The Voice of Hawai'i

Ka Leo O Hawai'i

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WEDNESDAY
November 10, 2004

Inside

Legislation to aid isle farmers

By Corinne Knutson
Ka Leo Staff Writer

Though the environment went practically unmentioned in the Presidential election, a major development for specialty crops was voted in by the U.S. House of Representatives with the passage of the Farm Bill.

Rep. Ed Case (D-HI), approved $14.2 million for Farm Bill conservation programs in 2005, which was a $1.6 million increase from 2004.

The Farm Bill is a program that helps farmers and ranchers develop conservation programs and receive financial assistance from the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"The bill directs the agriculture secretary to make grants to states to enhance specially crop competitiveness, authorizes $44.5 million per year in block grants to help achieve that goal, and defines these crops as nursery crops: fruits, vegetables, tree nuts and dried fruits," Case told Pacific Business News.

While discussing NRCS's plans for 2005, assistant state conservationist Kent Matsutani said, "We are shooting for 30 new accounts for the island of O'ahu."

NRCS hopes to increase its current accounts from nine to 30. "The idea behind EQUIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) is to try and get as many people involved. It's not the money that is important, it's the community," said NRCS employee James Eller, a University of Hawai'i at Manoa natural resource and environmental management (NREM) senior.

Local farmers have until January 2005 to submit an application with NRCS for the EQUIP. EQUIP received the most funding of any conservation program in Hawai'i for 2004, with approximately $5.2 million in assistance.

After funds are approved in Washington, D.C., the NRCS will divide the funds among each island. Funding is based on a ranking system where each farmer gets a different amount based on a NRCS rating of how each land impacts the environment.

Six different programs including EQUIP are aimed at conserving different types of land. However, EQUIP has the highest amount of cost share of any program, which is up to 90 percent. Cost share funding means the owners will pay a portion of the cost ranging from 10 to 50 percent. NRCS pays the remaining 50 to 90 percent. All NRCS programs are cost share and will pay at least a portion of the cost incurred by farmers to implement conservation practices, as long as the land is privately owned and the farm makes less than $2.5 million a year.

That stipulation excludes large corporations such as Dole Pineapple and Castle & Cooke, which make up 65 to 75 percent of the farms on O'ahu, Matsutani said.

Even though NRCS does not have the resources to help the large corporations, conservation techniques are helping smaller farms.

In 2003, EQUIP helped Silvestre Tumbaga, a banana farmer on Maui, install terraces and windbreaks to help eliminate soil erosion during the rainy season.

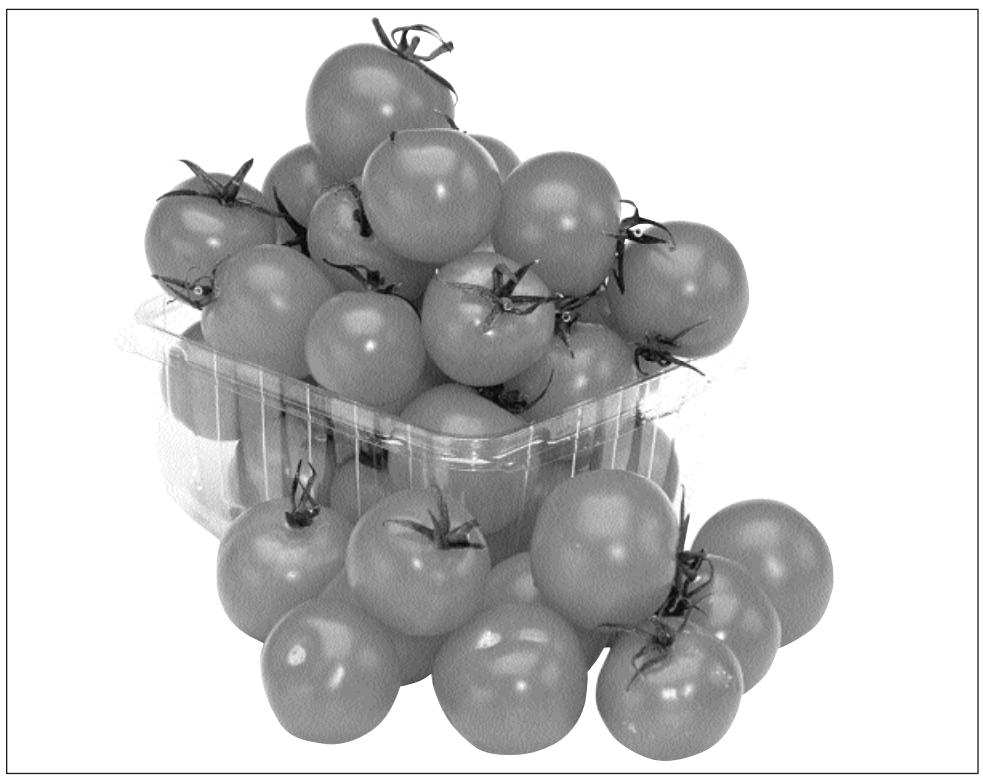
To participate, local farmers have to apply so that NRCS can walk them through the rest of the conservation process, Matsutani said. In order to get more local farmers and ranchers involved, they have to see the positive effects of conservation, according to Matsutani.

"Until it's (run by the) Environmental Protection Agency or state mandated, it will be hard to get everyone on board," Mansutani said.

However, NRCS does not want forced conservation by the EPA or state. "We don't want legislation; we want farmers to recognize the need," said Matsutani.

Matsutani said he feels paperwork, along with the fact that NRCS is strictly a volunteer program, discourages farmer involvement. But with the increase in funds for 2005, NRCS is determined to keep all 83 of its employees busy informing local farmers about conservation.

"I would recommend it to anyone that wants to do something positive for the environment," Eller said.



The passage of the Farm Bill should increase the flow of grants to growers in Hawai'i. Officials in the state hope 30 more accounts will be open under the program this year.

METRO CREATIVE GRAPHICS

Salt-water fall

A surfer goes over the falls while surfing at Kewalo's on Friday afternoon. The weekend south swell is expected to be one of the last of the season, signaling the approach of larger northern swells.

TONY BLAZEJACK
Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Elections had record young-voter turnout

Ka Leo Staff

With record numbers of young people casting ballots in Tuesday's election, Choice USA and a coalition of leading pro-choice student organizations acknowledged credit for an estimated 5,700 ballots in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Washington

Choice USA, Law Students for Choice and Medical Students for Choice have been working since June to identify, register, educate and turn out youth and students to the polls.

"For too long, officials have ignored our issues, and turned the health of students into a political football," Erica Smiley, Choice USA's field director said. "Now, and for as long as we keep our numbers strong, they'll have to pay attention to young people."

YouthVote reported that over 20.9 million voters on Tuesday were under age 30, an increase of 4.6 million over the previous four years. With the election hinging on only about 13,000 votes in several states, young people have been rightly called America's newest swing voters. Some 5,765 students registered to vote through local organizations trained by Choice USA, and over 99 percent of those contacted just before election day said they were voting or had already voted.

The success of the get-out-the-vote campaign comes despite an attempt in Arizona by members of the media and local officials to block registrations.

At the University of Arizona, a Fox News interviewer accused another student organization of illegally registering out of state voters, holding up registration efforts for three weeks while members worked to verify the law and clear their name. Registering college students to vote where they attend school is legal in Arizona, but the controversy chilled voter registration across the campus.

Law Students for Choice trained election monitors to watch polls for evidence of fraud. While President Bush has made his position clear on reproductive health issues, standing firmly against sex education, public health programs and confidential reproductive health care for minors, organizers are quick to point out that their fight doesn't end here.

"Besides the race for the presidency, there were hundreds of state candidates, members of Congress and local initiatives on the ballot," said Crystal Plati, Choice USA's executive director. "Young people have turned out in record numbers to say that our

See Vote, page 2

News Briefs

Final week to recycle phone lists

Students, faculty and staff at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa have until this Friday to drop off phone books in any of the two collection bins off Correa Road by Kennedy Theatre or the Art Building

Every ton recycled into new paper saves:

- 4,100 kilowatt hours of energy.
- 7,000 gallons of water.
- 60 pounds of air pollution.
- 30 square feet of landfill space.
- 17 mature trees.

The Manoa campus has over 11 tons of old phone books

For more information, please call 956-6033.

The sponsors of the recycling are UH's Office of Sustainability, UHM Landscaping Section and UH Information Technology Services.

Class, flood updates at UH's Web site

University of Hawai'i at Manoa students may visit www.hawaii.edu for updates on possible class relocations due to the recent flooding that hit the campus. Other information such as library access also can be found on the site or at UH's hotline 956-0001.

Vote: Choice group campaigning for youth

From page 1

issues matter, our health matters, and our rights matter, and we can make the difference in an election.

"Bush has never had a mandate from the American people to slash and burn young people's reproductive health care — this election made it even clearer. The way we can tie his hands for the next four years is to stay organized and challenge our legislators to support young people's health and rights, and oppose Bush's efforts to promote ignorance as our national health policy."

Choice USA is immediately beginning a postcard campaign urging their members and supporters to contact their senators and demand support for the Putting Prevention First Act. The omnibus bill combines a new funding initiative and six existing bills into one complete legislative package that will expand access to preventive health care services and education programs that help reduce sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies.

Plants do some clever things, scientists say

By Robert S. Boyd
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON — People don't usually associate intelligence with weeds or cabbages. But plant scientists, taking advantage of new genetic information, have discovered a surprising level of what looks like brainy behavior in the vegetable world.

"It's amazing what plants can do," said Johanna Schmitt, a plant geneticist at Brown University in Providence, R.I. Plants have to do clever things since they're stuck in place and must find ways to cope with enemies and hard times.

"They can't just walk away," said Leslie Sieburth, a researcher at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. To compensate for their immobility, plants have genes strung along long threads of DNA that direct them to perform some remarkable feats. Though plant behavior may seem obvious to farmers and gardeners, it's only recently that biologists are learning exactly how they work, down at the level of individual genes and molecules. Researchers have identified genes that help plants recognize when days are growing longer or shorter. Other genes force a plant to sit through a cold winter before allowing it to blossom. Another maintains a 24-hour internal clock. Some genes help plants "remember" the experiences of their "parents," the plants whose seeds gave them birth, Schmitt said. Plants use color and smell to lure insects that spread their pollen or to repel hungry predators.

Plants aren't above using dirty tricks, such as attracting wasps to lay their eggs inside caterpillar larvae so the caterpillars won't grow up to eat them. Some plants can solve math and logic problems of a sort. They calculate the ratio of two different hues of red light to decide when there's too much shade and they need to grow taller. When roots sense that water is short, a gene called BYPASS1 sends a signal to the stem telling it to produce fewer, smaller leaves.

"This is a logical response to drought because leaves are the major place where water is lost," Sieburth said. Of course, plant talents are a far cry from animal — not to mention human — mental powers. Plants don't have a brain or central nervous system.

Researchers expect their work will have practical value for farmers and home gardeners. Judith Roe, a plant geneticist at Kansas State University in Manhattan, said understanding how plants synchronize their flowering with the state of the environment will help researchers predict and manage the effect of climate change on future crops. "Ongoing climate change is already influencing flowering time in many plants," Schmitt said. "Many British wildflowers are now blooming earlier than they did 50 years ago."

"In flowering plants, the time of flowering is probably the most critical period in their life cycle," Roe said. "At this point, they are particularly vulnerable to environmental stresses."

To figure out how plant genes work, the National Science Foundation awarded a $5 million research grant this fall to an international team of scientists headed by Schmitt. Their task is to identify the molecular mechanisms by which plants know when to grow and when to flower — two distinct stages of vegetable life that must be kept apart.

A gene called FRIGIDA, for example, prevents plants from flowering prematurely, before winter has passed. "If the gene is faulty, it may flower too soon," Schmitt said. "Successful reproduction and the development of seeds and fruits depend on flowering at the right time," said Jo Putterill, a biologist at the University of Auckland, New Zealand. To make smart choices, plant genes must take in multiple cues from their environment — light, temperature, moisture, gravity, etc. — and assemble them into a meaningful whole. That's a rudimentary version of the way an animal's brain integrates various signals from its eyes, ears, fingers and stomachs. The messages that tell a plant it's time to blossom turn on several series of genes, called "pathways," which lead to other master genes controlling the roots, stems and leaves.

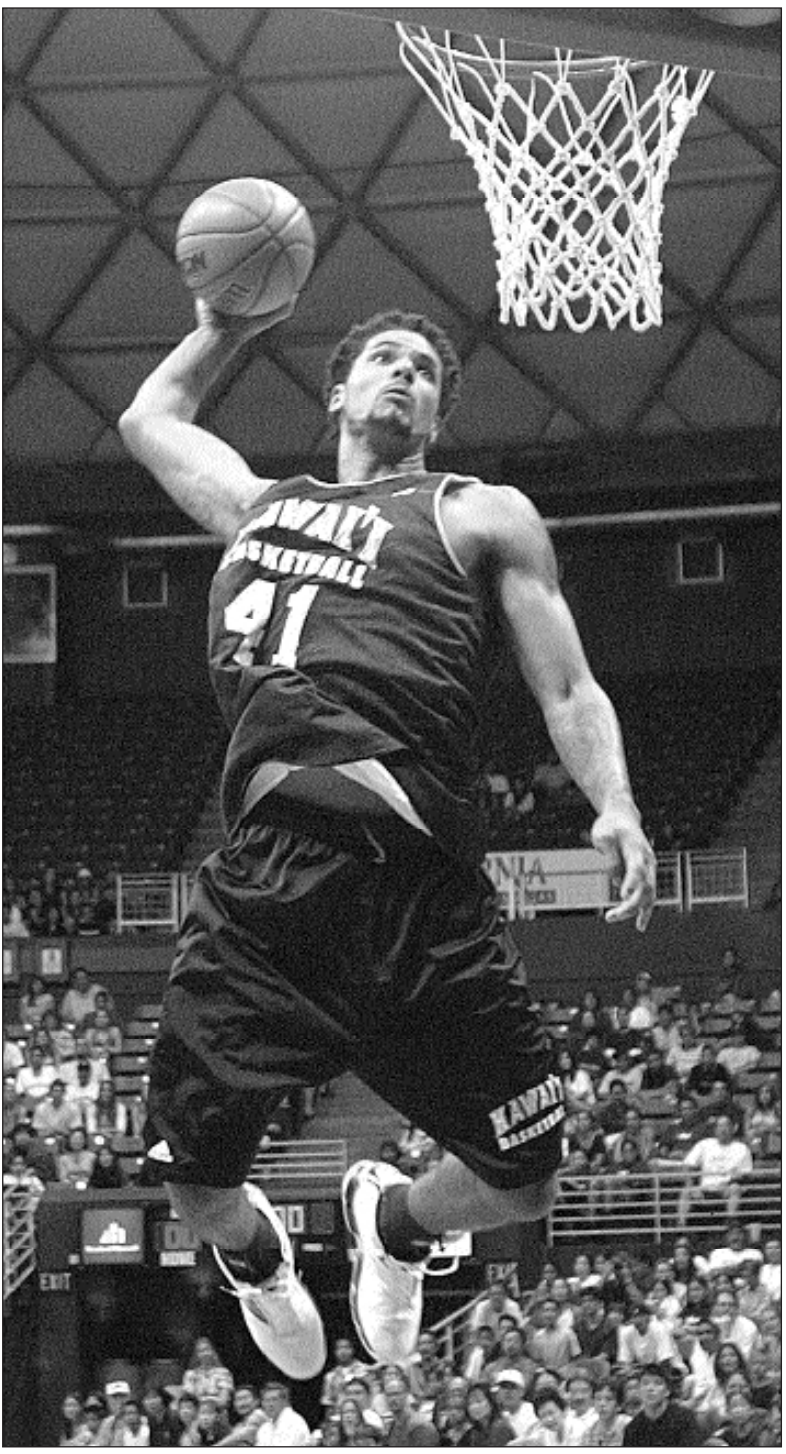
"The balance of signals from these pathways is integrated by a common set of genes to determine when flowering occurs," Putterill said.

NASA is also interested in plant genetics. The space agency is financing research at North Carolina State University in Raleigh to study how plants will respond to changes in mechanical force and gravity on a spaceship, the moon or Mars. Researchers have identified 64 genes that respond to gravity, according to Heike Winter Sederoff, a botanist at N.C. State.

"When a plant is blown by the wind, flipped over or its roots are disturbed by an animal, specific genes responsible for keeping the plant stable" and roots growing respond very quickly, often within one minute of the disturbance, Sederoff reported.

Schmitt said scientists still don't understand how plants accomplish many of their clever tricks. "There are huge unanswered questions," she said. "That's what the National Science Foundation project is all about."

'Bows ready to hoop it up



JAMM AQUINO • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Julian Sensley and the Rainbow Warrior basketball team will play an exhibition against UH-Hilo Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Stan Sheriff Center.

SportsBriefs

Huang earns conference honor

Ka Leo Staff

Rainbow Wahine diver QiongJie Huang was named the Western Athletic Conference swimming and diving athlete of the week yesterday.

Huang won both the 1- and 3-meter diving events at the USC Trojan Diving Invitational last weekend. She also took third in the platform.

HUANG

In the 1-meter springboard, Huang beat Olympic medalist Blythe Hartley of USC by five-hundredths of a point. Hartley represented Canada at the 2004 Olympics, picking up a bronze in the 10-meter platform women's synchronized event and finishing fifth in the 3-meter springboard.

UH sailing finishes fifth

The University of Hawai'i women's sailing team placed fifth at the Pacific Coast Intercollegiate Yacht Racing Association Women's Fall Championships this past weekend.

Freshmen Tinja Anderson-Mitterling and Rebecca Marbardy finished third in the A Division with 54 points.

Senior Heather Sturm and sophomores Crystal Bronte and Shandy Buckley sailed B Division, finishing sixth with a total of 72 points.

Stanford, UC Irvine and UC Santa Barbara took the top three spots ,and USC finished fourth.

The Rainbow Wahine, who are currently ranked 11th by Collegesailing.com, will sail in the coed North/South Intersectional hosted by UC Santa Barbara next week.

'Bows to play exhibitions

The Rainbow Wahine will take on their alumnae at 1:30 p.m. Sunday as part of an exhibition doubleheader.

The Rainbow Warriors will follow the Wahine with an exhibition game against UH Hilo at 4 p.m.

Tickets for the basketball doubleheader run from $3 to $5 for UH students, $13 to $17 for adults.

Individual game tickets for the men's basketball season are now on sale at the Stan Sheriff Center box office and the Campus Center ticket office. Rainbow Wahine individual game tickets go on sale on Monday.

UH Tennis Complex to open

The Rainbow Wahine and Warrior tennis teams will open home play this week at the newly renovated UH Manoa Tennis Complex.

The women's team will start competition in the annual Rainbow Wahine Tennis Invitational tomorrow. The tournament runs through Saturday and includes Hawai'i, Arizona, Texas State and Texas A&M.

The Warriors will host UC Davis at UH on Friday. On Saturday, they will start play in the USTA Futures events held at the Diamond Head Raquet Club and Ala Moana courts through Wednesday.

'Bows still No. 2

The University of Hawai'i women's volleyball team held its spot at No. 2 in the latest USA Today/CSTV To 25 Coaches Poll, although No. 3 Nebraska made up some ground on the Rainbow Wahine.

The Huskers received three first-place votes compared to Hawai'i's two, and they now trail the Rainbow Wahine by only 24 points.

Washington continues to hold the No. 1 spot. The Huskies have a perfect 20-0 record.

Hawai'i finishes up its regular season home schedule this weekend with a pair of conference matches on Friday and Saturday.

Letters to the Editor

Wal-Mart rep challenges columnist

Leah Ricker's indignation over the site of a Wal-Mart in Mexico would be better served if she had taken the opportunity to gather a few facts. We appreciate the opportunity to provide them.

First, Ricker is wrong when she says that the Bodega Aurerro store is being built "less than half a mile" or "next to" the Temples of the Sun and the Moon. In fact, the store will be one-and-a-half miles from the Sun Pyramid and almost two miles from the Moon Pyramid, in the middle of a commercial district that existed long before Wal-Mart began building.

I'm enclosing a picture that shows where the store will stand (note the hotel next door and the strip of commercial buildings in the area, which include an auto dealership, several banks, restaurants, a big appliance store and others). It will be a one-story building, compatible with the traditional architecture of the area.

Second, the Mexican government and the independent Paris-based International Council on Monuments and Sites have both ruled that the site won't affect the view from the temple or damage the conservation of the archaeological zone. This was not an assessment made solely by Wal-Mart.

Third, in regard to the remains found at our site in Honolulu, Wal-Mart has worked for more than a year and a half to ensure that the iwi kupuna (ancestral remains) discovered at the site are treated in a culturally appropriate manner. Earlier this year, the State Historic Preservation Division decided that the iwi should be relocated, after considering the thoughts of the descendants involved and following the unanimous recommendation of the O'ahu Island Burial Council.

We have not built over the remains — they've been disinterred and are being curated in a trailer on the project site as the descendants meet to discuss the reburial process. A final reburial plan will ultimately be approved by SHPD, after which the iwi will be reburied.

Finally, Ricker displays a fundamental misunderstanding of economics when she compares wages in the United States to wages in Mexico. Prevailing wages in one country always differ from those in another, and wages in the United States are generally higher than those in other countries. Nevertheless, we pay competitively in every country we enter.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Lin
Communications Director
Wal-Mart

COURTESY PHOTO

The above picture depicts the distance of the commercial zone where Wal-Mart is located in Bodega Aurrero, Mexico, from the Sun and Moon Pyramids, one-and-a-half and two miles away, respectively. The site, ruled upon by the independent Paris-based International Council on Monuments and Sites and the Mexican government, was deemed unobtrusive concerning the temples and the surrounding archaeological zone.

"... the Bodega Aurrero store is being built ... in the middle of a commercial district that existed long before Wal-Mart began building."

The Voice of Hawai'i

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Letters to the Editor

This is in direct response to Julian Bukalski's "Smoking ban on campus is 'fascistic'" letter that was published in the Nov. 8 issue of Ka Leo.

First off, the University Administration is not placing the ban on smoking for your own good, nor have they ever said such. They are doing it for the good of the nonsmoking community on campus — people who do not want to risk their health or even their lives. What about asthmatics and those who are allergic to cigarette smoke? Are they suddenly invalid because being allergic or asthmatic isn't "culturally significant?"

Secondly, it is not "governmental oppression," but it is respect for those individuals who do not smoke and do not want to be exposed to the harmful effects of cigarette smoke.

There is also something you should note: There are some areas in Japan where smoking is not allowed. Those areas are quite similar to the same nonsmoking areas in America. In France, if you decide you would like to smoke while enjoying your meal at a restaurant or cafe, you eat outside.

Of the two of us writing this letter, one has been to Japan and one has been to France. We have seen how smokers and nonsmokers are treated. Discrimination against them is not out of some sort of prejudice against smokers but out of some measure of respect for both nonsmokers and smokers alike.

Also, if choosing to smoke is a "life-style choice," then choosing not to smoke should be regarded in the same way. The smoking ban in some areas is only trying to respect that method of thought. If the University Administration (not the ubiquitous government) wanted to ban smokers completely, they would have said and done so explicitly. If it has been done on high school campuses across the nation, it can be implemented here as well.

In addition, smokers have areas on campus that are close to campus life. Two that come to mind are the Sustainability Courtyard and McCarthy Mall. If having table space for studying is important to you, the Sustainability Courtyard offers many of those areas, all of which are in the shade and shielded from the wind.

Finally, regarding your parting comment: "If you're not enraged by this, you have a failure of your moral capacity." This is a comment that should not have even been written and that shows how little thought was put into your letter. Both of us are nonsmokers because we are either allergic or asthmatic, so neither of us are enraged by the smoking ban.

You should re-evaluate your definitions of "fascism" and "racism," not to mention taking into consideration the meaning of the word "respect" before you make such accusations in the future.

Yhsla Jones
Art

Celeste Masuno
Japanese Language

Tell-tale polls reveal a nation divided

By Malie Matsumoto
Ka Leo Staff Columnist

Three days after Election Day the final counts came in. Yes, George W. Bush is once again the president of the United States of America. In a race largely reminiscent of the 2000 Bush vs. Gore election, Bush squeaked by on the seat of his pants. The voting was so close that the winner wasn't announced until 7 a.m. Hawai'i Time, the morning after Sen. John Kerry conceded the race. Around the world, anti-Bush people let out a collective sigh or scream of defeat.

This has been a tough election for the Democratic Party. Not only have we lost the presidential election, but the U.S. Senate now houses 55 republicans to 44 democrats as well as one Independent. Three Supreme Court Justice seats may be abdicated during the next four years. Bush will choose their replacements. I shudder to think what these next four years hold. What is passed in congress during these next four years will affect our lives for the next forty. Frankly I have a few concerns.

We are a country divided. Though Bush won this election, both in popular votes (51 percent vs. Kerry's 48 percent) and Electoral College votes (286 to Kerry's 252), this race was entirely too close for comfort. This time around, the United States has some major, hotly debated and controversial issues on its plate.

We have the war on terror in Iraq, where thousands of our soldiers are living and dying along side innocent Iraqis, many of whom are being caught in the crossfire.

We have the economy and our ever-increasing national debt, which, by the way, we the young will be paying off in the years ahead.

There is the issue of abortion, in which the freedom of choice is at stake.

This (election) may be telling of the growing conflict over the next few years : the have nots vs. the haves and the have mores.

There is the issue of stem cell research, which is already severely restricted on a federal level thanks to Bush.

The issue of same-sex marriage, in which Bush is trying his hardest to preserve the "sanctity of marriage," thus blurring the lines between church and state and taking basic human rights away from a certain population of Americans.

Former great presidents garnered support from both political parties regardless of their personal political affiliation. This was because they were intelligent, strong, socially savvy and they stood for issues that were for the good of America. In an election this close, neither candidate won-over the American people. Rather than voting for the candidate that roused our spirit and convinced us that they were the best person for the job, we ended up voting for the lesser of two evils.

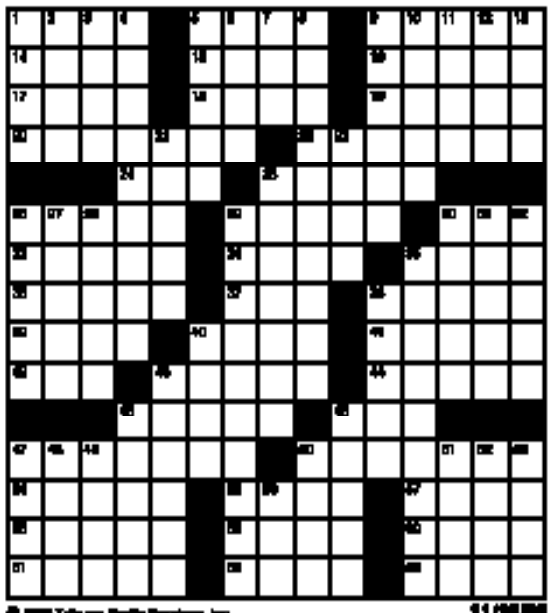
It's clear to see that America found it quite difficult to decide who was the lesser two evils.

The majority of young Americans aged 18-29 were overwhelmingly in favor of John Kerry, while the older, more conservative population of America was generally in favor of Bush. Also, women, the impoverished and the minorities tended to favor Kerry, while the majority of men, the haves and the have mores favored Bush. This may be telling of the growing conflict over the next few years; young vs. old, men vs. women, the have nots vs. the haves and the have mores. In short, a fast growing number of oppressed vs. the oppressors.

Yes, we are a country divided with a conservative majority in Congress. I cannot predict how the years ahead will unfold, but I do know that here will be heavy discontent among the American people. Prepare for your protest rallies and riots on Washington! Look out for those bills that may sneak past your guard and hamper your rights! Be aware of what's going on in the world around you! I worry about conflicts between the parties. I worry about how a divided nation can function in harmony. I worry that things set in motion during these next few years will cost us more than we're willing to pay.

However, we the young, are the liberals and the democrats. We are the up-and-coming generation of America! We are the fighters of freedom and protectors of the weak! Speak out for what you believe in! Our responsibility is to take responsibility! It is up to us to rally together and reform our country. It is up to us to produce a strong, intelligent, ethical leader who isn't afraid to take charge and reunite this country. Ask yourself where you want to go with your life and how you're going to get there. If you see an opportunity, take it. Remember, Carpe Diem! Seize the day!

Crossword



11/10/04

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1 Bedazzles
5 Loelish card
9 Water sources
14 Wallop
15 First-rate
16 Benefit
17 Simplicity
18 Haute
19 Neon aquarium fish
20 Quiver
22 In that place
24 Weep
25 Lascivious looks
26 Roast host
29 Gilliam or Jones
30 DDE's predecessor
33 Singer Abdul
34 Shade of light
35 ___ de foie gras
36 Chide
37 Shrimp
38 Specter from Pennsylvania
39 Resistance units
40 Largest landmass
41 Very cold
42 Less low
43 Windshield cleaner
44 Portents
45 Detection device
46 La-la lead-in
47 Locomotives
50 Exalt
54 Colosseum
55 Lee or Kenton
57 Eye layer
58 Absinthe flavoring
59 Formerly, formerly
60 Foul
61 Bear socially
62 Low grades
63 Concludes

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2 Hive on
3 Otherwise
4 Biological research units
5 Score
6 Bounder
7 Chang's twin
8 Vine
9 Diluted
10 Myrtle or Medgar
11 Behind time
12 Former Italian bread
13 Bed-frame element
21 Staff of life
23 Towel word
25 Less well-sealed
26 Derby site
27 Rough and tough
28 Maria of New York
29 Encroached on another's privacy
30 Actress Berry
31 Brew holder
32 Is inclined
35 Early
39 Greek marketplace
40 Assistant
43 Wished for
45 De-soup
46 Pitched abodes
47 Mild expletive
48 Tobenberg of NPR
48 Gallop or trot
50 Foundation
51 Terrible ruler?
52 ___ off (beep at boy)
53 Jabbers
56 Three in Italy

SOLUTIONS FOR 11/09/04

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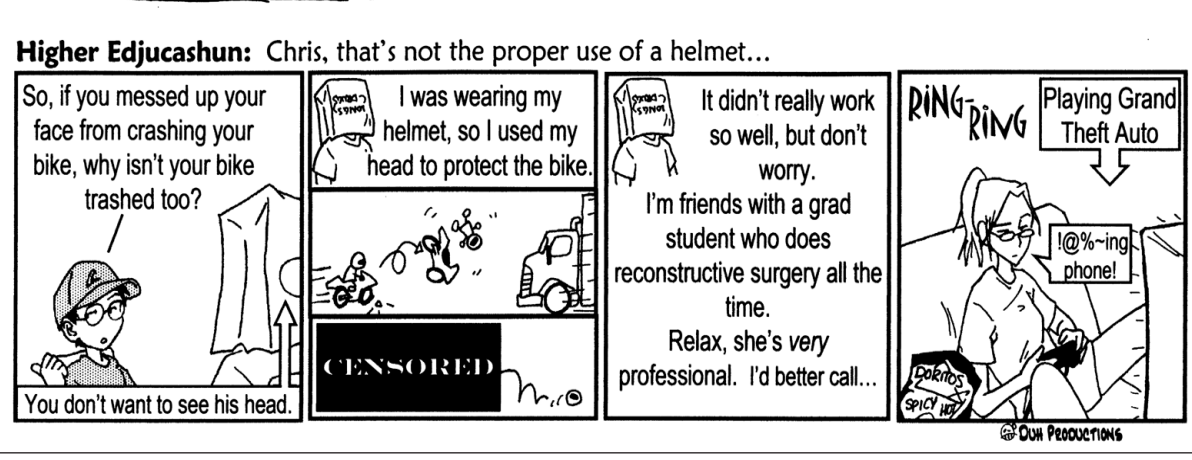

Familiar faces return to 'Manoa Valley'

By Sabrina Favors
Ka Leo Staff Writer

"Manoa Valley" hasn't been performed in Kennedy Theatre since its premiere in 1982. That year, Stan Egi played the character of Tosh, Kati Kuroda played Tomi and Darryl Tsutsui was Nobu. In the 2004 production of "Manoa Valley," two of those actors return to reprise the roles of Tosh and Tomi, and Tsutsui returns as Uncle Aki, his former character's father.

"For me, it's life coming full circle," explained Egi. "I want to complete the circle and give back."

Egi was an undergraduate at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa in 1982, and has returned to UHM in order to finish his graduate degree in directing. Egi said circumstances brought him back to Hawai'i and to "Manoa Valley."

After almost 20 years in New York and California, Egi returned this year to Hawai'i, the same year Glenn Cannon decided to direct "Manoa Valley" again. "The timing told me it was meant to be," Egi said.

Kuroda has also spent most of the past 22 years away from Hawai'i. She has traveled throughout the mainland and Asia, and has been in Broadway and off-Broadway shows. When she returned to O'ahu, Cannon asked her to join the production and she agreed. Returning to a role she has played before wouldn't be as draining, she said, which is important to her since she teaches at the University Lab School. But also, she added, "(This is) such a warm play, that it feels good to play it."

Except for being on the West Coast for a short time, Tsutsui stayed in Hawai'i, living on O'ahu and Kaua'i. Over the summer he received a season brochure from Kennedy Theatre listing the productions for the 2004-2005 season. When he saw a 1982 photo of him and Kuroda, he wondered if this was the only time Kennedy Theatre had performed the play since 1982. It was.

He decided to audition with his niece, an incoming freshmen to UH, and both received roles. Not only were they uncle and niece in real life, but they played uncle and niece in "Manoa Valley."

The differences between the 1982 and the 2004 productions ranged from the physical appearance of characters to script changes to a change in meaning for the actors.

Kuroda made Tomi more of a "glam girl," adding more makeup to adjust the simpler, original look. "I had to do something to make it interesting for myself," she explained. "I based this (character) on my aunties. ... Elements of them and life experiences add weight." After 22 years, Kuroda has even more experience to draw on.

Life has "given him a weight," Kuroda observed about Egi's portrayal of Tosh. The 22 years "added a dimension to the field."

Egi agreed, saying his depiction of the character is richer and deeper. "Now I'm actually closer to the age of Tosh and it feels good to

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ANDREW SHIMABUKU • KENNEDY THEATRE

Darryl Tsutsui played Uncle Aki, and Stan Egi and Kati Kuroda reprised their roles as Tosh and Tomi, respectively, in Kennedy Theatre's production of "Manoa Valley." It was the theater's first showing of the play since its premiere in 1982.

Alvin Chan played Spencer, Tosh's son who wanted to go away for college. Tosh, played by Egi, wanted his son to stay at UH and study business administration.

ANDREW SHIMABUKU
KENNEDY THEATRE

Ka Leo O Hawai'i

FEATURES

Theatre: Former local actors find solace on Kennedy stage

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able to use my life experiences to feed the character." Egi, like Kuroda, looked to the people in his life to help shape Tosh when he first played it. In 1982, Egi looked toward "my dad, or uncles, or the man at Ala Moana by Sears ... I watched them talking story."

This time he uses his own life to enhance his understanding of the father-son relationship and how it feels to leave Hawai'i, both important issues in the play and in Egi's personal life.

In 1990, Tsutsui was involved in a Kumu Kahua production of "Manoa Valley" as an assistant director. Watching Roy Tjioe play Tsutsui's 1982 role of Nobu in 1990 and Chris Doi this year in the same role allowed Tsutsui to relive his college days.

Tsutsui also said that both men had similar approaches, but those approaches were totally opposite to the way he acts, which was interesting to watch. "I start off over the top, and have to be controlled by the director," he said. But Doi is more easygoing, building the character up. Despite the huge difference, Tsutsui said it works.

For this production of "Manoa Valley," playwright Ed Sakamoto made some changes to clarify matters and expand on Tsutsui's Aki. The additional four to five pages make Aki into "Aki the Storyteller," said Tsutsui, "but Aki can get away with it." He added that the audience is able to see Aki more intensely, not as "bright-eyed and bushy-tailed" as he may have appeared back in 1982.

Tsutsui played Aki the same as he'd seen it before, but especially with the new material, some parts were played much differently. Tsutsui tried to add the subtlety, such as Aki's regret for not making his and Tosh's mother happy.

Egi and Tsutsui both said that they found deeper meaning in the play now than when they first performed it. "What Ed (Sakamoto) puts in the characters ... he captures it so perfectly — truthfully, humorously and it's also touching," Egi said. "It's so simplistic, but the more you do it, the more you see in there," Tsutsui explained. He also said there was a lot of subtext, and, after years between performances, you catch onto different issues and themes. All of this, "you weave it (in], and you don't realize what's going on."

For Egi, the pay is made up of many different layers. And after 22 years, he has a greater appreciation for the depth of character and the stakes involved in the decisions the characters make. Now he can go two or three layers deeper than he could when he first played Tosh.

Returning to theater keeps an actor in tune, Egi explained. During the past 22 years, Egi has had the most work in films and television among the three actors. His first movie role was in the Michael Keaton movie "Gung Ho" in 1986. Since then, he has been in "Come See the Paradise," a 1990 film about the Japanese internment camps. That movie had the most meaning for him, especially since it was the first big film to feature a Japanese family.

In "Rising Sun," a more popular film, Egi got to work with Sean Connery, who was very supportive. Egi has been in both big screen movies and made-for-TV movies, such as the 1990 film "Hiroshima: Out of the Ashes." In New York, he came into the stand-up comic scene, and continues it here in Hawai'i with performances with "Lanai and Friends" at Brew Moon. Recently, he was in an episode of the canceled cop show "Hawai'i."

Tsutsui was in two episodes of "Magnum P.I." in the early 1980s while Kuroda was in in the 1994 movie "Picture Bride." But both have spent more time at the theater. Kuroda has acted a lot and has also directed multiple plays, including a mainland production of "Manoa Valley." Tsutsui, unlike the other two actors, stayed in the islands, working in a variety of jobs and acting on the side. Although, he adds, he stopped counting the number of plays he had acted in after 15, so even by putting acting on the side Tsutsui has been active in local theater. He also wrote "Easy Street," which was produced by the Kumu Kahua Theatre. He wrote a one-act play, "Bum Bye Pau," but it hasn't been produced yet.

Despite the diversity in their experience, all three said that acting in theater gave them the most satisfaction. Kuroda's favorite experience in theater and traveling was performing her one-woman show, "Sakura: The Bandit Princess," in Hawai'i. There is one female character, but many male characters, all played by Kuroda. She's a "character actor" and prefers to play parts with extreme personalities. Since the show is not just a collection of monologues but dialogue and interaction between characters, the play is physically demanding. But that makes it fun for Kuroda. "It's a dance in many ways," she said, describing the way she had to move from one side of the stage to another.

Even though she performed "Sakura" in Scotland, Texas, New Jersey and other states, Kuroda said, "Hawai'i is special, it's home," and that made her performance here more special.

Tsutsui explained, "Theater is just so much more alive. You are connected to the audience, and the other actors and yourself. Whether it's 'blow off the roof' laughter or complete silence ... it's euphoria." Both Egi and Kuroda feel connected by being in the moment.

"I've found that the theater has that immediacy," Egi said, a difference with the audience. In movies and films, the actor doesn't see the audience's reaction until months, sometimes years, later. With the theater, the actors experience it immediately. On Saturday, Oct. 30, the audience reacted very strongly to Egi's first line, "Finally, the rain went away." Egi likes traveling on location to film a movie, but he said there's nothing like live theater.

"The power of the script ... creates this atmosphere where you are a family, and that gets carried offstage," Tsutsui said of the experience. For Kuroda, "It's coming home," an idea Egi echoes. Egi said that the play was "probably one of my favorite productions, just because it's about coming home ... 'Manoa Valley' represents family, friends, food, Pidgin, Leonard's Malasadas, sushi, tempura, all the things that make Hawai'i special, that I couldn't find them anywhere else."

Each actor shared their advice for others looking at a career in acting. According to Tsutsui, "With anything in life, if this is what you want to do ... and it happens to be acting, then by all means, do what you can to stay in it. It's very rewarding." But he added that, "there are many pitfalls. Focus more on the art of theater rather than being rich and famous." Even if aspiring actors don't become famous, they won't be disappointed because they will learn about themselves and relate to others.

"Acting is a tough way to make a living, but it's a good way to learn about yourself," Tsutsui said, regarding himself as an example.

Kuroda went straight for the practical advice. "Take word processing, know it well." Most people will have to do work at some other job as well, one that allows them time to rehearse. She explained that acting is a difficult career to get into. It's personal, actors stand in front of a board of people and have to convince them that they have what the board wants. But Kuroda said, "It's magic." The actor takes the audience on a journey — they become modern storytellers. "It's all about playing."

For Egi, it's all about discipline and focus. "(They're) your foundations and if you have drive and passion for acting, that is what is going to carry you. And then it takes a lot of work."

"But," he added, "if you do all that, it is very possible that you will make a living and have a career. If it's a passion in your heart that you feel, follow your dreams, knowing it's a lot of work. But it can pay off."

Colds: Costly cutters of college students' routines

By Alice Kim
Ka Leo Senior Staff Writer

It's the common cold season. Avoiding it can save you the trouble of suffering and lost productivity. And if you don't have a cold, you can't spread it to your co-workers or classmates.

Common cold symptoms include: sneezing, runny or stuffy nose, sore or itchy throat, cough, body aches, headache, feverishness and chilliness.

For some colds, the symptoms may amount to mild discomfort. But with harsher colds, symptoms may interfere with studying and daily routines.

The National Center for Health Statistics estimates that in 1996, the cold contributed to 45 million days of "restricted activity" and 22 million days being absent from school in the U.S.

Secondary bacterial infections in the middle ear or sinuses may also occur from the cold. They can usually be treated with antibiotics.

Acute bronchitis, respiratory inflammation of the bronchi leading to the lungs, can also result from the cold. Babies and elderly people can develop chest complications (e.g. bronchiolitis) caused by the Respiratory Syncytial Virus, responsible for 10 percent of cold cases, and die from it.

Pneumonia can also result from the common cold. The U.S. Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention estimate that nearly 90,000 people in the U.S. died from pneumonia in 1999.

According to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Americans get an estimated one billion colds a year. The American Lung Association says children usually get about six to ten colds a year, while adults gets about two to four colds a year.

While there is no cure for the common cold, preventing yourself from getting one is easy. The following are ways a cold can be prevented:

- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, & mouth.
- Limit contact with sick people. Don't share beverages, water or towels with them.
- Get enough rest. People who don't get enough rest often make their immune systems vulnerable.
- Help the body's immune system by eating well, drinking a lot of water and not smoking.
- Be a social person. Studies show that people with various social relationships have better immune system functions than introverts by 20 percent.
- Laughing a lot helps. Studies show that the positive emotions from laughing decrease stress hormones and increase certain immune cells and activate others.
- Clean surfaces with disinfectants at home and work.

Hawaiian-themed literature wanted

By Julia Wieting
Ka Leo Staff Writer

Calling all writers: The 22nd Annual HONOLULU Magazine Starbucks Coffee Hawai'i Fiction Contest is looking for stories. Prizes include a grand prize of $1,000 plus $500 in Starbucks merchandise and publication in HONOLULU Magazine, five runner-up prizes of $50 plus $100 in Starbucks merchandise, 10 honorable mentions, and free gifts from Starbucks for the first 150 entrants.

The contest is open to all aspiring writers, except for employees of PacificBasin Communications Inc. and Starbucks Coffee Hawai'i. Stories should be centered around a Hawaiian theme, setting or characters, and authors may submit up to two original, unpublished stories, which will be judged by the HONOLULU Magazine editorial board. Stories may not exceed 3,000 words, and a word count must be submitted with the manuscript. Submissions can be sent to Fiction Contest - HONOLULU Magazine, PacificBasin Communications Inc., P.O. Box 913, Honolulu, HI 96808-0913 and postmarked no later than Dec. 6. They can also be dropped off at 1000 Bishop Street, Suite 405, no later than 5 p.m. on Dec. 10.

Winners will be announced in the April 2005 edition of HONOLULU Magazine. If you're looking for an outlet for your short stories, don't miss this opportunity. For full details go to www.honolulumagazine.com/fictioncontest.pdf