Ka Leo O Hawai'i

THE VOICE OF HAWAI'I

Wednesday
January 17, 2007

VOL. 101 | ISSUE 79 | Serving the students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa since 1922 | WWW.KALEO.ORG

Colt Brennan continues to make his public wait

Sports | Page 7

Cuarón's new film both depressing and inspiring

Features | Page 3

Homemade sake in Vietnam

COURTESY PHOTO • Shanna K. Belknap

Students with Semester at Sea enjoy a drink of sake in Vietnam, where U.S. drinking laws are not applicable.

Semester at Sea offers 'sampling' of cultures

By Jessica Yeh
Ka Leo Staff Reporter

For some college students, attending school in Hawai'i fulfills any travel or cultural diversification requirements they may have. For others, though, being stuck on a tiny island limits their ability to expand their global and cultural horizons.

Currently, the University of Hawai'i system offers a variety of countries and programs for students to visit via the Study Abroad program. A suitable program for students who'd like to visit more than one country, and who possess a good pair of sea legs, is the Semester at Sea program.

Shanna Belknap, a 21 year-old marine biology major, partook in the Summer 2006 voyage. The program name leaves little to the imagination – it is, in fact, a semester or summer spent on a vessel likened to a cruise ship. Belknap's two-month voyage began in Encinitas, CA and went from Mexico to Hawai'i, then through Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, South Korea, ended in Japan and came back to San Diego.

When asked if it was difficult adjusting to life at sea, Belknap said, "For the first day or two, a lot of people got pretty seasick."

The longest time at sea was 11 days, in between Hawai'i and Taiwan. When sailing east, it was hard to adjust to the time difference and students had 25-hour days. Coming back, they had 23-hour days.

In each country, students had time outside of class to explore and shop in the "hot and humid" weather. The program offered students chances to explore each country with a tour guide at additional cost. However, Belknap preferred to venture on her own or with friends in order to have a "less-touristy" experience, but she felt that there was still not enough time allotted to do so.

For the most part, Belknap described her experience as worthwhile. She said her favorite country was Japan, because she did a homestay and rather than being a tourist. Belknap said she "felt as if she was involved in the family."

Another highlight included going to an orphanage in Vietnam, and getting to spend time with the kids.

"Ninety-five percent of them had cerebral palsy," Belknap said, "so it was a reality check for some Americans, who seemingly lived in a bubble."

According to the Semester at Sea's official Web site, the curriculum is academically sponsored by the University of Virginia, and "will give you insights into various cultures and societies and teach students to analyze observations and encounters."

One global studies course is required, and 40 diverse courses ranging from fine arts to business and communication are offered in the summer. The program focuses on the complexity, dynamics and interdependence of world systems.

Students had class six days a week – and sometimes on Sundays. One of Belknap's complaints was that she'd rather spend time exploring than study or do essays for three classes.

Other aspects of the voyage were less tedious. As the only UH student, Belknap was able to meet and connect with a lot of people. In between a rigorous course schedule,

See Cultures, page 2

Rail opponents speak out on public television

Elevated highways, such as the Tampa Expressway in Florida, could have been a viable alternative to the city's rail transit system, according to UH engineering professor Panos Prevedouros.

COURTESY PHOTO
Cliff Slater; ATI

UH prof says elevated highways a better alternative

By Nathan Serota
Ka Leo Staff Reporter

Even before the Honolulu City Council approved a bill to construct an elevated mass transit system on the south shore of O'ahu on Dec. 22, the bill was met with doubt and skepticism by many, including University of Hawai'i at Mānoa civil and environmental engineering professor Panos Prevedouros.

Though the bill received a 7-to-2 vote from the council, with enthusiastic support from Mayor Mufi Hannemann, several undeniable concerns have been raised as to whether the new mass transit system would alleviate Oahu's traffic conundrum.

The 28-mile-long fixed transit system would connect West Kapolei with UHM, including a leg into Waikīkī, and cost roughly $4.6 billion. The proposed price tag was the minimum estimate for the transit system and will be funded by a general tax increase.

One crucial factor of this bill is that important decisions concerning the system's exact route and whether the system will use rail trains or buses are left at the discretion of Mayor Hannemann. To clarify the likely outcome of one of those decisions, the mayor has expressed his support for the rail system on several occasions.

But many opponents of the bill have argued that an elevated bus system would be more effective at accomplishing the goal of improving traffic conditions. One of those people is Prevedouros, who expressed his concerns about the bill on "Island Insights," a PBS show that aired last Monday at 7:30 p.m.

At the beginning of the show, Prevedouros explained how an elevated highway for buses provides more benefits to drivers as opposed to a fixed railway. According to Prevedouros, the highway would likely consist of two lanes – one for uninhibited bus usage and one for carpooling – a design that allows high-capacity vehicles to bypass normal roadways while relieving streets of sluggish bus traffic.

"Buses by far and wide are much cheaper and much more flexible," Prevedouros said.

In addition, Prevedouros argued that this elevated highway would effectively integrate into the city's award-winning bus system, building itself on the success of current public transportation.

"We should build on our success to have success," Prevedouros said.

According to statistics presented by Prevedouros, from the national Census report "Commuting in America III" of 2006, rail systems have proven to be infamously unsuccessful in other metropolitan areas across the nation, with only 2.01 percent of metropolitan citizens utilizing the rail transportation on average.

Prevedouros added that a rail system is not an effective way of solving Oahu's worsening traffic conditions.

"We need to find a solution that really works," Prevedouros said, "and a solution that addresses our true problem, which is traffic congestion, and rail does not address traffic congestion."

Evidence presented by Cliff Slater, chair of honolulutraffic.com who also appeared on the show, supported Prevedouros' claims. According to statistics gathered by the City & County of Honolulu, current railway initiatives will keep highway capacity the same until 2030, while the number of vehicles per hour on the highways will increase by 41 percent.

Although there is a surplus of opponents and evidence to refute the success of the proposed transit systems, Slater added that the realization of this bill is not imminent.

"They're trying to make this appear like it's a done deal," Slater said, "but it's got a long way to go."

The boat cabins are similar to hotel rooms. Their ammenities included weight rooms, barbershops, spas, pools and bars.

COURTESY PHOTO
Shanna K. Belknap

Cultures

From page 1

students were able to go to socials and have a two-drink per hour maximum (drinking age is non-applicable overseas), which was kept track of via raffle tickets. Belknap did note that in order to attend socials, it felt like you had to sacrifice "study time," which was needed to keep up with her coursework.

Boat amenities were akin to a hotel and included a weight room, barbershop, spa, pool and bar. Students had stewards who cleaned their room, made their bed, folded their laundry and cleaned their bathrooms. Food was also included in the trip cost and was buffet-style, so students were never left hungry.

Overall, Belknap said her experiences were "Eye-opening and overwhelming, but well worth the price, [though] I had to pay for it."

When asked if she would recommend the program again, Belknap said, "Yes, but I'd only recommend it for those who want a 'taste' of each country, since you're only spending three to five days in each."

In the fall semester, students are allotted more time per country, and are able to get a more global experience and visit Africa and Egypt, rather than just Southeast Asia.

Applications are recommended 12 months prior to program commencements and the program is costly compared to UH tuition, but scholarships and aid are available. For more information on Semester at Sea, visit http://www.semesteratsea.com, or visit the Study Abroad Center in Moore Hall.

UH spokesman Jim Manke to retire

By Tracy Chan
Ka Leo Staff Reporter

MANKE

James Manke has served as the official voice of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to both the community and the student body for 13 years, but after hundreds of press releases and media statements, the UH Mānoa spokesman and director of communications has cut down to part-time status and is preparing for retirement.

"I've never really thought of my working years as a career," Manke said, "just a bunch of interesting and fun jobs that happened to come along one after the other."

Manke, whose career at UHM started in 1994, is a graduate of 'Iolani and UHM, where he focused on broadcasting. As soon as he got out of college, Manke worked for KHVH TV and Radio, now known as KITV. Before working at UH, he held a number of public and private sector communications jobs in Micronesia, Washington, D.C., the state capitol and KGMB TV.

When Manke came to work at UH, he concentrated on improving communication between the college and the media because many times, he said, there were complaints that all the news coming from UHM was bad news.

"The 'spokesman' responds to the bad news," Manke said. "I have enjoyed the challenges, there is always something going on here."

And challenges there have been.

Manke has covered it all, from the controversial tuition hikes in the 1990s to the crisis moments: major fires that closed down parts of campus in 1997 and 2000, and most recently at the lab school in 2006, the Oct. 15 earthquake and the flash flood in 2004 that sent a four-foot wall of water surging through the campus.

"Those kinds of things are extremely unfortunate," he said, "but the highlights have to be the successes of our students and faculty."

Since Manke started, UHM's media image has improved, but more importantly, two-way communication between the college administration and both students and the community has vastly improved.

With something in the media about UHM almost every day, part of Manke's job is to ensure that it's accurate. When the chancellor's office was re-established at UHM, Manke moved to Hawai'i Hall, in the center of campus.

"It was so different from Bachman Hall, where the president's office is," he said. "It's surrounded by students – and that is, after all, why we are here."

Manke said that one of the big pluses for him over the years has been working with student journalists.

Manke's son is a student in the Academy for Creative Media on campus, and his daughter is a University of Washington graduate. Both of his children went to Kamehameha Schools.

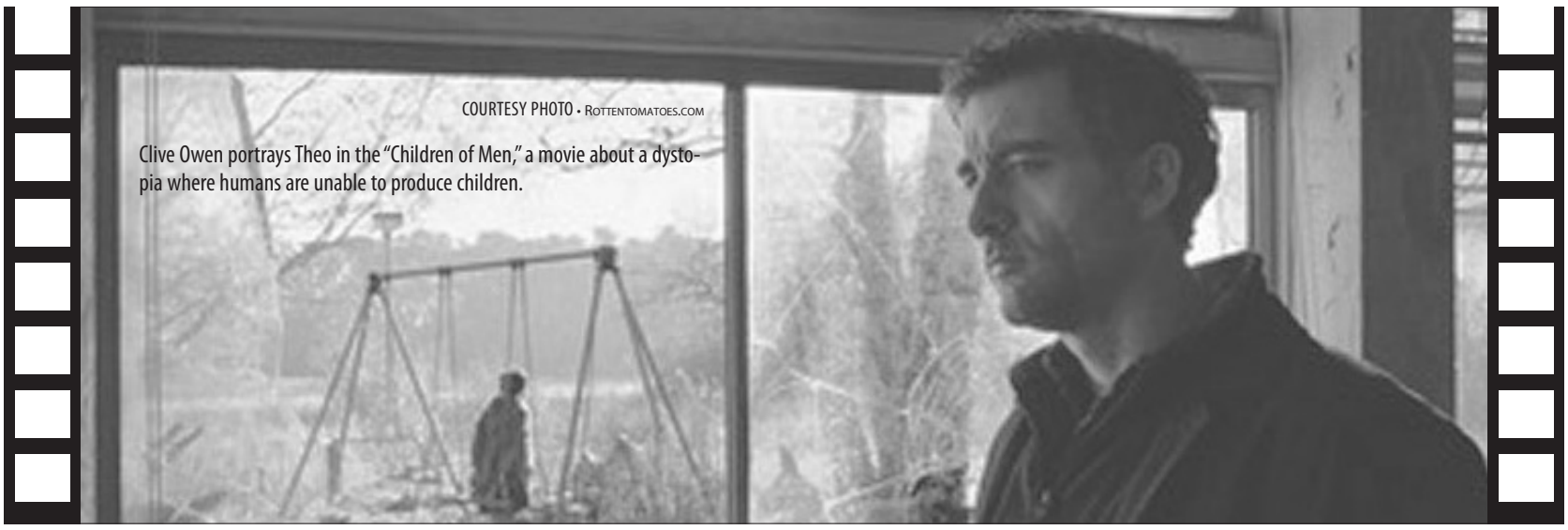
"To tell the truth, I have been 'married' to whatever job I have had all through my working career," Manke said about the increase in free time that has come with his part-time status. "So I have not really picked up much in the way of a hobby or leisure-time activities. I guess it's time to discover some of that."

Manke's work is not over yet, though. There is still a lot of work to be done for the upcoming Centennial Celebration, and he will continue to work with the chancellor's office to improve marketing and community relations strategies. Gregg Takayama, the spokesman for the John Burns School of Medicine, will be taking over some of his duties.

Even after being UHM's spokesman for so long, Manke is reluctant to draw attention to himself.

"There are many more people at the University who have been here many more years than I have," he said. "They contribute incredible amounts of time, talent and energy to the core missions of the institution: teaching, research and service to the community."

"My role here [is] to make sure that the community recognizes those efforts; to bring attention to all of the great things happening here and what the University does for the state and the region."



COURTESY PHOTO • ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

Clive Owen portrays Theo in the "Children of Men," a movie about a dystopia where humans are unable to produce children.

A brave new 'Brave New World'

By Casey Ishitani
Ka Leo Comics Editor

Satar Jabar. He passes the viewer's eyes for just a second during a processing camp sequence in "Children of Men," with his arms outstretched and a black bag over his head. Or at least a repetition of the infamous Abu Ghraid prisoner siphons past the frame, out of focus, but still noticeable to a highly conscious and politically depressed audience.

That image, a reminder of overwhelming cruelty and, as Pope John Paul II called it, the "defeat for humanity" is just one of many hopeless instances in director Alfonso Cuarón's jarring and undeniably entertaining new "dystopic" film (based on P.D. James' novel), which at times seems like an odd mixture of "1984" with "Saving Private Ryan."

Set in 2027, "Children of Men" opens with mournful broadcast news regarding the death of the world's youngest person, 18-year-old Baby Diego. Ever since his birth, women the world over have not been able to conceive, and it seems all of humanity will disappear within the next few decades.

The nihilistic protagonist, Theo (Clive Owen), brushes the bad news of humanity's last hope aside to spike his drink when a bomb obliterates the coffee bar he just exited, leaving the survivors to carry out their own limbs. Theo is later kidnapped by "The Fishes" – who are in between social activism and terrorism – and is introduced to a young girl named Kee (Claire-Hope Ashitey), who is eight months pregnant and must be brought to a group of scientists who can hopefully cure worldwide infertility. Theo's job, essentially, is to save the world.

Having set the viewer up with that delightful scenario, Cuarón then introduces the audience to a string of colorful details that help to subtly highlight a mad world that remains strangely familiar. Theo wakes up to TV commercials reminiscent of post-9/11 propaganda (complete with an all too disturbing shot of New York being consumed by a mushroom cloud) that advertise Britain's superiority over other countries, in that the island nation was geographically isolated by the various nuclear wars that have devastated virtually every continent.

A drug, Quietus, has a similar ad campaign to anti-depressants, even if it is a suicide pill (leading to a hilarious discussion over the legalization of marijuana). References are made to Pink Floyd's album, "Animals," and the soundtrack is littered with cuts from the past (Deep Purple) and present (Jarvis Cocker), all of which reflect some kind of societal decay.

The details of such a decay are visually brought to life with color-muted, handheld urgency by master cinematographer Emmanuel Lubezki ("Sleepy Hollow," "The Birdcage"), including a breathtaking sequence shot in the cabin of a car and a birthing sequence that has either the best CGI or the best practical makeup effects ever made. Another tracking shot lasts for almost 10 minutes, which is technically impossible, but somehow the cut is seamless, as are most of the visual effects throughout the film. Dystopia has never looked this realistic since the advent of Czech and Russian cinema.

Which is not to say that "Children of Men" is a cold, Aldous Huxley-like satire. In fact, the film has gracious warmth in its two central characters. Owen gives Theo the right amount of realistic heroism, shifting from cynical curmudgeon to devoted protector with inspiring naturalism. Ashitey plays Kee not as a naïve Virgin Mary, but as a plucky and worldly young woman who comes off as a strong heroine, a stark contrast to a lot of the sexual trappings and pedestals female characters are held to in science fiction.

Of the supporting cast, which includes some of the best actors around, Chiwetel Ejiofor gives a chilling zeal to his role as a revolutionary, Julianne Moore plays her usual ardent self and the usually gruff Pam Ferris plays against type as the very maternal Miriam, who watches over the health of Kee.

But the real scene-stealer is Michael Caine as Jasper – a former cartoonist and pot dealer. From his hilarious ruminations on UFOs to his speeches on faith, Caine gives a gleefully rebellious performance that goes just shy of hysterical, then pulls back into the realm of the truly heartfelt. It is also in Caine's Jasper that the audience sees what true hope and true sacrifice can look like, no matter what the president thinks sending 20,000 of other peoples' children to die might be.

Then again, for an American audience bred on Ben Stiller comedies and banal, racially insulting melodramas about college breakdancers, will a film like "Children of Men" matter? Sure, it rings true and hyper-realistic, but does an audience want a film that takes a tough stand against the eroding of the very facets that keep their species alive? Perhaps, like Kee, Cuarón's little epic is one of the few fertile vessels for hope in a varyingly grotesque and barren field of cinematic trash. As he did with "Y Tu Mama Tambien," Cuarón takes what might have been rubbish and builds ideas.

LettertotheEditor

A counter-centennial call to action

The Centennial Pride that the University seeks to share here today is spoiled by the threat that it will establish a military research center. Today, when the Mānoa campus begins to Celebrate Its Present and Create Our Future, we call on President McClain and the U.S. Navy to abandon their plans to establish at UH a University Affiliated Research Center.

This University Affiliated Research Center should be abandoned because it destroys the core value for which the Mānoa campus was established – to be an arena for the free flow of ideas essential for creating knowledge and disseminating it to students, other scholars and the public. Navy task orders and congressionally mandated earmarked funding (i.e. "military pork"), rather than faculty proposals, dictate the research agenda. Unclassified research results must be sent to Navy censors, who determine whether it is "sensitive and inappropriate for disclosure regardless of medium," according to the proposed UH-Navy contract. Research is not shared with students, nor subjected to the peer review that reduces error and enhances quality.

This Navy research center should be abandoned because it destroys the Mānoa campus – sitting on ceded lands – as the "Hawaiian place of learning" that it promises to be in its strategic plan. The Kuali'i Council, representing Hawaiians and Hawaiian-serving programs at Mānoa, have strongly opposed establishing this Navy research center because of the U.S. military's devastating impacts on Hawaiian lands and culture.

This research center should be abandoned because it goes against the clear opposition of the Mānoa chancellor, the Mānoa Faculty Senate, Mānoa's undergraduate student association and hundreds of citizens on campus and in the community.

Demand that President McClain stop UARC!

Contact him at 956-8207, mcclain@hawaii.edu or fax 956-5286.

Bev Keever, on behalf of the Save UH Stop UARC coalition
Journalism Professor

EditorialCartoon

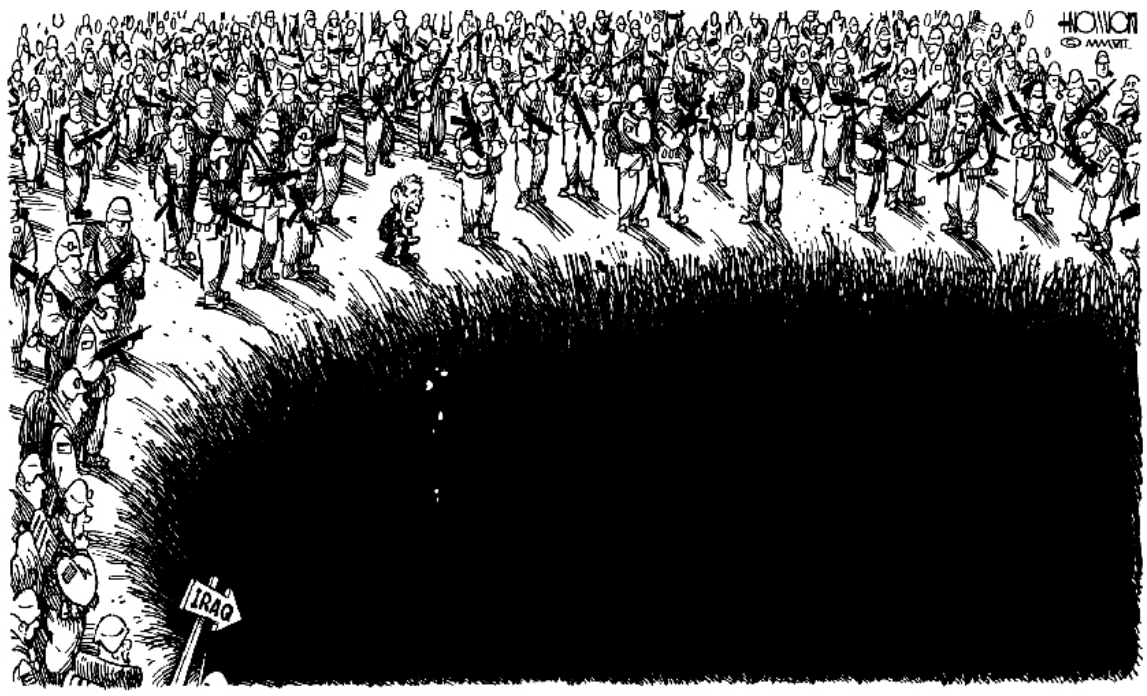


ILLUSTRATION PROVIDED BY MCT CAMPUS

The illusive impeachment: how President Bush is staying in office

By Michael Willemborg
Ka Leo Contributing Writer

The presidency of George W. Bush (irrespective of its future successes or failures) is likely to be ranked among the most significant tenures in the last 50 years. From guiding the nation through one of its darkest hours to mounting one of the most successful military campaigns ever (in removing the Taliban), the effects of his decisions both at home and abroad are sure to be felt far into the future.

However, it has often been the case that his bold initiatives and far-reaching goals have met with scorn, both from Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives. One need only think of the No Child Left Behind Act, the prescription drug benefit and his policy for dealing with illegal immigration. Indeed, the 2006 mid-term elections suggest that the Republican defeat came at the hands of both a Democratic Party united behind its animus for the president and a depressed conservative turnout disenchanted by the same.

Yet, it can scarcely be questioned that the largest monkey on the back of the chief executive has been the U.S. incursion in Iraq. Continued failures, coupled with a hostile media, have fueled the cries of those opposed to the war effort, and have driven the president's approval ratings to a dismal 35 percent. Given the current penchant for political theatrics, it may be asked why the prospect of impeachment is not looming larger on the national horizon.

First, it ought to be noted that there has been speculation that John Conyers (D-Michigan), chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, might introduce various articles of impeachment (at one point citing 26 different possibilities), though Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid quickly moved to quash that idea. The question is, why?

The most obvious reason is that they lack the votes necessary to impeach the president. Though the makeup of the House is now 233-202 in favor of the Democrats, 44 of those members are part of the "Blue Dog Coalition," a caucus known for its tendency to buck the party leadership and side with conservatives and moderate Republicans on a variety of issues. If just half of them vote as Republicans can be expected to on the issue of impeachment, the motion would fail by a vote of 224 to 211.

The second and perhaps less obvious reason is that, despite whatever support the idea of impeachment may have from within the Democratic Party, such proceedings tend to do more to alienate the electorate than to engender their support. As a case in point, one may recall the mid-term elections of 1998, that happened to coincide with the height of the impeachment troubles facing former President Clinton. A poll conducted on Aug. 17, 1998, found that 69 percent of Americans disapproved.

This attitude was then reflected in the elections of that year. Though Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich had predicted Republicans would gain 30 seats (about the average for the opposing party in the sixth year of a president's term), public disgust with the impeachment caused Democrats to gain six seats in the House, while losing none in the Senate. Arguably then, if Republicans had decided to forego the impeachment of President Clinton (all other things being equal), they would have narrowly maintained control of Congress in 2006.

Thus, Democratic reticence in attempting to impeach President Bush may be due more to the political fallout likely to result from doing so (and thus, their chances in the 2008 elections) than anything else.

"A bird in the hand ... "

By Casey Ishitani
Ka Leo Comics Editor

I have a little poser for you, dear reader. Who said this about stem-cell research? "Even the most noble ends do not justify any means … I also believe human life is a sacred gift from our Creator."

OK, now who said this about the Iraq troop surge? "Fellow citizens: The year ahead will demand more patience, sacrifice, and resolve."

If you were to say that the first is a girly little peacenik and that the second is a bloodthirsty Spartan then you, my friend, are caught in the current dilemma one has with describing President George W. Bush. Not since the Founding Fathers of the Land of the Free wondered which slave to rape has an American president been caught in the throes of moral contradiction. On one hand, he wants to seem like a guy who can upstage the grace of Desmond Tutu, but on the other hand he wants to look like he has a big penis. How can one explain a man who claims to cherish life yet is willing to send 21,500 American lives over to an unstable region for "patience, sacrifice, and resolve?"

As this is a college newspaper, the demands of reasonable and logical deduction permit me to propose two answers.

First, President Bush is a hypocritical mess of privileged upper-class white society who doesn't believe in God because he knows full well that no God in Heaven would allow the distortions and corruptions he has committed without delivering him an indignation via plague upon his house, hailstorm and lightning bolt. Yet, he uses God as a utility for the masses of ignorant people, all of whom are willing to risk life and limb to protect their families and loved ones, yet not willing to do it by taking another life unless someone tells them that God Himself commands it. While they commit their sacrifice, Bush will use his contacts in the military industrial complex to pilfer taxes, funds and Social Security from the poor and poorer while channeling everything in the hands of the Haves and Have-mores. Bush will tell you that you're American while treating you like you were an East German during the Cold War, watching your every movement. Bush is everything that is wrong with America. Bush is the Caucasian version of Hirohito.

Then, to be fair, there is the other explanation: President George W. Bush is actually two men derived from the same body due to an egregious cloning experiment gone haywire. While one Bush feels that all life – including an unconscious collage of genes that forms before embryonic generalization can even be used – is sacred, the other Bush can't wait for your baby to be old enough to hold a gun. One Bush feels genuine horror and grief over the events of 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, the other Bush is worried about how he can make black people like him. One Bush thinks that there's a rational middle ground, the other ... has been running things for the last five years. This separation of personalities could be the result of a bipolar disorder or a complete multiple personality disorder, but the good-versus-evil-clone idea seems more plausible. The evidence is that both are incapable of memorizing more than three words at a time, both pronounce "nuclear" by saying "nu-kew-lar," and neither of them has the ability to effectively argue a point in a manner of, say, a president.

As our subject is President Bush, we can look at this as an either-or situation. Either you believe he is truly the embodiment of evil and Hugo Chavez was right, or he is in fact two different men of the same cloth who appear as each other at different times. Though neither of them seem very comforting, I can assure you that, judging from the amount of bipartisan opposition the troop surge has gotten, it has to be either one.

LettertotheEditor
SUBMISSION POLICY

Ka Leo O Hawai'i welcomes letters to the editor on any subject. Letters are given priority on the basis of importance to the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa system and its surrounding communities.

All letters must be accompanied by the author's true name, e-mail address and daytime telephone number. Letters should address a single subject and should be no longer than 500 words. Letters of any length are subject to trimming and editing.

All letters and articles submitted to Ka Leo O Hawai'i may be published or distributed in print, online and other forms.

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Ka Leo O Hawai'i is the campus newspaper of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. It is published by the Board of Publications four times a week except on holidays and during exam periods. Circulation is 14,000. Ka Leo is also published once a week during summer sessions with a circulation of 10,000. Ka Leo is funded by student fees and advertising. Its editorial content reflects only the views of its editors, writers, columnists and contributors, who are solely responsible for its content.

Events Calendar

Please e-mail any community or campus events to calendar@kaleo.org.

"Southwest Indian Ocean – additional source for regional and global climate predictability," a joint meteorology and IPRC seminar, today, 3:30 to 5 p.m., Marine Science Building, room 100. H. Annamalai, an associate researcher for IPRC, will present. Info: meteorology department, 956-8775, metdept@hawaii.edu, http://lumahai.soest.hawaii.edu.

"Starting something," a Shidler College of Business lecture, today, 5:30 to 7 p.m., Architecture Auditorium. Wayne McVicker, cofounder, president and board member of Attainia, Inc.; and Jeff Kleck, CEO and chairman of Attainia, Inc., will present. McVicker is the author of the book "Starting Something." Book signing and autograph session will take place from 5:30 to 6 p.m., and the lecture will follow. RSVP to Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship & E-Business: call 956-5083. Info: SCB, Tracy Taira, 956-5357, ttaira@hawaii.edu, http://www.cba.hawaii.edu/kipapa.

"The treasures of mathematics island," a mathematics workshop for people of all ages, today, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Campus Center Ballroom, AB. At the end of the workshop, mathematical applications to LEGO underwater vehicles created by students will be shown. Info: mathematics department, Monique Chyba, 956-8464, mchyba@math.hawaii.edu.

"Estimating sustainable yields of Hawaiian basal aquifers," a water resources research seminar, tomorrow, 3 to 6 p.m., Marine Science Building, room 114. The seminar will present the formulation and application of the modified Robust Analytical Model, or RAM2, as a groundwater management tool for Hawaiian basal aquifers. Clark Liu, an engineering professor and researcher at the Water Resources Research Center, will present. The re-evaluation of the sustainable yields of two Hawaiian basal aquifers by RAM2 modeling, Iao aquifer on Maui and Kualapu'u aquifer on Moloka'i, will be discussed.

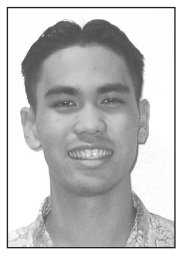
"Dynamics and impacts of a weakened Atlantic meridional overturning circulation," an oceanography colloquium, tomorrow, 3 p.m., Marine Science Building, room 100. Axel Timmermann from the oceanography department will present. Info: oceanography department, 956-7633, ocean@soest.hawaii.edu.

"UH day," an event that showcases various University of Hawai'i entities, Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., State Capitol. Exhibits, such as a steel bridge and glass blowing demonstrations, food sampling, presentation by university experts and live performances of dance and music will be featured. Info: Stephanie Kim, 956-4250, scskim@hawaii.edu, http://www.hawaii.edu/uhday.

Procrastination reigns as always

Study aims to isolate habits of academic high achievers

By Nalea J. Ko
Ka Leo Staff Reporter



TSUKAYAMA Psychology student Eli Tsukayama is currently transcribing his data to discover if personality traits play a significant role in academic success.

COURTESY PHOTO
Eli Tsukayama

A recent undergraduate research study of student behavioral habits hopes to show that ambition, not necessarily intelligence, is vital in determining a student's academic success.

A psychology student and Presidential Scholar, Eli Tsukayama, 22, started his research in September. He is researching the specific behavioral habits that differentiate academic high achievers from the "average" person.

In doing so, Tsukayama said, he hopes to reveal the importance of personality traits, such as self-discipline, that are important for success in any field. Tsukayama said he does not consider himself particularly smart. He does not feel exceptionally different from any other student.

Tsukayama's philosophy is straight-forward.

"I attribute my academic success to the fact that I invest a lot of time and effort into school," he said.

It sounds overly simple: Whatever one invests in, one will receive dividends. Tsukayama hopes to demonstrate self-discipline results from the amount of time and effort students invest in school. However, Tsukayama said there is little empirical evidence in proving this.

"There have been many studies done on intelligence and academic achievement," he said, "but there are relatively few on other traits in relation to academic achievement."

As a sophomore in college, Tsukayama was awarded the UH Presidential Scholarship, which covered two years of tuition and education expenses. Tsukayama said this scholarship – one of the most prestigious offered by the University of Hawai'i – opened new opportunities for him through the Regents and Presidential Scholars Association.

"Interaction with the scholars offered me new insights into the development of high-achievers," Tsukayama said, "I decided to examine how high-achievers choose to spend their time and why."

Tsukayama's research involved surveying about 150 students. Participants were asked to fill out a series of questions and complete time logs to document how their time is used.

As a participant in Tsukayama's study, Rayna Isaki, a self-described goal-oriented, motivated procrastinator, said, "I discovered that I need to cut down on things like partying and spend more time studying. This study was a great way to reorganize and think of ways to spend your time more efficiently."

Isaki, 21, majoring in psychology, said that her biggest struggle as a student is time management. "It's a tremendous challenge to balance academics and a social life," she said.

The head of the Learning Assistance Center Rosie Woodruff explained that most students know how to study and succeed in college, but may not give it much thought. Currently, UH requires that prospective transfer students have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 for residents or 2.5 for non-residents.

In addition, UH requires prospective transfer students to have 12 semester credits from regionally accredited U.S. college or university.

Students today differ from the students Woodruff first worked with in learning assistance in 1986. More commonly, Woodruff said, students today are using gadgets such as iPods and video games during class. But, according to Woodruff, this generation of students employs new strategies to study more efficiently.

"Can I play it so that I do the minimal amount of work but I get the most out of it?" Woodruff said, describing the college experience as being similar to playing a game. "And I think that this is a little bit more common than it used to be," she added.

However, Woodruff said, students across generations are the same in that they have always put off the inevitable.

"My experience, in terms of study behavior," she said, "is the average student doesn't really want to do the studying until they really have to. The truth is you are motivated, but you are not motivated to do things that you don't want to do."

As for suggestions with preparing for midterms and finals, Woodruff said that it is "really too late" a day before the exam day. Woodruff said students tend to wait to cram for exams until the night before. She recommended that students get enough sleep, eat right and exercise in order to study properly.

"Time management is doing everything that you need to nurture yourself in order to be able to do what you need to do," said Woodruff. "If you are not in a good mood, if you are sleepy, you are not going to study."

Another obstacle facing students, motivated or not, is juggling work and school. For many not working while in school is not an option.

Tsukayama said, "If one adds a part-time job on top of full-time school, then the student is expected to spend about 56 to 80 hours a week at work or in school-related activities."

He said, "Although I believe learning to handle multiple responsibilities is a good thing, there are many students who are struggling because they do not have enough time to invest in their academic endeavors."

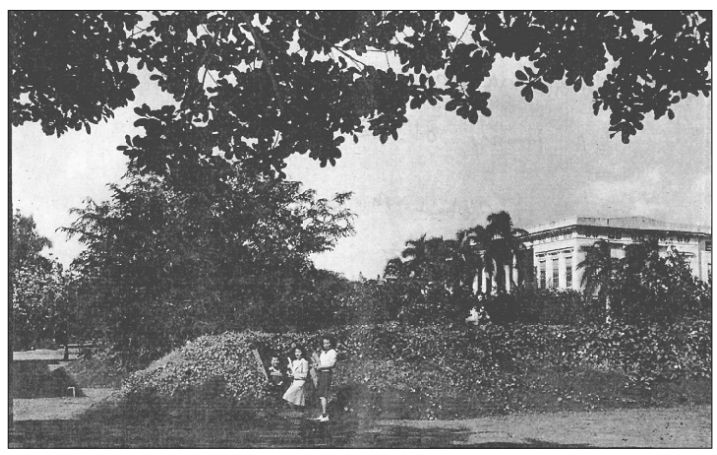
Tsukayama hopes for his study to compel the administration to further investigate the possibility of more merit and need-based sources of financial aid.

"While many students can successfully juggle one or more part-time jobs and do well in school, others are struggling to maintain their grades while working to support themselves," Tsukayama said. "I am hoping that the amount of scholarships and tuition waivers will be increased so that students can focus more on academics."

100 Years Strong

By Patricia Wilson

Path of Learning

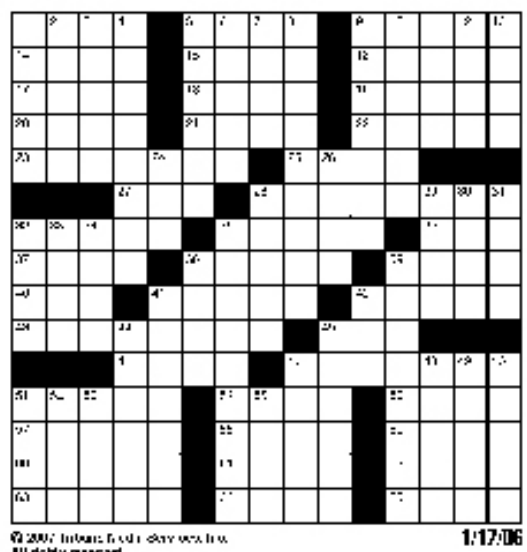


1956

The first language lab is opened in George Hall. Chair of the European Languages Department, professor Aspinwall, journeyed to the mainland to learn new methods of teaching which led to the creation of the Language Lab. The lab consisted of 39 semi-soundproof booths.

Photo Courtesy of "Malamalama: A History of the University of Hawaii" by Robert M. Kamins and Robert E. Potter

Crossword



ACROSS
1 Myth subj.
5 Scarlet Letter character
8 Preservation
14 Actor Hemmings
15 Send out
16 Movies back
17 Designer Trujillo
18 Actress Sorvino
19 Culprit?
20 Arrange, as men
21 Fomenter
22 Reckoned
23 Beach bum
25 Soapmaker unit
27 Printer fluid
28 Forward shutters
32 Meager
35 Shetland or Bass
36 Auto tire
37 Percussion instrument
39 Highways
43 "Little Man ___"
45 Make lace
47 More sudsy
48 Tonic downer
49 Soft shell clams
50 Spare earth is say
52 Free compassion for
57 Put the suds before
58 Bonnie short form
61 Wore it to
65 Clarion or Carmen
67 Small number
68 Space travel
69 Volcanic flow
70 Clive Cussler's Dirk
71 Folk weapon
72 Latin 4 lovers
73 Formal speaker
74 Cancer cure
75 "Be diligent to be ___"

DOWN
1 Aromatic tree
2 Single-celled organism
3 Margarine yam shes
4 Aura
5 Command
6 J.A.E. rules
7 Malicious gossip
8 Tenants for the night
9 Set right
10 Unexpectedly sudden
11 Footlocker, e.g.
12 Watermelon desert
13 Countercurrent
24 Tokyo money creature
26 __ the line (obeyed)
28 Lindsay Lohan's life
29 QB's pair
30 Sacred service
31 War, Nasl
32 Some NCOs
33 Thin layer
34 Poker payment
35 Irons
36 Wordsworth or Tennyson
39 Suit to screw
41 Infatuated
42 Relax
44 Parfait
46 Hitch
47 Native New Zealander
49 Adversary
50 Kind of model
51 Singing star
52 Adam's grandson
53 Resist signs
54 Appearance

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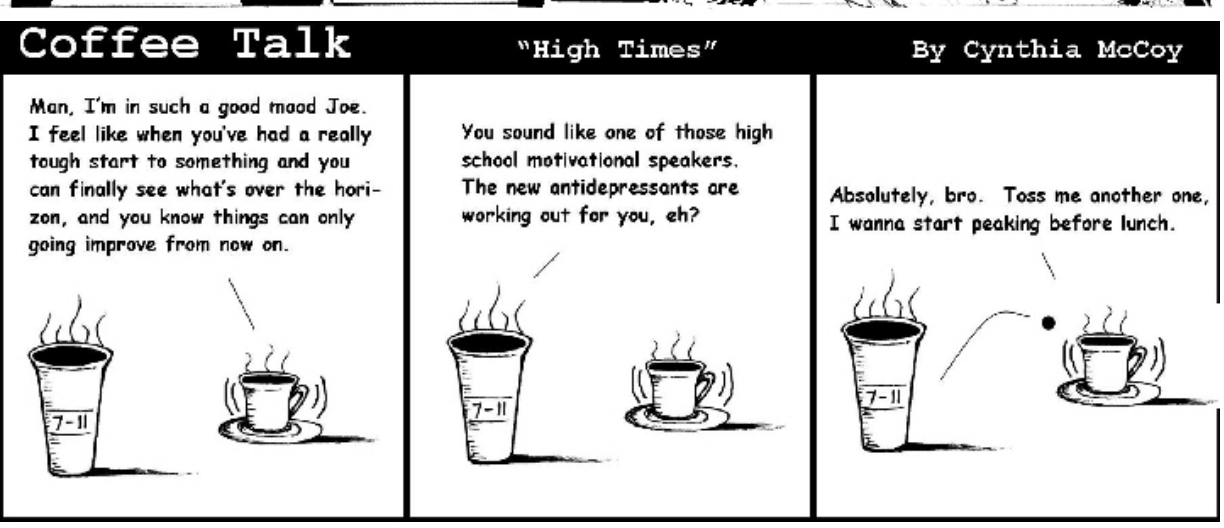
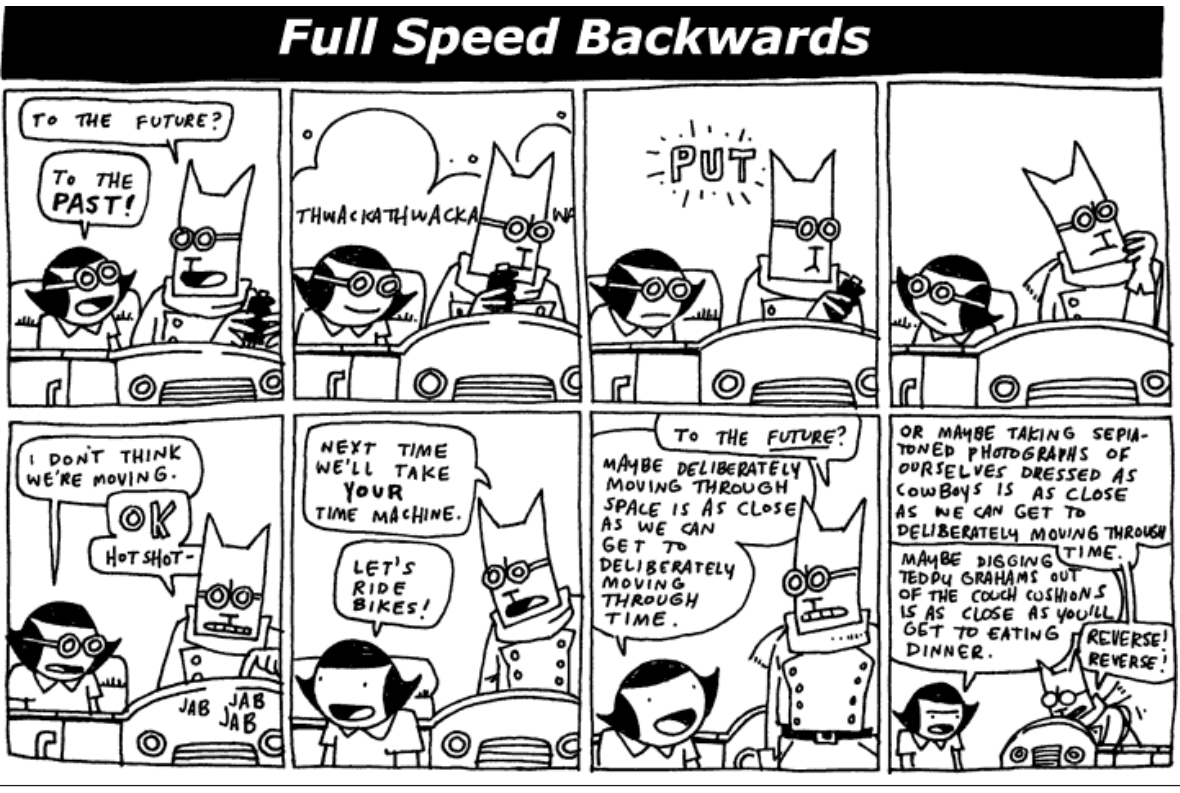
Solutions 1/16/07

Coffee Talk

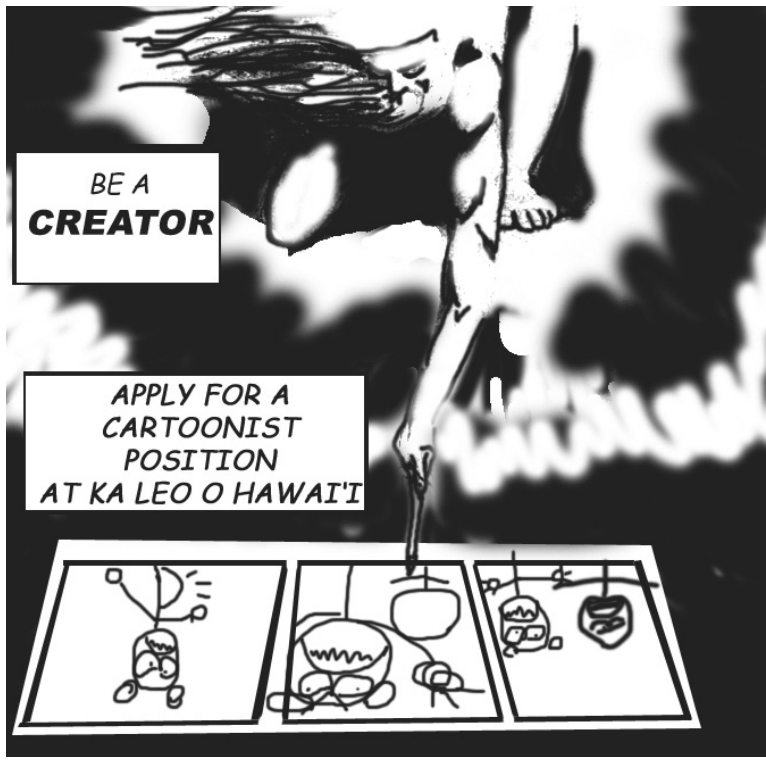
"High Times" By Cynthia McCoy



Full Speed Backwards



courtesy of Dorothy Gambrell at catandgirl.com



Colt needs more time to decide

By Glendalyn Junio
Ka Leo Associate Sports Editor

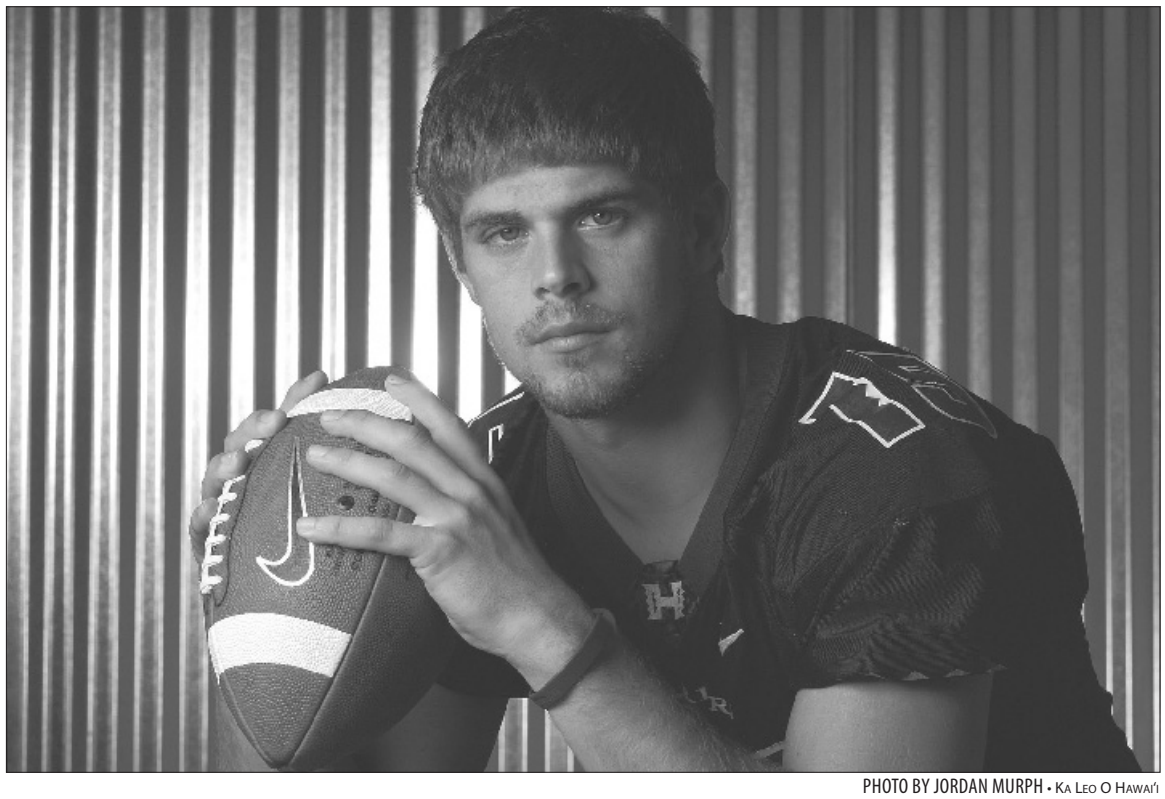


PHOTO BY JORDAN MURPH • Ka Leo O Hawai'i

Hawai'i Warriors quarterback and Heisman Trophy candidate Colt Brennan poses for a portrait at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa campus on Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2006 in Honolulu.

Another 24 hours of waiting, another day of indecision.

University of Hawai'i Warrior record-setting quarterback Colt Brennan needs extra time to make his decision as to whether he will forgo his senior year and enter the National Football League Draft. After postponing Tuesday's press conference, Brennan is prepared to announce his decision this afternoon at 3 p.m. at the Stan Sheriff Center.

"This is such an important decision that will have a big impact on my life," Brennan said. "I want to take the maximum amount of time that is allowed to make my decision."

Brennan declared himself eligible for the NFL Draft on Monday in order to fulfill the Jan. 15 underclassmen deadline and keep his options open for at least another day. The NFL allows an applicant 72 hours to withdraw his draft decision.

This is the second time Brennan postponed his decision. He had also moved Monday's press conference – when he originally planned to announce his career intention – to Tuesday afternoon. An answer had been expected to arrive as early as Christmas Day, following the Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl on Dec. 24.

"I told everyone that after the Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl, I'd answer that and figure that out," Brennan said in the post-Hawai'i Bowl press conference. "But the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl for me doesn't end until tomorrow."

The Warrior quarterback added that he was "probably coming back." However, he has received increased public attention that could influence his decision.

"I'm sorry for the inconvenience this may be causing," Brennan said. "I don't mean to keep people waiting in anticipation, but I just want to make the best and most informed decision possible."

According to ESPN analysts, Brennan is expected to be the third quarterback drafted in April, behind Notre Dame's Brady Quinn and Louisiana State University's JaMarcus Russell. He is projected to be a late first-round pick or early second-round pick.

"I have to be smart and look at the best opportunity out there for me," Brennan said after the Hawai'i Bowl. "The decision is going to be made for me by talking to my teammates, [Coach June] Jones and my family, and when it's all said and done, I'll make my decision."

SportsBriefs

Women's Basketball

The University of Hawai'i Rainbow Wahine (6-10, 0-4 Western Athletic Conference), still in search of their first WAC victory, take on the University of Idaho (3-12, 0-4) tonight at the Stan Sheriff Center. It will be the first of two home games for the women's squad this week.

Both teams are without a win in the WAC and tied for last place with San Jose State University, also 0-4. The Wahine have struggled lately, losing their last five games. However, Idaho has dropped eight consecutive contests, with their last victory coming on Dec. 2. To honor members of the Armed Services and as part of the women's basketball team's Military Night, the University of Hawai'i is offering a free ticket to tonight's game with the presentation of a military identification card at the SSC Box Office.

Free Ticket For UH Students to Men's Volleyball

UH students will receive a free ticket to the men's volleyball team's home opening matches against the University of the Pacific on Thursday, Jan. 18, and Friday, Jan. 19. Students need to present their valid UH identification card at the SSC Box Office (either in advance or on the night of the match).