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As times are changing, we find ourselves changing with time.

At the Kapi'o, time is valued, simply because we don’t ever seem to have enough of it.

A year has quickly passed since the premiere issue of Kapi'o Magazine. Despite a three-month summer break, we’ve been hard at work to produce the sequel to our alumni magazine.

This time around, the Kapi'o staff tackled an array of subjects that cater to the students of Kapi'olani Community College.

Our nation may be at jeopardy of falling into another recession, and students have seen the impact of a declining economy on a local scale. With tuition expected to rise again, the Kapi'o staff felt obligated to compile a list of common purchases students make and ways to save their hard-earned cash (page 20).

Rather than spending up to $400 a year on a 24 Hour Fitness membership, some of our staffers suggest investing in a bicycle or taking a few treks through some of O'ahu's hiking trails (page 18), or — if you’re up to the challenge — a new workout like Muay Thai (page 16).

With time, it isn’t always about adjusting — you also learn and grow.

Take Donovan Slack, for instance (page 26). Slack began her academic journey at KCC at 29 years old. After a few semesters, she joined the Kapi'o, where she became editor-in-chief. Today, Slack is a White House correspondent for the Boston Globe.

Yes, times are tough, but as Jane Austen once wrote in “Mansfield Park,” “Do not attack me with your watch. A watch is always too fast or too slow. I cannot be dictated to by a watch.”

Joie Nishimoto
Editor-in-Chief
Learning outside of the classroom through student engagement

Whether it's marriage or meeting someone, to be engaged is to promise something. So what does being engaged have to do with school?

Student engagement consists of activities provided by the Office of Student Activities (OSA) and the Board of Student Activities (BOSA), in which students can participate.

Alfred "Alfie" Gonzales, OSA assistant coordinator and BOSA adviser, said student engagement provides students with opportunities to get them involved outside the classroom and, by doing so, it will supplement their learning inside the classroom. If students are engaged, he said, it can help them feel that they fit with Kapi'olani Community College and that they matter.

"(I hope) students get more engaged on campus," Gonzales said. "It makes the whole college experience more worthwhile and enjoyable. I want their KCC experience to be memorable."

There are a variety of OSA activities that students can participate in, such as intramural sports, Registered Independent Organizations (RIO) and Chartered Student Organizations (CSO).

Every semester, students can show off their skills in a talent show and a slam poetry contest. Students who want to do service projects can participate in the annual Cactus-N-Coffee cleanup. The most popular event by OSA is the monthly ice cream social, where students are offered a variety of ice cream flavors for free.

Gonzales said getting involved in a club is a great way to get engaged on campus. Clubs are unique in that they can focus on academic disciplines or even a common interest. By being a part of a club, students learn life skills such as communication, leadership, responsibility and organization. A sense of pride and camaraderie are also built between club members because clubs can serve as a social network for students.

One of the goals for OSA and BOSA this year is to collaborate with the other charted student groups – the Board of Student Publications (BOSP) and the Associated Students of KCC (ASKCC) – and improve student engagement by getting more faculty and staff involved. Since they are able to interact more with students, the three groups are approaching them to help spread the word about the importance of student engagement.

Students are encouraged to check out OSA's website (above) to find out about involvement opportunities or to give feedback on improvements or changes they would like to see on campus.

— Chayne Toyama, assistant copy editor
Renovations will continue on the second floor of Kopiko throughout the fall semester, adding movable walls to the classrooms allowing for impromptu adjustments when needed. In addition to the new partitions, the interior has been refurnished, offering students ample space to study and learn.

According to Vice Chancellor Milton Higa, the building completed around Sept. 21, at which point they began renovations on Kopiko's first floor. The total cost of the project comes in at around $400,000.

Kopiko is shaped like an “H” and contains several nursing department classrooms and offices on one side, as well as computing centers, several legal and business education classrooms and faculty and staff offices. The burgeoning New Media Arts program also operates out of this building, and is likely to benefit by the overhaul.

A little known fact in regards to the KCC campus, all buildings are named after native plants. The kopiko is an endemic species of the coffee family. It is a small upright tree found in wet forest on Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, Moloka‘i, Lana‘i and Maui.

Naio is also undergoing a similar reconstruction, with an estimated cost of $270,000.

Both projects utilize Title III funds from the federal government.

— Arika Pfadzsnaff, staff photographer

Culinary instructors Diane Nizarro and Dave Hamada have made changes to the cafeteria, such as adding an eight-week cycle menu.

‘Ōhi’a cafeteria makes changes this fall

This fall students can expect to see some changes in the cafeteria — in the food, appearance and operations.

“There are a lot of changes,” said Ron Takahashi, culinary department chair. “I signed the café to one of my chef instructors as part of her job responsibilities, Chef Diane Nizarro.”

Nizarro helped to open the cafeterias at Honolulu and Windward community colleges.

In addition, 2nd Cup Café has relocated from its previous location in ‘Oheo to the cafeteria. Students now have the opportunity to purchase gourmet coffee and a variety of pastries right in the café.

Nizarro and Dave Hamada, both culinary arts instructors, have been working together since July to develop a new menu and system in the cafeteria. The two chefs have created an eight-week cycle menu in which students will not see the same food more than once throughout that cycle.

“We’re trying to get a broader of items available throughout the day for our students,” said Takahashi.

The team is also focusing on providing healthier choices of foods for students, due to an increased demand, he said.

Nizarro has noticed that some students have allergies to some of the ingredients. To adjust to help those with allergies to certain foods, she said the plan was to add stickers on the grab-and-go foods with a list of ingredients.

Nizarro has also kept in mind that some students don’t have much time between classes to grab a bite to eat, so more grab-and-go meals will be available to students on the run.

The cafeteria is on schedule to get some repairs done. But that work will happen at a later date. “(We’re) playing the waiting game for repairs to come through,” said Nizarro.

Changes in the cafeteria have already begun; the first eight-week menu started Aug. 1 and was in session on the first day of school.

Hot entrees served will always have a chicken, beef, pork or veggie dish available. For deluxe burgers, lettuce, tomatoes and onions will be included, so there will be no extra charge.

The cafeteria is open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday at 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

— Remington Tsun, copy editor
Many of the plants are endangered in the database and can be grown here in Hawai‘i, both commercially and homegrown.

KCC, LCC join to create database for native Hawaiian plants

Hawai‘i has many indigenous plants—occurring naturally in Hawai‘i and in other parts of the world—and endemic plants, which are found only in Hawai‘i. The Native Plants Hawai‘i (NPH) database emphasizes that majority of Native Hawaiian plants are endemic.

NPH aims to provide information and understanding of the importance of preserving and nurturing Native Hawaiian plants, said Mary Hattori, coordinator of the Center for Excellence in Learning, Teaching and Technology (CELTT).

A joint collaboration between Kapi‘olani Community College and Leeward Community College, the NPH database covers a wide array of native plants that users can search for by genus, species, subspecies and form.

NPH works with local nurseries to link with landscape architects and home growers to promote the purchase, use and understanding of these plants.

The database is funded by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Institutions, according to the database website.

At least a dozen nurseries from Maui, Big Island, O‘ahu and Kaua‘i have included information in the database, or “knowledge base,” said David Eickhoff, native plants specialist.

“One thing that’s really nice,” Eickhoff said, “is that there is a really big push towards growing native Hawaiian plants, especially commercially.”

NPH makes an effort to update the site constantly and have plant specialists on hand for those who need further information.

The NPH website also lists state laws concerning threatened and endangered native plants.

About 90 percent of the state’s native plants are found nowhere else in the world and are some of the most endangered.

“It’s an ongoing project and it’ll just get better and more refined as time goes on,” said Eickhoff.

—Angeline Han and Remington Taum, Kapi‘o staff

FOR MORE INFORMATION
http://nativeplants.hawaii.edu
## COMING UP AT KCC

### SEPTEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Slam Poetry Contest, 'Ohi'a cafeteria</td>
<td>12:15 to 1:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Last day to apply and register for credit by examination</td>
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### OCTOBER

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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Student Talent Show, 'Ohi'a cafeteria</td>
<td>12:15 to 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Deadline for UH/KCC intramural sports co-ed volleyball</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Last day to apply for Fall 2011 graduation for AA, AS and CA degrees</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Ice Cream Social, ʻIliahi courtyard</td>
<td>12:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Cactus-N-Coffee, ʻIliahi courtyard</td>
<td>8 to 11 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from full-semester classes, change to credit/no credit grade option, or request for audit grade option.</td>
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### NOVEMBER

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<td>Ice Cream Social, ʻIliahi courtyard</td>
<td>12:15 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>RIO Field Day Competition, 'Ohi'a cafeteria</td>
<td>12:15 to 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Veteran's Day</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Non-instructional day</td>
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### DECEMBER

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<td>8</td>
<td>Last day of instruction</td>
<td></td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Ice Cream Social, ʻIliahi courtyard</td>
<td>12:15 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-16</td>
<td>Final examination period</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>Study with your Buddy, ʻIliahi 123, 6 p.m. to midnight</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Last day of Fall 2011 semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Final grades due by 4:30 p.m.</td>
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## CAMPUS VOICES: What is your greatest fear?

- **Kaliko Estencion, 21, business**
  - "Being buried alive because I'm claustrophobic."

- **Janessa Aquino, 20, liberal arts**
  - "Dying in water. I almost drowned once, and it was not a pleasant experience."

- **Deborah Byrne, 32, nursing**
  - "Mean teachers because it's a lot of pressure."

- **Matt Nihei, 19, physical therapy**
  - "Spiders. They creep me out. They're so freaky."

- **Kimitoshi Ogata, 24, travel/tourism**
  - "Mosquitos because they're dangerous for my health."

- **Hidemi Matsumura, 19, business**
  - "Cockroaches. They're ugly and they spread germs."
The concept of buying used clothing is based on the old adage that one man's trash is another man's treasure. Though in this case, it's more like one woman's grandma sweater is another woman's retro cardigan. No matter what your fashion sense or upcoming occasion, be they '80s-inspired, cocktail formal or fit for your cousin's weekend yacht party, chances are your needs can be found in the racks of your local thrift store.

But if getting properly clothed on a college dime isn't rewarding as it is, your sense of philanthropy can be fulfilled by the fact that thrift store proceeds benefit those in need. From donating to local non-profits to funding community-based programs and helping people overcome homelessness, Savers, Goodwill and Salvation Army are doing their part in building a stronger society. It's one of those rare situations where everyone walks away fully clothed and feeling like they won the hoss elections.

Written by Nix Kinney
Pictures by Sean Nakamura
Special thanks to Savers (located at 1505 Dillingham Blvd)
MR. & MRS. COPPER TONE

Least likely to get a B

$ Class yuppie $
On the last Friday of every month, Eat the Street features a variety of food trucks as well as street food vendors for food lovers to enjoy.

Food truck frenzy

Food trucks are becoming increasingly popular as more and more people realize how convenient and quick it is to grab a meal from these mobile restaurants. Best of all, the food is made on the spot, so you get your meal while it is still fresh.

Food trucks have been expanding their fame by marketing online using social media websites, thus appealing to younger people. Its affordable prices make it an ideal place for college students to buy lunch or dinner. Food trucks serve a unique variety of foods and flavors that cater to everyone’s needs.

Not sure which one to try out first? Here are my Top 3 favorite food trucks.

– Rie Miyoshi, staff photographer

Aloha Ice Cream Tricycle

Although it is not exactly a food truck, this tricycle sells amazing ice cream desserts. The desserts are made up of layered flavors of ice cream. The unique fruity combinations of flavors are a perfect way to beat the hot Hawaiian weather.

(Follow on Twitter @cafeteaparlor)
Xtreme Tacos
What I love best about Xtreme Tacos is their Xtremely hot sauce! It makes everything taste better. Just make sure you have a bottle of water with you. Can't handle the spice? The sauce ranges from mild to xxxtra hot. Xtreme Tacos also caters to vegetarians by serving a unique vegetarian taco, the Falaco.

(Follow on Facebook and Twitter @xtremetacos)

Camille’s on Wheels
Not sure what to eat? Camille’s is a great place if you are feeling indecisive. They serve a great variety of tacos, ranging from Mexican, American, to even Asian styles. Not only can you get tacos here, Camille’s also serves cupcakes, desserts, salads and seafood paella.

(Follow on Twitter @camillesonwheel)
Discover your inner ‘Gleek’

I'm kind of awkward.

I can come across as a diva.

I'm stylish, and Lady Gaga is my idol.

I don't mean to be mean, but ... actually, I do.

yes no yes no yes no yes no

Being a part of something special makes me feel special.

I love musicals.

What's more important: leadership or popularity?

I've been bullied before.

yes no yes no leadership popularity yes no

I know I'm not the best singer, but I love it anyway.

My future is full of big dreams and I will achieve each one.

I may be different, but that doesn't bother me.

Sometimes you have to play dirty to win.

yes no i am the best. we'll see. it is! preach! well... nope always

Finn Hudson
You tend to be clumsy, awkward, and your dancing skills could use some improvement. Leadership is something you pride yourself on, but you’re always willing to take one for the team.

Rachel Berry
You may come across as a diva, but you’re only following your dreams. Don’t let anyone get in the way of you pursuing what you want. You love the spotlight, and it makes you feel special.

Kurt Hummel
You’re a fashionista. You keep up with trends and know what looks good on you and others. You may appear confident in your attire, but you’ve had hardships. Don’t allow your struggles to define you.

Santana Lopez
You are the ultimate mean girl. You’re not afraid to tell people the honest – and usually brutal – truth. But even mean girls have a soft spot. You won’t let people see it, of course.

With its third season underway, “Glee” has evolved into a franchise with 15 albums, more than 200 singles, two concert tours and even a 3-D movie. Fans of the show – “Gleeks” – can relive their high school experiences vicariously through the characters.

Take our quiz to find out which “Glee” character you are.

– Joe Nishimoto, editor-in-chief
Ousted as mayor — and other ways to rate

By Sean Nakamura

PHOTO EDITOR

Trying to figure where everybody is going in town? What’s the hottest club or venue to hang out at? Best place to eat local Japanese food? Or shave ice stores offering new flavors, waiting to melt in your mouth?

Here is where the beauty of check-in applications like Foursquare and Gowalla have become so widely popular. Users can check in to venues, stores or restaurants and let their friends know where they are on the respective applications, or through Twitter or Facebook, if the account is linked to it.

When checking in, users can post comments, tips and pictures of the location for others to see and consider for future visitations. It’s sort of like a mini review of places for others to see.

Now, of course, the two popular check-in applications, Foursquare and Gowalla, have their butthead moments for users to debate about. Still, both applications offer unique features.

Foursquare rewards users with points for checking into places. They also hand out badges to users who meet certain check-in requirements. Foursquare has partnered with many companies to offer discounts or specials for users who do check-in to a store or venue. The addicting part of Foursquare is the mayor title, which is bestowed upon users who check in the most at a location. The website exposes the competitive side of people and users fight constantly to become mayor of a specific location by checking in often.

Gowalla, on the other hand, offers stamps for checking into places and pins in replacement of Foursquare badges. Gowalla features a mini game in its application by randomly giving you items for checking in to random locations. Users can drop off an item at a place, and pick up an item left behind by another user.

These applications are two of the most popular smart phone applications. But one check-in application that is slowly progressing towards popularity is Facebook’s Places feature.

With Facebook Places, friends can check in to locations and the announcement will be presented on Facebook itself for all your friends and family to see. It may seem like it’s exposing more of your personal information in some ways, but it is easier to use and you can inform all of your friends of what’s happening.

Food lovers and connoisseurs who are Yelp! veterans can also utilize the newly-added feature of checking in when they arrive at their favorite restaurants or venue. With the extensive community and popularity of Yelp! being an important assistant in finding good eats around town, the newly added check-in feature of Yelp! will surely rise to popularity. If neither Foursquare, Gowalla or Facebook Places seems appealing, there is always Yelp!

Check-in applications, although creepy and stalker-friendly, are a great new way to share to your friends and family what’s happening. Be it a new restaurant, club, park or building, one can share to others what to do, where to go and vice versa.

Happy checking in!
A form of martial arts from Thailand called Muay Thai has made its way around the world. As a form of self defense, Muay Thai can be described as a way to use the whole body as a weapon, and is regarded as the national sport to the Thais, according to the website for the Thai Boxing Association of the USA.

For the last five years, Muay Thai instructors Naomi and Doug Owens, run the Tiger Muay Thai Gym in Aiea. Tiger Muay Thai is located in the Hawai'i Self-Storage Pearl City building.

Kru Doug, certified instructor, has been teaching Muay Thai for up to 17 years, along with his wife Naomi, who has been teaching for three years. She received approval to teach from Arjarn Tong and Kru Doug to teach beginners' classes.

At Tiger Muay Thai, classes are separated into beginners' and advanced classes, and the classes are filled with men and women and students of all ages. Instructor Naomi Owens offers some tips and information on the Muay Thai martial art.

What are some health benefits (of Muay Thai)?
Definitely a lot of core strength. With that you get balance; your center of balance is much better. All-around toning of your muscles (and) calves, your thighs, arms and your shoulders. A lot of core, your abs and your lower back.

What would students most likely gain from Muay Thai?
Reaction times definitely build up. (Students will gain) not only physical confidence, but also mental confidence. Inner strength I guess is the best way to explain it. Everybody — we’ve had so many students over five years — has a different story, and that alone could be a book.

What do beginning students need to remember?
I stress the technique. I’d rather them look good, hit soft and consistent before the move up. My main focus when I teach my beginners is that they can just stand here in this little square and do all their moves without flopping all over the place. I’m more worried about their balance and their strength, like their core strength. Anybody can go hit a bag and do pads, but if you can’t aim and hit a bag, you can’t apply it on the streets or anything. My focus is their core, balance and targeting. From there they move up (and then) they can go play with the pads.

How are the classes taught?
We do a lot of muscle-memory types of drills. ... Even though you can do 100 kicks on the pads, we’ll have them do some crazy circuit drill using the same muscle. They think they aren’t learning anything about the kick, but they’re actually strengthening their legs. They don’t know that, (and) we don’t tell them that. All the abs that they do, we’re trying to tighten up their core so that when they get a body shot or push kick, it’s nice and tight.

What do you suggest a first time student bring to class and to advance classes?
Shoes. We sell water, but if you want your water cold, bring water, and an extra shirt, at least for your first two weeks or so. Then once you’re balanced and your core and targeting get better, then bring hand wraps (or) you can always use the community gloves.
The Great Outdoors
Exploring the great outdoors is more than just visiting Mother Nature, like going on a grand hike through the Ko’olau mountain ranges, scaling underground caves, or traversing through thick forests and jungles.

The great outdoors is right outside your window and neighborhood. Whether it is the suburbs or the metropolis, it still is the outdoors. And it is great.

Instead of lush green forests and overgrown grass scouring the pathways of a mountainous hike, tall skyscrapers and paved asphalt are some of many things that make up the urban jungle.

One of the best ways to experience this great industrial outdoors is cycling.

What cycling offers over hiking is a different perspective of the familiar roads and pathways one traverses through everyday.

Riding on the very same roads cars are driven on, the angle experienced through biking on these roads is in its own world, rather than behind a wheel and a pane of glass.

The wind pulls and tugs you in every direction, the sun beats down furiously, the sound of civilization surround fill the ears, your body is exposed to the world in every possible angle.

Adrenaline in cycling on the street pavement brings along awareness and attentiveness to the elements that surround you.

This unique vision bestows the ability and opportunity to take in knowledge of the encircling populace much more directly.

Different roads can be taken alternatively to travel instead of conventional streets.

Depending on the road, discoveries of parks and hole-in-the-wall shops that had never been heard of or seen can be found along the way of ones journeys.

Perhaps a rediscovery of a site that had been commonly passed often can be found along voyages.

In perspective, cycling can be another tool for exploration and treasure hunting on the paths of the urban jungle.

Of course, the major health and physical benefits of cycling can’t be forgotten; some troopers who partake on adventures through Mother Nature’s great outdoors do it for the health benefits.

The exertion and intensity of cycling introduces a strong cardio workout accompanied with a few perks, like the ability to transport from one place to another and a new perspective of the world on the road.

Cycling uses different muscles in the legs than the ones usually used for walking, forcing the body to allocate more energy to these lesser-used muscles. Over time cycling will improve one’s stamina, leg muscles and cardiovascular system.

It can be tiring just like hiking if one takes on a steep hill or challenges the endurance with a long distance route. But in the end, and throughout the trip, the rewards are sentimentally valuable and can’t be bought or experienced through any other means.

Exploring the great outdoors by cycling through the urban jungle has a lot to offer. One can find many things from exhilarating sites to hidden areas. Findings of hole-in-the-wall restaurants and shops can be checked out and experienced. It is a different way to get out and get active.

Happy hunting.

—Sean Nakamura, photo editor
The rewards of hiking

We live amongst utopian elements, where mauka and makai exist reliably around us. They bestow the freedom to favor either whenever we please, or both if it so suits us. With our mountains home to waterfalls and lush vegetation, and our beaches as star mediums for sport and leisure, it’s impossible to ignore that our whims can be so easily satiated.

And yet, we so often trap ourselves indoors, more often climbing stairs or riding elevators than roughing terrain or braving surf. Our 3G network, though invisible as it is, still overpowers the omnipresence of our landscape.

So allow a straightforward suggestion of taking an actual breather, one that involves fresh air, and take to the trails for a day of exertion and escape. If the ocean is the epitome of our location, then it is Hawai’i’s mountains that further encapsulate paradise.

Hiking is an activity that caters to a variety of skill levels. The options range from casual strolls through wide, shady paths (Moanalua Valley Trail), to more strenuous routes that require a certain degree of experience (Piliwale Ridge trail). Bring a few friends to share in the outdoor crusade and have a picnic at a lookout or brief swim in a stream. Many trails are dog-friendly, so as long as you pack some canine snacks and doggie bags, then pooch can come along for the fun as well.

But one of the greatest perks about hiking in Hawai’i is that there’s bound to be a few trails nearby, no matter where you live. Elaborately planned day-trips to the North Shore can be exchanged for a weekend romp to your neighborhood lookout. Diamond Head is an easy, albeit touristy, hike that is a mere stone’s throw away from Kapi’olani Community College’s white chapel campus. Other hikes within the broad radius of Honolulu are the Makiki Valley Loop Trail, Wa’ahila Ridge and Mānoa Falls, the latter leading to a 150-foot waterfall. Adventure really is just hiding around the corner.

But if it’s a cool dip in a stream or a round of cliff diving that appeals to you, then perhaps Maunawili Falls or Kaipapa’u Falls are the perfect indulgences. Waimano Falls in Palisades is a short but intermediate hike due to its infamous Cardiac Hill that will leave you breathless for reasons other than the view. The real treasure of this trail is the final waterfall that spills out into three conjoined pools of various sizes, one deep enough for a risky cliff jump.

For those who aren’t quite sold on the idea of adventuring through the wilderness for the mere fun of it, then perhaps a mini “Lost” pilgrimage would further sway you. There are a plethora of hikes and waterfalls around O’ahu that have been featured in the hit ABC series that was filmed in Hawai’i. Kapena Falls, Judd Trail and Waihe’e Falls have all had their five minutes of primetime fame, and you can help relive the limelight by braving the Others and making a visit.

All in all, it’s never too late to rethink your recreational time and enjoy the great outdoors. Whether you prefer views that look straight down the Ko’olau’s or brisk icy swims through fresh mountain water, there is guaranteed to be a hiking trip that suits your needs. So go ahead and clear out your schedule for next weekend. Throw on some shorts and a junk T-shirt, pack a few Spam musubis and take to a jungle that is not based in concrete. If you abide by the standard safety tips given by our expert, then you’re bound to have only happy trails.

— Nix Kimney, staff writer

fall 2011 | 19
Poor college student.

Cliché?

Not quite.

You’ve probably said it a few times, too. It’s tough going to school and working to stay afloat in this already sinking economy. A vast majority of the student population on campus may be attending school and working multiple jobs and all week long just to be able to pay rent or go to the movies.

The staff here at the Kapi'o sat down and examined what contributes to a student’s daily life in college. Surprisingly, those small things — you know that morning latte you can’t seem to function without? — can really add up as the semester comes to an end.

Check out our compilation of daily costs of college and the solutions how to keep these luxuries in life, but still save some much-needed money.
**IT'S THE SMALL THINGS**

**Daily cup of coffee**

The problem: A quick stop at Starbucks to get that morning venti caramel macchiato can run you up to $5 a day, or $25 a month. While these delectable drinks give that jolt you need to sustain you through the day, are they really worth the money you’re spending?

The solution: Make your own cup of joe. Invest in a thermos so it can keep your coffee hot on your way to school. A $5 investment in a bag of ground coffee can last you a long time, where as a cup of coffee lasts maybe an hour.

**Cell phone**

The problem: It’s hard to imagine life without having a cell phone. Nowadays, smartphones are becoming the latest “it” item. But these phones use up a lot of data, which can make your bill more expensive. For Verizon, unlimited minutes cost $120 a month.

The solution: Share a plan with your family or friends and pay for features you only use. If you only use 500MB of data a month, don’t get unlimited. Same goes for texting and minutes. Use that half an hour to go on a hike outside, swim at the beach or put together your own routine. This way you’ll get some sun, a change of scenery, and save money.

**Gym membership**

The problem: Spending almost $40 a month on a gym membership you barely use? Let’s face it, you hit the weights maybe four times a week at most when school’s in session, or even less when finals roll around. That $40 a month turns into $480 a year. That adds up when you really think about it — and is it really worth it?

The solution: While it is nice to have some competition at the gym to push yourself to work out harder, there are cheaper ways to stay in shape for little to no cost. Use that half an hour to go on a hike outside, swim at the beach or put together your own routine. This way you’ll get some sun, a change of scenery, and save money.

**GETTING AROUND**

Transportation is one of the most costly additions to a college student’s life. Transportation — regardless if you have an older car, a new one, or none at all — is essential to get from one place to another. And any mode can be taxing on your wallet.

**Bus**

The problem: The adult one-way fare on the city bus is now $2.50. That also includes one free transfer with each paid cash fare. So, if you choose to take the bus everyday twice a day, that’s $5, which amounts to $25 a week, then, to take it further, that leaves you at spending $100 a month just to get to campus. Crazy, right?

The Solution: This is where being a student can be a benefit. The U-Pass is the University Bus pass program that is offered to students for a reduced rate. For KCC students, the U-pass runs at $125, and lasts until the end of the semester. You’ll save $175 with a U-Pass in comparison to $300 on six monthly adult bus passes.

**Truck/SUV**

The problem: These bigger vehicles make parking harder, and the gas can quickly drain out your bank account. On average, a mid-size truck takes about $55 to $60 a week, with gas currently at $4 per gallon. Driving to school three or four times a week can take a toll on not only you, but also your bank account. Plus, it's not fun stressing or door dings and angry notes left on the windshield.

The solution: Don’t speed, and not too much aggressive driving, excessive speeding, and bursts of acceleration cut your gas mileage. Driving at highway speeds lowers your gas mileage by 33 percent, according to www.fueleconomy.gov. Ditch the truck or SUV and save by getting a compact car. Save gas by keeping your engine tuned up, and skipping the air conditioning.

**Moped/motorcycle**

The problem: There are a lot of possibilities of accidents happening, it can be quite dangerous zipping everywhere and making sure cars see you.

The solution: Even though gas can cost as little as $10 for a full tank, filling up once every two weeks, depending on the type of bike or technology being used. Instead, catch a ride with some friends or get a bicycle! You won’t need to stop at the gas station, plus you’ll get great health benefits riding to and from school several times a week.
COST OF EDUCATION

For young college students, the cost of going to school can be a stressful thing to think about. So how do you prevent from emptying your savings? In most cases, you can't. Tuition is still on the rise. Our economy is at a greater risk of falling into another recession, reported The Associated Press. But there are ways for you to save money while in school. There are a lot of opportunities; don't let them slide by.

**Tuition**

**The problem:** Tuition at KCC for the 2011-2012 school year is $97 per credit, a $9 jump from the previous school year. If about $1,200 is hard enough to pay off, then be aware. If you're looking into transferring to University of Hawai'i Mānoa, keep in mind that full-time students pay $4,550, which includes student fees.

**The solution:** Apply for financial aid. Start by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, and talk to advisers in the financial aid office to see what scholarships, grants or loans are available to you.

**Books**

**The problem:** Buying textbooks can be frustrating, especially when you don't even have to open the book during the semester. It gets worse when you try to sell it back and you get $20 for a book you paid up to $150 for.

**The solution:** Check online to see if the book required will sell at a cheaper price. Some places to consider are Amazon.com, BarnesAndNoble.com and Half.com. You can also sell your book back to these websites for other students across the country to purchase for the next semester. And campus bookstores, like the one at KCC, offer textbook rentals, too.

**Food and beverage**

**The problem:** According to a study by Westwood College, college students nationwide spend $10.5 billion dollars on food and beverages, and almost $6 billion on alcohol, according to Harvard School of Public Health. Think about it: spending $4 on your morning latte every day amounts to $20 a week. And say you spend about $5 on lunch every day — that's $25 a week. That amounts to nearly $50 a week on just lunch and coffee.

**The solution:** Pack a homemade lunch. Buy food in bulk from stores like Costco and Sam's Club. It may seem pricey when you buy it, but it will last you a long time. Make coffee at home and bring it in a thermos. And if you're a hearty partier, there's no need to party every weekend. When Monday rolls around, you can say you actually remember what you did Saturday night.
A photo essay by:
Sean Nakamura
HALE'IWA TORO NAGASHI
PAPER LANTERNS ARE SET OUT TO SEA TO HELP GUIDE THE DECEASED ANCESTORS TO THE OTHER WORLD.

DRUMMING ATOP THE YAGURA
TAIKO DRUMMER MICHAEL GONHATA, OF HAWAI'I MATSURI TAIKO, ACCOMPANIES BON ODORI MUSIC WITH DRUM BEATS AT THE MANOA KOGANJI TEMPLE.
Every summer Japanese missions in O'ahu— and the neighboring Hawaiian Islands— hold an obon festival to honor the ancestors and guide them back home to their families on this earth.

It is a Buddhist tradition that has been celebrated throughout Japan for more than 500 years.

From the days the first Japanese immigrants arrived in Hawai'i to the present times, the obon (or simply bon) festival has become an important tradition in Hawai'i culture. At every bon festival in Hawai'i, you can find yourself in the midst of residents from the community and around the island. Staple foods like Spam musubi and saimin always make an appearance, and, depending on the mission, yakitori sticks, hamburgers, hot dogs, chili rice and shave ice, too.

Women can be seen wearing casual light cotton kimono called yukatas, and men wear happi coats. While this traditional garb still persists, most people in Hawai'i come in T-shirts, shorts and rubber slippers.

The bon odori, a traditional dance to welcome the dead, lures veterans and first-comers alike to join in with the dancing to traditional music around a yagura, a high wooden scaffold.

Each Japanese mission has its own size and personality of people.

Some sites are small, like the Mō'ili'i Hongwanji, are small. This particular mission, located near the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, is one of the gateways to Waikīkī. Its convenient location brings out many locals, visitors, and tourists.

Other missions, such as the Pālolo Hongwanji, located in an older community in the outskirts of central Honolulu, bring in mostly residents from around the community.

Some places such as the Hale'iwa Jodo Mission hold a toro nagashi, a ceremony of floating of lanterns, towards the end of the bon festival as a tradition to honor and guide the ancestors.

No matter which one you attend, obon festivals in Hawai'i offer a chance to celebrate and honor your ancestors, while providing a community event for families and friends to gather and spend quality time with each other.

FROM TOP LEFT, CLOCKWISE
DRESSED IN TRADITIONAL YUKATAS DURING THE OPENING PRAYER OF THE HALE'IWA BON FESTIVAL.

A YAGURA STANDS PEACEFULLY WHILE BATHING UNDER THE REMAINING RAYS OF LIGHT FROM THE SUN BEFORE THE BON FESTIVAL BEGINS IN HALE'IWA.
PAPER LANTERNS DRESS THE SKY AT THE MĀNOA KOGANJĪ TEMPLE.

PARTICIPANTS DANCE WITH TAIKO STICKS IN DELIGHT TO A BON ODORI SONG AT THE MĀNOA KOGANJĪ TEMPLE.
Teachers and faculty have undoubtedly extolled the virtues of Kapi'olani Community College's wealth of potential every semester to new students, proclaiming the campus a veritable tapestry of opportunity just waiting to be explored. And by now, students have no doubt tuned out these exuberant chantings, unfortunately nullifying the power of that sentiment.

But make no mistake about it, it's an institution that's willing to facilitate any student in pursuit of their dreams, and perhaps no one typifies this notion better than KCC alum Donovan Slack, Washington correspondent for the Boston Globe.

Her professional aspirations came to fruition through the aide of modest mentors and bountiful scholarships, ultimately leading her to an accomplished career in journalism and, among other things, a flight aboard Air Force One with President Barack Obama.

Raised in Canada, she had always felt the need to make my own way in life. With no money for college, she decided to go to Hawai'i for a change of pace, having only visited the islands once before on vacation.

"Up until that point, I had no idea what I wanted to do," Slack said. After talking to her parents, she decided to enroll in KCC. She consulted the counselor's office and took the aptitude test, which suggested she pursue a career in journalism. Soon after, at the age of 29, she registered for a few journalism classes.

"In my first class, on my first day," she said, "I immediately knew." That class was Winnie Au's public service journalism course. She was assigned a chapter of reading that contained a story that uncovered a string of abortion clinics giving abortions to women who weren't pregnant. The story led to the clinic being shut down, which made a huge impression on Slack.

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"I saw that it was possible to make a difference in society through journalism," she said.

After a few semesters at KCC, she was asked to edit the Kapi'o, the college's weekly newspaper.

"I'm not sure if it was because of the talent or because I was hanging around all the time [laughs] — it wasn't a job many people volunteered for in those days," she said. "I edited the paper for a year, and it gave me my first taste of journalism."

She became very interested in what was going on on campus and felt as though the editorship connected her to the school in a way she never thought possible. Through the various connections she made during her tenure at the Kapi'o, she discovered Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most widely known academic honor society with a chapter at KCC.

As a member of Phi Beta Kappa, she won several scholarships and became the regional president of the Pacific region. During this time, she became even more involved with events on campus and community service, and entered a scholarship competition, which she won with another member. They represented KCC as the only community college in the nation to have two students named to the first team — a prestigious selection considering that only 20 were selected out of 1,400 who applied. Their flight was sponsored by USA Today and they accepted their accolades in Washington D.C, receiving $2,500 in scholarships and gold medals presented by the American Association of Community Colleges.

In 2000, she graduated from KCC and acquired an internship in London, where she worked for a non-profit group while editing a book for the United Nations. She then got involved with a service project, which sponsored a conference for the millennium.

All of these opportunities arose out of her dedication to journalism and the guidance of her teachers.

"I have to thank the amazing professors at KCC for they're tireless support," Slack said. "No matter how poorly written something was, they saw that I wanted to do well. They saw my passion, and they pushed me to reach my dreams. I cannot thank them enough. I would not be where I am today without them."

After everything she accomplished at KCC, she got accepted into Northwestern University, where she studied newspaper journalism while interning for the Times of Trenton, a newspaper in New Jersey. While in college, she moved around the country, interning at the Virginian Pilot's North Carolina bureau and serving as student writer for the Boston Globe. She stayed at the Globe for six months, where she eventually procured a staff position. She earned her bachelor's degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, graduating as the valedictorian of the class in 2003.

When first starting out as a reporter at the Globe, she covered a wide range of topics and issues.

"I covered things like shootings, city council hearings, fires, and the affairs of Boston City Hall," she said.

Over time, her penchant for uncovering the truth earned her recognition amongst her peers, and she gradually covered stories that carried more gravity. She reported on a high-profile hockey team rape scandal, as well as the Boston police's fatal shooting of a college student after the Red Sox won the National Pennant. She even flew to England to stake out an accused murderer.

"As a newspaper journalist, you're only as good as the last story you turned in, so sometimes it's hard to keep perspective. I can't say I have one particularly favorite piece, because I'm fueled by a continuous drive to produce content capable of affecting people in the future," Slack said after taking her first journalism class at KCC, "I knew."

She recalls being sent to Grenada to interview the mother of the London City Subway suicide bomber.

"I sat across from her and looked in to her eyes," she said. "She was donned in a hijab and sunglasses, yet there were tears pouring down her face, as we talked about her son, who had just killed dozens of people. To be the person sitting there to hear her story was an incredible moment."

She also co-authored an article in 2009 titled "A Girl's Life" that led to the reformation of Boston's child services system.

"To try and tell it in a way that did the victim justice," Slack said, "but also exposed the problems in the system, was an extraordinary challenge."
But one that she navigated deftly, as it won her the prestigious Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism Award that year. As a result of the article, the government ordered a review of the way child services was run with goal of preventing similar deaths in the future.

Her most recent highlight? Travelling with President Obama on Air Force One, while being able to the tweet experience live to readers.

"To use social media to bring readers with me was an amazing experience," she said.

She likened the press cabin to a five-star hotel, where they served a breakfast worthy of note. There was no safety briefing, and no need for seat-belts, as it's one of, if not the, safest airplane in the world. She flew from D.C to Connecticut, then back to D.C. Everywhere they drove, they were escorted in a motorcade.

"The best part?" she said. "No traffic."

She now works as a day-to-day correspondent operating out of the Boston Globe's bureau in downtown D.C. She's now able to attend daily press briefings at the White House, which she describes as an "eerie experience. It doesn't seem real sitting in that room, especially coming from KCC."

Since arriving in Washington in February, she's done stories about key staff members and new presidential initiatives. She was also there when the news of Osama bin Laden's death was reported, an event that has left an indelible impression in her. "To be here to record those important moments in history, is a dream come true," she said.

Slack exuberantly states her passion for profession whenever she can: "I am absolutely, 100 percent, where I want to be, and I hope to remain here for the foreseeable future. I have an incredible opportunity now to do what I got into journalism to do — to make a difference."

Slack's story is one of triumph and hope, but more than anything, it shows that anyone is capable of attaining their dreams, so long as they're willing to put in the work.

"It's important for KCC students to realize the opportunity's avail-

Slack enjoys talking to students, especially at KCC when she visits the Islands. She credits the school as giving her her start, able to them through the news and culinary programs, as well as the myriad scholarships," she said. "I didn't have money to pay for school, I waited tables at the Hilton Hawaiian at night, and everything I've accomplished has been through schoolhouse grants. The opportunities are there, just waiting for you to discover them. There is nothing you can't do, and this school, in the shadow of Diamond Head, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, is a great place to start."
No whining about wine

Ever wondered what it would be like to have a career where you can work with wine on a daily basis? Well, during the summer, the Kapi'o was lucky enough to snag an interview with someone who does exactly that.

Shannon Ball, a 35-year-old master winemaker from Kaimuki and owner of Wine The Experience, formerly in Kilohana Square, shares what winemakers do, how you get into the field and why he loves his job so much.

Chayne Toyama: What is the difference between a master winemaker and a sommelier?
Shannon Ball: The wine industry is generally separated into two fields: winemakers (master winemakers) and wine-tasters (sommeliers). Wine-making is anything from the vineyards — where grapes are planted and harvested — to what goes on in the winery where the grape juices are taken through the fermentation process. Background in chemistry is needed because fermentation is a chemical process. Sommeliers, on the other hand, deal with wine-tasting. Sommeliers go through a special training that deals with wine-tasting and food service. They are also educated in history and geography because they have to know everything about the wine, from where the grapes are from to what kind of soil was used. Sommeliers work in restaurants by paring wine with food.

CT: How do you become a master winemaker?
SB: You can start off by working at a restaurant that offers wine tasting. From there, you can take classes in biology, chemistry and microbiology, or go to a special school where you can focus on a certain aspect. Like anything, getting in there and getting dirty to start is the best way. See if you even like it.

CT: What's the pay like?
SB: If you work in a vineyard or winery, you could make $30,000 to $70,000. It all depends on the winery's size and what they're like. If you decide to open your own business, you really can only pay yourself as much as you're making.

Q. What type of person would you recommend this job for?
A. This type of job needs perfection because it's a science (technical) and an art (make it your own).
Ending the night with laughter

By Angeline Han
STAFF WRITER

Most people don’t realize that some of the most well-known comedic actors, some with Academy Awards — Jim Carrey, Jack Black, Jamie Foxx, Robin Williams — got their start as stand-comics before hitting the big screen.

Stand-up comedy is a comedic performance by one or more persons, usually up on a stage, telling jokes, improvising, pantomiming and various other ways to make fools of themselves, of others, and illustrating life to its fullest truth to get a laugh from the audience.

Hawaii is rich with stand-up comics. They are our local celebrities who make fun of things that only happen here, and nowhere else in the United States.

But where are they? Many of them don’t perform stand-up as much as they first did when they started out. You often don’t hear about new comics coming up, or if you do they don’t stay in Hawaii long; they go off to pursue bigger stardom on the Mainland. There are few comics still dedicated to the craft of stand-up.

The longest-standing comedy club on Oahu was the Honolulu Comedy Club. Eddie Sax operated it at the Ilikai Hotel in the mid-1980s, where a few long-time comics started out like Ken “Kento-san” Komoto and Bo Irvine.

What Komoto loves most about stand-up comedy is the psychology behind it. The connection to people is most important, reaching them with shared experiences.

“Comedy is a dialogue, but it’s a one-way dialogue,” he said. “Even though I’m the only one talking on stage, the dialogue is going on in peoples’ heads, like ‘I can relate to that,’ (and) ‘Oh, that’s true but that’s so wrong, why am I laughing?’”

Komoto got his start with the Honolulu Comedy Club. He auditioned for Sax, and impressed him enough that he let Komoto do regular emcee gigs and hosting at the club. Komoto would introduce the main acts, then get three minutes of time on stage. His experience on stage set his expectations straight.

“I learned real quick,” Komoto said. “(The) first couple of times I did well but then after that that’s when you start bombing, bombing hardly and miserably.”

Komoto continued to work for Sax for several more years, and traveled to the Mainland to perform. When the A&E network came to film for the reality show, “Comedy on the Road,” in 1994, he got his first national exposure.

Bo Irvine is a self-professed late bloomer, first starting comedy when he was in his 30s. He didn’t think of doing stand-up comedy until he
Comedy is a dialogue, but it's a one-way dialogue, even though I'm the only one talking on stage, the dialogue is going on in peoples' heads, like 'I can relate to that,' (and) 'Oh, that's true but that's so wrong, why am I laughing?'

-Ken Komoto comedian

His advice to budding comics is something his friend, comic George Wallace told him.

"Fifty percent of the people are going to like you," Irvine said. "Fifty percent aren't. The hell with the 50 percent that don't."

Shawn Felipe has been doing stand-up for less than 10 years.

His real breakthrough didn't come until he began incorporating his life and story into his act.

"The way I look at it is: you're touching somebody else's life and touching their heart," Felipe said. "It's like hey, we're all the same kind of people who go through the same kind of problems. Especially in relationships. It's the same. You just want to give up."

From top to bottom: Ken "Kento-san" Komoto, Kenny Johnson, and Shawn Felipe.

The audience rolls with laughter as Ken "Kento-san" Komoto opens the Saturday night show at the Honolulu Comedy Theatre.
Promotional group Space & Spound seeks underground talent in hopes of reviving the local music scene.

Experimental entrepreneurs

By Alika Pfaltzgraff
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Only a few years ago, the notion of a "thriving" music scene outside of reggae in Hawai'i was inconceivable. For most of the islands' history, large acts such as Lady Gaga and Lil' Wayne were the only type of artists able to perform here, as they carried enough clout and recognition to warrant major venues such as Blaisdell and the Waikiki Shell; anything smaller than that was simply not worth the time or effort. That paradigm is slowly beginning to shift however, as a new class of promoters emerge possessing an exuberant yearning for new sounds and ideas.

This movement is concentrated in the few concrete blocks of youthful sprawl known as Chinatown. The area has become a mecca for young entrepreneurial types in all walks of life in search of two slices of pie: one for them and one for their likeminded compatriots. To be sure, Chinatown's rapid transformation into the city's bustling hot spot can be attributed to dozens of passionate people with collaborative states of mind working under a unified vision towards a specific aesthetic.

The clubs borne out of this vision, such as Next Door and SoHo Mixed Media Bar, are able to cater to a versatile and often demanding crowd of twentysomethings looking for a break from the typical claustrophobic bustle of Waikiki's nightclub scene. Alternatively, these lounge-centric bars have proven to be powerful venues for up and coming musicians to showcase their talents, without having to be a part of mainstream press.

Show promoters play an integral role in shaping the musical landscape of this quixotic scene, paving the way for future generations looking for something beyond the pale. One such group is Space & Sound, an art and music promotional collective striving to push the limits of visual and aural performance and experience.

Brought together by their passion for the eclectic and eccentric, Travis Tokuyama, Annie Nguyen and Joe Gosavles formed Space & Sound in 2009, with hopes of promoting the artists and performers that piqued their interests.

“We felt that there was a growing demand to see artists who have become really popular within a specific niche," Tokuyama said, "and we wanted to cater to that crowd, while indulging in our own compulsions.”

Acting as head art director, Nguyen designs all of the groups posters and flyers, as well as the layouts for their futuristic website. She enjoys working with the group because she's able to merge her two perennial obsessions.

“We want to support and expose new art and music to our local community and push the limits of visual and aural performance and experience," she said.

Nguyen recently relocated to Los Angeles, in hopes of furthering her career in new media. She remains actively involved in S&S via email and promotes the group profusely around her new stomping grounds.

Of course, Space & Sound is just one in a handful of upcoming promotional groups spouting up here and there, all touting an assortment of goals and attributes. Next Door recently begun hosting a monthly event entitled Next Coast, which has already featured nationally-recognized artists such as Kid Sister and Flying Lotus. Next Coast has already proven beneficial for the club, drawing in up to 100 more people per event than usual.

Perhaps the most successful of these young start-ups is BAMP, which started doing shows in 2005, and has since facilitated more than 200 events. BAMP's success has raised them to the upper echelon of artist management, and bridged the gap between mainstream and underground talent better than any team before them. Their ascendency has granted them the opportunity to open their own venue, called the Republik, which should see its first show before the end of the year.

There are multiple reasons for the varying degrees of success each group has achieved, but despite the myriad factors that lead each incarnation down their respective path, for Gosavles, as well as the others.

“It's always been about the music," said Gosavles. "As long as we honor that creed, we will all be successful in one way or another.”
Merging of the minds

By Alika Pfaltzgraff

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A convalescence of like-minded minds came together this summer, leading to a merger that has implications far beyond the proximity of Hawai‘i’s local art scene.

The unification between The Honolulu Academy of Arts and The Contemporary Museum, which became official on July 1, brought together two institutions that have established a level of prestige in the local and foreign art scenes.

When one hears about a merger between two high-end businesses, images of CEOs and executives surrounding a wood-grained oval table to come to mind. But according to the higher-ups, the decision was rather amiable and based mainly on the desire to create a streamlined aesthetic, while expanding the horizons of both museums.

The Honolulu Academy of Arts was founded in 1922 by Anna Rice Cooke, and opened April 8, 1927. It is accredited by the American Association of Museums and registered as a National and State Historical site. The Academy now houses more than 3,500 pieces of art, and will add to that collection with this merger.

The entire collection of The Contemporary Museum, located in Makiki Heights, has now been gifted to the Academy, and many of pieces currently residing at the TCM will eventually be transferred over the Academy for display. TCM has always drawn in less people than the Academy, and the recession was cited as a critical factor in this decision.

Sometimes separating the artists from the art is difficult, if not impossible, depending upon their reputation and ego. The separation between artist and institution, however, is even less frequently perceived, as well as the amount of work involved with acquiring these busy artists for shows and displays.

Before the merger, TCM had been sponsored several trips for New York artist Darren Waterston to Hawai‘i, thorough its Artist in Residence program. During his stay, he studied the islands’ dynamic climate, specifically lava, for he’d been cultivating an interest in Pele. The result of this trip is a two-part exhibition featuring artwork at both TCM and HAA. This display marks the first official show to utilize the grounds of both museums concurrently.

For those who were worried about policy adjustments and bureaucracy conflicts, Director of Communications Lisa Griffith assuaged many of the patrons more prominent concerns.

“Both museums will continue with their already scheduled exhibitions through 2011, and they will now operate during the same hours, for the sake of convenience,” Griffith said.

To transition comes with a whole new set of issues that may have to be worked out in the future, including admission prices, hours of operation and membership levels, Griffith added.

Those looking to broaden their artistic palette would do well to purchase memberships, which are currently priced $55 per year at the Honolulu Academy of Arts and $45 at The Contemporary Museum. Current members at either museum will be granted access to the other.

Indulge in the opportunity while supporting the local art scene.
The Hall of Supreme Harmony can be seen as tourists slowly inch forward through the Gate of Supreme Harmony in the Forbidden City.

By Sean Nakamura
PHOTO EDITOR

As I step out of Beijing International Airport, it’s hot — really hot — and a questionable aroma lingers in the nonexistent breeze. There is dust in the air, too much dust. Oh, and it’s only 10 p.m.

I’ve just arrived in Beijing on vacation, and my initial reaction: the weather really sucks.

I wheeze a bit as my driver pulls up to take me to the hotel. A 45-minute drive to the hotel, he says. Great, just what I need, sit my butt down again after just getting up from a 12-hour flight.

And so, I arrive at the hotel, check-in, throw my bags on the ground and plop on the bed, tomorrow is going to be a long day.

Day 1

I am at Tiananmen Square, the second largest public square in the world. There’s something about this place. I feel small, overwhelmed by the large space and tall structures surrounding the square. I can feel tension still lingering from the protests of 1989. Metal fences surround the entire square with a few entry points that require a bag screening before entering. There really isn’t much to do at the square except take pictures of the tall buildings and large structures dotting the square. This place needs a hot dog stand or something.

Across the street rests the Forbidden City. There is nothing forbidden about this place anymore. It used to be the home of the last emperor of China. I can’t believe I’m walking on the pavement many emperors and empresses have walked on.

There are thousands of tourists squeezing their way along through the gates and buildings. Maybe I need to take a different route. A route to some local cuisine.

I’m going to try some authentic Peking (Beijing) roast duck for dinner. After some ineffective communication with my waiter in Chinese, my tour guide helped me get settled with the menu. Duck, my favorite avian bird. A chef rolls out a cart in front of my table with a freshly roasted duck sitting on top. He brandishes his knives and begins skillfully slicing the roast duck in front of me. Then he places the prepared poultry on plates and serves them to me.

Supposedly, there is a specific way to wrap the pieces of duck in these thin pancakes. I just wrapped mine like a mini-burrito. Aside from all roast duck-consuming formalities, the duck itself just melts in my mouth. This may be the best duck I’ve had in my entire life.

Stuffed and satisfied, my stomach is happy, as is my palette for good duck. I think it’s time to go back to the hotel and sleep this off.

Day 2

Commence the fanfare, bring on the game music, don your nations colors and apparel. It’s the Beijing Olympics. Wait, I’m three years too late. There’s nothing here but the buildings that were once used to host the 2008 Olympic events. But I do enjoy looking at this building that looks like giant metal bird’s nest — not coincidentally nicknamed the Bird’s Nest because of its design.

Time for lunch — and more Chinese food. I’m told it’s energy food to prepare me for the next site.

It’s the Great Wall of China. Let me repeat that: the Great Wall of China. I can’t believe I’m here. I’d never though I’d ever visit this place in my life, and here I am standing right in front of the entrance, marveling at the great wonder as the locals walk past me.
“Love Locks,” symbolizing the love shared between one couple are seen lining the entrance of the Juyongguan Pass of the Great Wall of China.
My tour guide tells me that as you hike up the wall, you’ll pass through tower checkpoints. If you make it to the fifth tower, you get the title of hero. And if you reach the seventh tower, you’re a superhero. That’s easy, in fact that’s too easy. How can a bunch of measly steps hinder me from reaching superhero status? Reaching the seventh tower will be no sweat.

One by one, I triumphantly conquer every step as I walk to the first tower. This is going to be easy. I start picking up the pace. My breathing is getting quite heavy right now. Oh, man, I can’t be out of shape! Wait a second, why are these steps so irregular? Little step, big step, wide step, steep step, small step. What engineer in the right mind would design these steps so badly? Endure, pain is nothing. I’m almost to the tower. Almost there. Rest stop.

Demoralized at the fact that it just took me 20 minutes to get up to the first checkpoint, I’m not sure if I want to continue to the next tower. It’s so damn far up — and this just the first tower. I’m so exhausted. I want to go back. I think I will.

So now, my tour guide explains to me the ancient Chinese designed the steps irregularly to discourage and tire out the enemy if they were to ever charge a tower. I suddenly have the most profound respect for Chinese engineers.

I’m back at the hotel to call it a day. But first, more Chinese food for dinner. I think I hate Chinese food right now.

Day 3

Last day in Beijing. I’m still a bit tired from yesterday’s horrendous hike. But it’s a good thing today will be a walk in the park, I’m told. Literally. On my way to the Temple of Heaven, once was a religious temple only used by the emperor. Now it’s a major tourist attraction.

Enter the thousands of tourists walking and squeezing their way around. I’m really starting to get tired of this.

Aside from the hordes of tourists tramping around, the architecture of the temple premises is really fascinating. Every object is made from stone and placed with precision. The temple, itself, is a marvel to look at. The artwork painted on the wood both on the exterior and the interior is almost mystically. Maybe that’s why it’s called the Temple of Heaven.

Time for lunch. Chinese food. I don’t want it. Please, somebody, please, give me a plate lunch and a hamburger with some fries. I can’t eat Chinese food anymore.

Before the day is over, I walk through an area called Silk Street Market. It’s a culmination of retail vendors who sell counterfeit designer and computer products. As I walk through, Chinese vendors begin shoving products in my face and screaming at me in Chinese to buy it. Everywhere I go, I see fake watches and brand-name replicas at extremely low prices. I’m not sure if I should even buy any of these goods knowing that they’re fake.

As the sun sets, it’s time to head back to the hotel to prepare for my departure. These last few days in Beijing gave me a mixed first impression. Aside from the humidity and summer heat, Beijing is was much enjoyable with lots of sights to see and things to do.

Next time, though, I’ll go in the winter.
Start your engines

By Angeline Han
STAFF WRITER

"Could senaka, AngelOfDeath and Jenn please approach the pits, stop."

My nerves were tingling as we approached the gate. This was my first time go-karting and I didn't know if I could do it. They let us into the gate where all the numbered karts were and walked us into the back room to show us the flags and rules. Helmet, head socks, and "seat cushions" were given to us. Buckle up and strap in. We were ready to race, whether we felt ready or not.

In the car, we all pulled out slowly. I hit the gas, and vroom!

I shot ahead of Jenn's kart in front. I hit 45 mph easily, only braking when the guy on the racetrack flashed a "use your brakes" sign.

"C'mon slowpokes!" I thought. I could feel myself breaking through air, every turn exhilarating.

Since it opened in January, Podium Raceway has been popular with crowds, families, young guys, friends and kids. The only indoor go-karting raceway on O'ahu, Podium Raceway boasts European-style racing on a state-of-the-art racetrack with full remote control of all the go-karts. There are junior races too, where the go-karts are slightly smaller than the regular go-karts.

The place has a racer feel to it, with the decorations of racing track-suits in glass cases and flags pinned up on the walls. Seats and tables near the racetrack make it spectator-friendly, too. Inexplicably, there is an arcade room with "Terminator Salvation," "Dance Dance Revolution" and "Motorcross" games, a claw hand machine to win prizes, among many others.

But why you would want any of that when you can race?

Two soda machines, a Red Bull machine, and an ice cream machine were by the side of the arcade room, for those who get wiped after their race(s).

Ah, that's another thing. One is never enough. My race ended too soon. You aren't allowed to go slow to elongate your race; you're allotted a max of 18 seconds per lap. One race is 14 laps, and while you think it will be enough...

It won't. You will quickly get addicted.

"I don't need to get a track pass..."

Yes, you do.

Take it from me. I got first place in my first go-kart race, ever. Everyone was hooked. One more race, they said. Well, I didn't bring enough money. A track pass can take care of that for $5.95, with an additional $20 to race. But there goes lunch.

In the end, I chose grinds over racing with a new track pass, which I will get eventually. It was really too bad. I wanted to cream my dear friends in the racetrack once more. Racing scores are posted on a flat screen after the race, as well as stat sheets of your race.

You may think that this isn't for you or that you won't like it. It's OK to be scared and unsure; the staff at Podium was more than friendly showing us the rules, flags, guiding us through. I was so inept one of them had to strap my helmet on for me. You might be like me and catch on quick, speed racing and hitting barriers, or like Jenn who was a little too slow on the racetrack.

Advice? Speed it down and slow it up. And have fun. It's not NASCAR, but it's the real deal. Be prepared to get the track pass when you go, don't fool yourself into thinking it's a one-time deal. Nothing fun is ever done just once.

GET YOUR RIDE ON

One race (10 mins): $25
Two races same day: $40
Three races same day: $55
Minimum age: 13 years (junior races available)

Hours: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to midnight Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday

91-1085 Lexington St., Bldg 1844, in Kapolei
This paper doll was created in celebration of International Education week, held in the fall. Students, faculty and staff can also enjoy International Festival week happening during the spring.

Celebrate early with this paper doll and her different cultural costumes representing each country recognized during international education week!