

Leo O Hawai'i

of Hawaii

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University of Hawaii at Manoa

Thursday, October 27, 1994

Trask trashes Ka Leo in forum

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newspaper
O Racism

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Hawaiian Studies
Haunani-Kay Trask
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photo by Michael Thompson/Ka Leo

Haunani-Kay Trask, director of the Center for Hawaiian studies, spoke at a forum yesterday. The forum, called "Fantasies of the Master Race: Racism in the University," also featured Ward Churchill, coordinator of University of Colorado's Center for American Indian Studies.

she feels Crowell's work had depicted.

The poem, she said, was directed at a specific individual whose name she did not mention.

Churchill said the editorial board of Ka Leo "should be ashamed of themselves" for allowing Crowell to express his "racist" editorial cartoon and column.

Trask said that Ka Leo has "refused" to print her detailed response to Crowell's work.

"We're still waiting, Jennifer," Trask told the crowd.

During yesterday's forum, Trask supporters passed out yellow fliers, which included allegations that Ablan knowingly hired

"confessed pornographer and vicious anti-Hawaiian haole." and that Crowell "is a vicious racist with criminal tendencies."

Crowell denies that he sent 75 pages of pornographic faxes to the political science department in 1991, as Trask and her supporters allege.

"That's an absolute lie," Crowell said.

Crowell said the only allegation he has admitted to was the sending of derogatory fliers to former Ka Leo columnist Doug Margolis in 1991.

Trask supporters also alleged in their flier that Crowell was dismissed from KTUH for simulating a rap of a fellow deejay on

his radio show.

Crowell said such an action cannot legally be defined as rape and his actions were protected by law.

ASUH had planned a couple of months ago to sponsor Churchill in a forum aimed at addressing racism at the University, said ASUH President Shawn Eppe. ASUH, in last week's meeting, approved a \$500 honorarium for Churchill, plus \$8 for his lei.

However, in the wake of the Trask-Crowell controversy, ASUH senator Erin Wright, took the initiative to incorporate Trask in the forum.

Wright said Trask was not paid for her appearance.

Wright is the chairwoman of ASUH's Academic Affairs Committee. She also initiated the bill to sponsor Churchill in yesterday's forum.

Eppe said he didn't mind that Trask spoke yesterday, but incorporating her into the forum was never brought up in the senate meetings.

"I don't take any responsibility for it," Eppe said, adding that he only learned that Trask would be included when he saw Monday's full-page advertisement in Ka Leo.

Wright said that since Churchill was addressing native topics and issues, Trask's "tag-along" was appropriate. She also said that Trask's appearance would attract more students to the forum.

In the forum, Trask said, "I am NOT American," several times and denounced "colonialism" on campus. She said many UH community members are ignorant of the history of oppression Hawaiians have faced.

Hawaiian studies professor Lilikalā Kame'eleihewa was moderator for the forum. Didi Lee Kwai, a graduate student in library information sciences performed two songs, singing and playing acoustic guitar.

Many students were let out of their 11:30 a.m. classes to watch the forum.