

The Truth Will Hurt

by Grant Crowell
Ka Leo columnist

It is not surprising that a professor who demanded four years ago that her free speech rights be protected is now obsessively campaigning to deny mine. Haunani-Kay Trask's article in Ka Leo ("Hiding behind the First Amendment") on Oct. 28, along with the censor group Kuikalahiki, seeks to vilify the vast majority of people on this campus as "ignorant," "idiots," or "racist" simply because they disagree with Trask's arguments. Trask's article demands a response because her sloppy research not only purposefully leaves out information that contradicts her preconceived notions, but purposefully lies to suit her own gain.

After my cartoon and column on Trask's book, *Light in the Crevice Never Seen*, were printed, Trask stormed into Ka Leo's office and shouted at Editor in Chief Jennifer Ablan for "hiding behind the First Amendment." Also, with several staffers overhearing, Trask called Ablan a "fucking stupid bitch!"

Later, at a Board of Publications meeting, Trask yelled to the board that I was "vermin" and, in all seriousness, compared my fate to an unnamed Nazi cartoonist who was executed, dismembered and cremated at the Neurenberg trials after World War II. At that same meeting, Trask shouted that one of her students was coming extremely close to punching me in the mouth.

Since there is not enough space here to respond to all of Trask's falsehoods, I will deal with the two main issues she has used to demand my termination from Ka Leo: my 1991 flier on Doug Margolis and my 1991 firing from KTUH radio.

Flier on Doug Margolis

During the 1990-1991 school year, Margolis, a columnist at Ka Leo and a radical left-wing ac-

tivist with a record of several police arrests, had publicly criticized my work in Ka Leo and demanded that it no longer be printed. I, however, was not allowed by then-editor in chief, K. Mark Takai, to respond.

Following this, anonymous fliers were posted around campus with a cartoon of mine declaring me to be a "racist." When I found out that Margolis took part in distributing this flier, I again tried to respond with a cartoon strip featuring Margolis (who had, at the time, staged several protests in the Campus Center Courtyard). But that, too, was rejected by Takai. (However, he did like it enough to post it on the Ka Leo bulletin board.) With all other avenues exhausted, I did what Margolis had already done to me — I posted a flier.

My flier was a satire on the extremities of "political correctness" and its double standards. Reading the flier in its entirety would show it to be a radical left-wing satire on Margolis. Big bold words of "Racism! Sexism!" were featured at the top. Since he was notorious for labeling any critic of Trask's as a "racist white male attacking a woman of color," the satire was to turn the tables on him (a white male). This was done by portraying him as a racist for criticizing coverage of his police arrest by a Ka Leo reporter who happened to be a "woman of color." The final statement read, "If the students unite and pour hot oil and chicken feathers over Doug's anatomically pathetic body, he'll think twice before demanding what women of color should say!" I even included the commonly-spouted lines of him and his protest group: "No Peace for Racists!"

Of course, Trask left these important parts out of her editorial because I would then no longer fit the stereotype of a racist which she tries desperately to label me as. The flier was anonymous, but so have been the fliers