DANGEROUS CROSSING
Teens in their own voices – a west-side story

BY ADRIENNE LAFRANCE
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Sanburned

It’s truly unfortunate that Honolulu Weekly’s lengthy report on the City’s five-years-in-the-making Rail Transit Project was nothing more than a rehash of an already two-month old “report.” Even the Kamehameha Schools representative, when it was reminded what the article said: “We did not intend to publicly present it as an alternative to the City project and it would be a mistake to characterize it as an alternative.”

Curiously, Saaburn doesn’t live in Honolulu or the State of Hawai‘i. He did not cast a vote in the 2008 election, when the people of Honolulu voted 53 percent to 47 percent (the same margin by which President Obama won election, by the way) in favor of the rail project. Instead, from afar, Saaburn continued to display his anti-Mayor Hannemann bias by dwelling on the opinions of the minority in opposition.

He failed to include any mention that the federal government, which is the City’s partner in the project, provides several layers of oversight and approval. He ignored the Commission’s presentation to him on the benefits of a grade-separated elevated rail system.

After spending nearly an hour on the phone with Saaburn and clarifying issues via e-mail (one of which was included), the Rail Project Manager was given a mere two of the 14 columns in the article to present an accurate picture of the project. That is hardly fair.

Given all this, it is truly a shame that he continued to publish a biased story on the State’s greenest transportation project yet proposed by any City administration. Honolulu Weekly and its readers have long been pro-environment and leaders in the green movement. The City recognizes this and Mayor Hannemann partners with Honolulu Weekly for its Green Market promotions on Fort Street Mall.

Mayor Hannemann supports the rail project because it’s the right thing to do on so many levels. It will reduce traffic congestion and provide jobs at a time when so many are needed. Studies conclude that cities with well-established grade-separated raised railway systems have significantly higher per capita transit ridership. Lower average travel per capita vehicle ownership and annual mileage, less traffic congestion, lower traffic death rates, lower consumer expenditures on transportation and higher transit service cost recovery than otherwise consolidated paratransit cities with less or no rail transit service.

Curt Saaburn is trying to rail-road you, the readers of Honolulu Weekly. He gave you a biased, out-dated and inaccurate look at our island’s new elevated rail transit system. Don’t let him get away with it, especially since he doesn’t even live here anymore.

Kirk Caldwell
Managing Director
City and County of Honolulu

On the right track

Edward Smith was right with his letter in the Weekly (“Rail shibai,” 11/25). Our city has been trying and hand-wringing over this rail project for three decades! As with all big projects in Honolulu, the debate devolves into political posturing, cronyism and corrupt politicians trying to manipulate the vote for their own selfish power grabs.

Let’s get back, get this el-travel system built and stop tolerating political roadblocks.

We need to get people out of the traffic flow and off the roads. Our people-movement problems are not going to be solved by trains used mainly to transport kindergartners.

I lived in Miami for years and worked near the elevated rail system (compared to freeway ramps and overpasses), the elevated level was quiet, clean and, with a park bike path and landscaping underneath, aesthetically far superior than any other elevated roadway proposed in Hawai‘i. Best of all, the elevated train sped past bumper-to-bumper fume-laden freeway traffic every day, every time and saved me hours in commute time. Enough talk, enough of the studies, enough, whining. We voted last year to build it. Break ground and let’s get moving.

Robert Weinman
Honolulu

Education for life!

When I first learned of the forthcoming, an F-16 jet fighter comically screamed overhead in preparation for a weekend extravaganza as if in spite of Gen. Eisenhower’s prophetic warning that the military-industrial complex would rob communities from societal investment. How can a nation that subsidizes a surfing icon he’s afraid of sharks and disrespecting George Downie, one of our legendary watermen who has given back so much to the community. Unbelievable! Telling a surfing icon he’s afraid of sharks and to stay out of the water??!! Mr. Leffanta, in the future, please limit your comments to non-local issues if you are going to be insensitive to subjects and people we hold dear.

Nathan Kanowana
Honolulu

By Rico!

In his letter (“By George!”, 11/18), Rico Leffanta voiced his support for shark feeding business by denigrating an independent, Hawaiian sports and dissecting George Downie, one of our legendary watermen who has given back so much to the community. Unbelievable! Telling a surfing icon he’s afraid of sharks and to stay out of the water??!! Mr. Leffanta, in the future, please limit your comments to non-local issues if you are going to be insensitive to subjects and people we hold dear.

Peter Shimazu
Pālie Valley

Letters
Healthy Female?

Generations of women have helped test investigational medications by participating in clinical research studies. You could help too.

To qualify for research study 8220-384 involving an investigational medication you must be:

- A healthy female age 21 to 40 years of age who has had a tubal ligation or hysterectomy
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  - 1 stay of 3 days / 2 nights
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Participants will receive all study-related exams at no cost and compensation up to $4275 for time and participation.

Think you can help? Great! Then call 808-441-6327, text ALOHA to 77982 or visit TestWithTheBest.com today.

Editor's note

shortly before 8 o'clock on Tuesday morning, I was on the phone with Tim Vandeveer of Defend O'ahu Coalition, listening to him outline a meeting to be held that night regarding development plans at Turtle Bay Resort. Suddenly it sounded like Tim had fallen into a jet engine.

"Sorry," he laughed, "George (Downing) is counting it down and people are going nuts!"

And with that, "the Eddie" was on. As wave-watchers around the world know, Tuesday marked just the eighth time that conditions allowed for the Quicksilver in Memory of Eddie Aikau to take place in the 25-year history of the event.

The monster swell brought surfers, locals and visitors alike to Waimea Bay to witness the story exploring some disturbing facts about how local teenagers are faring. The piece gives voice to students at Wai'anae High School who are facing a host of challenges above and beyond those faced by all teens as they struggle to navigate the treacherous path to adulthood. We're aware that some will inevitably read this story as an indictment of Wai'anae and its youth, but I trust most readers will see it for what it is—a rare audience with some of the most misunderstood, and under-served, teenagers in Hawai'i. They deserve to be heard.

Also this week, be sure to check out Martha Cheng's piece on the soon-to-be-dismantled culinary training program at the women's prison in Kailua. There are many casualties of our collective and systemic failure to balance our state's books, and prison cooking classes probably don't rise to the top of anyone's list, but it's still tough to see programs like this one go.

—Ragnar Carlson
INSIDE WAI‘ANAE

In tough times, Leeward teens reject their rough reputation

After improvement at the beginning of the decade, some key social indicators show that things are starting to go the other way for Hawai‘i’s teenagers. Teen pregnancy is on the rise, the state’s teen idle rate—which measures dropouts who aren’t working—is among the highest in the nation. Even the death rate among teenagers in Hawai‘i has shot up in recent years. To begin to better understand what day-to-day life is like for local teens, Honolulu Weekly started at Wai‘anae High School, where fistfights are common, the drop-out rate is higher than any other school in the state and the students feel grossly misunderstood.

ADRIENNE LAFRANCE

FIGHTING REPUTATION

A ll of them say school is tough. All of them have stories to back it up. Drop-outs, burn-outs and even parents are regular players in their high school experience. No, it isn’t like this at every school in Hawai‘i. Still, the students at Wai’anae High School are tired of being treated like bad news. “I guess people think we are gangsters,” says Mark*, a 15-year-old freshman at Wai‘anae. “But we’re not.”

It’s a brilliantly sunny November morning at Wai‘anae, just past 7AM. Students are already on campus, gathering casually in semi-circles, sitting in stairwells and beside one another on shaded benches. With nearly an hour to spare before the first bell rings, they’re listening to Kiwini Vaitai and R&B on their iPods, gossiping and joking. Mark is standing beneath a tree in a grassy open courtyard with half a dozen friends. The students are full of happy energy. It’s peaceful here, though that’s not always the case.

“You know da stuff you hear on da news?” asks Wai‘anae senior Jayson with a broad grin. After a short pause and snickery laugh, he goes on: “That wasn’t true.”

The group laughs around him, knowing that the news he’s referring to is that of a recent schoolyard riot, one that reportedly put the school on lockdown, involved dozens of students and led to a number of juvenile arrests and school suspensions.

“Everybody like fighting everybody,” says James, a 16-year-old standing across the lawn with three friends. “Constant fighting. And it’s the dumbest stuff people fight about. Just idiotic stuff. He said, she said, who said, whatever.”

Ask kids at Wai‘anae about what high school is like and most of them bring up fighting before anything else. To some, it’s a necessary distraction. If you don’t know how to fight, you get teased or, worse, beat up. Sticking up for friends is a must—“it’s what led Crystal to get punched in the jaw by one of her male classmates,” says Jayson. “I was trying to hold this boy back because he was trying to mob one of our friends,” she says. “So I was holding him back and he punched me. It’s scary but we’re used to it. Plus, people never use guns or stuff like that. It’s not the main-land, just straight-up Wai‘anae.”

For Crystal and others, going home with a fat lip or a black eye means getting in trouble—not for fighting in the first place, but for losing.

“At home, my parents just ask me if I won,” says Jayson, his friends nodding in agreement. “When you get home, if you didn’t fight back or if you lost, they give you lickings.”

Students say the way they’re disciplined (or not disciplined) at school is a source of resentment—“football boys never get in trouble for the same fights,” some of them claim—and one that reinforces contentious relationships between cliques. They complain of favoritism and racism. Most of all, they say they feel that they go unheard.

“Adults don’t listen to us,” says Crystal. “The only opportunity we get to be heard is slam poetry in the cafeteria.”

Several Wai‘anae students say they use poetry as a way to express frustration about how they’re perceived. Type in “Wai‘anae” in the search bar on YouTube and the first four suggestions that appear are “wai‘anae fights,” “wai‘anae scraps,” “wai‘anae high school fights,” and “wai‘anae riot.” But among them is a video called “I am Wai‘ana 2009.” It features two girls, declaring who they are—and who they aren’t.

“They all think that we’re a waste of time, space, money and teaching,” says one of them. “Thinking that we can’t and won’t ever make it out there in the world. Naming every bum on the island to provoke a response. One of them. “Thinking that we can’t and won’t ever make it out there in the world. Naming every bum on the island to provoke a response. One of them is Robert. “We like the teachers who will listen to us and what we have to say,” says Robert. “This high school? This is our reality.”

Adults don’t know the things we know.”

*Names of minors changed for their protection
CONFRONTING REALITY

What adults do know is that Waianae High School, as a community, needs help.

"If you look at Waianae, specifically the high school, there are some indicators from the school and within the community that speak to the fact that Waianae is a low-income area," says Sylvia Yuen, director of the Center on the Family at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. "We know that being of low income can lead to a lot of poor outcomes for teens: a higher dropout rate, more kids not going on to college and so on."

Indeed, Waianae High School has posted the highest drop-out rate of any high school in Hawaii since at least 2001. Last year’s drop-out rate—tallied over four years starting with the graduating class’ freshman year—was 36 percent, compared to a state average of 11.9 percent for public high schools that submitted data to the Hawaii Department of Education. That’s compared to 7 percent nationally. It’s data, like any statistical compilation, that can be misleading—in Hawaii, students who don’t graduate high school aren’t counted—but the rate at Waianae still raises eyebrows.

"Any time a student leaves school early, there’s a concern," says Daniel Hamada, assistant superintendent at the Hawai’i Department of Education. "You want to make sure the quality of education can be continued. Anytime you lose one child, that’s a concern. That’s the bottom line."

And there are additional concerns that can go hand-in-hand with the drop-out rate.

Teen pregnancy, domestic violence, substance abuse—Hawaii still ranks fifth in the nation for the highest rate of crystal meth abuse—among others. But to get to the root of these problems, the students at Waianae are right to insist that adults must attempt to understand the complexities of the world as teens today experience it.

NET EFFECTS

A lot of it is still adults trying to figure out what the lives of young people are like," says Brian O’Connor, director of the Family Violence Prevention Fund. "A lot of that has to do with the Internet. Kids don’t look at it as offline or online, they just look at it as their life. They’re always grown up on the Internet."

That’s true at Waianae, where students say the rumors that lead to fistfights are started and spread on social networking sites. Teens all over O’ahu and beyond are faced with decisions about how much of themselves to share, on and offline, without always understanding the possible repercussions. One 17-year-old student at Farrington High School says one of his friends was cajoled by a much older man to send nude photos of herself—despite the warnings many received in school about being careful on the Internet.

"My friend had a MySpace at one point and she met this musician guy on there," says Maya. "He was kind of a creeper, he was older. It said on his profile he was 30-something and we were 16, so it was kind of weird. He knew exactly how old she was, he knew she was in high school, and next thing I know, I go on facebook and nude pictures of her came up. Turns out the sent them to him and he posted them for everyone to see."

For as much as technology amplifies the consequences of relationships in harmful ways, technology like the Internet can also work for good—particularly when it comes to opening the lines of communication between teens and adults who care about their well-being, as well as between teens themselves. Many hotlines like TeenLine Hawai’i have added chatline components.

Still, a resource is only effective when it’s tapped.

"The statistic here in Hawaii is that by the time they are seniors in high school, there are two out of every three students—primarily females—will know someone who has been in an abusive relationship," said Stephanie Regolita, program manager at another local teen outreach program, Teen Alert. "It’s a huge concern. It takes a lot for a student to actually come to the school and ask if they’re ever going to be safe."

But some of the other social stresses many adults associate with the high school years—exposure to drugs, how far to go with a guy—are things these teens first confronted even earlier. It’s far from uncommon, they say, to smell marijuana smoke on campus.

"The boys sit on the back steps, they sit on the back steps, they sit."

"Yeah, definitely weed," says Jessica. "I smoke it sometimes. I smoke it when I’m stressed."

When asked how they think high school so far, they answer in unison: "I hate it."

"It’s all your choice." says Maya. "They’re all about weed and drugs."

"Yeah, definitely weed," says Jessica. "If you walk past, you can smell it. And sometimes they go to the beach to do it, too, because the beach is right there. You only get caught if someone snitches, really. And if you snitch, you end up in a fight.

So the girls ignore it. They ignore a lot of what kids do, really."

"D... drugs and alcohol. That stuff is everywhere," says Tina. "Everywhere. This is Waianae! No offense to stereotypes it but it’s true that it’s everywhere. But you can choose whatever you like. It’s your choice. It’s all your choice."

LET’S TALK ABOUT SEX

When it comes to sex, the girls say it isn’t as easy to say no. They say a lot of girls in their class started having sex in eighth grade, when they were still at Waianae Intermediate School.

"I even know some seventh graders," says Tina. "It’s just a matter of pressure from the guys.

And you’re not going to go home and talk to your parents about it!

"Girls, some students’ sexual choices mean that they are now parents themselves.

After a decline in teen birth rates between 2000 and 2006, the rate of teens aged 15–19 giving birth in Hawaii is steadily climbing again.

Between 2005 and 2006 in Hawaii, there was an increase," says Laura Beavers, National Kids Count coordinator at the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, Md. "Starting in 2005, the teen birth rate leveled off and started to go up. In one year, it went from 36 births out of 1,000 girls to 41 births."

For Researchers say the jump is particularly significant because it’s greater than a slight national increase over the same period of time. This highlights some troubling data about contraceptive use in the state.

"We have the lowest percentage of condom use for these teen groups who are having sex of any state in the nation," says Sonia Blackiston, director of education and training at Planned Parenthood of Hawaii. "So we’re dead last in condom use and we rank in the top 10 for the highest rate of teen pregnancy. It’s very alarming."

Students at Waianae say that it isn’t for lack of education—or access to birth control—that their classmates end up getting pregnant.

"There’s a lot of pregnancy here," says Erica, a sophomore at Waianae. "Like, a lot of the majority of people have sex, I think. They teach us all about condoms, but sometimes people just don’t use them. I don’t know why."

"We learned how to put a condom on a pickin’," laughs Robert. "And a banana!" Heather chimes in.

Students at Waianae talk openly about sex, and say some of their peers see parenthood as a means to celebrate, and babies as accessories.

"For some people, having a baby is popular, yeah!" says James. "Because everybody will start knowing them and everybody will start recognizing them. It’s a status symbol, definitely."

Others say teen pregnancy begets teen pregnancy—that girls see their teenage older sisters with babies and envision themselves as mothers, too.

"Babies who are born to teens are most likely to have a lot of issues," says the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Beavers. "They’re more likely to be born into families that are economically stable, they’re more likely to have a low birth-weight, the list goes on and on."

Becoming parents also makes it difficult for teens to balance their responsibilities. In a lot of cases, education becomes less of a priority, and many teen parents end up dropping out to find work to support their young families. Even worse, researchers say, is the growing population of idle teens in Hawaii. The 10 social indicators that the Annie E. Casey Foundation tracks for
“This high school? This is our reality. Adults don’t know the things we know.”

It's annual Kids Count report, Hawai'i's worst ranking is in rate of idle teens. “There are kids who are not in the workforce...and not in school,” says Beavers. “It’s about nine percent of the population in Hawai’i...about 6,000 teenagers, which sounds like a small number but when you think about 6,000 kids not going to school and not working, it’s significant.”

It’s also higher than the national average, and while it’s lower than the 30 percent teen-idle rate recorded for Hawai’i at the beginning of the decade, it’s still a problem.

“If we’re between the ages of 16 and 19 and you’re not attending school, and you’re not working, about are you doing with your time?” asks the Center on the Family’s Yuen. “It means that you’re like, just engaged in anything that is going to advance your life in a positive, meaningful way. If that hasn’t happened, then what are your prospects as an adult?”

MAKING IT OUT ALIVE

Finding a job is one thing. Just making it to adulthood is another. Some of the most startling statistics that assess local teens’ well-being come from examining the death rate over the past decade. Hawai’i's teen death rate, which Beavers calls "the ultimate indicator," has jumped 39 percent since 2001.

“Hawai’i actually does pretty well, from a national standpoint, despite that major increase,” says Beavers. “But part of that could be because kids are not in cars as much in Hawai’i’s case, kids in South Dakota or Minnesota, where it might be 30 miles just to get to school.

Still, the leading cause of death for teens in Hawai’i is traffic accidents, followed by suicide, which students at Wai'anae cite as something that stresses them out about how to be a strong family. People can’t do it alone, they need partners.

Already, the majority of students at Wai'anae do graduate and the majority of them consistently make good choices. "Lots of great leaders in Hawai’i have come from very humble circumstances," says Yuen. "But we could be doing much more than we’re doing to help those kids in Wai'anae and everywhere in Hawai’. What a kids needs is one adult, just one adult who’s really committed and passionate about the kid. The one who will say, you have it within you, you just have to work hard, and I’m watching and monitoring you.”

Back at Wai'anae High School on that November morning, the 7:55AM bell rings. Kids start moving from their various perches and heading to class. Staff members begin rounding the campus, looking for stragglers. One of them is walking away, ribbing his friends, when he turns back and calls out.

"Will you put it in your article about us writing to have a voice? Please don’t forget about us wanting to have a voice."
Concerts
Obama and his mama

Tired of all the Bush-bashing bands wearing Obama buttons on their guitar straps and singing about the new change that’s gonna come? Don’t fret. This weekend is your chance to congregate with libertarian, homophoobic, non-believing global warning rages who are more than ready for a night of punk antrades. Guttermouth isn’t just your anti-conformist, anti-establishment punk rock band sporting a heavy dose of pined-offery. They are introverted, eternally teenage punks who poke fun at the socially oppressed group of people you can imagine. Remember the playground bullies? They might not de-pants you in front of the soccer team, but beware: If you’re overweight, gay, or simply on the Obama bandwagon, this isn’t a show for you unless you’ve got a world class sense of humor. Noxious albums like: Share The Planet, Eat Your Face, Live From The Pharmacy share one similiar message—“screw the hippies.” These opinionated punk rockers are playing with Corrupt Absolute, 80 List-a, Mistermeaner for one incredible night of poser bashing. Leave your Make-Love-Noc-War signs at home. Or bring them (how punk of you).

Anna Bannana’s, 2440 S. Beretania St., Sat 12/12, $18.65 presale, www.808shows.com.

You so fine

There are not many acts out there successfully blending hip-hop beats and glam rock aesthetics, but whatever it is you call what Mickey Avalon is doing (Glam Rap), his fans love it. This Saturday at Pipeline Cafe, expect a sexually charged air of debauchery, but whatever it is you see it: a quick taste of several pieces by several artists in a lovely outreach. hawaii. edu/_PKT.

Photo (work)shop

Looking at photo illustrations by David Julian can either transport you to another world or force you to confront reality. “Love in Vain” features what appears to be a plastic hand from which a dangling, shiny red heart hangs at heights determined by a dung beetle rigged to a pulley. Elsewhere, like in a photo from a series titled “Taken From The Heart,” a hodgepodge of destroyed antiques lays in front of a neatly displayed portrait of Jesus, illustrating, with meditative tenderness, the irreplaceable, eternally teenage punks who are playing with Corrupt Absolute, 80 List-a, Mistermeaner for one incredible night of poser bashing. Leave your Make-Love-Noc-War signs at home. Or bring them (how punk of you). Mastering Layers and Masks in Photoshop, UHM Sakamaki CJ04, $270, call 956-8400 to register, www.ocean. hawaii.edu/photography.

Learning

Creativity and Invention with Photography, University of Hawaii’s Mānoa Yukioami Room, Kranus Hall 012, Thu 12/10, 7-9PM, 956-8244. Lightroom Essentials for Photographers and Mastering Layers and Masks in Photoshop, If Julian’s work is any indication, they’ll either take your photos farther out to space, or closer to the nuances of the human heart.

The “Vol. 7.0” of Honolulu’s version of the event will be the biggest one the city has seen thus far, with 13 confirmed presenters. As always, the roster of artists includes a mixture of the hip (Steven Kanemoto, better known in the club circuit at DJ Ekaat) and the esteemed (Vince Hanson, head of the Academy Art Center at Linekona). If the event follows the protocol of Version 6.0, beer sales will be cut off once the presentations start.

Kunst küche

The night is pretty much an art dilettante’s dream (or an art curator’s, depending how you see it): a quick taste of several pieces by several artists in a lovely outdoor setting with plenty of people-watching opportunities. And free booze. Simply put, Pecha Kucha invites 20-slide presentations from several artists or designers, then gives each presenter 20 seconds to describe each slide. The “Vol. 7.0” of Honolulu’s version of the event will be the biggest one the city has seen thus far, with 13 confirmed presenters. As always, the roster of artists includes a mixture of the hip (Steven Kanemoto, better known in the club circuit at DJ Ekaat) and the esteemed (Vince Hanson, head of the Academy Art Center at Linekona). If the event follows the protocol of Version 6.0, beer sales will be cut off once the presentations start.

What everas

At last count there were more than 9,000 people of Norwegian descent living in Hawaii, presumably to keep the sunscreen industry afloat. While our beaches beat the Oslo snow this...
time of year, sometimes you just need to party Scandinavian style. Fortunately for all the Hanses out there, the Scandinavian Club of Hawai‘i is dedicated to keeping Norse heritage alive. The next big bash is the Santa Lucia festival, a seasonal party honoring a young saint tortured for ministering to the poor. Despite the sobering background, the party is sure to be a festive affair. A couple of goblets of gliigg (spiced hot wine) will loosen your vocal chords for the rounds of carols to follow. A hearty feast of roast pork, potatoes and rice pudding will satiate even the burliest of Vikings.

March in December

Not to overthink this, but don’t parades seem like a bit of a social relic? Maybe that’s why they’re so fun. That, and the fact that—kind of like a fireworks display—at any point between the very beginning and the very end, you have no idea how long it’s going to last. We know that parading is rooted in military action, but etymologists say the fun kind of parades—or at least written mention of them—date back to 1673. Not bad, 17th century, but we’re pretty sure today’s are better. Take the Waimānalo Christmas Parade, set for Saturday. It features 110 marchers, 12 vehicles, six floats and three bands. It’s one of more than half-a-dozen parades on O‘ahu this weekend. Holiday season or not, that’s a pretty impressive display of parading. See you on the streets.

Parade begins at Waimānalo District Park and ends at Waimānalo Beach Park, Sat., 12/12, 10am-11:30am, 520-4483

This is our island home, we are her sons

Wether you like it or not, ’tis the season for merry song-singing, extreme decorating, excessive drinking, binge eating and just plain old celebrating. During these recurring holiday times, most of us scroogy and stressed-out adults must look to our community’s youth to provide that eager, wholesome holiday fervor that makes even the most bitter person feel oh-so-warm-and-fuzzy inside, even if only for a brief moment.

Enter the Honolulu Boy Choir, the lei-adorned, blue aloha-shirt clad, barefoot bunch of little dudes that have been booking it up with youthful energy since 1974. (Naturally, the boys performing this Friday at the Kahāla Mall haven’t been in the choir since ’74, but still, they’re carrying the torch that got lit way back in the day.) So get your shop on at the mall on Friday evening, then break for a good-natured, mirthful holiday performance. After all, nothing could be better for the soul than kids belting out an earful of all those classic holiday hits.


Doctors of feel-good

Members of L.A.’s up-and-coming reggae act The Aggrotones are staking into town bearing a sort of gift for every hippie, prep, hipster or garden-variety party-animal who attends their Friday night show. It’s the tunes, man! Solely swing-time, funky and at times raucous with the groove, they’re here to give Honolulu a reason to get away from the stress that hovers over the end of the year (you’ve your credit limit; hold it up, Santa!), and bring all you little freaks and geeks who love to bob your head to the off-beat together for a purely positive, bass-driven good time.

Finding its name from the ’60s British slang term “Aggro,” meaning tough guy, the band has channeled that rawness into its music, birthing an entirely new sound that pays homage to the soul singers of the Islands instead of just the reggae forefathers of the Islands. From this fusion the band has coined the term, “dirty reggae,” which doubles at the title of its 2003 debut. Since then, The Aggrotones have been a part of legendary Hell Cat Records (run by Rancid lead singer Tim Armstrong). They are touring in support of the label’s 4th release, IV. The band’s been massively successful in the U.K., playing stadium-sized shows. The Aggrotones’ music has also been featured on a bevy of movies and IV shows (like, oh-my-god, The Hills). Not too shabby for a bunch of pupils of the “Los Angeles school of hard knocks.”

The show will be supported by local ska mainstays Go Jimmy Go, who have been making rocksteady-inspired music since 1996. Also rounding out the bill will be Black Square, a political punk and ska outfit that’ll start the evening out with some homegrown blends from the Hawai‘i ska fusion scene. Heal any damage your soul (and pocket book) has endured this holiday season by coming out to No Haloos and let these guys jam the pain away.

—Jay Pareis

Nextdoor, 43 N. Hotel St., Fri 12/11, $15, limited presale, www.islandcityz.com, 548-0398

Pledge Allegiance

Take the pledge and help our Hawai‘i economy this Holiday Season.

Sign the pledge

Visit honolulweekly.com and click on "I PLEDGE." Honolulu Weekly will automatically enter you to win $1,000 in gift certificates from independent locally owned merchants and restaurants.

DEADLINE TO PLEDGE IS DEC. 20th.

(Pledge based on numbers from Civic Economics which show that $0.68 of every dollar spent at a locally owned business stays in the community, while only $0.43 stays in Hawai‘i when spent at a chain.)

www.honolulweekly.com • December 9-15, 2009 • Honolulu Weekly
Sunday night at Mai Tai Bar lived up instantly when the DJ played Miley Cyrus. I’m not even kidding. All of a sudden there were rocking, arms waving. It was a party in the USA. I was like, “Oh, so this is what people are into now,” and even got a little extra smiley myself. I’m way into electro. It’s a killer influence that’s probably embedded in my brain from when my mom used to play Canoo records. Lately I’ve been hearing it all over the place and damn it, I’m digging it. From Shakira’s “She Wolf” to Crystal Castles that night—Jajan’s DJ Bozu, who was rocking out the mainstream pop, won that round. DJ Delve and Compose were next to me saying “Yes, he’s very good.” The event was the first in the five-part series of the second annual Mai Tai DJ Battle. It made me pretty excited to see the next four rounds.

Earlier last week at the Kaleidoscope space, computer software engineer Matthew McVicker debuted his new solo project Lapwing to the regular Tuesday night party, which was more packed than usual. "I’ll tell you right now, peoples’ jaws were dropping. I saw it. He had this fluid blend of electronic music, ambient music, field recordings, vocal harmonies, and interesting beats, and it worked. After spending most of the night AlMing with Matthew about his music I still have no idea how to describe or understand these newer genres, but I’m happy to report he is currently working on releasing his EP in early 2010. Be ready.

Speaking of Kaleidoscope, it’s been super hit-or-miss since I begun. I feel like I’ve been almost of all the shows, but I know that it’s actually a very special and unique place. It’s the one place you can’t judge a scene by the crowd, but it’s been cooping up nicely at thisinehoteland hotel, thanks to the imppecable attention to sound system detail. Even on some nights the crowd is mostly just the bands performing and their girlie fans, event organizer Shelly “Catwings” from Thewonderland isn’t ready to pack in just yet. Thank God. She’s doing a showcase this Friday. You know she’s out there, and she’s got two of the hottest local up-and-comers playing to give weekend people a taste Kaleidoscope. The Kaleidoscope Presents! showcase this Friday features, you guessed it, indie rock sensation The Jump Offs and the high energy dance-punk power pop band Girlfriends (who are both also playing my birthday party plug, plug, you’re all invited). This Friday is definitely your opportunity to see what that party is all about if you haven’t yet. If you can’t early Wednesday try me, I’ve got good news: the Tuesday shows start early now. Like, 9pm on the dot. I know because last week I was virtually racing over from the Mai Tai Rumble to see Painted Montreal, who actually did start at 9pm on the dot. I was left out there in the bitter midnight and feeling like a charm the next day. My head doesn’t go out to Shelly and Ross Jackson and all the current DJs to get the essence key to it and I really truly believe that if you build it, they will come. Eventually.

Gigs
9/ Wednesday
COMEDY
HAWAIIAN
Brooke Cline, Otto Sacco, Sunset Comics, Rigo, and Eileen K.J. street humor tour, Hawaiian Princess Kīhei (8pm) 531-3662
RAMON LOUIS FOLK
Na 'Olu, Island Drum & Dance (8pm) 538-1575
COUNTRY/FOLK
The Vagabonds, The Ground Floor (7pm) 538-3252
ROCK/PUNK
Best of Nothing, B.F.F. (8pm) 924-6127
JAZZ/BLUES
Misty, Heavenly Hotel (9pm) 925-1797
WORLD/REGGAE
Kona, Shaka Bar (9pm) 922-4422

10/Thursday
COUNTRY/FOLK
The Goonz, New Market (9pm) 920-7911
HAWAIIAN
Rebekah Biggers, The Ground Floor (8pm) 923-4422
Jazz & Blues
Koko Joe, Kolesterol (8pm) 922-4422

11/Friday
COMEDY
Jasper, Longboard Theater Company (8pm) 384-0382
HAWAIIAN
Evelyn King, Kaholol Surf Club (9pm) 923-HULA
The Jump Offs, Beach Bar (8:30PM) 931-4660
COUNTRY/FOLK
The Jump Offs, Sea Life Park (8pm) 926-1777
ROCK/PUNK
Pink and the Poodles, July 4th (8pm) 925-3474
JAZZ/BLUES
Koko Joe, Kolesterol (9pm) 923-HULA
WORLD/REGGAE
Kelley O'Nei's, Kolesterol (9pm) 922-4422

12/Saturday
COMEDY
Shaka Bar, Shaka Bar (7PM) 923-4422
HAWAIIAN
Everyday Lunch, Kolesterol (8:30PM) 922-4422
Jazz & Blues
Beach Bar, Kolesterol (8:30PM) 922-4422
WORLD/REGGAE
Kelley O'Nei's, Kolesterol (8pm) 922-4422

Take Care of the Tots and We'll Take Care of You!
Collection boxes for Tots for Tots will be open until Dec 25.
Text "Tots" to 91092 to join our Text and see our TotsforTots special.

Location:
Looking for a good place to hold your CHRISTMAS PARTY? We're available!
Call 521-4712 to book, or leave your name, phone number and email address with the bartender when you come in.
Live Music Every Night, Never a Cover!
Visit www.haleapuluhawaii.com for music schedules

Saturday, December 5, 2010 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM
Deep Stansbury: The former host of The Man Show is known for, not surprisingly, velvety humor that may not be for everyone.

Visually elegant and emotionally powerful, Royal Hawaiian Theater, 2201 Kalakaua Ave.: Sat 12/12, (7:30PM) $80-

90. 544-3385, 550-8457. Royal Hawaiian Hotel, Hale Koa Hotel, 2055 Kalia Rd.: Thu 1/7/10, (9PM) $25 advance; $30 day of. 589-1999

Finding your comfort range in your own music is an exercise that can be difficult at times. Whole Foods, 3014 Kapiolani Blvd.: Thu 12/10, (7PM) $20. 955-8973, 336-3778.

This is a very special time of the year to catch up with friends and new people alike.

Both the Holiday Choral Society and Vivaldi Rocks will give us a treat of choral music. This is a perfect time to sit back and enjoy the tunes of the season.

SRH - The Soldier of Job Army (Washington, D.C.) has a name that fits it in for local bands, job and all. With Natural Indie, 214 Kuhio Ave.:

SRH - The Soldier of Job Army (Washington, D.C.) has a name that fits its mission. With local bands, job and all, SRH - The Soldier of Job Army (Washington, D.C.) sounds like a band that is ready to make its mark.

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History of Christmas

Ah, baby Jesus. What about the story of baby Jesus set to hail? This might be your best Christmas gift, yet. Royal Hawaiian Theater, Level 4, Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center, 2231 Kalakaua Ave.: Sun 12/13, 2PM & 6PM; Sun 12/20, 2PM & 6PM; 522-6941.

Irvings Berlin's White Christmas

Kalakaua Ave.: Sun 12/13, 2PM & 6PM; Sun 12/20, 2PM & 6PM; 522-6941.

The Art of Children's Discovery Center

Children's Discovery Center, 520 Makapuu Dr.: Thu 12/10-15, 9AM-5PM. A new live experience takes center stage, featuring a reinvigorated hall that shows a Native Hawaiian worldview layered in meaning and aesthetic in nature. (808) 945-8200. Free admission. See these unique sights before they are gone.

Upcoming Stage

For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio


Theatre Interns

One of the highlights of the production is the use of an irrotatronic dinosaurs, including a time-lapse film. Through 12/20.


The USA Loves Hawaii's Art History

Honolulu Academy of Arts, 2411 Makiki Heights Dr.: Connecting America's 19th- and 20th-century batik by Hawaiian artists with contemporary head garb. Through 4/10/10.

Children's Discovery Center

Kids can present a puppet show, dress up like a doctor, play virtual volleyball, explore the inside of a mouth, visit different cultures, test their wheelchair skills, put on a play, make crafts and much more at this interactive museum. Tjte 221 S. St. West Waikiki. (808) 945-8200.

The Aloha Pride Band Rehearsal

The Aloha Pride Band Rehearsal open to all instruments. New members needed. Call 504-7124. Wednesdays, (794) 504-7124.

Rain or the show and can sing, go for it. The addition notice makes a point that no royalty will be involved in this version of the production. Aloha Valley Theater, 3853 East Mauna Makani Ave.: Mon 12/14 to Thu 12/17, (808) 945-8321.

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Three DVD comedy collections stand out this season, packaged with intriguing extras and backstories, featuring the talents of Mel Brooks, John Cleese and Rowan Atkinson. Here's our rundown, packaged with arguable comments.

**The Mel Brooks Collection (Out Dec. 15)**

Then-jokesmith Mel Brooks was discovered by comedian Sid Caesar early in the run of Caesar's *Your Show of Shows*, a 90-minute revue that aired in the early 1950s. The story goes that show producer Max Liebman refused to hire Brooks, but Caesar paid him out of his own pocket—and let him sit in the hall outside the writers' room, with the door propped open. Brooks' brilliance soon shone through, and he was hired as part of the legendary writing team.

Brooks continued to write for Caesar for the next few years in a couple of new series (*Caesar's Hour, Sid Caesar Invites You*) and specials on two networks. When Brooks later went into movies, he hired Caesar for two of them (*Blazing Saddles, History of the World, Part I*). After nine movies, all packaged in this collection, Brooks moved to Broadway, doing musicals based on two of these films (*The Producers, Young Frankenstein*).

It's an uneven collection, featuring high points (the aforementioned films) and low ones (*Robin Hood: Men in Tights and Dracula: Dead and Loving It*), but the crazy quilt *Blazing Saddles* is there—and still mysteriously hilarious, with such performers as Gene Wilder, Harvey Korman and the great Madeline Kahn (as Dietrich-like songstress Lilly von Shtupp). Young Frankenstein also holds up, with the later Peter Boyle (Everybody Loves Raymond) surfacing as the Monster. Nostalgists will like trying to identify a bevy of old-time comics doing cameos. Caution: low comedy ahead—and plenty of it.

**Fawlty Towers (re-mastered)**

This fabled 12-episode Brit comedy series, written by John Cleese and Connie Booth, is the show that refuses to be forgotten—and no wonder. A combination of old-time farce, slapstick and character-comedy, this tale of Basil Fawlty (Cleese) and his wife Sybil (Prunella Scales) running a middle-class hotel is irresistible. Fawlty is a vain, trouble-prone mismanager whose escapades encompass comedy styles from most of the last century. The series ran in the '70s, but re-runs, most on PBS, continued for years and years.

Cleese, of course, was part of the original Monty Python comedy troupe before the short-lived series *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. After those two series, Cleese did a series of movies (*Primates on Parade, A Fish Called Wanda*) and character roles in film and television. He also continued a lucrative series of industrial-training film and video shorts, which made him a wealthy man. His commentary on this packaged collection is brand-new, as are several other extras. Most of the episodes hold up beautifully, and can be seen again and again.

**Black Adder (re-mastered)**

Rowan Atkinson is the most popular comic in Europe and the U.K. owing to his long-running TV series (three, including *Adder*, a cop comedy and the Mr. Bean franchise), movies and television specials, both in the U.K. and the U.S. Of these, *Adder* was by far the most popular in the U.S., with a stellar supporting cast including Hugh Laurie (*House*) and its unique format. Each season takes place in a different century, starting with Elizabethan times and ending in WWII, with Atkinson's character remaining the same: a sly, sneaky hilarious Machiavelli fomenting chaos and misdeeds in often highly original ways.

The most expensive of these collections is Brooks' (*at $115*), but each makes a great gift for the right person(s). There are guaranteed big laughs here, just in time for our regimented Jolly Season.

Bob Green blogs about film at bobgreen.honoluluweekly.com
Holiday Gift Guide

Week 4: Keiki gifts with a kick

Week 4 Power Play

Hawaii’s top family entertainment centers are out with the 2009 Holiday Gift Guide. We’ve tried out all the latest and greatest gifts to make shopping for the hard-to-shop-for kids on your list easier. Here’s Week 4, which features gifts for the kids who love to get their hands dirty or just love to play with dirt. So get your thinking caps on, and enjoy:

For a kid's garden-table experience

Children love of working with their own hands, grown on an appreciation for hard work, perhaps a glimpse into the life of your great-grandparents. minutes in the garden or even a pineapple fields. Create alongside your old pineapple grandmother for some quality bonding and talk story, then continue the bonding in the kitchen and at the dinner table.

Hawaiian Delight has a variety of gardening services and seed packages to accommodate the most choosy of gardeners.

Cub's source for beer & wine making equipment & supplies. Thu. – Sat. 12-5, Sun. 9-3, 2846 Kekua St., 548-8820 (3793)

For the DIY indie rockers-to-be

If your 5-year-old already wearing t-shirt stained glasses? Get the mini-starlet started on making and other artistic revelations, as she can wear her or her own music videos at 95-degree weather be destined. Minty kids or not develop yet? Put the help to stay with the indie kid singer’s album, Stephen Stills’ What did you Do To the Clouds? From Our Love to Little Rascals fans tunes such as “Crab I’ll Haul” and “Teenage Love Story” with the “Boy Band” Sausage.”

When kids can hold crayons, give them The Indie Rock Coloring Book ($9.95). Find the toile in Design 2

Kanteen SIGG water bottles are another popular reusable water bottle choice. The minimum order is 12 to 12,000, made for small hands and in a variety of colors and designs that will make drinking flat water fun. The bottles will last for years, depleting their shapes and designs. There are many options to choose from, such as the Kool Kids or hard grips (SIGG) for drinking fun. Others like the T Instruct for better drinking fun.

While the kids walk away in the hot sun, they’ll soon be loving their own little gardens, growing peppers and Oxheart carrots. Kailua, littlesproutshawaii.com, 226-3477; SIGG bottles at Whole Foods, Kailua Mall, wholefoodsmarket.com/on line, 718-0200

After the garden growths grows, the kids can move into the kitchen to start creating something good. At age 11, Hawaii Children’s Research Hospital is 2 years old, and still growing. Call 625-6300.

K-lite Press (printed in 2009), which comes with coin-sized stickers featuring the basic roots of the tree. If the kids are old enough, they can even add the stickers to the tree to help track the growth. The kids can even give the tree away and get them started on good eating habits.

When the kids want to make their ownKeiki classroom (or just to practice writing), give them the Kite Preschool (printed in 2009), which comes with pre-cut stickers featuring the basic roots of the tree. If the kids are old enough, they can even add the stickers to the tree to help track the growth. The kids can even give the tree away and get them started on good eating habits.

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Hawi
Exploring the Reef at Night. Wade up to your knees on a set of solid excurion. Discover sea slugs, collector crabs, stars, ghost shrimp and more. Ages 5-up. Waikiki Aquarium, 2777 Kalakaua Ave.: Sat 12/12, 6:30-8:30pm. $15 adult/$9 kids (18-21:4 members). 923-7941.


Keiki/Teen Panic Sale. Bring your family and friends and visit the hostesses Makai Catamaran. Breakfast sail is 9-11AM. Afternoon Picnic Sail is 1-3PM. Reservations required, call 591-0000 or check sailmakani.com. Kailua Beach Park. Dai­ na Beach. 928-3888.

Kapolei City Lights. The season brings more to Kapolei than the airport, Costco and Target. Call 708-3888. Kapolei Mall, 1000 Uluohia St.: Sat 12/12. (8-9pm).


Pre-School Nature Hour: “Stories, songs, crafts and hikes. Bring a lunch. This month’s theme is ‘Bamboo.’” Honolulu Botan­ ical Garden, 45-600 Lulualo Rd.: Tue 12/15. (10:30AM-3:30PM).

Second Saturday. This month’s activities include luauhala demonstrations by the Lahaina Hui. Hawaii State Art Museum, 250 S. Hotel St.: Sat 12/12. (11AM-3PM). Free. 586-0900.

The Tracking Project: Hawai’i Family Experience with Brother Nathan. Learn the science and art of tracking, the indigenous method of using all of your intuitions in a multi­ dimensional way. Koko Slima, 45-035 Kamehameha Hwy, Lot 5, Lahaina. (8AM-11AM). $5 general, free for VWMA members (includes two children). 247-2124

Festivals & Fairs


World Art Bazaar One-of-a-kind gift items and accents for the home include jewelry, ethnic clothing, folk art, bro­ cades, textiles and ornaments from all over the planet. This could be your first and last holiday shopping stop. Academy Art Center, 1111 Victoria St.: Through Sun 12/13. Tue-Sat, 10AM-4:30PM; Sun 11AM-3PM; closed Mon. 592-8741


Holiday Boat Drive. To be the season of giv­ ing. Call 443-9886 or visit www.bbb. org to make an appointment. Save a life. At various times and convenient locations.

Outside


Volunteer "Blinded Drives. To be the season of giv­ ing. Call 443-9886 or visit www.bbb. org to make an appointment. Save a life. At various times and convenient locations.


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Season’s Best Craft and Gift Fair. All the com­ fort of holiday craft fairs: baked goods, cute knick-knacks and a way to support the season’s best craft and gift fairs. E-mail reed­ walesi@hawaii.edu for info. O’trager’s Reef on the Beach, 2169 Kailua Rd.: Tue 12/15. (6-8PM).

Kahului Airport Craft and Gift Fair: Bring proper footwear, water, sunscreen and a hat, and help restore the stream. E-mail natats@hawaii.net or call 381-6463.

Kahului Women’s School, 12261 Kuilima Ave.: Second Saturdays, 12/12. (8AM-11:00AM).


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Free consultation

THE SCENE

THE SCENE

Top$ for Tots Drive Donate new and unused toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toy Program. Storm Troopers will be at the Hale on Tue 12/15, 6-9PM. Honolulu Hale, 500 S. King St. Through Wed 12/16, (8AM-11PM) 768-6622

UH Maui Neihe Join this service project to restore the ethnic-botanical and cultural features of the heiau. Wear suitable clothes. Call 598-0125 or e-mail ahuahui.net. Windward YMCA, 1200 Kualoa Rd. Second Saturdays, 12/12, (8AM-12pm) 956-2092

Whale Sanctuary Advisory Council Members Needed The council represents the public's interests in sanctuary matters and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendents and state co-manager. Additionally, the HIHWNMS will be one of the first sanctuaries in the country to recruit a youth member to participate on the advisory council. Call 808-397-2651, ext. 257, or visit hawaiihwhnms.nosa.gov for info and application. Deadline to apply is 1/31/10

Sports


Recreational Ultimate Frisbee Learn basic disc skills for throwing and catching. Designed for beginners and experienced players alike. Bring a light-and-dark shirt and cleats if you have them. Visit hawaii­ultimate.com. Tuesdays, 5:10 AM, Ala Moana Beach Park; Thursdays, 7:45PM, Kapipipano Park, 701 11th Ave., Kaimuki. Free

Skate Boot Camp for Girls Learn the funda­mentals of roller derby safely with the Hawai‘i Pacific Roller Derby. E-mail recruiting@pacificderby.org. Boy & Girl Club of Honolulu, 7044 Wainuan St. Sat through 12/19, (1-3PM) Free. 945-4763

Airwaves


Homeahil The story of Colonel Oliver H. Kopua, directed, produced and written by his granddaughter. Q&A to follow. E-mail homeahil@comcast.net. UH-Manoa. Sat 12/12, (12-3PM) Free. Hawaiian Film Project Premiere A story about our relationship with the environment beyond our roles as inhabitants. Featuring Nona Beamer and more. 5655 Har­dine Ave. RSVP: nanaalexander.com, 724-7159 x 11. Sat 12/12, (3PM) $12.50. 841-1221


RACE AREA Nurse In conjunction with the Torres Straits Islands dance and music exhibit, view episodes 4-6 of an Australian TV series focusing on the remote Torres Straits islanders. Visit setseastcenter.org or call 944-7584. base West Center, UH-Manoa. Sun 12/13, (1-3:45PM) Free


Submissions

"The Scene" provides groups and individu­als with free listings of community events, activities and entertainment. Submissions must include the following:

• Date and time;
• Location (include a street address);
• Cont. or admission price (please note if event is free);
• Contact phone number;
• Description of the event. If submitting an entry to the music section, include the general type of music (gaz, rock, hip­hop, Hawaiian, etc.).

Deadline for submissions is two weeks before the listing should appear. Listings appear the Wednesday before the event. "The Scene" is also posted each week on our Website at honolulufilmfestival.hawaii.org. Send all submissions to Honolulu Weekly Calendar Editor, 1111 Fort Street, Suite 1200, Honolulu, HI 96813. Fax to 520-3144 or e-mail calendar@hono­lulufilmfestival.com. Submissions are not accepted over the phone. We welcome photographs with submissions, but cannot guarantee return — please do not send original art.

The Surf ‘N Sea Annual Anniversary Blow-Out Sale! EVERY ITEM ON SALE!

Stand-Up Paddleboards Bodyboards, Dive Gear Clothing, Sunglasses Leashes, Wetsuits Watches, Shorts Trunks, Footwear Skateboards, T-Shirts Jewelry, Fins, Rack Boadbags, Snorkels Masks, Spears, Hats, Backpacks, and... MUCH MUCH MORE! EVERY ITEM IN THE STORE IS SALE PRICED

Hawai‘i’s Ocean Sports Headquarters
dive sports and team up participant Lessons island’s finest (for experience 16 urządzenia) $100 for 15 lessons 1:30PM, 5PM, 7PM

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The Surf ‘N Sea Annual Anniversary Blow-Out Sale! EVERY ITEM ON SALE!

637 - SURF (7873) 63-556 Ken Pauy Haleiwa, HI 96712

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OPENINGS IN THEATRES DECEMBER 18th

Did You Hear About the Morgans?

For your chance to receive a complimentary advance screening pass good for two, visit honoluluweekly.com and enter-to-win.

Screening will be held on Thursday, December 17 at 7pm

Ward Consolidated Theaters
1044 Auahi Street

Limit one pass per person/household, while supplies last. No purchase necessary. Event time and other specifics are not eligible. Tickets are not valid for resale, and re-entry is not permitted. Prizes will not be mailed back if not used. Seeks are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Pass does not guarantee seating. No call phones will be allowed in the theatre.

Unvarnished film synopses indicate movies not yet reviewed by HW staff.
* Indicates films of particular interest.

### Opening

**The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day** An action thriller sporting enough camp to make Charlie Heston proud. After a priest gets murdered in Boston, the MacManus brothers (Sean Patrick Flanery, Norman Reedus) emerge from the shadows and start shooting stuff.

**Invidious** A historic drama swimming with enough racial tension and soaring orchestration to make it an epic Clint Eastwood production. Nelson Mandela (Sofyan Ismael) attempts to unite the citizens of South Africa—not through education or political policies, but through music.

**Weightless** Unlike its predecessor, this story about a well-to-do white family that takes in a black high schooler from a broken home. Their love allows him to discover his football talent.

Takemura owes a loan shark 800,000 yen. Unable to pay, the law student is forced to employ high-grade explosives.

**Revanche** An animated, children’s spin on Brothers Grimm’s frog-turned-prince fairy tale. That has Tiana, Disney’s first black princess, hopping amphibian-style through the French Quarter of New Orleans singing Broadway-style tunes.

### Continuing

**2012** For what it is, 2012 is a kick. Fast-food fun, and provides exactly what aЕ promises: finely crafted, computer-generated scenes of the ground falling out of under helpless mortals.

**Armored** Overdone on testosterone, this action thriller about an American family trying to transport a crooked family’s emerald to a Mexican drug lord. Matt Dillon is one of the few delicious performances. Fishburne—has a breakdown and flees, the other is a delusional madcap adventure involving a confron-

**The Princess and the Frog** A twist on Brothers Grimm’s frog-turned-prince fairy tale. That has Tiana, Disney’s first black princess, hopping amphibian-style through the French Quarter of New Orleans singing Broadway-style tunes. In a scene of glory, Tiana transforms into a frog.

**Old Dogs** In the trailer, Seth Green sings Air Supply’s “All Out Of Love” while being chased by a giant gorilla and John Travolta gets picked up by a pack of penguins. Along the way there’s a sort-of-lessons about fatherhood, gift wrapped by Disney.

**Pen1ng Everybody’s Fine** Based on the novel of the same name, this film is a pure delight. A-list cast of British stars—including John Travolta gets pecked by a pack of penguins. In this story about a well-to-do white family that takes in a black high schooler from a broken home. Their love allows him to discover his football talent.

**The Twilight Saga: New Moon** Thir-

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**The Twilight Saga: New Moon** Thir-
W
hile there isn’t anything new that new on the complex, director Cath
erine Bankfoot’s documentary Hawai’i: A Voice for Sovereignty serves as an excellent, concise primer on the question of Hawai’i sovereignty.

Bankfoot begins with defining sovereignty as it applies to the Hawaiian people:

“Sovereignty is the legal, political, and moral right to Live on and for the land; build and grow a sustainable economy; protect natural resources; practice spiritual & cultural traditions; hence their ancestral practices for family and community.”

Using this definition to establish the parameters for sovereignty, Bankfoot illustrates the beginnings of the movement—we see the state of the state, if you will. Since the United States takeover, political, economic and military oppression has taken away Hawaiians’ freedom and disconnected them from elements of their spirituality, culture and especially their land. One scene shows physical evidence of construction workers literally destroying sacred burial site as a commune; we see human feces and toilet paper littering Maui’s Anawoawaheia hana’i. We then get a history lesson. The Big Five planted sugar cane on and care for the land; build and grow a sustainable economy; removed from her throne by armed forces and yielded to the force of the United States. Without a treaty of annexation between the Hawaiian islands and the U.S. Senate, Hawaiian studies scholars say that Hawai’i’s statehood actually represents what’s actually an illegal occupation.

“Since that time,” says Kāʻeo, a professor of Hawaiian culture and especially their land. “We see human feces as a commode; we see human feces the “old” Hawaiian, not the “regular” Hawaiian taught in schools and colleges. She speaks her version briefly, leaving viewers wishing to have heard more.

Much of Hawai’i’s sovereignty takes place on Maui, where strides toward developmental sensitivity seem to have been made by community members. At the forefront, it is the Ritz Carlton whose construction to another location may lead to the arrival of the much-discussed Superferry. We see the surfers in the water, blocking the large vessel—which Sen. English refers to as an example of civil disobedience. “We’ve become more like Americans than Pacific Islanders in this instance,” English said.

Of course, a movement this complex can’t be completely covered by a 90-minute documentary. The film asserts that development to be the “end game” since Hawaiian sovereignty is the means.

New doc educates, tantalizes

The biggest impressions. A retired schoolteacher named Auntie Aggie Kanakeha is a red-spectacled woman who takes the camera waving all of her fingers for emphasis and tells us that she Speaks the “old” Hawaiian, not the “regular” Hawaiian taught in schools and colleges. She speaks her version briefly, leaving viewers wishing to have heard more. Much of Hawai’i’s sovereignty takes place on Maui, where strides toward developmental sensitivity seem to have been made by community members. At the forefront, it is the Ritz Carlton whose construction to another location may lead to the arrival of the much-discussed Superferry. We see the surfers in the water, blocking the large vessel—which Sen. English refers to as an example of civil disobedience. “We’ve become more like Americans than Pacific Islanders in this instance,” English said.

Of course, a movement this complex can’t be completely covered by a 90-minute documentary. The film asserts that development to be the “end game” since Hawaiian sovereignty is the means.

The film ends with defining sovereignty as it applies to the Hawaiian people:

“Sovereignty is the legal, political, and moral right to Live on and for the land; build and grow a sustainable economy; protect natural resources; practice spiritual & cultural traditions; hence their ancestral practices for family and community.”

I credit this as an excellent, concise primer on the question of Hawai’i sovereignty.
**Film Review**

**Latecomers**

DEAN CARRICO

Those who try to catch all the Oscar-nominated films finally have their chance on Friday, when *Revanche* finally opens at Kahala Mall’s Theater. The nominees from last year’s Best Foreign Language film were particularly strong for the 2008 field, with *Waltz with Bashir*, *The Class of the 2008*, *Revanche*, and *Mall’s theater.*

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December 4 – 20, 2009

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 7:00 PM

Free Admission

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For more information: 544-1127 or 544-0887

Honolulu Weekly 21


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**Latecomers**

With her boss taking a special interest, she is offered an incall service. However, she isn’t fazed by the job harassment, and when she doesn’t immediately accept the new position (pun intended), the next client just happens to be abusive. Alex isn’t fazing much better. He’s too soft to be a proper bouncer. Seeing no way out, Alex instructs her to wait in the car. Everything goes perfectly save for the one policeman (Andreas Lust) who innocently happens to come across Tamara. At the end of the scene, Tamara is dead, the policeman is suspended for unnecessary force and Alex is devastated. That moment is the highlight of the suspense in *Revanche*, because thereafter the film makes a decided change of pace. Alex hides out at his grandfather’s cabin with the pretense of helping him stock up on wood for the coming winter and discovers that his neighbor is, of course, the cop who killed his girlfriend and his unhappy wife. Susanne (Ulrike Strauss) plots for revenge, while Susanne looks for company to fill the void from her withdrawing husband. But this isn’t a stylized thriller of happenstance and backstabbing. Spielberg always keeps his camera at a mid-distance, letting the audience peek into the lives of his characters without ever getting too close, and the lack of a music score makes it as if we’re really present as their lives further unravel.

The 2008 Oscar-nominated *Revanche* finally makes it to Hawai’i...
The Weekly digest

A Taste of Wine and All that Jazz

Chef David Cruz creates a seasonal cuisine to match with a two-course wine pairing. No reservations required.

Inoue, 1131 Nu'uanu Ave. Tuesdays—8—9 p.m. $25 per person and pottery, 501-2600

Appetizers & soup

The 30th chef is James DelaCruz creates a three-course dinner and Gray Goose takes care of your cocktail. Visit www.hot939.com/pages/flash.html

Check-Out Uplift

At Safeway, Times, Don Quijote, Fujio- mundo. For ticket info. Call 949-2220

Izayaka Hawai'i-Tokukuri

Tai Cooking

Author Hideaki "Santia" Miyoshi signs a delicious book. Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, 2454 South Beretania St. Sat 12/12, 2—7p.m., 496-3633

Kama'Aina Christmas: Manka to Nahiku

The Academy's annual fundraiser will feature live dining, stunning décor and a silent auction. E-mail dmskapalor@hawaii.edu or call 512-5671 for ticket info.

Hokulani Holiday Fundraiser

Aside from the festive drinks, take in plipu, other refreshments, a silent auction, and live music to benefit the Hawai'i Women's Business Center. Call 528-1001 or e-mail hwbcadmin@ hwbc.org for reservations.

The Dragon Upstairs, 1038 Nu'uanu Ave. Sun 12/12, 5—9 p.m.; dinner includes two drinks.

Hokulani Holiday Fundraiser

Guests are invited to enjoy a child breakfast for a week.

A Taste of Wine and All that Jazz

Two-course wine pairing. No reservations required.

12/12 University Ave. Wed 12/16, 6—7:30 p.m. $13. Dessert included. E-mail info@vsh.org or call 471-2900 for information.

Vino, Restaurant Row, 500 Ala Moana Blvd. Suite 600-1

Winetasting with Don Hartfort

From: 2—4 p.m. (includes $3.50). 949-2220

Hokulani Holiday Fundraiser

Call 471-2900 for ticket info.

The Dragon Upstairs, 1038 Nu'uanu Ave. Sun 12/12, 5—9 p.m.; dinner includes two drinks.

Sensory Perception Fundraiser Dinner for Kana Hawai'i

With food, local bands, local wines, a town restaurant in Kamakai, wine from Barenton, desserts by Sunshine Cake Creations, live art and live music, this "hustle" affair is one of the most affordable fundraisers of the season. Honolulu: 87025, 6Th Ave. 3PM—5PM.

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Author Hideaki "Santia" Miyoshi signs a delicious book. Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, 2454 South Beretania St. Sat 12/12, 2—7p.m., 496-3633

Kama'Aina Christmas: Manka to Nahiku

The Academy's annual fundraiser will feature live dining, stunning décor and a silent auction. E-mail dmskapalor@hawaii.edu or call 512-5671 for ticket info.
For those who profess to be hopeless cooks or find kitchen work tedious, there's inspiration to be found in a certain culinary course at WCCC. "Before, I thought cooking was boring," says Joanne Liupaono. "I never wanted to learn anything about the kitchen. But now my whole perspective has changed. I really enjoy it, for real. It took me a long time to figure out what I really wanted to do in life. I think this is something I want to do." Liupaono and four other female students are turning out fine-dining plates from a kitchen where the knives are anchored to the table. This kitchen is in the Women's Community Correctional Center, where a culinary program was launched just over a year ago as part of a collaboration between Kapalama Community College and the Hawai'i State Department of Public Safety. 'Their goal is to provide the women job skills for when they are released, skills that will hopefully keep them out of prison. While there are other classes offered, such as anger-management, 'ukulele, creative writing and GED prep, the culinary courses are some of the few that offer college credit. The classes are taught at the prison by KCC instructors and the women earn credit for the four classes offered, which they can transfer to KCC if they decide to pursue an associate's degree when they get out. Student Natasha Baza says that the classes have changed her relationship to food. "I could order food really well, and she could burn it really well," she jokes of her—and Liupaono's—culinary where-withal before enrolling.

Now, toward the end of their course, they've learned knife skills—like the difference between a dice and a julienne—and at the moment, they're working on a plate of stomach. A lunch of some of the shrimp stuffed with crab and wrapped in bacon is something I want to make for a long time to figure out what I would treat anyone else.

Unfortunately, funding for the culinary program, which was allocated by the Legislature, was not renewed this year. Teachers and students who have seen the benefit of the program are hopeful that in the future the classes will pick up again. "We're a setting where a lot of us come from different backgrounds—a lot of us looking to change our lives," says Bazza, who says she plans to attend KCC to finish her culinary education when she is released. "I always wanted to learn about culinary arts, I just didn't have the guts to, you know. When it was offered here, I thought 'wow,' someone actually thought we were special enough to offer it to us. This is awesome. I hope that they restart it so that other inmates get a chance to come and be a part of this." Bazza learned from last year's program are now pursuing associate's degrees at KCC. Though there's a lot of new programs and new instructors who were previously tentative in the kitchen now counting students and criticizing the flavor balance of a horseradish, they say that students who have been taught can Eugene actually thought we were special enough to offer it to us. This is awesome. I hope that they restart it so that other inmates get a chance to come and be a part of this."

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I have heard Thomas Jefferson traded marijuana blends with George Washington and the other founding fathers. I find this hard to believe, but the rumor is ubiquitous. Can anyone verify it is true or false? I emailed the famous Jefferson scholar Clay Jenkins but got no response. However, on his podcast, The Thomas Jefferson Hour, he did admit to donating his Thomas Jefferson impersonator gear and visiting Burning Man. Should I take this as a tacit admission of his third president's smoking habits?

-Paddix

Two approaches we could take here. First is just to stick to the facts. Lotta has that.
The second is we wave gaily at the facts en route to a more entertaining sociopolitical perspective. This is the Fox News system, with based on the following:

* Botanically, marijuana equals hemp. As we've established in the past, there are basically two names for the same plant.

Jefferson invented a better "hemp brake" to separate the fibers from the stalks, something he thought was so important agriculturally that he refused to patent it. This tells us two things. First, Jefferson ran an advanced marijuana processing facility, Second, he was a socialist.

* Both Washington and Jefferson tried growing hemp on their Virginia farms, with mixed success. Washington used some of what he grew to make hemp clothing worn by his slaves. However, U.S. hemp exported to Britain often was of such poor quality that it couldn't be sold, and Washington was never able to turn a profit on the crop despite sustained effort. Jefferson also seems to have grown hemp strictly for local consumption, from which we deduce he couldn't make money at it either. In short, not only were Washington and Jefferson marijuana farmers, they were unsuccessful marijuana farmers.

* Notwithstanding their failure to make a fortune from hemp, Jefferson and Washington kept at it. Washington estimated to use the crop after he became president. Jefferson wrote of receiving hemp supplies from farmers. Which just shows how clever they were at covering their tracks.

Dear EarthTalk: What is the status of the hyena in the wild? Though unknown by many, the hyena has always struck me as one of God's survivors. —John Redlick, Portland, TX

Among the most intelligent animals on Earth, hyenas resemble human laughter. As many as 47,000 spotted hyenas live in sub-Saharan Africa. They suffer similar forms of persecution as other hyenas but have fared better due to their ability to adapt to the proximity to humans. The IUCN's Hyena Specialist Group focuses on developing hyena conservation strategies worldwide through integrated research and public education to change attitudes toward these much maligned animals. Conservationists underscore the importance of preserving hyenas because, if for no other reason, we can learn much from them. For one, hyenas possess unique physical characteristics that enable them to withstand diseases that kill other animals. "Only if hyenas are available to study because the males made stronger plants...rather too late." Female marijuana plants are the ones that contain enough THC to be worth smoking. Some take this to mean Washington was cultivating the plant not just for fiber. Of course, two days later Washington had put the hemp in the river to soak and separate the fibers, and later in September that he started to harvest the seed. That suggests he divided the plants because the males made stronger fiber while the females produced the seed needed for next year's crop. Jefferson in his Farm Book wrote that a female plant would produce a quart of seed, and a bushel of seed was enough to plant an acre.

Do these guys sound like midnight tokers? No, they sound like farmers. Which just shows how clever they were at covering their tracks.

Submit to the Straight Dope at the Times Square. And send questions to Cecil via straightdope.com, or write him at the Chicago Reader, 11 E. Illinois, Chicago, IL 60611.
THE FLOATING CITY

Diamond Head, Wednesday, 5:55AM

With stars still twirling overhead, she heads out for a run up Diamond Head, hoping to catch the first golden light from the top of the crater’s trail. Not surprisingly, it’s nearly empty. She practices slips and gentle switchbacks and steep staircases to the summit. Once through the last switchback, Little’s landscapes are perhaps the outlines of built structures? Like a Rorschach test, Little’s paintings present a less defined journey: a vertical one. He calls up ambiguous space, in which fragments of landscapes, tentuously anchored to shifting horizons, move in and out of a field of engagement.

Using a very limited palette—brown, blue and their capacity to neutralize one another in an edgy range of grays—Little evokes a cool atmosphere that, in his words, “de­­pict imaginary landscapes, situated in spaces that are mostly empty.”

Where a traditional scroll painting might suggest a vertical pathway along a river, across a bridge or up a mountain trail, Little’s landscapes present a less defined journey: a challenge as to how to get from here (a place of viewing) to there (the place suggested in the painting). In that final destination a place of nature, enlivened by trees and other flows, or a place of human habitation, as implicated by what are perhaps the outlines of built structures? Like a Rorschach test, Little’s paintings provide the enigmatic contours that provoke an imaginative and toiling response.

Ocean of Emptiness: Paintings by Stephen Little, at the Pegge Hopper Gallery, 1164 Nu‘uanu Ave., through December 12. For information, call 310-625-7467.

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