hitting questions about the qualifications of government officials beforehand, the media concentrates on other issues.

News organizations have neglected their responsibility to the American people. Taking into account the important social role of the media, that responsibility can be summed up as the journalistic duty to fact-check and inform the public. Before Hurricane Katrina, the majority of Americans were unaware that those selected to protect us were incompetent, that our response plans were incomplete, and that we as a nation were not as safe as we thought. This lack of information as a nation were not as safe as we thought. This lack of information as a result of this narrow view.

Knowledge about the world, our safety, and democratic discourse has become compromised. In the case of Hurricane Katrina, this failure to inform made a bad situation even worse. Had reporters given more attention to Michael Brown’s resume or America’s disaster plans, the public would have seen that things did not measure up and would have demanded action beforehand.

In the future, if journalists do not endeavor to learn from these mistakes, all the praise for Katrina coverage will be short-lived and ultimately undeserved.
**CLEAN SLATE by roylaldo**

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As a human development specialist, I have joined the efforts of other scholars to research various aspects of moral development and leadership. Numerous researchers and theorists in the fields of counseling and psychology have written about the important aspects of human development with some directing particular attention to what is referred to as “principled moral leadership.”

Experts define “principled moral leadership” as a person who is able to: [1] generate a clear vision of the type of society, nation, university, or organization that promotes genuine power-sharing, democratic decision-making, justice, and peace; [2] implement organizational and societal interventions that effectively replace various forms of autocratic and hierarchical leadership practices with real democratic decision-making strategies; and [3] help create a greater level of peace, justice, and equity that is concretely manifested in the day-to-day operation of our society, nation, state, or university.

One could argue that principled moral leadership has taken a long vacation at [UH].

any other administrator on the Manoa campus have demonstrated the courage to have public discussions about the moral downside of embracing such a venture at our university. Their collective failure to organize a balanced discourse and critique of UARC and its forms of justice manifested on our campus have demonstrated the courage that principled moral leadership has been a consistent “no show” at our university.

The lack of principled moral leadership that characterizes our current university administration is reflected in their failure to effectively communicate a vision of our university’s future. The continuing raves and other forms of violence manifested on our campus, the recently released research findings highlighting theon-gender, racial-ethnic-cultural tensions at our university, unnecessary increases in students’ tuitions; and recent efforts to expand the policing and militarization of UH are all examples of the ways in which the failure of principled moral leadership is manifested at the University of Hawai‘i. The latter points gained particular attention in light of the recent controversy surrounding the possible creation of a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) at our university.

Over the past year, Chancellor Peter Englebert and current Vice President of Research Gary Ostrander have led a chorus of positive pronouncements that promote UARC. Neither of these appointee leaders nor interim-President McClain, nor any other administrator on the Manoa campus have demonstrated the courage to have public discussions about the moral downside of embracing such a venture at our university. Their collective failure to organize a balanced discourse and critique of UARC and its implications for UH represent a critical failure in their level of principled moral leadership capability.

Fortunately, the UH Manoa Faculty Senate has filled some of this void among many of the over-paid administrators at our university. The Faculty Senate has: [1] solicited a detailed report from the Faculty Committee that spent hours studying the complex issues related to having a UARC at UH; [2] facilitated public debate about these issues at an open Faculty Congress; and [3] spent more than two hours in thoughtful deliberation of these issues at the recent Faculty Senate meeting, which resulted in an open vote to reject a UARC at UH.

At these meetings, faculty members expressed a prudential and pragmatic vision of our university’s future. The faculty members discussed the need to realize a greater level of power-sharing and democratic decision-making at UH that will foster justice and peace not only at our university but within Hawaii, our nation, and the world. The principled moral leadership that was demonstrated by many UH faculty members who spoke against having a UARC at UH was also manifested in the moral questions they raised.

Among the important moral questions that were discussed at these faculty meetings included: Is UARC in the best moral interests of the University of Hawaii? Will UARC directly or indirectly contribute to the further expansion of the military industrial complex that President Dwight Eisenhower warned against more than 50 years ago? How does a UARC complement or conflict with the UH motto “Above all nations is humanity”? How will UARC affect our university’s commitment to promote a Native Hawaiian place of learning? Will a UARC promote peace in our world or will it strengthen our nation’s military might? How will a UARC help us build a world that is safe and healthy for our children?

These are vital moral questions that need our attention before a final decision is made to support or reject the UARC contract at UH. Given the lack of principled moral leadership that continues to be exhibited among UH administrators and the failure of these administrators to open public discussion about the above-mentioned moral questions related to UARC, many students and faculty have lost faith in the current administrative leadership of our university. I am not one of the people who have lost such faith. Rather, I am interested in joining with others who are interested in asserting grassroots leadership that is critically needed to help build a great university. I believe we can fill the void in principled moral leadership at UH and development strategies that will help build a great university.

I truly believe UH has potential to be a great university and an international center that fosters advanced learning about democratic decision-making and genuine power sharing in our world. We can tap into the genius of the faculty members to work intentionally and collectively to effectively deal with the current moral crisis in our university, nation, and the global society. We can become a center for studying about the ways in which pragmatic forms of justice can be implemented at all levels of our world and in doing so become the world’s center for Peace and Justice Studies.

We can do all of this and much more, but we need principled moral leaders with a vision to build a great university and move us beyond the quagmire and malaise that currently exist at UH.

We can begin the process of building a great university now by implementing the following two strategies:

1. Convene a two-day conference comprised of representatives from the Faculty Senate, ASUH, and the Save UH/Stop UARC Coalition to discuss their collective vision of greatness for UH and begin to identify persons who embody principled moral leadership qualities as replacements for the existing leadership at UH.

2. Convene a public meeting with the UH Board of Regents to openly discuss the importance of securing principled moral leadership to overcome the current crisis that undermines our ability to become a great university. This meeting would provide an opportunity to begin to promote open consultation, genuine power sharing, and community involvement in an empowering and visioning process that has been absent over the past two years regarding the UARC controversy.

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SURF AT SANDY’S
Underestimating beach’s waves can be dangerous

An unidentified bodyboarder gets up-ended in the shorebreak at Sandy Beach. The powerful and fast waves at Sandy Beach are responsible for hundreds of injuries to beachgoers every year.

Heed warnings of beach signs before surfing

By Kumari Sherrett
Ka Leo Staff Writer

It’s a Saturday afternoon. The rough, choppy, blue 4 - 5 foot (Hawaiian scale) waves, and gusty 15 - 20 mph tradewinds have brought a large crowd of University of Hawai‘i students, local families, dogs and tourists to sit and marvel at over 50 surfers displaying courage and skill, riding the massive shorebreak waves of Sandy Beach. Sandy Beach, located on the south east shore of O‘ahu, draws in people from all over the world on a daily basis. The amount of visitors to the South Shore every year is larger than the North Shore. Tourists and non-residents seem to be informed of the danger of swimming at Ehukai, or Pipeline on the North Shore, and therefore are discouraged from swimming. But when it comes to the South Shore, the non-residents’ perception is one that underestimates its dangers.

“Short of putting up barbed wire and Doberman dogs around the beach, signs are the only way. A reasonably responsible individual should be aware of the dangers. People need to look and survey their environment, and make responsible decisions for themselves on their abilities,” said Jim Barros, Injury Prevention and Research Analyst II of the City and County of Honolulu.

Beth Cistennelli, from Boston, Mass., came to O‘ahu with her husband and another couple for their 25th wedding anniversary. They were staying in Waikiki for two weeks before they made their way to Sandy’s.

“We were really impressed with the beaches and the waves,” Cistennelli said.

Sandy’s was just a stop-off on their way to the blowhole, a destination they found through a tourist magazine. Cistenelli's husband, spoke about wanting to return, and that all he really wanted to do was surf, even after he had been knocked over repeatedly by the backwash and whitewash onto the sand by the waves that day.

Sitting in anticipation of these tourists is lifeguard Julian Bosgra. Bosgra has been a lifeguard since 1997, and has seen hundreds of injuries occur at the popular beach.

“When tradewinds are really strong, the south swell pops up a rip tide by ‘Pipe Littles,’” Bosgra said. “You can tell because the water gets discolored and goes in a mushroom streak. [The lifeguards in the towers] see the water moving in that area, and the inexperienced people don’t see it coming.”

Bosgra said when he or his colleagues see these types of people walking on the beach, they tend to send them to a safer beach, like Waimanalo, where injuries are less common.

Every year, over 500,000 people visit Sandy Beach and over 200,000 visit Makapu‘u. At Sandy’s, there were 237 rescues and 71 surf-related accidents last year, according to the Hawaii State Department of Health Injury Prevention and Control.

Although drownings are rare, serious injuries to the spine, back, legs, arms and shoulders are frequent. According to the Hawaii State Department of Health website, “Hawaii has over 750 miles of ocean shoreline, and has more ocean-related injuries resulting in death and disability per square mile than any other state in the nation.”

Rick Grigg, an oceanography professor at UHM, said that Makapu‘u and Sandy beaches are unique in their position and therefore receive swells and wave conditions that other beaches on the east side of the island does not. The two beaches are exposed to the open ocean south and trade wind swells. There is a steep drop-off on the ocean floor before the waves break that causes the waves to plunge. Coming from the deep water to the shallow water of the shore causes the waves to break quickly.

Grigg said that people get hurt when a wave slams them into the sand.

The biggest problem leading to ocean-related injuries, according to Jessica Rich of Hawaii State Tourism bureau’s Aloha Society of Hawaii, is that, “visitors walk or swim into the high surf, ignoring warning signs. They think that the signs apply to other people and not to them. In some cases, they land up injured at the hospital.”

In April of this year, Hawaiian Airlines began running a 60-second clip created by Ralph Goto, Ocean Safety Administrator of the City and County of Honolulu, on all of its Hawaii bound flights. This clip educates and informs visitors to Hawaii of the dangers of its beaches, with an emphasis on reading and understanding signs posted along the shore.

Barros said that this is the first installment in a series of public service announcements, with the next, to focus on the lifeguard as the ultimate safety resource for beachgoers. Also coming out soon are water-safety advertisements on city buses. This, along with a lifeguard water-safety Web site, the Hawaii public school water-safety curriculum, and lectures given in schools, lifeguards and water-safety people hope that ocean safety will one day be taken as seriously as it should be.

For more information on Hawaii ocean safety, check out the Hawaii Lifeguard association website: www.aloha.com/~lifeguard/wssafety.htm. 