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Navy investigates RCUH, UH contracts

By Bart Abbott
Ka Leo Staff Writer

The Navy is investigating possible mismanagement of classified military contracts at the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) and UH.

The Office of the Naval Inspector General in January requested documents from RCUH to look into allegations that RCUH allegedly diverted funds from a UH contract known as the Ultra High Frequency Electronically Scanned Array (UESA) to write a proposal for another contract, according to Mike Hamnett, RCUH's executive director.

Hamnett said the Navy also is investigating an RCUH proposal for a contract that was never signed. Hamnett said he did not know the name of that contract.

The UESA contract was for research done by UH on a new Radar and Amplifier for the Navy's E-2C Hawkeye surveillance airplane, for which the RCUH has contractual oversight. Hamnett, who took office as RCUH's executive director June of last year, couldn't say for how long the investigation had been going on.

But John Monacci, a former RCUH employee, said he was interviewed by the Naval Criminal Investigations Service (NCIS) about the RCUH investigation a year and a half ago. Monacci said the NCIS asked him about the contractual relationship between RCUH, UH and the Office of Naval Research (ONR), which is a major source of both classified and unclassified research funding for the university.

The Mid-Pacific Technical Director for the ONR at the time, Mun-Won Fenton, who was also in charge of program management of the UESA con-

tract, could not be reached for comment. Calls made yesterday afternoon to Harold Masumoto, who was serving as RCUH's executive director for the time period the Navy is investigating, were not returned by press time. Masumoto is currently the program director for the Hawai'i Technology Development Venture (HTDV), which is a project of ONR administered by the Pacific International Center for High Technology Research (PICHTR).

Carolyn Tanaka, UH's associate vice president for external affairs and university relations, said yesterday she was unaware of the Navy's investigation.

"I'm not aware of any investigation but I'll check into it," Tanaka said.

Monacci said the Navy was particularly interested in the relationship between Fenton and some of the High Technology Research entities in which Masumoto is involved.

The Navy also asked Monacci about the relationship between UH and RCUH.

"I had no idea. Actually I never found out, and I tried to figure that out," Monacci said.

In a seminar on Classified Research last Thursday, Hamnett said RCUH is a separate state agency assigned to support UH research. But some people work for both organizations simultaneously, including UESA's principal investigator, Vassilis Syrmos, who also sits on HTDV's advisory board.

From March to June of 2003, at the same time Syrmos was serving as the interim director of the Science and Technology Department at RCUH, he also was the interim associate dean of the Electrical Engineering Department and a senior advisor to UH's vice chancellor of research and graduate education.

"I was the interim director at RCUH

for 25 percent of my time, but I still was with the College of Engineering," Syrmos said in an interview Feb. 17.

Syrmos, who left RCUH in June 2003, said he was asked around Dec. 2002 by both Masumoto and UH Manoa Chancellor Peter Englert if he could write a proposal to the Navy for the acquisition of a University Affiliated Research Center (UARC).

Confusion over the separations between projects such as HTDV, organizations such as PICHTR, the University and RCUH raise questions about a possible UARC at UH and potential conflicts of interest since the organizations surrounding the university often partner with private industry and help them receive federal funding.

"The UARCs cannot partner with private industry, because the idea is that the UARC is a trusted agent of the government," Syrmos said. "As such, the government turns to the UARC for advice on programs. If these programs were to later go out for a BAA (Broad Agency Announcement) or an RFP (Request for Proposal) where private industries come in and compete, then you have a conflict of interest. So there should be no collaboration between a center like that (UARC) and private industry.

"There should be no collaboration between the UARC and defense contractors," Syrmos continued. "At that point the DOD (Department of Defense) would have a problem, and that problem is called organizational conflict of interest, and one should not engage in this because it's not correct."

Family outing



KARIS LO • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Besides a shopping center for tourists, Ala Moana is also a great locale for family day.

Blogs reach masses

By Paul Kolbe
Kapi'o News Editor

2004 almost became the year of the blog, only to be edged out by the most contentious presidential election in recent memory. But a blog, once considered an online journal to publish thoughts that others could comment on, has recently been used as an alternative form of media, giving users, or bloggers as they are known, the ability to reach large masses in short periods of time.

When CNN Head News Executive Eason Jordan allegedly made comments regarding the killing of journalists in Iraq by U.S. forces, a blogger was the first to break the story.

Rony Abovitz posted the story on a blog with the headline "Do U.S. troops target journalists in Iraq?" There was an immediate onslaught from online users seeking the resignation of Jordan, and within two weeks, Jordan resigned. Jordan has maintained that his comments were misconstrued and further maintains he only meant to imply journalists were targeted because of mistaken identity, not because U.S. troops were hunting them.

In September, bloggers also exposed flaws in Dan Rather's story on National Guard papers pertaining to President Bush's military service. Rather's source was later revealed to have falsified the papers and lied to Rather. Rather has also decided to step down as Head Anchor of the CBS Evening News. The cases have thrown to the forefront a debate on whether bloggers are now serving as media watchdogs or as self-avowed truth seekers and whether they have the ethical or legal rights to do so.

Currently bloggers follow no official code of ethics, although some do so voluntarily. Bloggers are subject to libel laws but can easily thwart prosecution by claiming the writings

in a blog are pure opinion and not to be held as fact. Bloggers have mixed feelings toward the idea of professional responsibility in their writings.

One Hawai'i blogger, who goes by the username franksabunch, was located by random on the popular blogsite Xanga. Blogger franksabunch writes that his blog is just for fun. "My main goal is to make you chuckle," he said, adding that when it comes to political or heated issues, he writes in to a newspaper as a letter to the editor. When asked whether he felt bloggers should be held responsible for false or unsubstantiated information, franksabunch replied that anyone posting anything for public view should be held responsible "... to a certain extent."

He also questioned whether posting false information on a blog was any different from passing out flyers on the street. Davin Kubota, who teaches English 100 at KCC, runs three different blogs and has similar thoughts. "I don't believe in censorship, but you should have clear sense of what's incendiary," said Kubota. Kubota also offered that a blogger might feel no need to fact check information posted on a personal site because unlike a journalist, a blogger does not get paid and does not have to answer to sponsorship.

Most blog sites currently offer free membership, with an account being set up in as little as three steps. However, Kubota says, "Many bloggers are concerned with readership," referring to the amount of hits a site receives. "It's funny, when they're writing, they want to be taken seriously, but when asked to take responsibility, they say it's not to be taken serious. That's ironic."

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CampusBeat

Fights reported at campus dorms

Jill Bona
Ka Leo Staff Writer

Tuesday, Feb. 22

5:44 p.m. — A person reported a possible moped theft in progress near Sinclair Library. Campus Security checked the area and reported in the contrary.

Wednesday, Feb. 23

4:33 p.m. — A student reported being harassed by a man near University Avenue and Metcalf Street. A report was filed.

Thursday, Feb. 24

12:30 a.m. — A man was complaining of lower chest, upper abdomen, and back pains. Emergency Medical Services was notified.

2:00 a.m. — A Freeman Guard

reported a man was bathing in the Klum Gym rest room. Campus Security located him in the parking structure, and he said he was assaulted off campus by three men. EMS and the Honolulu Police Department were notified, but when they arrived, the man refused treatment and had no identification on him. Campus Security escorted him off the property.

11:41 a.m. — A Hale Aloha Mokihana resident advisor reported a fight at Hale Noelani D.

11:42 a.m. — A person reported one of the men fighting at Hale Noelani D had a knife. HPD was notified.

11:47 a.m. — Campus Security reported two men at Hale Noelani D had fled the area and were heading toward Dole Street. Suspect 1 was a 5-foot-8-inch Caucasian man

with long brown hair and a white shirt. Suspect two had the knife and was a Caucasian man with a beanie cap, white shorts and a white shirt with dark sleeves.

Friday, Feb. 25

2:21 a.m. — A person reported a fight at the Hale Aloha courtyard.

4:07 a.m. — A Gateway House hall director reported an incident between two residents. One of the residents punched a hole in the bathroom door and threatened the other resident. One of the residents was relocated to another dorm the following day. The hall director declined to file a report.

Saturday, Feb. 26

9:15 a.m. — Staff at Gateway House reported a chair was thrown from the ninth floor.

Anticipation



KARIS LO • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Students patiently wait for the set up at the Rook n Root concert at Campus Center courtyard last Friday at mid-night.

Explosion kills 116 in Hillah, Iraq

By Qassim Mohammed and
Susannah A. Nesmith
Knight Ridder Newspapers

(KRT) HILLAH, Iraq — Iraq's insurgents Monday slipped a massive car bomb into an area normally off-limits to vehicles, then detonated it in front of a medical clinic where dozens of military and police recruits were lined up to undergo physicals.

The explosion killed 116 people in the city of Hillah, 60 miles south of Baghdad, and wounded dozens more. It was the deadliest single insurgent attack since the war began, and it suggested that Iraq's Jan. 30 elections and the recent arrests of some insurgent leaders haven't crippled the loose alliance of militant Islamists, disgruntled Sunni Muslims and renegades from Saddam Hussein's regime.

The insurgents now appear to be focusing their attacks on Iraqis who work for or support the U.S.-backed government in an apparent effort to discredit the Iraqi regime and provoke civil war between Sunni and

Shiite Muslims.

Many of the dead on Monday perished when buildings that housed government offices and shops in the busy downtown district collapsed from the force of the explosion. Body parts were scattered for blocks, and hysterical survivors trudged through pools of blood searching for relatives. The blast came just one day after the Iraqi government announced the arrests of several key figures in the insurgency, including Saddam Hussein's half-brother, who's accused of funding the insurgency from Syria, and two men close to the Jordanian terror suspect Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

There also was no break in violence elsewhere.

A car bomb that detonated around the same time as the Hillah explosion killed three people in the town of Al-Musaib, and insurgents attacked the police special forces headquarters in Baqouba, north of Baghdad.

During the hour-long firefight, one civilian was killed, but it was unclear if any Iraqi police officers died. The U.S. military also reported that a soldier was killed Sunday as he manned a checkpoint in Baghdad. Another died Monday in an apparent traffic accident near Baiji in northern Iraq that also injured two other soldiers.

There was no information on how the Hillah bomber maneuvered his car into position in an area where vehicle traffic has been restricted for months. Local residents said the bomber would have had to pass through at least one police checkpoint before reaching the spot where he detonated the bomb. "This is a real massacre, and the number of casualties seems to be increasing," said Ahmad Shia'a al Barrak, a former member of Iraq's governing council who's from Hillah. "My own sister was injured in this attack. She works in the taxing directorate, which is near where the explosion occurred. She was injured by shattering glass."

Thick smoke hung over the site of the explosion as police and civilian volunteers loaded bodies into ambulances and the beds of pickup trucks. Rescue workers even commandeered a vegetable cart to evacuate one man. Al Barrak said a lot of the buildings in the area were built in the 1930s and 1940s and were too fragile to withstand the massive shock.

"Many innocent people were killed and injured because the buildings collapsed," he said. "There are also some apartment buildings 100 meters from the explosion that were damaged. There is a cinema close by, which was full of people. Luckily, the roof only shifted. Otherwise, the number of casualties would have been much higher."

Police Col. Salam Darad put the death toll at 116, with 143 wounded. Darad said his officers arrested five men suspected of masterminding the bombing. No details of the arrests were available.

(Special correspondent Mohammed reported from Hillah; staff writer Nesmith reported from Baghdad. Contributing to this report were Hannah Allam and special correspondent Shatha al Awsy in Baghdad.)

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Gift of Gab flows through 'Nia'



Tim Parker, aka "Gift of Gab," the member of Blackalicious with a talent for "floetry."

COURTESY PHOTO

By Matt Ishitani
Ka Leo Staff Writer

"Nia" was the first album for Tim Parker and Xavier Mosley's duo, Blackalicious, with their underground label Quannum. The album was distributed in 2000. Mosley is a talented DJ, and Parker has an uncanny talent for floetry — "flow" plus "poetry" — that helped him reign over many contenders in rap battles. Parker's talented flow made his views of society easier to portray to the world, while Mosley incorporated his tastes of funk and jazz.

As a result, a few of Quannum's artists joined the hopeful duo. Blackalicious soon became the reigning king of underground hip-hop.

The 19-track album went unnoticed while rappers spat out rhymes of false poetry, but after the duo had released "Blazing Arrow," the popularity of Blackalicious grew. More interest had grown in the group, and "Nia"

was rediscovered. The album has a lame opening, but recovers after the introduction ends.

"Fabulous Ones" is one of the most brilliantly composed pieces of hip-hop that I have ever heard. The speed of "Gift of Gab" (Parker) and the rhythm of "Chief Xcel" (Mosley) serve as a powerful first impression. With levels of funk and soul, the style seems more old-school than later hip-hop.

To keep up to speed, Blackalicious follows with "Do This My Way." With the help of "Lyrics Born" (Tony Shimura), the group cools things down to a slower beat. The rhymes work to play off the different styles of Shimura and Parker. Things speed up as each of the MCs bounce off of each other's talents like a friendly battle-rap.

"Deception" is one of Blackalicious' great hip-hop ballads. It accounts for the perversion of hip-hop, telling the story of a one-hit-wonder MC who loses his

skills and goes broke. More and more rappers rise and fall within weeks of topping the Billboard charts. This is Gab and Xcel doing social-commentary at its best.

The rhymes continue in "A to G," which has Gab rapping from letters "A" to "G." In "Alphabet Aerobics," He completes the entire alphabet, and it takes him less time than "A to G's" 2 minutes and 24 second. If listeners want to test their vocabulary and diction, they can challenge themselves to rap as fast as Gab.

"Cliff Hanger" opens with a loud beat that will have ears trembling in ecstasy. Then, Gab starts rapping about sex. I don't perceive this as proper Blackalicious. Xcel's beats for this track are slow and frustrating. It's a story about Gab having a drug-trip with a dragon-lady and fighting imaginary demons. He also mentions his sword a lot. The beat is pretty good, though. The track ends with

See Blackalicious, page 7

Boxing donkey fails to KO terrible menu

By Jason Ubay
Ka Leo Contributing Writer

Located on the corner of Pi'ikoi and Kapi'olani and situated next to a pawn shop, the El Burrito Mexican restaurant is the definition of a hole-in-the-wall. The front of the menu says "El Burrito Campeñ," translated "The Little Donkey Champion," and has a picture of a donkey dressed as a boxer and punching a speed bag. By the cash register are hundreds of audio cassettes and CDs, containing the Spanish music that plays continuously in the dining area.

The dining room is small but inviting. Lunch there is popular with the aloha-shirted business crowd. The walls are decorated with a couple of fake plants, a bull's horn, a clock that looks like it came out of a Mayan temple, and various traditional masks and statues that all match the wall color.

The color of the hardwood floor goes well with the maroon and dark green trim of the room. But because the nine tables also have the same color scheme, the dining room seems a little bland, which, sadly, is how the food tastes.

The main problems with the food are that it is flavorless and

very dry. Each item on the combination plate of a birria beef taco and a chicken chimichanga (\$9.50) suffered from one or both of these symptoms.

"Birria" is a term that describes how the meat is cooked. Many spices are used, and it is usually stewed for a few hours before being served. The beef version of "birria" I had was moist from hours of stewing, had plenty of

flavor and was not too spicy.

The taco was ruined by a dry corn tortilla. The tortilla did not rip apart when I held it; it was hard to even take a bite out of it.

The chicken chimichanga also suffered from dryness, but this time it was the meat. Pouring salsa all over it hardly solved the problem. The sour cream, guacamole and shredded lettuce garnish were an attempt to save this fried

monstrosity, but failed to do so, because the chicken tasted like it had been cooked, stored in the refrigerator too long and then shredded and reincarnated as a chimichanga filling.

The Spanish rice was also dry and tasted as bland as brown rice even though it looked like normal, flavored Spanish rice. The beans tasted like they were straight from the can, and it was apparent from their texture that they were. Traditional beans are cooked with lard or bacon to add flavor; these beans were probably vegetarian because of their blandness.

Although the entrees were disappointing, the appetizer and des-

sert made the visit worthwhile. The chips tasted like they were fresh from the fire. The salsa was homemade, and there was enough kick to make it spicy, but not enough to make you sweat. The homemade flan (\$3), a custard dessert, was firm enough to eat with a fork and sugary enough to satisfy any sweet tooth.

The service was also impressive. Although there was only one server for a nine table restaurant, she brought chips, salsa and water very promptly, even in the middle of the business lunch hour.

Dressed casually in blue jeans,

See El Burrito, page 7



Religion + politics = violence



Stout Minds

Christopher Mikesell
Ka Leo Opinions Editor

Lately there has been a resurgence of faith among certain Western peoples. Individuals are beginning to take their religion more seriously and develop their beliefs, something that I have no problem with. A lot of good things can be said about maintaining and nurturing personal beliefs. Many find faith to be an amazingly private and spiritual thing — a way to for people to connect with whatever spirituality they perceive is out there. Others see faith and religion as backgrounds to reason, that certain concepts and rules of order in the universe are more easily reconciled with a belief in a creator or god. In this way, practicing a religion can support people on a very individual level.

Yet faith and beliefs become not only less useful but somewhat harmful when applied to people as a group. In populations, these individual personal beliefs balloon into dogma, and then from dogma to policy, and from policy to politics, and further, from politics to international interaction, more often than not in the form of conflict.

This isn't to say that there have been no secular wars. On the contrary, secular wars have always been a part of human history, and each has had its own particular objective. Some secular wars have raged against corrupt government practices, like the revolutions for which America and France are famous. Other secular wars have been waged over empire, territory, and control over valued commodities. These kinds of wars, while less noble than their revolutionary counterparts, still accomplished important tasks for the purpose of nation- or empire-building. These types of wars are also distinguished by the fact that their objectives are about acquiring, controlling, or destroying things, but not people.

Such is not the case with religious wars. The most nonsensical and unproductive of all the world's past armed conflicts are those that were motivated by religion. The Crusades, for example, were a titanic waste of soldiers, time and money by all sides. These conflicts were ordered by the popes who served during that time to reclaim a city considered to be a part of their Holy Land, Jerusalem; although, the last Crusade ended up directing an army toward



KRT CAMPUS

Top: Friday prayers at the Abu Hanyfa Mosque in Baghdad. Middle: Yasmin Sigel, a senior at UC Berkeley, mans the Israel Action Committee table in Sproul Plaza in Berkeley, California. Tensions have risen between student groups for Israel and Palestine. Bottom: Northwest College students stand near the school's chapel in Kirkland, Washington. These students could be affected by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the *Locke v. Davey* case.

Constantinople to pay for the military's bill.

The problem with wars and conflicts based on religion is that, unlike the majority of secular wars, they are primarily concerned with people becoming "followers" of their respective faiths. As soon as people become potential followers in the eyes of a religious leader, they suddenly are commodified. Commodification leads to expendability, which in turn leads to dehumanization. The latter two are the principles that cause seemingly irrational concepts like martyrdom and heathen conversion to make sense to otherwise rational human beings.

Eventually, conflicts between religious groups simply boil down to an utterly childish "My God can beat up your God" kind of mentality. This is sad to note when religion is supposed to be a catalyst for personal growth.

Yet we can hardly expect these three big religions to stop warring among themselves when they can't even get their stories straight among their own internal sectarian conflicts. Is this stuff really bread and wine, or what? Were the Imams legitimate or not? What if Jesus isn't the Jewish messiah the Jews have been waiting for? And isn't there a clause in the Torah somewhere that says Israel needs a messiah before the state of Israel can even exist? The answers to these disputed questions have been the cause of much strife, in addition to all the bloody competition and aggressive extermination between Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

The frightening truth is that throughout much of the history of Western religion, when the "religious authorities" were not ordering the deaths of infidels, they were ordering the deaths of heretics, killing not only people of other religions but people from their own folds as well.

Christians have killed or imprisoned other Christians over alleged witchcraft and the issue of people's beliefs in transubstantiation and heliocentrism. Extremist attackers tried to serve as deterrents to democracy for the citizens of Iraq because, according to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, it is "based on the idea that people are able to choose their religion." The Jewish people also suffer from internal violence as well: Israel's former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by Yigal Amir, a member of the ultra-conservative, right-wing Jewish group Eyalive, in an attempt to derail the Israeli-Palestinian peace process in 1995.

If you add all that history to

the fact that all three flavors of this big happy Judeo-Christian-Islamic family are descended from the same group of people in the Old Testament, who basically invaded and decimated wherever God gave them divine mandate to, you'll begin to question just how much love and divine inspiration these belief systems were built on.

Honestly, while faith and believing in God are entirely unobjectionable things, problems begin when religious people begin to justify aggressive actions by using religion as some kind of reasoning or entitlement. People of religion sometimes have a hard time accepting that other people believe in different things when "either convert or destroy the infidels" is wired into religious dogma. They just care too much about the religious beliefs of other people.

Perhaps this whole time, we as people of the world have been approaching this conflict in the wrong way. If we continue to approach our conflicts in the context of God — as in, my God can beat up your God or my beliefs are superior to your beliefs — humanity will continue to be doomed to failure. Nobody can win any war where the goal is to allow one religion to prevail because nobody is very easily convinced that their religion is wrong.

I say the world would simply be a better place if nobody cared about the religions of others. We don't need to abolish religion to do this. All we need to do is learn how to say "whatevahs" to whatever people want to believe religiously. Religion should not be a crutch to back up a position, religion is not an entitlement to anything, religion is not some shield to hide behind when you commit a crime or injure other people. In an ideal world, religion's only purpose would be supplying freely a way one can live one's life with integrity and a certain amount of personal discipline. Forget the wars, the meaningless bloodshed over differences in books written long before our time and the animosity toward those who do not follow your beliefs. Forget all of that. Whatevahs. Honestly, I don't care what religion you practice, and neither should anyone else.

That is the only way we as a whole can really live in freedom: freedom to worship, freedom to enjoy basic human rights without fear of violence, but most importantly, the freedom to live our lives undisturbed and in peace.

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Pope's book makes 'absurd' claims

**national
voices**

By Gerry Wachovsky
*Daily Forty-Niner (California
State U.-Long Beach)*

(U-WIRE) LONG BEACH, Calif. -- The Catholic Church has been in the news a lot lately, and not just because of the molestation of altar boys. Pope John Paul II's health has been declining for some time, but don't you worry, the pope still has enough cognizance to write books, including his fifth and most recent, titled "Memory and Identity" —an ironic title, since at his age the former is fleeting while the latter doesn't seem to be helping much.

Most people, myself included, could not care less about his new book, but there is one claim he makes that needs to be attacked not only because of its absurd nature but also because of its appalling ignorance.

In "Memory and Identity," Pope John Paul II, when reflecting on the fact that Adolf Hitler was democratically elected as chancellor of Germany in 1933 says "We have to question the legal regulations that have been decided in the parliaments of present day democracies. The most direct association which comes to mind is the abortion laws...Parliaments which create and promulgate such laws must be aware that they are transgressing their powers and remain in open conflict with the law of God and the law of nature."

So, we're comparing the abortion of what is essentially a blood clot to the extermination of millions of people? I understand that according to Catholicism, life begins at conception, but come on, comparing abortions to the Holocaust? Does anyone else find this absurd, not to mention highly offensive?

According to a Feb. 22 BBC report, the pope's comments were met with a fair share of opposition, including a statement by the president of Germany's Central Council for Jews, Paul Spiegel.

"The Catholic Church," Spiegel said, "does not understand or does not want to understand that there is an enormous difference between mass genocide and what women do with their bodies."

I don't think it could have been said any better. Just in case Spiegel is reading this, a good follow-up question would have been: where does the pope get off comparing abortion to the Holocaust when he can't even prevent his own priests from dithering around with pre-pubescent

altar boys?

According to German Cardinal Josef Ratzinger, "(The pope) calls our attention to the permanent temptations for humanity, and on the need to take care not to fall into the pitfalls of evil."

Let's get down to brass tacks here: abortion is a legal practice in most places, so calling it evil is not going to be accepted by many —although I realize that to Ratzinger, divine law is infinitely more important than our mere mortal laws. Secondly, and far more importantly, Pope John Paul II has no authority to be commenting on anything related to the Holocaust at all, seeing as he held such a favorable opinion of former Pope Pius XII, and in 1998 called him a "great pope," in spite of his complacent attitude toward Adolf Hitler and the rise of Nazism in Germany.

The pope is a historical and important figure in Catholicism, but when he likens abortion —a legal act— to the Holocaust —murder and genocide— someone must draw the line. When the pope has so many other problems within his religion, his comments make one really question his priorities.

I know Pope John Paul II isn't used to hearing what I am about to say, but it has to be said for the sake of principle alone: Johnny, will you please just shut up?

Religion, sarcasm is neurological disorder

**national
voices**

By Adam Fowler
The Oracle (U. South Florida)

(U-WIRE) TAMPA, Fla. -- Expounding upon his keen sense of the human psyche, comedian and HBO talk-show host Bill Maher told MSNBC's Joe Scarborough recently, "I think religion is a neurological disorder. If you look at it logically, it's something that was drilled into your head when you were a small child. It certainly was drilled into mine at that age. And you really can't be responsible when you are a kid for what adults put into your head."

Further enlightening the television audience, Maher also said: "We are a nation that is unenlightened because of religion. I do believe that. I think that religion stops people from thinking. I think it justifies crazies. I think flying planes into a building was a faith-based initiative."

We can all breathe a sigh of relief. Thanks to Dr. Maher, we finally know what's wrong with those crazy religious fundamentalists: They're mentally ill. Now all we have to do is coerce them into seeking treatment at nearby mental institutions and in a few months — maybe a few years for guys like Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell — all of those religious nuts will be as good as

new. It will almost be like they were born again.

Yeah, those fundamentalists, they're really nutty. What with their ridiculous beliefs like, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," and "Love thy neighbor as thyself." And how about these crazy ethics: "Don't murder," "Don't steal," "Don't commit adultery?"

Oh, the insanity! What else could explain such clearly deviant beliefs as these but some type of mental disorder?

Just imagine if these evil ideas were to permeate society. People treating each other with respect. No murder. No stealing. No one cheating on their spouse. I can't bear to think about such a horrible outcome any longer.

It's clear what needs to be done.

First, we need to ban all of the literature. There needs to be a widespread burning of Bibles, Torahs, Korans; if it includes any commandments from a higher being or idea, set it ablaze.

Second, we need to round up all of these fundamentalists and force them to seek treatment. If they refuse to cooperate with the therapy, we may have to resort to extreme measures, like locking them up somewhere far away and throwing away the key.

Third, the public schools should immediately start testing our kids every three years or so to make sure they show no signs of this disorder. If little Johnny shares his toys with little Billy, testing should be done immediately.

These are the early warning signs of the disorder: Love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and

temperance. If anyone you know exhibits any or all of these traits, immediately report them to the proper authorities.

And while we're on the subject of schools, the fourth step should be to ban all private schools, for such is the root of all evil. Children should only be placed in government-run schools where they can be cleansed and protected from any trace of the disorder. This goes along with the great Dr. Maher's theory that the seeds of the disorder are "drilled" into young people's heads at an early age.

No schoolteacher should ever utter words like God, Jehovah, Jesus, Allah or any other reference to some being higher than humans. Any instructor who violates this rule should be fired on the spot and forced to receive treatment. We have to cut the cancer out at the first sign of it.

Fifth, and most importantly, we must take measures to immediately eliminate the First Amendment reference to "freedom of religion." It must be changed to "freedom from religion." Only then will we truly be free.

Until these steps are taken, our society will forever be under siege by this evil disorder. We will be forever "unenlightened." I just can't bear the thought of such a tragic fate. God help us all.

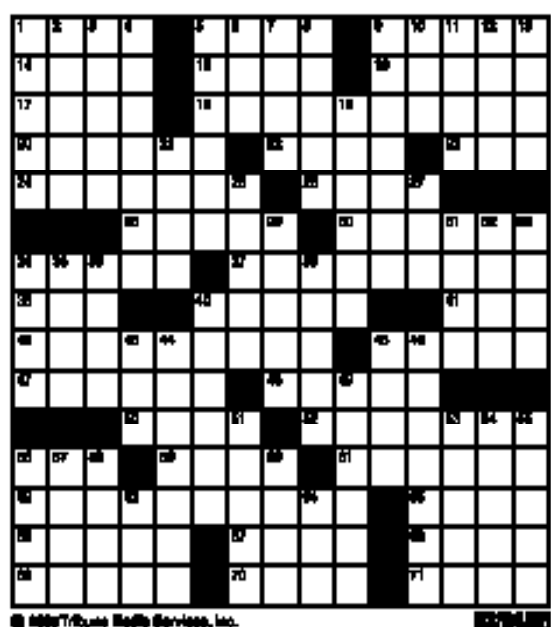
Oh no! Did I just say that? I've been infected. Quick, where's the nearest mental ward?

COMICS & CROSSWORD



Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Fear-shaped instrument
 - 5 Money holder
 - 8 Validation
 - 14 Soot
 - 15 Adjutant
 - 16 Unions, collectively
 - 17 One of a "Tunander" trio
 - 18 Break with the past
 - 20 Evening party
 - 22 Actress Tinseltown
 - 25 Golf prop
 - 24 Creative cryptic messages
 - 26 Pruned
 - 28 Skull cavity
 - 30 Eager one
 - 34 Political Oliver
 - 37 Childish
 - 38 Bellied sound
 - 40 Dancer's perch
 - 41 Language mix
 - 42 Excluded religious community
 - 45 Gem
 - 47 Green film
 - 48 Not so hot
 - 50 Males
 - 52 Frequent patron
 - 55 Wimp loudly
 - 58 Bertrupt
 - 61 Make a getaway
 - 62 Show meet source
 - 65 Actor Ladd
 - 66 Comic strip musical
 - 67 Make less difficult
 - 68 Diplomacy
 - 69 Entire
 - 70 Tiger
 - 71 Boma lamba scenery
- DOWN**
- 1 Memory
 - 2 Merger
 - 3 Pick-me-up
 - 4 Absorb
 - 5 Swerve wildly
 - 6 Fellowship
 - 7 Reversed figure
 - 8 Grove risk
 - 9 Enclosure for tole
 - 10 Bleed
 - 11 P.I.P. notice
 - 12 Flow sluggishly
 - 13 Ensnare
 - 18 Watchdog
 - 21 Polish up the news, e.g.
 - 25 Set of furniture
 - 27 Poised
 - 29 Piggish sound
 - 31 Postcard picture
 - 32 Besides
 - 33 Stagger
 - 34 Pack down firmly
 - 35 Hold your horses
 - 36 Falls to be
 - 38 Vascular
 - 40 Standing
 - 43 Broadcast
 - 44 Skin-diver's device
 - 45 Lively dances
 - 46 Enlightenment
 - 49 Bruck a look
 - 51 Local
 - 53 Queen Day series
 - 54 Berthy
 - 55 Landlord's dues
 - 56 Buzz off
 - 57 Cry of dismay
 - 58 Lay one down the line
 - 60 Tidal situation
 - 63 CBS, today
 - 64 Ramps each.



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SOLUTIONS FOR 03/04/05

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	ODD	BANDENDS
ERGS	BLUNG	TIRE
BOWLS	ENT	NAB
BELIEF	BON	MESS
	DEAD	NESS
MADE	TAN	WADDLE
AGE	TNT	LOUIS
COBT	RHEAB	BODA
ANTIBIOTIC		
DIAMOND	CROATIA	
ATE	AGE	HAULERS
MEL	BOB	IMPEDES

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Blackalicious: Chief Xcel's musical talent is really swell

From page 3

a speech that sounds like a mock Civil Rights speech, which has nothing to do with intoxicated sex.

Recovering from "Cliff Hanger," we get "Shallow Days." Gab talks about why he doesn't rap like the usual MC. He takes into consideration the quality of "keeping it real." Today's youth are influenced by new-school rap. It's all very open as an assault on gangster-rap and bling-rap. I'm very glad that Gab aims to inspire, rather than yell "Murder, Murder, Murder/ Kill, Kill, Kill."

"Ego Trip by Nikki Giovanni" introduces Nikki Giovanni, a spoken word poet. Needless to say, Gab has no vocal presence in this track. This album has transcended one group's introduction to the mainstream and brings a lot of Quannum's talent to light. Giovanni is quite clever in her rhyme and speaks of her own search for inspiration. It adds hope that Blackalicious isn't alone.

In "You Didn't Know That Though," Gab raps about the problems with the world and seeks for true MCs to rise up against a corrupt system. All the while, he raps with justified arrogance.

"If I May" joins the rhyming talent of Gab and the rhythmic presence of Lateef, yet another Quannum Label artist. Xcel excels on the tone of this track. The song is more Soul than it is hip-hop because Lateef's presence is so much stronger than Gab's.

Next up is "Dream Season," which is a soulful rap song about inspiration while the world begins a new millennium. Gab tones down the energy of the song's

importance, because the millennium serves as another chance for artists to bring peace to the world through musical inspiration. This track has a much better speech at the end of it than "Cliff Hanger," and this has something to do with the morals and lessons of the track.

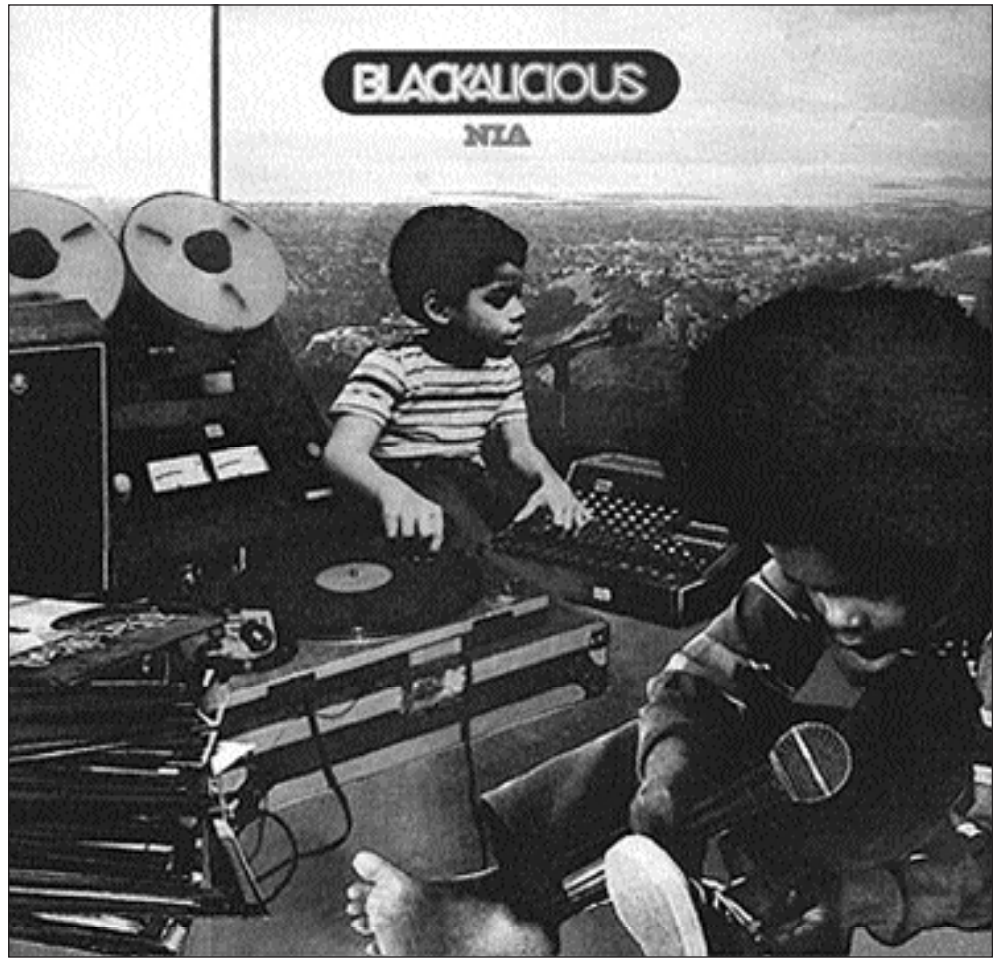
"Trouble (Eve of Destruction)" returns the tone of energy in an almost apocalyptic tone. Gab blazes in this track while Xcel perfects his talents by mixing some intense funk, incorporating Drum & Bass with back-up singers. This is the most violently active song in the entire album; it matches its title perfectly.

"Smithsonian Institution of Rhyme" brings out a mediocre groove of the otherwise brilliant Blackalicious. Something about this track doesn't sit well in my gut. Half of the song flows like spoken-word, and the other half is reggae-like. The track also includes excessive profanity.

"As the World Turns" begins with a speech. Gab appears to be back with his flow, but he sings. There's a constant change between singing and rapping. Erinn Anova lends her voice to the chorus, and brings a new level of funk to the track.

Once she appears, the track gets progressively better. Xcel's tone is slow, yet Gab can keep his rhymes fast within the tune. It ends with what sounds like an excerpt from a 1970s television show. The quality is aged to mimic such and includes a drum solo that plays throughout the track.

Gab bursts into rhythm in "Reanimation" with aggression and attitude to match. He's rapping about the reanimation of old-school style — kind of "formula-



'Nia' features the "flowetry" of Gift of Gab and the musical talent of Chief Xcel.

COURTESY PHOTO

ic" on part of Blackalicious, but otherwise cool.

"Beyonder" brings something fresher to hip-hop. Xcel's music increases in speed as Gab's rhymes become more intense. A much darker tone can be attributed to Xcel's talent for matching moods to each song. To close, a chorus sings "Nia" while a jazzy band plays out the track.

"Making Progress" opens with a funkier beat that seems lighter than "Beyonder." I feel an extreme overdose of old-school influence in this track. This isn't a bad thing. Blackalicious means to

bring back the times when Hip-hop was at its absolute best. Making progress is the moral of this track.

"Sleep" is the song that plays out the concert. Blackalicious' closing song, once again, contains more soul than hip-hop. Gab's attitude is more sentimental in this track, and Xcel's music leaves a feeling of regret that intensifies the rhymes. The chorus is the most smoothly-sung verse I've heard from Gab. This track serves as a quiet ending to an otherwise loud album. Another spoken-word speech about revolutionary inspi-

ration closes the disc. It's lame like the first one, but it is more than redeemed by the musical talents of Gab and Xcel.

"Nia" is one of the best albums to be recorded by the unsung heroes of modern-day hip-hop. Because of this album, I am able to realize the full potential of independent hip-hop bands that have formed in vast quantities despite the many travesties that poison the minds of the youth. It's about time an underground voice breached the surface to bring down the ones on top.

El Burrito: excellent service of bad foods

From page 3

very promptly, even in the middle of the business lunch hour.

Dressed casually in blue jeans, an El Burrito t-shirt, and a blue aloha print apron, she promptly refilled water glasses and was also very informative. When asked about the restaurant's logo of a donkey punching a speed bag, she quickly explained that the owner was a former boxer. "Burrito" means donkey, and he thought it would make a nice design.

The menu is very diverse, with items ranging from tamales, to nachos, to something called a "cono loco." All are reasonably priced; but there is no guarantee that everything on the menu isn't dry and blasé.

Bands and BBQ



University of Hawai'i student Verena Snively sells tickets and food at a barbecue to raise money for the BFA Show. Bands performed at the barbecue as art students cooked and served food to attendees. The BFA Show is the "final test" for students working for a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. It will be held in the main gallery of the Art Building on April 25.

MARLO TING
Ka Leo O Hawai'i

SportsBriefs

Ka Leo Staff

Rainbows place second at conference championships

The Rainbow Warrior and Wahine swimming and diving teams placed second at their respective conference championships last week.

The University of Hawai'i men's swimming and diving squad took second at the National Independent Conference held last week in Rochester, Mich. The 'Bows tallied 740.5 points, finishing behind Southern Methodist. The Mustangs won the NIC championship, running away with 1005.5 points.

On Saturday, three Rainbow Warriors posted wins in their respective events. Swimmer Andrew Affleck took first in the 1650 free in a time of 15:19.18, while Chad Thomsen won the 200 breast in a time of 1:59.30. Diver Mats Wiktorsson scored 435.20 points to win the platform event.

Meanwhile, in San Antonio, the Rainbow Wahine encountered the same results as their male counterparts, placing second behind SMU in the Western Athletic Conference championships. The 'Bows scored 677 points to SMU's 860, giving the Mustangs their ninth-straight WAC championship.

On Saturday, conference honors were also handed out. UH sophomore Nicole Mackey was selected by conference coaches as the WAC Swimmer of the Year, while UH sophomore Rui Wang was named the WAC Diver of the Year. Also honored was Rainbow

freshman Melanie Schlanger, who was name WAC o-Freshmen of the Year along with SMU's Anja Carman.

SMU's Jim Stillson was selected as the WAC Diving Coach of the Year, while Northern Arizona's Andy Johns was named Coach of the Year.

The Rainbow Warriors and Wahine will close out the 2004-2005 season at the NCAA Championships, with the women competing on March 10 - 12 and the men on March 24-26.

Track posts best-ever finish in WAC

The University of Hawai'i women's track and field team ended the Western Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships finishing

ninth out of 11 teams.

Junior Novelle Murray finished third in the weight toss, throwing a school-record 17.09m. Freshman Sabrina Reeve finished fifth in the 300m run in 10:00.83, finishing with 4 team points. Sophomore Kelly Young placed third in the 800m run finals in 2:09.87, good for the second fastest recorded time in the UH record books.

UH claim fifth place at Gaucho Invite

The Rainbow Wahine water polo team defeated UC Santa Barbara 11-10 in overtime on Sunday to finish fifth in the Gaucho Invitational in Santa Barbara.

With the 'Bows and Gauchos tied at 9 at the end of regulation, Rainbow Wahine Beth Novick and Iefke Van Belkum scored two goals to give UH the 11-9 advantage. The 'Bows held the Gauchos to just one score late in the period to take the win.

Hawai'i is now 6-6 and return home this week to play their first home game of the season. The 'Bows will play Michigan today at 4:30 p.m. at the Duke Kahanamoku Aquatic Complex.

Warriors finish tied for 13th

The UH men's golf team got a solid performance from sophomore Pierre-Henri Soero to place 13th at the John Burns Intercollegiate at the Leilehua Golf Course in Wahiawa last week.

Soero shot a four-under 68 last Friday to bring his three-round

total to 206, tying him for sixth place overall. It was Soero's first top-10 finish of the season.

Junior Jarett Hamamoto shot an even-par 216 for the tournament, finishing tied for 46th. Other Warriors on Hawai'i's "A" team included Kellen-Floyd Asao (T80), Travis Toyama (T85) and Cody Wolfenbarger (T101).

Hawai'i's "B" team finished in 21st place with a three-round total of 900. Representing the Hawai'i "B" team were Ryan Perez (T70), Ben Douglas (T85), Billy-Bob Hoyt (T101), Manarii Gauthier (T108), and Chase Bingham (116).

UNLV's Ryan Moore shot an eight-under 64 on Friday to win the tournament's individual title. Moore finished with a three-day total of 196.

New Mexico won the team title with a combined score of 833, finishing two strokes ahead of runner-up UNLV.

The Warriors next play will be in the Bit/Pacific Coast Intercollegiate hosted by UC Santa Barbara April 4-5.

Students wanted for women's intramural basketball league

The Intramural Sports Department is now accepting entries into the women's basketball league.

University of Hawai'i at Manoa students who are interested can sign up in the Intramural Sports Office, PE/A Room 200 on lower campus.

Deadline to sign up is March 7.

No. 2 UH climbs rankings

Ka Leo Staff

After handing top-ranked UCLA its second loss of the season on Saturday, the Warrior volleyball team moved up in the national rankings, leap-frogging Pepperdine into the No. 2 spot.

Hawai'i, 11-2 in the season, collected three first-place votes, posting 221 points. Pepperdine, at 10-1, garnered four first-place votes and has 219 points, falling to No. 3.

The Warriors and Waves start their two-match series tonight at 7 p.m. at the Stan Sheriff Center.

The Bruins, now 15-2, were still the top vote-getter with nine first-place votes.

USA Today/CSTV Top 15 Coaches Poll

School (first-place votes)	Total points
1. UCLA (9)	230
2. Hawai'i (3)	221
3. Pepperdine (4)	219
4. Penn State	193
5. UC Santa Barbara	177
6. BYU	157
7. Long Beach State	130
8. Stanford	130
9. Cal State Northridge	116
10. Pacific	93
11. Loyola-Chicago	78
12. UC Irvine	76
13. George Mason	49
14. Ohio State	33
15. Lewis	18

University of Hawai'i Sports Calendar

Today

Women's water polo: UH vs. Michigan, 4:30 p.m., Duke Kahanamoku Aquatic Complex.
Baseball: UH vs. UC Davis, 6:35 p.m., Les Murakami Stadium.
Men's volleyball: UH vs. Pepperdine, 7 p.m., Stan Sheriff Center.

State, 6:35 p.m., Les Murakami Stadium.

Women's Softball: UH vs. California, 7 p.m., Rainbow Wahine.

Men's Volleyball: UH vs. Pepperdine, 7 p.m., Stan Sheriff Center.

Saturday

Women's Track and Field: UH All-Comers Series #5, All Day, Cooke Field.

Women's Softball: UH vs. Alabama, 5 p.m., Rainbow Wahine Stadium.

Men's Baseball: UH vs. Louisiana-Lafayette, 7 p.m., Les Murakami Stadium

Women's Softball: UH vs. Portland State, 7 p.m., Rainbow Wahine Stadium.

Men's Basketball: UH vs. Fresno State, 7:05 p.m., Stan Sheriff Center.

Friday

Women's Softball: UH vs. Delaware State, 5 p.m., Rainbow Wahine Stadium.
Men's Baseball: UH vs. Wichita

UH loses on road

Warriors stand at 14-11 overall, 6-10 in the WAC

Ka Leo Staff

The University of Hawai'i men's basketball team lost both its road games last week. On Sunday, UH dropped the second road game against the Rice Owls in a blow-out, 81-60. UH now stands at 14-11 overall, with a 6-10 Western Athletic Conference league record.

Rice's Michael Harris put up an impressive game, tallying 30 points and 24 rebounds.

UH's Matt Gibson led the way for the Rainbow Warriors, scoring a team-high 22 points. Gibson's performance is his fourth 20 point game in his last five outings.

Jake Sottos was the only other 'Bow to score in double digits. He chipped in with 13 points.

The Owls finished the first half with a 20-5 run to build a large lead at 38-20.

UH only shot 37.5 percent from the field, while Julian Sensley and Jeff Blackett were held to their lowest point-totals of the season, scoring 4 and 1 point(s) respectively.

Last Friday, the Tulsa Golden

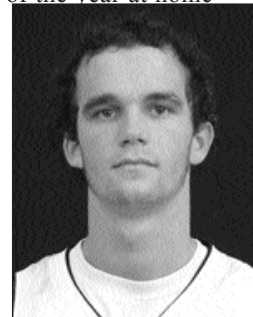
Hurricane held off UH 83-76.

Sottos scored a team-high 24 points as Gibson added 20 in the loss.

Tulsa made six free throws in the final seconds of the game to clinch the victory.

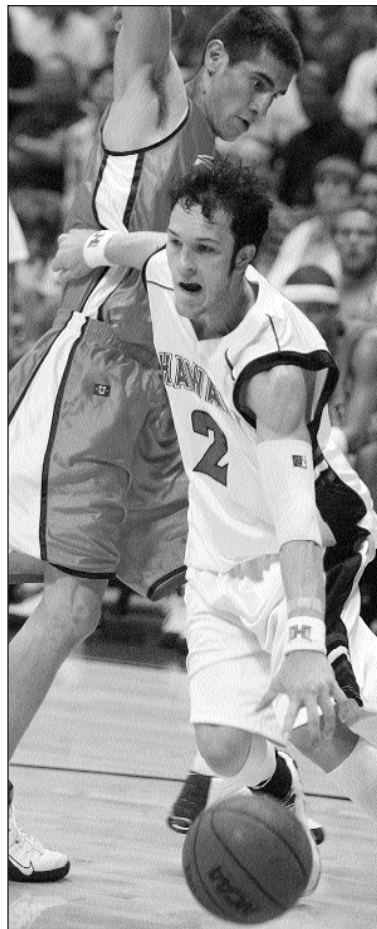
The 'Bows will have their final two games of the year at home this week.

The first game is



SOTTOS

Thursday against No. 25 Nevada at 7:05 p.m., Stan Sheriff Center. The 'Bows will then wrap up the regular season home schedule with Fresno State on Senior Night, Saturday at 7:05 p.m.



CHRISTOPHER YEUNG • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Hawai'i's Matt Gibson scored 42 points in the 'Bows' two road losses last weekend.

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