

Ka Leo O Hawai'i



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Many unaware of HI public's right to know

By Janet Mock
Ka Leo Staff Writer

Heather Meulemans, a spring 2004 graduate from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and former Ka Leo O Hawai'i staff writer, requested food establishment inspection reports from the Department of Health last month only to have her rights questioned.

Meulemans, an intern for the Honolulu Weekly, planned to use the documents for an article she was writing about sanitation in Honolulu's restaurants.

However, she said she was taken aback when a DOH employee asked her why she needed the documents.

"Maybe it was the fact that I was a part of the media," she said. "It is irritating to be questioned about what you are doing when it is your right, and as a journalist, your duty, to view and report government records without question."

"Employees of government agencies need to be knowledgeable of the Sunshine Law," Meulemans referred to the state law that guarantees public access to government records and meetings. "What are our taxes being used for if they (government employees) are not properly trained on the public's right to know?"

Hawai'i's Sunshine Law, aimed at increasing government accountability, made state and local government records and meetings open to the public with certain specified exceptions.

Meulemans' problem with unin-

formed government employees is not rare, Sen. Les Ihara (D-Kapahulu, Kaimuki, Palolo), said in a presentation to community members, UH students and faculty last Monday on the Manoa campus.

To illustrate these problems, Ihara discussed a violation of the Sunshine Law that happened at a meeting of the O'ahu Island Burial Council last year.

When the new Wal-Mart construction site became controversial after it uncovered ancient remains, two people complained they wanted to testify on an agenda item, but were told by board members that they could not because they had testified several times in the past.

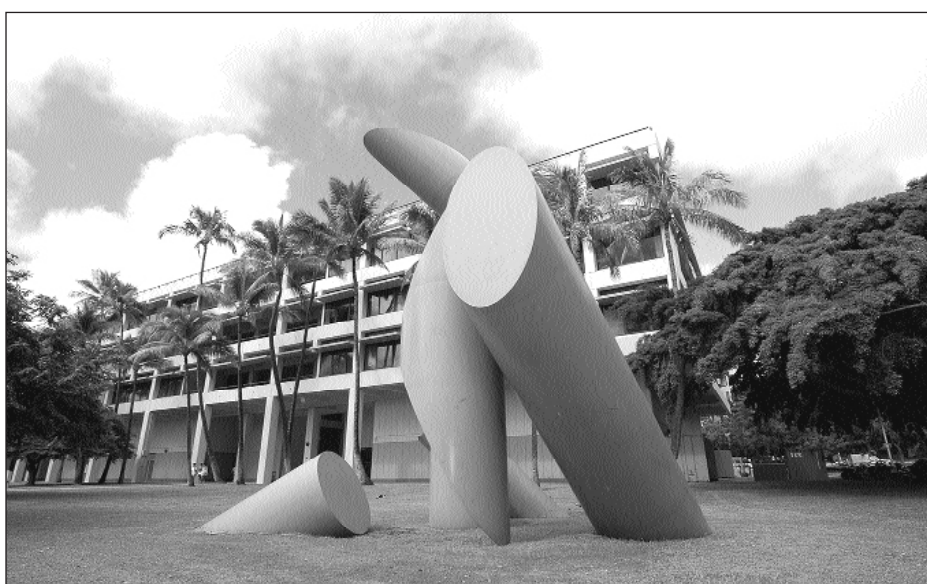
This denial violated the provisions of the Sunshine Law, Ihara said, which allows written and oral testimony on all agenda items for public meetings. The two people also complained that the board met legally behind closed doors to discuss matters with their attorney, but violated the law when the attorney was not present.

Ihara said he believes more state money needs to be given to the Office of Information Practices, which was set up to help citizens gain access to government records and meetings and to train employees on the public's right to know.

More funding "would be just one single thing that could happen to help the citizens and the public the most," Ihara said. "It would double

See Right, page 2

Gate of Hope



Alexander Liberman's 1972 steel sculpture outside Holmes Hall was commissioned after the state adopted a law in 1967 that required 1 percent of construction appropriations be used for permanent or movable art in Hawai'i.

TONY BLAZEJACK
Ka Leo O Hawai'i

ITS show brings technology home

By Stanley Lee

Ka Leo Senior Staff Writer

Nine years ago, the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's Information Technology Services department filled an empty slot on a television channel with a live call-in show about topics in technology.

At the time, the department was given the responsibility of filling the station with programming on credit and noncredit courses, and the show's staff assumed its fledgling show would eventually be replaced by something else.

But today, producer Hae Okimoto is still running things at High Tech Hawai'i, the university's live monthly call-in show. Along with David Lassner, the show's host and the ITS department's Chief Information Officer, the two have continued with the show's live television format and expanded onto the Internet.

"We thought the time slot would

get filled," Okimoto said. "Nine years later, programming on the channel has increased to 24 hours a day (from 12) and we've still found a slot for the program."

Tonight's hourly show starting at 8 p.m. features Peter Kay, one of the state's leading Internet entrepreneurs, and Kiman Wong, who writes a regular technology column.

Questions can be called in or e-mailed to the show's set at Kuykendall Hall, and will be answered live on the air.

"People in the community don't have people to talk to on technology issues," Okimoto said about the show's original intent. "It can be complex. We wanted to have a place where people can ask for clarification and call in and talk about it."

Past topics have included the university's Academy for Creative Media, identity theft, electronic commerce, telemedicine, distance learning and assistive technologies for the disabled.

Lassner and Okimoto meet several weeks prior to their monthly show to discuss possible show topics and issues that people are discussing. After that, they contact people who they feel would be knowledgeable guests about the topic.

Okimoto said they've never had a hard time finding guests for the show, but rarely have people approaching them to be on the show.

But they do have returning guests, including Kay and Wong, who Okimoto described as "on top of technology and what's going on in the state."

Each show is unscripted and starts with a topic, with a discussion running from there. Tonight's show involves new services and trends in technology, though neither guest has yet to divulge what they will bring to the set.

High Tech Hawai'i airs on 'Olelo channel 55 and over the Internet at www.hawaii.edu/dl/hth.

Town meeting to prep for WASC

Ka Leo News Services

In preparation for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the University of Hawai'i at Manoa is holding a town meeting today in the Campus Center Ballroom from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

A special visit team from WASC will be returning to UHM to review planning, the assessment of student learning, financial management and resource allocation, and leadership and governance at the Manoa campus as well as UHM's progress in meeting WASC standards.

In preparation for the team's visit from Nov. 7 - 9 in 2005, this afternoon's town meeting will provide information for UHM's report to WASC, UHM spokesman Jim Manke said.

The town meeting will include an open forum for community mem-

bers to discuss campus-related issues and examine how the WASC visit may impact UHM departments.

In a March 2003 follow-up visit for WASC's 1999 review, a four-member team noted as positives the revision of UHM's general education program and a stepped-up assessment and academic program review process.

WASC also acknowledged UH's Strategic Plan and pointed to the creation of the separate UHM chancellor's position as important to defining clear leadership for the campus. The team also noted that relationships between UHM and the UH system remained to be fully defined and delineated.

UH Manoa's accreditation was reaffirmed through 2010.

There will be a follow-up town meeting in spring 2005. For more information, contact 956-7486.

NewsBriefs

Speakers for Dec. graduation wanted

December graduation speaker auditions will be held Dec. 1 at 4:30 p.m. in Hemenway Theater.

The selection committee will be comprised of students, faculty and administrators. To be eligible, you must be a candidate for graduation in December 2004 and hold a minimum 3.0 overall grade point average as of August 2004. In addition, you must be one of the following: graduating current or former ASUH or Board of Regents Representative, Honors Program Graduate, Honor Society Member, Regent's or Presidential Scholar or Student Marshal.

Sign up is required in order to audition. Contact the Commencement Coordinator by e-mail at graduate@hawaii.edu or call 965-6145.

To view the selection criteria that will be used by the judging committee visit www.manoa.

hawaii.edu/commencement.

The auditions are open to the public. However, if the attendees distract the speaker or audience members from the speech, they will be asked to leave.

For further information contact Wendy Pearson, Interim Program Officer at 956-6145.

"Tinkered and Toyed," a new art exhibit at the Japanese

Holiday art on display at JCCH

Cultural Center of Hawai'i, will open Wednesday Dec. 1 and run through Dec. 29.

The exhibit features works by 42 Hawai'i artists who designed pieces inspired by various winter holidays including Hanukkah, Christmas, Buddha Day and Kwanzaa.

An opening reception will be held on Dec. 1 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the JCCH Community Gallery. Admission to the exhibit

and opening reception is free.

For more information contact 945-7633.

Tagalog Songfest returns to UHM

Program Tagalog Song Festival, Dec. 4 from 1 - 5 p.m. in the UH Manoa Art Auditorium.

The festival will feature Filipino Christmas songs performed by the 200 students enrolled in Filipino classes.

The Songfest is one of the many projects of the Filipino and Philippine Literature Program to promote language and culture outside of the classroom.

Light snacks will be served after the festival. For more information contact Betchie Robotham at 956-3549 or Ruth Mabanglo at 956-6970.

Right: Sen. seeks test of government compliance

From page 1

the staff of the Office of Information Practices.”

The OIP had severe budget cuts over the past several years, Ihara said, causing a reduction in staff that has led to a backlog of record requests and has impeded public access to records.

In addition, Ihara said he hopes to have either an OIP-trained compliance officer or a field information officer in every department to give advice on how to comply with the law.

Ihara also said he wants to conduct a compliance audit on agencies in collaboration with the Hawai'i and UH chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists. He said the compliance audit should be an effective way to evaluate agencies by having journalists act as citizens requesting information and check if employees are following the law.

Because many government employees don't know about the Sunshine Law, Ihara said they can't be held accountable for misinterpreting it when they close a meeting.

“By law, it has to be a willful violation in order for the public to sue,” said Ihara. “There will be legislation to take out ‘willful’ in the wording of the law because it creates a gray area for the public and the government boards.

Ihara also said he hopes to pass “a bill that would allow OIP to issue a \$50 fine or a token amount” against agencies that violate the Sunshine Law to create a record of what agencies are in violation. Such a fine would let the state and the Legislature know about agencies whose employees need training.

Ihara also has formed a “Right to Know Committee” to make requests on behalf of people who want to be anonymous.

Resources

Open Meeting and Open Records Law are available at Office of Information Practices at 250 South Hotel St., Suite 107, 586-1400, www.hawaii.gov/oip

Using Hawai'i's Freedom of Information Law: A Step-by-Step Guide at www.hawaii.gov/lrb/par/pub/foi.pdf

“A number of people have come to me wanting to get information, but are afraid of retaliation,” he said. “I would also like to have a ‘Right to Know’ fund, to get some foundation money ... to hire attorneys to enforce the law.”

The help of attorneys is needed because OIP lacks law enforcement resources, Ihara said.

In addition, Ihara advised students and others to make records requests through OIP forms on its Web site. He said because Hawai'i's communities are so tight knit, many fear alienating others in requesting sensitive information. He suggested faxing requests for government records to OIP directly if one feels uncomfortable with dealing with employees.

In response to records requests made by Meulemans and others who may encounter uninformed employees, Ihara said citizens need to remind government employees about their rights.

“Ignorance of the law is not an excuse when you have access to it,” he said.

Ka Leo staff writer Janet Mock also interns for the Honolulu Weekly.

Professors' group questions N.C. instructor's suspension over film

By Gail Smith-Arrants

Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

The week before the Nov. 2 election, administrators pulled instructor Davis March out of his class at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in Concord, N.C., while he showed the Michael Moore film “Fahrenheit 9/11.”

College officials said showing the film contradicted two memos reminding staff members of the school's policy to remain nonpartisan during the heated election season.

But the instructor said the administration's actions are restricting freedom of thought. And a spokesman for a national professors' group called the move an affront to faculty and students and a threat to academic freedom.

March, who has taught at the college for more than 20 years, was suspended with pay for four days and was back in the classroom Nov. 2. He said he has a responsibility to present controversial material to get his students to think and take positions.

“I never campaigned for or pitched anyone's agenda in the classroom,” said March, 54, who teaches English argument-based research, English composition, and introductory and advanced film classes.

Before he returned from the suspension, March agreed not to show the film again. But he said he now fears an overall “chilling effect” on freedom of thought in the classroom.

“It's not about Moore's movie anymore,” he said this week.

March said quashing the film was, in itself, a partisan act. Moore made “Fahrenheit 9/11” as a documentary about events leading up to the U.S. invasion of Iraq, but was criticized for omitting some facts and for his unabashed slant against President George W. Bush.

College President Richard Brownell is registered as a Republican; March is a Democrat.

“Of course it's editorially biased, and I never denied that,” March said of the film. He said he was not testing the school's policy. “I never set out to be anybody's crusader.”

Stopping March midway through his English composition class was “extraordinary” and an affront to the faculty member and to students and a threat to academic freedom, said Jonathan Knight, director of the American Association of University Professors' program on academic freedom and tenure. The association has 45,000 members at four-year and two-year institutions.

Knight said that over his three decades tracking academic freedom, he cannot recall an instructor being removed during class, unless the instructor was physically threatening.

“Controversial films, controversial textbooks, paintings poetry are used by faculty in classes across the country to stimulate thinking,” he said. “There can't be a more appropriate venue for doing so than a college classroom, especially during the midst of a political campaign.”

Community colleges and their boards have control over school practices and personnel, said Audrey Bailey, spokeswoman with the N.C. community college system.

The RCCC board of trustees established the school's policy of non-partisanship, and that was reinforced with the two memos from Brownell, said executive vice president Ann Hovey.

An Oct. 25 memo said, in part, “RCCC is a public college supported by the taxpayers and must maintain a secular, nonpartisan professional environment at all times. No employee of this college is authorized to use the classroom or college environment as a platform to promote their own personal, religious or political views or to advocate for specific political candidates.”

If Moore's movie was being shown, “then the opposing point of view should also be presented,” Hovey said, “to present fairness and a balanced

perspective in an environment that was increasingly divisive as we approached the election.”

Irvin Newberry, vice chair of the board of trustees, said showing a controversial, one-sided work puts the student into a precarious position if he or she disagrees with it.

“If that student is dependent on that professor for a grade, what is he to do?” Newberry asked. March said he acts more as a moderator, because often students disagree with each other.

“I make it abundantly clear that their opinion, whether it agrees with ‘Dad’ or not, it's not going to cost them either way,” he said.

English instructor LaNita Kirby said controversial material or propaganda, although partisan, is useful in various classes.

“That allows the discussion of absolutist thinking, and how that is not conducive to a democracy,” said Kirby, an AAUP member in her sixth year at the college.

“To automatically assume some instructor has some sort of motive in choosing something is precipitous, and it does have a chilling effect on anyone,” she said. “That's exactly the opposite of what a college environment needs to be like.”

March said college officials didn't ask him why he was showing the film. And he said he shouldn't have to show the “other side” to balance anything. He has shown potentially divisive films in class before, such as “Dead Man Walking,” about a nun who reaches out to a convicted murderer on death row.

After showing that movie, he said, he asked his students: “Did you find your perspective (on the death penalty) altered by this?”

“His classes have always been designed to open up our minds,” said student Kristen Pitel, 21. “He is one to drop a bomb in the water and see where the fish go.”

Despite the dispute, Hovey agrees March is valuable and challenges students to think: “I would hate to think we would have a faculty that is uniform and cut from one cloth.”

In March's case, the community college has established a precedent, Knight of the AAUP said.

“They set themselves upon a course which is extraordinary here, in the sense that they are taking responsibility for the content of the course,” Knight said. “I cannot say this too strongly: It's flatly inconsistent with principles of academic freedom.”

Because of concerns about academic freedom at RCCC since the incident, Kirby said, instructors have asked her about the AAUP.

“I hope that this particular instance will provoke more people to stop and think and create more dialogue,” she said, “and, in the long run, perhaps be a

Pistons and Pacers face suspensions

By Ben Schmitt

Knight Ridder Newspapers

DETROIT (KRT) — The NBA suspended Indiana Pacers forward Ron Artest for the season and two of his teammates for at least 25 games, following the Friday night fracas at the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Pistons forward Ben Wallace also was hit Sunday evening with a six-game suspension.

“The penalties issued today deal only with one aspect of this incident — that of player misconduct,” NBA Commissioner David Stern said in a news release Sunday. “There are other issues that the NBA must urgently focus on at this time. First, we must redefine bounds of acceptable conduct for fans attending our games and resolve to permanently exclude those who overstep those bounds.”

Suspended players are not paid and cannot practice or sit on the bench during games. Meanwhile, Oakland County prosecutors said Sunday that criminal charges are imminent in the now-infamous Pistons/Pacers brouhaha.

“You never say never, but I can’t conceive that there won’t be at least some charges coming out of this,” said James Halushka, a deputy Oakland County prosecutor in charge of warrants and investigations.

Who will be charged and when the charges will be filed remains undetermined.

Besides Artest, Pacers forward Jermaine O’Neal will serve a 25-game suspension, and guard Stephen Jackson will be out 30 games. Pacers

guard Anthony Johnson was suspended for five games, and guard Reggie Miller, who didn’t play, will miss one game for leaving the bench. The players have the right to appeal, but Stern said Sunday night he is confident the suspensions will hold up.

Pistons players Chauncey Billups, Elden Campbell and Derrick Coleman all received a one-game suspension for leaving the bench.

Pistons Coach Larry Brown lamented the extended loss of Ben Wallace, but also expressed sympathy for the Pacers’ organization.

“It’s hard to really focus in on basketball,” Brown said. “It’s such a black eye for our league and our sport. I’m sick about that for Indiana. They have a great franchise. They had the best record in the league last year.”

Of Wallace, Brown said, “We lost our heart and soul.”

And while the country questioned the actions of Auburn Hills Police and Palace security, Halushka said there was no reason to take anyone into custody during the Friday night brawl.

“We haven’t seen the police reports, but it seemed like an out-of-control melee and it wouldn’t have made sense to take anyone into custody,” Halushka said Sunday. “You can only keep someone detained for 48 hours if you don’t bring charges and a case. In a case like this, the investigation may be lengthy.”

Halushka said his office would wait for police to complete their probe before getting involved, but said Pistons and Pacers players most

likely will have to give police statements.

“It’s going to take a while for the investigation to unfold,” Halushka said. “You’re probably talking December before our office even gets it. It’s still at the police level and at the very least, it’s going to be a few days before our office gets involved with the case. I don’t anticipate any charges over this weekend.”

Tom Wilson, president of the Palace of Auburn Hills, said he’s not sure whether security procedures will change.

“That’s one of the trickiest parts; you know, yesterday we were talking about putting canopies over the player tunnels,” he said. “Do you do that so the players are secure? Isn’t one of the special things having players high-fiving on both sides, home and visitors, high-fiving those kids as they run past them?”

Macomb County Sheriff Mark Hackel, who teaches at various police academies, recently trained Palace security in crowd control and the use of force. He emphasized a technique called “verbal judo,” in which security guards use non-confrontational methods to defuse tense situations. Palace security guards do not carry weapons, he said.

“In my opinion, that’s a difficult expectation for a player to run into the stands and start wailing at people haphazardly,” Hackel said. “It is completely inappropriate to blame the Palace security.”

During the fight, three Pacers — Artest, Jackson and O’Neal — punched Pistons fans.

Artest and Jackson fought with fans in the stands and O’Neal traded blows with the fans who rushed the basketball court.

Artest also punched a fan when he returned to the court.

Officials called the game with 45.9 seconds left, with the Pacers leading 97-82, as pandemonium erupted during a nationally televised game.

It began when Artest fouled Ben Wallace in the back during a lay-up attempt. Wallace retaliated by shoving Artest’s face with both hands and charging at him before players and coaches intervened.

While Wallace shouted and threw a wristband at Artest, Artest lay down on a TV broadcast table with his hands behind his head.

A fan then threw a plastic cup with a beverage at Artest and Artest charged into the stands. Jackson followed and craziness ensued.

Mike Ryan of Clarkston, Mich., said Artest attacked him, assuming Ryan threw the beverage.

“He asked, ‘Did you do it? Did you do it?’ I said no and he started pummeling me,” Ryan, 26, said. Ryan’s father, Patrick, said Sunday that the family has been advised by an attorney to decline further comment.

Alvin Shackelford of Burt, in Saginaw County, approached Artest on the court and Artest, in turn, slugged him.

Shackelford declined comment Sunday on the advice of an attorney.

Jim Schneider, 50, of West Bloomfield said he saw Artest fighting with Ryan and tried to back away when Jackson entered the stands.

“I suppose when I saw Jackson flailing, there was some fear,” Schneider recalled Sunday. “I’m thinking, ‘My God, what is happening here?’”

Schneider and his friend Richard Sallen got pushed into the fray, and Sallen hurt his shoulder. He was treated at the Palace and released.

Schneider said he’s got tickets to the game against the Miami Heat on Friday, but is not sure whether he will attend.

“I’ll go if I get a promise from the Palace and security that this will never happen again,” he said. “I enjoy basketball. I don’t enjoy what happened.”

Auburn Hills Deputy Police Chief Jim Mynsberge said one person was taken to the hospital, but no one was seriously injured.

No one was in police custody Sunday.

“The tape will be reviewed and there will be a full investigation,” Mynsberge said Friday. He added that police also would interview players and fans.

Hackel said he saw no reason to take anyone into custody Friday.

“The police are doing the right thing by taking a step back to make sure they have all the right information,” he said.

Auburn Hills police declined further comment Sunday, except to say that the case remains under investigation.

If police recommend criminal charges, prosecutors will decide what action to take. Those charged will then face court arraignments.

Letters to the Editor

One-sidedness has no place in news

I was fascinated by the article "Bush's policy is morally charged" (Nov. 18). Reading the first couple of paragraphs, I thought I was looking at a translation of "Mein Kampf." For those historically challenged, that was Hitler's rant about how he was going to fix things so that the "master race" would assume its proper position as "Ruler of the World." That was during the supreme era of 'Survival of the Fittest' and 'Might makes Right'. Looks like we're returning to it.

I'm sure that the members of the Bush administration do not meet in back rooms and delight themselves with vicious cackles while fiendishly plotting to control and destroy the world. They probably don't cackle that much while having their intelligent dis-

really matter that much, as long as somebody suffered. There's nothing like pointing to an external threat to insure one's political strength.

Why don't we just develop a plan for world domination? We could attack Europe because the dollar is looking weak compared to the Euro, for instance. That certainly is a security threat. Maybe we should stage a pre-emptive strike against China, because with all the dollars they're sucking in, they certainly are going to be a threat at some point. There's no end of possibilities.

Now that we're the only superpower in the world, we should take advantage of our strength, right? However, even if we conquered everyone, they still might not like the idea, and

“Why don't we just develop a plan for world domination? We could attack Europe because the dollar is looking weak compared to the Euro.”

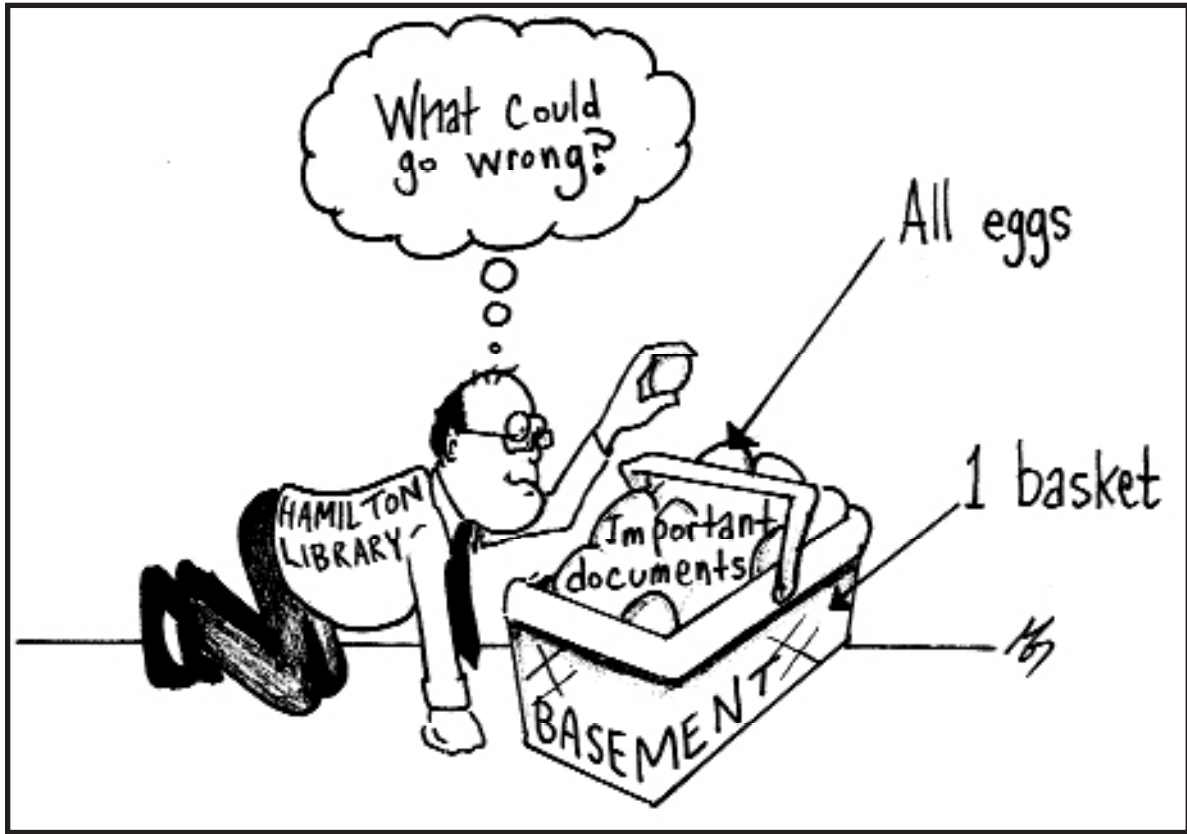
ussions about how to combat terrorism and ensure security for the United States. But even sincere people can screw up.

I personally think Bush is a raving a**hole for attacking Iraq, when he almost certainly knew that they had little or nothing to do with 9/11. I think he was simply responding like a politician to the outrage of the average American, who wanted to see somebody suffer in return for our suffering. Who it was didn't

terrorism probably wouldn't go away.

I don't know if whoever is in charge of Ka Leo is simply trying to ensure that all sides get their say in this newspaper, but I think printing that article was really in bad taste. My idea of morals does not include shooting your neighbor because you think he's plotting to shoot you.

Robert Deverre



Cartoon by Mike Gowdy

Community Perspective

Wal-Mart provides its facts

We're beginning to accept that Leah Ricker doesn't like Wal-Mart much, but we're once again in a position of correcting her facts. We would like to direct Ms. Ricker to our Web site: www.walmartstores.com, where many of her facts can be checked before publication.

For example: Wal-Mart's full-time associates are eligible for health insurance three to six months after joining Wal-Mart, not two years (although part-time associates are eligible for health insurance after two years).

About two-thirds of our associates are students, senior citizens or people providing extra income for their families. Historically, about 40 percent of our associates have health insurance from a source other than Wal-Mart and about half get their coverage through Wal-Mart's plan. It's also worth noting that about 40 percent of our associates had no access to health insurance until they joined Wal-Mart. Our average pay is \$9.98 an hour nationally — \$10.42 in Hawai'i — which is more than double the federal minimum wage. We always pay above federal minimum wage. Always.

Ms. Ricker once again displays a fundamental misunderstanding — this time of labor law — when she alleges that Wal-Mart will not "allow" a union at our stores. Under the law, no company can "forbid" unions — the choice is for employees to make, under terms specifically spelled out by the National Labor

Relations Board. We, however, are allowed to answer our associates' questions about promises that union organizers make to them. And we're permitted to ask union organizers to follow the same leafletting standards that we ask other organizations to adhere to.

We did not move our purchasing offices to China. We have global procurement offices in several countries around the world, including the United States, which allows us to be closer to manufacturers and suppliers

to attract associates if we offered lower wages and poorer working conditions than our competitors. Thousands of people line up for jobs at Wal-Mart, and our turnover rate is one-third below industry average. Clearly, our associates find value working here.

In Ms. Ricker's defense, some stores may close when Wal-Mart comes to town. Others, however, perform better by offering products and services that Wal-Mart doesn't, or by simply benefiting from the

“Thousands of people line up for jobs at Wal-Mart, and our turnover rate is one-third below industry average. Clearly, our associates find value working here.”

in those regions. Our purchasing for the United States is centralized in the United States, with most of our buyers located in Bentonville. Moreover, we export about \$2 billion in U.S.-made goods to our stores overseas. Off-shoring did not begin with Wal-Mart, nor will it end with Wal-Mart, and it is done so that consumers can buy goods at prices they are willing to pay. Wal-Mart would not be able

customers coming to and from our stores.

Readers of Ka Leo deserve more than the rehashing of old myths and charges about Wal-Mart, one of Hawai'i's largest employers. They deserve some balanced coverage and the facts.

Tim Ross
Wal-Mart District Manager for Hawai'i

The Voice of Hawai'i

Ka Leo O Hawai'i

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We're interested in what you have to say. Here are some ideas:

Letters to the Editor

If you want to voice your opinion about an article or a letter to the editor that has already been printed, go ahead. Letters should be about 300 to 400 words and reference the article it is in response to.

Perspectives

If you are concerned about an issue and would like to write a significant amount of text about it, you can do that too. Submissions should be about or under 700 words. If your submission is too short, it will be included in the Letters to the Editor category described above.

Letters can be submitted in two ways: Typed, double-spaced, on standard letter-sized paper, or by e-mail (please proofread). Generally speaking, we prefer the e-mail option.

All submissions should include your name, major and class rank. Faculty members, please include your department and position. Please remember that we reserve the right to edit stories. You may submit up to two letters or perspectives per month. Mailed submissions will not be returned.

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GorillaPop does musical matchmaking

By **Darlene Dela Cruz**

Ka Leo Staff Writer

GorillaPop, the latest addition to the Internet's social Web site scene, aims to forever end the curse of mismatched music tastes in relationships with its music-driven match-making service.

GorillaPop is still in its beginning stages as it was just founded this September. Webmaster Lance Massey founded the service under the premise that a person's musical taste conveys a lot about him or her.

"Music is probably one of the best indicators that all parties will be predisposed to having a good time together," says Massey. "Rarely have I ever seen a guy in a cowboy hat hanging out with a Goth chick." Based on that observation, Massey conceived GorillaPop, a "create-a-profile" Web site that focuses directly on hooking die-hard music fans together through their mutual favorite bands.

GorillaPop is like a hybrid between MySpace.com and Napster, blending the popular friend-to-friend networking service offered by the former with the music playlist and downloading capabilities of the latter.

Users of GorillaPop can download its "gTunes" application, which enables them to create playlist profiles based on the mp3s currently playing on their computers. By allowing users to use gTunes to browse through users playlist profiles, users can bond over shared mp3s of their favorite artists.

The gTunes application is currently only able to function with the Macintosh iTunes platform, but Massey hopes to configure the system to include Windows Media Player playlists and other computer platforms over time.

Aside from the musical match-making, GorillaPop offers the same messaging and comment-posting services as MySpace. GorillaPop also has a "Calendar" feature, which Massey hopes users will use to post dates of upcoming music shows in their area. Massey plans to include a blog feature in the future, as well as an avenue for unsigned artists to post mp3s of their music.

Although GorillaPop normally runs at \$12.95 a month, Internet surfers who sign on to GorillaPop before Dec. 1 can receive six months of the service for free. Users who sign up after Dec. 1 will still be able to search the site and post up to three pictures on their profile for no charge, but must obtain a paid subscription to GorillaPop to be able to access gTunes. Massey plans to use the fees to pay the artists whose music is downloaded on GorillaPop.

As GorillaPop is still a fledgling Web service, it still has bugs to work out. Nonetheless, Massey is pleased with its progress and hopes more music lovers will sign-on.

"At the moment I don't have nearly enough people on board, but we're growing a little each day," says Massey. "Each day we seem to grow just a hair faster."

Kids' game brings balance to reefs

By **Stacy Harada**

Ka Leo Staff Writer

Children can now learn about the balanced ecosystem of Hawai'i's coral reefs with an informative new Internet game, "The Balanced Ecosystem Game," a virtual coral reef that must be cared for.

The game itself is simple to learn, and kids will find it easy to play. Players must maintain the delicate balance between the number of fish and the amount of algae, clean up alien algae that is dropped off by passing boats, and make sure ship anchors do not fall and crush the sensitive coral.

"Wouldn't it be great to start reaching out to the keiki of Hawai'i, with a Web game that can be utilized by parents or by teachers?," said Kristine Davidson, who worked at the conceptual level of the game.

Davidson also noted that it is geared toward younger children, even using a young child to narrate it so players can learn and hear what's going on, as well as let children who cannot read yet play without stumbling over the words.

"We funded the game and facilitated it with the University of Hawai'i's Academy for

Creative Media, and hired students through them from UHM and KCC, as well as various scientists and resource managers," said Davidson.

"The game was created as part of the overall coral reef awareness program to allow fourth graders to learn a little about the properties of and dangers to the reefs. It had to be fun and yet get some simple messages

across," said Kaven Kardan, the chief technologist for the ACM.

Said Kardan, "The game was developed on two PowerBook laptops using Macromedia Flash. Two programmers and one artist, all students, worked on the project."

Davidson said that the game development took a little under a year, which included the discussions with managers and scientists to "get an idea of what they would like and work that out."

Davidson maintained that while the game is not necessarily

scientifically accurate, it portrayed the main goals that children need to learn about the reefs. "The yellow tangs might not be drawn with complete scientific accuracy, but

it looks like a yellow tang and functions well enough for the game, and they are in an ecosystem where they would live in real life."

Kaveh said that the main point of the game was to stress that, "Basically, the reef is alive."

The game makes three points: there must be a balance between the number of fish and algae in the system, dropping anchors on the reef damages it, and alien algae introduced by ships must be cleaned up before it kills the native algae." These lessons can later be exercised with the protec-

tion of actual coral reefs.

The first few levels of the game integrate important lessons about protecting the coral reef, such as avoiding anchor damage and not catching too many fish.

As the game progresses, the game just starts being played for fun. The lessons are less up-front and become little pop-up boxes on the side that can be easily ignored, said Davidson. Response to the game has been very positive. "Our 'clients,' the coral reef people, seem quite happy, as were the scientists and parents the game was shown to during development," said Kardan.

When asked if they enjoyed working on the game, Davidson replied, "Oh yes, it was lots of fun. It's always fun doing something a bit out of the ordinary."

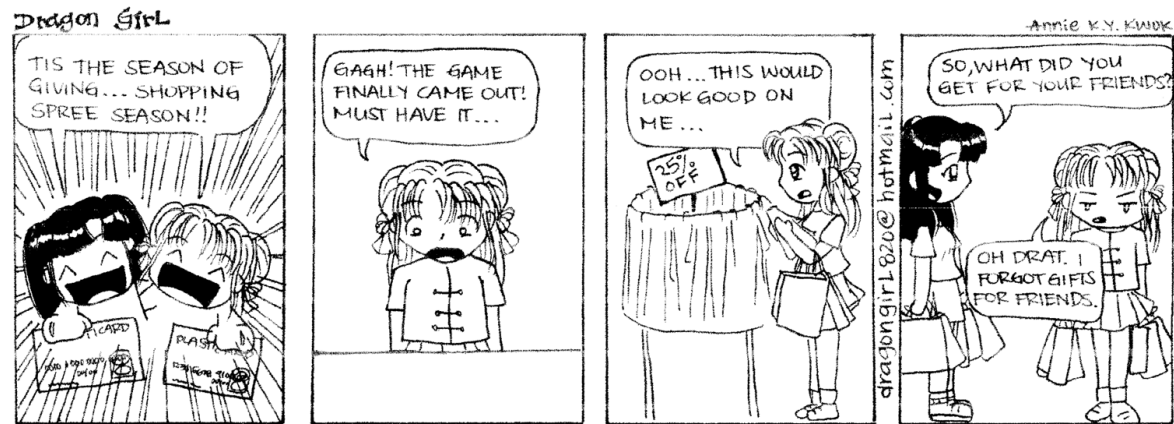
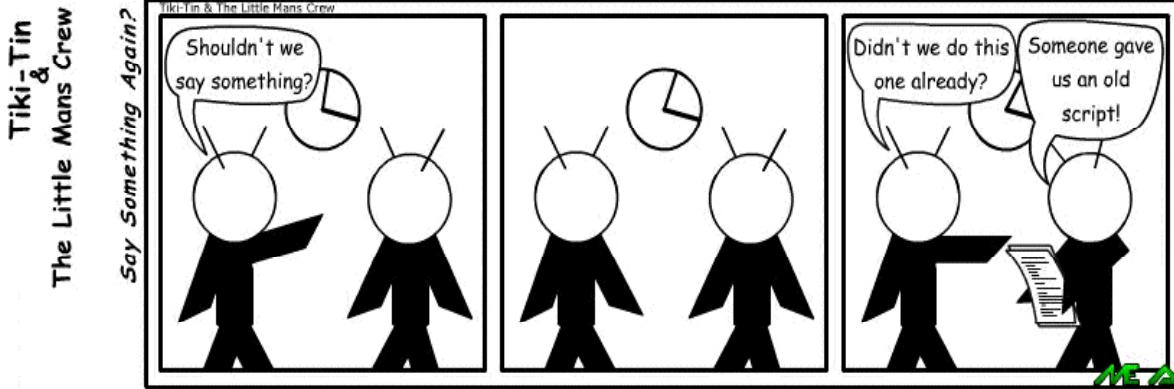
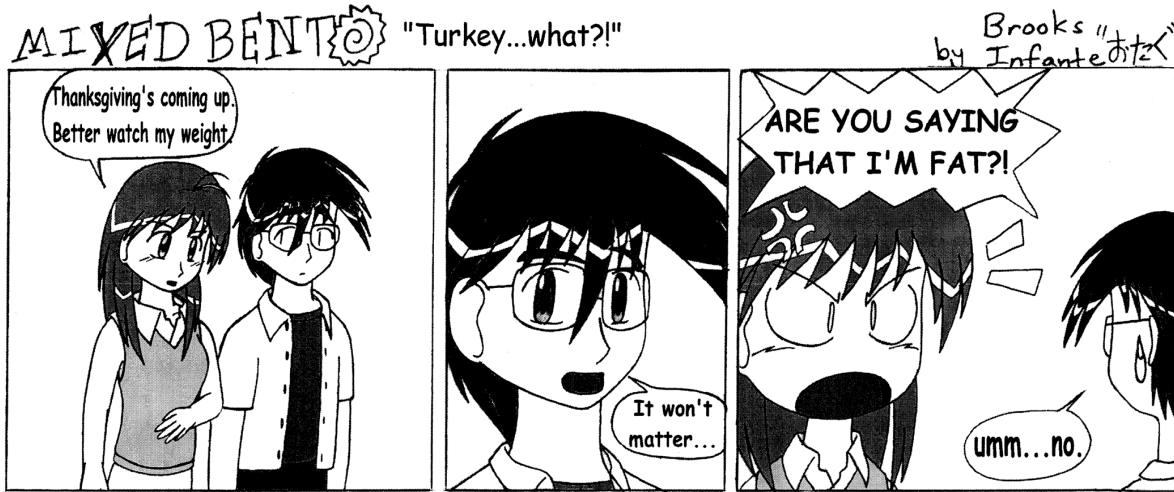
"I would like to work on similar educational projects in the future," said Kardan.

To play the game yourself, visit: www.hawaiireef.net/game/game.shtml

"The game was developed on two PowerBook laptops using Macromedia Flash."

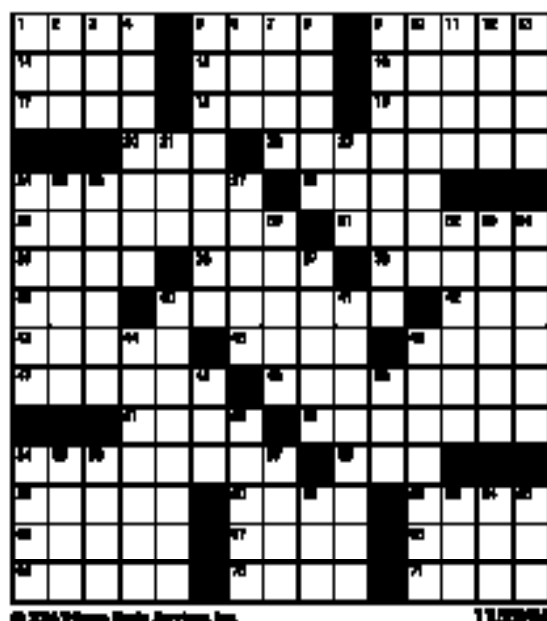
— **Kaven Kardan,**
Academy for Creative Media
chief technologist

COMICS & CROSSWORD



Crossword

- ACROSS**
1. Writer Morrison
 2. Benji's order
 3. Gene Stone
 4. Yaman's support
 5. Water pitcher
 6. At no time
 7. Dvorak m. Bou
 8. Out of the wind
 9. Sicily's language
 10. Inc. in London
 11. Seattle
 12. Internets
 13. Only
 14. Incidental tale
 15. Improve
 16. Expensive supply
 17. Alaskan airport
 18. Former Indian leader
 19. Short sharp punch
 20. In opposition to
 21. Eve's mate
 22. Body of water
 23. Water's old
 24. Moderately good
 25. Harshness
 26. Blocker
 27. Clerk and Roper
 28. Bleating leaver
 29. Thin sheets used in gliding
 30. Nothing
 31. "Mia" or "Lina"
 32. Coal waste
 33. Lure
 34. Ballin Island's neighbor
 35. Withered
 36. Canoe hybrid
 37. Sheet-metal sheen
 38. Tibetan man
 39. Race-track splat
- DOWN**
1. Whitman's dive
 2. Lyric poem
 3. Born in Cannes
 4. White-out
 5. Rashly
 6. Cobbler's tool
 7. Leachman look
 8. Rimer poem
 9. Oppositively
 10. Use up
 11. Tel. ____-line
 12. In this spot
 13. Bleeds and
 14. Small amount
 15. Whap audibly
 16. Legal search by
 17. Loosen a cover
 18. Hot sandwich on rye
 19. Brown drink
 20. Middle Eastern ricksh
 21. Sovereign's seat
 22. Graphite
 23. Eliminator
 24. Currency of
 25. Native Inca
 26. Luanda
 27. populace
 28. Medicinal
 29. Delivery by
 30. Betrayal
 31. Comic Louis
 32. Actor William
 33. Impudent
 34. Olympic
 35. crowd
 36. Frank
 37. Juane's man
 38. Strawn
 39. Type of merlet
 40. Heath's crall
 41. Gone by
 42. Grippa
 43. Pow



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MOROCCO	RELOADS	
OPT	RENDERED	
BEBO	BOT	NEILS
AQUATINT	LEO	
BAMNUNN	MUSCLED	
ERA	EAGLET	ARKS
CONSTRUCTIVE	SIN	
RUTH	MIDI	TOMBS
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MARLO TING • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Byzantine infantry and Kataphraktoi heavy cavalry prepare to march uphill towards the soon-to-be annihilated Spanish forces, still moving into formation. Although higher ground grants a tactical advantage in battle, it isn't enough to turn the tide against superior soldiers in larger numbers, lead by an experienced general.

Get 'Medieval' in Turkey this Thanksgiving

By Marlo Ting

Ka Leo Features Editor

Thanksgiving break provides students with four days to rest or catch up with assignments. It's also an opportunity to spend time re-establishing the glory of the Byzantine Empire.

In September of 2002, the empire-building game "Medieval: Total War" was released for the PC. It's available for around \$20 and can run on a computer with at least a 350 MHz processor, 128 MB of RAM, and a 16 MB video card. It's perhaps the only game where you can send a horde of 1,000 of your loyal peasants to fight the Pope after he excommunicates you or sends a Crusade to one of your territories.

The strategy and empire manage-

ment part of "Medieval: Total War" is like a board game with military and diplomatic units moved around a map. The real-time battles consist of issuing orders to your soldiers and watching them march into combat. Tutorials with step-by-step instructions are available to explain both aspects of the game.

You can start a game of "Medieval: Total War" as any one of the twelve playable factions at three different periods of time. The Byzantine Empire is plenty glorious in the Early Period, significantly weakened in the Middle Period (thanks to the Fourth Crusade), and ready to fall in the Late Period. This is when you should start.

Re-establishing the glory of the Byzantine Empire won't be easy. You'll spend a lot of time sending

your daughters out to cement alliances by marrying foreign princes and deploying your armies to conquer neighboring provinces and expand the empire. It's an uphill battle, but one that will keep you entertained with the constant political and military maneuvering it requires.

In the Late Period, all you have to work with are three provinces that make up a small, but important portion of the map. Since you're right in the middle of the Catholic and the Muslim factions, you'll often have to deal with Crusades passing through your lands on their way to the Middle East.

Sometimes the Crusaders will sack your provinces as they move through them. Early in the game there's little you can do about it. Later, if your economy can support a

large army, you can send it to crush the Papacy and retake Rome.

The Muslim factions can declare Jihads to reclaim any provinces lost to other factions. When you start a war with the Turks, for example, it's a good idea to conquer them as quickly as possible so they have less time to declare a Jihad and bring the soldiers of other Muslim factions into the fight.

Eventually, some of the Catholic factions will send crusades to conquer Constantinople. The Spanish, my previous longtime allies in the game, and one of the most powerful factions in the Late Period (having long finished their Reconquista), often did this.

War with the Spanish was, for me, harder emotionally than any of my other wars. I visited Spain last

summer, so I was overjoyed when they accepted my alliance proposal in the game. But then they decided to throw our friendship away by listening to the Pope and crusading towards Constantinople.

My second, fictional visit to Spain was violent, with hundreds of Kataphraktoi heavy cavalry charging through the countryside.

Manage your empire right, and by 1453 you'll be eating ham on the Iberian Peninsula instead of dying in the streets of Constantinople after discovering the horrific answer to your question "Did I lock the Kerkoporta gate?"

Scene Zine

Tuesday, Nov. 23

Old Skool Bizaro

Featuring 8-16 of the best Local & International DJs nightly. \$3 all Bacardi's and \$2.75 Bud & Bud Lite, 21 & over

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Sam's Garage

Performing at Wave Waikiki, also featuring DJ Byron the Fur, 21 & over

Guy Cruz

Performing at Gordon Biersch from 9 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Inoa'ole

Performing at Kapono's from 9:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 25

Jake Shimabukuro

Performing at Chai's Island Bistro from 7 - 9 p.m.

Connect 4 celebrates Hip Hop History Month

With Jahson the 45 Revolver, Monkey & Eskae at Bliss, doors open at 10 p.m. (early arrival is recommended), 18 & over, \$5

Friday, Nov. 26

Guava Jam

Featuring Natural Vibrations, Ho'onua, B.E.T., Ten Feet & Nuff Sedd at Kapono's from 6 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

H2O

Performing at Gordon Biersch from 9 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Sam's Garage

Performing at Wave Waikiki, also featuring DJs Alex, BTF, KSM, Sub Zero & Jrama, 21 & over, \$7

DJ Jason Tokita

San Diego DJ at Indigo from 9:30 p.m. - 2 a.m., 21 & over, \$10

Saturday, Nov. 27

Rock Show!

Featuring Lucky 65 & Kickback at Pink Cadillac from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m., \$5 over 21, \$7 under 21, all ages

Toa CD Release

At Kapono's from 6 - 10 p.m.

Sistah Robi & Sean Na'auao

Performing at Chai's Island Bistro from 7 - 9 p.m.

Night Train

Performing at Gordon Biersch from 7 - 11:30 p.m.

Kapena

Performing at Kapono's from 10:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

Wave Waikiki 24th Anniversary

Featuring Missing Dave, DJs KSM, Racerx, Byron the Fur, Shawn g & hosted by Maleko of Star 101.9 FM, Open to public from 10 p.m. - 4 a.m., 21 & over, dress stylish

DJ Jason Tokita

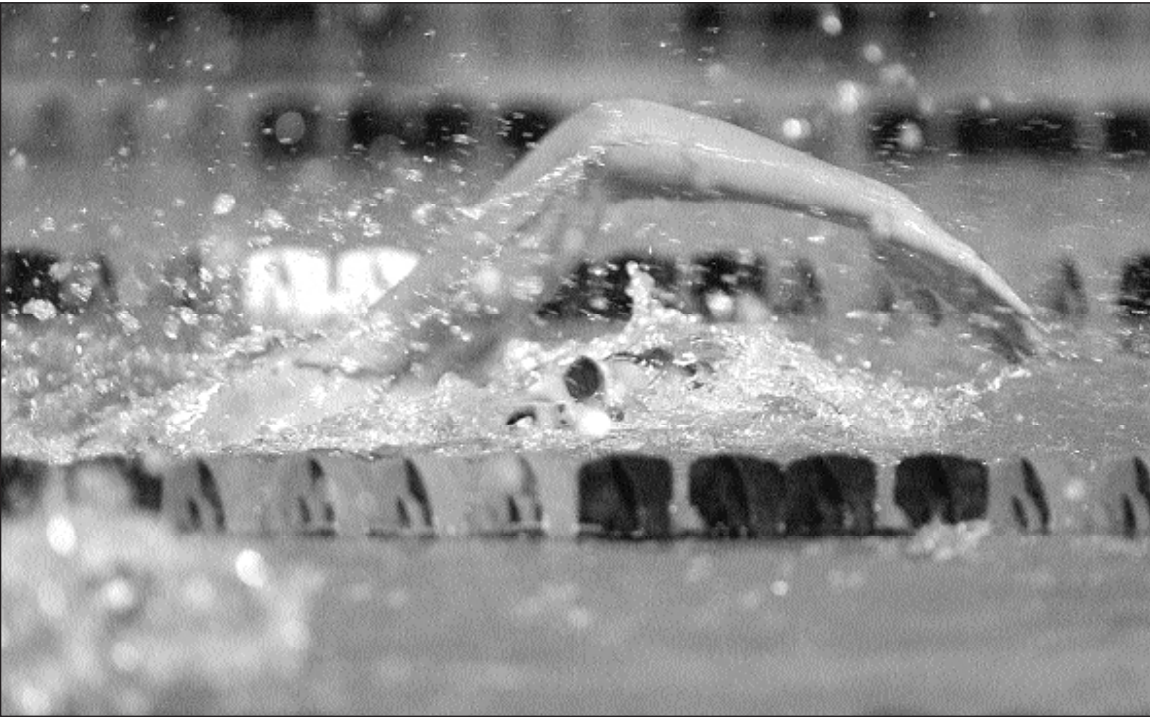
San Diego DJ at Feng Shui from 9:30 p.m. - 2 a.m., 21 & over, \$10

Sunday, Nov. 28

Provide Soul Lounge

Featuring MC Trace & Kimo James at Wave Waikiki

SportsBriefs



JAMM AQUINO • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Junior Jessica Affleck blows by a University of the Pacific opponent during the final lap of the 1,000-yard freestyle last Friday at the Duke Kahanaumoku Aquatic Complex. The Rainbow Wahine defeated the Tigers, 175-118.

'Bows leave Tigers high and dry

Ka Leo Staff

The University of Hawai'i swimming and diving teams took wins over Pacific in their dual meet on Friday.

Rainbow Warrior swimmer Peter Thew took wins in both the 100-yard back and 100 free, while Chad Thompsen had double wins in the 100 breast and 200 breast.

The women also had a multiple winner with Nicole Mackey taking three wins in the 100 back, 200 back and 200 IM. Dena Quick took first in the 50 free, and Mia Broden lead the 100 fly. Bache Atkins also swam a career best in the 500 free with a time of 4:54:86, just missing teammate Jessica Affleck's school record by one second for first place.

The diving team, not competing against UOP, competed against each other as Justin Wilcox, QuiongJie Huang and Maggie Roberts met NCAA qualifying marks in the 1-meter.

The squad will next head to Austin for the Texas Invitational on Dec. 2 through 4. Those not travel-

ing will take part in the Senior Meet 2 on Dec. 3 at the Duke Kahamoku Aquatic Complex at 6 p.m.

Rainbows sign 13 for high-touted class

The University of Hawai'i baseball team has added 13 new recruits for the 2006 baseball season, adding to the recruiting class that has already been mentioned as a top 25 class in the country by Student Sports Baseball.

The majority of the signees are from California, including pitchers Cody Allen, Daniel Caldwell, Matthew Daly, Tyler Davis and Jeff Sorkin, infielders Jorge Franco, Justin Frash and Ryan Selden, catcher Landon Hernandez, and outfielder Matt Roquemore.

Two local high school seniors also signed with the 'Bows. Mid Pacific pitcher Jayson Kramer and Roosevelt catcher Kevin Fujii committed to Hawai'i.

The 'Bows also signed left-handed pitcher Ian Harrington

of Renton, Wash., and Bellevue Community College.

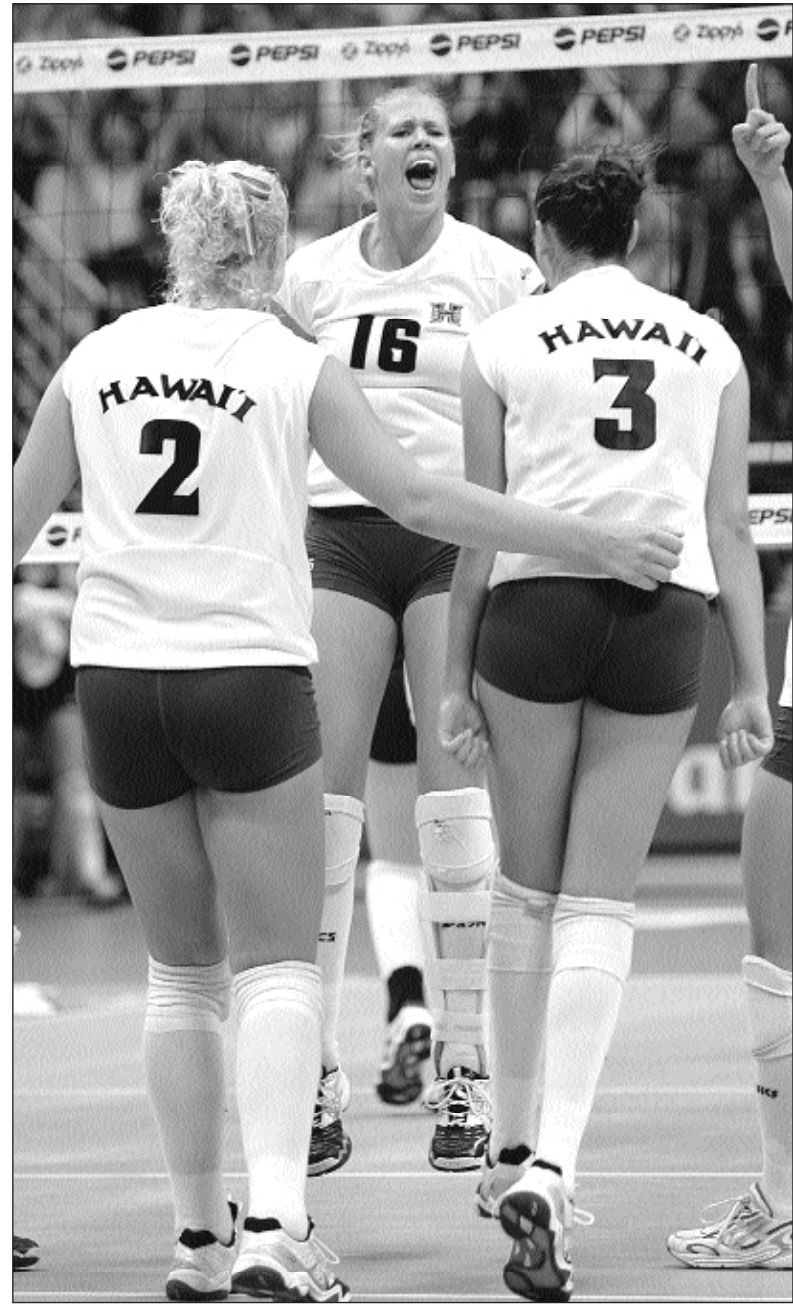
The Rainbows open their 2005 season on Feb. 10 at the Les Murakami Stadium against the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Six sign with Rainbow Wahine

The Rainbow Wahine softball team has received six National Letters of Intent for its 2006 season.

Two players from O'ahu committing to the 'Bows are Punahou third baseman Gail Matsushima and Kailua center fielder Tanisha Milca. They both earned all-state honors in their junior years.

Coming from California is right fielder/first baseman Audrey Andrade along with pitcher Courtney Baughman and 6-foot-1 shortstop Julie Franklin. Keeping the UH-Australia pipeline open, the 'Bows also signed Justine Smethurst, a right-handed pitcher from Melbourne, Australia.



JORDAN MURPH • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Victoria Prince, center, earned WAC Tournament MVP honors this weekend. She had 49 kills and hit .687 over three matches to lead UH to the tourney title.

Prince rules WAC, UH tops in nation

Ka Leo Staff

Behind the 16 kills of junior Victoria Prince, the Rainbow Wahine volleyball team won its fifth-straight Western Athletic Conference tournament title Sunday, defeating the Nevada Wolf Pack in Reno, 30-21, 28-30, 30-22 and 30-27.

With the win, the 'Bows captured the automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament, which begins next week. The win also helped vault Hawai'i to the top of the USA Today/CSTV Coaches Poll. The then-No. 2 'Bows improved to 26-0 on the season and remain the only undefeated team in Division I volleyball. Previously undefeated and No. 1, Washington lost to No. 9 Stanford last week, dropping the Huskies to No. 3. At 25-1, Nebraska is a close second, collecting 23 first place votes compared to Hawai'i's 37.

Junior Susie Boogaard led the team with 19 kills against Nevada, while Alicia Arnott put down 17 kills. But it was libero Ashley Watanabe who helped sway

Hawai'i's fortunes in the first game, overpowering the Wolf Pack with tough serving. She finished the match with five of Hawai'i's seven aces.

As she did in Hawai'i's previous two tournament matches, Prince continued to put up big numbers, hitting .577, collecting two aces and a team-high seven blocks. For her play, she was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. In the three-day tournament, Prince tallied 49 kills, with just two errors in 72 attempts to post a .687 hitting percentage.

Arnott, Boogaard, Watanabe and setter Kanoe Kamana'o also made the WAC all-tournament team.

Nevada, which upset second seed Rice in the semifinals, was led by Salaia Salave'a, who pounded down 18 kills. The Wolf Pack fell to 20-8 this season.

The Wahine will stay on the road this week as they finish up the regular season with two matches in Utah. Hawai'i takes on the Aggies of future WAC-member Utah State today, then play the Utah Utes tomorrow.

Nowhere to go



Hawai'i's Lui Fuga, left, and Lincoln Manutai, right, chase down Idaho backup quarterback Brian Nooy in the fourth quarter of the Warriors' 52-21 win over the Vandals Saturday night. The Warriors sacked Nooy and starting Vandal quarterback Michael Harrington 10 times on the night.

TONY BLAZEJACK
Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Correction

In the Nov. 19 article "Manoa Maniacs bring home the cheer," the names of ASUH Vice President Andy Lachman and student Jessica Nelms were misspelled. Ka Leo regrets the errors.