

The Kapi'ō Newspress

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

THE KAPI'OLANI COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWSWEEKLY

Volume # 40 Issue 13

Web site gives students a chance to express themselves

Web sites that allow students to rate instructors receive mixed reviews.

By Thomas Duarte
NEWS EDITOR

With the semester winding down students will soon be filling out the end of the year evaluations. These evaluations will be used by instructors to assess their teaching styles and abilities and then decide if they need to make changes. The evaluations are not made public and students will never know how other students feel about their instructors. A Web site, ratemyprofessors.com (RMP) seeks to enable students to rate their professors and leave comments about them. The opening page states that the site is

"where students do the grading."

Students are able to use RMP during registration to find out how potential instructors are rated. The site uses a rating system and gives the overall quality of the instructor depicted by smiley or sad faces. Students can also read the comments in the comment section, which range from "highly recommended" to "I hate this guy" and sometimes get an insight to what the course is about.

"Before I register I like to look at the ratings and see which professors are recommended," KCC student Vanessa Apilado said.

Some faculty on campus are aware of the Web site and feel that it could aid them in their teaching if they choose to view the site. It can give faculty a view of what a student may think on their own terms and in their comfort zone.

"I think the site is fantastic. It gives students a say in their education," said Hawaiian studies instructor Palani Kelly. "As a professional I appreciate comments and it can help me improve my teaching abilities when the comments are constructive."

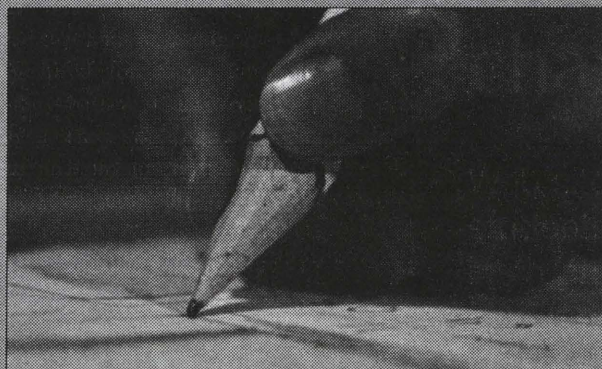
With the many positives RMP demonstrates, there are drawbacks to the ratings. Students who use the Web site have no standard to relate the overall ratings of instructors. Students must sift through the comments, which could be outlandish and false.

"There are times where students could exaggerate and you need to be aware of that and use your own intuition," Apilado said.

Instructors understand that there are pros and cons with an

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IN-CLASS EVALUATIONS



FALL 2006 REGISTRATION



PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

» Turn to page 4 for more information

KCC home and stage of unique Synthesizer Ensemble

A group of students display their musical talents on and off campus.

By Ellice Flores
STAFF WRITER

While KCC doesn't have a big instrumental group such as a concert band or orchestra, KCC has a unique music ensemble called the Synthesizer Ensemble. Synthesizers are electronic keyboards that produce various sounds of other instruments. When the ensemble performs it may sound like a full orchestra or band, but in actuality, only six or seven member are playing the music.

The Synthesizer Ensemble was started by KCC music professor Anne Lum. Lum first started the Synthesizer Ensemble at Leeward Community College in 1987. When she began teaching at KCC in 1992, she felt that the KCC music



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE LUM

The Kapiolani Community College Synthesizer Ensemble performs in the Ohia Cafeteria during the International Festival. The Ensemble uses electronic keyboards to mimic the sounds of a full orchestra.

program could benefit from having an ensemble. "I tried it first as an experimental class in 1993," Lum said. "It soon became an official class through the curriculum com-

mittee process on this campus after it had a successful run in experimental mode."

The Synthesizer Ensemble performs approximately five times

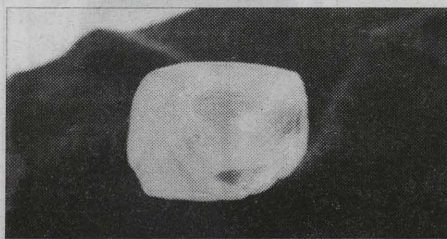
per semester. The Synthesizer Ensemble performs at KCC events such as the Christmas in November benefit brunch in the fall, the International Festival and graduation

in the spring, and the Phi Theta Kappa initiation ceremony that takes place in the fall and spring. Other performances include mall concerts, usually at Kahala Mall or Ala Moana Shopping Center.

"The best thing about having a Synthesizer Ensemble is the chance to develop and enhance performance skills as well as confidence levels of my students," Lum said. "This class gives students the chance to perform in a variety of ways, from playing keyboards together, to solo experience, to performing along with the ensemble on vocal and other instruments."

Some ensemble members are talented in other instruments too, and they use their talents to enhance the ensemble. Current ensemble member Mira Secretaria sings in the ensemble. "I joined the ensemble because I wanted to learn how to play the synthesizers, and also because I like to sing. I like to sing all types

BACKPAGE: Music, page 8



REUTERS

The rocks that I got

A 235-carat diamond, the size of a hen's egg was discovered at the Schmitzdriift mine in South Africa.

Full Story @ www.reuters.com

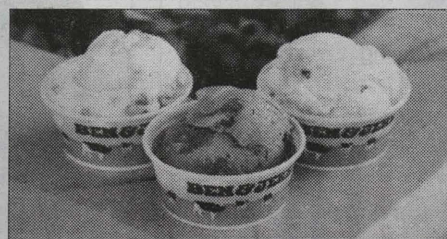


AP

Gotcha

An Internet video showing the tagging of Air Force One caused the Air Force to investigate what turned out to be an elaborate hoax.

Full Story @ www.ap.com



REUTERS

Our bad

Ben & Jerry's apologized to Irelanders for naming their new flavor 'Black & Tan,' the name of a vicious British militia group.

Full Story @ www.reuters.com



ONION

Oh yeah?

Drunk will show you, he'll show everybody.

Full Story @ www.onion.com

Broken camera leads to consumer liberation

By Tony Ruiz
 U-WIRE

Not once did I wet my bed. Yet my parents were determined to keep the store's protective plastic on my new mattress indefinitely.

And even if my family's furniture had actually been threatened by one 9-year-old's uncontrollable bladder, it wouldn't explain why they insisted on keeping the protective plastic on the lampshades. It was as if my nonexistent incontinence were malicious.

They were obsessed with protecting our material possessions. It was a sickness. And it was spreading.

My grandparents had a custom plastic cover made for their couch. It sticks to one's skin and to this day makes a horrifying sound when it is sat on.

Some relatives strategically laid thick pieces of plastic on the most traveled portions of their new wall-to-wall carpet, warranting alarm when anyone diverged from the predetermined plastic path.

One of my friends bought the latest Nikes, and this forced him to carry a tiny brush at all times. In a futile effort to stall normal wear and tear, he would stop to execute an elaborate maintenance routine when he felt his expensive pair of shoes had been jeopardized. I once made fun of him for initiating this cleaning routine after leaving the sterile furniture

museum I called home. I offered to wrap his sneakers in plastic the next time he came over.

I, on the other hand, have come to terms with the fact that I cannot have nice things.

I recently broke my digital camera. No, I did not urinate on it. I just exposed it to a little rain. My camera apparently predated weather-resistant ones.

Yes, I could have been a bit more careful with my camera. But the obsession that some people have with preserving new things is a little overwhelming and just as senseless as my own carelessness with material possessions.

Before this realization, however, I dedicated plenty of energy to finding the proper digital camera case. Some were too expensive. The majority were too bulky. But what bothered me most was the thought of removing the camera from its case for every photo. The yanking out of my pocket made awkward by the added bulk of the case and the startling sound of Velcro, and still I would have to wait for the thing to turn on.

The first few times I carried my camera around, I was careful not to scratch the LCD screen. I tried very hard. Honestly.

But on day three, my keys found their way into the same pocket as my camera, and a half-millimeter mark taunted my sincere efforts.

I wonder if my rearing in an

environment where everything was protected from wear has made me careless or even reckless when it comes to handling expensive things. We will not discuss my driving record.

I was upset, at first, to learn I had damaged the LCD screen. But I also felt liberated! After breaking it in, I could store it anywhere. Over time the screen became uglier, but it served its purpose.

I have been careless ever since, unfortunately to the detriment of that very digital camera.

Besides, if you are a klutzy careless consumer, investing so much energy into the protection of some material thing is a setup for disappointment.

For those of you meticulously adhering that thin plastic label that covers the screen of your new cell phone or iPod: Rip it off already!

For those of you saving that new article of clothing for a special occasion: Wear it to class!

For those of you who actually purchase new textbooks: Highlight the text and fold the pages!

As for those lampshades, in a cathartic fit over the senselessness of sterile domesticity, and in an effort to reassure everyone of continued control over my bodily functions, I unwrapped those babies along with the rest of our furniture.

My family feels as liberated as I do.

America's 10 Best Senators, 5 Worst

Time Magazine compiled a list in their most recent issue, which ranks some of the best and worst senators in America

U.S. SENATE RANKINGS

10 BEST SENATORS

- Thad Cochran
- Kent Conrad
- Dick Durbin
- Ted Kennedy
- Jon Kyl
- Carl Levin
- Richard Lugar
- John McCain
- Olympia J. Snowe
- Arlen Specter

5 WORST SENATORS

- Daniel Akaka
- Wayne Allard
- Jim Bunning
- Conrad Burns
- Mark Dayton

Source: Time.com

Among one of the five worst Senators in America is Hawaii's own Senator Daniel Akaka, according to a list compiled by Time Magazine. After speaking to current and former Senators, including dozens of academics and political scientists, the magazine chose 10 of the best and five of the worst Senators in the U.S. The magazine wrote, "Akaka is living proof that experience does not necessarily yield expertise."

The junior Senator sponsored 29 bills in the 2003-04 Congress, none of which emerged from the committee. Three, however, were passed as law: naming a post office, changing the boundary of a national park in Hawaii and "the development and planning of certain policies, schedules and programs" for postmasters. Akaka's seniority ranked him as a "potential influence."

"He lives in (senior Hawaiian Senator Daniel) Inouye's very long shadow on the back bench of the Senate, and his interests seem more parochial," said Jennifer Duffy of the Cook Political Report.

—Compiled by Kapiō Staff

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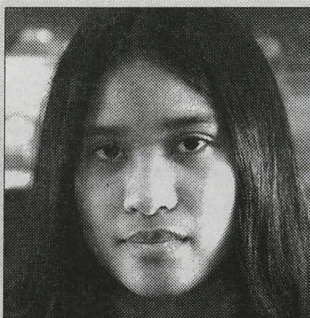
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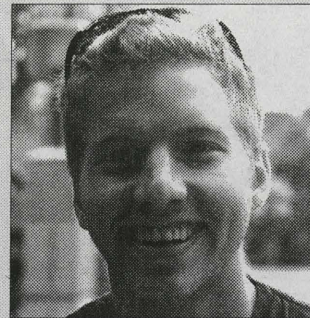
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SPEAKOUT

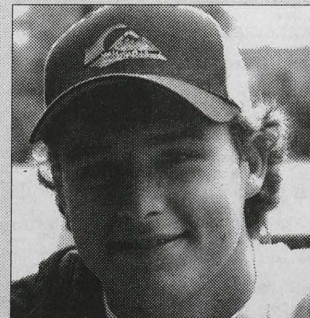
Do you feel that the end of year teacher evaluations are effective?



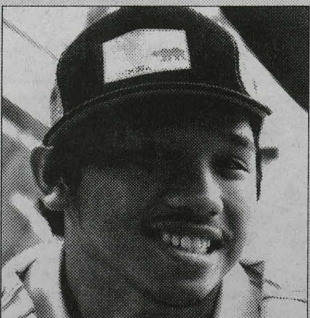
Sheela Galutira: Yes I think they are, but I think it's more for the new teachers so they can improve.



Adam Harnilak: No, it's usually done on the last day when you want to get out fast anyway.



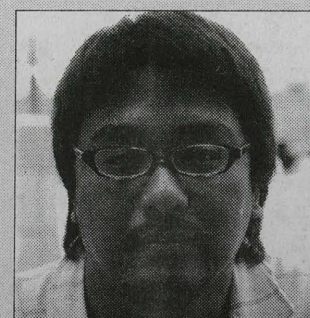
Dustin Surprenant: Teachers that get bad reviews and have been teaching for 20 years probably don't pay attention anymore.



Emmanuel Reyes: It depends on the professor, new teachers seem to pay more attention than the older ones.



Kanako Seki: No, I don't think they care.



Kenta Kamoshida: Yes, I think they are.

"Bluetoothman" an invasive species

Over the last couple years a man has slowly taken hold of a not-so-silent majority of go-getters, and he is "Bluetoothman." Easily distinguished by the earpiece.

"Bluetoothman" has made his mark upon a certain element: The sales people, the executives, the public relations specialists and anyone else who may have read "Rich Dad, Poor Dad."

He can be spotted in his most natural elements: an SUV, downtown, at happy hour, and in a coffee shop — where his loud speaking signifies either his desire to make all patrons aware of his alpha-male status in the business world, or his unawareness of his own status as a douchebag. Of course, the phone clipped to his belt should have been the first clue.

But lately "Bluetoothman" has started to spread out of his elements. Now he can be spotted on the beach, at a favorite breakfast nook and even in the movie theatres (nothing gives pleasure like an incessant blinking blue light coming out of the back of some moron's head for two-and-a-half freakin' hours).

It seems "Bluetoothman" is no longer comfortable with his element. He now wants to branch out, to transcend the cultural boundaries of common courtesy. Yes, like a blinking Wal-Mart "Bluetoothman" wants to plow over the old wire-



POLITICALLY CHALLENGED
by Paul Kolbe



It seems 'Bluetoothman' is no longer comfortable with his element. He wants to branch out to ... the boundaries of common courtesy.

less devices, and build a permanent home — in every home.

It may seem as though "Bluetoothman" is the victim of some conspiracy. Is he being unfairly singled out? After all, are there not other wireless devices people abuse? And why, you ask, is there no Bluetoothwoman?

The answer is of course, no.

He is not being singled out. Other devices seem to remind the wearer to take them out at appropriate times. Whereas Bluetooth users seem not to realize the person they are talking to is actually focused on their ear like it was one of Mr. Spock's. As for "Bluetoothwomen," they are exempt. Women are rarely as inconsiderate as men, and everyone likes a woman in a suit, at least until you talk to her.

Yes, Bluetooth devices are very handy. You can drive and talk, and walk and talk, and from what I can tell, even cartwheel and talk. That's all fine and dandy. Those are completely acceptable times to use ol' Bluetooth. But is it too much to ask someone to remove their headset at a table, or a museum, or just anytime they are not actually talking to someone?

Why must an entrance into a bar, or café, feel like looking down onto an airport runway?

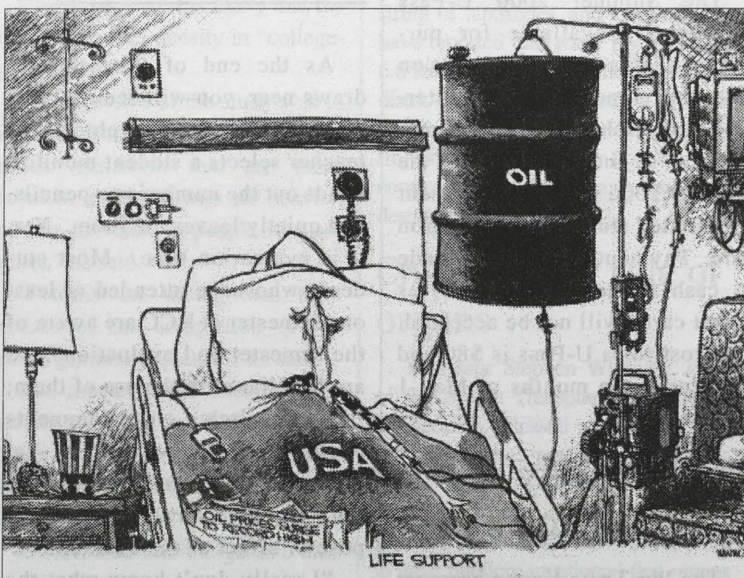
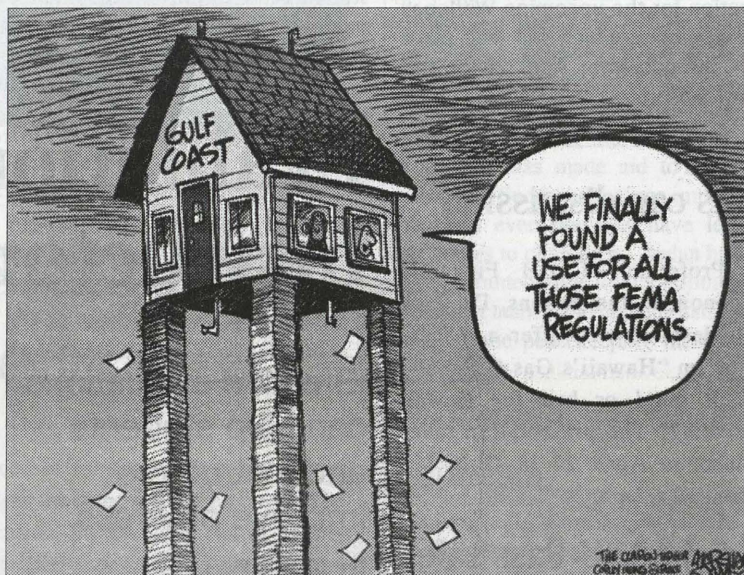
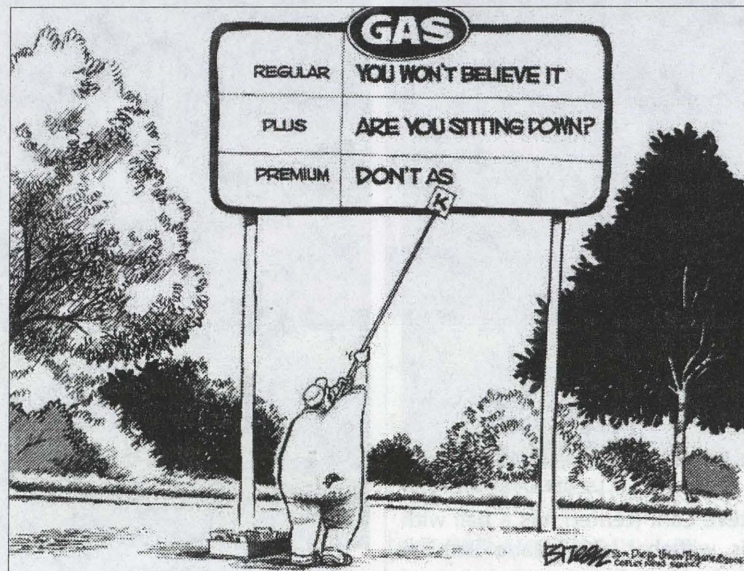
Please "Bluetoothman," go away! I hear there's a seminar on how to get rich in real estate while working from home. An initial investment of \$79 could lead to \$10,000 in your first month. And, you would never have to take your headset out again. Think about it.

The Kapi'ō Newspress welcomes all responses to this subject.
Address: "Letter to the Editor,"
kapi@hawaii.edu.

This week in the funnies

A selection of comics from the national newstand

Provided by Copley News Service



Famous children victims of bad name choices

By Alex Peak
U-WIRE

Celebrities are people, too, right? Supposedly these mile-high clubbers have normal sides apart from their glamorous lifestyles, mini-miniature pups, billion-dollar tote bags and private jets.

Somewhere underneath their pampered, adorned and catered-to selves these movie stars, musicians, singers, comedians, etc., have bowel movements, bad breath, razor burn and dandruff like any other humble person.

So it has been resolved that celebrities are most likely living, breathing humans and not plasticized aliens of perfection, as many of us have suspected.

However, one recurring aspect of stardom that seems to plague every generation of pop-mania is the choice of names for their progeny. There are too many famous offspring toting their parents' audacious name choices.

For example, musician Frank Zappa and his wife picked Dweezil, Ahmet Rodan, Moon Unit and Diva for their kids. The only redeeming quality of a name

like Moon Unit would be that she probably won't ever run into someone with the same name.

The late TV personality Paula Yates had children named Peaches Honeyblossom, Tiger Lily Heavenly Hirani and Fifi Trixibelle. Woody Allen has three sons named Satchel (Seamus), Moses and Amadeus.

Some more recent celebrity children include Gwyneth Paltrow's Apple and Moses, and Julia Roberts' twins Phinnaeus and Hazel. Also included in this nomenclature debauchery are Coco Cox Arquette (mother, Courtney and father, David) and Ashley Parker Angel's infant son, Lyric.

Are celebrities giving their kids weird names to make sure they stand out even more throughout their upbringing? Or maybe celebrities are simply concerned their kids will get overlooked or confused with other kids at day care. Thank God for celebrities coming up with this great naming system: the weirder the better. Certainly no one will confuse Michael Jackson's son Blanket for Reese Witherspoon's son Deacon.

Although many celebrities

choose crazy names for their offspring, (the very latest being Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' bouncing baby girl, Suri), there are also plenty of famous people who opt for more normal, traditional names for their kids.

Kudos to those like Britney Spears and Kevin Federline for their son Sean Preston. There are other celebrities out there who chose atypical, but respectable names. Angelina Jolie's adopted Maddox and Madonna and Guy Richie's Rocco have names that have the potential to carry them far in life.

Think about it. Would you rather be sitting in rehab introducing yourself to the group as Soleil Moon Frye (a.k.a. Punky Brewster) or something just a little more even-keel, like Jett Travolta?

There's nothing wrong with choosing offbeat names for children, but celebrities should realize that their kids are already going to go through life in the public eye. Do they really need crazy names (this excludes names that are traditional to family or culture) to make them that much more conspicuous in school and life?

**CAMPUS &
COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

DIANE S.W. LEE / THE KAPO NEWSPRESS

Steve Carll (center) hits a ball with his wifflebat after Maria Bautista pitches it to him. It is their second practice on the Great Lawn, in preparation for the upcoming Wiffleball Tournament, which will take place on campus from April 28-29 and May 5-6.

Gas cap discussion

Professor of UH Financial Economics Institutions, Dr. Jack Suyderhoud will offer a discussion on "Hawaii's Gas Cap Law: Is it good or bad for Hawaii drivers?" The presentation takes place on April 27 in Ohia 118 from 12-1 p.m.

Summer U-Pass sale

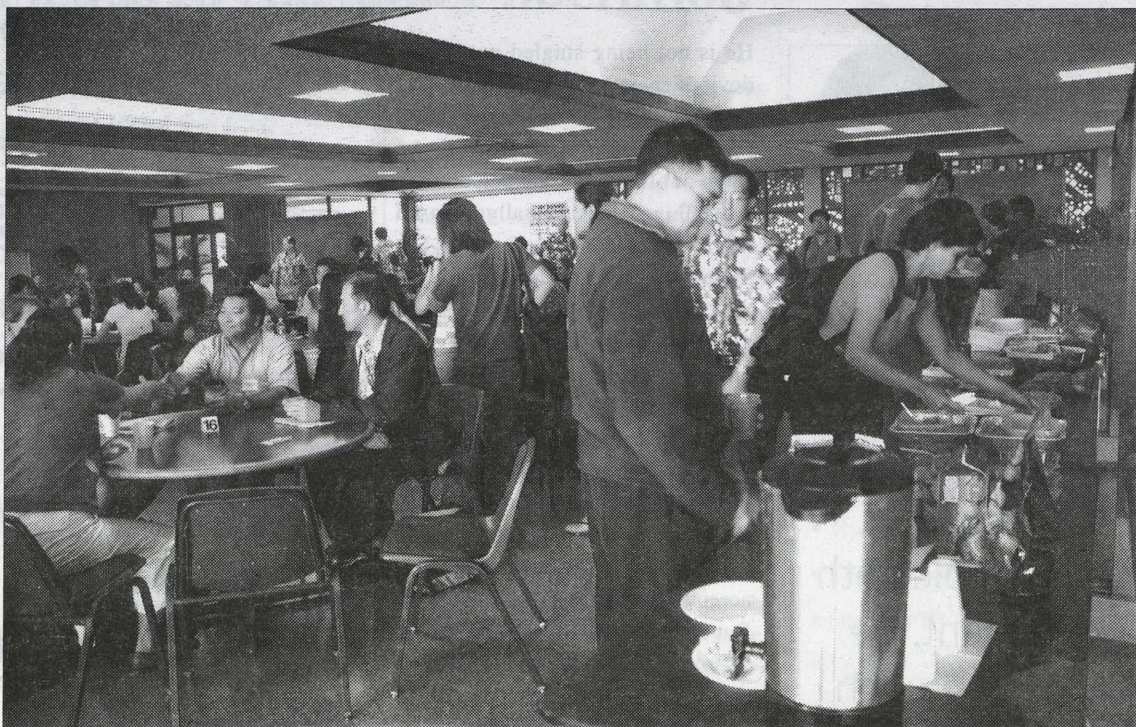
The Summer 2006 U-Pass is currently available for purchase in Ohia 101 and will go on sale until June 30. Those interested in purchasing a U-Pass are required to enroll at KCC for the Summer 2006 session and present a validated student identification card. Payments should be made in cash or personal checks, as credit cards will not be accepted. The cost for a U-Pass is \$80 and will cover the months of May 1 - Aug. 31.

**Honor society
collecting donations**

The Phi Theta Kappa program is collecting non-perishable food items and children's books to combat against hunger and illiteracy in the community. Donations may be dropped off in Ohia 103A. The collection continues through April 30. Items will be donated to Salvation Army Family Services and books will be donated to Read to Me International.

**KCC graduation
ceremony**

KCC's commencement exercises for the Class of 2006 will be held on the Great Lawn. The ceremony takes place on May 12 at 6 p.m.

ACCOUNTING DAYS

ROXANE CAIRES / THE KAPO NEWSPRESS

The accounting department held an Accounting Career Day in the Ohia Cafeteria on April 21. The career fair is held for students currently in the accounting program or those simply interested in the field. Students were given name tags and numbers and participated in a table rotation allowing them to speak with professors and professionals in the accounting field. The staff provided a friendly welcoming atmosphere and a large spread of breakfast foods.

**Evaluations are as valuable to
instructors as to students****Effective evaluations
can help students
and instructors
improve progress.**

By Kealii Parker
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

As the end of the semester draws near, you will see it again: the familiar manila envelope. The teacher selects a student monitor, hands out the number two pencils, and quietly leaves the room. Yes, it is evaluation time. Most students who have attended at least one semester at KCC are aware of the semester end evaluations and are familiar with the use of them; fill in the circles, write comments on the back, and turn it in. Yet there are many students who are not particularly aware of the purpose or effect of the evaluations.

"I really don't know what the impact is," KCC student Kahai Nakamatsu said. "I think that it's just feedback to how the professor did."

And that is correct, according to Dr. Frank Abou-Sayf, director of planning and institutional research. But it is just one of the many functions of the evaluations. He states that the purpose is that of any business enterprise, you need feedback from consumers about the quality of the product. In the case where product is education, the consumer is the student. The evaluation forms that are handed out at the end of each semester are well studied, advanced and validated forms

used in evaluating something or someone in terms of viewing their progress.

"These evaluations affect more than the students think," Abou-Sayf said.

He explains the step-by-step function of the evaluations that are given to each instructor for every class they teach.

"However, instructors are not obligated to issue evaluations but instructors are mandated to provide evidence of their teaching effectiveness by their students and their peers," Abou-Sayf said.

According to Abou-Sayf, if instructors do not use this method, they have to provide some other means to demonstrate their effectiveness and it may not be as valued as the evaluations provided.

After the evaluations are completed they go through a statistical report that provides analysis by item in survey and by factors that are a combination of two or more items on the evaluation. Some of the items are questions that ask if "the instructor was prepared for class" or "the instructor knew the subject area."

In addition to the statistical report results, many instructors include the hand written comments on the back of the form to work on their dossier when they request for a promotion or tenure.

Abou-Sayf stresses the importance of confidentiality in regards to the students who fill out the surveys. Results are strictly confidential and his office ensures this.

"We provide no copy of results to anyone, not even the chancellor, only to the instructor who then

may dispose of his or her results as they see fit," Abou-Sayf said.

How does a student insure their comments are given in this regard? According to Abou-Sayf, the instructor only gets the results after grades have been submitted. On the day of evaluations, the instructor must leave the classroom upon handing out forms, and instructors cannot be in contact with the envelope or forms after students fill out survey. If any instructor were to hand in their own evaluations, it is immediately considered invalid. The envelope is sealed and signed by the student monitor.

"In all honesty, I've never come across any professor that has attempted to identify any students' responses before the official time," Abou-Sayf said.

He strongly recommends that the students be honest since it is the purpose of the evaluation, and reminds students to write what is good about the instructor in the same intensity that is given to what is bad.

"Include both and all qualities," Abou-Sayf said.

So when you are handed that evaluation, think about the effect your words may have, consider all aspects of your instructor's teaching style, whether their way of instructing was crucial to your learning abilities and how all that can factor into constructive ways to improve progress, for both student and instructor.

As KCC student Keona Souza eloquently explains, "I consider the questions to be a reflection of the professor in the students' eyes."

**Registration
for summer
and fall 2006
has begun**

By Hector Franco
STAFF WRITER

If you are a current KCC student and are planning on returning to next semester, then it's time to start registering for the summer or fall 2006 semesters. Before you start registering for your next semester at KCC there are a couple of things that need to be done first. The first thing that needs to be done is to clear all of the registration holds like the TB clearance, MMR Immunization, and any financial obligations. Seeking advising from your counselor to decide what classes you need or don't need to take is important before registering for classes. All students should make sure they meet course prerequisites and placement requirements.

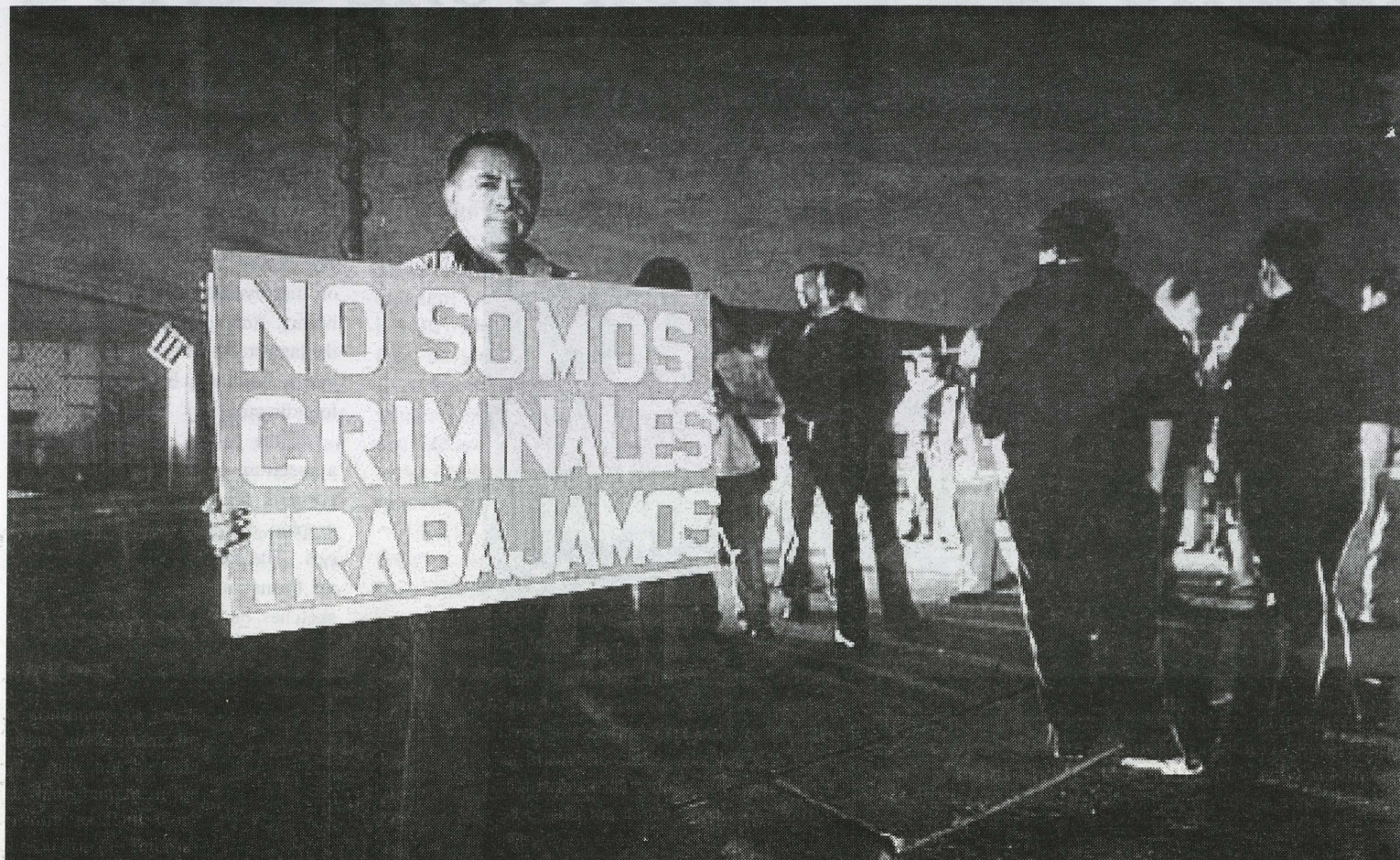
There are two ways to register for classes, online or in person. You need to have a UH account to register online. To get a UH user account you can visit the school's Web site www.kcc.hawaii.edu. Once the account is set up, you can begin the registration process. You can look up what classes are available and set-up your whole schedule online. If you are going to register in person, go to the Kaula Information & Service Center in 'Ilima 102 to get information, and more importantly pick up a Summer 2006/Fall 2006 schedule of classes booklet. The booklet has everything a KCC student needs to register for classes. It lists the deadlines, and even information on who to contact for advising. If you would like more information on registering for next semester at KCC you can head down to 'Ilima 102 at the Kaula Information & Service Center, or you can visit the school Web site www.kcc.hawaii.edu for all your registration questions.

**REGISTRATION
DEADLINES**

- May 23 is the last day to register for summer classes.
- July 17 is the last day to submit fall 2006 applications.
- August 17 is the last day to register in-person for fall 2006 classes.
- August 20 is the last day to register online for fall 2006 classes.
- Late registration for fall 2006 semester runs from August 21-25. A \$30 late registration fee will be charged during this time.

Source: www.kcc.hawaii.edu

"WE ARE NOT CRIMINALS; WE WORK"



Demonstrators hold a vigil outside the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facility in Broadview, Illinois.

SCOTT OLSON / GETTY IMAGES VIA NEW YORK TIMES

Under the influence

By RG G Lagunday
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, 32 percent of the 61 percent of Americans that has had at least one drink this past year also drank five or more alcoholic beverages in one sitting.

"I like wine and certain wines go good with certain meal," said Ashley Guzman, a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. "Sometimes I drink because if I don't then I'll feel left out."

Like a number of other individuals, Guzman sees drinking as a social event. There are influences when in a group and being in a group sometimes impairs an individual's own judgment of whether they should drink an alcoholic beverage or two.

Tony Lam, a student at Kapiolani Community College, said that personally he sees nothing wrong with drinking something here and there.

"If it comes to the point where you don't realize that you are drunk and driving under the influence, then you are wrong and you better check yourself," Lam said. Lam, just like Guzman, drinks socially. "After a long day of both work and school, not to mention the crap in between, I just want to unwind to a nice cold one with friends," Lam said.

On the other hand, Jonah Punzal, also a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, has a different view on alcohol.

"I actually used to work for MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) and I totally am disgusted at the fact that people like that taste of nastiness," Punzal said. While working for MADD, Punzal would pose as a decoy and try to purchase alcoholic beverages. Punzal was an actual minor helping to ensure that merchandisers and establishments that sell alcoholic beverages abide by the rules and regulations of the state.

"The first time I got sold to, I felt bad for the guy because he thought he was trying to help me out," Punzal said.

According to Hawaii alcohol statistics found on Us No Drugs' Web site, a survey shows that of 234,000 an estimated 50,000 are binge drinkers of the ages 18-25 and another estimated 171,000 are of the age 26 and older. Binge drinking is a type of alcohol abuse where an individual drinks in an unrestrained manner for a couple to a few days at a time causing heavy intoxication to the point where their daily routines are severely affected as mentioned in a Journal of Studies on Alcohol. Apparently this is the case with college students all across the U.S. A recent studies done by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that binge drinking in the college ages may be associated with mental health disorders such as compulsiveness, depression or anxiety, or early deviant behavior.

With the major problems in dealing with peer pressure and influential drinking, the University of Hawaii at Manoa has developed a program called Manoa Alcohol Project (MAP). The project was established in 2005 to help control and address the underage drinking problem at the university. The goals of MAP are to reduce underage drinking in the residence halls by 10 percent in two years and to reduce the consequence of that group by 10 percent. MAP is a project that uses incoming freshmen to become peer advisors to other freshmen to help control influential underage drinking.

For more information on MAP you can visit their Web site at http://hawaii.edu/shs/map_index.html. In addition, visit the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services more on alcohol and drug information at <http://ncadi.samhsa.gov>.

Researchers discover obesity gene

By Lisa Davis
U-WIRE

Led by Boston University professors over an 18-month period, a group of scientists have found a link between a new genetic variant and obesity affecting 10 percent of the American population.

The study was conducted by 23 international scientists, including four from BU and three from Harvard University. There were about 100,000 participants from six different populations through the Framingham Heart Study.

"This is the first time that anyone has found a variation that is very common in many people, we think all over the world," Genetics and Genomics Department Founding Chair Michael Christman said. "It's one of the first studies that looked at the whole genome."

Harvard School of Public Health biostatistics professor Nan Laird said the opportunity to conduct the study was unique.

"We designed statistical methods, and it was our first opportunity to try it on real data," she said. "I think of it as finding a piece of the puzzle."

Laird said she believes the role of genetics versus environmental factors in obesity is "somewhat controversial."

"There's a tendency in society to discriminate against people who are obese," Christman said. "What you eat and exercise is still part of the equation."

This new genetic variance "increases the risk of obesity by 22 percent," genetics and genomics professor Alan Herbert said.

"It's been known that genes account for about 50 percent of our risks for being obese," he said. "[The variant] increases the risk of obesity in children and adolescents, men and women."

Christman said it is likely that the variant increases obesity in "college-age people."

The objective of the study was to "look for naturally occurring human genetic variations that are more prevalent in people who are heavier, and less prevalent in people who are lighter," he said.

"I think the timing was right because of the completion of the human genome sequence," he said.

One aspect of the obesity study that scientists said they believed to be unique was the participants. According to Laird, "most are done with a clinical population."

Herbert said that the genetic data was obtained from two generations of Framingham residents, beginning in 1948. They were examined every two years for heart disease.

"This whole study is possible because the Framingham population has participated over the years," he said. "Everyone in the town wants to get involved. It's a family thing."

Laird said although the finding of the study is not a cure for obesity, it does open doors for new breakthroughs. One is that the new knowledge of genetics "enables people to find more genes for complex disorders."

According to Christman, the study paves the way for new obesity drug research because "most drugs fail in some point of their development."

RECENT SNAPSHOTS OF EVENTS AROUND THE GLOBE



BBC NEWS

Violent mass protests in Nepal, as King Gyanendra vows to "return power to the people."

Dafur too dangerous for aid workers

As violence continues to escalate in Dafur, Sudan, aid workers are worried that they may not be able to get help to civilians caught in the upheaval. According to Paul Conneally, spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross, the fighting has made aid to large areas in the Sudanese regions impossible, and even civilians have left their homes to other areas. Sudan has also not granted visas to UN military assessment teams who could possibly take over the peacekeeping mission in the region.

Flash floods hit Indonesia

Indonesia is experiencing severe climatic patterns in light of flash floods that killed at least 23 people. Heavy monsoon rains have also triggered a string of landslides, and local officials have reported that water levels rose to 6.6 feet in some areas. The Bendungan district, east of the island of Java, is said to have been the worst hit. Aside from rivers that are over-flooded, telecommunication lines have also been destroyed in some areas.

Chinese deny sale of organs

Professor Stephen Wigmore, chair of the British Transplantation Society has recently released a statement condemning China's practice of harvesting organs of executed prisoners for sale. Though Chinese officials denied the practice, a health official was reported to have publicly mentioned that organs of executed prisoners were sometimes used, but that it was rare. Wigmore commented that the transplant industry is becoming more lucrative and urges patients not to engage in what he calls "transplant tourism."

Deaths at Nepal rally

After two weeks of national strikes and protests by opposition parties against King Gyanendra, three have died while dozens were injured. Reports state that the government's military fired indiscriminately as 100,000 defied a curfew that was implemented by the king. Despite the violence, the king has not made any public statement. The UN has condemned Nepal's security forces for using deadly force against innocent bystanders.

Student Show 2006 Cross Perspectives**By Thomas Duarte**
NEWS EDITOR

The best of KCC student artwork is currently on display at the on-campus Koa gallery. The art pieces in the show form a variety of disciplines and feature work from beginning drawing classes to the newer New Media Arts classes. The Art 260 Gallery and Exhibit design class, with the aid of gallery director David Behlke, were responsible for the set up and design of the showcase.

"The class (Art 260) was instrumental in bringing this show together," Behlke said. "And a portion of their grade for the semester was how they designed this show."

Students who have their artwork featured in the exhibit are getting a chance to display their art in a professional gallery. The Koa gallery holds award presentations as well as many professional exhibitions throughout the year.

"It's something I can add to my portfolio and use as a reference in the future," art student, Chris Paulsen said.

During the exhibit there is also a contest being conducted to find the best piece in the show. The contest is designed for students to come in and vote for the piece they think is the best in the show. Then, the gallery will purchase that piece if it is available for sale by the artist and if it is \$1,500 or less.

The artwork will then be displayed in a secured building on campus.

"Students from the class (Art 260) went to the student congress and asked for some monies for purchase," Behlke said. "The class is also responsible for

tabulating and being the liaison between the gallery and student congress."

The growth in the art program and the New Media Arts classes signaled a need for more art instructors and the offering of more art classes. Accord-

ing to Behlke, there are 22 full and part-time professors second only to the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The addition of the New Media Arts program also lent to the need of expanding the beginning art classes.

"Leaders in the New Media Arts industry, people who do animation and Web site design say students need more drawing classes," Behlke said.

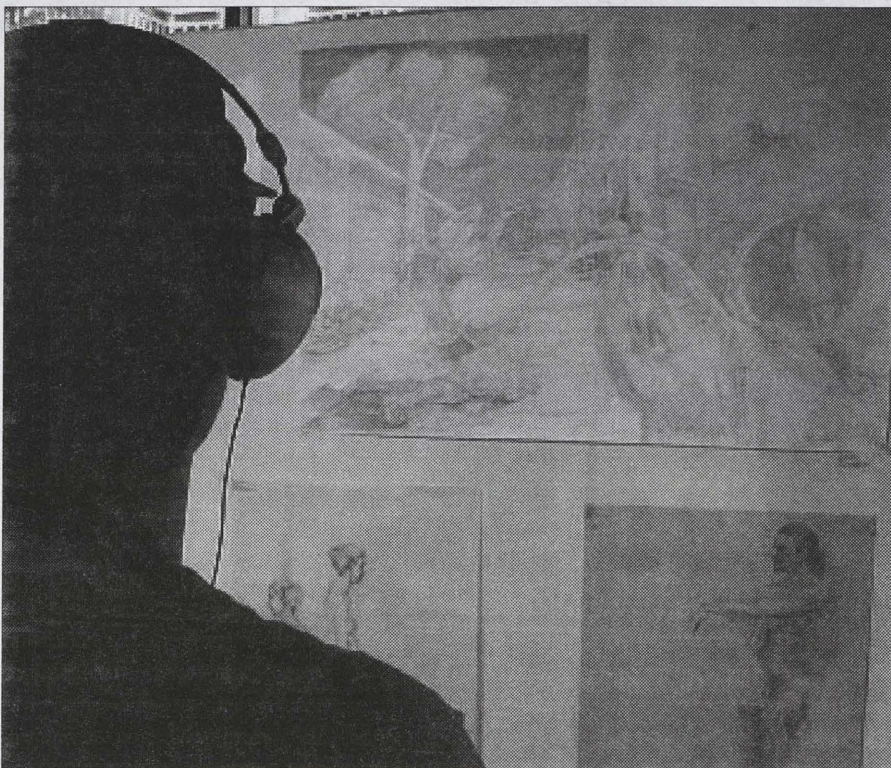
High enrollment in the art department also contributed to the large number of works at this year's exhibit. The exhibit features 340 pieces of art on display in the gallery, and in the library. According to Behlke, this is the largest and strongest student show that he has had in his 13 years as gallery director.

In the gallery students can view a spectrum of art ranging from self portraits to a television displaying graphic designs and animated stories. The exhibit features traditional art forms such as oil paintings and sketches, but also features new media arts such as digital drawings and Photoshop manipulated artwork.

"I love the New Media Arts display, you get the soundtrack, it's moving and there is good story telling," Behlke said.

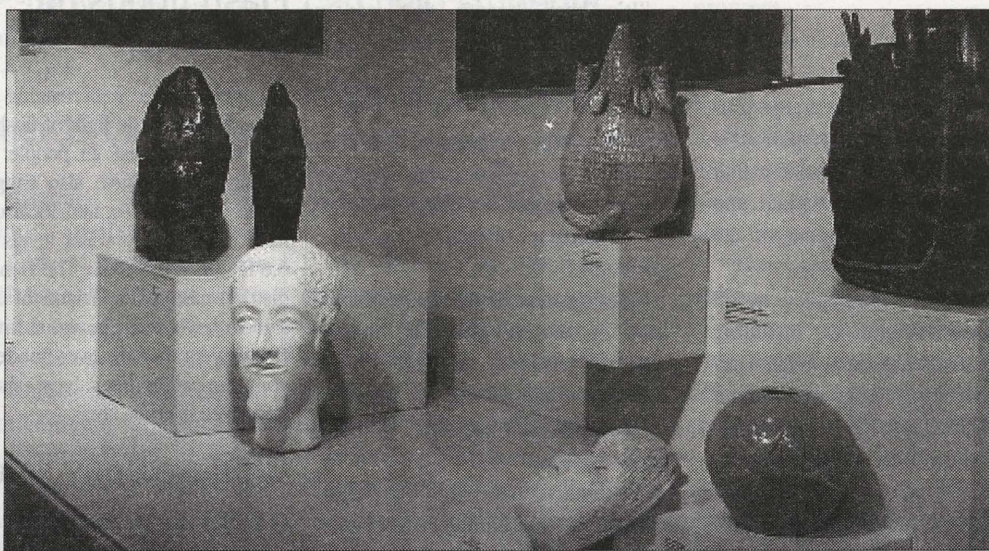
Cross Perspectives is being held in the Koa gallery and the foyer of the library until May 3, 2006 and is free and open to the public Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The gallery is located in the Koa building below the Kopiko building.

For more information visit www.koagallery.kcc.hawaii.edu



ANAVIC IBANEZ / THE KAPO NEWSPRESS

A student takes a look at graphite and charcoal sketches while listening to music.



ANAVIC IBANEZ / THE KAPO NEWSPRESS



ANAVIC IBANEZ / THE KAPO NEWSPRESS

Above, a selection of clay and ceramic sculptures on display. Below, a large crowd of both students and faculty came to the opening of more than 300 works of art in this year's student art show.



ANAVIC IBANEZ / THE KAPO NEWSPRESS

A student takes a closer look at both colored and black and white computer generated artworks done by the students in the digital art classes.

Doris Duke's home a true Shangri La

Famous heiress and art collector, Duke's home houses impressive Islamic works.

By Rachel Breitwieser
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Shangri La, also known as Doris Duke's Diamond Head estate, houses a large collection of Islamic art and architecture. Students from a Windward Community College (WCC) art class, Introduction to 2D Design, saw class concepts brought to life through Duke's eyes.

Doris Duke, born in 1912, was the American heiress of her father's tobacco and hydroelectric fortune. Duke, a world traveler, visited Hawaii for the first time on her honeymoon when she was 22 years old. She had the Diamond Head house built from the ground up, filled it with Islamic art from her travels, and reproduced the style in the architecture. Inside the house are hand carved cedar ceilings, stained glass, tiles, tapestries, carved plaster, and marble walls and windows from Turkey, Iran, Morocco, Spain, and India. Some pieces of the collection are as old as the 12th century that she either acquired through her travels or purchased from museums. Others are modern, but have been modeled after the originals.

Islamic art is unique from European art in that there are no images of people and animals, which tour guide Niki Landgraf explained, is considered by the

Muslims to be idolatry. Instead, the artwork is full of details of elaborate patterns of geometric and floral, vine-like shapes.

Duke actively participated in the design of the house and was devoted to maintaining the beauty of her collection. She repaired, cleaned, and arranged the pieces herself. Shangri La was one of five of Duke's houses and she lived there for 60 years over the winters. She was a private lady and had more than 12 dogs living at the estate which she considered to be her children.

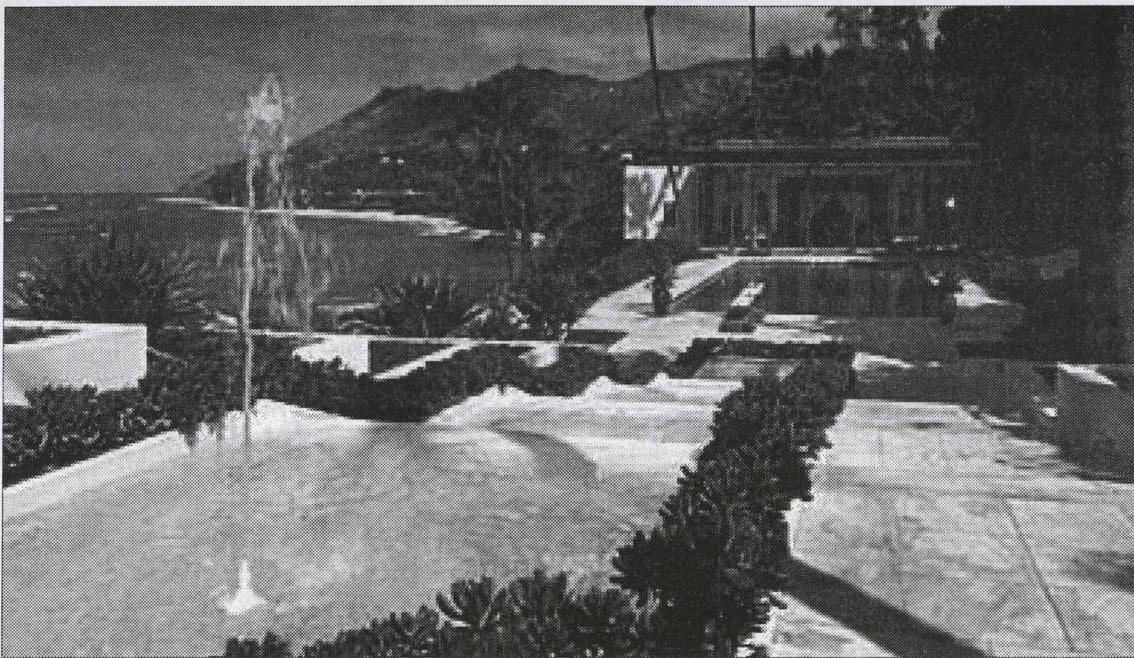
"She's a huge inspiration," WCC design student Sarah McWilliams said, referring to Duke. "I learned you can be something and do something. Little things can have potential to be beautiful."

Karon Kinney, another design student agreed.

"For a person who wasn't educated in art, she really had an eye," Kinney said. From learning about design in art class Kinney paid close attention to pattern and textures in the house. "It was very ornate art, but it didn't seem too busy."

Doris Duke created the Foundation for Islamic Art so students, scholars, and others could learn about and admire the art. It was her intent for the public to be exposed to the unique style of Islamic art. McWilliams was so engrossed in the setting that she felt like there should have been tigers and elephants roaming the gardens.

Visit <http://www.shangrilahawaii.org/> to learn more and take a virtual tour.



STARBULLETIN.COM

The Playhouse was modeled after Doris Duke took photographs of the Chihil Sutun, a royal pavilion built in 1647 in Iran. The fountain flows down a steps to a pool, which overlooks the Pacific Ocean.



STARBULLETIN.COM

Made of camel-colored corduroy, the sofa in Shangri La's livingroom reflects a very 60s feel, although it was built in the 30s. A shaq carpet lines the floor and the fire place is from the home of publisher Willia Randolph Hearst.

These are only a few of the job opportunities we have

To see a complete list come by the Job Placement Office
Room 113 in the Manono Building from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Household Help needed for elderly family

Shopping/preparing evening meal
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Contact: Arnold Ing 808 239 9618

Looking for a Career in Law Enforcement

Commander, Navy Region Hawaii is taking applications now.
Stop by the Job Placement Office for more information.

Want to work in Las Vegas, Nevada?

Chef Lindsey Ozawa has career opportunities at NOBU in Las Vegas, Nevada. NOBU is located inside the Hard Rock Hotel and is a high end Japanese Restaurant with Peruvian flair. For more information contact Chef Lindsey Ozawa at 702-693-5090 or you can fax a resume to 702-693-5091.

The Job Placement Office also has a folder of the most current career opportunities located on the wall directly across from the office. Room 113 Manono Building.

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Music:

Continued from page 1

of music," Secretaria said.

The Synthesizer Ensemble plays a variety of music, including ethnic music.

"I enjoy exploring ethnic music with students, one of the students this semester is singing in Japanese on a popular song from Japan," Lum said.

Long-time ensemble member Emanuel Aquino said his favorite thing about being in the ensemble is playing many styles of music.

"I also like the diversity of the group. It gave me an idea of how music is the language of the world," Aquino said.

Current members hope to get their own space in the future.

"To be more successful we need more practice space," ensemble member Ryoko Fujie said.

Secretaria adds, "It takes a lot of time to set up and it eats into our practice time."

The Synthesizer Ensemble has been invited to perform at the United Church of Christ located on 467 North Judd Street on April 30, 2006. They will be playing at the 10 a.m. service, and will play a short concert following the service.

The synthesizer ensemble is a three credit course. For more information on the ensemble or if you are interested in joining contact Anne Lum at 734-9182.

Web site:

Continued from page 1

open forum where students can articulate their opinions. Students should be allowed to freely express themselves, but they should also be constructive and not allow performance to dictate their analysis.

"I think it is an empowerment for students and believe they should have that power to critically analyze professors and their courses," KCC instructor Pohaku Stone said. "The drawback is if students are using it (RMP) as a place to vent their own frustrations and inabilities as students."

The Web site features 365 KCC instructors and is monitored by an anonymous KCC student. Students can rate their professors in categories such as helpfulness, clarity, easiness and students can rate their interest in the class showing their motivation for the subject. Overall quality is deter-

mined by taking the average of a teacher's helpfulness and clarity and does not include easiness. The overall quality rating also determines the type of happy faces received: a yellow happy face for good, a green face with no smile for average and a purple sad face for poor. Students can also state if they think the teacher is "hot" or not, and if the teacher is "hot" he/she will receive a chili pepper below his/her smiley face. Rate-myprofessors.com, with more than five million ratings and more than 700,000 professors rated, is not the only site with ratings or grades for college instructors.

There are similar Web sites, such as rateaprof.com and pickaprof.com among others. There is also ratingz.net a network of sites where people can rate and review a variety of businesses, attractions, and services.

Politicians must 'tread lightly' with immigration stances

By Chris Huntemann
 U-WIRE

The issue of illegal immigration has raced to the forefront of American politics.

Across the nation, rallies have been held in cities such as Los Angeles, Dallas and Philadelphia, where thousands of people have marched in support of reform to give help to the approximately 11 million illegal immigrants who live in the United States as of last year.

The United States Senate is attempting to approve a bill passed by the House of Representatives last year. The provisions of H.R. 4437 include the construction of 700 miles of fenced-in areas along the U.S.-Mexico border with the highest number of crossings by illegal immigrants, as well as mandatory verification by employers that their employees are all legal U.S. citizens.

"The immigration issue is a very hot button issue, it is very delicate," said Tom Scotto, assistant professor of political science at West Virginia University. "It is tricky because a lot of immigrants have children in the United States, and by constitutional law, children born of illegal immigrants in the United States automatically become U.S. citizens."

Scotto said the immigration issue is also delicate because Hispanics are the largest growing voting group in the United States.

"They are going to be future voters, and politicians must tread lightly," Scotto said. "They have preferences, and political parties have to cater to them."

Scotto added the issue of illegal immigrants splits both parties right down the middle.

"Historically, Democrats try to

recruit minority voters," he said. "However union Democrats are not thrilled that a lot of immigrants are being hired for cheap labor because they believe it is driving down wages. They might see other Democrats as being too friendly to immigrants and jump ship to the other side."

Warren Balogh, president of the West Virginia University Young Democrats explained how the immigration issue might divide the Republican party.

"Social Republicans believe that immigrants take our national identity while social Democrats believe that we are all immigrants," he said. "Economic Republicans believe immigrants are good for cheap labor while Economic Democrats don't like that immigrants have to compete with American workers."

"Immigrants might see Republicans as hostile if the bill is passed," Scotto added.

Balogh said companies who hire illegal immigrants should be punished.

"I am very much opposed to cheap labor, and I feel hiring illegal immigrants undermines our labor rights," he said.

Brian Dayton, state chairman for the WVU College Republicans, said border security is the most important facet of the immigration issue.

"We must secure the borders," he said. "We cannot risk keeping our borders open and possibly letting terrorists into the country."

Dayton added that the jobs that are usually done by illegal immigrants can be done by Americans and stressed the importance of legality when it comes to immigration.

"All immigrants should come to the U.S. through legal methods," he said.

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School of Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Vincent K. Pollard, Ph D.

Presents

Filipinos Writing a Constitution:

Nationalist Commissioners, American Spies and the Anti-Bases Movement in Post-Marcos Philippines

About the Lecture: Contrary to a mistaken belief, the eruption of the Mount Pinatubo volcano on 12 June 1991 did not terminate negotiations on the Philippines-U.S. Military Bases Agreement. Instead, President Corazon Aquino and her negotiating panel were already ensnared in an elaborate two-edged trap set by Aquino's own Constitutional Commission during June-October 1986. During the first year of her presidency, Aquino was nagged by challenges to her legitimacy. Secret cablegrams in 1986 also reveal intelligence failures by U.S. Embassy "Political Section" staff. Meanwhile, imaginative tactical leadership by "Nationalist Bloc" Commissioners and allied anti-bases NGOs linked to the contentious "parliament of the streets" facilitated acceptance of strategic compromises by the President and her supporters. The lecture is based on Pollard's Globalization, Democratization and Asian Leadership: Power Sharing, Foreign Policy and Society in the Philippines and Japan <<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~pollard/cv.html#book1>>.

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