

Responding To Haunani's Lies

FROM PAGE 5

Kuikalahiki and Margolis. Anonymity has never been a crime and I even told Margolis and others that I was responsible for the flier before Takai heard about it and subsequently fired me.

Feeling the pressure of a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union, Takai tried to cover up his actions by making the empty statement that "the flier was only one of several incidents Grant was involved in that compromised the paper's integrity." The fact was that there were no other incidents to speak of. My record at Ka Leo was exemplary, which is why I was hired as graphics editor in the first place.

Takai was forced to admit that my actions were within my rights, but then made the feeble argument that making me "graphics editor" meant he could abridge these rights. In truth, this position was a phony one. My job did not involve any editorial duties, no one worked under me, and I was the only "editor" not on the editorial board. The only thing advantageous about the title was a larger paycheck.

Trask and other activists demanded throughout the semester that Takai be fired as well, and even demanded an investigation into what they considered as his possible involvement in other posters they labeled as "hate fliers." Trask continued to call Takai a racist, and was

subsequent mass theft of Ka Leo newspapers from newsstands. Clearly, my firing had not solved anything, but rather intensified the situation.

Of all the activities I have been accused of surrounding Ka Leo, the Doug Margolis flier was the only one that I ever was responsible for and admitted to doing. A judge and the UH administration found my flier to be well within my First Amendment right. To this day I maintain a perfectly clean record at this campus.

Trask and the group, Kuikalahiki, however, have publicly stated and passed out fliers saying that I "admitted" to sending "pornographic faxes." This is a blatant lie. Their accusation is based on an Oct. 10 meeting between the Ka Leo editorial board and members of Kuikalahiki and Students Against Racism, which was recorded on tape by a Ka Leo editor. The recording proves that I never once admitted to this activity. Sending "pornographic material" through either the mail or a fax machine is declared a crime in our federal courts. I have never done anything illegal and find this group's claim that I have (and thus labeling me with "criminal tendencies") to be outright libelous.

The KTUH Radio Controversy

The radio show in question took place on March 24, 1991, on my "Go to Hell" talk show, which dealt with an assortment of issues, perspectives and scenarios ranging from the serious to the



up sexually assaulting each other on the DJ's program. What Trask ignored mentioning was the final result — the feminist radio host pulverized the lewd macho musician through repeated kicks to his crotch. I had previously done similar skits involving well-known celebrities and public figures on campus. The staffers and management complimented me on these skits and even suggested more people for me to satirize.

All of Trask's condemnations of me regarding the incident were not only entirely based on a single 1991 Ka Leo article by then KTUH DJ Derek Ferrar, but also completely ignored the response in Ka Leo that corrected these accusations. The line "I can help you, come back to my place" was spouted by my guest who was still playing the character of the sexist musician, not me. The line "Come on up, I'll make it better, babe"

proved her accusations dead wrong. Also, unlike what Trask suggested, absolutely no FCC violations had been made, and I even double-checked this by sending a taped copy of the show to the FCC Complaints Office.

Trask's article refers to the above skit as a "simulated rape" — a term thrown around by an unnamed former KTUH director in regards to the statement. Crude as it may be, it by no means constitutes any kind of rape, simulated or otherwise.

So why was I fired? The general manager of the station claimed that I violated the KTUH station policy which forbids "criticism" of another staffer over the air, and it was interpreted by management that parody fell under this ruling as well. As the policy states, "Staff will not criticize any program on the air." Imagine if the same policy applied to the faculty on this campus. Trask would be fired for criticizing the UH president since they are both employees and staffers of the same institution. Jesse Jackson would be fired from his CNN talk show for openly criticizing another commentator at CNN.

The grotesque irony of this "criticism policy" used to cite me was that it did not apply to every staffer, since cronyism was rampant. Several weeks before my own incident leading to my firing, Margolis himself openly criticized me on his KTUH talk show and demanded that I be expelled from the University and detained by

the police. KTUH was made aware of the situation, but Margolis was given only a mild warning.

Trask and Kuikalahiki distorted both of these incidents with a blatant disregard for the facts. "Hiding behind the First Amendment?" I don't think so. No one ever hides behind the First Amendment. They stand up for it.

Publications

Ka Leo welcomes your columns, in good taste, on all subjects. All columns for publication must be typed (double spaced) and include the author's name, signature and phone number.

Columns may not exceed 1,000 words and must be on a subject regarding the University of Hawaii and its community. Mug-shots to be published with columns must be included upon delivery.

If you are a student or a faculty or staff member, list your department, college or program. Columns may be edited for length, libel, grammar and spelling.

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