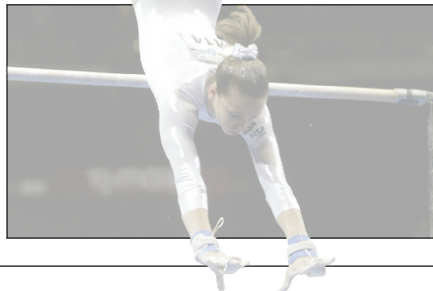


APDM students at UH start microbusinesses

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Gymnastics vaults its way to Neil Blaisdell Center

Sports | Page 8

Minorities struggle in math, science

By Hilary Weissman
 Washington Square News
 (NYU)

(U-WIRE) NEW YORK — Black and Hispanic students face difficulties attaining bachelors' degrees in mathematics and science because of insufficient academic preparation and financial hardship, according to an American Council on Education study released last week.

The study, released April 3, tracked 12,000 undergraduates who entered colleges across the country in fall 1995 to find the causes of and possible solutions to the disparity.

While 94.8 percent of Asian-American students and 86.7 percent of white students from the 1995 class majoring in science, technology, engineering or mathematics attained bachelors' degrees by spring 2001, only 62.5 percent of black and Hispanic students with the same majors attained those degrees.

Eugene Anderson, co-author of the study, said universities, parents and teachers need to pay more attention to what is happening to minority students in these fields.

"Everyone has been talking about the importance of math and science professionals in the future," Anderson said, adding that people look at the differences between our country's statistics and those of other countries.

Anderson said the council found that minority students fall behind in science and mathematics majors because of both academic and financial reasons and students

who don't receive enough financial aid often do not attend universities as consistently as full-time students. This instability and inconsistency often affects students' motivation and academic performance, he said.

"Students need to be encouraged to maintain status and persist," Anderson said. "If students are given more aid and can lessen their work commitments, they can stay at school full time and progress through the program."

The study's findings could mean positive changes for minority students, said Allen McFarlane, the student diversity programs and services vice president at New York University's Office of African American, Latino, and Asian American Student Services, or OASIS.

"Anything that stimulates awareness and thought is important to improving and tweaking the education system for the future," McFarlane said. "If we continue to find ways to provide financial resources nationally ... in support of students from culturally and ethnically diverse and low socioeconomic backgrounds, it appears that STEM [science, technology, engineering and math] graduates would be positively impacted."

The study also reported that students who did not experience a rigorous academic curriculum in high school have difficulty completing science and mathematics degrees.

Anderson said students who do not have higher-level courses or Advanced Placement courses available to them in high school lack



One, Two, Tree

A worker helps cut apart the tree that fell down in front of Atherton YMCA due to the heavy rains during Spring Break.

KARIS LO • KA LEO O HAWAII

the academic persistence needed to complete their degrees.

"Kids coming out of suburban high schools, where they offer a lot of AP courses, are coming out better prepared to succeed in college," he said. "Not having the appropriate courses at the high school level puts the students behind. It's a real hidden reality of public education that not all schools offer the same courses."

CAS junior Amanda Sales said she attributes her success at NYU to the rigorous and competitive nature of her high school.

"We were encouraged to take

See MINORITIES page 2

'Porn studies' on the rise in academia

By Andrew Vanacor
 DC BUREAU

(U-WIRE) WASHINGTON — More and more college professors are looking at pornography. Some of them are even watching it with their students.

But it's not the latest student-teacher sex scandal — it's an emerging phenomenon in academia and one that some say has an important future in university curricula.

A growing number of professors are examining the historical, technological and legal implications of pornography. And despite resistance from some quarters, they aren't shy about including primary sources in the syllabus.

"I don't actually want to shock anyone," said Katherine B. Crawford, who teaches Pornography and Prostitution in History at Vanderbilt University. "The premise of the class is that pornography has a long and complicated history."

Crawford explained that material she assigns to students is carefully selected to promote an understanding of the larger historical problems surrounding gender and politics. She said she has tried to teach the class without showing any pornography but found it less effective. "It was a less visceral experience for students," she said.

Not everyone who is in favor of examining pornography as an academic subject feels the need to screen it in class though.

"Pornography is readily available at this point," said Dr. Paul Abramson of the University of California at Los Angeles who teaches a course called Sex and the Law. "It doesn't serve any intellectual purpose to show it."

Abramson focuses on the civil, criminal and constitutional aspects of obscenity. The screening of a documentary on the controversial 1970's adult film "Deep Throat" is strictly optional, though he said showing adult movies might be appropriate for film or cultural studies.

Opponents of pornography in the classroom say these kinds of courses are crowding out traditional literature and diverting public funds from more important subjects.

"Why spend thousands of dollars on a college campus on what you could get at an adult bookstore," said Mal Kline, executive director of the conservative watchdog group Accuracy in Academia.

"It's one thing if you are taking private money and being upfront about what you are spending it on," he said. "It's quite another when you are taking tax dollars and doing the same thing."

Crawford, whose class has been pointed out on Accuracy in Academia's Web site, was even denounced in Congress by Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire.

See PORN page 2

NewsBriefs

Job fair for graduate students

Tomorrow, April 12, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning is hosting a job fair at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. It will be in the courtyard and bottom floor of Saunders Hall from 11 to 3 p.m. Urban and Regional Planning is sponsoring the fair alongside the School of Architecture, American Planning Association-Hawai'i Chapter, and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management. However, although the event is directed toward graduate students in planning, the job fair open to all students.

Aquaculture research garners guidance from expert

At the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, over 60 Ph.D.-level faculty and staff are involved in research related to aquaculture. As part of their new system-wide Aquaculture Development and Co-ordination Program, dubbed

AQUAHANA, Albert G. J. Tacon will join UH to help identify and coordinate research.

"AQUAHANA's goal is to elevate the university to become a world class aquaculture institution with cutting edge expertise," Tacon said in a press release, "taking advantage of our strengths in research and development, patenting and licensing, and education and training."

"We are very pleased to be able to attract such a high caliber candidate for this key position," said UHM Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education Gary Ostrander. "We expect Dr. Tacon to add a new vitality to our several aquaculture programs with a much more unified approach."

Research grant given for education and human resources study

Some parents are encouraging when helping their children with homework while others are more

demanding. Drs. Judith Olson and Melfried Olson and Claire Okazaki have been given a research grant for over \$200,000 in order to study the interaction between children and parents through behavior and language while doing math equations together.

The study is called, "The Role of Gender in Language Used by Children and Parents Working on Mathematical Tasks," and its purpose is to look at various strategies related to creating better communication. The researchers are working within the Curriculum Research & Development Group at UHM. The basis for the study is other research that indicates gender can alter a child's self-confidence about their math skills. The idea that girls aren't as good in math and science is an old belief, but one which the researchers hope to reverse by encouraging children, especially girls, through better communication techniques.

Events Calendar

Compiled by Alice Kim

956-3774 or e-mail biograph@hawaii.edu.

Free Events

"The Globalization Paradox: Race, Politics, and the Future of Citizenship Rights," a joint ethnic studies and sociology department lecture, will take place today at 4:30 p.m. at Saunders Hall, room 244. Michael Chang will deliver this lecture. For more information, call 956-6915.

The University of Hawai'i Contemporary Music Ensemble will perform tomorrow from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Orvis Auditorium. Daniel Kessner is the director of this ensemble. For more information, call the music department at 956-8742, e-mail uhmusic@hawaii.edu or view the music department's schedule of events at <http://www.hawaii.edu/uhmusic/schedule.htm>.

"The Lost Man Found: The Story of Writing the Biography of Wilhelm Solf," a brown bag biography lecture, will take place on Thursday from noon to 1:15 p.m. at Henke Hall, room 325. Paula Mochida, a UHM associate librarian, will present this lecture. For more information, call Craig Howes at

A nine-ball pool tournament will take place on Thursday from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Campus Center Gamesroom. All students with a validated UHM student ID may participate in this event. Cash prizes will be given out. Check-in will start at 5:30 p.m. and the tournament will start at 6 p.m. For more information, call the Campus Center Gamesroom at 956-7250 or e-mail ccgamer@hawaii.edu.

The Battle of the Bands will take place on Thursday at 9 p.m. at the Campus Center. Students with a validated UH ID may attend this event. Each student with a validated ID may bring one guest. For more information, call Ryan Redding or Jake Miyasato at 956-4491.

"Gie," an Indonesian film, will be shown on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Korean Studies Building auditorium. The 147-minute film is in Indonesian with English subtitles. For more information, including building access for wheel chairs, call 956-2688.

MINORITIES: AP courses crucial to success

From page 1

a lot of AP and honors courses," she said. "My teachers were always available after school."

Sales said AP classes were considered academic necessities at her high school.

"Anyone who didn't [take APs] would have been thought of as intellectually inferior," she said. "I can't imagine the competition without AP classes."

University of Virginia junior Whitney Hewlett, a black student who was raised in an affluent suburban community, said many black

students in her introductory courses had trouble keeping up.

"I remember a lot of black kids dropping out of pre-med," she said. "Some people think Chemistry 101 is just meant to weed out the African-American kids who can't take the environment."

Anderson also placed significance on the competitive science and mathematics departments, citing that math and science are the second and third most popular majors in the country following business.

"It's not about interest," he said. "It's about students being in the right situation to earn that degree and a lot of that has to do with col-

lege preparation and attendance."

Anderson said the council hopes that people on campuses and on Capitol Hill will realize what is happening. The Bush administration is currently in the process of proposing a \$28 million spending increase for the Advanced Placement program to bring AP courses into low-income schools that do not currently offer them.

"We hope they will understand that right now the White House has proposed a grant program to encourage more students to study these fields persistently and consistently," he said.

PORN: Universities add porn to curriculum

From page 1

"He doesn't know anything about what I teach in my class though," she said, expressing frustration with critics who she feels have misinterpreted the purpose of her course. "I'm not saying 'Yay for pornography.' They don't understand because they don't ask the questions."

David Penniman, dean of the School of Informatics at the State University of New York at Buffalo, said he hopes some of the external political forces see the merits of studying the social effects of pornography.

"Trying to understand what's happening and what forces are

affecting society is crucial," he said. "And one of those forces has to do with pornography, whether you like it or not."

Penniman oversees a class taught by assistant professor Alexander Halavais called "Cyberporn and Society," which focuses on the convergence of pornography and technology.

The parents of one student who enrolled in the class said they were skeptical at first. But "it turned out to be about social norms – not fluff at all," Fran Schwartz told Time magazine. Her son Matthew took the course and told Time that he had learned lessons that would be valuable for his intended career as a translator in Arab countries.

Despite the controversy, most see the use of pornography in university curricula as something that is here to stay and even expanding.

"It's hard to imagine it will go away as a topic of intellectual scrutiny," Abramson said, pointing out that obscenity and its relationship to the law is becoming an increasingly popular subject and one that comes up often in state legislatures.

Crawford joked about the need for an "advanced porn-studies" course, saying that with a class of more than 100 students some issues can only be touched on briefly that should be examined in depth.

"I think a lot of schools would be shy about teaching [pornography]," she said. "But universities are supposed to be places for dis-

>>> Ka Leo Q & A

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Summit explores Filipino culture and issues

By Darlene Dela Cruz
Ka Leo Features Editor

In honor of the centennial anniversary of Filipino immigrants' arrival in Hawai'i, students at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa will be hosting the first Filipino College Student Summit next Friday and Saturday, April 21 and 22.

The summit, sponsored by the student-run organization Filipinos Linked in Pride, follows the motto "Harvesting the past, cultivating the future," and aims to highlight different aspects of Filipino culture and issues as they pertain to young Filipinos. Amid the slew of conferences and other celebrations taking place this year to commemorate the Filipino centennial, organizers of the Filipino College Summit said that the summit's goal to relate cultural and identity issues to Filipinos in college is what makes the event unique.

"For the centennial, there are a lot of conferences being held out there, but they're all for academics," said Johanna Almiron, a UHM graduate student and member of the summit's organization committee. "This is our chance for college kids and community members to exchange in dialogue."

Katrina Guerrero, another graduate student spearheading the summit, added: "Everyone is invited. You don't have to be Filipino, but if you want to learn more about Filipino culture, you're welcome to attend."

The two-day summit will open at 5 p.m. with a night of arts on Friday, April 21, where participants will be treated to a drama performance by Farrington High School students and a dance by students from Chaminade University. An open mic session will follow the performances, allowing summit attendees to share poetry and partake in karaoke.

"Having a good time is a part of Filipino culture," Almiron said. "Music and dancing expresses an underground culture and shows the versatility of Filipino youth."

The summit's second day of activities on Saturday, April 22, will focus on dialogue and discussion of issues



Filipino College Student Summit

April 21 - 22, 2006

Registration deadline: April 15

Cost: \$25

Forms available at Queen Lili'uokalani Center For Student Services 309

Web site: <https://geoinformatics.uhh.hawaii.edu/collegesummit/>

affecting Filipino young people. Topics like "Stereotypes and Local Identities" and "Who Are We? Voices of Mixed-Race Filipino American Youth" will be featured in presentations throughout the morning. There will also be a plenary on higher education, where panelists and participants will explore what summit organizers say is one of the biggest issues facing Filipino youth: a growing lack of Filipinos in college.

"We're still under-represented, not just in numbers, but also in our history," said Amy Agbayani, director of the UHM Student Equity, Excellence & Diversity office and faculty member assisting in the summit.

A free concert open to the public will close the summit on Saturday night. The concert, running from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., will feature hip-hop performances and the band Hot Rain.

Students involved in organizing the event say that they were driven to start the summit not only with a desire to share

the depth and diversity of Filipino culture with the community, but also to help their peers explore and not be ashamed of their Filipino identity.

"We have a lot of [history], but we don't know it," Almiron said. "We want Filipino youth to know that you are not a bastard of history. You are from some place, and it's a beautiful place."

Added Guerrero: "I'm doing it for the college kids. They're our future."

Positions available for Summer and Fall 2006

Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Ka Leo O Hawai'i is seeking to fill the following paid positions for the upcoming summer and fall semesters:

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For more information or an application please come to the Ka Leo building across from the ground level bookstore entrance or call 956-7043. Please submit resume with application.

Deadline: April 17th, by 4 p.m.

POINT • COUNTERPOINT

Sodexho makes a rainy week worse

By Israel Chavez

Ka Leo contributing writer

While many students are away from campus during spring break, there are still many whose presence may not be seen during the day. However, one look at all of the dorm lights on over the break reveals just how many people are still around. These dorm residents had to pay for a Sodexho meal plan in advance in order to stay in the dorms. Yet while the residence halls remain open, students are left with limited options for which to use their meal plans.

The Hale Aloha cafeteria

is one of the main places for dorm residents to eat when they are out of class, yet it is closed for eight full days during spring break. This seems to be inconsistent, since it is open on Thanksgiving, yet closed for over a week during spring just because school is out. Spring break is a holiday for students, not the rest of the working world. The cafeteria is there so students have a healthy place to eat and won't have to order pizza and spend money on food outside their meal plan, but that is exactly what students who stay in their dorms do every year while on spring break.

“... There is the expectation that students will have a place to eat while staying in their dorms.”

I can understand from a business standpoint why it would seem like a good idea to close the cafeteria during spring break. After all, there are many students who return home, whether it's on the mainland, a neighbor island, or the other side of O'ahu. It would save money with such a decrease in demand. But this isn't a business in the traditional sense. Sodexho's customers paid before the semester began. With that payment there is the expectation that students will have a place to eat while staying in their dorms. This expectation should be met during spring break as it is

during holidays.

Sodexho did leave some options during the break. Posted around the dorms were flyers indicating which Sodexho locations were open. These were places in the middle of campus like the Yummy's Food Court and Kahuna Dog. The flyer even posted the adjusted spring break hours.

While that was an option students could and did take up, with most of the locations being open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., it is obvious that these locations were not open for students. They were open for the faculty and staff who still had to



DIANA KIM • KA LEO O HAWAII

Matt Dillon (left), a senior at UHM, waits for Sodexho cashier, Eloise Luzader, to check the number of blocks left on his meal card at the Hale Aloha Cafeteria on April 6, 2006.

work over the break. I'm not saying that it is bad that Sodexho was there for the staff. It just seems fair that Sodexho should make accommodations for both students and staff during the break.

A solution that seems fair is to keep the Hale Aloha cafeteria open during the break in a limited capac-

ity. Even if the cafeteria is open with reduced hours and less selection, it still means students that stay in their dorms over the break do not have to think twice about where to get food.

During spring break, students that stay in their dorms should not have to worry about where they are

going to eat. Their parents shouldn't have to send them extra money for food and they shouldn't have to rely on places that deliver meals. I think Sodexho does a good job of making sure this does not happen during the rest of the year, so they should step up in the future and make spring break easier on their customers.

Why I am glad Sodexho was closed over break

By Matt Tuohy

Ka Leo Editorial Editor

For many of the students at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa who stayed on O'ahu over spring break, the rain and cold made it one of the most miserable experiences they have had. Along with the rain, many students complained about the lack of places to eat on campus where they could use their meal plans, which must be purchased to live in a dorm on campus.

It is frustrating that there is a requirement to buy something that cannot be used when you need it. However, I am glad that many of the dining places on campus were closed over break because it gave me

“... It is better to deviate from the usual ... (being) the cafeteria food they serve...”



a chance to try more exotic foods and new places off campus to eat.

Year-round, all the students who live on campus have to buy a meal plan and usually eat at the Hale Aloha Cafeteria on lower campus. The cafeteria tries to offer

a wider variety of meals that try to accommodate everyone who pays for the plan, but it is usually hit or miss.

With the rain coming down in buckets and not much else to do, the last available option for a bored student stuck in a dorm is to eat. This was a

perfect opportunity to step outside your comfort zone, in terms of food, and try something new.

However, personally, I get really sick of eating the same old food over and over again. They serve the same kinds of pizza, burgers, pasta dishes and terrible steak every week. It's enough to make my taste buds shrivel up in disgust.

We live in a culturally rich environment; many Thai, Chinese, Japanese and other restaurants are all close to campus and offer some of the most delicious foods for affordable prices.

My personal favorite is Phuket Thai at McCully and Kapi'olani. It looks fancy but is very affordable at around \$10 a plate. They have many wonderful dishes like Pad Thai Noodles and Curry that will make your mouth need a fire extinguisher if you're into that kind of thing.

Sometimes it is better to deviate from the usual, and in this case the

usual is the cafeteria food they serve over and over again.

I am glad that the cafeteria and the other dining places were closed over spring break because it gave me an opportunity to expand my palate and try something new. So the next time the cafeteria is closed, or the last thing you want is to muscle down the toughest steak of your life, go out and try one of the many wonderful, inexpensive restaurants that surround the campus.

For more ideas on dining off campus, check out Ka Leo's restaurant reviews at <http://www.kaleo.org>, or just Google restaurants around Mānoa.

Do you have an opinion that you feel strongly about? Are you constantly arguing with your friends about politics or school? If you are, Ka Leo wants you. Ka Leo editorials is looking for columnists and point, counterpoint writers to join Ka Leo's staff. Please e-mail us at editorials@kaleo.org or drop by and fill out an application at the Ka Leo building.

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Letter to the Editor

McClain supports Konan's decision

Ka Leo articles misrepresent president

Previous articles in the *Ka Leo*, including one by Blaine Tolentino on March 16 regarding a demonstration at Bachman Hall, have erroneously implied that University of Hawai'i President David McClain simply overruled UH Mānoa interim Chancellor Denise Konan's recommendation against establishment of the Navy University Affiliated Research Center at UHM.

In fact, McClain accepted Konan's recommendation and agreed that the UARC as originally proposed was inappropriate for UHM. He suggested a modification of the concept, which will exclude classified research.

Projects that become classified after being started would be moved off campus, as is currently the university's practice, or would be terminated, a new option the university will insist on.

In this modified structure, projects included would be similar to a number of grants and contracts the university already has, with the exception that they would be sole-sourced and our costs would be more generously reimbursed. The contents of these contracts would be known and approved by the Board of Regents in its public meetings, as is current practice for all grants and contracts.

All of this is explained in McClain's statement on the subject, which is available online at <http://www.hawaii.edu/offices/op>.

Carolyn Tanaka

*Associate Vice President,
External Affairs & University
Relations*

Editorial Cartoon



CARTOON BY LEO AZAMBUJA

Student entrepreneurs open Miller Hall boutique

By Alyssa Navares
Ka Leo Associate Features Editor

Hidden under the stairs at the bottom of Miller Hall in room 12, The Store is home to a unique selection of handmade jewelry, T-shirts and baby clothes. For four University of Hawai'i at Mānoa students, this boutique, which opened in February, is not only an extension of the Apparel Product Design and Merchandising 437 class, but also a convenient way to promote their businesses.

Students taking this undergraduate course are required to start a business with their own money, in which they must break even or show some profit. In order to do this, students proposed several drafts of a business plan, which included the target market and start-up costs. A weekly cash flow analysis must also be completed to show the income for that week.

"I like to call this class a boot camp for entrepreneurs," said Carol-Anne Dickson, merchandise professor of APDM 437. "Students will definitely learn the pros and cons of owning a small business."

In what was once a small closet next to Dickson's office, The Store is now open on Tuesdays from noon to 3 p.m. and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The size of the room forced the students to work in separate shifts; however, The Store has the ability to fit all four vendors at once. The other APDM 437 students chose to work independently from home.

"Even though it's small, The Store is a good venue to start with, especially since there is no start-up cost," said senior Tiffany Jay, who sells baby girl dresses and accessories.

With over a dozen microbusinesses that form from this course each semester, only a few will continue and eventually prosper in the market. Dickson believes the four businesses at The Store have potential to do just that.

Meet the Vendors

As a new mother and full-time student majoring in APDM and Hawaiian with a minor in music, Jay still finds time to manage a business. Each of her baby girl dresses are made out of one-of-a-kind vintage scarves. Like many other students taking APDM 437, Jay also sells her merchandise on eBay.

"My daughter, Kapua, is my inspiration," she said. Jay often brings her one-year-old daughter to The Store to model the dresses she made.



Fashion Design senior student Jacquelyn Morell decorates her hand crafted jewelry store "Les Bijoux de Jacques," which located at the Miller Hall.

Fifth-year senior Jacquelyn Morell decided to share her hobby of jewelry making with the rest of world. This fashion merchandising major from Ohio spends up to three hours crafting bracelets made of silver or semi-precious metal, as well as glass-beaded necklaces.

"I really want to continue my business [Les Bijoux de Jacques] after I graduate this spring and move to New York City," she said.

Although The Store carries two types of T-shirts, each type is completely different from the other. T-shirts from junior Anika Avery's "Sweet Tees" business live up to its name since each is decorated with dyed, heart patches.

At the other end of The Store are junior Christie Wickey's spray-painted T-shirts that make fun of national holidays, such as Valentine's Day.

"Even though I like Valentine's Day, it's just really about the comedy of it," Wickey said. The Maui native even hopes to design T-shirts that mock Easter.

Before The Store

Room 12 of Miller Hall was once the site of "Balloon Professor,"

where four student entrepreneurs sold balloons to administration, faculty and students at UHM. Balloons up to 15 inches in diameter were sold. Some balloons even had the capacity to hold a six-pack of beer or a small potted plant. In addition to offering advice in starting the business, Dickson rented out her balloon-making equipment to the students at a minimal cost.

Although Balloon Professor closed its doors after three semesters, the business is among the handful of APDM 437 microbusinesses that continues to be successful today as an online company.

The Store

Located in Miller Hall



SWEET ANISE Vendor:

Tiffany Jay, senior

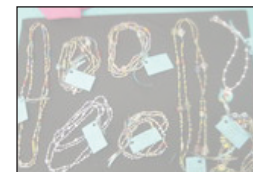
- Baby girl dresses and accessories (\$20 to \$40)

- Each dress unique
- Made from vintage scarves

LES BIJOUX DE JACQUES

Vendor: Jacquelyn Morell, senior

- Silver or semi-precious bracelets (\$50 to \$60)
- Glass-beaded necklaces (\$12 to \$20)



SWEET TEES

Vendor: Anika Avery, junior

- Stitched, patchwork t-shirts (\$10 to \$20)
- Personalized t-shirts available upon request: Choose from a variety of different colors, letters, and patterns



WICKEY TEES

Vendor: Christie Wickey, junior

- Spray-painted wife-beater tops (\$10)
- Mocks Valentine's Day

Gymnastics to become a familiar sight In Hawai'i

UH looks to add a women's sport within 5 years

By Rebecca Gallegos
Ka Leo Staff Writer

Seventeen-year-old Chellsie Memmel, the 2005 world all-around champion from West Allis, Wisconsin, will headline the U.S. women's team at the Pacific Alliance Gymnastic Championships, scheduled for April 13-15 at Neal Blaisdell Center. The event will showcase some of the world's elite artistic, rhythmic and trampoline gymnasts.

"Hawai'i, it's a great place," Memmel said. "I think a lot of the gymnasts look forward to coming here, and it's a really big international competition. It's like a stepping stone toward the Olympics."

NBC Sports will broadcast several events from Honolulu on April 16, the same site of the 2004 Pacific Alliance Championships, as well as the Pontiac American Team Cup in 2001. The growing interest in gymnastics, considerably a minority sport in the islands, presents the question of whether or not it would be sustainable at the University of Hawai'i, and what local clubs could

offer to the program.

Memmel's parents, who own M&M Gymnastics, offered suggestions to local clubs.

"Just have fun with the sport and continue if you love it. Build [gymnastics] up and get more people involved. Reach out to the kids. Have a friend week to bring people in and get more families involved in the gym."

Hawaiian Island Twisters Gym has four up-and-coming young women that were recently selected to the Talent Opportunity Program National Gymnastics Team. The TOP is a program designed to exhibit the talent of girls aged nine through eleven.

Memmel was a member of the TOP's National Team for four years (1994-1997) and in 2003 was named TOP's Co-Athlete of the year. If Hawai'i's local clubs have more strong female gymnasts that are yet to receive their deserved exposure, UH could have an ideal recruiting source if gymnastics is added.

UH Associate Athletic Director Marilyn Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano said that it is very likely a new women's sport will be added to Hawai'i athletics within the next five years.

In addition to gymnastics, UH will consider bowling, air riflery, wrestling, Judo, canoe paddling, lacrosse, field hockey and rowing.

"We will review all sports in which we have a State Championship, WAC Sport and NCAA sport," Moniz-Kaho'ohanohano said. "We will be addressing interest and ability issues first, especially local interest."

As a result of the national coverage in Hawai'i, gymnastics is gaining local popularity. The mere proposal of a new women's sport has excited female student athletes.

Stephanie Dolak, a badminton player at UH, believes that there are a lot of great athletes who aren't given the opportunity to participate in collegiate sports because some are seen as easy or uncompetitive.

"But really the game is just unfamiliar to some people," Dolak said. "With the addition of a minority sport, we would be able to show them otherwise."

Chellsie Memmel at 2005 World Champion promotional.

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USA GYMNASTICS
PHOTOGRAPH



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Chellsie Memmel of the United States competes in the uneven bars during the Apparatus Finals of the 2003 World Gymnastics Championships at the Arrowhead Pond on August 23, 2003 in Anaheim, California.

Think gymnastics isn't so tough?

Think again. The sport of gymnastics is an intense and dangerous sport that requires full commitment and concentration from athletes. Here are just a few of the events:

Floor

Gymnasts perform a choreographed exercise consisting of tumbling, jumps and dance elements to a song.

Balance Beam

The gymnast performs a choreographed routine consisting of leaps, flips and turns on a padded spring beam 5 m long, and 10 cm wide about 125 cm tall.

Uneven Bars

Performed on a high set of bars set at different heights with swinging, circling, transitions, release moves and handstands.

Vault

Includes sprinting down an 80-foot runway, leaping onto a springboard and launching onto and flipping over and landing on their feet.

Pommel Horse

Men only here—break dancing on a smaller vault but only their hands are able to touch.

Rings

Eight feet off the ground, the men must use strength and flexibility to swing themselves around while trying to keep the rings themselves still.