The Return
Hawai‘i’s ambassadors of storytelling renew a respect for roots.

p 13

Face It
The John Young Museum takes the mask off Korean culture.

p 31

Roman Holiday
Sabrina’s Ristorante serves up a bewitching brand of simplicity.

p 25
A Better Way To Print.

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Running with the devils

The fact that you guys constantly present such unfounded criticism of M. Gabbard of course proves your own fanaticism. It’s a shame Honolulu Weekly doesn’t even seem to be anything other than a mouthpiece for the true hatemongers of Hawai’i — those who try to promote such religious bigotry against individuals who are simply, sincerely working for traditional family values in the public sphere.

Phil Barnett, via email

Hidden Treasure

I’d like to comment on the recent write-up about Malia Mattch and her friends traveling around “No Such Buried Treasure,” HW, 8/9.

First of all, have you ever been to a Chinese restaurant that wasn’t welliggins and has a Chinese establishment of that size ever had candiedlert? And with regard to a well-earned, even sterile feel, didn’t Malia find that cleanliness was refreshing knowing that the food was prepared in an immaculate environment?

How about the adjective she relied upon from her friends to describe the quality of the food? I hardly think “nice” or “light” or “spicy” would serve as a full description of why the ingredients may have missed the mark. Malia seems to find a well-seasoned Chinese food dinner to eat out with if she must count on their opinion versus those with an uneducated palate.

Malia, may I suggest you stick to the news, or take a lesson from Joanne Fujita, a very avid and studied woman who knows her cuisine!

Joanne Fujita, via email

Metaphysical Summary

The Academy of Arts brings in a exhibit on dinosaurs, isn’t it proud to live in Hawai’i. False.

K. M. Stoker
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**Delighted?**

Only two months ago, it appeared that the state Board of Education was set to approve changes to administrative rules in order to protect student of the changes, we now, however, that a handful of BOE members are uncomfortable with the revised meeting times and agendas that was to be included.

Winston Sakurai, Windward District board member and chair of the BOE’s Student Services Committee, told Honolulu Weekly that as many as five members of the 13-member board would object to him with concerns about the wording of the sexual-orientation language. “At our committee meeting in late September, we will decide whether to stay with the current proposal, modify it and send it back to the full board, or send it back to the Department of Education for additional scrutiny,” Sakurai adds that he personally wants more information about sexual orientation harassment, for example, statistics of actual incidences in Hawaii schools. That’s odd: Board of Education has data this spring and summer from dozens of groups in support of the rules that stated that realism, gay, and biological and transgender youth are targets. Lingle - seven vocal minorities is support of the rules changes starkly illus to the BOE to “stop the gay deception,” and was ridiculed when he was not permitted to say it to the board.

**Hearings theft?**

If the U.S. Congress gets accurate reports about the 112. It’s true, the BOE has been known to swap meeting times and agendas at the last minute.

—Chad Blair

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**Pellet's a second, give a big thanks to North Shore City Councilmember Rene Manusho, and then pull together for the next step in saving the Arboretum.**

The arboretum at Waimea has 6,000 species of Native Hawaiian plants, all of which are already extinct in the wild. It is a world-class scientific resource, and we have watched in dismay over the past four years as the situation deteriorated. "(On the Verge," IW 8/30; "Waimea Woes," IW 1/13/99; "The Bears Are Hibernating" Act again," IW 8/30). Both the Chair of the Council's budget committee, Manusho will preside at a hearing on the resolution at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13, at the Council Committee Room on the second floor of Honolulu Hale (City Hall), 530 South King Street.

"Business as usual" or partisan politics simply must have to be set aside. We need to work together to save this priceless resource. Testimony in support of saving the valley can be faxed to 527-5733; refer in your testimony to Resolution 00-176. Written testimony submitted is overwhelmingly in favor of the bill.

The opposition was minimized out the records of the hearings as proof of the Akaka Bill’s chances. The point of the opposition, as one protestor’s sign read, was “Total Opposition for Kanaka Maoli.” (KHON News, 8/28). But, conservative religious groups and Japanese American Citizens League, among other opponents, have made it clear that they do not want the bill to pass.

The opposition was minimized out the records of the hearings as proof of this point. The opposition was minimized out the records of the hearings as proof of this point.

Robert M. Rees

**Publisher's appeal**

Let’s pause a second, give a big thanks to North Shore City Councilmember Rene Manusho, and then pull together for the next step in saving the Arboretum. The arboretum at Waimea has 6,000 species of Native Hawaiian plants, all of which are already extinct in the wild. It is a world-class scientific resource, and we have watched in dismay over the past four years as the situation deteriorated. "(On the Verge," IW 8/30; "Waimea Woes," IW 1/13/99; "The Bears Are Hibernating" Act again," IW 8/30). Both the Chair of the Council's budget committee, Manusho will preside at a hearing on the resolution at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13, at the Council Committee Room on the second floor of Honolulu Hale (City Hall), 530 South King Street.

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The opposition was minimized out the records of the hearings as proof of this point. The opposition was minimized out the records of the hearings as proof of this point.
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A dream team of Cuban musicians. The ultimate Latin dance party concert!

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How this came about is worth knowing.

ELECTION OF NOV. 3, 1998

It was the Democrats who provided inspiration to the Republicans for the creation of the voting fraud lie. When Democrat Merwyn Jones lost to Republican Emily Auwae by 21 votes in the race to represent District 44 in the state House, Democratic Party Chair Walter Heen, noting that 157 ballots had been disqualified due to overvoting, protested. With the sort of unreasoned overreach that typifies Heen's efforts, a Nov. 23 motion asked the state Supreme Court not for a recount, but for an invalidation of the results.

Fighting against the Democratic Party's motion were Attorney General Mergery Bronster, who saw it as her duty to circle the wagons around the misdeeds of the state, and the Republican Party, eager to protect the victory of Auwae. In a maneuver she would later deny having made, Bronster submitted statistical evidence to proffer that the anomalous voting pattern for District 44 was nothing to be alarmed about because it was due to the educational levels of Wai'anae voters.

The court declined to invalidate the election, but it did order a recount of the votes tallied by the suspect voting machine, No. 194. It was during this recount, between Jan. 7 and Jan. 11, 1999, that the state's Office of Elections and the AG's Office incurred the wrath of Sen. Colleen Hanabusa of Wai'anae.

Hanabusa represents Senate District 21, which includes House District 44. Part of her overwhelming landslide of 8,201 to 1,611 votes had come from machine No. 194. Therefore, while they were at it, chief election officer Dwayne Yoshina and deputy AG Aaron Schulaner decided to recount Hanabusa's votes. Hanabusa heard about it while it was happening, and rushed to the scene to point out that any handling of original ballots must include witnesses for the candidates.

The state, for some reason, resisted this. On Jan. 19, Hanabusa wrote to Bronster with a strong complaint about the state's secretive and defensive handling of the whole situation, including Bronster's implication that Leeward residents were too dumb to vote. Bronster, puffed up with hubris, chose not to reply.

Hanabusa, concerned about what seemed a wall of silence, called for an inquiry and for a recount of all the returns. Gov. Ben Cayetano and Walter Heen, feuding with Hanabusa on other matters, opposed the idea, but the state Senate scheduled a hearing on the topic for Feb. 8.

The Republicans couldn't have asked for more. Having missed the Nov. 30 deadline for challenging election results because they had been in court defending the results, the Republicans realized that it was now to their advantage to smear the election process. They began to float the idea that the Democrats had somehow rigged the election to engineer a slim 5,253 vote margin for Cayetano in the governor's race.

REPORTER DREAM TEAM

The Republicans had just the right people. First, there was the candidate herself. Lingle already had demonstrated an affinity for the use of smears. During the campaign, when her manager, Bob Awana, accused the Cayetano forces of sending out an anonymous letter concerning Lingle's sexual orientation, Lingle went along even though she had seen the letter, knew it wasn't about her sexual orientation and wasn't from the Cayetano camp.

The whole contrivance seemed a convenient way for Lingle to attack Cayetano while at the same time riding high on a momentum that had followed her for years. In return for ideas like this, the Lingle campaign paid Awana, under the assumed name of NORfolk Consulting, almost $100,000 in 1998.

Advising Lingle and Awana about "communications" was Kitty Lagareta, the director of a public relations agency, Communications-Pacific, that was paid at least $76,000 by the Lingle campaign in 1998. Communications-Pacific, an outfit Lagareta put recently in a pitch for new business, is "an associate office of Hill and Knowlton, one of the largest and most experienced public-relations companies in the world.

Actually, Hill and Knowlton Inc. is one of the most notorious public relations companies in the world, and was once featured by Business Ethics magazine in an article called "Lying for a Living."

Like her associates, Lagareta believes in spin. For example, after Communications-Pacific was fired by HRL, the Mormon-owned business in Hawai'i, Lagareta told the gay and lesbian publication in Chicago, Out, that her firm had re-signed the account rather than work against same-sex marriage. Yet the presidents at the time of both HRL and Communications-Pacific have stated that the PR agency was canned. In fact, the then-chairman of Communications-Pacific, Rick Ziegler, even tried to rescue the account. Lagareta's motive for her version might have been that Hill and Knowlton had just opened a gay and lesbian marketing arm, and wanted to appear to Out magazine to be on the right side of the issue.

Also working with Lingle was the husband-and-wife team of Miriam and Philip Hellerreich, Republican activists and donors. According to the Republican National Committee's co-chair for communications, Michael Levy, it was Miriam, then a local representative to the RNC, who had had the most to do with spreading the rumor that the Democratic Party in Hawai'i is anti-Semitic.

Miriam's spouse, Phil, is the legislative chair and the presidential-elect of the Hawai'i Medical Association. Following the campaign, he was part of the recent decision at the HMA to hire Lagareta's PR firm for the HMA at a reported monthly fee of $5,000. Another bid for the same job had come in at only $1,050.

On the fringe of this hard-core group was the attention-seeking state Senator Sam Slosman. Apparently cooperating with Slosman at the time was another media hicks, Malia Zimmerman of Pacific Business News and Rick Hamada of KHVR 830 AM morning radio.
The Smear Makers

BLOWING SMOKE
This Republican dream team launched a concerted effort to create the impression that the election had been stolen from Lingle. Only eight days after the election, for example, Rick Hamada’s morning radio show featured discussions with Lingle and with an FBI agent, John Gilliam.

Hamada didn’t ask, and Lingle didn’t say, which concerns had been “well documented.” A blitzkrieg was launched in February 1999. Awana—who during the campaign had said he could not find a basis for “manage­ment” sense, that the crackpot letter about Lingle had come from the Cayetano offices—jumped in with a claim that he personally could cite 34 instances of voter fraud. (When later questioned by the Honolulu Advertiser, he said that only six of these were apocalyptically true.) Hamada weighed in with a “re­count” rally at the state Capitol. (Maika Zimmerman and Pacific Business News, in covering the rally, reported that there had been a crowd of “250 business people,” but the actual count was less than 100.) On Feb. 8, in preparation for Senate hearings that evening, the 12 Republicans in the House re­leased their letter to U.S. Attorney Steve Alm, asking for federal in­tervention. The letter, in what was to become a theme of the year, said that noncitizens had voted in the election. No evidence was offered. The letter was sent after the Jan. 22 hearing of the Senate committee hearing Laga­reta proceeded to viciously attack Dwayne Yoshina, the chief elections officer, and Tom Esch­berger, a vice-president of the company Election Systems & Soft­ware, which had supplied the elec­tion equipment and the software.

Asked Laga­reta, “Was Mr. Yoshina also unaware that Tom Esch­berger ... was indicted in a voting machine fraud scandal in Arkansas in 1995 that sent the sec­retary of state, a man named Bill McCaan, to federal prison?” The false immunity of this ques­tion, that Esch­berger had been in­volved in an election fraud, was staggering. What actually hap­pened was that Esch­berger had gone into business to sell used vot­ing machines. His partner was in­dicted for using the business to launder money, and Esch­berger was twice offered immunity in ex­change for his testimony and a plea of guilty. Esch­berger refused, he says today, because “I was in­correct.” Subsequently, the pros­ecutors provided Esch­berger with immunity without a plea of guilty.

Lagareta, having smeared Esch­berger, linked Yoshina by de­manding, “I want an investigation of the relationship between Mr. Esch­berger and Mr. Yoshina.” Esch­berger later threatened Laga­reta with legal action, and La­gareta, on the advice of her attor­ney, sent a letter of apology. Says Esch­berger today, “The whole thing was devastating to me and my family ....” What they have done to Dwayne Yoshina is ap­alling. He is beyond reproof. I knew him for eight months be­fore he would even let me buy him a beer, and that was only af­ter he bought me one at the Kanai’a airport.”

On Feb. 10, surrounded by con­trovery, the Senate committee reasonably voted for a recount. It was to begin on March 9, and the dream team took advantage of the remaining time. For example, PBN weighed in on Feb. 12 with more misleading than non­reportage. Among other things, Zimmerman cited a Chinatown bookie who had said the fix was in. Zimmerman concluded by claiming, “The bookie would not return calls to PBN.” As it turned out, Zimmerman’s source for this fantasy had admon­ished her it was all hearsay, and had asked Zimmerman not to use it. Further, the source maintains that he did not provide Zimmer­man with the name or phone num­ber of a bookie, nor did he tell Zimmer­man he would ask the bookie to call. PBN then transformed this single apocalyptical incident into multi­ple instances. Reported PBN, “Complaints were of ... Chinatown bookies ... saying the results were fixed.” When another reporter for PBN, Jim Marumoto, almost immediately announced, people just knew there was fraud. For example, like a victim of cognitive dissonance, House Minority Leader Marumoto, almost immediately after congratulating the Advertiser on a recycling of the demonstrably false assertions ofモ and Bob Awana that aliens had voted. Written Marumoto, “Your March 17 editorial on the election process misses the point. You called the results of the gener­al election recount ‘highly reassuring.’ Our main concern was not that the results not was correct, but that illegal ballots were counted correctly.”

NEW REPUBLICAN WEAPON
Just prior to the recount, the dream team had introduced a new weapon to the political Integrity Project of Washington, D.C. VIP, a nonprofit and allegedly nonpartisan organization that professes to safeguard America’s election processes, was urged by the dream team to observe the March 1999 recount in Hawai‘i.

VIP is easy to dismiss as a right-wing organization whose purpose is to create voting-fraud controversy where it will benefit Republicans in tight races. Says Larry Sabato, professor of polit­ical science at the University of Virginia, “It’s clearly a conserva­tive Republican organization.” Sabato notes that VIP has got­ter involved mostly in close races “where there was a Democratic seat under siege by two high­profile candidates.”

On the other hand, VIP’s co­founder and president, Deborah Phillips, seems genuinely con­cerned that VIP, founded in 1996 as a reaction to the National Vot­ing Registration Act, be nonparti­san. Phillips is a conservative Re­publican who once worked for Chuck Colson’s Prison Fellow­ship, grew up in Washington, D.C., where her mother was a high­level Democratic activist. Remem­bers Phillips, “If you stuck out in a crowd of Republicans, some­body put a stamp on it.”

Phillips is insistent that VIP is being used correctly by Hawai‘i. However, when he asked what VIP (found in Hawai‘i) in March 1999, Phillips provides answers sharply different than those the Republican dream team had claimed to be her answers. Phillips, in an interview on July 22, said there is no investigation, and no fraud of which she is aware. Surprisingly, she spoke highly of Yoshina and his co­workers. Says Phillips, “Often fail­ures in election equipment are due to failures in training, and election offices are underfunded.”

When told that Sen. Slom is talking about ongoing VIP “invest­igation into voter fraud for which there is irrefutable” evi­dence, Phillips said, “I am very concerned, but that illegal ballots were counted correctly.”
Fund, an editorial writer for The Wall Street Journal. Fund, described by Salon magazine as a "crackpot," was invited by Slom to visit Hawai'i.

According to Jim Hall, a friend of Slom's for 30 years, Slom wanted to keep election fraud alive and was hoping that Fund would do an editorial on this. Fund couldn't deliver on this, but he later did produce an editorial blasting the Cayetano administration and praising the efforts of Slom, Zimmerman and Hamada. (On the Journal's Internet edition, the first appearance of the editorial on March 22, was accompanied by a letter of support from Phillips of VIP.)

In addition to letting themselves be manipulated and used, Phillips and VIP let themselves be come into a public relations Ponzi scheme. Never before had anyone written so much about VIP as PBN. In return, on April 1, VIP gave Malia Zimmerman an "Electrical Integrity Award." John Fund made the presentation. In announcing its award, VIP cited as a credential the award previously given to Zimmerman by Slom and the Small Business Hawai'i lobby with which Slom is synonymous.

Showing how these Ponzi schemes can pay off, the award from VIP, partially generated by an award from Slom, was later cited by Honolulu Magazine as proof of Zimmerman's credibility after she had been fired by PBN for undisclosed reasons. Wrote Honolulu's editor John Keighron, "In three years at PBN, Zimmerman managed to step on sensitive toes, especially with her stories on voter fraud, which never found a smoking gun amid all the irregularities of the '98 election, but which none the less won an award from the Voter Integrity Project in Washington, D.C." (Italics added.)

At the urging of Slom, VIP attempted to become a regular fixture in Hawai'i, and Phillips recruited Sen. Hanabusa to a smoking gun amid all the irregularities of the '98 election, integrity Project in Washington, D.C." But Phillips wouldn't comment on whether she would fire Slom, and referred questions to Dan Bent, the former U.S. Attorney who is now part of VIP Hawaii's Brett, on three occasions over a two-week period, claimed to be too busy to answer any questions. Finally, on Aug. 18, Phillips e-mailed, "[VIP] is working on trying to locate a substitute bipartisan pair to replace Hanabusa/Slom."

REDIRECTING THE SMEAR

With VIP catching on to how it had been manipulated, the smear makers redirected at least some of their efforts toward an attack on ES&S, the supplier of Hawai'i's election equipment and software. ES&S is a worldwide firm that handles 65 percent of all voting precincts in America.

That ES&S had been hired in 1998 without competitive bids made the company an easy target for innuendo. Lagarreta, in falsely attacking Yoshina and ES&S in her testimony of Feb. 8, 1999, stated, "Mr. Yoshina's most egregious incompetence may have been issuing a nonbid contract to Election Systems & Software without doing his homework."

What no one realized at the time, or for that matter has since, was that Hawai'i's incumbent supplier, Sequoia Pacific, was under attack prior to the 1998 elections by none other than VIP. According to the Web site of the conservative Nevada Policy Research Institute, VIP objected to the use of Sequoia Pacific in Clark County, because its machines are easy to reprogram incorrectly, and there is no hard copy verification.

Yoshina and the Office of Elections rehired ES&S in June 2000, and this provided the smear team a new window of opportunity. Lingle and others falsely claimed there had been no competitive bidding. In fact, two others, Global Election Systems and UniLect, had been invited to compete. They both submitted proposals, but did not put up the mandatory bid bond, a guarantee to stand by their bids.

On June 14, in MidWeek, Lingle said her biggest goal is for "absolute enjoyment and delight.

"The whole audience sobbing with laughter!"
The Honolulu Star-Bulletin

"Shouldn't be missed"
Honolulu Advertiser

"Vibrant and technically amazing."Los Angeles Times

"Absolute enjoyment and delight.
New York Times

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Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." —Carl Sagan

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Concerts

Fiery fingers

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8/Wednesday

**CONTREMPORARY**
Dean & Dean, Chart House (9 p.m.) 940-6221
Jazz Tea, Modzy, Waterfront Express (7 p.m.) 528-0807
Byl Leonard Band, Don Ho's Island Grill (9 p.m.) 933-1007

Herb "Ohta-San" Ono, Queen Kapiolani Hotel (6 p.m.) 324-4441
Lance Orrilo, Chart House (5 p.m.) 940-6221

**Big Wednesday**, Wednesday's (10 p.m.) 988-5115
Redwood (dub & bass, jungle). (6:30 p.m.) 949-6449
Wild Wednedays (hip hop, R&B, house & techno), Elan Hip (4 p.m.) 921-5333

**HAWAIIAN**
R&B, Thursday's (7 p.m.) 992-4422
Midweek, (8 p.m.) 952-6410

**Dancefloor Democracy,** Herb "Local Folk" Gordon Freitas, Dean J.P. Smoketrain, Tommy Miller, Bongo Tribe, 955-7383 (9 p.m.) 599-4450
**Society of Seven (SOS),** (6:30 & 8:30 p.m.) 922-6408
**NIGHTCLUB SHOW**
**L A T I N**
Anita Hall, 922-3734
Jazz Aziza & the Betty Lou Taylor Trio, Veranda, Kuhio Mandarin Oriental (7 p.m.) 928-8118
**Jazz Aziza & the Betty Lou Taylor Trio, Veranda, Kuhio Mandarin Oriental (7 p.m.) 928-8118**

**Latin America**
Lorette Ables & the Betty Lou Taylor Trio, Veranda, Kuhio Mandarin Oriental (7 p.m.) 928-8118
**Zz**
Lorette Ables & the Betty Lou Taylor Trio, Veranda, Kuhio Mandarin Oriental (7 p.m.) 928-8118
Fernandez, Don Ho's Island Grill (9 p.m.) 933-1007
**LATIN**
Zone Latino, Jervina Gabriel (5 p.m.) 924-4277
Rolando Sanchez & Selena Hawaii, Aqua (8 p.m.) 390-6512
**LATIN NIGHTCLUB SHOW**
Hospital, Espana Nightclub (9 p.m.) 922-4422
Society of Seven (SOS), Overguard Waterfront (9 p.m.) 924-4422
Yeal, Overguard Tattoo Rooms (6:30 & 8:30 p.m.) 922-4422
**REGAL**
Gaan Jam (various artists), Don Ho's Island Grill (9 p.m.) 928-6407
**ROCK / R&B**
Bongo Tribe, Aqua (9 p.m.) 924-7711
Soul Basket, Hard Rock Cafe (9:30 p.m.) 923-7311
**voKaLs**
Kahlo, Chart House (7 p.m.) 316-1490

**9/Saturday**
**BlUES**
J.P. Snookums, Kickstand Cafe (8 p.m.) 924-0123
**COMEDY**
Kevin Hughes Show, Wally's Tiki Room & Bar (8 p.m.) 924-7711
**LATIN**
Rolando Sanchez & Selena Hawaii, Don Ho's Island Grill (9 p.m.) 933-1007

**THE SCENE**

**The Zoo** (hip hop, R&B, house & techno), World Cafe (7 p.m.) 549-4493
Perpetual Records, Veranda, Kuhio Mandarin Oriental (7 p.m.) 928-8118
Austina Genna Keenan, Hawaiian Regency Lobby Bar (6:30 p.m.) 923-7311
Malan, Makai Bar, Royal Hawaiian (6:30 p.m.) 923-7311
Timothy Kalani, Salvation Army, Waikiki (7 p.m.) 382-5061
Stevie Burks, Don Ho's Island Grill (9 p.m.) 933-1007

**Jazz Aziza & the Betty Lou Taylor Trio, Veranda, Kuhio Mandarin Oriental (7 p.m.) 928-8118**

**L A T I N**
Lorette Ables & the Betty Lou Taylor Trio, Veranda, Kuhio Mandarin Oriental (7 p.m.) 928-8118
Timothy Kalani, Salvation Army, Waikiki (7 p.m.) 382-5061
Stevie Burks, Don Ho's Island Grill (9 p.m.) 933-1007

**Rock & Roll**
**KOOL & GARDEN**
Bongo Tribe, Icicle Saloon (9 p.m.) 924-7711
Picasso Babushkas, Gordon Room (9 p.m.) 959-4877
Paulo Jonas (featuring Beagle & Mo Blues), Areia Banana's (9 p.m.) 941-1988
**ROCK / R&B**
Bongo Tribe, Icicle Saloon (9 p.m.) 924-7711
**COMEDY**
Kevin Hughes Show, Wally's Tiki Room & Bar (8 p.m.) 924-7711
**LATIN**
Rolando Sanchez & Selena Hawaii, Don Ho's Island Grill (9 p.m.) 933-1007

**8/FRIDAY**
**ALTERNATIVE**
**STAR 98**
Pipevine Cafe (9 p.m.) 928-8118
**COMEDY**
Karlie Hughes Show, Wally's Tiki Room & Bar (8 p.m.) 924-7711
**CONTENMORARY**
Tito Sbarnino, Chart House (9 p.m.) 940-6221
Dean & Dean, Chart House (8 p.m.) 940-6221
Flute in the Dark (Royal Garden Hotel) (9:30 p.m.) 940-6222
Hapu, The Zoo (hip hop, R&B, house & techno), World Cafe (9 p.m.) 549-4493
**voKaLs**
Kahlo, Chart House (7 p.m.) 316-1490

**LANDSCAPE**
**LOCAL Folk**
Frenchiana, Chart House (7 p.m.) 933-1007
**dJ**
Afterhours, (2 a.m.) 946-6449
16 Live Broadcast w/ Big Tune 15, (9 p.m.) 940-6221
R&B, house, World Cafe (9:30 p.m.) 549-4490
Viva La Diva (house, trance, dub), Evolution (9 p.m.) 946-6449
**hawaiian**
Aknii, Hawaiian Regency Lobby Bar (6:30 p.m.) 923-7311
Hale Molia, Makai Bar, Royal Hawaiian (6:30 p.m.) 923-7311
Hapa, The Zoo (hip hop, R&B, house & techno), World Cafe (9 p.m.) 549-4493
Hapa, The Zoo (hip hop, R&B, house & techno), World Cafe (9 p.m.) 549-4493
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Hapa, The Zoo (hip hop, R&B, house & techno), World Cafe (9 p.m.) 549-4493

**9/SAURDAY**
**BlUES**
J.P. Snookums, Kickstand Cafe (8 p.m.) 924-0123
**COMEDY**
Kevin Hughes Show, Wally's Tiki Room & Bar (8 p.m.) 924-7711
**LATIN**
Rolando Sanchez & Selena Hawaii, Don Ho's Island Grill (9 p.m.) 933-1007

**1/THURSDAY**
**ALTERNATIVE**
Jen Brotzler, Gordon Park (9 p.m.) 998-4877
**Blues**
Biscuit, Los Garcia's Restaurant (10 p.m.) 926-0261
J.P. Snookums, Kickstand Cafe (7:30 p.m.) 951-5926
**Contemporary**
Dean & Dean, Chart House (9 p.m.) 940-6221
Emerald House, Chart House (9 p.m.) 940-6221
Herb "Ohta-San" Ono, Queen Kapiolani Hotel (6 p.m.) 324-4441

**Country**
"Local Folk" Gordon Freitas, Cheesegrinder in Paradise (7 p.m.) 920-3723
**Dj**
Ed Prouth, Hank's Cafe (1 p.m.) 526-1410
**Reggae**
Reggae, Marty Zabod's Ragga Night, Waterfront Express (5 p.m.) 637-6389
Propane Brothers, Hard Rock Cafe (7 p.m.) 593-7381

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From Page 31
Timothy Kallen, Savoy's (7 p.m.) 953-5559
Jeff Peterman, Mickey's (8:30 p.m.) 924-3442
Ellsworth Simon, Gordon Ranch (9 p.m.) 954-1877

NIGHTCLUB SHOW
Society of Seven (SOE), Outrigger Waikiki 6:30 p.m. (call 922-6408)
Yael, Outrigger Reef Towers (6:30 & 8:30 p.m.) 924-7711

PLANO
Piano Grill, Hoku's Cafe (7 p.m.) 526-1410

ROCK/R&B
Flash Jacket, "Tinys" Pub (9 p.m.) 336-6318
Pirahna Brothers, Irish Rose Saloon (9 p.m.) 924-7711
BORD, Guise L'Arme's (9:30 p.m.) 336-7803
Roshun, Cioco's Cantina (8 p.m.) 262-7337

SWING/SWING
Sugarfoot Swing (9:30) Kailua Nightclub (9:30 p.m.) 949-7339

10/Sunday

MUSIC
J.P. Sroka/Unrat, Tropic, Kahala (7 p.m.)

CONTEMPORARY
Cecilia and the Free and Easy Band, Gordon Ranch (6:30 p.m.) 956-4877
Dean & Dean, Chart House (8 p.m.) 949-4321
Sunny Mendes & Geoff Adair, Diamond Head Grill (8:30 p.m.) 922-3734

COUNTRY
The Geezers, Hoku's Cafe (6 p.m.) 526-1410

DJ
The Circus Party (hop hop, house, R&B), World Cafe (9 p.m.) 942-4856
Wiggly Man, Hoku's Cafe (9 p.m.) 336-6428

12/Tuesday

ROCK/R&B
Glue, Diamond Head Grill (8:30 p.m.) 922-3734
Pirahna Brothers, Irish Rose Saloon (9 p.m.) 924-7711

THE SCENE
Shiwan, Sea Tide Room, Turtle Bay Hilton
(9 p.m.) 627-9931

ROCK/R&B
Pirahna Brothers, Irish Rose Saloon (9 p.m.) 924-7711

11/Monday

COMEDY
Open Mic, Hoku's Cafe (8 p.m.) 526-1410

CONTEMPORARY
Tito Babino, Chart House (9 p.m.) 949-4321
Dean & Dean, Chart House (9 p.m.) 949-4321

DJ
Beach Party (hop hop, R&B, house or DJ Billy G), Tanana (10 p.m.) 921-5335
Man-Mondays (w/ DJs Delve, Zack Morse, Scottie Seal, Matty B and Cory), Aiqs

Efficacy, Zanzabar (9 p.m.) 934-3939
Grovelling (w/ Kato & Vinc), Havana Cabana (8 p.m.) 324-4377
Lo-Blo Mondays, Waikiki (9 p.m.) 941-5282

HAWAIIAN
Kalua Kamakahi, Poolside, Senator, Waikiki (9 p.m.) 924-4622
Lona Koa, Mai Tai Bar, Royal Hawaiian (8:30 p.m.) 933-7311

JAZZ
Joe Krafft, Chart House (6:30 p.m.) 955-7846

NIGHTCLUB SHOW
Society of Seven (SOE), Outrigger Waikiki 6:30 & 8:30 p.m. (call 922-6408)

ROCK/R&B
Glue, Diamond Head Grill (8:30 p.m.) 922-3734
Pirahna Brothers, Irish Rose Saloon (9 p.m.) 924-7711

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PAULA DURBIN

"More compelling than Riverdance" is how the Village Voice judged Halau Ni Mamo O Pu'anaualu's Carnegie Hall performance of Ho'ola u 1 Ka Na'auao: "To Grow in Wisdom." It's has its encore this weekend at the Blaisdell. The Voice added that the group deserves a run at Radio City Music Hall. That isn't on the horizon yet, but a Washington, D.C., Kennedy Center date is in the works.

Nonetheless, the halau's kumu Sonny Ching had his doubts about the Carnegie gig.

"Of course my fears was that no one would come," he said. "So needless to say, it was an awesome feeling to walk out there and see the half full of people!" Some had come from Florida and California to see the show. David Hasselhoff and Yoko Ono were in the crowd (though not sitting together). They all learned a lesson that spans Hawaii's history from the beginning of the renaissance, taught by de Mille-scale cast of 62 performers.

"Ching and his associates rendered a world now lost, accounted for its destruction and demonstrated how ancient hula and the chants that attend it are being retrieved and practiced today," said the Voice. "When the concert was over, the entire hall literally jumped to its feet and gave us a standing ovation!" Ching recalled. "By this point I was in tears, overwhelmed by the response. The enthusiasm was the best attitude," said Ching, ex-plaining his victories. "My grandmother thought I was nuts. But the two jobs had become hard to juggle and I chose to focus on the hula." The following year, Ching's students appeared out of nowhere to sweep the women's division at Merrie Monarch, and the rest is history.

"When we came back, I decided to place an ad in the newspaper," Ching recalled. "So my family thought I was nuts. But the two jobs had become hard to juggle and I chose to focus on the hula." The following year, Ching's students appeared out of nowhere to sweep the women's division at Merrie Monarch, and the rest is history.

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It inspired us to revive our own dignity and sincerity in our cultures, our own roots, and it challenged us to remember.

"It inspires us to revive our own dignity and sincerity in our cultures, our own roots, and it challenged us to remember." Ching describes Radko as a very high-end Christmas-ornament designer who first visited the Islands and they also garnered best of show for eight years and no one knew who we were. Because of the Merrie Monarch triumph, he recalled. "So my family thought I was nuts. But the two jobs had become hard to juggle and I chose to focus on the hula." The following year, Ching's students appeared out of nowhere to sweep the women's division at Merrie Monarch, and the rest is history.
Theater & Dance

Alaboo Friday. Lee Cataluna serves up local laughs in this comedy about the Menehune. North Shore Theatre, 51-2833 E. N. Nimitz Hwy.; Sat 9/30, 5 p.m. (doors) $16. 526-4400

Music

Summer descends this weekend with a bang full of rock, reggae, ska and hip-hop. Nominees in rock Jah Ska headline a benefit bash at Puck’s Alley, Radio Free Music Center, Tow­
er Records; 1130 N. Nimitz Hwy.; Sun 9/10, 7 p.m. (doors open 6 p.m.) $16. 546-4400

MXPX w/ the Ataris, Bremerton pop-punk Westerners Static-X. Tickets available at Jelly’s, Radio Free Music Center, Hungry Ear Galleries, Tower Records; 1130 Campus Center, Tempo Music, House of Music,ITT Canal Sea­nior Center, and the Ataris attempt a musical coup in Bremerton pop-punk. Tickets available at Jelly’s, Radio Free Music Center, Hungry Ear Galleries, Tower Records; 1130 Campus Center, Tempo Music, House of Music,ITT Canal Senior Center, and the Ataris attempt a musical coup in
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**SIX CONCERTS**

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**TEN CONCERTS**

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Napster's at it again

JOA JACKSON

T

hink the music industry is trying to stifle Napster ("Soled Out," FF, 6/28)? Wait until they get wind of what some of this software is doing to the intellectual property of late! Check it out: On a copy of the Napster software program, type "vs." in the Napster song-search box. The software will return hundreds of crude home remixes, each made up with two or more popular hits of the day.

Like the old music magazines and compilations that paired off the pop stars of the day as if in some boxing match — The Beatles versus the Four Seasons; Paul vs. John — the Napster songs are named for the artists whose tracks are mixed together: "Everlast vs. Limp Bizkit," "Fatboy Slim vs. Steppenwolf." One of the best ones I found is the mistitled "In-sane Clown Posse vs. Britney Spears," in which "Baby One More Time" is interlaced with the hooded rappers' style and a sample from the Rolling Stones in the "Brain." In Fatboy Slim vs. the Rolling Stones — Rockerfactoria, a "live" version of "I Can't Get No Satisfaction," the song changed to "I Can't Get No Savannah," the singer changed to "The Rockafeller Skank." At its best, this technique produces some wonderful results. Cypress Hill's pot song provides a perfect foil for Britney Spears' pop song; Kool & The Gang's "Riviera Riff" becomes fuel for more than one catchy song.

The best of these tracks stay on the playlists of many Napster users, showing up in searches all day long.

The odd thing is, no one seems to take credit for them. The tracks carry no information about who did the remixes, nor are they likely to exist anywhere outside the home computer looked up to Napster (though "Rockafeller Skank"-ster Fatboy Slim has been playing his own Stones-biting remix live for some time). I caught up with one Napster user, anaesthisis132, via the software's chat function and had to coax it out of him that he made a few of these tracks. "These songs are very easy to make," he finally told me, after getting over his suspicion that I was a record-company lawyer. "The programs that we have are fantanstic!" He tells me he uses Rebirth, a software version of an analog synthesizer. Of course, they probably get the songs from file-sharing programs like Napster itself.

The music industry probably will hate these remixes, for the same reason that people hate remixes. But these home projects muddy the waters even further in today's copyright debate. For now, no longer are people just passively listening to digital music. They're making their own art, and dialogue, from copyright materials.

And试图停止这个 remixing, or even the trading that allows this creative act to take place, just may do harm to more than the people making them. The Recording Industry Association of America (http://www.riaa.org) certainly doesn't recognize the danger it poses in its aggressive stance toward MP3 piracy, which involves using the same file-sharing software companies such as Napster. Its highly trained team of lawyers is doing everything it can to keep $50 billion music industry intact. And yet, in this fit of self-survival, they may be endangering nothing less than the democratic process itself.

It's a crazy idea, but that's what writer Charles Mann suggests in the September 2000 issue of Atlantic Monthly. To argue his point, Mann cites the history of copyright law itself. It may amuse the average Napster downloader to learn that copyright law was not originally enacted for the good of the artist, but for the good of the people. The authors of the Constitution thought that to encourage the formation of ideas in the marketplace — vital for a working democracy — the creator should be granted monopoly rights to profit from his or her work. But only for a short period. Mann quotes Harvard copyright scholar Lawrence Lessig: "The creator was rewarded for a little, then the idea passed into the commons, where people could do what they liked with it."

The entire entertainment industry grew under the umbrella of copyright protection. And yet, if we're not careful, that industry may end up hampering our ability to freely exchange ideas.

"People hear the cries of the industry about piracy, which are real and justifiable," Lessig says. "But they don't realize that simply giving the industry what it wants will have an impact on the entire public sphere."

What happens when Napster is shut down and piracy continues unabated through the likes of Gnutella and Freenet, two file-sharing programs that no one person is responsible for running (or legally liable for)? Is it inconceivable that the recording industry powers-that-be could break apart the Internet itself? Not at all. They'll do whatever it takes to protect their freedom. And this will come at the expense of all communication, not just the illegal trading of copyrighted files.

Oddly enough, 15 years ago the music industry was the one fighting for keeping constitutional rights intact. In 1985, record companies unabated through the likes of Gnutella and Freenet, two file-sharing programs that no one person is responsible for running (or legally liable for)? Is it inconceivable that the recording industry powers-that-be could break apart the Internet itself? Not at all. They'll do whatever it takes to protect their freedom. And this will come at the expense of all communication, not just the illegal trading of copyrighted files.

Oddly enough, 15 years ago the music industry was the one fighting for keeping constitutional rights intact. In 1985, record companies

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vealed to the slack-jawed horde

"in not used to, or comfortable

The apocalyptic mystery re-

The Big Stiff

The Art of War (Red & Thu 2:30, 5:45, 7:45, 10:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA); Autumn in New York (Red & Thu 2:30, 4:30, 7:45, 10:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA); Bring It On (Red & Thu 8:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA); The Cell (Red & Thu 7:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA); Highlander: Endgame (Red & Thu 8:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA); The Replacements (Red & Thu 8:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA); Whipped (Red & Thu 7:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA);

The Art of War (Red & Thu 12:15 a.m., 2:45, 4:55, 7:15, 9:30 p.m.);

The Crew (Red & Thu 11:30 a.m.);

The Cell (Red & Thu 11:30 a.m., 2:45, 4:55, 7:15, 9:30 p.m.);

The Replacements (11:30 a.m., 1:30, 2:15, 4, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 p.m.);

Hidden Huskies (2, 4:15 p.m.);

IMAX THEATRE WAIKIKI:

The Art of War (Red & Thu 6:30, 8:45 p.m., Fri-Sun also 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 7:45 p.m.);

The Big Stiff

The Art of War (Red & Thu 2:30, 5:45, 7:45, 10:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA); Autumn in New York (Red & Thu 2:30, 4:30, 7:45, 10:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA); Bring It On (Red & Thu 8:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA); The Cell (Red & Thu 7:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA); Highlander: Endgame (Red & Thu 8:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA); The Replacements (Red & Thu 8:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA);

VARIETY TINS: 1100 University Ave.

WALKING THEATRE WAIKIKI: 325 Seaside Ave.

Windward AAIKIKI THEATRE: Waikele Park Center.

The Art of War (Red & Thu 2:30, 5:45, 7:45, 10:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA);

The Art of War (Red & Thu 2:30, 5:45, 7:45, 10:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA);

The Replacements (11:30 a.m., 1:30, 2:15, 4, 4:15, 6:45, 9:15 p.m.);

Hidden Huskies (2, 4:15 p.m.);

WINDWARD AAIKIKI THEATRE: Waikele Park Center.

Storm (6 p.m.);

ENCHANTED LACE CINEMAS: 1000 Kaole St. 263-4171

Bring It On (Red & Thu 6:30, 8:45 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA);

The Cell (Red & Thu 7:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA);

Bless the Child (Red & Thu 7:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA);

The Replacements (Red & Thu 8:15 p.m., Fri-Tue TBA);
CINEMA

Smoke Signals

Saving Grace is just a stone's throw from being a good movie.

BOB GREEN

The new Brit twee film, Saving Grace, might not be a first-rate comedy — maybe not more than a formula our moviemakers have derived from seeing The Full Monty or Waking Ned Devine. However, the tone of this little movie with a High Concept has arrived: C genteel audiences can settle into a safe, good laugh over a marijuana movie. They don't even have to inhale.

A great actress can take over a role so intelligently that it can transform the entire project, and here has Brenda Blethyn done so. Her headstrong, no-frills (like lovable eccentricity), centered performance keeps this little conceit of a movie from tipping over into Big Time Whimsy. Blethyn's range — say, from comedy-drama in Secrets and Lies to dark comedy in The Winter Dark — is immense, and here she plays a woman of upper-middle-class, a lady of Property, who discovers, after the death of her husband, that all she has is a mass of debts engendered by her hoaxter spouse, who (otherwise) has committed a mysterious suicide.

Solution: Why, grow dope — lots of it — in the greenhouse. You may now, genteel reader, fill In The Blanks. You know this story by heart. The Lady, of course, thinks her dope-growing (and marketing) is not known by anyone, but the whole of her village — quaint, lovely, picture-book — of course knows, and gathers to watch at night the blaring lights emanating from her nocturnal mission.

Blethyn has the whole show here; but, with a stubborn integrity, she refuses to have her character Grace become... just a character. Grace doesn't stoop to dottiness or terminally cutesy-pooism. Blethyn keeps the character from stooping, and therefore the predictable storyline from disappearing in a cloud of rapidly thinning smoke.

As the sub rosa kept dope ethetic surfaces from the video/car on-screen music/video baseman into the open market (even a cozy Brit film will do), audiences will laugh accordingly. Saving Grace is the first marijuana movie you can take your grandmother to — if you can bring her round.

BOB GREEN

North Shore

IMAX POLYNESIAN CULTURAL CENTER: 10 Kamehameha Hwy. (Closed on Sundays). 293-3280

The Art of War (Wed & Thu noon, 1, 2, 2:30, 4, 5, 7, 8:30 p.m.); Bless the Child (Wed & Thu noon, 2, 2:30, 4, 5, 7, 8:30 p.m.); Space Cowboys (Wed & Thu noon, 1, 2, 2:30, 4, 5, 7, 8:30 p.m.); The klings (11:40 a.m., 2, 2:30 p.m.); The Watcher (10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2, 2:30 p.m., 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 p.m.); The Crew (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05, 5:05 p.m.); Dinosaur (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05 p.m.); Godzilla 2000 (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05 p.m.); The klings (11:40 a.m., 2, 2:30 p.m.); Nutty Professor II: The klings (11:40 a.m., 2, 2:30 p.m.); Nutty Professor II: The Crew (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05 p.m.); The Watcher (10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2, 2:30 p.m., 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 p.m.); The Crew (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05, 5:05 p.m.); Dinosaur (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05 p.m.); Godzilla 2000 (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05 p.m.); The klings (11:40 a.m., 2, 2:30 p.m.); Nutty Professor II: The Crew (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05 p.m.); The Watcher (10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2, 2:30 p.m., 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 p.m.); The Crew (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05, 5:05 p.m.); Dinosaur (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05 p.m.); Godzilla 2000 (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05 p.m.); The klings (11:40 a.m., 2, 2:30 p.m.); Nutty Professor II: The Crew (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05 p.m.); The Watcher (10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2, 2:30 p.m., 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 p.m.); The Crew (12:15, 2:05, 3:15, 4:05, 5:05 p.m.);

SIGNATURE PEARL HIGHLANDS: 1000 Kamehamea Hwy. 455-0999

The Art of War (Wed & Thu noon, 1, 2, 2:30, 4, 5, 7, 8:30 p.m.); Saving Grace (Wed & Thu noon, 2, 2:30, 4, 5, 7, 8:30 p.m.); The Crew (Wed & Thu noon, 1, 2, 2:30, 4, 5, 7, 8:30 p.m.); The Crew (Wed & Thu noon, 1, 2, 2:30, 4, 5, 7, 8:30 p.m.); The Crew (Wed & Thu noon, 1, 2, 2:30, 4, 5, 7, 8:30 p.m.);

Leeward

KAPOLEI MEGAPLEX: 180 Kamakawolu Blvd. 296-1813, code 1609-24

The Art of War (Wed & Thu noon, 2, 2:30, 4, 5, 7, 8:30 p.m.); Bless the Child (noon, 2, 2:30, 4, 5, 7, 8:30 p.m.); Bring It On (Wed & Thu noon, 2, 2:30, 4, 5, 7, 8:30 p.m.); Bring It On (Wed & Thu noon, 2, 2:30, 4, 5, 7, 8:30 p.m.);

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THEATRE

THEATRE
Oahu Films

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

The Art of War is an action-adventure movie that explores the life of a fictional Chinese general known for his strategic military campaigns.

Noah's Arc: The Movie is a romantic comedy film about a young man who must navigate the complexities of love and family.

The Eyes of Tammy Faye is a biographical drama that tells the story of a famous televangelist.

Short Runs, Art & Revival Houses

Hawaii Weekly

Volcano, Hawaii

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Food Is Beautiful

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WILDLY ORIGINAL!

COMEDY

Finally, our last shared plate came from the Secondi Piatti section. The Spiedini di Pesce ($14.00) is a light and refreshing plate, perfect for anyone not too hungry, or for fare on a warmer evening. The dish is curiously described as “spits of grilled calamari, shrimp & scallops marinated in white wine,” although I know they meant skewers. No matter what you call them, the scallops and shrimp were cooked to perfection and incredibly tender. It is another simple dish, albeit elegantly enhanced by wine, salt, a dusting of bread crumbs and another squeeze of fresh lemon. The pits annoyed my friend as a symbol of nonantitiveness; however, I love and use lemons extensively in the kitchen, so I can’t fault someone else for pitfalls of my own.

The beauty of many Italian dishes lay not in complication but in fresh ingredients of high quality, prepared with an expert’s touch. Chef Cianfici has years of experience in fine hotels and restaurants in Italy as a foundation. Not only does he impart fine ingredients when he can’t buy them locally, but he makes many of his own products, such as his lasagna, half-moon shaped agnolotti, ravioli, gnocchi, orzichette and fetuccine. But his craftsmanship doesn’t stop there. The desserts really kick butt.

You better believe he makes a tiramisu ($5.50) that rocks, and he even goes so far as to make his own sourdough biscuits and mascarpone cheese for it. The Crema di Sorrento is a light and luscious pudding of lemon, grapefruit and orange that is topped with the chef’s homemade strawberry sauce. I also lapped up every bit of the handcrafted ice cream, even though I generally don’t enjoy this dessert. Now I really have to start that diet. However, my absolute favorite, the Crème Caramel, is to die for, really. It’s a sensuous, silky pudding that makes you close your eyes and go “Mmmmm.”

I haven’t said anything bad about the food because everything was good. To say something bad, I’d have to nit-pick and point out that I’d prefer my sugar for espresso, not in syrupy packets, but in a nice bowl. The espresso ($3) by the way, is a very short pull (Italian style) of Lavazza. Excellent flavor, though some Americans may be surprised at the tiny amount in the bottom of their demitasse.

With each dish he creates, Chef Cianfici’s relentless enthusiasm shines through.

“When I see the plate is clean,” he says, “When my customers come back and bring their friends, this is my pleasure.”

As his wife Sabrina and the entire staff make you feel at home with old-world charm, it’s only natural that you and your friends return again and again. I know that I will.
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The procedure used by Dr. Biber is referred to "sex change operation" for natural-born women. Typically the researchers take the respondents' word for it, though, and one suspects a certain amount of wishful thinking.

1) Some studies say that 80 to 100 percent of male-to-female transsexuals want sex reassignment surgery (this term is preferred to "sex change operation" nowadays). One first claims a 95 percent orgasm rate in patients age 18 to 35, which is higher than the rate for natural-born women. Typically the researchers take the respondents' word for it, though, and one suspects a certain amount of wishful thinking.

2) One might suppose that sexual responsiveness would depend on the surgical technique used, but if there is a consensus on the best way, you can't tell from the medical literature. The procedure used by Dr. Biber is called penile inversion: removing most of the penis's innards and turning the penis inside out, like a sock, to create a vascular pouch. The glans (tip of the penis winds up at the bottom (far end) of the vagina). A client can be created from the corpora spongiosa, the erectile tissue that causes the penis to stiffen during arousal. Advantages: simplicity. If it worked as a penis, it'll work as a vagina, right? In addition, sensitive tissue at both ends of the vagina doubles one's opportunities for pleasure. Disadvantage, according to the journals: The resultant vagina often atrophies (too shallow, too narrow, etc). Yet Biber says he's had good success.

3) Other surgical techniques include the vaginal vaginoplasty, made from a chunk of the large intestine (which supposedly won't shrink, a common complication), and suture pedicled neoclitoroplasty, in which the glans, with nerves and blood vessels intact, is whitened and redirected into the vaginal opening as a substitute clitoris. The remainder of the penile skin and the skin of the scrotum are used to fashion the vagina.

4) A long-term failure rate of 50 percent has been reported for M-to-F transsexual surgery, failure being defined as a blocked or otherwise nonfunctional vagina. Some of the unsuccessful cases date from many years ago, when surgical techniques were less sophisticated and patients were not screened. Biber says his long-term success rate is higher, but typically short-term failure rates run in the neighborhood of 20 percent — a fairly large percentage for cosmetic surgery on a physiologically normal organ.

5) You get the impression that, at least in the early days, the big thing was to get transsexuals past the "no feeling" two: Some F-to-M patients claim to have orgasms, Dr. Biber says, but he has done no formal research.

7) One wants to have an open mind, but when looking at pictures of M-to-F sex reassignment surgery in progress, one can't help but ask oneself what the quality control is. No way would I ever do this.

8) So are one's second, third and fourth thoughts. Not to make light of them, but what else is there to think about being male? At least you get to see the people standing up.

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It's been nearly 10 years since the idea of a museum on the UH-Mānoa campus was first floated by the late John Young. Opened in February of 1999, more than a year after his death, the museum that bears Young's name is a fine tribute to the famed artist and collector. Housing a permanent collection of artifacts from around the world (with special emphasis on China), the John Young Museum of Art also houses the occasional temporary show — as it is currently doing with "Transformations: Korean Masks from the Ryun Namkoong Collection."

"Transformations: Korean Masks from the Ryun Namkoong Collection.

Showing through the end of December, this gathering of more than 100 Korean masks weaves a complex tale of Korea's social, religious and artistic history - as outlined in the human emotions these masks portray.

John Young Museum of Art
— Krauss Hall, UH-Mānoa campus, 2500 Dole St.; Sun, 1 - 4 p.m.; Tue., 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; Fri., noon - 3 p.m. Through Dec. 29. Free (donations welcome). 956-5666.

They're heeeeeere. Dragons from the Underworld (underwater, that is) emerge at Waikīkī Aquarium this month. A close relative of pipe fish and seahorses, Leafy Sea Dragons have the family's good looks and then some. Resembling the trembling limbs of leafy seaweed, these Australian giants grow to 15 inches in length and still offer quite a display of delicacy.

Waikīkī Aquarium, 2777 Kalakaua Ave.: Sat 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. $5 hama'aina adults, students & military; $3 regular adults; $3.50 juniors (13-17) & disabled; free to children under 12. 923-9741.

Known best for her underwater work, Austrian-born photographer Dorys Foltin breaks away from the world of wet in this 1995 piece "Antherium." Lured to Hawai'i in 1995 by the endemic water influence in the Islands, Foltin's work has been displayed at several local hot spots, including Ramsey Gallery, Honolulu Academy of Arts and Atmosphere Gallery (which remains a point of contact for her work). More information is available at www.dorysfoltinphoto.com.

High and dry

Tossed between many hands over the past 100 years, the Kaka'ako Pumping Station sits quietly now, a fossil from another time, an island of stillness in the chaos of traffic surging by on Ala Moana Boulevard. A haunted crematorium in the fantasy world of many, the pumping station has had other lives, though they are much less dramatic — a machine repair shop, among others. Considering that it was the first pumping station for Hawai'i's first sewage system, its suggested redevelopment in past years as a restaurant seems something of an unnatural evolution. Offering stoic resolution, the pumping station, with its stone and mortar a century in the wearing, faces off against Comp USA, the 21st century and all of the trappings of the "technological revolution" with the rising of every morning.

Photo by Jeff Sanner
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