

AMAZING

THINGS THAT DON'T SUCK ON O'AHU

**A COMPLETE
ISSUE OF
GOOD NEWS!**

STORIES BY
KEVIN O'LEARY
ADRIENNE LAFRANCE
LAURA CHARTIER
AND MORE!

H O N O L U L U

Weekly

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Mayor Mufi Hannemann,

We are writing to you in this season of light, hope, and faith, to ask you to take up the challenge of Honolulu's housing crisis. As pastors and leaders, we directly see the pain of foreclosures, the desperate search for rentals, the strain of families doubling or tripling up, and the terrible alienation and pain of homelessness. *These issues are inescapable for the faith community and are even more visible in this season.*

Our faith traditions instruct us, as Jesus did in Matthew 25:40: "whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." It is time for the county of Honolulu to do for the least among us. We need what all other cities our size have

– a housing department that will work to make policies which begin to reduce the scourge of homelessness, foreclosure, and overcrowding. We understand and sympathize with the many pressures that must be on you – but you are the only mayor the homeless have. There is no other place they can turn to for help.

This Christmas, religious and community leaders of Honolulu ask that you please help the least among us by creating a housing department.

Mele Kalikimaka & Hau'oli Makahiki Hou

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The Reverend Alan Mark

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The Reverend Robert Nakata

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Pastor Taavao Alualu

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United Church of Christ

The Reverend Louise L. Ulrich, Interim Minister

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The Reverend Nobuko Miyake-Stoner

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The Reverend Robert Miyake-Stoner

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Ohana Housing Network of O'ahu (OH-NO)

The Reverend Neal MacPherson

United Church of Christ

The Reverend Stanley Bain

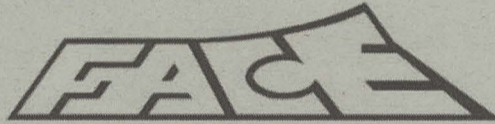
United Methodist Church

The Reverend Dennis Brouillette

United Methodist Church

The Reverend Frances Wiebenga

United Methodist Church



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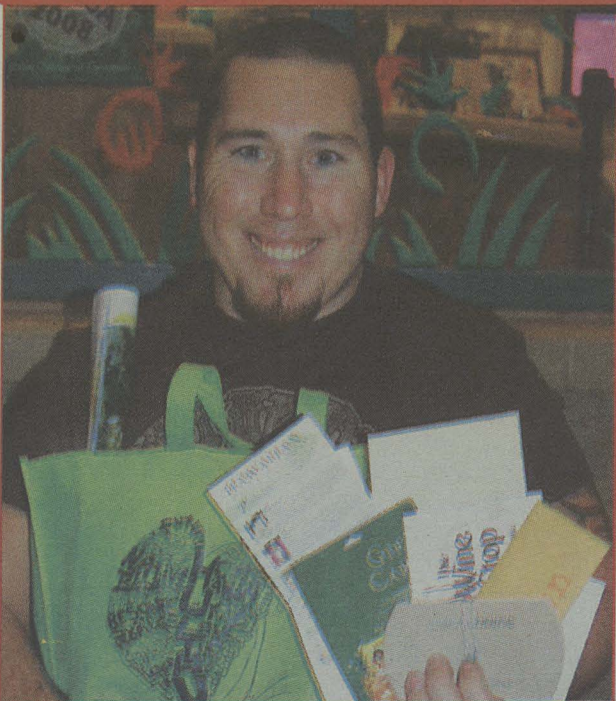
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Mazie daze

Another puff piece about an ultra-liberal, so-called progressive, career politician ["Ms. Hirono Goes to Washington," 12/16]. That's surprising. Why not really take a chance and profile a libertarian? Perhaps the ideas of personal responsibility and limited government are the real counter culture in this state and nation, and should be highlighted in the alternative media.

Jeff Tash
Honolulu

You know, for kids

I wonder if my thoughts on bicycling, which I partially worked on during 10 years in Hawai'i, would apply to the problems with youth

["Inside Wai'anae," 12/9]. Bicycling for youth would help curb crime rates. This, of course, may also apply for Wai'anae.

Kevin Lauer
Honolulu

Toxic cow emmissions

With the international climate conference in Copenhagen, the world's attention is focused on global warming and the resulting coastal flooding and extreme weather patterns.

Chief greenhouse gas carbon dioxide is emitted by burning forests to create animal pastures and by combustion of fossil fuels to operate feed crop, factory farm, and slaughterhouse machinery, trucks, and refrigeration equipment. The much more damaging methane and nitrous oxide are discharged from digestive tracts of cattle and from animal waste cesspools, respectively.

Each of us can help reduce global warming three times a day. Our local supermarket stocks a rich variety of soy-based lunch "meats," hotdogs, veggie burgers, dairy products and ready-to-eat frozen dinners, as well as a vast cornucopia of more traditional fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds.

Max Kramer
Honolulu

What about the have-nots in the marriage debate?

Ultimately the alleged climate conference in Copenhagen is not about the climate. In reality, it is a joust between the developed world and those nations that are still struggling for economic self reliance, democracies versus tyranny of dictatorships, and finally the "haves" against the "have nots." The solutions are to have prosperous countries assist underdeveloped Third World countries build economies to achieve self sufficiency, to allow freedom to trump oppression and dictatorships and create economic freedom in the world where the "have nots" can join the "haves".

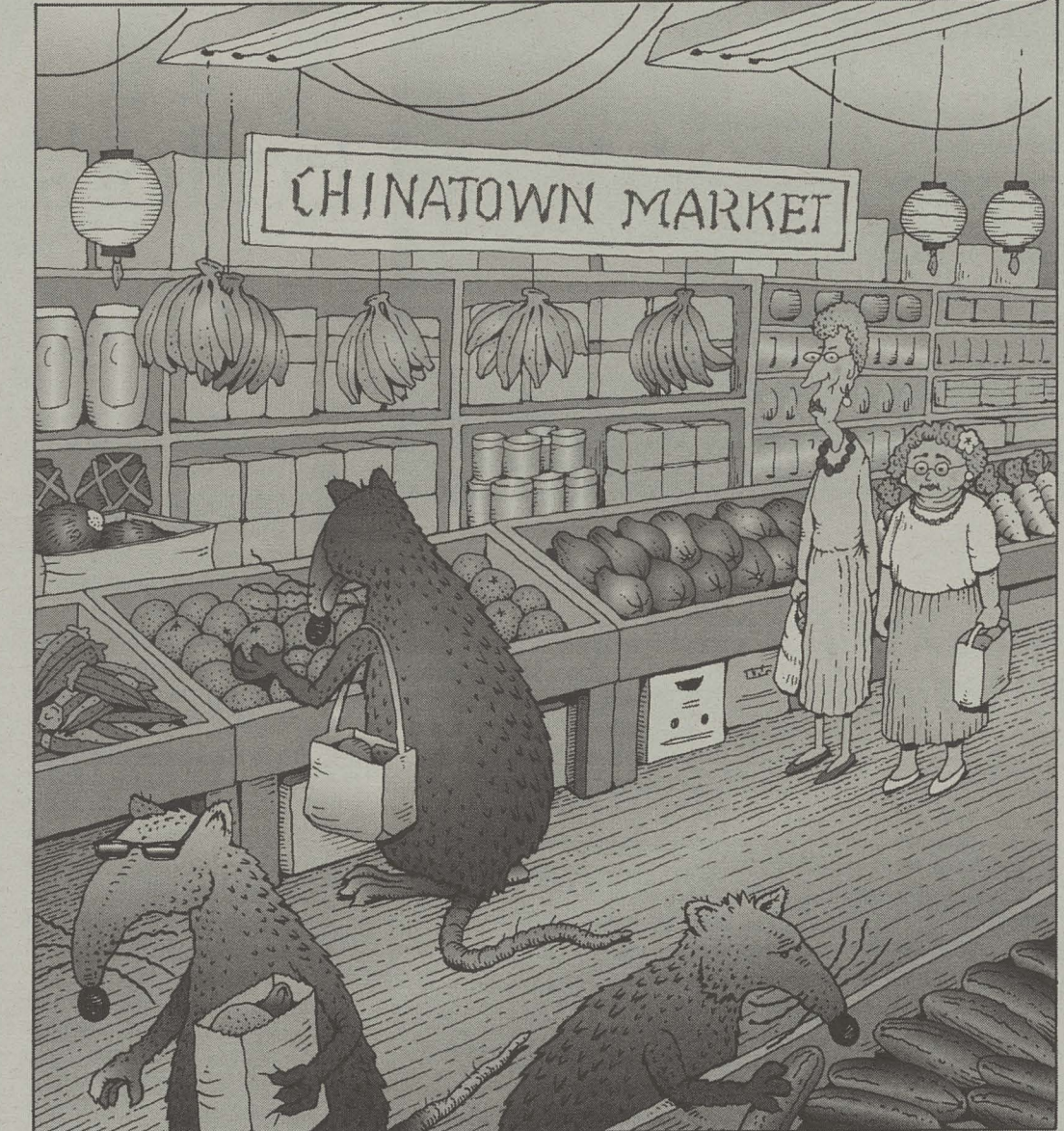
Fred Hemmings
25th Senatorial District

Good thing the rail debate isn't getting old at all

I write in response to the criticism that Kirk Caldwell directed at Curt Sanburn [Letters, 12/9]. It is interesting that Mr. Caldwell claims that the "Federal Government provides several layers of oversight and approval." The City has not yet received final approval of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which means the recent awarding of a construction contract is highly premature and could jeopardize the expected Federal Funding.

Bus Rapid Transit, High Occupancy Lanes and Light Rail at grade are all systems that are far more appropriate to Honolulu than the present overhead expensive City project. Those alternate systems were all but ignored in the EIS prepared by Parsons Brinkerhoff.

Mr. Caldwell says little about costs. The present estimate for the rail project is \$5.4 billion dollars for a 20-mile line. This works out to \$270 million a mile or \$5,900 per capita. Light rail at-grade is a far more efficient and cost-effective, far superior, quieter and less



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intrusive on the environment than the proposed overhead heavy rail system.

Geoffrey Paterson
Kailua

Team Sanburn

Rather than address directly the persistent public concerns over the Hannemann administration's proposed rail transit system for the City and County of Honolulu, Managing Director Kirk Caldwell has instead chosen to personalize stated differences over matters of public policy.

I found it truly lamentable that he made a specific point of noting—not just once, but twice—that freelancer Curt Sanburn ["Railroaded," 11/18] no longer lives in Honolulu, as though this revelation negates any further need for discussion regarding the biggest public works project in the history of Hawai'i.

Since Mr. Caldwell wishes to redirect the focus of this debate into the periphery of personality rather than the heart of substance, I feel compelled to oblige him. While Curt Sanburn does in fact currently reside in California, he was nevertheless born and raised in the islands, graduated from 'Iolani School, and lived in east Honolulu (where his family still resides) until he was in his 40s. Sanburn has a long and respected record of local public activism as a founding member of the Sandy Beach Coalition. Thanks in no small part to the vision and efforts of Mr. Sanburn and others like-minded, residents and visitors alike enjoy the unfettered vistas of an east O'ahu coastline that is now state parkland.

For better or worse, the voters

of Honolulu have decided to move forward with rail transit, and it is not my intention to re-ignite a debate already settled at the ballot box. That said, it is incumbent upon the Hannemann administration—of which Mr. Caldwell is now a prominent part—to be completely open and above-board with its constituents regarding other ideas and various possibilities for shaping and improving that prospective transit system.

In that regard, I would further insist that Honolulu residents deserve an honest, fact-based public discussion regarding genuine and viable alternatives to the currently proposed grade-separated rail system.

Mayor Mufi Hannemann is certainly nobody's fool, and it's high time that Managing Director Kirk Caldwell and other members of his administration stop patronizing the people of Honolulu as though we're a bunch of ignorant children.

Donald Koelper
Honolulu

Jingle bells

As a 20-plus year Department of Education employee, I am as dismayed by the Furlough Friday fiasco as anyone (for the record I voted "no" on ratifying that contract, but for more reasons than just the furloughs).

My first attempt at writing a satirical song centered around Gov. Linda Lingle was "The Governor's 12 Days of Christmas from the Teachers' Perspective." It came out like this: "On the first day of Christmas the governor gave to me, a plastic cup so I could make shi-shi..." Anyway, you get the idea. I eventually abandoned that song idea, mainly because putting the 34 furlough days in there became kind

of repetitive. I liked the Frosty song better, because when you think of it, we're all getting snowed over, especially the poor kids!

A Christmas Furlough Friday Song
(sing to the tune of "Frosty the Snowman")

Furloughs on Fridays, what a jolly good idea,

Now our budget's made 'cause we don't get paid,

No more red ink to be cleared.

Furloughs on Fridays, what a giant can of worms!

We all thought it worked, but we look like jerks,

Now just watch as we all squirm!

There must have been some contraband

In that eggnog that we drank, 'Cause when the kukai hit the fan,

Everyone began to stank!

Oh, Furloughs on Fridays, so much worry and concern,

But the children know that we love them so,

What a harsh lesson to learn.

Thumpety-thump-thump, Thumpety-thump-thump,

We need a pot of gold.

Bumpety-bump-bump, Bumpety-bump-bump,

Even Mufi can't fix this road!!!

Matt Nakamura
Honolulu

WRITE TO:
Letters to the Editor,
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Fax to 528-3144 or e-mail to
editorial@honoluluweekly.com.
Letter writers must print and sign
their name, and include a phone
contact.

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To create a high-quality, profitable weekly O'ahu newspaper that provides its readers with independent, entertaining, provocative coverage examining local issues, arts and events in a visually striking format.

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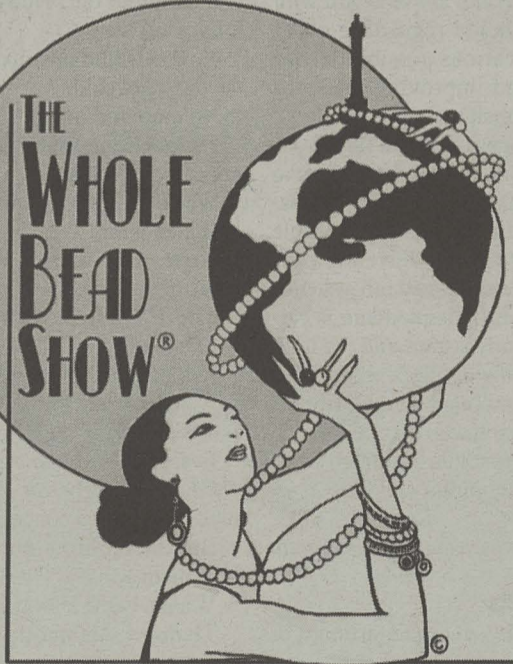
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Editor's note

It's a good time of year for good news, and this week we've made an effort to highlight a couple of things that are going right around here. Our cover story this week features good news from the public sector—Kevin O'Leary's piece on the Board of Water Supply is sure to upend some assumptions—to the arts, where Adrienne LaFrance talks to some of the people responsible for making a real difference in the quality and quantity of live entertainment in Honolulu. We've also include a few voices from folks about town, and we thank Laura Chartier for finding them.

This is also a chance to mention some other positive developments we've noticed lately. Why not?

- Three local schools—Momi-lani Elementary, Royal Elementary and 'Ewa Beach Elementary—were named Blue Ribbon Schools this year, a high national honor that recognizes both academic excellence and dramatic improvement in student achievement.

- A combination of citizens' groups and elected officials—including at least one Republican—has changed the tone vis a vis development in Hawai'i Kai, and the farmers of Kamilo Nui have at least some hope of sticking around past the expiration of their leases over the next decade.

- The University of Hawai'i broke the gender barrier this year by hiring its first female president. Less than 15 percent of research universities nationwide are headed by women. As we enter 2010, the executive branch, the state senate and the state university are all led by women, a fact that, while obviously not guaranteeing success on its own terms, is a sign of progress.

- In addition to the much-discussed massive commitment to rail, the federal government recently approved roughly \$3.5 million for a rural bus program in Hawai'i.

- As part of that same omnibus funding bill, Congress approved more than \$18 million for combined sea turtle and 'ahi preservation efforts.

- We've become more environmentally aware: initiatives across the public and private sectors in recent years have made solar energy a hot commodity in the Islands, and eco-friendly thinking is going mainstream. The Legislature passed a number of environmentally friendly measures in 2009, including money to fight invasive species and to recycle electronic waste.

- Bishop Museum's newly renovated and reimagined Hawaiian Hall opened this year to lots of aloha, giving the museum a more contemporary sensibility and opening Hawaiian history to a new genera-

tion of visitors.

- Six years ago, filmmaker Alexander Payne turned California's Central Coast into a trendy destination overnight with his film *Sideways*. Payne is set to begin production on *The Descendants*, based on the novel of contemporary Hawai'i by Kauai Hart Hemmings, in the spring.

- Young innovators are doing something almost unheard-of in Honolulu: building a fashionable commercial and entertainment destination from the ground up, with no big corporate funding. No, Chinatown isn't as busy as Ala Moana or "Ward." Yes, it's a lot more fun.

- Kona Brewing Co. is going gangbusters as one of the fastest-growing brands in the United States, but the good news for us is that it's becoming easier and easier to find local brews of all stripes in bars, restaurants and even convenience stores.

- The City transportation department came out with a draft bicycling master plan that, if approved, will virtually quintuple the total lane-miles of bike lanes on O'ahu at relatively limited expense. It's not exactly a circle-island dedicated path, but it's a lot better than what we've had.

- Lawrence Tseu, a local dentist and supporter of civic causes, recently gave \$20,000 to help keep state libraries open.

- A land conservation project

in North Kōhala has been ranked as the top nationwide priority for a coastal estuary protection program administered by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and will receive \$1.25 million in federal funds next year. The Lapakahi project is part of the Trust for Public Land's Legacy Land Conservation Program, which draws 10 percent of the conveyance tax from Hawai'i real estate transactions and will pay the remainder of the \$2.5 million purchase price for the property.

- System-wide, UH enrollment topped 50,000 for the first time in 2009. That 29.2 percent of Hawai'i residents have completed a bachelor's degree or higher puts us, perhaps surprisingly, in the top 15 states when it comes to educational attainment—when you look at the top 10, it's clear to see that economic benefits await states that support higher education.

Obviously, it's not a comprehensive list. But at the end of the year, we're pleased to focus on what's good in Honolulu and around the state, and feel refreshed for having had the reminder that while the chips may be down, we're never out. Oh yeah, one more.

- If you're reading this, you're probably in Honolulu, Hawai'i, right now. How sweet is that?

Happy holidays from everyone at the *Weekly*.

—Ragnar Carlson



(R)ode to joy: On the cover and again here, Jianca Lazarus captures the elation in Taj Burrow after he won this month's Pipeline Masters. We'll have what he's having.

JIANCA LAZARUS

AMAZING

THINGS THAT DON'T SUCK ON O'AHU

No news may be good news, but good news is definitely worth sharing. Here are a couple of reasons Honolulu has to smile—including the highlights of the year in your own words.

IT'S THE WATER

Forget what you think you know about O'ahu's water supply

KEVIN O'LEARY

In many parts of this world, tap water comes down to this: Turn the faucet and take your chances. Even for many U.S. cities and municipalities, the life-sustaining liquid delivered to consumers, even when safe, can taste like the shallow end of a swimming pool.

That's not so in Honolulu, where a remarkable system of deep wells beneath the city's pavement (and elsewhere around the island) have been providing some of the purest water on the planet for more than a century.

"Up to several years ago, we only chlorinated 65 percent of our sources," says Dean Nakano, deputy chief engineer with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply. "The purity of our sources is still excellent—it was EPA rules that finally made us change. Now we treat all of the water. But we only put in a little bit of chlorine. We try our best to maintain the esthetics of the water's taste."

Purity and taste aside, it is the vastness, the sheer volume of fresh water (estimated to be in the billions of gallons) lying in the aquifer—the fresh water in the lens sits atop a literal ocean of salt water—beneath O'ahu that has, perhaps more than any of the island's other, considerable natural attributes, allowed Honolulu to grow into today's metropolis.

Early on, a vision

Yet it wasn't a sure thing by any means. Exploiting the artesian gold was one thing—maintaining it, while extracting the resource via powerful pumps, year in, year out, through periods of cyclical drought, was quite another.

"By the turn of the [20th] century, cattle and feral animals basically ate away all the forests," says Barry Usagawa, an engineer for the Board of Water Supply. "When it rained, all that water ran off, the streams became polluted, and the water didn't reach the aquifer. A lot of the old artesian wells in Honolulu got saltier and the yield went down."

Early engineers and hydrologists realized that the upland forests of Pālolo, Mānoa, Nu'uānu, and Kalihi valleys had to be restored. "So, the newly designated conservation districts were fenced off," Usagawa continues. "Eventually the forests came back. And it is critical that they be preserved, just as they are today, and never developed. Because every time it rains, [the forest] slows down the runoff, allowing it to percolate down into the ground water and resupply the aquifer."

Pump it up

In a time when sustainability has become fashionable, the Board of Water Supply would seem to be one of the few entities of city or state government that has been



The Board of Water Supply's Arthur Aiu and the "Old Man of Kalihi."

"Although they go down for repair, we always have some running. We never stop pumping."

actually walking the walk—for a hundred years or more. Take a stroll in Kalihi, pause at the corner of Waiakamilo and King streets and encounter a building that has occupied this spot, in one form or another, since William McKinley was president.

On a recent morning, Arthur Aiu, a Board of Water Supply spokesman who leads tours of the historic pumping station, stands before the "old man of Kalihi," a massive, original steam pump installed in 1899, straddling well shafts drilled approximately 400 feet deep. The pump, which is the centerpiece of the Board's Fred Ohrt Museum, ran nearly continuously from the day the first shovel-full of coal was fed into its boilers until it was replaced by

electric pumps in 1971.

"Lots of people can remember the tall white smokestacks that rose above this station and on Beretania," Aiu says. (A pumping station of the same vintage sits next to the Board's business offices near the Capitol). Aiu leads the tour into the modern addition of the building, where several large electric pumps are hard at work. "Although they go down for maintenance or repair, we always have some running—we never stop pumping."

"We do use a lot of electricity," says Nakano. "All of our water is raised from deep underground, up into the reservoirs you see around the island, and from there gravity feeds it down to our customers."

In a power outage, the island would have no more than a 24-hour supply of water. "We do have the capability to move emergency generators to serve pumps, to temporarily maintain levels in the reservoirs," Nakano explains. "But heaven forbid we should have an extended, island-wide blackout."

In the last two decades the board has concentrated its efforts on conservation. The State has set the sustainable yield for O'ahu's underground water at more than 400 million gallons-per-day—but it pumps less than half of that.

"We've been pumping at the 150 million gallons per day level for the past 19 years," says Usagawa. "Low-flow fixtures, primarily the toilets—that's been the biggie. The really old toilets used seven gallons

Good news

per flush. The next generation, 3-5 gallons. Now, the standard is 1.6 gallons—and the 1.2 gallon model will be next.”

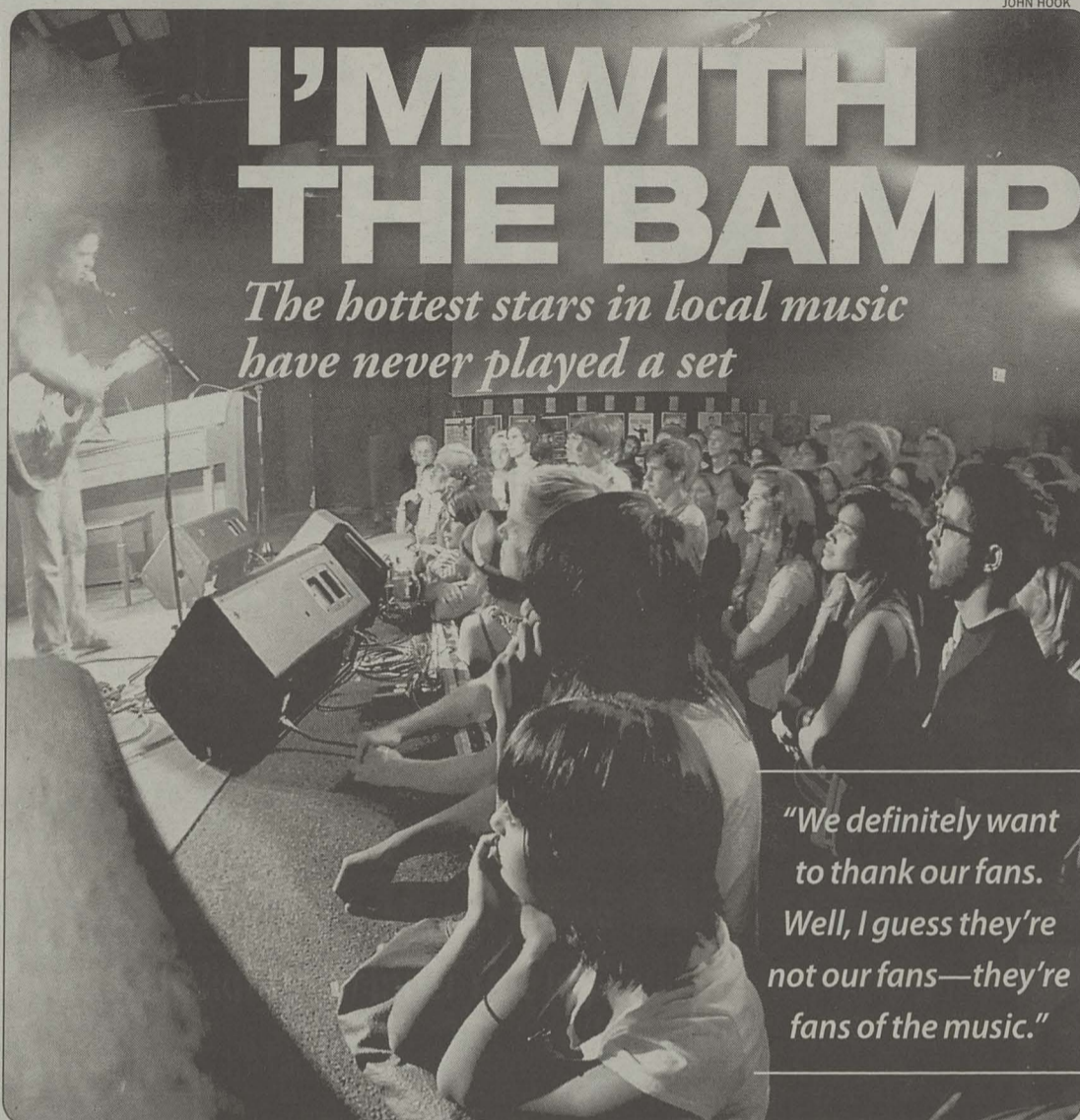
Water on tap

Pumping fresh water that sits on top of salt water is fraught with consequences—especially for a city as physically remote as Honolulu. “Between the fresh water and salt is the transition, or brackish zone,” Nakano explains. “We monitor the salt in the water we pump. What you want to avoid is the up-coning of the transition zone water—you’ll see an uptick in the chloride level. It’s like sucking really hard on a straw. Up-coning is dangerous—you can damage the resource forever.”

Of course pumping water is just one side of the equation for the Board of Water Supply. Its employees like to stress that they are in the business of water delivery—which means they are into pipes. “The oldest functioning water main in the city is a cast iron pipe, downtown, over a hundred years old,” Nakano says. “We have a main break, on average, once a day—roughly 400 a year. Fortunately we have great crews that get in and out in a timely manner, no matter the conditions. It highlights the need, the constant battle we have, to shore up our aging infrastructure.”

The Board of Water Supply pays for its own upkeep—alone among the City agencies it has a degree of historic autonomy. “The city generates its funds from property tax—we do it from water sales,” Nakano explains. Board employees know well that there wouldn’t be a city here, spread along the southern coast of O’ahu, without their continual stewardship of this hidden resource, discovered and exploited by their predecessors. They were conservationists long before it was cool. “We pump pretty hard,” says Barry Usagawa. “But it’s at a sustainable level—the past hundred years is proof of that. And we feel we can pump at this level in perpetuity.”

Contact the Board of Water Supply’s Fred Ohrt Museum at 748-5041 for tour info.



ADRIENNE LAFRANCE

Aubry Boutin is the most important member of BAMP. This is because, without him, the local concert-promoting supergroup—BAMP is an acronym for its founders’ names: Brad Smith, Aubry Boutin, Matty Hazelgrove and Philip Pendleton—would be all consonants. We’re joking, of course (who needs vowels these days, anyway, in an era of bands with names like GRLFRNDS and !!!). We don’t actually know who the brains behind BAMP might be, or if there even is a clear frontman, and that’s mostly because the foursome takes great pains to be regarded not as individuals but as an entity.

First, a little background: Late last summer, BAMP responded to repeated interview requests from *Honolulu Weekly* with enthusiasm—but also with insistence that “the guys,” as their spokeswoman Monica Ivey describes them, be interviewed all together or not at all. It was an unusual demand to get from promotions people, who tend to be experts at giving perfectly packaged phone interviews with stock quotes about how awesome and newsworthy their fill-in-the-blank is. But we were game, and arranged to send a reporter to meet them at the sound check, per their request, before the Silversun Pickups show on Sept. 5. Only, once our reporter got there, he was turned away. It seemed “the guys” had changed their minds. Sure, plans change, but BAMP went on to reschedule and subse-

quently cancel interviews planned for sound checks before two more shows before finally agreeing to put Boutin on the phone, solo, for an interview.

This is just the beginning of a hint at how BAMP operates—that is, much more like musicians than a crew of professional promoters—which might also begin to hint at why they’re so good at what they do. And that deserves to be restated because the guys from BAMP really are good at what they do. They bring an incredible array of music and entertainment to Hawai’i: Band of Horses, MGMT, Matt Costa, Matisyahu, Mickey Avalon, John Legend, Bad Brains, The Used, Panic(!) At the Disco, Vampire Weekend, 311, Modest Mouse, The Fray and M. Ward, to name a recent few. In the

span of a half-decade, they have reinvented the local music scene.

In short, BAMP delivers. Still, a successful company run by four men who only want to talk about what they do when they’re all in the same room? It sounds more like a rule that might be instituted by a boy band than a business collective.

“No, no, it’s not anything like that,” says Boutin. “It’s just that we’re a team and we want to be represented as that.”

The way Boutin describes the group is sweet, if almost impossible to believe, in the same way that, say, the Jonas Brothers might describe their dynamic: Not only do the BAMP guys love every second of their jobs, he says, but they never fight—never even disagree—about anything. Ever.

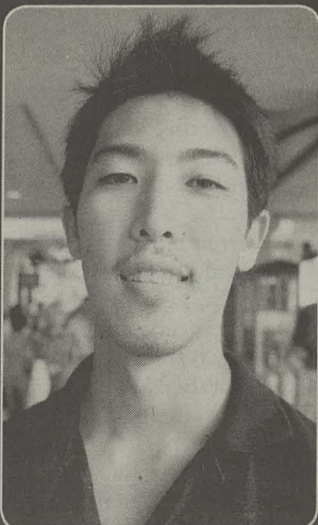
“Honestly, we don’t,” says Boutin. “I know that sounds crazy but we all are very accommodating. We’re just all on the same page and we flow with it. I am sure one day we’ll disagree, but it hasn’t happened yet.”

What they’ve agreed upon over the course of five years and more than 100 shows since BAMP’s inception is the need for a thriving music scene in Honolulu and throughout Hawai’i. “We just saw a need for shows,” says Boutin. “Not so much, you know, everyday radio music concerts, but more like shows that are eclectic. The artists that you would probably never see in Hawai’i, but you could see every day in L.A. and New York.”

But the guys at BAMP didn’t just want to be able to attend the kinds of shows they felt were lacking, they also wanted to hang out with the musicians who interested them. And what better way to get into the green room than to be the one responsible for the concert?

“We thrive on getting to personally meet the artists and just getting to know their behind-the-scenes personas,” says Boutin. “Being around musicians is fun. Just being around them on a casual basis is what motivates us to continue. They’re artists. And, I will say that the myth of people only wanting green M&M’s in their bowl backstage is not correct. Artists aren’t that crazy. Usually, ev-

WHAT WAS THE BEST NEWS YOU HEARD ALL YEAR?



“I have a new niece!”
Brandon, Pearl City



“I got accepted into the art institute that I wanted to go to.”
Simone, Kapolei



“When President Obama kicked the lobbyists out of Congress.”
Wendell, Honolulu



“The best news I heard was when the two women journalists were released from North Korea.” Mark, Oswego, IL



“I got the job on the cruise ship that I wanted.” Gemma, Wales, UK

Good news

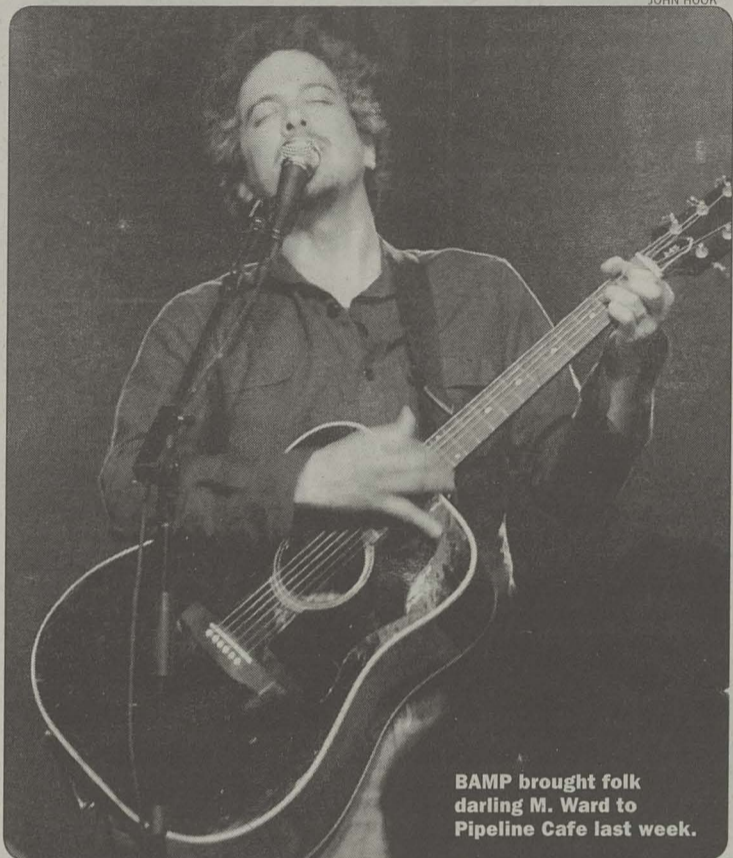
everything just flows perfectly. We love what we do."

Of course, Boutin's passion for BAMP's mission doesn't mean that accomplishing it is easy. The talent may not demand color-coded candy, but BAMP is still responsible for making sure that every logistical aspect of a show

crowd to the nightclub—which then refunded the night's cover charge to angry patrons when the rap artist didn't show.

SoHo owner Daniel Gray, who had confirmed the "secret show" on Thursday, says he was duped by false promises from notorious local concert promoter Turk Cazimero.

JOHN HOOK



BAMP brought folk darling M. Ward to Pipeline Cafe last week.

cracks up—at first.

"What's funny is that we're all really shy and we hate getting on stage," he says. "I'd probably be guitar. We'd need to find the right singer."

It doesn't seem so far-fetched. They already have a band name of sorts, and, in turn, a blossoming brand. The other BAMPs out there—the Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners and the Builders Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh, for example—may well have noticed that the acronym they share has become synonymous (at least in Honolulu and on the Internet) with musical greatness.

Plenty of others have tried and failed to accomplish what BAMP has accomplished, and understandably so. It's not easy to sustain a business model that requires flying people to the most remote location, as measured by distance, on Earth. Boutin says that the secret to their success, beyond hard work and determination, is carefully guarded—as is the amount of money they make each year, though he will say they're able to turn a profit—but he's quick to open up about the overwhelming support from a community of Honolulu music lovers.

"BAMP wouldn't be around if we didn't have people making an effort, buying tickets and coming to our shows, so we definitely want to thank our fans," Boutin says, catching himself almost immediately. "Well, I guess they're not *our* fans—they're fans of the music—but the more people who continue to go to shows, the more artists we can bring. Our goal is to bring new and changing artists nonstop, the more the better."

The thing is, BAMP does have fans, and lots of them. Honolulu's serial concertgoers gush about the guys. Sure, they aren't the ones playing their hearts out on stage, but they are the ones to thank for those who are, and that's not lost on the people who pay attention to local music offerings. In the grand tradition of the boy band, the guys behind BAMP are young, driven, successful, chronically agreeable and in it purely for the love of music. But boy bands break up. We can only hope that BAMP never will.

runs smoothly—from booking to marketing to travel arrangements and beyond. And they get it done. They reliably recruit stellar musicians and make shows happen.

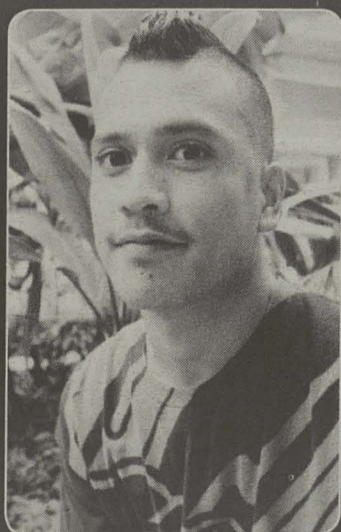
That isn't always the case in Honolulu. In the entertainment business, nothing is guaranteed, but in a metropolitan area like Honolulu that's much, much harder for touring bands to reach than its population counterparts (like, say, Boston, which is within hours of several other major metropolitan areas), the ramifications of a gig falling through are much greater. There isn't always an act to sub in at the last minute and rarely a comparable show going on in another bar down the street. Take last weekend for example, when buzz about Snoop Dogg performing at Chinatown's SoHo Mixed Media Bar lured a larger-than-average

"People warned me about working with him," says Gray. "Like, years ago, he promised Public Enemy at Pipeline and it fell through. I believed him about Snoop, though. I'm as disappointed as anyone. It makes me look bad, too."

In the entertainment business, as in many industries, one's word is his currency. And BAMP's reputation is, by all accounts, sterling. Everyone from fellow promoters to the tech guys who work the sound at regular BAMP venues like Pipeline Café say that working with the guys is a pleasure—not least of all because, as one local public relations representative puts it: "They're all ridiculously good looking. They look like they're in a band themselves."

But when asked how they'd fare if BAMP took the stage, Boutin

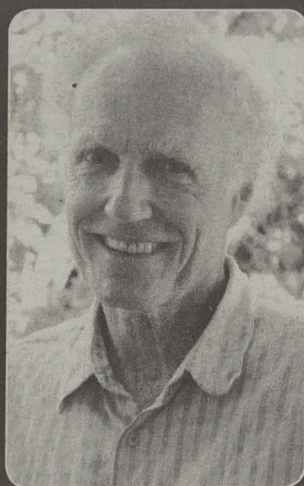
PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS BY LAURA CHARTIER



"I just got a promotion." Jonathan, Kahala'u

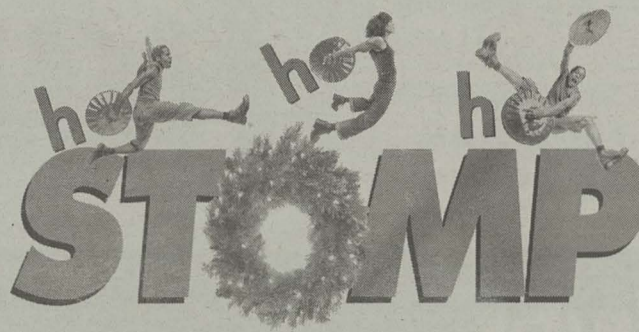


"Rainbow Wahine made it to the Final Four." Carlos, Hawai'i Kai



"Science is again being empowered to guide our nation's decision making on environmental and medical issues." John, Honolulu

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COURTESY PHOTO

Clubs

Last x-mas on Beretania

Holiday lovin' people holla back! The Last Xmas at Anna Bannana's concert spectacular is upon us. Wait... Last Xmas at Anna's?! Yes, 'tis true, and these eyes are filled with raindrops at the thought of naught another holiday season to follow at one of the finest bars in the land.

We all know that any change of serious consequence, especially the pending closure of a quality watering hole, demands a serious rager to commemorate all of the good times past. So 86 Productions is stepping up by throwing down with its Last Days concert series, in order to **celebrate the supposed final months of Anna's in punk and ska style.**

The flier for this Friday's show is adorable: an endearing skull and cross bananas is rocking a fab Xmas hat bearing the slogan "OI to the world!" Ah, punk interpretations of the holidays are so cozy. Anyway, the music is what we all really care about, and the party features a sizable helping of community talent.

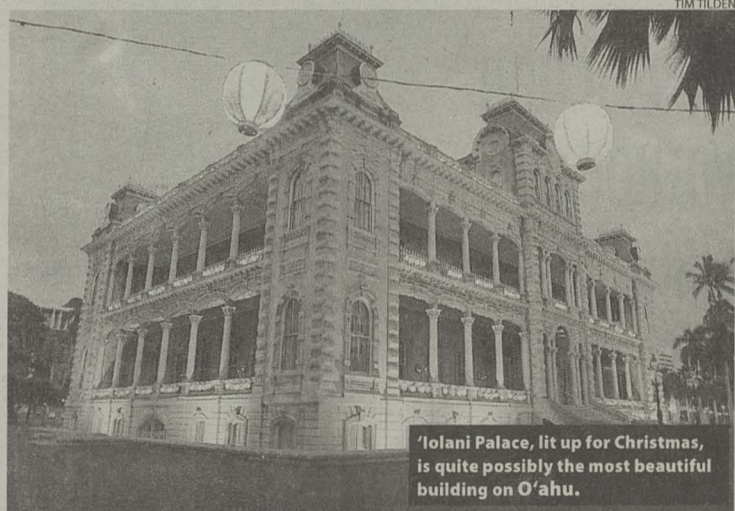
The lineup includes Black Square, the brass toting, reggae-ska group that will definitely induce some mosh pit spirals, and the Waikiki-based PIMPBOT, guaranteed to smack you with its pimp hands full of ska-punk. Trust us, it'll feel good.

If you got crappy presents this year, don't fret. Dear ole 86 Productions is going to gift you with a rare reunion of Buckshot Shorty. That'll make you feel special. Some whiskey might help with that too, you know.

Who knows who else might make it up onto the stage throughout the night. These are the purported last days of Anna's after all, and craziness abounds when last chances present themselves.

—Emily Hobelmann

Anna Bannana's, 2440 South Beretania St., Sat 12/26, 9PM, \$5, 18+, 946-5190



'Iolani Palace, lit up for Christmas, is quite possibly the most beautiful building on O'ahu.

Whatevas

God save the queen

This weekend, in commemoration of Queen Kapi'olani's 175th birthday, you will have the rare opportunity to experience the 'Iolani Palace grounds as they were when she and King David Kalākaua called the place home—lantern-lit walkways lacing the property, an opera performance in the Blue Room, and a chance to ogle the crown jewels that you didn't get for Christmas inside of the unique American Florentine architecture.

'Iolani Palace, 364 South

King St., Sat 12/26 5PM-9PM, \$6, \$3 ages 5-12, www.IolaniPalace.org, 522-0822

Film

Guided by voices

One of the great uses of film-making is historic preservation, a way of documenting the world as it is before it becomes something else.

In 2005, **three legends of hula** sat down for a panel discussion to share centuries of mana'o about hula's history, practice and future. Not even five years later, two of them—Nona Beamer and George Na'ope—are already gone.

Luckily for the rest of us, the Hula Preservation Society recorded the talk, which was moderated by Maile Beamer Loo and also featured Kahili Long Cummings, and the event is now the subject of the documentary *Voices of Our Kupuna*, which screens this week. Maile Beamer Loo will be on hand for a discussion to follow.

Hawai'i State Art Museum, 250 South Hotel St., Tue 12/29, noon, free, hawaii.gov/sfca.

Clubs

Time travel hotel

Leave it to some of our favorite local innovators to solve the paradox of time travel. The time machine that the crew at **thirtyninehotel** built will transport you to another era without any of those pesky dangers like altering the course of human history, eradicating your own existence or destroying the universe. More amazing still? There's no actual machine. All you need to take a 70-year trip is the password for entry to thirtyninehotel's Prohibition Thursdays, the rooftop bar's beloved weekly homage to an age of jazz, speakeasies and flapper girls. This week's Prohibition will also recollect a more recent past with a "best of 2009" theme that brings

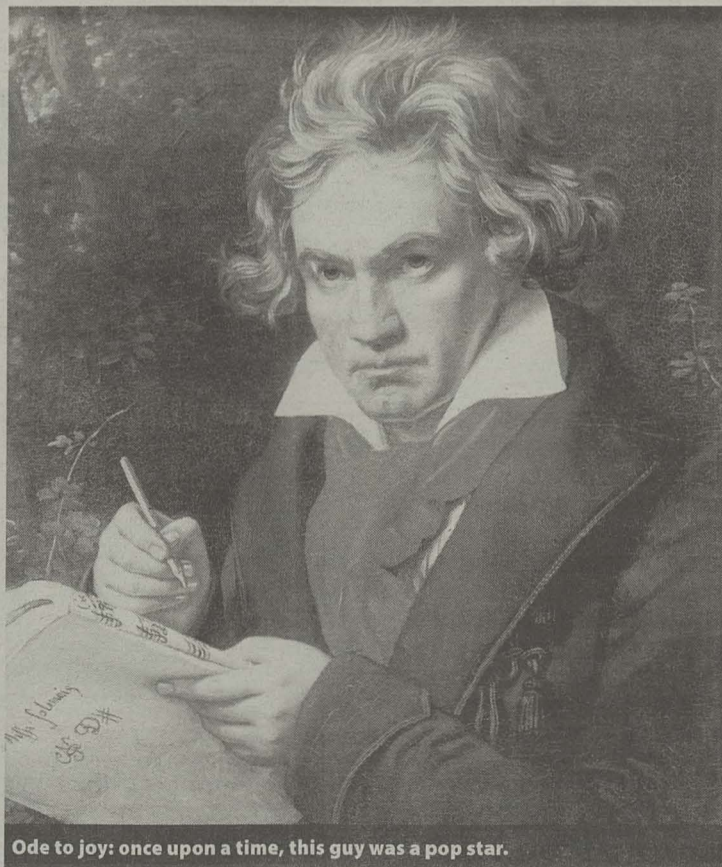
back incredible one-of-a-kind cocktails from Prohibition nights since the event's inception last fall. In lieu of actually traveling back in time to 1927 and sipping spirits with Duke Kahanamoku and Santa Claus at the Royal Hawaiian, we can't imagine a better way to celebrate.

Thirtyninehotel, 39 N. Hotel St., Thu 12/24, 8PM, free (password required for entry), thirtyninehotel.com, 599-2552

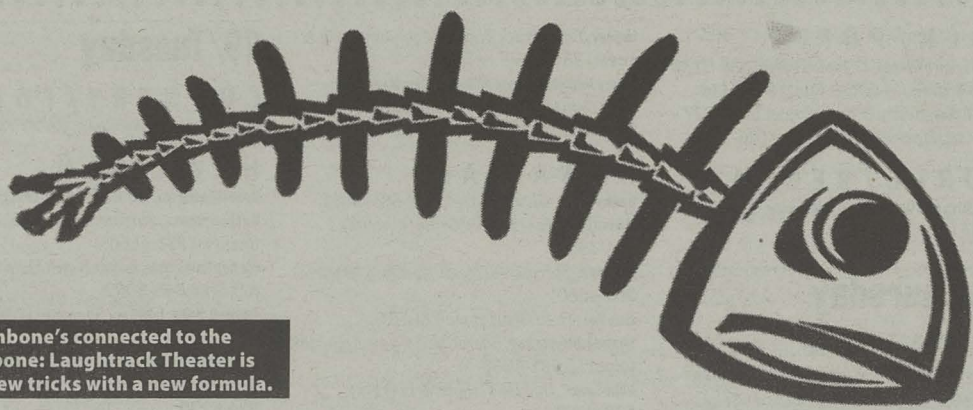
Concerts

Freude!

It will be a call to joy indeed when the Honolulu Symphony and the O'ahu Choral Society celebrate the holidays again with **Beethoven's masterful last work**, the Symphony No. 9 in D minor.



Ode to joy: once upon a time, this guy was a pop star.



The fishbone's connected to the funny bone: Laughtrack Theater is up to new tricks with a new formula.

Comedy

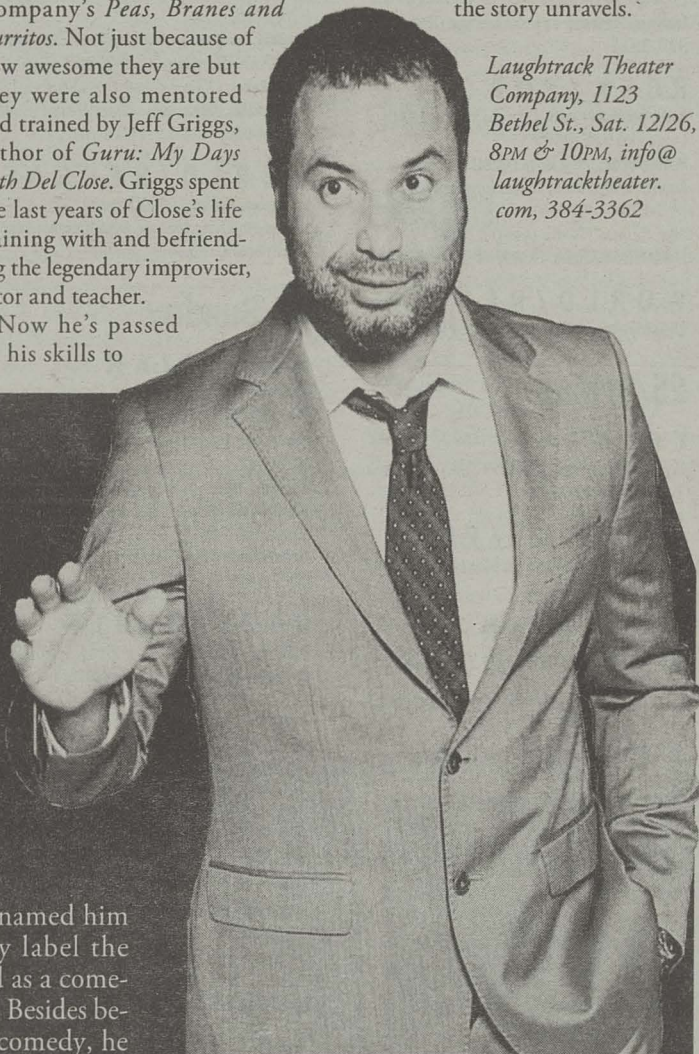
Laugh from the hip

Kim Potter is full of enthusiasm about the 14 member crew of Laughtrack Theater Company's *Peas, Branes and Burritos*. Not just because of how awesome they are but they were also mentored and trained by Jeff Griggs, author of *Guru: My Days with Del Close*. Griggs spent the last years of Close's life training with and befriending the legendary improviser, actor and teacher.

Now he's passed on his skills to

this talented group. Griggs spent nine weeks working on the ensemble's new form, the Fishbone, which is based on the mathematic cause and effect structure of something called the Ishikawa Diagram. The audience gets to take part by suggesting the basis, or facts, of the cause. The actors then improvise scene after scene for an entertaining night for all. Yell, and see how the story unravels.

Laughtrack Theater Company, 1123 Bethel St., Sat. 12/26, 8PM & 10PM, info@laughtracktheater.com, 384-3362



Comedy

Laugh like an Egyptian

The comedian so nice, they named him twice. Actually, to simply label the Egypt-born Ahmed Ahmed as a comedian would be an understatement. Besides being known for his observational comedy, he has held numerous roles on the small and big screen. Not to mention this Muslim-American has recently made his directorial debut with the feature length documentary, *Just Like Us*. His filmography stretches back to the mid-'90s with *Virtuosity* and the cult-classic *Swingers*. It appears that he has held onto his *Swingers* ties with Vince Vaughn and Jon Favreau, appearing in *Wild West Comedy Show: 30 Days* and *30 Nights-Hollywood to the Heartland* (2006) and *Iron Man* (2008). Doing stand-up in between movies, he has appeared on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno and *The View* with his satire of Islamophobic experiences as a Muslim American. In 2004, Ahmed Ahmed was the recipient of the first annual Richard Pryor Award for Ethnic Comedy. With every ethnicity taking turns at being the punching bag for local comedians, Honolulu is no stranger to this brand of humor.

In Hawai'i, ethnic comedy is more commonly known as plantation humor. Its origins reach back to the culture clash days of Hawai'i's plantation era in the late 1800s. Back then humility was key to prevent injured

pride, potentially leading to violence. The humor started off by taking jabs at the Portuguese, being that they were the strict men on horseback back in the work fields. When exchanging Portuguese jokes with someone from the mainland, one will notice that the Portuguese are interchangeable with the Polish. On and on it goes—the Polish jokes on the mainland are the same as Irish jokes in the U.K.

With the events of 9/11, Muslims have gained worldwide attention. Entertainers like Ahmed Ahmed use ethnic comedy to exaggerate stereotypical prejudice and at the same time, educate the world on Muslim culture. The laughs at Pipeline Cafe should be comparable to his shows at the world famous Comedy Store in Hollywood and the Comedy Cellar in New York City.

—Fernando Pacheco

Pipeline Cafe, 805 Pohukaina St., Wed 12/23, 7PM, \$20 general, \$40 VIP, www.pipelinecafehawaii.com, 589-1999

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THE SCENE

Gigs

23/Wednesday

COMEDY

Ahmed Ahmed, *Pipeline Cafe* (7PM) 589-1999
 Bo Irvine, Chief Sielu, Kento-san, Michael Staats, *Comedy Polynesia at the Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (8PM) 531-HAHA
 Kenny Johnson, Shawn Felipe, Arthur Wayne, *Sharkey's Comedy Club at the Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (9:30PM) 531-HAHA

COUNTRY/FOLK

The Geezers, *Arnold's* (7PM) 924-6887

HAWAIIAN

Brothers Cazimero, *Chai's Island Bistro* (7PM) 585-0011

Danny Couch, *Sheraton Waikiki* (6:30PM) 922-4422
 Kapena Delima, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (9:30PM) 931-4660
 Gordon Freitas, *The Ground Floor* (6PM) 538-6012
 Kamuela Kahoano, *Hula Grill* (7PM) 923-HULA
 Ho'okani, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (6:15PM) 931-4660
 Cyril Pahinui, *Kani Ka Pila Grille* (5:30PM) 924-4990
 Tahiti Rey, *Hyatt Regency* (6PM) 923-1234
 Royal Hawaiian Band, *Kapolei Hale* (12PM) 922-5331

JAZZ/BLUES

Son Caribe, *Paparazzi* (8PM) 596-8850
 Stewart Cunningham Trio, *Back Stage Jazz Club* (9PM) 947-8057
 The Deadbeats, *Jazz Minds Arts and Cafe* (9PM) 945-0800
 Bruce Hamada & Jim Howard, *Lewers Lounge* (8:30PM) 923-2311
 Hot City Blues, *Che Pasta* (7PM) 524-0004
 Audible Oracle, *Apartment 3nt* (7PM) 955-9300
 Rico Woltz, *Michel's* (7:30PM) 923-6552

ROCK/POP

Eric Peterson & Friends, *O'Toole's* (9PM) 536-4138
 Piranha Brothers, *Irish Rose* (9PM) 947-3414
 Doolin Rakes, *Kelley O'Neil's* (9PM) 926-1777
 Ubiquitous, *Hank's Cafe* (8:30PM) 526-1410

WORLD/REGGAE

Sonny Silva and the Hot Club of Hulaville, *Brasserie Du Vin* (7PM) 545-1115

24/Thursday

HAWAIIAN

"Auntie Pudgie" Young, *Kūhiō Beach Hula Stage* (6:30PM) 843-8002
 Guy Imoto, *The Ground Floor* (6PM) 538-6012
 Ka'ala Boys, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (6:15PM) 931-4660
 Kapala Trio, *Sheraton Waikiki* (6:30PM) 922-4422
 Kawika Kahiaipo, Martin Pahinui, *Kani Ka Pila Grille* (5:30PM) 924-4990
 Sheila Waiwaiole & Mara Saggolu, *Hula Grill* (7PM) 923-HULA

JAZZ/BLUES

Freddie A. and the Swing Machine, *Back Stage Jazz Club* (9PM) 947-8057
 The Bentos, *Jazz Minds* (9PM) 945-0800
 Jonny Kamai, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (9:30PM) 931-4660
 Ross Nakamura Quintet, *The Dragon Upstairs* (7:30PM) 526-1411
 Tennyson Stephens, *Lewers Lounge* (8:30PM) 923-2311

ROCK/POP

Rocky Brown & Friends, *Don Ho's Island Grill* (5:30PM) 528-0807
 Masters of OZ, *Irish Rose* (9PM) 947-3414
 Acoustick Playground, *Hyatt Regency* (6PM) 923-1234
 Taja, *Kelley O'Neil's* (9PM) 926-1777
 Al Waterson & Friends, *Don Ho's* (6PM) 528-0807

WORLD/REGGAE

Ali Garcia, *Mexico Restaurant* (6PM) 845-9059

25/Friday

COMEDY

Improv, *Laughtrack Theater Company* (8PM & 10PM) 384-3362

COUNTRY/FOLK

The Geezers, *Arnold's Beach Bar* (7PM) 924-6887

HAWAIIAN

David Ah Sing, *Kamuela Kahoano, Hula Grill* (7PM) 923-HULA
 Kaimana, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (6:15PM) 931-4660
 Kaukahi, *Kani Ka Pila Grille* (5:30PM) 924-4990
 Ohana Trio, *Sheraton Waikiki* (6:30PM) 922-4422
 Piikika, *Chart House* (6PM) 941-6660
 Tahiti Rey, *thirtyninehotel* (6PM) 599-2552
 Royal Hawaiian Band, *Iolani Palace* (12PM) 523-4674
 Mihana Souza, *Don Ho's Island Grill* (5PM) 528-0807

JAZZ/BLUES

Freddie A. Quartet, *Back Stage Jazz Club* (9:30PM) 947-8057
 Jimmy Funai, Brian Robertshaw, *Roy's* (6:30PM) 396-7697
 Molokai Jazz West, *Don Ho's Island Grill* (5:30PM) 528-0807
 Rocky Holmes, *Tennyson Stephens, Lewers Lounge* (7:30PM) 923-2311
 Black Sand Trio, *Chuck's Cellar* (6PM) 923-4488
 The Late Show with Santino, *The Dragon Upstairs* (10PM) 526-1411
 Chris Vandercook, *Muldavi Cafe* (7PM) 626-5087
 Chris Yeh Quartet, *The Dragon Upstairs* (7:30PM) 526-1411
 Russell Yuen, *Hyatt Regency* (7PM) 923-1234

ROCK/POP

Aharon, *Hard Rock Cafe* (5PM) 955-7383
 Bedroq, *Da Smokehouse* (8PM) 946-0233
 Barefoot Bob, *Pipeline Cafe* (5PM) 589-1999
 Dean & Dean, *Chart House* (9:30PM) 941-6660
 Masters of OZ, *Irish Rose Saloon* (9PM) 947-3414
 The Mixers, *O'Toole's Pub* (9PM) 536-4138
 The Sick Bastards, *The Ground Floor* (6PM) 538-6012
 Taja, *Kelley O'Neil's* (9PM) 926-1777
 Tiamane, *Hyatt Regency* (6PM) 923-1234

26/Saturday

COMEDY

Bo Irvine, Chief Sielu, Kento-san, Michael Staats, *Comedy Polynesia at the Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (8PM) 531-HAHA

Improv, *Laughtrack Theater Company* (8PM & 10PM) 384-3362
 Kenny Johnson, Shawn Felipe, Arthur Wayne, *Sharkey's Comedy Club at the Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (9:30PM) 531-HAHA

HAWAIIAN

Danny Couch, *Chai's Bistro* (7PM) 585-0011
 Mānoa DNA, *Kani Ka Pila Grille* (5:30PM) 924-4990
 Kaimana, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (6:15PM) 931-4660
 Aina Koa, *Hula Grill* (7PM) 923-HULA
 Shawn Ishimoto Duo, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (9:30PM) 931-4660
 Alike Souza, *Don Ho's Island Grill* (5PM) 528-0807
 Ray Sowders, *Uncle's Fish Market & Grill* (11:30AM) 275-0063

JAZZ/BLUES

Boogie, *Kona Brewing Co.* (7PM) 394-5662
 Jimmy Funai, *Roy's* (6:30PM) 396-7697
 DeShannon Higa & New York Connection, *The Dragon Upstairs* (9PM) 526-1411
 Rocky Holmes, *Tennyson Stephens, Lewers Lounge* (7:30PM) 923-2311
 Black Sand Trio, *Chuck's Cellar* (6PM) 923-4488

ROCK/POP

4D, *Borders, Ward Center* (7PM) 591-8995
 Eight-0-Eight, *Jazz Minds Arts & Cafe* (9PM) 945-0800
 O'ahu Songwriters Group, *Hank's Cafe* (8:30PM) 526-1410
 Pimpshot, *Black Square, Buckshot Shorty, Wil Kapali Long, Anna Bannana's* (9PM) 946-5190
 Doolin Rakes, *O'Toole's Pub* (9PM) 536-4138
 Tito Bernobis, *Billy Beimes, Chart House* (8:30PM) 941-6660

WORLD/REGGAE

Freesound, *Kelley O'Neil's* (9PM) 926-1777
 Natural Vibrations, *Ten Feet, Ouklah the Moc, Jasmin, Sheriff Brown, Pipeline Cafe* (8PM) 589-1999

27/Sunday

HAWAIIAN

Kaimana, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (6:15PM) 931-4660
 Kapala Trio, *Sheraton Waikiki* (6:30PM) 922-4422
 Aina Koa, *Hula Grill* (7PM) 923-HULA
 Royal Hawaiian Band, *Kapi'olani Park Bandstand* (2PM) 523-4674
 Hoku Zuttemeister, *Chai's Bistro* (7PM) 585-0011

JAZZ/BLUES

Peter Jay, *Da Smokehouse* (8PM) 946-0233
 Jonny Kamai, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (9:30PM) 931-4660
 Noly Pa'a, *Lewers Lounge* (8:30PM) 923-2311
 Satomi & Shinya Yarimizu, *Chuck's Cellar* (6PM) 923-4488
 Sonny Silva, *Uncle's Fish Market & Grill* (5:30PM) 275-0063

ROCK/POP

Dean & Dean, *Chart House* (6:30PM) 941-6660
 Jayder, *O'Toole's Pub* (9PM) 536-4138
 Acoustick Playground, *Hyatt Regency* (6PM) 923-1234
 Tyrone Wells, *Anna Bannana's* (7PM) 946-5190
 Vinyl Wine, *Kelley O'Neil's* (9PM) 926-1777

WORLD/REGGAE

Ali Garcia, *Mexico Lindo* (6PM) 263-0055
 Celtic Waves, *Kelley O'Neil's* (4PM) 926-1777

28/Monday

HAWAIIAN

De Lima 'Ohana, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (6:15PM) 931-4660
 Kapena Delima, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (9:30PM) 931-4660
 Jeff Peterson, David Kamakahi, Chino Montero, Bobby Ingano, *Thai Sweet Basil* (6PM) 988-8811
 Jerry Santos, *Wally Suenaga, Chai's Bistro* (7PM) 585-0011
 Nā Kama, *Hula Grill* (7PM) 923-HULA
 Nohelani Cypriano Review, *Sheraton Waikiki* (6:30PM) 922-4422

JAZZ/BLUES

Pau Hana Blues Band, *OnStage Drinks & Grinds* (6PM) 306-7799
 Noly Pa'a, *Lewers Lounge* (8:30PM) 923-2311
 Robonick, *Jazz Minds Arts & Cafe* (9PM) 945-0800
 Zach Shimizu, *The Ground Floor* (6PM) 538-6012

ROCK/POP

Mike Love, *O'Toole's Pub* (9PM) 536-4138
 Masters of OZ, *Kelley O'Neil's* (9PM) 926-1777
 Sidewinders, *Irish Rose Saloon* (9PM) 947-3414

WORLD/REGGAE

Ali Garcia, *Mexico Restaurant* (6PM) 845-9059

29/Tuesday

COUNTRY/FOLK

The Geezers, *BC Burrito* (5:30PM) 737-4700

HAWAIIAN

Robert Cazimero, *Chai's Bistro* (7PM) 585-0011
 De Lima 'Ohana, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (6:15PM) 931-4660
 Ainsley Halemanu, *Kūhiō Beach Hula Stage* (6:30PM) 843-8002
 Hukilau, *Haka, Tahitian, Sheraton Waikiki* (6:30PM) 922-4422
 Walt Keale, *Hula Grill* (7PM) 923-HULA
 Weldon Kekauoha, *Kani Ka Pila Grille* (6PM) 924-4990

JAZZ/BLUES

Jonny Kamai, *Sheraton Princess Ka'iulani* (9:30PM) 931-4660
 Noly Pa'a, *Lewers Lounge* (8:30PM) 923-2311
 Jazz Story Quartet, *Jazz Minds* (9PM) 945-0800
 Joshua Kaye Trio & Joy James, *Back Stage Jazz Club* (9PM) 947-8057

ROCK/POP

Art of Whimsy, *O'Toole's Pub* (9PM) 536-4138
 Brendan & Dewing Time, *Kelley O'Neil's* (9PM) 926-1777
 Dux Deluxe, *Irish Rose Saloon* (9PM) 947-3414
 Patty Girl Williams, *The Ground Floor* (6PM) 538-6012

WORLD/REGGAE

Ali Garcia, *Mexico Lindo* (6PM) 263-0055

Concerts & Clubs

A Christmas Gift—Na Leo's Holiday Spectacular Celebrate the 25th anniversary of this award-winning Hawaiian group. Call 262-6300 or e-mail <http://www.worldsound.com>. *Hale Koa Hotel*, 2055 Kalia Rd.: Through Wed 12/23, (7:30PM) \$39.99–\$99.99. 544-3385

Ahmed Ahmed (See Hot Picks.) *groovetickets.com*, (877) 71-GROOVE. *Pipeline Cafe*, 805 Pōhukaina St.: Wed 12/23, (8PM) \$20 general; \$40 VIP.

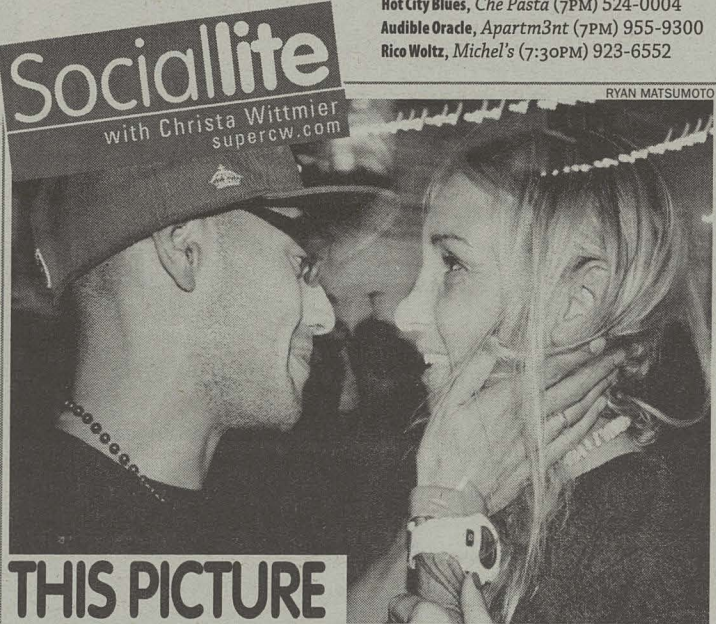
Curators of Hawaiian Music with Cecilio & Kapono A series of wintertime concerts from the long-haired legends. Two-drink minimum. *Royal Hawaiian Hotel*, 2259 Kalākaua Ave.: Thursday through 12/24, (6:30 & 8:30PM) \$35 for one; \$49 for two; \$25 ages 4–12. 931-7430

Dancing Under the Cupola Just luf the dance to get in. No cover. Visit www.honolulu-designcenter.com. *Cupola Theatre*, Honolulu Design Center, 1250 Kapi'olani Blvd.: Last Tuesdays; 12/29, (7–10PM) Free.

Emil Vilklicky The award-winning Czech pianist makes his debut at the HPR venue. He blends modern jazz with Moravian folk songs. *Atherton Performing Arts Studio*, Hawai'i Public Radio, 738 Kaheka St.: Sat 12/26, (7:30PM) \$25 general; \$20 HPR members; \$15 students w/ID. 955-8821
Free Recital of Classical Christmas Music Rachel Evangeline Barham and James Rogers of Washington, D.C. will be accompanied on piano by Winston Barham of Gordonsville, Va. The concert will feature music by Handel, Bach, Vaughan Williams and Schubert, as well as singalong Christmas carols. *St. Clement's Church*, 1515 Wilder Ave.: Sun 12/27, (2PM) Donations gratefully accepted. stclem.org, 955-7745

Free Symphony Musicians' Concert: Beethoven's Ninth (See Hot Picks.) Visit honolulu-symphonymusicians.org. *Blaisdell Concert Hall*, 777 Ward Ave.: Sun 12/27, (4PM) Free. 591-2211
Hunky Santa Pose with sexy Santa (yes, on his lap) in this benefit for the Life Foundation. *Hula's Bar and Lei Stand*, 134 Kapa-hulu Ave.: Thu 12/24, (9PM) hulas.com, 923-0669

Joe Bermudez Live The New England-born and bred DJ has remixed for Britney, Pink, Justin and Janet. He's all Hula's (and yours) for the Christmas season, though. *Hula's Bar and Lei Stand*, 134 Kapa-hulu Ave.: Fri 12/25 & Sat 12/26, (10PM) \$3 kama'aina/military with ID. 923-0669
LACE Holiday Party The Lesbian Arts and Culture Exchange's holiday party will be filled with cocktails, view of the sunset, dinner buffet and live entertainment. Dress up. 265-6551, margaretmann2000@yahoo.com. *Elks Club*, 2933 Kalākaua Ave.: Sat 12/26, (6:30PM) \$50.



THIS PICTURE

So I got home after my birthday party on Friday to 237 new notifications on Facebook. Wall posts, tagged photos, comments on wall posts, comments on tagged photos on wall posts. I was slightly overwhelmed and definitely ready to untag anything that I wasn't ready for the world to see when I came upon this photo that "Hawaiian Ryan" Matsumoto had posted. It's an unobstructed view of Sean "Bobby Bones" Bonilla catching me to thank me as I was darting around the crowd. There was just so much going on and so many people I wanted to talk to and thank for coming that it was pretty much impossible to be in one place for more than 45 seconds or so. How he managed to catch me and get my attention long enough for Ryan to see this and snap the picture is just one of the many things that was so, so, so amazing about Friday night.

There's a point in life, especially life after 30, when you just don't feel like making a huge deal about another birthday. A nice quiet dinner with friends or even nothing sounds just fine. Why draw attention to the fact that you are getting so damn old? This was, of course, what I was

Check it out
ckaweeks.blogspot.com
mattbruening.blogspot.com
freshcafehi.com

thinking a couple of months ago while I was in the midst of so many incredible things happening around me in the night-life. The music, the art, the people—I was seeing something that really affected me and created a very strong feeling that it had to be shared. Not just shared through this column or through my blog, it had to be experienced. Like, in the flesh. I made it my mission to somehow get all of that together in one space. I throw parties for my day job and sort of knew what it takes to make it happen, but there was a huge piece that was missing and that scared the crap out of me: the people. Will they show up? Will they be open to it? Will they get it?

Friday night was a testament to what is possible. We saw more than 500 people walk into the **Fresh Café Warehouse** and totally completely get it. They watched a band of what looked like 19-year-olds gyrating around and jumping into the crowd of people already going nuts over their very danceable punk-influenced electropop. They saw wearable fashion, a beautiful hand-painted mural, some of Honolulu's most talked about up-and-coming bands of 2009, and a surprise performance by visiting New York resident **Anton Glamb**. At the end of the night, the people pouring out of there were not young, not old. They were in heels, in suit jackets, in beanies and flannels, in Fighting Eel dresses, falling over each other taking pictures and laughing. At one point I was across the street and I was staring at the lights everywhere, at the photos being projected on the building adjacent to the warehouse, at the beautiful canvas piece freshly-sprayed by award-winning artist **CKaweekS**, at the prominent members of our creative community, **Josh Lake** from **Air-space Workshop**, fashion designer **Matt Bruening**, **Nadine Kam**, **Trisha** and **David Goldberg** and **Lucky Olelo**. Seeing some of Hawai'i's most hype pro-surfers like **Jamie O'Brien**, seeing the **LOST** people, and seeing hundreds of people I didn't even know. They all got it. I just kept looking around at everything and everyone, trying to believe it was real, trying to believe that we are capable of things like this in this town. I'm so happy that we are. ■

THE SCENE

Last Xmas at Anna's (See Hot Picks.) *Anna Bannana's*, 2440 S. Beretania St.: Sat 12/26, (9PM) \$5 at door. 18+. 946-5190

Latin Dance Night The only gay Latin dance night. *Angles*, 2256 Kūhiō, Ave.: Last Sundays; 12/27, (10PM) Free. 926-9766

LGBT Nights A monthly night for you to party in comfort and style. And for 12 hours. *Queen Bee*, 747 Queen St.: Last Tue; 12/29, (2PM-2AM) 591-0712

Michael Winslow: Two Shows "Man of 10,000 Sound Effects" was also "Motor Mouth" Jones in *Police Academy*. Kids' show at 6PM; \$15. *groovetickets.com*, (800) 71-GROOVE. *Pipeline Cafe*, 805 Pohukaina St.: Wed 12/30, (7PM) \$20-\$45.

Na Mele No Na Pua Kama'āina Sunday Showcase This week's concert features the Hawaiian sounds of Nihoa. *Waikiki Beach Walk*, Plaza Stage.: Sun 12/27, (4-5PM) Free.

Natural Vibrations Sixth Annual Chronic Christmas Party Island-style Christmas with Natural Vibes, Ten Feet, Ooklah the Moc, Jasmín and Sheriff Brown. *islandtix.com*. *Pipeline Cafe*, 805 Pohukaina St.: Sat 12/26, (8PM) \$15-\$20 general; \$25 VIP.

The Phoenix Party The party tells you to get your flame on and claims to be Hawai'i's only gay oceanfront party. *RumFire*, *Sheraton Waikiki*: Last Sundays; 12/27, (5-10PM) Free. 866-952-3473

Society of Seven LV and Andy Bumatai Holiday Shows Andy Bumatai joins the jolly old group for this round of performances. Call 923-SHOW for tickets. *Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach*, 2335 Kalakaua Ave.: Through Thu 12/31, (6PM dinner show package; 8:30PM actual show.)

Soulgasm: Benefit for NextAid Poetry and vocals by Bridget Gray, AmenRaw, Lady Paisley and Seph1, Afro-Brazilian dance and Makulele by Capoeira Besouro, house dance by Housing Project 360. DJs Matt Kee, Monkey, Kentaro and BumbleBee. Live arty by Feijao and photo exhibit by New Day Kids. *housingproject360.com*. *SoHo Mixed Media Bar*, 80 S. Pauahi St.: Sat 12/23, (9PM) \$5-\$20 donation. 21+.

'Ukuleles Anonymous Fundraiser for Uke-tree Records, with premiere of trio Ukulolo and special guest 'uke star. 924-2266. *Lotus Soundbar*, 2301 Kūhiō Ave.: Tue 12/29, (9PM) \$8 pre-sale; \$10 door. 21+.

Wednesdays at Saint Andrew's Lunchtime concerts featuring Music Director John Renke on the organ. *St. Andrew's Cathedral*, Queen Emma Sq.: Wednesdays, (12:15PM) Free. 524-2822, ext. 217

Upcoming

Al Green You shouldn't need a description of the crooner's music. But you should probably see him in concert before his time on this planet expires. *ticketmaster.com*, (800) 745-3000. *Blaisdell Arena*, 777 Ward Ave.: Sat 1/23, (8PM) \$49.50-\$99.50.

Bill Cosby He won't be acting hard, but he will probably make you laugh. Visit *ticketmaster.com* or call (800) 745-3000. *Blaisdell Concert Hall*, 777 Ward Ave.: Thu 1/15, (6:30PM & 9:30PM) \$35-\$65.

Brother Ali If you're a fan, you know *The Undisputed Truth* about the rapper. If you don't, the white albino rhymer from Michigan who converted to Islam has got a lot to say. Visit *groovetickets.com* or call (877) 71-GROOVE. *Pipeline Cafe*, 805 Pohukaina St.: Fri 1/22, (8PM) \$25 general; \$50 VIP. 589-1999

Chamber Music: Galliard String Quartet Listen to the shimmering strings of this fine ensemble. Program: Skalkottas' "Greek Dances," Rachmaninoff's "String Quartet No. 2 (Unfinished)," Piazzolla's "Four for Tango" and Barber's "String Quartet, Op. 11." *Doris Duke Theatre*, Honolulu Academy of Arts, 900 S. Beretania St.: Sun 1/10, (4PM) \$25 general; \$20 HAA members; students free with ID. 532-8768

Karrin Allyson The dynamic jazz vocalist returns, accompanied by guitarist Rod Fleeman, Bruce Hamada and Jim Howard. *Doris Duke Theatre*, Honolulu Academy of Arts, 900 S. Beretania St.: Sun 1/17, (7:30PM) \$30 general; \$25 HAA members. 532-8768

Loni Love The host of E!'s *Wildest TV Show Moments* is also working on a Comedy Central special for 2010. Catch her before it gets big. Call (877) 71-GROOVE or visit *groovetickets.com*. *Pipeline Cafe*, 805 Pohukaina St.: Wed 1/20, (8PM) \$20 general; \$40 VIP. 589-1999

Misfits The band with the most sing-alongable choruses ever greases its 30-year-old devil locks for a night of horror business. The *Weekly's* Dean Carrico opens in *Preachers That Lie*. Maybe he'll bring back his devil lock, too. *groovetickets.com*, (877) 71-GROOVE. *Pipeline Cafe*, 805 Pohukaina St.: Thu 12/31, (7:30PM) \$30 pre-sale; \$40 day of show; \$75 VIP.

SOJA The Soldiers of Jah Army have a name that fits in with local bands, jah and all. With Natural Vibes opening and Pacific Sounds Outernational DJing. *ticketmaster.com*, (800) 745-3000. *Pipeline Cafe*, 805 Pohukaina St.: Thu 1/7/10, (9PM doors) \$25 advance. 18+.

Stylistics Show that you're still stylin' by grooving to the soulful sounds of this '70s group. *ticketmaster.com*, (800) 745-3000. *Hilton Hawaiian Village*, 2005 Kalia Rd.: Thu 12/31, (9:30PM) \$49.

The Used Those early 2000s emo bands apparently can't stop, won't stop. Touring, that is. *bamproject.com*. *Pipeline Cafe*, 805 Pohukaina St.: Fri 1/8, (8PM) \$30-\$60.

Utada Hikaru The NYC-born-and-raised Japanese pop star is still hugely popular after more than 10 years in the spotlight. The show sold out in the first week, but you can always hope for people getting sick or flaking out. Fri 1/15, (8PM) \$30 general. *pipelinecafehawaii.com*

Village People Whether your favorite macho man is the Indian or the cop, all band members will still make you want to take a trip to the Y. *ticketmaster.com*, (800) 745-3000. *Sheraton Waikiki*, 2255 Kalakaua Ave.: Thu 12/31, (8:30PM) \$75-\$150.

Will Durst The comedian and political satirist is a five-time Emmy nominee. Get educated while busting your gut. *groovetickets.com*, (877) 71-GROOVE. *Pipeline Cafe*, 805 Pohukaina St.: Wed 1/13, (8PM) \$20 general; \$40 VIP.

Something Seasonal A Christmas for grown-ups. Not in the dirty way, but in an intense, historical way. *The Actors' Group*, 1116 Smith St.: Runs Wed 12/23-Sun 1/3. \$10-\$20. *taghawaii.net*, 722-6941

Stomp We haven't been stomped on for five years. Brace yourselves again for harmonious sounds from Zippo lighters, hubcaps, tractor-tire innertubes and whatever else goes bang. 12/23's performance benefits the Hawai'i Foodbank. Portion of ticket sales benefit the bank, and those who bring a canned food item will be eligible for a \$5 discount at Ruby Tuesday. *Hawaii Theatre*, 1130 Bethel St.: Through 1/3, (8PM) \$12.25-\$52, 528-0506

House Lights and Prolonged Sunlight A one-act play and six short plays by up-and-coming playwright Eric Yokimori. Get ready for bizarre theater adventures. *Kumu Kahua Theatre*, 46 Merchant St.: Runs 1/14-2/14. \$10-\$16. 536-4441

InMixed Company The NYC-based dance company mixes spoken word and multimedia into its performances. Mature content. Visit *inmixedcompany.com*. *Leeward Community College Theatre*, 96-045 Ale 'Ike: Sat 1/23, (8PM) \$25 general; \$21 students/seniors/military; \$15 under age 12. *LCCTheater.hawaii.edu*, 455-0385

On The Spot: Inferno Twelve improvisers are pitted against each other to see who can survive the trials of the devil's advocate. Audience gets to score the funny results. Visit *otsimprov.com* or call (800) 838-3006 for tickets. *The ARTS at Marks Garage*, 1159 Nu'uuanu Ave.: Sat 1/9 & Sat 2/6, (8PM) \$14 general \$10 students.

Post Comedy Theatre The one-man comedy show will be full of rapid-fire character changes—even ones for his body parts. Call 956-8246 or visit *www.outreach.hawaii.edu/community*. *Palikū Theatre*, Windward Community College: Fri 1/15, (7:30PM) \$20 general; \$15 seniors/military/UH faculty & staff; \$12 UH students & ages 8-17. 235-7433

Auditions

The Aloha Pride Band Rehearsals open to all instrumentalists. New members needed. Call 554-7124. Wednesdays, (7PM)

Honolulu Blend Show Chorus Women's chorus seeking a cappella singers. Call 277-4439 or e-mail *honolulu-blend-Chorus@hotmail.com*. *Fleet Reserve Association*, 891 Valkenburg Dr. Branch 46: Every Monday, (7-9PM)

Na Leo Lani Chorus If you love to sing, perform and have fun, visit a rehearsal any Tuesday evening. Join real women for real harmony. *St. Francis School Auditorium*, 2707 Pāmoa Rd., Mānoa: Rehearsal every Tue, (6:30PM) *sweetadelineshawii.org*, 429-9901

O'ahu Choral Society Run with the big boys and girls. E-mail *oahuchoral@gmail.com* for info. *St. Andrew's Cathedral*, Queen Emma Square: Sat 1/23/10.

Windward Choral Society An ensemble of singers for the Windward community, performing ethnic, traditional and master choral works. E-mail *sduprey@hawaii.rr.com* or call 254-5717. *Windward United Church of Christ*, 38 Kāne'ohe Bay Dr.: Tuesdays, (7:30PM) 254-3802

Upcoming Stage

The Dixie Swim Club A musical tale of five Southern women whose friendship started on their college swim team. Kind of like the sisterhood of the traveling Speedo—set to music. *Mānoa Valley Theatre*, 2833 East Mānoa Rd.: Runs 1/14-1/31. Thu 7:30PM; Fri 8PM; Sat 3PM & 8PM; Sun 4PM. \$30 general; \$15 for ages 25 and under. *manoavalleytheatre.com*, 988-6131

Stage

For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio A multi-media blitzed-out adaptation of W.H. Auden's monologues. *The Actors' Group*, 1116 Smith St.: Through Sun 1/3. 7:30PM on 12/23 & 12/29. 2PM on 12/27. \$20 general; \$15 seniors; \$12 students/military; \$10 Thursdays. 722-6941

Hawaii Theatre Tour Get the scoop on Hawaii Theatre trivia; includes a demonstration of the 1922 Robert Morton Theatre organ. *Hawaii Theatre*, 1130 Bethel St.: Every Tue, (11AM) \$5. 528-0506

Honolulu Theatre for Youth Ushers Volunteer ushers needed for school performances. Must be available to work twice a month. E-mail *housemanager@htyweb.org* or call 839-9885. *Tenney Theatre*, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Queen Emma Sq.: Mon-Fri. Ongoing, (8:30AM-12:30PM)

Spin Zone

A SELECTIVE GUIDE TO DJ NIGHTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23
ACID WASH WEDNESDAYS ('80s) @ SoHo w/ DJs Vegas Mike, Nocturna
FIX WEDNESDAYS @ The O Lounge 18+
H.U.M.P. (hip-hop) (mainstream) (pop) @ Hula's Bar & Lei Stand
ICED OUT WEDNESDAYS @ Zanzabar Nightclub, 18+
LISTENING PARTY (jazz) (R&B) (funk) @ Apartm3nt w/ Justin James & Audible Oracle
SALSA NIGHTS @ 4Play Nightclub, 21+
W.T.F. @ V Lounge & Bar 7

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
CORK @ Apartm3nt, 21+
BARRACUDA ULTRALOUNGE @ Oceans 808
THE DORM ROOM @ HUSH
DJ GELAREH KHOIE @ thirtyninehotel
FIRED UP THURSDAYS @ Lotus Soundbar
GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN @ Paparazzi
GET RIGHT THURSDAY NIGHTS (soul)(breaks)(90s hip-hop) @ Manifest w/ DJ Delv1der
HOT SALSA THURSDAYS @ Paparazzi

KANDY THURSDAYS (edm) @ Alter Solum, 16+
NIGHT OUT @ Bar 35 w/ DJ 45 Revolver
PROHIBITION @ thirtyninehotel
SMOOTH OPERATORS @ Bonsai
SALSA THURSDAYS @ Oceans 808
SIN THURSDAYS @ Level 4
SPIN @ Hula's
THIRSTY THURSDAYS @ Pipeline Cafe
THIRSTY THURSDAYS @ Zanzabar Nightclub, 18+
WASTED @ V Lounge

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25
DJ DANIEL J @ Paparazzi
DJ RACER-X @ Hula's (5PM)
DJ KSM @ Hula's (9PM)
FIRE! FRIDAYS @ Thai Sweet Basil, 18+
FIX FRIDAYS @ 4Play Nightclub
FLASHBACK FRIDAYS @ The House of Fortune
FLAVOR FRIDAYS @ Indigo
THE PEACH @ Level 4
PINK TIKI @ Tiki's w/ DJ Matty Liu
THE PLAYHOUSE @ Pipeline Cafe
PUSSYCAT LOUNGE @ Apartm3nt w/ DJ Eskae
SALSA @ Sand Island Sports Club
SINSUAL FRIDAYS @ Zanzabar Nightclub
SKYE SUSHI LOUNGE @ Aaron's
SOUL HEAVEN @ Lotus Soundbar, 21+
THE STARTER @ V Lounge

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26
CLUB CARIB/REGGAE NIGHTS @ Tiki's Grill and Bar
THE CORNER @ Visions
DANCEHALL CITY @ Indigo
DJ DANIEL J @ Paparazzi
DJ RACER-X @ Hula's
LADIES' NIGHT @ Level 4, 21+
LIVE @ Bar 35



Raf-y taffy

For up-and-comer DJ Raf, there's no greater rush than igniting and uniting a dance floor in one fell-swoop. Alter Solum's resident DJ continues to build his relevance among electronic dance purists through nonstop effort backed by upbeat grooves. Raf has already demonstrated that rising to the occasion is not a challenge, it's just what he does. Unlocking the scene's true potential is what matters most.

"I always try to learn the roots of my favorite songs, where the samples originated and the background info of the producer. There's always

something to learn," he said. A big fan of the scene in Japan, DJ Raf has visions of exposing those unique styles and talents to the island to advance the 808 scene for all to benefit.

"I figured that no one else on the island played the music I listened to and I was right, so I wanted to become a DJ to share these masterpieces with others," said Raf.

It appears that there's a little more going off in Chinatown than just the rats.

—Kalani Wilhelm

Alter Solum, 186 N. King St., 9PM-4AM, 18+, *myspace.com/alter_solum*.

FLASHBACK SATURDAYS ('90s-now) @ The House of Fortune
FLASHBACK SATURDAYS ('70s-now) @ Rumours Nightclub
HOT ISLAND DJ SPIN-OFF @ Mai Tai Bar
MOVE @ Lotus Soundbar, 21+

PAPERDOLL REVUE @ Fusion Waikiki
SMOOTH @ V Lounge
SATURNIGHTS @ Manifest
SUPPER CLUB @ Apartm3nt, 21+
STUNNAH SATURDAYS @ The O Lounge

THE SURF SHACK @ The Shack Waikiki
THE SWEET BAR @ Thai Sweet Basil

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27
BEACH PARTY BLAST @ Hula's Bar & Lei Stand w/ DJ KSM (5PM)
DOUBLEDOUBLE SUNDAYS @ Hula's w/ DJ RACER-X (9PM)
HOT ISLAND DJ SPIN-OFF @ Mai Tai Bar, Ala Moana
LATIN NIGHT @ Angles
PHOENIX @ RumFire
SIZZLIN SUNDAYS @ Zanzabar, 18+
SUNDAZE @ Manifest
THE VITAL LOUNGE @ V Lounge, 21+

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28
BLACK REZIN MONDAYS @ Hush
BROKE ASS MONDAYZ @ Red Lion Waikiki
FLASHBAXXX @ Hula's w/ DJ KSM
THE PLAYGROUND @ 'Aiea Bowl, 18+
INDUSTRY NIGHT @ Bar 35
SWITCH MONDAYS @ V Lounge, 21+

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29
DIAMOND @ V Lounge
EYE CANDY @ Hula's
HAPPY HOUR @ Apartm3nt, 21+
HUSH HUSH TUESDAYS @ Hush, 21+
KALEIDOSCOPE (indie rock) @ thirtyninehotel
LIVEWIRE/SHOCK MONDAYS @ Xyloh
MUSEDAZE (spoken word) @ Bar 35
STUNNAH SHADES @ Lotus Soundbar, 18+
TRAFFIC LIGHT TUESDAYS @ The O Lounge

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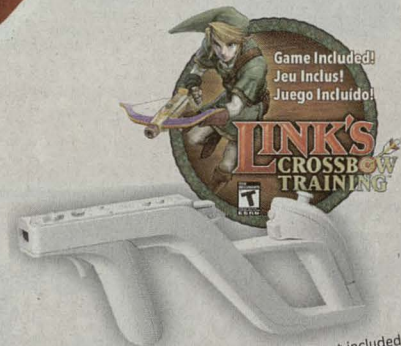
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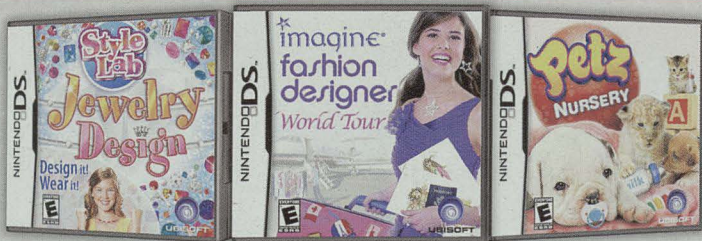


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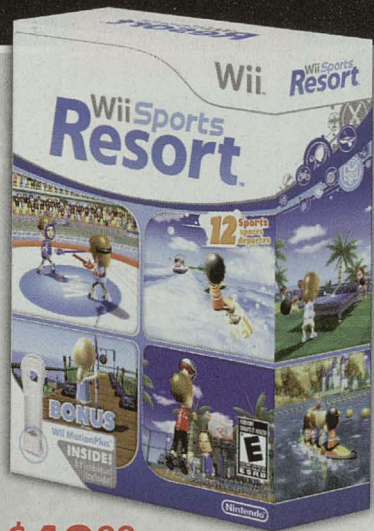
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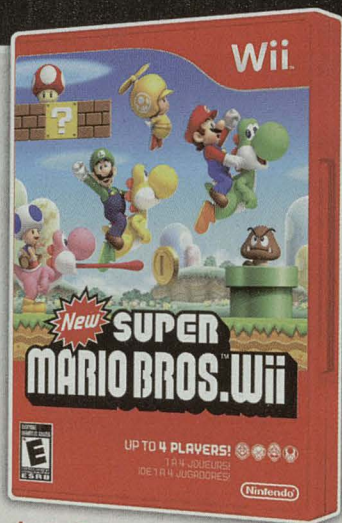
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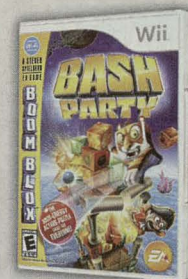
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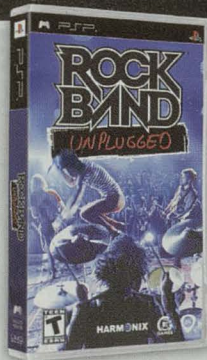
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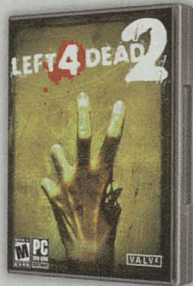
\$19⁹⁹



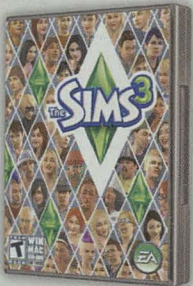
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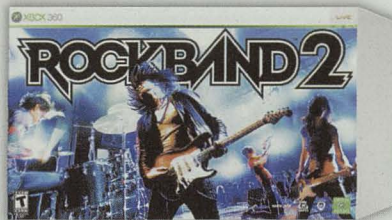
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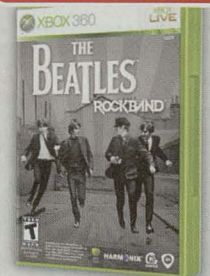


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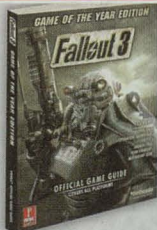
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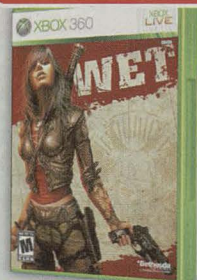
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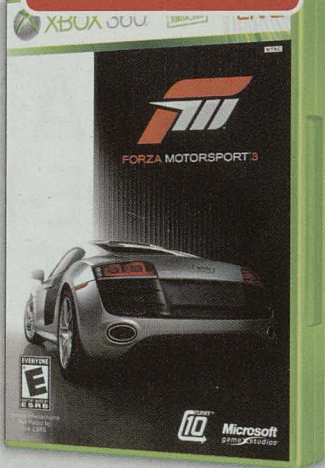


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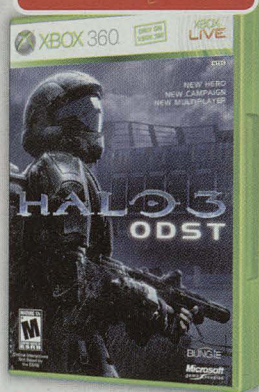
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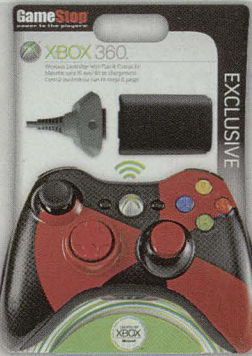


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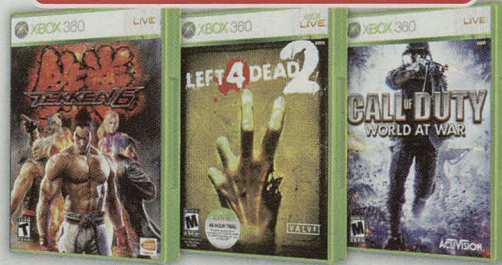


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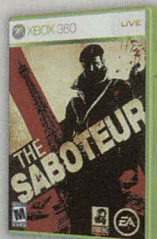
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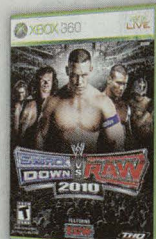
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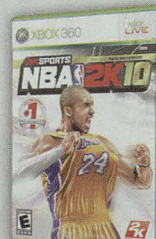
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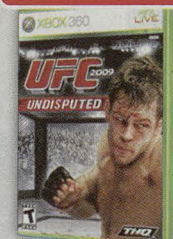


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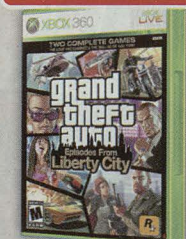
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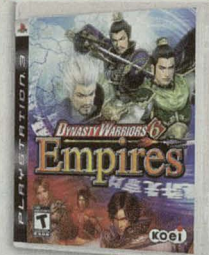
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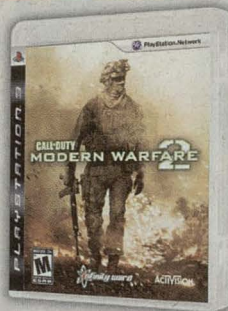


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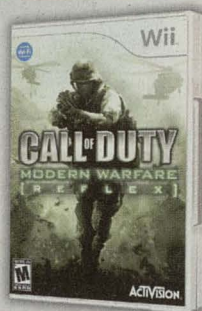


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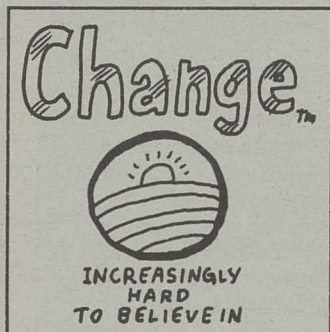
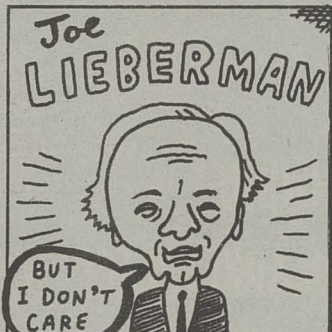
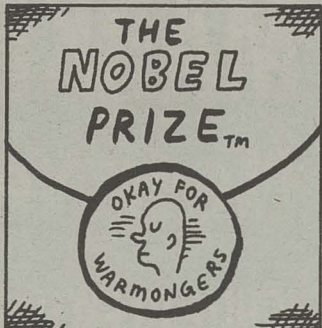
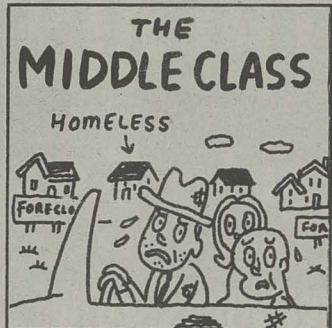
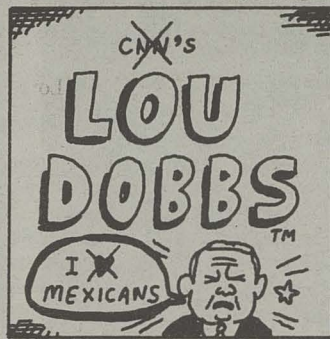


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THE SCENE

From Page 12

Constructing a New Year's Kadomatsu
TEMARI Center teaches you how to make a traditional Japanese bamboo and pine display to take home. *Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i*, 2454 S. Beretania St.: Sun 12/27, (9AM-12PM) \$60 general; \$50 JCHH members. jchh.com, 945-7633

Free 'Ukulele Lessons Learn from virtuoso Gordon Mark. Kama'aina and tourists alike can borrow a 'uke from the neighboring Hawaiian Ukulele Company. Call 223-6040. *Aloha Tower Marketplace*: Wednesdays through 12/30, (12:30-1:30PM)

Gay Discussion Group A discussion and support group for the GLBT community and supportive people. Call 955-3488. *Waikiki Community Center*, 310 Paookalani Ave.: Tuesdays, (7:30PM) 923-1802

'Hip Hop 'n STOMPin': Stomp Interactive Body Percussion Class (See City Wise.) *Honolulu Club*, 932 Ward Ave.: Tue 12/29, (11:15AM-12:15PM) 543-3911

Upcoming 'Ohana

Green Hour Have some quality family time while participating in an outdoor activity. Reserve your spot by calling 621-5463. *Wahiawā Botanical Garden*, 1396 California Ave.: 12/30, (2:30-3:30PM)

Festivals & Fairs

Shop Pacifica Every day features a different discount on different items. Many items are from local artists. *Bishop Museum*, 1525 Bernice St.: Through Thu 12/24. No admission fee to gift shop. 847-3511

Outside

Beautiful and Historic Nu'uuanu Valley Show-and-tell in the quiet Dowsett District of graceful homes and gardens. Presented by The Clean Air Team. Meet at Damien statue, State Capitol: Last Saturdays; 12/26, (1-4PM) \$5 and two bus fares. 948-3299

Catamaran Booze Cruise The small but sassy bar sponsors this day on the water and in the sun. The name of the cruise gets straight to the point. *In Between*, 2155 Lau'ula St.: Sun 12/27, (2:30-5:30PM)

'Iolani Palace Holiday Evening Tour (See Hot Picks.) iolanipalace.org, 522-0822. 364 S. King St.: Sat 12/26, (5-9PM, last ticket sold at 8:30PM) \$6 for 18+; \$3 ages 5-12.

Star of Honolulu's Whale Watch Cruise You might see a lot on this cruise, including perhaps, ahem, "San Diego" (see *Anchorman*). *Aloha Tower Marketplace*: Daily through Sat 5/15, (12-2:30PM) \$40 general; \$24 child ages 3-11; \$32.40 kama'aina/military; \$19.44 kama'aina/military child. 983-7827/starofhonolulu.com

Windward Nature Outing Get away from the city! Participants must be physically fit and pay for three city bus rides. Last Sundays; 12/27, (9AM-4PM) \$5.

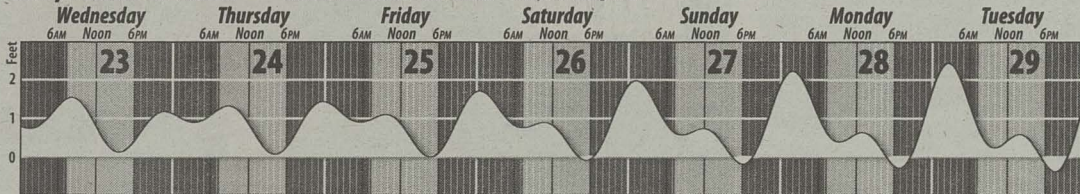
'Ohana

Aquarium After Dark Where do fish sleep? (Do fish sleep?) Go on a flashlight tour of the Aquarium galleries and learn about the reef's ecology at night. Ages 5 & up. Pre-registration required. *Waikiki Aquarium*, 2777 Kalākaua Ave.: Tue 12/29, (6:30-8PM) \$9 adults; \$7 children (\$11/\$8 for members). 923-9741

Kaimuki Christmas Parade It's the Christmas tradition. The parade marks the official lighting of the Kaimuki Christmas Tree. If you want to volunteer, call 737-6300 or 732-8787. *Chaminade University*, 3140 Wai'ālae Ave.: Sat 12/26, (6PM) Free.

Santa's Christmas Eve Arrival The jolly old man will arrive at Gray's Beach via outrigger canoe. Who knew he was so sporty? Welcomed by a keiki hula hālau. Be there for the fun. Call 526-1186. *Halekulani Hotel*, 2199 Kalia Rd.: Thu 12/24, (4:30PM)

Sun, Moon & Tides — Honolulu Harbor



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O'ahu Films

Unattributed film synopses indicate movies not yet reviewed by HW staff.

☞ Indicates films of particular interest

Opening

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel In which the alpha rodent-jock, with nerd and knucklehead in tow, enters an *American Idol*-esque music competition and runs up against a formidable girl-group trio. Hearts squaw and voices squoar, all without a hint of testosterone anywhere in squight.

It's Complicated Meryl Streep used to be married to Alec Baldwin—now she's having an affair with him while entertaining Steve Martin's advances. Who knew the GILF-flick would become a full-fledged genre? Think *Something's Gotta Give*, only with hotter guys.

Nine Fitting that a musical about Federico Fellini's love life would star Sophia Loren, Penélope Cruz and Marion Cotillard—*Nine* ought to be rated NC-17 on the strength of the cast alone. On the other hand, it's directed by Rob Marshall. Not fitting. Like Marshall's *Chicago*, this one features plenty of sparkle—does it have the music to match?

Sherlock Holmes Robert Downey Jr. takes on the classic detective. Guy Ritchie's at the helm, and we're guessing he'll give Holmes a modern feel—let's just hope they stay away from *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*.

The Young Victoria An apparently very accurate and historical-like account of the marriage of Queen Victoria to Prince Albert, and of her early years on the throne. Unfortunately, the film leaves the most important question unanswered: We never see the famous prince without his trousers.

promises: finely crafted, computer-generated scenes of the ground falling out from under hapless mortals.

—Ryan Senaga

Avatar See review on page 16.

The Blind Side Sandra Bullock, big haired and feisty, channels Erin Brockovich 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 Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day An action thriller sporting enough gunplay to make Charlton Heston proud. After a priest gets murdered in Boston, the MacManus brothers (Sean Patrick Flanery, Norman Reedus) emerge from seclusion and start shooting shit.

Did You Hear About the Morgans?

If the trailer is any indication, Sarah Jessica Parker and Hugh Grant have about as much chemistry as a snowman in Hawai'i. A romantic comedy about an unhappy Manhattan couple who's forced to move to Wyoming (the horror!) after entering the Witness Relocation Program.

Disney's A Christmas Carol The main problem with this adaptation, though, is how little of the new, or unexpected, it brings to the familiar tale. Nothing truly surprises and it's simply an excuse for [Jim] Carrey to bludgeon us with his different voices.

—R.S.

Invictus A historic drama brimming with enough racial tension and soaring orchestration to make it an atypical Clint Eastwood production. Nelson Mandela (Morgan Freeman) attempts to unite the citizens of South Africa—not through education or political policies, but through the game of rugby.

Me and Orson Welles Zac Efron, an actor who's most comfortable playing aspiring actors, stars as the protégé of Orson Welles, the imperious and renowned pioneer of film, theater and television production.

Old Dogs In the trailer, Seth Green

sings Air Supply's "All Out Of Love" while being cradled by a giant gorilla and John Travolta gets pecked by a pack of penguins. Along the way there's a sentimental lesson about fatherhood, gift wrapped by Disney.

Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire This is not the feel-good, triumph-over-adversity film it's advertised as... The actors involved make *Precious* better than it should be, but ultimately that's the only triumph shown. —Dean Carrico

The Princess and the Frog A twist on Brothers Grimm's frog-turned-prince fairytale, that has Tiana, Disney's first black princess, hopping amphibian-style through the French Quarter of New Orleans singing Broadway-style show tunes. In a sea of glitzy 3-D animation, Disney goes vintage with this 2-D throwback.

Red Cliff John Woo's latest historical epic broke box-office records in China. The truncated U.S. version is still a sumptuous treat for fans of both the action aueteur and war extravaganzas generally. —R.S.

The Road After witnessing the cataclysm of 2012, learn how to survive a post-apocalyptic world in this adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's Oprah-certified novel. Viggo Mortensen—looking a bit Jesusque—is among the survivors who must trudge through the wasteland in search of hope.

The Twilight Saga: New Moon During a montage, the months go by and we literally watch the seasons change and the paint dry while [Bella] looks forlornly out a window—symbolic of how we feel in the theater during this dreck. —R.S.

Up in the Air See review on page 17.

Doris Duke Theatre

Honolulu Academy of Arts, 900 S. Beretania St., \$8 general, \$7 seniors/students/military, \$5 Academy members, honoluluacademy.org, 532-8768

Oh, My Buddha! (Japan, 2009) Jun, a first-year student at an all-boys school, would rather play renditions of Bob Dylan on his guitar than study Buddhist scripture. He trudges through the monotony until he and his friends are invited to an island promising free sex—causing the boys to screech, "OMB!"

Tue, Wed, Sat, Sun, 12/23–1/7, 1PM, 4 & 7:30PM, 12/24 & 12/31, 1PM only.

Movie Museum

3566 Harding Ave. #4, \$4 members, \$5 general, 735-8771

Larceny, Inc. (1942) Merry Christmas, see? This gangster comedy starring Edward (O.)G. Robinson is based

on *The Night Before Christmas*. Tue 12/24, 12, 2:30 & 8:30PM, Sun 12/27, 12:30, 2:30 & 4:30PM.

A Christmas Carol (U.K., 1951) Now known *Scrooge*, this is probably the one you remember, thanks to Alastair Sim's epic Ebenezer. Thu 12/24, 4:30 & 6:30PM.

The Maltese Falcon (1941) Bogie is oh-so-San Franciscy as a private dick who gets all the chicks but can't track down a certain statue.

Sat 12/26, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30 & 8:30PM.

Crooks Anonymous (U.K., 1962) British comedy about a chronic criminal who's reformed through Crooks Anonymous. After getting hired as a department store Santa and drinking too much at the company Christmas party, he finds himself locked in the store with hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Sun 12/27, 6:30 & 8:30PM.

A Room With A View (U.K., 1985) In the acclaimed film based on E.M. Forster's classic novel, a young British woman (Helena Bonham Carter) joins a thrill-kill cult and sets upon the Italian countryside, leaving a trail of blood and terror in her wake. Or maybe that's not quite it. Anyway, it's a Merchant-Ivory production.

Mon 12/28, 12:30, 3, 5:30 & 8PM. ■

Continuing

2012 For what it is, 2012 is kicky, junk-food fun, and provides exactly what it

THE SCENE

Volunteer

Blood Drives 'Tis the season of giving. Call 845-9966 or visit www.bbh.org to make an appointment. Save a life.

Service Trip: Pu'u Wa'awa'a Join the Hawai'i Service Trip Program, an section of the Sierra Club, on a service trip to west side of the Big Island. Work may include fencing rare plants, outplanting and invasive species control. E-mail scott@soest.hawaii.edu or call 259-9929. *Hualalai*, Big Island: Runs Sat 1/2–Sat 1/9. \$150 general; \$100 full-time students.

Whale Sanctuary Advisory Council Members Needed The council represents the public's interests in sanctuary matters and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent and state co-manager. The HIH-WNMS will be one of the first sanctuaries to recruit a youth member. Call 808-397-2651, ext. 257, or visit hawaiiwhaleback.whale.noaa.gov. Deadline: 1/31.

Sports

Honolulu Lawn Bowls Club The Green is open for those who wish to try their hand at lawn bowling. *Ala Moana Park*: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, 9:30AM. 593-1108

Jeet Kune Do/MMA for the Street Learn the art and philosophy of Bruce Lee in a fun environment. All levels welcome. Call for free class. 864-1620, jkdunlimited.com. **Sheraton Hawai'i Bowl: Nevada vs. SMU** Warrior football season may be over, but you can still catch some pigskin action at this annual event. sheratonhawaiibowl.com. *Aloha Stadium*, 99-500 Salt Lake Blvd.: Thu 12/24, (12PM gates open; 3PM kick-off) \$15–\$45. 486-9511

Airwaves

Thinking Out Loud Explore issues in the Japanese American community. *KZOO*, 1210 AM: Mondays, (6:30PM)

Civics

Signholding Against War Policies Gather close to the president's vacation house to protest war policies. E-mail worldcantwaithawaii@yahoo.com. Sat 12/26, (10AM)

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);
- Cost 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 (jazz, rock, hip-hop, 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 Web site, at honoluluweekly.com.

Send all submissions c/o **Honolulu Weekly Calendar Editor, 1111 Fort Street Mall, Honolulu, HI 96813, fax to 528-3144 or e-mail calendar@honoluluweekly.com**. Submissions are not accepted over the phone. Please note: We welcome photographs with submissions, but cannot guarantee returns — please do not send original art. ■

Hugh GRANT

Sarah Jessica PARKER

Did You Hear About The MORGANS?

COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA A CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT/BANTER FILMS PRODUCTION "DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?" SAM ELLIOTT MARY STEENBURGEN ELISABETH MOSS MICHAEL KELLY WILFORD BRIMLEY MUSIC BY THEODORE SHAPIRO CO-PRODUCER MELISSA WELLS EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ANTHONY KATAGAS RYAN KAVANAUGH PRODUCED BY MARTIN SHAFFER LIZ GLOTZER CASTLE ROCK PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13 SOME SEXUAL REFERENCES AND MOMENTARY VIOLENCE WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY MARG LAWRENCE DidYouHearAboutTheMorgans.com COLUMBIA PICTURES

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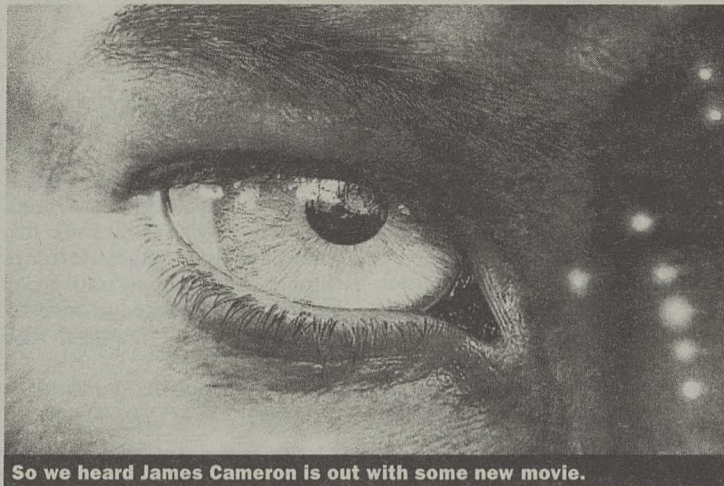
Dances with blue people

RYAN SENAGA

Back in the late '90s, George Lucas made a few little movies to add to his classic *Star Wars* trilogy, prequels that were largely constructed with the use of computers right down to actual characters. Fans, critics and even casual moviegoers cried foul at the travesty he committed to his own legacy, despite the display of technical brilliance.

James Cameron does roughly the same thing here with his long-gestating *Avatar*. Unlike Lucas, though, it's not as if the project was a sequel to *Titanic*, so he doesn't run the risk of tarnishing any beloved childhood movie experiences. But to an even larger degree than the *Star Wars* prequels, "visually stunning" triumphs over "competently scripted." *Avatar*'s story is blatantly derivative and just plain corny for most of its two-and-a-half hour runtime. Still, there's no denying how captivating it is to watch, and at times, it does inspire awe at seeing things that are truly new.

Jake Sully (played by *Terminator Salvation*'s Sam



So we heard James Cameron is out with some new movie.

Avatar has its moments

Worthington) is a paraplegic Marine who signed up for a tour of duty on the moon Pandora in the year 2154. Earth is a dying planet and a new fuel source has been found on the moon, a source which happens to reside under the settlement of the Na'vi, the tall, blue indigenous species who live there. Since the environment's air

is toxic to humans, traversing the jungle surface must be done with avatars—human dna is mixed with Na'vi tissue to create a replica remotely operated safely from afar. Jake goes undercover to collect Na'vi intel, but soon falls in love with their spiritual ways and the delectable, curvy Neytiri, "played" by Zoe Saldana, Uhura from this summer's *Star Trek*.

Yup, Cameron is acting like *Dances with Wolves* never happened. (For local interests, it will be interesting how those in the

sovereignty movement react to the film.)

The thing about *Avatar* and Cameron's much-hyped groundbreaking technology is that the director basically created a cartoon. Yes the proceedings are involving, rousing and occasionally heartbreaking, but so was *The Princess and the Frog*. And Robert Zemeckis perfected the art of motion capture with actors way back with *Beowulf*. The 3-D effects are subtle; no spears come poking out at you for no good reason, but again, like the 3-D in *Up*, it isn't essential to the viewing experience. And for those with a fear of "My Heart Will Go On," don't worry. Leona Lewis' awkwardly penned theme song "I See You" will probably not invade our elevators and weddings for the next decade.

But before we pan the thing, the movie gets undeniably exciting in its spear-versus-machine climax. Even better is the alien world of Pandora, where we meet a few creatures that are truly beings never before encountered on screen: floating luminescent jellyfish insects, plants with rapid

retractable leaf mechanisms, and tentacles in the Na'vi's hair braids which allow them to "bond" with the creatures of the forest.

The two leads do adequate jobs with their motion-capture positions, and Sigourney Weaver as a scientist sympathetic to the Na'vi plight does the best at making a fully rounded character of what precious little is given. Stephen Lang chews the scenery with villainous mustache-twirling as the colonel intent on blowing up blue people.

Some proclaim *Avatar* as the *Star Wars*-esque saga to bring blockbuster sci-fi into the 2010s; and Cameron has hinted at a trilogy. (Keep in mind though: we're still holding our breath for *True Lies 2*.) It's a bold assertion considering that this year brought us *Moon*, JJ Abrams' *Star Trek*, and a filled-with-potential *District 9*. Taking the *Star Wars* prequels into consideration, at the very least, both Lucas and Cameron have come *this* much closer to realizing their maniacal dreams of ridding themselves of those pesky human actors once and for all.

Regal Cinemas no longer releases its movie listings in time for Honolulu Weekly to publish them.

Town

WARD STADIUM 1044 Auahi St. 593-3000

◆ **2012** (Wed & Thu 12:15, 3:40, 7:05, 10:30, Fri-Sat 11:45); **Avatar** (Wed & Thu, 10:15, 11:15, 1:45, 2:45, 4:30, 5:15, 6:15, 8, 8:45, 9:45, 11:30, Fri-Tue 10:30, 11:15, 1:55, 2:45, 5:20, 6:15, 7:45, 8:45, 9:45, 11:15); **Avatar 3D** (Wed & Thu 12, 3:30, 7, 10:30, Fri-Tue 12, 3:30, 7, 10:30); **The Blind Side** (Wed & Thu 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 8, 10:45, Fri-Tue 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7); **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (Wed & Thu 10:25, 12:50, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45, Fri-Tue 10:25, 12:50, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45); **Invictus** (Wed & Thu 11, 11:30, 2, 2:30, 5, 8, 11, Fri-Tue 11, 2, 5, 8, 11); **The Princess and the Frog** (Wed & Thu 10:15, 12:30, 1:25, 2:50, 3:45, 5:10, 6:05, 7:30, 8:25, 9:50, Fri-Tue 10:15, 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:30); **Twilight: New Moon** (Wed & Thu 10:30, 1:20, 4:15, 7:20, 10:15, Fri-Tue 11:45, 9:40); **Up in the Air** (Wed & Thu 10:20, 11:20, 12:50, 2, 3:25, 4:40, 6, 7:20, 8:30, 10, 11:05, Fri-Tue 10:20, 11:20, 12:50, 2, 3:25, 4:40, 6, 8:30, 11:05)

● Thu 12/24: **Armored** (Wed & Thu 8, 10:15); **Ninja Assassin** (Wed & Thu 12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8, 10:30); **The Road** (Wed & Thu 10:15, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45)

● Fri 12/25: **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (Fri-Tue 10:15, 11:15, 12:30, 1:30, 3:45, 3:45, 5, 6, 7:15, 8:15, 9:30, 10:30); **It's Complicated** (Fri-Tue 10:15, 12:50, 2:35, 3:25, 4:55, 6, 7:15, 8:35, 11:10); **Nine** (Fri-Tue 12, 2:35, 5:10, 7:45, 10:20); **Sherlock Holmes** (Fri-Sat 10:20, 11:20, 1:20, 2:20, 4:20, 5:20, 7:20, 8:20, 9:45, 10:35, 11:35, 12:20, Sun-Tue 10:20, 11:20, 1:20, 2:20, 4:20, 5:20, 7:20, 8:20, 9:45, 10:35, 11:35)

Windward

KO'OLAU STADIUM Temple Valley Shopping Center (808) 593-3000

◆ **Avatar** (Wed & Thu 11:15, 12:15, 2:30, 3:45, 6, 7, 9:15, 10:05, Fri, 11:15, 12:15, 2:30, 3:45, 6, 7, 9:15, 10:05, 12:01, Sat-Tue 11:15, 12:15, 2:30, 3:45, 6, 7, 9:15, 10:05); **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (Wed & Thu 11:05, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10, Fri-Tue 11:05, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10); **Invictus** (Wed & Thu 12:30, 3:40, 7:05, 10:05, Fri-Tue 12:30, 3:40, 7:05, 10:05); **The Princess and the Frog** (Wed & Thu 11:15, 12:15, 2:30, 3:45, 6, 7, 9:15, 10:05, Fri-Tue 11, 1:15, 3:35, 5:45, 8, 10:15)

● Thu 12/24: **An Education** (Wed & Thu 11:25, 1:35, 3:45, 5:55, 8:05, 10:15); **Armored** (Wed & Thu 11:10, 1, 3, 5, 7:30, 9:40); **The Blind Side** (Wed & Thu 11:20, 2, 4:40, 7:20, 10); **Everybody's Fine** (Wed & Thu 7:40, 9:45); **Ninja Assassin** (Wed & Thu 11:15, 1:25, 3:45, 6:15, 8:30, 10:40); **Planet 51** (Wed & Thu 11:45, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50); **Twilight: New Moon** (Wed & Thu 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55)

● Fri 12/25: **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (Fri-Tue 11, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50); **It's Complicated** (Fri-Tue 11:15, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55); **Sherlock Holmes** (Fri-Tue 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50)

East

KĀHALA 8-PLEX KĀhala Mall, 4211 Wai'ālae Ave. (808) 593-3000

◆ **Avatar** (Wed & Thu 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30, Fri-Tue 12:20, 3:40, 7, 10:20); **Invictus** (Wed & Thu 11, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20, Fri-Tue 11, 1:50, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30); **The Princess and the Frog** (Wed & Thu 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:05, Fri-Tue 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:05)

● Thu 12/24: **The Blind Side** (Wed & Thu 11:10, 2, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25); **Me and Orson Welles** (Wed & Thu 11:20, 2:10, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50); **No Puedo Vivir Sin Ti** (Wed & Thu

11:30, 7:15, 9:30); **Red Cliff** (Wed & Thu 12:45, 3:55, 7:10); **Revanche** (Wed & Thu 1:30, 4:15); **The Road** (Wed & Thu 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:45, 10:15);

● Fri 12/25: **It's Complicated** (Fri-Tue 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50); **Nine** (Fri-Tue 12, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10); **Sherlock Holmes** (Fri-Tue 10:50, 1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10); **Up in the Air** (Fri-Tue 11:20, 2, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40); **The Young Victoria** (Fri-Tue 12:30, 3, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15);

KOKO MARINA STADIUM 8 593-3000

◆ **Avatar** (Wed & Thu 11:20, 12:20, 2:40, 3:40, 6, 7, 9:20, 10:20, Fri-Tue 11:20, 12:20, 2:40, 3:40, 6, 7, 9:30, 10:20); **The Blind Side** (Wed & Thu 11, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10, Fri-Tue 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10); **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (Wed & Thu 10:50, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30, Fri-Tue 10:50, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30); **The Princess and the Frog** (Wed & Thu 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10, Fri-Tue 10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:05);

● Thu 12/24: **Old Dogs** (Wed & Thu 11:10, 1:15, 3:20, 5:25, 7:30, 9:40); **Precious** (Wed & Thu 11:40, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 10); **Twilight: New Moon** (Wed & Thu 11:30, 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10:30);

● Fri 12/25: **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (Fri-Tue 11, 12:10, 1:10, 2:20, 3:20, 4:30, 5:30, 6:40, 7:40, 8:50, 9:50); **Sherlock Holmes** (Fri-Tue 11:10, 2, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30);

Central

MILILANI TOWN CENTER STADIUM

14 95-1249 Meheula Parkway (808) 593-3000

◆ **Avatar** (Wed & Thu 11:30, 12:15, 2:50, 3:40, 6:10, 7, 9:30, 10:15, Fri-Sat 11:35, 12:20, 12:50, 2:50, 3:40, 6:10, 7, 9:30, 10:20, Sun-Tue 11:35, 12:20, 2:50, 3:40, 6:10, 7, 9:30, 10:15); **Avatar 3D** (Wed & Thu 10:45, 2:05, 5:25, 8:45, Fri-Tue 10:45, 2:05, 5:25, 8:45); **The Blind Side** (Wed & Thu 11:20, 12:10, 2, 3:10, 4:50, 6:45, 7:40, 9:25, 10:20, Fri-Sat 11:15,

2, 4:55, 7:40, 10:25, Sun-Tue 11:15, 2, 4:55, 7:40, 10:20); **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (Wed & Thu 12:05, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 10, Fri-Tue 11:55, 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40); **Invictus** (Wed & Thu 10:50, 1:35, 4:25, 7:25, 10:25, Fri-Tue 11:05, 5:45); **The Princess and the Frog** (Wed & Thu 10:55, 11:55, 1:10, 2:25, 3:30, 4:45, 5:50, 7:10, 8:10, 9:35, 10:30, Fri-Tue 10:55, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10);

● Thu 12/24: **Brothers** (Wed & Thu 12, 2:30, 5, 7:45, 10:15); **Ninja Assassin** (Wed & Thu 11:45, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:45); **Old Dogs** (Wed & Thu 11:35, 1:40, 3:50, 5:55, 8, 10:10); **Twilight: New Moon** (Wed & Thu 11:05, 1:50, 4:35, 7:20, 10:05);

● Fri 12/25: **Alvin and the Chipmunks** (Fri-Tue 10:50, 11:50, 1, 2, 3:10, 4:10, 5:15, 6:15, 7:25, 8:25, 9:35, 10:30); **It's Complicated** (Fri-Sat 12, 2:40, 5:20, 8, 10:40, Sun-Tue 12, 2:35, 5:10, 7:50, 10:25); **Nine** (Fri-Tue 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:35, 10:05); **Sherlock Holmes** (Fri-Sat 0:45, 11:30, 1:30, 2:15, 3, 4:15, 5, 7:05, 7:50, 8:35, 9:50, 10:35, 11:20, Sun-Tue 10:45, 11:30, 1:30, 2:15, 3, 4:15, 5, 7, 7:45, 8:40, 9:45, 10:30); **Up in the Air** (Fri-Tue 11:20, 1:55, 4:25, 7:20, 9:55);

PEARLRIDGE WEST (808) 593-3000

◆ **Avatar** (Wed & Thu 10:30, 12:30, 1:45, 3:45, 5, 7, 8:15, 10:15, Fri-Tue 10:30, 12:30, 1:45, 3:45, 5, 7, 8:15, 10:15); **Avatar 3D** (Wed & Thu 11:30, 2:45, 6, 9:15, Fri-Tue 11:30, 2:45, 6, 9:15); **The Blind Side** (Wed & Thu 10:45, 11:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:05, 7:50, 9:50, 10:35, Fri-Tue 10:45, 1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 10:05); **The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day** (Wed & Thu 12, 2:40, 5:20, 8, 10:40, Fri-Tue 1:50, 4:30, 10:05); **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (Wed & Thu 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45, Fri-Tue 11:40, 2:15, 4:40, 7:10, 9:25); **Invictus** (Wed & Thu 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:15, 10:20, Fri-Tue 10:55, 7:10); **Precious** (Wed & Thu 10:50, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:25, Fri-Tue 11, 4:40, 10:10); **The Princess and the Frog** (Wed & Thu 11, 12, 1:20, 2:20, 3:40, 4:40, 6, 7, 8:20, 9:15, 10:40, Fri-Tue 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50); **Red Cliff** (Wed & Thu 12:40, 3:50, 7, 10:10, Fri-Tue 1:05,

Movietime

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Film Review

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BOB GREEN

George Clooney gives a terrific performance in Jason Reitman's *Up in the Air*, an equally terrific movie, with—here comes that word again—a terrific supporting performance by Vera Farmiga and a winning one by Anna Kendrick. Better than its source novel, Reitman's screenplay, perfect for Clooney, concerns one Ryan Bingham, a professional "terminator" who flies from U.S. city to city downsizing companies, offering sympathetic words and various severance packages.

Wham. These people are given no notice and scarcely realize what has hit them. (Reitman bookends the film with unrehearsed footage of actual victims.) Believe it or not, though, the story takes the form of a romantic comedy, one for our new wised-up century.

Rootless and self-estranged from his family, Bingham lives "up in the air," spends most of his time traveling, maintaining a cheerless pit-stop apartment and loving his freedom. But, the movie asks slowly and carefully, is Bing-

ham confusing emptiness with freedom? Unmarried, unattached and shrewdly charming, our hero adores his life and intends to keep right on—until two females upend his plans. "Think of me as yourself but only with a vagina," says the devastatingly charming, beautiful

Up in the Air is at the top

fellow traveler (as it were) Alex Goran (played by Farmiga, a cinch for every award in the book). She seems to be the epitome of the new, now footloose female, bedding men she's attracted to without any hint of consequence, herself "free" and fun-loving.

Enter 23-year old Cornell business grad Natalie (Kendrick), a wet-behind-the-ears go-getter, new to Bingham's firm, who's got a splendid idea for cutting the company's cost by 85 percent. Stop all this traveling and do the "Letting go" by video-conferencing (two U.S. companies, named here, already practice this meth-

od), watching the firees' reactions, from disbelief to tears to, in one case, suicide) and offering severance packets pre-mailed for the event. This, of course, would ground Bingham; but, first, he insists, she should travel with him for a few jaunts to see if she still thinks her business plan is so sound.

The story, in the hands of these three actors and a first-rate writer-director, delivers in spades, deft and funny and telling, combining laughs while never losing sight of the tragedies that keep Ryan Bingham aloft. Mainstream movies just don't get any better than this one, with crackerjack editing and sound casting all the way through. Jason Bateman, as Bingham's slimy boss, scores in a small but memorable role.

What comes of all this? We're not telling. All we are saying is that *Up in the Air* is one of the very best movies of the year, buoyant without being shallow, funny without being insensitive. Should you see it? Yes: it's not too long, it's smart and it knows what it's doing. A higher recommendation, we cannot give. ■



The look of young averted gazes: *The Young Victoria* at Consolidated Theaters Kāhala 8.

10:30); **Twilight: New Moon** (Wed & Thu 11:15, 2, 5, 7:50, 10:45, Fri-Tue 1:50, 7:20);

● Thu 12/24: **2012** (Wed & Thu 12:35, 3:50, 7, 10); **Armored** (Wed & Thu 11:35, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:30); **Ninja Assassin** (Wed & Thu 10:55, 1:10, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:20); **Old Dogs** (Wed & Thu 2:30, 5:15);

● Fri 12/25: **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (Fri-Tue 10:45, 11:45, 1, 2, 3:15, 4:15, 5:30, 7, 8, 9:15, 10:15); **It's Complicated** (Fri-Tue 11:15, 1:55, 4:35, 7:15, 10); **Nine** (Fri-Tue 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8, 10:30); **No Puedo Vivir Sin Ti** (Fri-Tue 4:10, 6:05); **The Road** (Fri-Tue 10:30, 8); **Sherlock Holmes** (Fri-Tue 10:35, 11:20, 1:25, 2:10, 4:15, 5, 7:05, 7:50, 9:55, 10:40); **Up in the Air** (Fri-Tue 10:30, 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45)

Leeward

KAPOLEI MEGAPLEX 890 Kamokila Blvd. (808) 593-3000

◆ **Avatar** (Wed & Thu 11:30, 1:15, 2:45, 4:30, 6, 7:45, 9:15, 11, Fri-Tue 11:30, 1, 2:45, 4:15, 6, 7:30, 9:15, 10:45); **Avatar 3D** (Wed & Thu 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:15, Fri-Tue 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 10); **The Blind Side** (Wed & Thu 10:45, 11:45, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 7, 8, 9:45, 10:40, Fri-Tue 11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 8, 10:40); **The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day** (Wed & Thu 11:45, 2:25, 5:05, 7:45, 10:25, Fri-Tue 11:45, 5:05, 10:30); **Did You Hear About the Morgans?** (Wed & Thu 10:45, 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25, Fri-Sat, Mon-Tue 10:45, 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25, Sun 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25); **Disney's A Christmas Carol** (Wed & Thu 12:30, 2:45, 5, Fri-Sat, Mon-Tue 11); **Invictus** (Wed & Thu 10:45, 1:35, 4:25, 7:15, 10:05, Fri-Tue 3:15, 9:15); **Precious**

(Wed & Thu 10:30, 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35, Fri-Tue 8, 10:30); **The Princess and the Frog** (Wed & Thu 11, 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 3:30, 4:45, 5:45, 7, 8, 9:15, 10:15, Fri-Tue 12:15, 1:15, 2:30, 3:30, 4:45, 5:45, 7, 9:15); **Twilight: New Moon** (Wed & Thu 11:30, 2:20, 5:10, 8, 10:45, Fri-Tue 2:20, 7:45)

● Thu 12/24: **2012** (Wed & Thu 7:15, 10:30); **Armored** (Wed & Thu 3:10, 7:30, 9:40); **The Hurt Locker** (Wed & Thu 11:30, 2:15, 5, 7:45, 10:30); **Ninja Assassin** (Wed & Thu 12:30, 2:45, 5, 7:15, 9:30); **Old Dogs** (Wed & Thu 11, 1:05, 5:15)

● Fri 12/25: **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel** (Fri-Sat, Mon-Tue 10:35, 11:35, 12:45, 1:45, 2:55, 3:55, 5:05, 6:05, 7:15, 8:15, 9:25, 10:25, Sun 11:35, 12:45, 1:45, 2:55, 3:55, 5:05, 6:05, 7:15, 8:15, 9:25, 10:25); **It's Complicated** (Fri-Tue 11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05); **Nine** (Fri-Tue 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45); **Sherlock Holmes** (Fri-Sat, Mon-Tue 10:45, 11:45, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:30, 7:15, 8, 10:45, Sun 11:45, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:30, 7:15, 8, 10, 10:45); **Up in the Air** (Fri-Sat, Mon-Tue 10:35, 1, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40, Sun 1, 3:25, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40)

Art House

DORIS DUKE THEATRE Honolulu Academy of Arts, 900 S. Beretania St. \$7 general, \$5 members. 532-8768

◆ **Oh, My Buddha!** (Wed, Sat, Sun, Tue 1, 4, 7:30)

MOVIE MUSEUM 3566

Harding Ave. \$5 general, \$4 members. 735-8771

◆ **A Christmas Carol** (Thu 4:30, 6:30); **A Room with a View** (Mon 12:30, 3, 5:30, 8); **Crooks Anonymous** (Sun 6:30, 8:30); **Larceny, Inc.** (Thu 12:30, 2:30, 8:30, Sun 12:30, 2:30, 4:30); **The Maltese Falcon** (Sat 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30)

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Deadline for camera-ready materials Jan. 7th



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Nightmare on Xmas - Dec 25th 10pm to 4am \$10
a rave and gothic dungeon
Ashley's Birthday Raver Bash Dec 26th 10pm to 4am \$10
and three continuous days:
Full Force **NEW YEARS EVE** 10pm Thurs
United DJ's **Kittyland New Year's Day** until
Jan 2nd **THIRD DAY O' RAVE** Noon Sun

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Open New Year's Eve and New Year's Day



Jose's
Mexican Cafe & Cantina

1134 Koko Head Ave. 732-1833
KAIMUKI

Food & Drink

news you can eat

Chef Praseuth Luangkhot, aka J.J., is a Laotian native who honed his culinary talents at Maxim's in NYC. His **J.J. Bistro & French Pastry** is offering two European seasonal treats. The Yule Log is white cake filled with chocolate ganache and buttercream. Three flavors (chocolate mocha, chocolate chocolate, chocolate

with raspberry) and five sizes are available, ranging from a personal size for \$4.75 to a 24-inch size that serves up to 30 people for \$55. Call first to check on availability through December 31. The other item is a Francophile treat—Galette de Roi, also known as King Cake, which will be available by special order starting in early January. Made with frangipane (almond paste) and covered with puff pastry, each cake has a small toy hidden inside of it. As per French tradition, the person whose slice of cake contains the toy becomes king for a day.

3447 Wai'ala'e Ave., 739-0993

If we all scream for ice cream, we can also scream for **Mission Houses Museum**. Stop by the **Ben & Jerry's** at Windward Mall anytime between now and the end of the month, and 20 percent of your purchase will go toward the museum. If you want to donate directly to the museum, call 447-3922 or 447-3920.

Fritz's European Bakery rewarded those who stumbled upon it on it or persevered to find it, between auto body shops and strip malls on Dillingham Boulevard. Sadly, Fritz's is no longer serving up its fabulous nut-rich stollen and gingerbread boys. After several unsuccessful phone calls, a drive-by revealed a shuttered storefront with a "For Lease" sign. We mourn the loss of a business run by a friend who served Honolulu for nearly 40 years.

Got food news? Send 'em in to foodnews@honoluluweekly.com

The Weekly digest

Alan Wong's Christmas Eve & Christmas Dinners

Up the ante on the Christmas turkey and go for Hudson Valley duck curry, three crab dumpling and other delectable entrees.

Alan Wong's, 1857 S. King St.
Thu 12/24 & Fri 12/25, (4:30-10PM) \$85. 949-2526

Chai's Christmas Eve Menu

Go à la carte with Chef Chai's dessert sampler or go for the whole five-course shebang, with courses that include black truffle vegetarian risotto and grilled Mongolian-style lamb chops with merlot demiglaze.

Chai's Bistro, Aloha Tower Marketplace

Thu 12/24, \$10-\$72, depending on how many courses. 585-0011

Check-Out Hunger

At Safeway, Times, Don Quijote, Fujioka's, Kōkua and some Tamura's locations, donate at the check-out counter to the Hawai'i Foodbank. As little as \$2.81 will feed a child breakfast for a week.

Through Mon 1/11

Christmas Eve Dinner at Tapa's

More than a club, Tapa's is a place to enjoy the holidays with friends. Shrimp cocktail, roast pork loin, rosemary potatoes, veggies and chocolate soufflé warm your gut.

Tapa's Restaurant and Lanai Bar, 407 Seaside Ave.

Thu 12/24, tapaswaikiki.com, 921-2288

Ciao Mein Holiday Menu

Go beyond the conventional holiday meals. Choose among clay pot-steamed scallops, osso bucco alla Chef Ching, lobster and shrimp ravioli and more.

Ciao Mein, Hyatt Regency Waikiki, 2424 Kalākaua Ave.

Through 12/30. \$55.

Culinary Walking Tour of Chinatown

Get a history and geography lesson of Chinatown as you tour through some of the area's restaurants, historic sites

and shops.

Begins at Chinese Chamber of Commerce, 8 S. King St.

Every Mon, (9:30AM) \$10. 533-3181

House of Brews

Andy Baker chooses eight different beers each week for you to chug, er, taste along with samples of Valentino's thin-crust pizza.

Bar 35, 35 N. Hotel St.

Wednesdays, (6-8PM) \$20. 573-3535

Jolly Holiday Breakfast with Santa

Kani Ka Pila Grille features a breakfast buffet, balloon twisting, airbrush tattoos and the main event, Santa! Reservations required. Call 924-4990.

Outrigger Reef on the Beach, 2169 Kālia Rd.

Wed 12/23, (8AM-10AM) \$17.50 includes tax, tip and photo with Santa.

Children 3 and younger eat free.

Special Weekly Wine Tasting: Champagne and Bubbles!

Taste six to eight wines paired with cheese and fruit. A different presenter leads each week. Reservations required. 12/29 features eight sparkling wines from six makers, including Delamonte and Placere.

Brasserie Du Vin, 1115 Bethel St.

Tue 12/29, (6PM) \$45 plus tax and gratuity. 545-1115

The Ultimate Interactive Dining Experience

Garden, harvest, cook and dine for a meal on the North Shore. E-mail cabspates@yahoo.com or call 637-2117 for details.

\$50-\$150.

Ultra-Fast Asian Meals Under 19 Minutes

Broiled chicken wings in Singapore sauce, moo shu pork, vegetarian pad Thai, Oriental steak, Peking chicken, shrimp and eggs, Chinese broccoli in oyster sauce, ma po tofu and fried Chinese egg noodles are the easy dishes you will feast on. Visit walmarteatshawaii.com/blog/.

Palama Market Dillingham, 1210 Dillingham Blvd.

Sat 12/26, (3-5:30PM) \$69.

Weekly Wine Tasting

Taste six to eight wines paired with cheese and fruit. A different presenter leads each week. Reservations required.

Brasserie Du Vin, 1115 Bethel St.

Tuesdays, (6PM) \$20 plus tax and gratuity. 545-1115

Whale Watch Lunch Cruise

No, it has nothing to do with fat people. Board Navatek I and take in the sights and sounds of humpback whales over lunch. And because those massive creatures can be so tricky to spot, if none show Navatek promises to cover your next cruise.

Through Sun 4/11, (12PM-2:30PM) \$69; \$35 children. alohatower.com, 973-1311

Wolfgang's Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Special Menus

Do the redux of the traditional holiday turkey meal or mix it up with prime rib.

Wolfgang's Steakhouse, 2301 Kalākaua Ave., 3rd Floor

Thu 12/24, (11:30AM-11:30PM) \$35. 922-3600



Pounding in the New Year

Midnight mochi madness

While mochi in Hawai'i is eaten year round, it's fundamental to the celebration of Japanese New Year. Sweet sticky rice is steamed, then pounded, often at a temple or church as part of a ceremony welcoming the New Year. Following the pounding, the fresh mochi (mochitsuki) is used to make ozoni soup to be eaten at midnight, in the first few moments of the New Year, to provide strength and endurance for the upcoming year. Sweet rice cakes are created from the pounded dough as well, some for offerings, others for eating fresh.

On O'ahu there are several places one can visit to participate in the ceremony, which takes place this next week, just prior to New Year's. This is a wonderful local food tradition well worth preserving and enjoying—check it out!

—Laurie V. Carlson

Tenri Cultural Center, 2236 Nu'uuanu Avenue, Wed 12/30, starting after services around 7AM, 595-6523

Aiea Hongwanji Mission, 99-186 Puakala Street, 'Aiea, Sun 12/27, 8-11AM, 487-2626

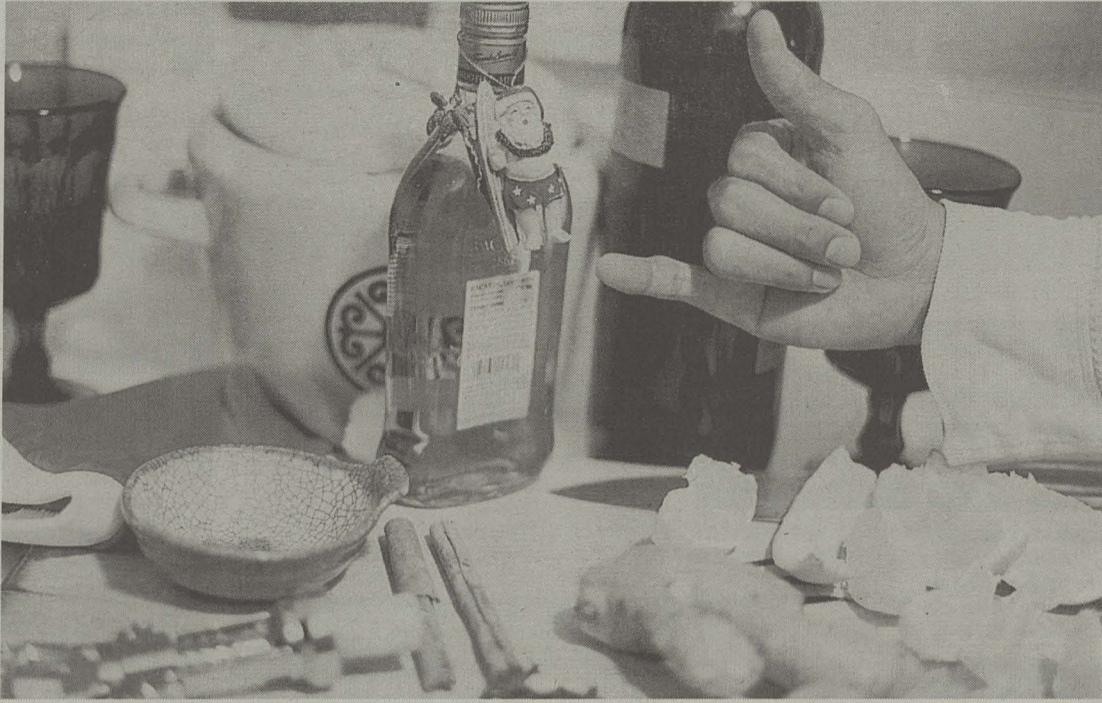
Mō'ili'ili Hongwanji, 902 University Avenue, Sun 1/17, 10:15AM, 949-1659

If you can't make it to an official mochi pounding, you can at least enjoy some fresh local mochi from Nisshodo Candy Store. It is famous for filled mochi with names like chichi dango, tsunami, sakura. Call and order before going, or risk disappointment. The shelves are bare at this time of year! 1095 Dillingham Blvd., Ste. 15, 847-1244

Food & Drink

JIANCA LAZARUS

Some like it hot and spicy



Holiday drinks to light your inner Yule log

MARGOT SEETO

We're wearing long sleeves. Not just the sleeves of thin, button-down shirts that can pass for jackets the rest of the year, but even sweaters and scarves. Holiday time is here! And to the booze lover, that means an excuse to introduce more drinks into the imbibing rotation. When the rain and wind hit in the early-coming darkness, the thought of shelter and a warm, spicily sweet drink is comforting. While it may not be cold enough for many bars and restaurants to introduce hot holiday booze menus for the entire season, customers may find pleasant surprises of seasonal specials from time to time. Just ask.

But cauldrons of holiday brews don't require too much magic to appear. Whether to impress at a holiday party or to solely impress the party in your mouth, here are a few affordable, easy ways to make the magic happen.

Mulled wine

Grab a couple of bottles of cheap red wine (cabernet sauvignon should work fine, although absolute bottom-shelf quality bottles may not turn out the way you want). Gently pour the bottles in a large pot. In cheesecloth (or freestyle it and strain the ingredients later), wrap a peeled and sliced orange (some recipes call for just the peel, just the zest or orange juice. Use whatever is convenient for you, though too much white orange rind may make the wine bitter), a cinnamon stick or two and about 10 cloves. Stir in some nutmeg, ground ginger and sugar (brown works well, too). Other holiday spices are welcome, such as cinnamon and/or cardamom. Just use what you like.

Let the mixture heat over low until just steaming—perhaps 45 minutes to an hour, stirring occasionally. The holiday scent will fill your dwelling space and a mug full of your newly spiced creation will be perfect for warming people up to each other or

simply your insides for a cozy movie-watching marathon.

The warm, spiced wine doesn't actually need that much time to mull. While some recipes require a slow cooker, a large pot kept over low heat should suffice. Just make sure that the wine doesn't come to a boil. The more-the-merrier principle should apply to what's in your pot, too. Make a lot! Any extra wine you might have left (heaven forbid) will store fine in the fridge in a glass container. The leftover wine makes for a spicy spin on sangria or can be rejuvenated with a zap in the microwave.

Glogg

Mulled wine is the base of the Northern European drink, but incorporates stronger alcohol (sign us up!), more sugar, raisins and almonds. If you think your party can handle it (or needs it), follow the procedure for mulled wine with the different proportions in mind and heat for a longer period of time. However, add the brandy, vodka or whatever hard liquor you want after simmering the wine. The only sound you'll be hearing after serving it will be glogg, glogg, glogg.

Hot cider

This is more than just hot apple juice with some cinnamon and cloves. It's that, plus white wine or brandy. And maybe a little more. While real cider aficionados can make their own hard cider, the fermentation process might be a tad too long for those who still need to go holiday shopping, clean their house and choose a holiday party outfit. Keep it simple: choose pre-made cider or even regular apple juice. Just make sure there are no preservatives and that the liquid is cold-pasteurized for better quality cider. Add the usual suspects (cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, cloves, allspice), orange zest or juice, and sugar or honey. If you're adding white wine, heat it with everything else like mulled wine. If you are adding brandy, rum or other hard alcohol, wait to do so until the other ingredients have simmered together.

Eggnog

Healthy food be damned, holiday time is the perfect time to chug cream and eggs. What's even better is chugging cream and eggs and booze. Equally delicious hot or cold, even adding a dynamite alcohol to cheap, store-bought nog can pack a tasty punch and impress at a party. Try the new Kraken Black Spiced Rum. The 94-proof rum is distilled from fermented molasses, and comes in a bottle with the giant Kraken squid sprawled across it. Sherry, bourbon and brandy are also popular additions to the nog, often with two alcohols making an appearance in the same bowl. Sprinkle with nutmeg for a more homemade appearance. Making your own nog isn't impossible, but will require a lot of mixing, whipping and chilling. While alcohol has the ability to kill some germs, it's not a way to expel bacteria from raw eggs. Find a cooked eggnog recipe (making a custard base first) to keep your salmonella-fearing guests calm. Though if you are an advocate for tradition, at least use the freshest eggs possible and tell your guests that you used raw eggs. Some stores carry pasteurized eggs, as well.

Hot buttered rum

In addition to having a fun name to pronounce, the concept of something hot, fatty and alcoholic sounds like possibly the most delicious drink ever. If you just use hot water, rum and butter, though, you will end up drinking possibly the worst drink ever. Use those holiday spices, a dark rum, unsalted butter and brown sugar. With varying recipes to fit different tastes, the basic procedure calls for mixing the butter, sugar and spices together, adding a generous dollop of the mixture in each serving mug, then adding the rum and boiling water. Some recipes call for adding vanilla extract or vanilla ice cream to the butter mixture. For variations on the fatty drink, try adding a pat of butter to your hot cider. As we know, butter makes everything better. ■



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Classified Index

Phone: 808-534-7024
Fax: 808-528-3144

classifieds@honoluluweekly.com
Online at WeeklyMarketplace.com

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Ad Deadlines

Line Advertising: Copy, space reservations and payment must be submitted before Monday, 10 am.

Display Advertising: Copy, space reservations, art and payment must be submitted by 12 pm on the Thursday prior to publication. Call for rates.

Placing an Ad

By Phone: Call the Classified Department at (808) 534-7024 Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm.

By Fax: Fax your ad 24 hours a day to the Classified Department at (808) 528-3144.

By Mail: Mail your ad to Honolulu Weekly Classifieds, 1111 Fort Street Mall, Honolulu, HI 96813.

By E-Mail: Email your ad copy to classifieds@honoluluweekly.com.

In Person: Visit our offices Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 5 pm at 1111 Fort Street Mall, Honolulu, HI 96813.

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Lance 528-1475x18

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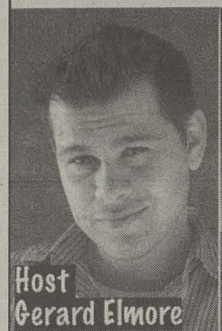
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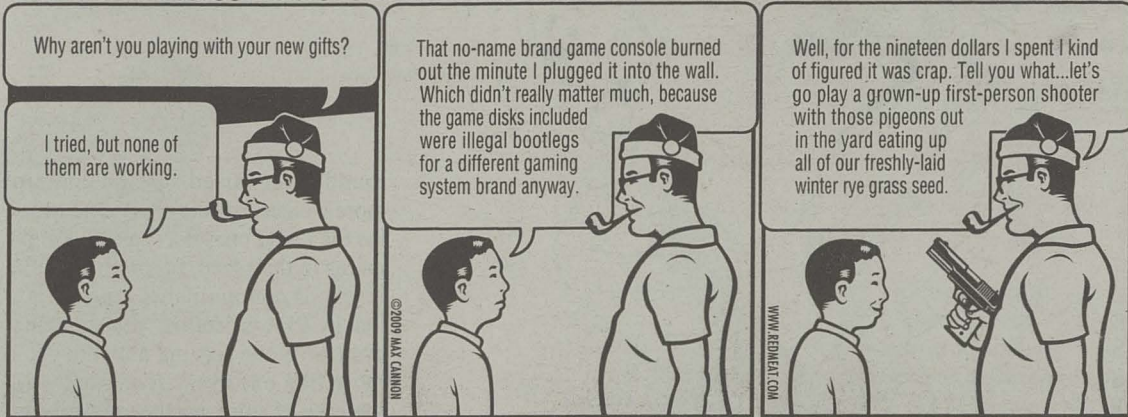
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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Breznsky

ARIES

(March 21-April 19)
What influences do you really, really need to say goodbye to? The next six months will provide you with ample motivation and opportunity to finally bid those farewells. What long-term cycle really, really needs to be drawn to a close, no more hemming and hawing, all loose ends tied up and all mixed signals clarified? Again, the time between now and the middle of June will bring you the necessary inspiration to make it happen. But it'll take deep thought and sustained work and an expanded sense of humor, so get started soon.

TAURUS

(April 20-May 20)
According to astronomer Mark Whittle, the Big Bang began in silence. Soon it crescendoed into a majestic major third chord 50 octaves below middle A. Then it transformed, over the course of a million years, into a wistful minor third chord. In my vision of the first two-thirds of 2010, the music of your life will have a similar pattern: It begins with silence. Next, it progresses into a lush major feel, with spirited and complex contrapuntal themes. Then in June, it evolves into a dreamy, contemplative phase. By late September, however—unlike the Big Bang—you will move into a third act, in which the music of your life returns to the lively mood it had at the start, only now with the gravitas that the reflective phase has instilled.

GEMINI

(May 21-June 20)
I have good astrological reasons to suspect that a year from now, your empire will be bigger. The resources you have at your disposal will be more substantial, the influence you wield will be more meaningful, and the responsibilities you oversee will be more demanding. You can't, however, just sit back passively and expect fate to make it all happen for you. You will have to work your assets off: get better organized, clarify your game plan, and commit to taking better care of yourself. None of that is mandatory, of course. Being a lazy wanderer with no mission statement is definitely an option. If you do go in that direction, though, don't complain to me next December about how you feel like you're made of cookie dough.

CANCER

(June 21-July 22)
You will need to learn a lot in 2010, Cancerian. You'll be in a phase of your long-term cycle when it will be wise to enhance your problem-solving skills and increase the knowledge you have at your disposal. So let me ask you: What can you do to gently shock yourself into prying open your mind? What is it that you don't know but need to know? By the way, the coming year will also be a good time for you to offer yourself up as a teacher. In fact, sharing your knowledge and problem-solving skills will make you more receptive to what you need to learn.

LEO

(July 23-Aug. 22)
Do you know any world travelers, shamanic healers, or visionary entrepreneurs? If not, there's a good chance you'll meet some in 2010, possibly even forge alliances with them. Crafty activists, brilliant artists, and deep thinkers may come your way, as well. Another possibility is that cohorts and comrades you've been linked to for some time will embark on mind-expanding quests that blow your mind as well as theirs. One way or another, Leo, the coming year will bring you more than the usual benefits and challenges that come from being in relationships.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
I was in my first rock band in North Carolina in the 1970s. We did a mix of cover tunes by David Bowie, Lou Reed, and Patti Smith, plus original hippie-punk songs and my poetry rants. Controversy arose virtually every time we performed, especially in places like the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh (where we competed with the cacophony of mooing cows) and frat parties (where we endured the shouted insults of drunken jocks). It wasn't

until I moved to California that I synced up with an audience that appreciated my idiosyncratic musical sensibilities. According to my reading of the omens, Virgo, 2010 could bring you a comparable transition: finding listeners or hooking up with collaborators who are a better fit for your unique qualities.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
I'm always befuddled by astrologers who preach the gospel of doom and gloom when they talk about the influence of Saturn. My experience is that the ringed planet provides the greatest gift imaginable: motivation to become the person you were born to be. It pressures you away from pursuing goals that aren't in alignment with your soul's code. It pressures you to give up vain fantasies that even if fulfilled wouldn't make you happy. That's why I'm happy to report to you the following good news: As Saturn travels through your sign for much of the time between now and October 2012, I expect that you will be prompted and prodded to cut away the irrelevancies that distract you from claiming your birthright.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Comedian Chris Rock has a joke that plays on the stereotypes about your sign: "Most Scorpios die while they're making love!" (Only he uses the f-word instead of "making love.") I understand the source of his satire. There are more than a few grains of truth in the notion that Scorpios revel in the enigmas of eros and death. On the other hand, I wouldn't reduce your mystique to such a simple formula. I'd prefer to say something like this: You're sexy when you're letting go of your staunch self-control. Or: You're an expert at transcending humdrum modes of awareness by stimulating intense pleasure. Or: If fully harnessed, your orgasmic power could kill off any destructive compulsions you might be harboring. And by the way, 2010 will be one of the best years ever for you to cash in on these capacities.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
According to my analysis of your astrological omens, 2010 isn't a year to get your head in the clouds, but rather to grow deeper roots. Your job, as I see it, isn't so much to explore the heights, but the depths. I think you should focus on getting to the bottom of things, not the top. Your instrument of choice should be a microscope, not a telescope. Your specialty won't be playing spectacular guitar solos but rather groovacious bass lines.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
I'm happy to announce that 2010 could be the year when you become a more expert communicator. It's not that you do a bad job now; it's just that there is always room for improvement, and this will be an excellent time to attend to that. Life will be bringing you an abundance of experiences that will help you learn to listen better, cultivate more tact, read people's body language like a pro, and consistently speak about the elusive truth with language that's both kind and effective.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
I've known some practical, sensible, well-grounded Aquarians in my life. They're outnumbered, though, by the dominant sub-type of your tribe: the imaginative, idiosyncratic improvisers with lightning reflexes and high-flying notions. But even if you belong to the latter group, in 2010 you'll be gaining the capacities of the former. In fact, I think this will be the year you get more things done than you ever have before. Attention to detail will be your specialty. You're likely to excel in mastering the part of genius that's comprised of 98 percent perspiration.

PISCES

(Feb. 19-March 20)
The pop star Pink is a successful singer. Not only does she have a great voice; she has also sold 32 million records and won two Grammys. Recently she added what I think is an extraneous element to her live performances: a trapeze act. At the MTV Video Music Awards last September, she delivered her song "Sober" while swinging through the air and hanging upside down 60 feet off the ground. I myself, perplexed as I watched her, thinking to myself, "Doesn't she have confidence that her song and her singing can stand alone?" In 2010, Pisces, I urge you not to follow her lead. There's no need for you to go way overboard as you try too hard to give too much. Just sing your songs.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Breznsky's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES.

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The Straight Dope

By Cecil Adams

Illustration: slug signorino



On the one hand, I want to eat farm-raised salmon because wild salmon is being depleted by overfishing. On the other hand, I hear there are all sorts of pollutants in salmon farms, and farm-raised fish are full of antibiotics. So which is better, farm-raised or wild? —Judith

I've heard most fish served in fast-food eateries is an ugly whiplike critter from the waters off New Zealand. I don't eat at such places but wonder how far up the restaurant scale these things travel. How many fish once considered garbage are now served with a more palatable name? —Chris Schneider, La Jolla, Calif.

Chris, meet Judith—fellow sufferers in a world running out of fish. The difference is Judith seems to recognize our plight and you don't. Since your need is more urgent, we'll eradicate your ignorance first.

Let's begin with your idea that the discriminating diner eats only attractive fish. This is an unusual culinary concept. One concedes that the hoki, the New Zealand fish you refer to, is probably not something you'd want to see in a tank at the dentist's office. (It's long and skinny with undersized fins and is reminiscent of an eel.) However, having had one plopped on my plate, I'm not going to tell the waiter: This critter is far too homely to satisfy my appetites—please

spear me something cuter. The hoki has firm flesh high in omega-3 acids and makes a fine fish sandwich at McDonald's. Equally important, unlike more comely fish, there are (for now) a fair number of them left.

That's the basic problem, you see. Remember the cod, seemingly infinite in number and fished for centuries in the North Atlantic? The fishery collapsed in 1992, the victim of rapacious factory fishing and shortsighted management. The number of cod today is something like one percent of what it was in the 1960s. Forty thousand people were thrown out of work. It's not known when if ever the fishery will recover.

Similarly, the west-coast salmon fishery failed in 2008. The Atlantic bluefin tuna has been reduced to about 15 percent of preindustrial numbers, and fishing has been scaled back; some think even the lower catch will destroy what remains. In a 2006 paper, researchers led by Boris Worm of Canada's Dalhousie University reported that 30 percent of world fisheries had collapsed, with catches falling below 10 percent of the original yield. They projected the remaining commercial fish species would be exhausted by mid-century, meaning no more wild fish, pretty or not.

Given dwindling supplies, it's not surprising that you're running into a bit of bait and

switch. The FDA recently determined that 37 percent of fish and 13 percent of other seafood was mislabeled. As much as 77 percent of so-called red snapper is anything but. The FDA has established guidelines for fish labeling, but thanks to industry lobbying there are plenty of exemptions. This has led to some surreal mislabeling: importers started selling Vietnamese catfish under the brand name Cajun Delight. Other species have been given more appealing monikers as well. The rock crab, once a garbage catch, was reborn as the peekytoe crab. The channel catfish has become the southern trout, dolphinfish is now mahi mahi, and the Patagonian toothfish is now the Chilean sea bass. The Malabar blood snapper was renamed scarlet snapper. The fish known as orange roughly used to be called the slimehead.

So, are less desirable fish finding their way into fancy restaurants? Yes, because increasingly that's all there is left.

As for you, Judith, I've got some bad news and some worse news. The bad news is that, as you've heard, farmed salmon is problematic. Studies from around the world have

found farm-raised salmon contain more cancer-causing PCBs and dioxins than wild ones do, typically originating in their feed. In some cases the levels of contaminants are so high that by EPA guidelines you shouldn't even have one serving a month—it's more like one every five months in the case of some northern European farmed salmon. Researchers estimate that the risk of cancer from contaminants is about three times higher for farmed salmon compared to wild.

Salmon farming is rough on the environment, too. Farm runoff has been linked to increased mercury levels in wild fish nearby. Fish parasites can run rampant in salmon farms and spread into the wild. Fish feces, copper and zinc can contaminate the waters surrounding salmon pens.

Even the good stuff in farmed salmon comes with problems. Yes, farmed salmon contain more oil overall than wild, including heart-friendly omega-3, but a much greater percentage of the oil is in the form of not-so-healthy omega-6.

The worse news is you'd better get used to it. Commercial salmon fishing is gone in the Atlantic, and things don't look promising in the Pacific. In a perfect world wild salmon would be a better choice than farmed. But we had a perfect world as far as fishing was concerned, and we used it up. ■

Subscribe to the *Straight Dope* podcast at the iTunes Store. And send questions to Cecil via straightdope.com or write him at the Chicago Reader, 11 E. Illinois, Chicago 60611.

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment



Dear EarthTalk: What is the current status of whales? How effective is the International Whaling Commission and which countries are involved in illegal whaling?

Jonathan Winate, Yulee, FL

Some larger whale species have been recovering since the dark days before the whaling industry was regulated, but the majority of cetaceans—that is, the distinct order of marine mammals consisting of whales, dolphins and porpoises—are in decline, with some likely headed for extinction in the near term.

According to data collected by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which maintains a "Red List" of threatened or endangered species, two of the largest whale species, humpbacks and southern rights, have rebounded since 1982 when the International Whaling

Commission (IWC) imposed a moratorium on commercial whaling. Based on IUCN's 2008 survey of cetaceans, both species, while still threatened, were upgraded from "Vulnerable" to "Least Concern" status on the Red List. "Humpbacks and southern right whales are making a comeback in much of their range mainly because they have been protected from commercial hunting," says Randall Reeves, IUCN's assessment leader. "This is a great conservation success and clearly shows what needs to be done to ensure these ocean giants survive."

But other cetaceans haven't fared so well. Almost a third of the world's 80-plus cetacean species had their Red List status changed based on the IUCN's 2008 assessment, with the vast majority now considered at greater risk than before. Overall, nearly a quarter of cetacean species are considered threatened, and of those, more

than 10 percent (nine species) are listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered, the highest categories of threat. Reeves says that the real situation could be much worse, as researchers could not obtain enough data on more than half of the world's cetacean species to properly classify their status.

While commercial whaling is what first put cetaceans at risk—the IWC's 1982 moratorium greatly reduced stress on many species—other threats loom larger than ever: Whales the world over withstand ship strikes, habitat deterioration and declining prey. And the smaller cetaceans (dolphins, porpoises and small whales) often drown in huge fishing nets that trawl the ocean scooping up everything in their path.

And of course commercial whaling still goes on despite the moratorium. Norway, Even with its IWC membership, disregards the moratorium and resumed commercial whaling in 1994. Iceland, which initially withdrew from the IWC over the moratorium, began commercial whaling again in 2006. Japan claims to hunt whales for scientific research purposes—but critics say this is just a front to obtain and sell whale meat under the false pretense of species counts. Whalers from several nations, including the U.S., hunt limited amounts of cetaceans for subsistence purposes, but these numbers are very small.

The IWC is a voluntary organization not backed up by any treaty, so its abil-

ity to regulate whaling is limited. Perhaps the biggest factor in nations' willingness to honor the moratorium is the court of public opinion; awareness of the plight of cetaceans has skyrocketed since the 1960s when environmental groups like Greenpeace first began publicizing the threats faced by the largest creatures on the planet.

Today "Save the Whales" might seem like a cliché from bygone days, but with so many cetacean species in decline, it just might be a more needed environmental battle cry than ever before.

CLICK HERE:

IUCN, www.iucn.org;

IWC, www.iwcoffice.org;

Greenpeace, www.greenpeace.org.

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AT THE GYM

GOOD NEWS FOR YOUR WORKOUT

Ever wanted to channel your childlike desire to hit things with sticks, jump around and beat your hands and feet to a frazzle without being yelled at for doing so? With the world-renowned dance-troupe spectacular otherwise known as STOMP coming into town in cacophony, cast member and rehearsal director Donisha Brown is hosting a one-hour **Hip Hop 'n' STOMPin' class**, open to the public.

For those of you who've been shut-in for the past 15 years, STOMP is a physical theater performance incorporating myriad dance moves and styles while creating beats and sounds by thwhacking props, the floor and even body parts. And now you can try it out yourself.

Accomplished dancers or seasoned couch-potatoes will all feel challenged but not over-whelmed at the medium-impact intensity level. The event is being held to benefit the Hawai'i Foodbank, so (along with your dancing shoes), bring canned food or a \$10 donation to let one of the masters educate you on the finer points of burning calories while enjoying the unusual art of body percussion. The class is a continuation of the dance troupe's promise to use their performance to "STOMP out hunger" in every city they pass through.

—Jay Purvis

The Honolulu Club, 932 Ward Ave., Tues 12/29, Reservations recommended, 543-3911.

IN CHINATOWN GOOD NEWS FOR VINTAGE SHOPPERS

A recent addition to Chinatown's collection of locally owned small businesses is Tin Can Mailman, a

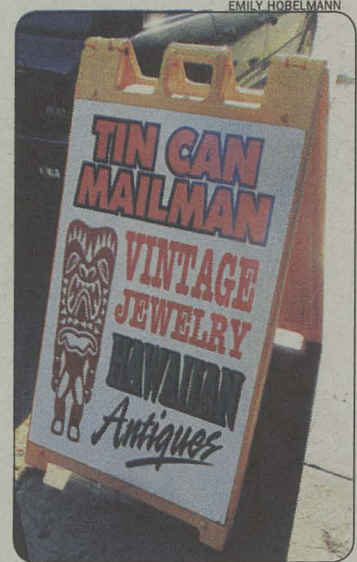
smallish shop on Nu'uuanu Avenue. The store, which houses a gold mine of classic Hawaiian, is a recent transplant from the sleepy town of Kapa'a on Kaua'i. Part-owner Christopher Oswald ran the Kaua'i location for about nine years before making the big move to Honolulu.

About a month ago, the team brought the operation here, shedding what was once a focus on used book offerings in order to concentrate on selling an impressive collection of jewelry, art, vintage clothing, first-edition autographed or otherwise rare collectible books and a number of other items. A big proponent of locally run businesses, Oswald champions a sort of pay-it-forward attitude.

"All your little stores," he says. "Everyone needs to be shopping them right now."

Oswald seems rejuvenated by having relocated to Honolulu, and cites an appreciation for the shift he's seen in customer demographic from tourist-centric to mainly local residents.

As customers wander through the small space, many have the same awe-struck reactions about the merchandise. One woman, a return shopper, enthusiastically points out some of her favorite items in the back room. Two keen younger ladies asked



eagerly about plateware, jewelry and even potential employment, while an older gentleman marveled at the vintage book selection.

Oswald hunts his merchandise down from a variety of locations—he says much of it comes from the mainland, including most of his well-preserved Hawaiian. Indeed, one of the store's crown jewels is the impressive collection of Hawai'i-related ephemera including old ads, calendars, brochures, stationary and sheet music. The shop keeper has obviously put some work into his way of purveying.

Giving gifts from local stores is like gifting twice—to the gift receiver and to the community itself. And if you're aiming for uniqueness and quality, Tin Can Mailman has options a-plenty.

—Emily Hobelmann

Tin Can Mailman, 1026 Nu'uuanu Ave., Mon-Fri 11AM-5PM, Sat 11AM-4PM, closed Sun, www.tincanmailman.net, 524-3009

PSST!

More of a playwright than a poet? It's not too late to enter Kumu Kahua Theatre's annual playwrighting contest. There are three categories of eligible entrants and related prizes of \$600, \$450 and \$250. But don't do it for the money, do it for the fact that Kumu Kahua is an incredible local theater telling stories by and for the people of Hawai'i. If that's not good news, we don't know what is.

Entries must be postmarked no later than January 4, 2010. Visit www.kumukahua.org for more information.

ON THE PAGE

GOOD NEWS FOR POETS

If you're in grades 3-12 and looking for a way to channel some creative energy (or pubescent angst), be sure to submit your original poetry for the **2009-2010 Star Poets Contest** sponsored by Windward Community College and the Hawai'i Council for the Humanities. The competition is looking for budding Bukowskis and encourages poems that explore the struggle of identity that so many of us who survived middle and high school have tried to forget (well, those of us who sat at the "weird kid" table at lunch, anyway. We digress).

There's a \$50 prize for the best five poets in each grade and \$100 at stake for the top winner's school, as a way to say thank you to the educators who never balked at the margins scribbling haikus in the margins of notes during class.

Besides cash prizes, the competition provides winners with an invaluable opportunity to be published in both *Star Poets Journal* and Website, as well as a spot in a May awards ceremony to read their poems to the public. The money may go by way of the mail, but the chance for a student's poetry to be published and heard will prove to be the lasting prize for any young, aspiring writer. The deadline is January 29th, so if you or someone you know fancies themselves a word-

start be sure to encourage them to start working on their poetry now.

Older poets also have an opportunity for recognition in 2010. Hawai'i Pacific University is seeking entries for the **James M. Vaughan Award for Poetry**, which honors a Hawai'i writer for an outstanding poem or group of poems. The winner will receive \$250 and have his or her works published in *Hawai'i Pacific Review* literary magazine. This contest has an even sooner

deadline—December 31—so put pen to paper and let the poetry flow.

—J.P.

Star Poets contest: For more information on rules, regulations and specifics on awards, go to windward.hawaii.edu/poets or contact Janine Oshiro at 236-9231

HPU contest: For more information, contact Dr. Patrice M. Wilson, award coordinator, at pwilson@hpu.edu or 544-1108

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THE FLOATING CITY

Stray moments, things seen and overheard, chance encounters.

Tong's, Wednesday, 2PM
She's visiting O'ahu from a smallish town outside of London. It's her first time in Hawai'i, and she's beginning to pick up on little bits of the local vernacular—some words and phrases more authentic than others. But it's a week for learning and, out for a surfing lesson with her longtime surfer fiancé, she's desperate to catch a wave. On one particularly rough attempt, she tumbles off of her board, which then smacks her in the head. Gripping the board and rubbing her throbbing head, her inevitable tears are a mix of frustration and determination. She begins to think she's too much of an outsider to catch a wave bound for Hawaiian shores. "Why can't I do this?" she sighs. "I don't—I'm just—I'm such a hoolie!" Her fiancé can't help smile, and she can't either, once he gently reminds her that the word she's thinking of is "haole," actually. But "hoolie" or not, the girl won't give up. Eventually, she's rewarded for her doggedness. Up on the board with a bump on her head and a smile on her face, she rides her first wave.

Send your found moments to floatingcity@honoluluweekly.com, or call 528-1475, ext. 24. Just be sure to mention "The Floating City" in your message. We'll even write it up for you. Photos always welcome.

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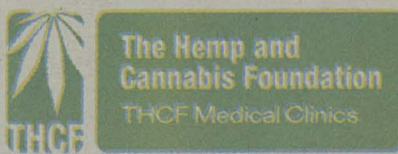
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THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2009 THE YEAR IN CRAZY
 PART THE FIRST

FEB. 24: IN HIGH-PROFILE SPEECH BOBBY JINDAL MOCKS "SOMETHING CALLED VOLCANO MONITORING."
 A MONTH LATER, VOLCANO ERUPTION IN ALASKA SENDS ASH CLOUDS 50,000 FEET INTO THE AIR.

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JAN. 11: JOE THE PLUMBER OPINES--
 "I DON'T THINK JOURNALISTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED ANYWHERE NEAR WAR...I THINK MEDIA SHOULD BE ABOLISHED FROM, YOU KNOW, REPORTING!"

MONTH OF MARCH: RIGHT-WING BLOGGERS START THREATENING TO "GO GALT." WE'LL TAKE OUR PRODUCTIVITY AND GO HOME!
 AMERICANS SOMEHOW RESIST URGE TO PANIC.

APR. 16: GOV. PERRY SUGGESTS TEXAS COULD SECEDE FROM UNION. WE LOVE AMERICA SO MUCH, WE'RE READY TO DESTROY IT!

JUNE 16: "FAMILY VALUES" REPUBLICAN JOHN ENSIGN CAUGHT IN SEX SCANDAL. OOPS!
 JUNE 24: "FAMILY VALUES" REPUBLICAN MARK SANFORD CAUGHT IN SEX SCANDAL. MY BAD!

JAN. 20: CHIEF JUSTICE FLUBS OATH OF OFFICE; WINGNUTS FLIP OUT. OBAMA DIDN'T SAY THE MAGIC WORDS! HE'S NOT REALLY PRESIDENT!

ALSO: WINGNUTS NOTICE THAT PRESIDENTS USE TELEPROMPTERS; APPARENTLY THIS IS NEWS TO THEM.
 HA HA! HIM NOT SO SMART! HIM READ WORDS OFF FUNNY SCREEN!

APRIL 22: CORNERED BY GUEST, SEAN HANNITY RELUCTANTLY AGREES TO BE WATERBOARDED FOR CHARITY.
 SURE...NO BIG DEAL... HEH HEH... NEVER FOLLOWS THROUGH.

JUNE 17: HOUSE REPUBLICANS COMPARE SELVES TO IRANIAN DISSIDENTS. WE ARE JUST LIKE THEM, BUT WITH MORE SEX SCANDALS.

JAN. 22: OBAMA TAKES SECOND OATH OF OFFICE-- BUT WITHOUT A BIBLE. WINGNUTS FLIP OUT. THEY DIDN'T USE THE MAGIC BOOK! HE'S STILL NOT REALLY PRESIDENT!

APRIL 9: NOT-AT-ALL CRAZY GLENN BECK PRETENDS TO POUR GAS ON A GUY AND LIGHT HIM ON FIRE.
 NOT MUCH WE CAN ADD TO THAT.

APRIL 28: MICHELLE BACHMANN NOTES THAT LAST SWINE FLU OUTBREAK ALSO BEGAN UNDER DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT, CALLS IT "INTERESTING COINCIDENCE."
 ACTUALLY LAST OUTBREAK BEGAN UNDER GERALD FORD--AS IF IT REMOTELY MATTERS...

JUNE 29: 200+ PEOPLE SHOW UP FOR "TAKE YOUR GUN TO CHURCH DAY" IN KENTUCKY. PRAISE THE LORD AND PASS THE AMMUNITION!
 NEXT WEEK! MORE CRAZY!

Bob Green
 BLOGS ABOUT MOVIES
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