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Downtown

Planet

VOLUME 28 No. 5

the week of May 8, 2006

KAIMUKI TAGGED

Kaimuki residents say the graffiti problem in their neighborhood has gotten out of hand. Can they find a solution?

See story on page 8



Seniors Play Ball



Gateball enthusiast Dorothy Sato scores a point for her team at Ala Moana Beach Park. Sato and her fellow members of the Hawaii Aikane Gate Ball Union play gate ball, a sport derived from croquet, three times a week at the park. Photo by Ronen Zilberman. See page 16.

FAYE ROSS
A TOUCH OF GLASS



The Roman philosopher Horace once said, "Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents, which in prosperous circumstances would have lain dormant." Faye Ross, co-owner of Honolulu Stained Glass Studio & Accents Gallery in Kaimuki, would no doubt agree.

In 2001, Ross thought her life was set. She was an elementary school teacher and owned her own deli. Then, on a fateful fall afternoon on the H-3 freeway, she got into an accident while driving home.

"Somebody rammed into me, and I got really injured," she recalls. "I didn't break any bones, but there was a lot of soft tissue damage. Then I started losing feeling in my right hand, and that got me scared."

As part of her healing process, Ross took up stained glass as a hobby. "It was relaxing, fun and very therapeutic," she says. "I had always loved art, although I never had formal art training. I just liked stained glass - it's the most 'fun' functional art I can think of - and when I like something, I like to share it."

Ross discovered she had a natural gift for creating exquisite stained glass works, from Hawaiiana and tropical motifs to more contemporary designs. People began asking her to teach them the craft.

In April 2003, she opened Venus Art

Center & Gallery on Waialae Avenue, next to the entrance to St. Louis High School. Ross, who grew up in Kaimuki, named the business for her grandmother, who owned a beauty salon nearby.

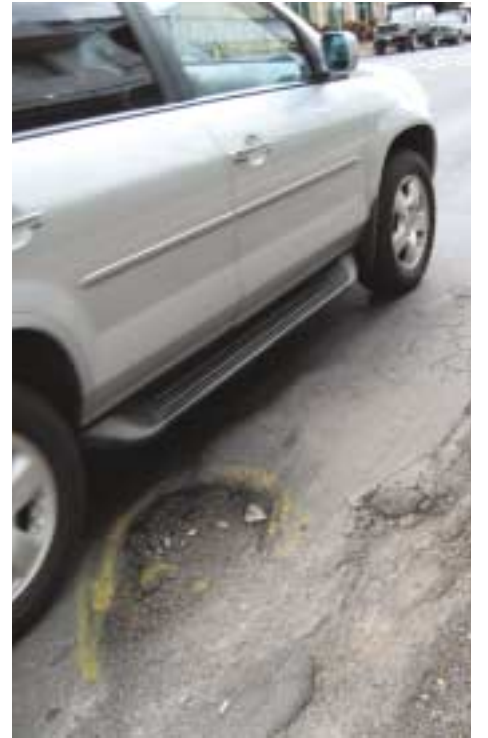
Ross and her business partner, Gideon Naiditch, have since renamed and relocated the business to an 1,800-square-foot space several blocks up the road, near Kaimuki's bustling "Restaurant Row." Last November, they added a retail gallery stocked with one-of-a-kind jewelry, chimes, lamps, glasswares, notecards and more. According to Ross, the retail section now accounts for about half of her business, while the other half comes from her commissioned pieces.

"We really like this location," says Ross. We've thought about expanding our retail section and moving the commission work [elsewhere], but we want to stay in Kaimuki. This area has so much potential."

"Potential" is something that Ross is realizing herself, and it all goes back to a horrendous accident on the freeway. "If I didn't get injured, I wouldn't have taken the time off to relax and rest, and I never would have known that I could do stained glass," she says. "I got to pursue a passion, and I ended up really taking off with it."

Does your neighborhood have missing street signs? Damaged roads or public infrastructure in need of repair? Well, speak up! The Downtown Planet wants to hear from you. E-mail us at planetstories@pacificbasin.net and we'll send a photographer to the area and track down the problem.

The occasional "ka-thuds" you hear near the intersection of Waialae and 12th avenues in Kaimuki are from cars dipping into a nasty pothole on the mauka side of Waialae, close to the crosswalk. Yes, we all know by now that potholes are a fact of life in Honolulu, but this one poses a hazard to pedestrians as well as vehicles. It's large, it's deep and it's very much an eyesore. Let's hope this gets fixed!



MAY 2: Large pothole at the intersection of Waialae and 12th avenues.

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SCENE *at the Planet*

PHOTOS BY: KARIN KOVALSKY

2006 LEI DAY FESTIVAL

The annual Lei Day celebration took place on Monday, May 1, in the Queen Kapiolani Park in Waikiki. The event kicked off with a presentation by the Lei Queen and her court, and a concert by the Royal Hawaiian Band. There were beautiful leis on display, and Hawaiian arts and crafts demonstrations. The sunny weather was enjoyed by tourists and local residents alike.



NORTH CAROLINA visitors Chris and Dan Bell, draped in yellow leis, watched the Lei Day Queen and her court during a ceremony.



THE 2006 LEI DAY FESTIVAL in Queen Kapiolani Park drew spectators from all over the island.



2006 LEI QUEEN Sharla Kuualoha led the Lei Day ceremony. She was raised on the Hawaiian Homestead of Waimanalo.



LEXY-ROSE UPUNUT (right) watched as her mother, Linal, sketches a drawing. Behind them is John Storm.



VISITORS FROM AUSTRALIA: Aruna Poching (left) and Shar Mitchell, holding Poching's daughter A.J.



JAPANESE TOURISTS snacked on Hawaiian Roasted Corn. From left are Junko and Nobuhiro Abe from Chiba, Japan.



MARY AANA created beautiful leis under a shady tree in Queen Kapiolani Park. She is from Hui O Paki Seniors.



JUDGE RAY WONG, sporting a lei and summer hat, couldn't contain his enthusiasm during the Lei Day festivities.



CARRIE LEONG, a member of the City & County committee, displayed leis for judges.



BABY'S FIRST LEI DAY: Keola (left) and Piiilani Medeiros. Holding them is Keala Medeiros, who is Keola's mom.



STACY AH MOW created Hawaiian arts and crafts.

By *Mano Pua*
DOWNTOWN PLANET COLUMNIST

PLAY BY PLAY

If Sens. Hanabusa, Hee and Hooser are seeking the second Congressional seat vacated by Ed Case, they should think twice about playing the political game the way they do.

Hats off to Hemmings. Boy, you got to give Sen. Fred Hemmings credit. He called it just like it is! On Tuesday, the Senate was rocked by yet another internal battle cloaked as a fight over the gas cap.

In reality, it was a power play by Sens. Colleen Hanabusa, Clayton Hee, Donna Kim and their cohorts. The worst-kept secret about the Senate is that it is split 10-10-5. And that's not some long-distance plan. That's the split between the Democratic majority and the five republicans. Last session, the dissident group of 10, led by the aforementioned senators, attempted a palace coup.

It almost succeeded when Sens. Gordon Trimble and Suzanne Chun Oakland joined the group. But that aberration quickly was dissolved. In any event, the dissidents still are trying to embarrass the Senate President's group.

Their ploy was simple: If you can do something that the five republicans should naturally support, maybe, just maybe, you could dislodge the president. Well, the attempt failed. And the unlikely hero was none other than Hemmings.

Calling a spade a spade, Hemmings attacked the dissidents for their disingenuousness. He noted that the attempt wasn't about consumers or some greater ideal, but petty politics.

And you know what? He was right! Boy, Sen. Shan Tsutsui was the willing pawn in this game, acting as the spokesperson for the attempt. In fact, he was so flustered when he attempted to withdraw his soon-to-be defeated motion, only to have to listen to Congressional hopeful Gary Hooser rail against the gas cap and for the attempted floor amendment.

The substance of the floor amendment

was of no real consequence, since the operative parts of the gas cap bill was an indefinite suspension. But to hear the dissidents scowl and posture was grand kabuki!

If Sens. Hanabusa, Hee and Hooser are seeking the second Congressional seat vacated by Ed Case, they should think twice about playing the political game the way they do. But then again, maybe they should be congressmen and woman since they play the game.

Unfortunately, they couldn't count the votes! And that not only was fatal to their abortive attempt but should give the voters in the second congressional some pause about their fundamental abilities in arithmetic. In any event, kudos to Hemmings for having the courage to call the spade a spade! Thanks Fred!

Pandering to Pedestrians. The *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* missed this one and so did its own experts! The worst bill to come out of the Legislature was a bill to increase penalties for violation of the pedestrian crosswalk law. Don't get me wrong, I am all for penalizing the violators, but this bill went overboard.

Talk about piling it on! You'd be better off committing some bigger crime than violate the pedestrian law, because you'd probably get less jail time!

Huh? Guv Lingle, in a strange gesture, praised the working relationship with the Legislature. Nice words! But after listening to Sen. Donna Kim's analysis of HCDCH and nominee Chuck Sted, I was sorely confused.

Kim tore up Sted and HCDCH so much the pieces weren't worth putting into a casing for sausage. Working together? Not likely! Sorry Guv, but that one doesn't pass the smell test!

Sniffing around on Smith Street,
Mano Pua

NOTE: Mano Pua's weekly column does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the *Downtown Planet's* staff.

THIS WEEK IN HAWAII HISTORY

May 8, 1920: Two Army seaplanes make the longest non-stop inter-island flight, Honolulu to Kauai, 100 miles. It is the first airplane to land on Kauai.

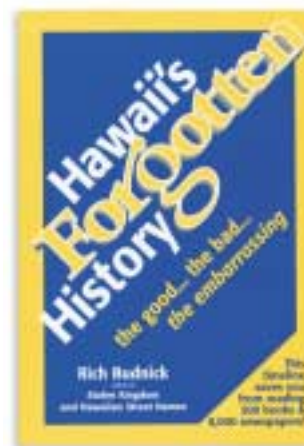
May 9, 1909: Hawaii's first major sugar plantation strike is led by Higher Wages Association leaders Yasutaro Soga and Fred Makino. Seven thousand Japanese workers say their wages are "semi-slavery" and demand the same pay as Portuguese workers.

May 9, 1918: Army Major Harold Clark makes Hawaii's first inter-island flight. He flies from Fort Kamehameha to Maui, then Hilo, but clouds, fog and darkness at Mauna Kea make him crash into trees near Kawiki, Hawaii Island. He walks two days before reaching a road.

May 10, 1955: U.S. House of Representatives votes 218-170 to reject a bill to grant statehood to both Hawaii and Alaska.

May 14, 1902: Hawaii begins tourism promotion. The Honolulu Chamber of Commerce and Merchants' Association agrees to send Honolulu businessman Walter Weedon on a six-month tourism promotion to the Mainland. He shows photos, gives lectures and distributes pamphlets about Hawaii.

May 14, 1979: Governor George Ariyoshi signs the Housing Loan and Mortgage Act, better known as *Hula Mae*, to provide low interest mortgage loans to help thousands of first-time home buyers.



From *Hawaii's Forgotten History*
By Rich Budnick, author of *Stolen Kingdom* and *Hawaiian Street Names*

Downtown Planet

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FOODSTUFFS

Food-related events this week

May 8/Monday

"House of Brews" Explore the wide world of beers and ales with beer expert Andy Baker. Bar 35, 35 N. Hotel St.; 6 to 8 p.m.; every Mon.; \$15, includes six beer samples and Bar 35 gourmet pizza; call 537-3535

Culinary Walking Tour of Chinatown Visit food courts, restaurants and more with Anthony Chang. The tour is offered by and starts at the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. 42 N. King St.; 9:30 a.m.; every Mon.; \$10; group arrangements possible on other days; call 533-3181

9/Tuesday

Fort Street Open Market Hawaii and Mainland produce, cut flowers, arts and crafts. Live music on Tues. Wilcox Park in front of Macy's, Tues. and Fri., 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; sponsored by Fort St. Business Improvement District; call 441-4995

The Wrath of Grapes The Indigo Wine Club continues its weekly exploration of wines; featuring Kevin O'Brien, winemaker and owner of Kangarilla Road Vineyard and Winery of McClaren Vale. Indigo Eurasian Cuisine, 1121 Nuuanu Ave.; 6 p.m.; \$20, light pupus by chef Glenn Chu included; seating limited to 28 guests; call 521-2900

10/Wednesday

Cooking Demonstration By Paul Onishi Learn quick and easy ways to transition to a more healthful diet. The audience will be able to sample each dish; presented by the Vegetarian Society of Hawaii. Ala Wai Golf Course Clubhouse, 404 Kapahulu Ave.; 7 p.m.; free admission and refreshments; call 944-8344 or visit www.vsh.org

12/Friday

Fort Street Open Market See description for May 9

Bishop Museum "Jazz & Wine" Event Featuring fine wine, food and music under the stars. The museum's exhibits and galleries will also be open. Bishop Museum's Great Lawn, 1525 Bernice St.; 6 to 9 p.m.; \$10 general admission, \$5 for youth (ages 4 to 12), Bishop Museum adult members and military personnel; free for Bishop Museum youth members and children under 4 years; advance sale tickets are available at Bishop Museum ticket desk; call (808) 847-8290

13/Saturday

Culinary Walking Tour of Chinatown See description for May 8; the Chinese Chamber of Commerce has another tour in conjunction with Second Saturday. Meet at the Louis Pohl Gallery, 1111 Nuuanu Ave.; 10 a.m.; \$15, includes light dim sum brunch; limited to 16 registrants; call 521-1812

14th Annual Hawaiian Telcom Filipino Fiesta and Parade Experience the Filipino culture and tradition through food, dance performances and exhibitions. Centennial Charity Walk and street parade begins at 8:30 a.m. at Fort de Russy and continues down Kalakaua Ave.; food booths, dance performances and exhibits at Kapiolani Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; call 524-9511 or 947-7230, or visit their Web site at www.filipinofiestaandparade.com

COMING UP

May 27, Aug. 26 and Nov. 11: Cooking Classes with Rodney Uyehara Hale Aina and Ilima award-winner Rodney Uyehara from The Bistro at Century Center shares his gourmet secrets; organized by Gourmet Cooking Hawaii. The Bistro at Century Center, 1750 Kalakaua Ave.; \$95; seating limited to 20 guests; call 735-7788 or visit www.GourmetCookingHawaii.com



INCLUDE:

- 1) the details of the event (brief description, time and cost)
- 2) a contact number for us to publish
- 3) and write "Food Event" and the date in the subject line

MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 14

"A father may turn his back on his child, brothers and sisters may become inveterate enemies, husbands may desert their wives, wives their husbands. But a mother's love endures through all." – **Washington Irving**

"An ounce of mother is worth a pound of priests." – **Spanish proverb**

"Don't aim to be an earthly saint, with eyes fixed on a star. Just try to be the fellow that your Mother thinks you are." – **Will S. Adkin**

"Mother: the most beautiful word on the lips of mankind." – **Kahlil Gibran**

"Neurotics build castles in the air, psychotics live in them. My mother cleans them." – **Rita Rudner**

"Every mother is like Moses. She does not enter the Promised Land. She prepares a world she will not see." – **Pope Paul VI**

"Youth fades, love droops, the leaves of friendship fall; a mother's secret hope outlives them all." – **Oliver Wendell Holmes**

"I know how to do anything – I'm a mom." – **Roseanne Barr**

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YOU BE THE CRITIC

BY: BOB HABES



AKEELAH TAKES AUDIENCE HONORS IN THE 'BEE'

AKEELAH AND THE BEE: Virtually every person of the 500 we polled this weekend awarded *Akeelah and the Bee* four stars, making it one of the most well received films of the last 3,000 movies we've polled. Its 98 percent Audience Approval means that without question, you will love its heartwarming, intelligent style. The great shame of our youth today is that often school accomplishment invites peer retaliation. Being smart is bad. So Akeelah (Keke Palmer) hides her intelligence, tediously suffering through curricula far below her ability, until finally, her spelling talent puts her on track for the national spelling championship. Laurence Fishburne plays a hardened taskmaster, coaching Akeelah, as he heals his soul from past tragedy; their connection is one of the movie's inspiring links. Another is Akeelah's bond with Javier (J.R. Villarreal) a fellow competitor and heartwarming puppy love. She also has bridges to cross with her mother (Angela Bassett), who objects to the time necessary to succeed at the competition. The movie manipulates audiences, casting a spell of dreamy purity. There are lessons here, beautiful sweet lessons that make us leave the theater and aspire to be better people. It seems impossible not to fall under *Akeelah's* enchantment, as did the moviegoers we polled who unanimously recommended the film for its smart story and encouraging message. Don't miss this great one.

Viewers cheered: "WONDERFUL" ... "Best movie of the year" ... "Simply marvelous, great for all ages" and "Sweet, beautiful, heartwarming. It had a great message."

towers, military authorities and the cell phone conversations of those aboard the flight. Any character development seems accidental as the focus dashes between what is actually recorded heading to the horrific moment everyone knows is about to happen. Some participants play themselves including air traffic controllers and Ben Sliney, who was in charge at FAA headquarters. My message gathered from the emotional responses of moviegoers is simple. As much as you don't want to see this movie, you will be equally grateful you did.

Moviegoers commented: "Stunning tribute for the true heroes" ... "Heart stopping" ... "Monumentally brilliant (many)" ... and "It showed respect and honor."

RV: In classic Clark Griswold vacation style, Robin Williams loads his dysfunctional carping family into a massive recreational vehicle in an attempt to bring them closer together. They tremble at the thought of relating to other "campers," but can't scrape off the over-friendly lifetime RV family lead by Jeff Daniels. Its comedy is good, and certainly not as zany as the trailers depicting Williams at his most frenetic suggest. Rascally raccoons, faulty sewerage systems, and perilous road adventures serve up the stage to Williams and that was just the vacation viewers we polled had in mind. They voted it a good 75 percent Audience Approval with most judgments falling in the excellent to average range.

Viewers said: "Happy two hours" ... "A lot of good laughs" ... and "I don't think the critics saw the same movie. It was really funny."

UNITED 93: Gathering the strength to revisit these moments was a profound ordeal for moviegoers we spoke with, yet their unanimous conclusion was of the healing effects and profound homage *United 93* pays to the heroic people on board the plane. Cinema exists to make money, and the thought of capitalizing on the events of Sept. 11 is simply heinous. This movie had to be perfect in order to surmount the monumental emotional hedge people had against it. And, thankfully, it is an ideal tribute to those who lost their lives. *United 93* hits us with a raw documentary style, unfolding the events from the terrorists' hotel room, through the control

STICK IT: This formulaic comedy from the writer of *Bring It On* puts two coats of Hollywood onto a hackneyed plot and winds up with a nice result. The troubled teen (Missy Peregrym) is banished to a structured gymnastics school to find herself and prepare for the "big competition" under tough-love coach, (Jeff Bridges). There is very little new here, but Bridges performance coupled with warm-hearted humor, *Stick it* tumbled into a must-see score, an excellent choice for teenagers.

Audiences said: "Better than *Bring It On*" ... "Good for young kids" ... and "Didn't try to be outlandish. It had a natural charm."

PUBLIC OPINION/CRITIC INDEX

TOP 20	Number of Stars		
	Audience Approval	Public	Critics
1. Akeelah and the Bee	98	4.0	3.1
2. Ice Age: The Meltdown	97	3.9	2.7
3. United 93	93	3.8	3.8
4. Lucky Number Slevin	93	3.8	2.8
5. Take the Lead	88	3.6	2.5
6. ATL	85	3.6	2.6
7. Stick It	80	3.5	2.1
8. Benchwarmers	80	3.6	NA
9. Inside Man	78	3.6	3.0
10. RV	75	3.5	2.2
11. Failure to Launch	72	3.5	2.0
12. The Wild	69	3.4	1.9
13. Thank You For Smoking	65	3.3	3.4
14. Stay Alive	63	3.3	1.4
15. La Mujer de Mi Hermano	63	3.3	2.0
16. Silent Hill	49	3.1	2.4
17. The Sentinel	46	3.1	2.1
18. Scary Movie 4	46	3.0	2.0
19. Friends with Money	23	2.3	2.9
20. American Dreamz	20	2.5	2.2

Average Audience Approval = 69 percent

BASED ON FOUR STARS



Student of the Week:

STACIE SUEDA

BY: LANCE TOMINAGA



It was a bitter irony, really. For two full weeks, Hawaii Baptist Academy senior Stacie Sueda had been preparing for her big moment in Washington, D.C. The entire time, the 17-year-old National Honor Society student sacrificed her social life to research, develop and rehearse her presentation for the Young Epidemiology Scholars (YES) Competition, which is designed to spur students' interest in the science of studying the causes, distribution and control of disease among populations.

The result? "I got really sick," says Sueda, laughing. "I think it was all the stress, and I wasn't sleeping right. But it was still worth it."

Although Sueda didn't win the \$50,000 scholarship competition, she still returned home with a \$2,000 college scholarship – and a lot of fond memories.

"It was fun," says Sueda, who was one of only 60 high students in the country selected to compete in the finals (there were nearly 700 entrants nationwide). "With \$50,000 on the line, I thought everybody would be really 'cut-throat.' But the people were really nice. It turned out that 85 to 90 percent of the kids there were headed to Ivy League schools. Just being around them and realizing that I could be at their level gave me a little more confidence in myself."

Sueda gave an oral presentation about her subject, "Hawaii's Epidemic Dental Decay Rate in Children," and fielded questions from a panel of judges. The YES competition is sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and administered by the College Board.

Sueda's presentation was inspired by working with her father, Dean Sueda, who is a pediatric dentist in Honolulu. "I've been helping out at his office since I was in the seventh grade," she says. "[Dentistry] is definitely something I'm interested in. I want to be a pediatric dentist."

The Washington trip is likely just one of several "senior moments" that Sueda will cherish. She was also a starting right fielder and second baseman for the Pac-Five softball team, which captured the 2006 Division II state championship. She is also a member of HBA's girls basketball team.

Her future plans? Start spreading the news: Sueda is headed to Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y. "It's about 15 minutes from Albany," she says. Sueda, who plans to major in biology, will receive a partial scholarship from the school to play softball.

ABOUT STACIE SUEDA:

- Favorite school subject:** "Art."
- Favorite teacher:** "Miss [Amy] Fessenden. I had her for Bible [class] for two years. She can relate to us, and she has a really pleasant personality."
- What she'll miss most about HBA:** "My friends."
- Favorite school memory:** "Our senior trip was really fun. We went to the Big Island."
- What she'll miss about Hawaii:** "The weather, the beach and my dog."
- Favorite musical group:** "Incubus."
- Favorite food:** "Italian. And rice. I can eat rice just by itself."
- Favorite sports:** "Surfing and snowboarding."

PICKET LINE ON BISHOP STREET



Half a dozen union members wearing signs, "Hawaii Laborers' Union Local 368 On Strike," formed an informational picket line starting last week Wednesday, May 3, to grab the attention of contractors working on the condominium at the corner of Bishop and Beretania streets. Ledor-US Pacific Construction LLC is the general contractor for the condominium, The Pinnacle Honolulu.

"We've been picketing because Ledor has no union contract for construction laborers working on that project," says Tony Saguibo, recording secretary for Laborers' Union Local 368. "We're going to continue to strike as long as possible and try to raise awareness to continue to communicate to Ledor and the public that there is no contract with the laborers."

The condominium project comprises a mix of non-union laborers, as well as subcontractors who belong to unions. The mixed labor is not unusual for Honolulu's construction industry. Union members hope the informational picket line will raise awareness.

Ledor-U.S. Pacific Construction LLC was formed last year when Canada-based Ledor Group acquired Hawaii-based U.S. Pacific Construction. The Pinnacle at 1199 Bishop St. will be a 36-floor condo with two units per floor and high-speed elevator that opens up to each unit's private foyer. California-based Caribou Industries Inc. is the developer.

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Hokulani

bake shop

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Restaurant Row
808.587.7098
www.hokulanibakeshop.com



KAIMUKI

BY: CATHY S. CRUZ & LANCE TOMINAGA



NO PARKING IN THIS TOWN



Kaimuki business owners and residents will host town meetings on Monday, May 8, to discuss a proposed multi-level parking garage next to 12th Avenue. They hope the garage will be a solution to the lack of parking in Kaimuki.

Parking has been a problem in Kaimuki for the past decade. Drivers typically park on the street or in one of two municipal lots bordered by 11th and Koko Head avenues. The larger lot has 270; the smaller one has 110. Still, those are not enough.

The proposed structure, to be built on the site of an existing municipal lot, will house at least 500 stalls. It will have an on-site attendant or a smart-card payment system. Metered, valet and employee parking will be considered. The ground floor will include a town meeting room and a report-writing room for the Honolulu Police Department, according to the proposal.

MONDAY MAY 8

Meeting to discuss Kaimuki parking garage

9 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Victoria Inn, banquet room
1120 12th Ave.

"I'm really happy they finally seem to be going ahead on this," says Dale La Forest, manager of Victoria Inn. She says the parking lot behind her restaurant always is full when the Realtors Building conducts classes.

Parking especially is a headache during dinner and lunch hours. Drivers, like hawks eyeing prey, wait in their vehicles for as long as 30 minutes, ready to nab an open stall.

"I have my clients come before 11:15 a.m., because that's when it really starts building up, or they come after 1:15 p.m.," says Susan Minser-Will, owner of SHOPGIRL on Waialae Avenue.

Funding for the proposed garage will come from private and city funds, says Michael Abe, chairman of the Kaimuki Neighborhood Board. Approximately \$200,000 is available for planning and design - money that the City & County of Honolulu set aside last year for parking improvements in Kaimuki.

Once the garage is built, parking fees will help pay for the garage. The city, which charges 75 cents per hour, collects \$900,000 annually in parking-meter fees in Kaimuki. But that number may be understated. Parking

meters are not consistently monitored, and drivers do not always pay.

Town meeting organizers urge residents for feedback at the Monday meetings. "We've had discussions for years. We hope to double the capacity of parking," Abe says.



People don't have patience to wait. They drive around the block. I tell them to come early.

Raymond Suza, aka "Pocho from Palolo"
TED'S JEWELRY, store employee



Sometimes, customers have to leave to feed the meters. I hear of people getting tickets.

Tricia Tolentino
OFF THE MAT (a yoga store), employee



I had to wait five minutes to find a parking stall. I came at 1 p.m.

Dante Camarao
Kaimuki patron

A VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

As you navigate the Web site, www.kaimukihawaii.com, it's evident Kaimuki residents are a cohesive bunch.

The free Kaimuki site has job openings, volunteer opportunities, a photo gallery, coupons, event calendars and so much more. A section titled "Tips & FYI" encourages residents to share their favorite hot spots.

Another section titled "Free Info" gives practical advice on removing graffiti from homes and storefronts. It also lists useful tips on securing one's home before leaving town.

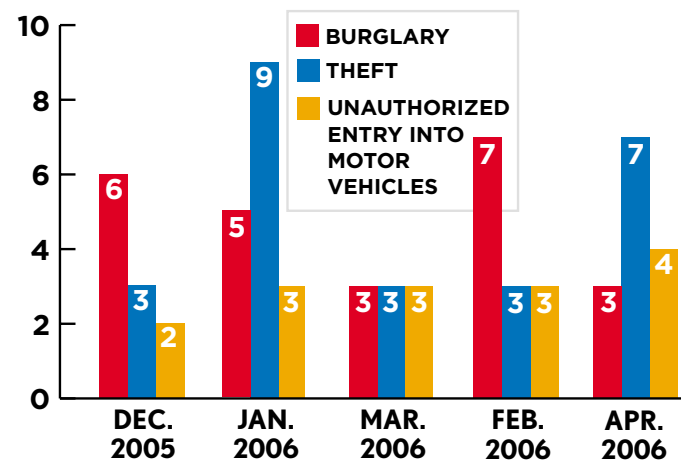
Ernest Abrams, a Kaimuki resident and owner/president of MacBusiness Consulting, created the online community last October as a way to bring together Kaimuki residents.

"I'm having so much fun sharing with the community," Abrams says. "I'm learning so much and meeting new people." Originally from San Francisco, Abrams has lived in Hawaii for the past 13 years.

In addition to the Kaimuki site, Abrams also created www.firstfridayhawaii.com, a free community Web site for downtown Honolulu's arts community.

KAIMUKI CRIMES

Below are crime statistics for police beat 765, bordered by 6th and 16th avenues, and Kaau Street and the H-1 Freeway.



SOURCE: Honolulu Police Department

CARS IN KAIMUKI ARE VULNERABLE

After parking, lock your vehicle's doors and keep valuables out of sight. That's a message the Honolulu Police Department wants to spread to Kaimuki's community.

"We've had a trend where people have been leaving their vehicles unlocked," says Officer Jason Hendricks of the Honolulu Police Department. "Sometimes, the cars are in the driver's own garages, right in their houses. There are people who walk around and look for these opportunities."

In April, there were seven reports of theft, three reports of burglary and four unauthorized entries into motor vehicles in Police Beat 765.

Beat 765 is one of the smaller police beats in the district and is bordered by Kaau Street, the H-1 Freeway and 6th and 16th avenues. The majority of restaurants, banks and retail stores are located in the area.



IT'S GETTING UGLY

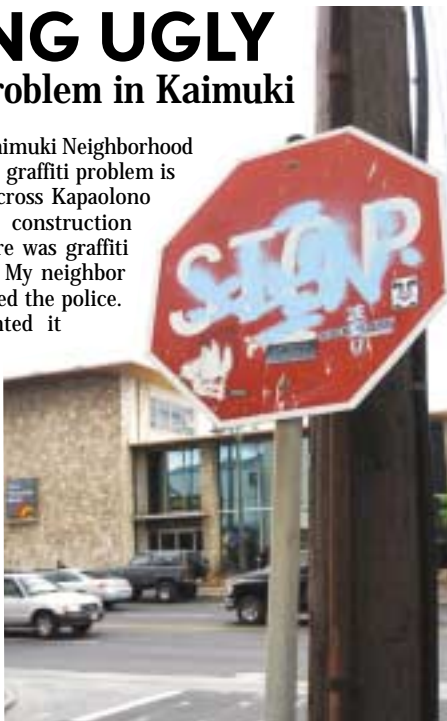
Graffiti a growing problem in Kaimuki

Michael Abe, chairman of the Kaimuki Neighborhood Board, knows that his community's graffiti problem is getting out of hand. "I live right across Kapaolono Park, where they're doing some construction now," he says. "One morning, there was graffiti there that was racially derogatory. My neighbor complained to me about it and called the police. Fortunately, the contractors painted it over right away. But there's no doubt about it: The graffiti problem has gotten more serious over the last year in Kaimuki as well as in other areas. People are sick of it."

The problem was addressed at the March 15 Kaimuki Neighborhood Board meeting at Liliuokalani Elementary School. During a question-and-answer session with representatives of the Honolulu Police Department, it was suggested that some of the graffiti in the area can be attributed to "contests" between students who attend different schools.

"We understand that it may be a couple of gangs from high schools that are in a competitive type of situation," says Abe. "The best way to approach the problem is to report it, and kids seem to be the best sources. The biggest breaks come from kids telling us who's been bragging about [graffiti]."

Chelsey, a freshman student who lives in Kaimuki, disagrees. "Personally, I don't know of anyone doing it," she says. "I guess people keep [their graffiti] on the down low, so they don't really tell me if they're doing anything. It's definitely a problem. They're putting up a new building where KC Drive-In used to be. They just started it, but already there's graffiti on it."



The 70-year-old Queen Theater on Waiālae Avenue, in particular, has been plagued by vandals. Graffiti can be seen all around the building, which closed its doors years ago. The building's owner recently had the entire back exterior wall painted to cover up the eyesores.

"That's like the second or third time the owner did that," says Abe, shaking his head. "The wall would be painted over, and then [the vandals] would come back."

Dennis Manalili, principal at Kaimuki High School, says the community shouldn't be too quick to blame students. "I think the last arrests [HPD] made, the [culprits] were not minors," he says. "They were 19 and 20 years old."

Manalili says the graffiti problem can be attributed to culture. "When there's a culture of pride and caring, these things wouldn't happen," he says. "At our school, we try to instill a lot of pride and create facilities that are as pleasant as possible. Having clean bathrooms, for example, will help our kids feel like they're important. And so if they take pride in their school, you'll see less graffiti from our kids. Within our school, graffiti isn't a major problem."

What can the community do to alleviate the graffiti problem? Says Abe, "Police officers have told us that if you see somebody doing graffiti, if you have a digital camera or a camera phone, take a picture. We have to be vigilant."

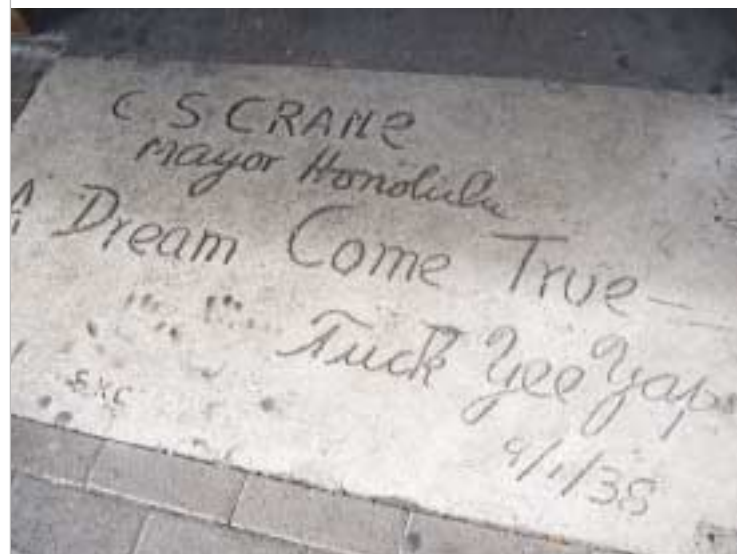
DID YOU KNOW?

Fast facts about Kaimuki

- Kaimuki was "born" in 1898, after Daniel Paul Isenberg sold about 520 acres to Gear Lansing & Co., one of Honolulu's first real estate firms. Although the company envisioned the area as an affluent residential community, initial interest among potential buyers was almost nonexistent. The asking price? Three cents per square foot.
- As an enticement to lure people to the area, the public was offered \$50 for every baby born in Kaimuki.
- Gear Lansing & Co. benefited from the 1900 Chinatown fire, as many small business owners in Chinatown needed a new place to live and work. Kaimuki's business district began to gain momentum after 1925, when the dirt roads were paved and sidewalks were built.
- Hawaiian historians believe the translation for "Kaimuki" is "the oven for cooking ti root." (The legendary Menehune are said to have built many of their ki ovens in the area.) Therefore, the correct pronunciation of Kaimuki should be "Ka-imu-ki."
- Oahu's first zoo was located in Kaimuki at the old Waiālae Road and Koko Head Avenue. The Kaimuki Zoo, built in 1905, featured animals, birds, fish, grass houses, a Japanese tea house, sports facilities and live entertainment. Not all the animals were authentic, however: The resident "zebra" was exposed to be a mere donkey when rain showers washed away its black and white markings.
- HPD detective Chang Apana, the inspiration for the fictional "Charlie Chan," called Kaimuki home, as did three Honolulu mayors: Charles S. Crane (who served as mayor from 1938 to 1941), John H. Wilson (1947-1955), and Neal S. Blaisdell (1955-1969).

- The annual Kaimuki Christmas Parade, which began in 1946, will celebrate its 60th anniversary this December.

- According to the School District Database and Information Service (www.proximityone.com), Kaimuki's total population is about 77,750. The total number of households in the area is just over 34,850. The median age for Kaimuki residents is 40. Eighty-five percent of Kaimuki residents are ages 18 years and above. More than half of Kaimuki's population are of Asian descent.



This 1939 sidewalk inscription, located in front of Gecko Books on Waiālae Avenue, shows the pride of Kaimuki after Hawaii's first modern supermarket was built on the site. Tuck Yee Yap's previous grocery store was destroyed by a fire earlier that year.

BIZ Events

WEDNESDAY 5/10

IBI Hawaii Mastermind Networking Luncheon weekly no-host event to help business owners refine their "30-second business pitch;" a unique networking opportunity; noon; call for location and RSVP by May 9; 342-0375

American Business Women's Association "Identity Theft Awareness and Prevention;" 5:30 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center; \$21 entry; \$3 parking; RSVP by 10 a.m., May 8; call 923-2448 ext. 127

Executive Women International Dinner to honor attorney Crystal Rose; Hawaii Prince Hotel Waikiki; 5:30 p.m.; \$38; RSVP by 4:30 p.m., May 5; 931-1576

The Association of Records Managers & Administrators "New Applications for Electronic Content Management Technology;" speaker John Holzemer, Xerox Global Service; 11:30 a.m.; Island Insurance Building, 1022 Bethel St., 1st floor conference room; \$5 members, \$20 non-members; call 693-1531

Downtown Business Associates (DBA) Toastmasters every Wed, noon; ASB Tower, 2nd floor; call 522-1028

THURSDAY 5/11

The American Business Women's Association Punahoe Chapter, 32nd anniversary celebration and meeting; 5:30 p.m., The Plaza Club; \$30; call 780-6828, from 3 to 8 p.m.

BNI International Referral Organization (Aloha Chapter) business networking; every Thurs, 7 a.m.; Town restaurant; call 235-1262

BNI International Referral Organization (TLG chapter) business networking; every Thurs, noon; Sam Choy's Breakfast, Lunch & Crab; call 235-1262

TO LIST YOUR BUSINESS EVENTS:

E-mail to: planetstories@pacificbasin.net

E-mail subject: "Biz Events"

Include the following information:

- Name of event
- Day and time
- Location and address
- Cost and additional details
- Contact number to be published

SILENT AUCTIONS:

Time For A New Approach?

Lynn Watanabe has attended hundreds of silent auctions over the past years. But she rarely wins.

"I'm too busy working that I never have a chance to bid," laughs Watanabe, a volunteer for local nonprofit group Child & Family Service.

Suzy Churchill, another philanthropist and community volunteer, once scored a trip to New Zealand and a priceless painting of the *Hokulea*.

"Silent auctions have become an activity as people stroll around and chit-chat at fund-raisers," Churchill says. For 25 years, she has led auctions for groups, including the Boys & Girls Club of Hawaii.

Auctions are instant income for nonprofit groups, but some organizers say it is time to replace them with new fund-raising ideas. Their reasons:

Auctions are challenging to organize; the same effort could be used for unique, new concepts. And the same companies donate year after year

Sharon Fairbanks, a volunteer for the Boys & Girls Club and the Honolulu Academy of Arts, wonders how long the community can support silent auctions. "Our population base is small and extremely generous. I would be looking at new ways to raise money, entertain guests and create an exciting ambiance."

Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa, a major donor for silent auctions, receives several donations requests per day. The hotel turns down more requests than it supports. Noel Trainor, general manager for the Hilton, says, "Unfortunately, we have to say no, because we cannot support every organization."

Still, there is nothing more rewarding than being a part of the community, he says. Trainor, a chairman and founder of the Hawaii Foodbank Hotel Coalition, says, "Silent auctions are extremely important for non-profits because the revenues fall right to their bottom line."

This year, Child & Family Service posted its silent auctions online. The



Watanabe



Trainor

highest bids will be the opening bid at a live auction on May 9, the same day of the group's fund-raising golf tournament.

"The best thing is to have the person running the live auction to know the people in the room," says Mary Luther, co-chair of the CFS prize committee and a member of the Child & Family Service guild.

Watanabe says silent auctions thrive when prizes are unique and creatively packaged. Her house has been used for dinner parties, featuring celebrity chefs and entertainment. "We had Joan Namkoong [celebrity foodie] do the cooking once. My house is party central!" she says.

Watanabe admits silent auctions are time-consuming to organize. For non-profit volunteers, a silent auction is like a full-time job. There are the solicitation letters, the phone calls, the inventory of donated items, the deliveries, the storage, the table setup, the bid sheets. And then there are the thank-you letters.

Becky Dunning, vice president of development for PBS Hawaii Dunning, says the key to a successful silent auction - or any fund-raiser - is to use board members' connections. PBS held a silent auction at its annual Vintners in Paradise fund-raiser in November and raised \$25,000.

Will silent auctions be obsolete one day? "There is still room for silent auctions," Dunning says. "Until someone can come up with an idea to replace it, we all have our goals to keep the station on air, or the symphony playing or the theatre company running."

Q: WHAT WAS YOUR BEST SILENT AUCTION BID?



"I bid on a weathergirl spot on KITV4 last year, but I haven't taken advantage of that yet!"

- **Becky Dunning**, vice president of development, PBS Hawaii



"One item I wanted and won at a very good price was a three-night stay at Randy Moore's beachfront cottage. I was elated when I had the successful bid and looked forward to a relaxing stay. However, I was so conscious of making sure the place was neat and tidy, we spent almost the entire morning of the last day mopping, sweeping and cleaning. Randy subsequently told me that he had never seen the place that clean. So much for a relaxing vacation!"

- **Robin Campaniano**, president and chief executive officer, AIG Hawaii Insurance Co.



"A few years back, my husband and I attended a fund-raiser for the Pacific Voyaging Society. At the silent auction was a beautiful necklace with pink coral and teardrop glass beads with the going bid at \$125. I held it up to my neck and told my friend, Kuulei, 'Isn't this nice?' I put it back down but didn't bid on it. Much later, during dinner after the silent auction closed, my husband brought a bag to our table that contained the precious necklace. I didn't know that he saw me admiring the necklace. I was so touched and every time I wear the necklace it reminds me of that evening."

- **Cynthia Rankin**, regional director of public relations, Hilton Hawaii



"In 2003, at the Adult Friends for Youth Fundraiser, I spotted a splendid piece of art: an ocean/dolphin-themed artwork entitled *Portal of Hunab Ku* by Annenberg. The combination of the ocean depths and the intricately carved wooden frame immediately caught my eye. It was valued at nearly \$2,000, but it was mine for less than \$400. Today, it is prominently displayed in my living room."

- **Kevin Matsuda**, assistant vice president, commercial banking division, American Savings Bank



"I got a real fun painting from the La Pietra School silent auction. This particular piece was painted by an artist in Indonesia in the late 1960s. It was relatively large and had a wonderful gold frame. It was a depiction of a day in the life of a village in Indonesia. The upset price was \$35. I was the first to sign my name on the sheet. Later, I was informed that I was the winner of this piece. Forgetting what I had bid, I asked the attendant, 'How many bids and what did I pay?' The reply was, 'No one and \$35.' Could it really be possible that out of 500 people, I was the only one that saw any value in this piece? And where would I put it? My wife, as encouraging and supportive as she was when I told her that I was bidding on this piece, would have no part in hanging this in our home. So to the office I went. It now adorns the mauka wall of my office, and I am pleased to say that I get a lot of compliments on this piece."

- **Toby Martyn**, senior executive vice president, Bank of Hawaii

Mother's Day Menu

<p>Salad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abalone Salad <p>Appetizers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scallop Spring Roll • Deep Fried Bird Shaped Shrimp Ball in a Nest 	<p>Entrees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Crab w/ Fresh Coconut & Dried Garlic • Shanghai Style Tenderloin Steak in a Bird Nest • Steamed Island Fish Steak • Steamed Rice 	<p>Dessert</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Tea Mousse Tea or Coffee <p style="text-align: center;">NO MSG</p>
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\$50 per person (minimum 2 persons)
Tax and gratuity not included. Restrictions apply, not applicable towards other promotions, no menu item substitutions.

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planetpeople



Howard S. Garval has been selected to lead Child & Family Service as the organization's new president and chief executive officer. Garval comes to Hawaii from West Hartford, Conn., where he was president and chief executive officer of The Village for Families and Children Inc. Prior to that, he was a district director for Family Service of Greater Boston.

The American Lung Association of Hawaii (ALAH) has appointed **Jean Evans** chief operating officer. Evans, who has more than 20 years of management experience in non-profit health, education and social service agencies, was previously with Alu Like Inc., a service organization that assists Native Hawaiians in achieving social and economic self-sufficiency. She was also affiliated with Kapiolani Health for 12 years and headed the Central/Leeward unit of the American Cancer Society. Evans will begin her ALAH service on May 8.

Mary Browne has joined Kiewit Building Group, a national general contractor and construction manager, as Honolulu area safety manager. She will oversee the company's safety program, including all aspects of safety related to project planning, site inspections, personnel training and resource development. Browne has 24 years of experience in occupational safety in Honolulu and is a certified safety professional. Prior to joining Kiewit, she was safety manager at American Piping & Boiler.

Pacific Asia Design Group Inc. has announced that interior designer **Yvette S. Muta** has joined the company. Her current responsibilities include re-branding the Four Seasons Manele Bay Hotel and Lodge at Koele, and interior design for the

Palms at Manele luxury condominium. Muta, who has more than 15 years of design experience in Hawaii, was previously a project manager and interior designer with Long & Associates, AIA, Inc.

Stuart T.K. Ho has been appointed to AARP Hawaii's executive council for a two-year term. The five-member council is instrumental in setting priorities for the membership organization's activities. Ho is currently president and chief executive officer of the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific. He is also director of Nuuanu Memorial Park Inc. He is a former director of Aloha Airlines, Bank of Hawaii, Gannett Co. Inc., Pacific Resources Inc., College Retirement Equities Fund and TIAA-CREF Mutual Funds. He is also the former non-executive chairman of Gannett Pacific Corp. and publisher of the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*.



Molecular biologist **Marla Berry**, Ph.D., of the John A. Burns School of Medicine has been named 2006 Scientist of the Year by the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS Foundation) Honolulu Chapter. Berry serves as chair of the Cell and Molecular Biology Program at JABSOM. The Achievement Rewards for College Scientists is a national organization that raises scholarship funds for American doctoral students in the sciences, health and engineering.

Sheraton Hotels has promoted **Heidi Shimabuku** to the position of human resources manager, risk management in support services. Shimabuku previously served as an administrative assistant temporarily assigned to the risk management unit, where she assisted with regular claims management as well as a variety of safety and health projects. Her job experience

includes working as a human resources generalist for Attention Plus Care; an HR/payroll clerk for Chaney Brooks & Co.; a Cast Deployment Center staff member for Walt Disney World in Florida; and an office manager for State Farm Insurance.



Lerner Kimura



Spencer



Bogert



Brown



Donlin



Farnsworth

The Hawaii Women's Business Center has appointed new board members: Board President **Alissa Lerner Kimura**, financial consultant, AXA Advisors LLC. Board Vice President **Linda Nakamura**, loan servicing manager, American Savings Bank. Board Secretary **Jo Hu**, attorney, Hu & Tsuji L.L.C. Board Treasurer **Cynthia Spencer**, independent distributor, ISAGENIX INTERNATIONAL. Board Director **Sally Bogert**, self-employed. Board Director **Cleota Brown**, vice president, North American Retail Business, Custom House Global Foreign Exchange. Board Director **Sherri Donlin**, assistant vice president and business product manager, Central Pacific Bank. Board Director **Chenoa Farnsworth**, business consultant, Farnsworth Consulting. Board Director **Dawn Sanders**, owner, Corporate Documents &

Information Specialists. Board Director **Lynn Sien**, principal, Lynn Sien Designs.

The Kahala Hotel Resort has appointed **Sharon Klaschka** to director of sales. Klaschka brings to The Kahala more than 23 years of Hawaii hotel industry experience. She began her career at the Maui Intercontinental Hotel in Wailea, Maui, and was a senior sales manager at the Stouffer Wailea Beach Resort. Most recently, Klaschka was the director of leisure sales at The Fairmont Kea Lani, Maui for the past 14 years.

Liberty Mutual Group has added **David Abe** to its personal lines sales department. Abe has worked in the insurance industry for more than 10 years and will join the Honolulu sales team on Kapiolani Boulevard.



Marilyn Cristofori has been promoted to chief executive officer of the Hawaii Arts Alliance. Cristofori joined the Hawaii Arts Alliance in 1994 and previously was its executive director. Cristofori holds a bachelor's degree in education from Stanford University, a master's in dance/theatre from California State University and an Executive MBA with honors from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

To send personnel announcements to "Planet People," e-mail your press release and attach a color digital photo to: planetpeople@pacificbasin.net
Label the photo according to the person's name. Write "Planet People" in the e-mail subject line.

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When ID theft happens, it can destroy more than your credit. While we can't prevent it, First Select Portfolio with ID theft coverage can help restore what you've lost. First Select Portfolio is an insurance policy that combines coverage for homeowners, automobile and personal umbrella in a single policy, with one simple bill. For more on identity theft coverage, call your independent insurance agent. Only from First Insurance.



527-7777
www.ficoh.com

For the week of May 8, 2006

CALENDAR

May 8/Monday

No Events

9/Tuesday

Honolulu Academy of Arts Tea and Tour Featuring "Go Tell It on a Mountain" with David Andrew. Honolulu Academy of Arts, 900 S. Beretania St.; 2:30 to 4 p.m.; free; call 532-8700 to RSVP

10/Wednesday

Keiki Storytime Borders Books Music Movies Café, Ward Centre; 10:30 a.m.; free and open to the public; call 591-8995

"The Fortunate Exception: Hawaii and the Internment of Japanese Americans During World War II"

A panel discusses factors that prevented the mass internment of Japanese in Hawaii during World War II. Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 S. Beretania St., 5th fl.; 6 to 7:30 p.m.; free admission; call 945-7633

11/Thursday

Pacific Home's May StyleIn: "Let's Get Comfortable"

Wade Opplinger of Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams provides tips about comfort and style. Pacific Home, 420 Ward Ave.; 5:30 to 7 p.m.; free and open to the public; call 596-9338

Bishop Museum's Monthly Research Series

Dr. Don Drake, associate professor of botany at the University of Hawaii, discusses how Polynesian fauna have been drastically altered through extinction of native species and introduction of alien species. Bishop Museum's Paki Conference Rm. I, 1525 Bernice St.; 4 p.m.; free and open to the public; call 847-3511

12/Friday

Collectible Aloha Wear Bari-Ellen Routette, co-owner of Bailey's Antiques and



THIS WEEKEND, JAMAREK (pictured above) will perform West African music at two venues in downtown Honolulu. On Friday, May 12, from 9 p.m. to midnight, the local percussion ensemble will join Abdoul Doumbia at Ong King (184 N. King St.). Then on Saturday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m., Jamarek and Doumbia join slack key artist Stephen Inglis at the rRed Elephant (1144 Bethel St.). Admission to Friday's performance is \$8 and can be purchased at the door (for more info, call 753-1143). Tickets for Saturday's event are \$17.50, and available at Honolulu Box Office (call 550-8457 or visit www.honoluluboxoffice.com). Jamarek includes (from left): Lori Kimata, Kapono Ciotti, Tirrell McGruder, Erica McMillan and Daryl Cabral. Photo by Ronen Zilberman.

GOT EVENTS?

- E-mail calendar items to planetcalendar@pacificbasin.net or fax to 521-0365
- Press releases must arrive at the Downtown Planet office at least 10 business days before the issue you want it to appear in (all our issues come out on Mondays) for an event to be considered for the calendar section
- No printing guarantees; events are published based on the amount of available space, which vary each week
- All events must occur within the urban Honolulu district
- MANDATORY: Please include the name of the event, location, time, cost (even if it's free) and a phone number our readers can call for more information or to RSVP. A brief description of the event is also helpful.

Aloha Shirts, will display and talk about the vintage and rare aloha shirts she has collected. Attendees who mention the *Downtown Planet* newspaper or bring an aloha shirt to donate to the Waikiki Community Center will receive \$15 off the price of *The Aloha Shirt: Spirit of the Islands*, autographed by Dale Hope; part of the "Waikiki by Moonlight - Vintage Meets Vogue" event. Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach, 2335 Kalakaua Ave.; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; free admission; \$5 validated valet parking; call 921-9731

Book Signing at Outrigger Waikiki

On the Beach Dale Hope autographs his latest book, *The Aloha Shirt: Spirit of the Islands*. Mention the *Downtown Planet* newspaper or bring an aloha shirt to donate to the Waikiki Community Center for the Collectible Aloha Wear event to receive \$15 off the price of the book. Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach, 2335 Kalakaua Ave.; 10 a.m. to noon; free admission; \$5 validated valet parking; call 921-9731

13/Saturday

Second Saturday A self-guided tour of the downtown Honolulu's art district. Downtown Honolulu/Chinatown;

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; free admission; visit www.louispohlgallery.com/second-saturday.html
Chinese Fortune Telling and Mystic Reading Featuring bamboo fortune sticks read by Chu Lan as a part of Second Saturday. Louis Pohl Gallery, 1111 Nuuanu Ave.; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; call 521-1812

Osteoporosis Fair Featuring free bone density screenings, educational lectures, group exercise demonstrations, hand massages and light refreshments. St. Francis Medical Center, 2230 Liliha St.; 9 a.m. to noon; free admission; call 547-6410

Hawaiian Weaponry Laakea Sukanuma displays and talks about various traditional weapons that were used by the Hawaiians. Doris Duke Theatre; 11 a.m.; free; call 532-8768

Book Signing at Borders Ward Centre Thomas Holland autographs his book, *One Drop of Blood*. Borders Books Music Movies Café, Ward Centre, 1200 Ala Moana Blvd.; noon; free; call 591-8995

Ukulele Jam Enjoy a display of collectible ukulele and participate in a free workshop led by musician Kim Hussey. Outrigger Waikiki on the Beach, 2335 Kalakaua Ave.; workshop from 10 a.m. to noon; display from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; free; \$5 validated valet parking; call 921-9731

14/Sunday

** Mother's Day **

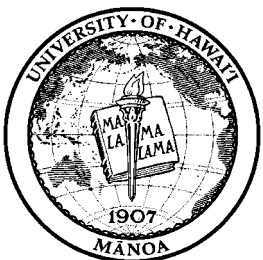
Honolulu Academy of Arts Tea

and Tour See description for May 9
Da Vinci's Secrets Rev. Jim Miller of First Presbyterian Church discusses the book, *The Da Vinci Code*, and the history and significance of *The Last Supper* and other works of art. Doris Duke Theatre; 2 p.m.; free, but limited seating; call 532-8768

Art Exhibits

Axis: BFA Show '06 Thru May 12. University of Hawaii at Manoa's Department of Art and Art History undergraduate students present their annual BFA graduation exhibition. University of Hawaii Art Gallery, Art Building; Mon. thru Fri. from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sun. from noon to 4 p.m.; free, but donations appreciated; call 956-6888

Center for Civic Education Project Citizens Exhibit Thru May 12. An exhibit to share Hawaii students' works regarding community concerns and issues dealing with public policy. Honolulu Hale Courtyard, 530 S.



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King St.; Mon. thru Fri. from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; free; call 527-5666

Peer Pleasure Thru May 13. A group show featuring Brian Aburano, Heidi Levora, Tom McCluskey, Jane Raissle, Marti Rounds, Paul Staub, Gordon Uyehara, Kalani Wilson and Kathy Yokouchi. Pauahi Tower Art Gallery, 2nd fl., 1001 Bishop St.; Mon. thru Fri. from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; free; call 537-6838

HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS Call 532-8700; 900 S. Beretania St.; Tues. thru Sat. from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sun. from 1 to 5 p.m.; \$7 general admission, \$4 seniors, students and military; Note: Admission to the Academy is free thru May 14 in celebration of the "Year of the Museum 2006"

- **Life in the Pacific of the 1700s** Thru May 14 in the Henry R. Luce and Clare Boothe Luce galleries
- **Claude Monet: Port-Goulphar, Belle-Île, 1887** Thru May 2006 in the newly renovated Western Art Gallery

"Painting for Peggy" Thru May 18. Artwork from the recent "Painting for Peggy" classes will be on display. Peggy Chun is a watercolorist who is bed-ridden by ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease. 22 Pauahi St. (a part of Bethel Street Gallery, 1140 Bethel St.); Mon. thru Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sat. from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sun. by appointment; free; call 524-3552 or 595-8435; visit www.bethelstreetgallery.com or www.peggychun.com

Stage & Theatre

Damn Yankees Call 438-4480 or visit www.squareone.org/ACT; Richardson Theatre (Fort Shafter); \$12 to \$15 children, \$15 to \$20 adults

Thursday, Friday, Saturday (11, 12, 13), 7:30 p.m. Opening on May 11 with performances thru May 27. A middle-aged baseball fanatic sells his soul to the devil and his beautiful assistant in exchange for a winning season

"Sight Unseen" Call 438-4480 or visit www.squareone.org/ACT; Army Community Theatre, Richardson Theatre (Fort Shafter); \$6; free for ACT subscribers

Sunday (14), 2 p.m. Opening on May 14 with Sunday performances thru May 28. This comedy-drama by Donald Margulies is adapted and directed by Vanita Rae Smith; a readers theatre presentation

Tales of Old Hawaii Call 839-9885 or visit their Web site at www.htyweb.org; Tenney Theatre, St. Andrew's Cathedral; \$16 adults, \$8 children

Saturday (13), 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.*
* *American Sign Language interpretation show*
Saturday performances thru May 13. This interactive play uses storytelling and activities to tell ancient Hawaiian legends, while encouraging children to exercise different "pre-literary skills" (visual, oral and auditory); suggested for ages 3+

Go, Dog. Go! Call 839-9885 or visit their Web site at www.htyweb.org; Tenney Theatre, St. Andrew's Cathedral; \$16 adults, \$8 children

Saturday (13), 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Saturday performances thru May 20. One of the most popular children's picture book is brought to life in a zany, musical romp; suggested for ages 4+

The Foreigner Call 988-6131 or visit www.manoavalleytheatre.com 2833 East Manoa Road; \$25 tickets; \$5 discount available for seniors and military; \$15 patrons 25 years old and younger

Wednesday, Thursday (10, 11), 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Saturday (12, 13), 8 p.m.

Sunday (14), 4 p.m.

Performances thru May 21. Featuring Larry Shue's multiple award-winning comedy

Special Events

Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii and Brother Noland Celebration Call 527-5666; Mission Memorial Auditorium, 550 S. King St. (next to Honolulu Hale); free

Thursday (11), 5:30 p.m. Celebrating the release of Brother Noland's new CD, *Mystical Fish*, featuring Brother Noland, One Tribe Aloha and the Boys and Girls Club of Hawaii

2006 International Cultural Summit Call 864-9812 or visit www.hawaii.gov/sfca; Hawaii Convention Center; registration before May 9: \$50 one day, \$125 three days; on-site registration: \$60 one day, \$150 three days; \$20 students

Thursday, Friday, Saturday (11, 12, 13), 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Explore contemporary issues involving culture and the arts in a local to global context through various sessions, music, dance and art exhibits. Dr. Davis Wade, explorer-in-residence

for National Geographic Society, will be the keynote presenter; open to the public

Na Mele O Hawaii Call 532-8768; Doris Duke Theatre; \$18 and \$20 tickets

Friday (12), 7:30 p.m. An evening of old-style music and dance featuring the Beamer family halau

Jamarek Call 753-1143; Ong King, 184 N. King St.; \$8

Friday (12), 9 p.m. to midnight Percussion ensemble presenting Abdoul Doumbia from Mali

A Night of Slack Key and West African Blues Call 550-TIKS (8457) or visit www.honoluluoffice.com; rRed Elephant, 1144 Bethel St.; \$17.50

Saturday (13), 7:30 p.m. Featuring Abdoul Doumbia from Mali and Stephen Inglis, plus Jamarek and other featured artists

* See photo on page 12

"Waikiki By Moonlight - Vintage Meets Vogue" Visit the Web site www.waikikiimprovement.com; along Kalakaua Avenue in Waikiki

Friday (12), 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Showcasing the very best of Waikiki's (and Hawaii's) alluring past and ever popular present; featuring music, dance, food, arts and crafts, exhibits and a Vintage Meets Vogue aloha wear fashion show; various hotels and restaurants in the area will also be participating

55th Anniversary of West Honolulu Rotary Club Call 377-9610;

Hawaii Prince Hotel Ballroom; \$75 per person; \$1,000 sponsor 10-seat tables; open to the public

Friday (12), 6 p.m. Celebrating the club's anniversary and presenting Esther "Kiki" Takakura Mookini with the 2006 Mary Kawena Pukui Award, which recognizes and honors a non-native Hawaiian's contributions to the Native Hawaiian community

"In the Mood" Call 528-0506; Hawaii Theatre, 1130 Bethel St.; \$30 to \$45;

\$5 discounts available for students, seniors, military and for groups of 10+

Friday, Saturday (12, 13), 7:30 p.m.

Sunday (14), 2 p.m.

Featuring a 1940's musical revue

Honolulu Symphony - Festival of Sounds Call 792-2000 or Ticketmaster 1-877-750-4400 or visit www.ticketmaster.com; Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall; \$12 to \$65

Friday (12), 8 p.m.

Sunday (14), 4 p.m. Featuring pianist Stewart Goodyear, conductor JoAnn Falletta and the Honolulu Symphony;

Halekulani MasterWorks Season finale

Aloha Concert 2006 Call Ticketmaster 1-877-750-4400 or visit www.ticketmaster.com; Neal S. Blaisdell Concert Hall; \$11

Saturday (13), 5 p.m.

Presented by the Moanalua High School music department

KIPO Blues Night Call 955-8821;

Atherton Performing Arts Studio, 738 Kaheka St.; \$17.50 general admission, \$15 HPR members, \$10 students

Saturday (13), 7 p.m.

Featuring Slim Jr., Guy Cruz and the Pearlcasters

Na Mele Nei Concert and Nakeu Awai Fashion Show Call 596-8885;

Ward Warehouse Amphitheatre; free

Sunday (14), 1 to 3 p.m.

Featuring Paahana and a fashion show by Nakeu Awai; hosted by Native Books/Na Mea Hawaii

Comedy

Hawaiian Style Comedy Show

Starring Augie T. Call 921-4600;

Sheraton Waikiki, Esprit Lounge; validated parking available in the Sheraton Waikiki parking garage; \$10 admission

Wednesday (10), 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

An Act of Murder Call 589-2215; Dave & Busters, Ward Entertainment Complex, 1030 Auahi St.; \$34.95 per person; reservations required

Saturday (13), 7 p.m.

Saturday performances thru May 27. An interactive murder mystery dinner show; directed by Andrew Meader

Da Braddahs Call Ticketmaster 1-877-750-4400 or visit www.ticketmaster.com;

Radisson Waikiki Prince Kuhio Hotel, Grand Ballroom; \$52 adults and juniors, \$5 children ages 5 and younger; includes tax and free parking

Sunday (14), 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Featuring the comedy of Da Braddahs, Mel Cabang and Kaleo Pilanca for Mother's Day



One explore contemporary issues involving culture and the arts in a local to global context. Discuss Hawai'i's own mosaic of cultures and traditions. Celebrate the belief that intercultural dialogue is one of the surest guarantees of universal prosperity and peace. Join our diverse group of participants with the call, *E aia! E kuilima! Together! Join hands!*

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9:00 AM - 4:30 PM DAILY

Pre-registration (Three-day)	\$125
Pre-registration (One-day)	\$50
On-site registration (Three-day)	\$150
On-site registration (One-day)	\$60
Students	\$20

For a registration form and more information: visit www.hawaii.gov/sfca or call (808) 864-9812.

Open to the public. Pre-registration deadline is May 9, 2006. You may also register on the day(s) of the event.



Keynote Presenter
Dr. Wade Davis

This program is presented in association with



Wade Davis' worldwide explorations have taken him from the forests of Borneo and the Amazon to North African deserts and the mountains of Tibet. Author, filmmaker, anthropologist and explorer-in-residence for National Geographic Society, he will take you on a visual journey you will never forget. He calls it the "ethnosphere" - the biological, cultural and spiritual web life.

We invite you to attend!

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United States Senator and Mrs. Daniel Akaka
United States Representative and Mrs. Neil Abercrombie
United States Representative and Mrs. Ed Case
Governor Linda Lingle
Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. Duke Aiona
The Honorable and Mrs. Benjamin Cayetano
The Honorable and Mrs. John Waihee
The Honorable and Mrs. George Ariyoshi
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Waikiki Improvement Association



Craft artist and gallery owner Wendy Schofield-Ching is quick to admit that she's not a Native American, but her goal is to preserve and promote the culture that she truly admires.

WENDY SCHOFIELD-CHING

Preserving A Precious Culture

If you've been having bad dreams, maybe you should sign up for one of her craft classes. She's a beadworker at heart, but she also teaches the community how to make dreamcatchers. This week, craft artist and gallery owner Wendy Schofield-Ching is On Display.

The Significance of the Story

When most people purchase a piece of artwork, they hardly get a chance to find out its significance or the history behind it. But not when you visit Native Winds Gift Gallery and Craft Supply in Kaimuki.

Wendy Schofield-Ching, who owns the gallery with her husband, enjoys sharing her knowledge about Native American crafts with customers. She also teaches the community how to make their own dreamcatchers.

When Schofield-Ching teaches the Native American craft, she tells her students the Lakota story, but she says that there's more than one story about the dreamcatcher.

"I tell the Lakota story, since I learned it from the Oglala Lakota women," says Schofield-Ching. "I knew women from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation who were living on Oahu. They taught me how to do the craft, but also explained the story behind the craft. We want people to understand the cultural context and we want to honor the tradition and not trivialize it. Unfortunately, we've seen it done sometimes with paper plates and yarn and to us, that kind of trivializes the symbolism of what a dreamcatcher is."

"The dreamcatcher is the sacred hoop of life and the web represents how we're all connected to one another. It will catch your bad ideas, dreams and visions on the web and only the good will flow through to the dreamer. Each day when the sun comes up, the bad things are burned away and only the good remains."

The dreamcatcher that Schofield-Ching makes has four points, representing the four directions: east, south, west and north. It also represents the four seasons of life.

"First, you're an infant, then a child, an adult and then an elder," she says. "In the beginning, you care for your children. At the end,

your children care for you, completing that sacred hoop of life. The four directions that are marked on this dreamcatcher also represent the four Lakota values of wisdom, bravery, fortitude and generosity."

Besides teaching the public how to make dreamcatchers, she designed special classes that are geared towards educators, whether it's for camp counselors or elementary schoolteachers, so they can do the projects in their classrooms.

"We've also done this class at the Honolulu Academy of Arts and at Foster Botanical Garden," she says. "I've been teaching this class for 10 years, but I really like to do some Lakota-style beadwork. I teach Lakota-style beading on buckskin called lane stitching," she says. "Some of the things that I can make are large and small bags, and moccasins."

Counting Her Blessings

At Native Winds, Schofield-Ching says that the No. 1 purpose of her gallery is to preserve and promote Native American culture, tradition, music and literature.

"We do more than just teach craft classes," she says. "We also offer academic classes, and feature Native American authors and artists. We really try to serve the community by facilitating book signings or inviting the public to an artist's reception."

Schofield-Ching says that part of the gallery's success is due to the supportive group of volunteers.

"White Crow is one of the volunteers who helps out," she says. "He's here three days a week and it's purely voluntary. I feel really blessed that I can do the thing that I'm most passionate about, and I'm so lucky to have a strong community of supportive friends to help me out."

Learning Something New:

Wendy Schofield-Ching was an attorney who provided pro bono legal services for Native Americans. She stopped practicing law to open up Native Winds in March 1997.

Schofield-Ching also participates in the annual pow wows on Oahu. At the end of this month, she will be traveling to the Big Island to participate and help out with Hilo's first inaugural pow wow. Her 16-year-old daughter, who has also participated in previous pow wows as a dancer since she was 4-years-old, will be traveling with her to perform again.



Lakota-style beading on a pair of moccasins.



Native Winds Gift Gallery & Craft Supply

1152 Koko Head Avenue, #202

Tuesday thru Saturday
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday
Noon to 4 p.m.

Call 734-8018

www.nativewinds1152.com

First Inaugural Hilo Inter-tribal Pow Wow

May 27 and 28
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

www.hilopowwow.com

Upcoming Craft Classes at Native Winds:

Dreamcatchers
May 13 • \$20

Friendship Seedbead Necklace Class for Children (ages 10+)
May 20 • \$12

Baby Moccasins (two-day workshop)
June 10 and 17 • \$38

* Fees include all materials

FOR A CAUSE

By: Sherie Char

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MAY 12: Dazzle! Twelve of Honolulu's best chefs get together to dazzle guests and raise funds for Central Union preschool and kindergarten. Sheraton Waikiki Hotel; 6 p.m.; \$125 individual tickets; \$1,500, \$2,500 and \$5,000 reserved 10-seat tables; call 946-4025, ext. 103

MAY 13: The 2006 Mother's Day Candy Making Event Children of all ages will be able to create their own hand-dipped box of chocolates as a gift for Mother's Day. See what an actual chocolate factory looks like from the inside and help raise funds for local kids who are diagnosed with cancer, their families and long-term survivors of childhood cancer; a benefit for Hawaii's Children's Cancer Foundation. Participants must be at least 7 years old. Menehune Mac Chocolate Factory and Gift Center, 707 Waiakamilo Road; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; \$8 for a small box, \$13 for a large box; call 841-3344 to RSVP

MAY 13: Arthritis Walk A one-mile mall course with live music, dancing, food, prizes and entertainment. Proceeds help Hawaii residents who have arthritis through education, research and programs. Aloha Tower Marketplace; 7:30 a.m. registration; walks begin at 8:30 a.m.; no registration fee, but participants are encouraged to raise \$100 or more and receive the official Arthritis Walk T-shirt; call 596-2900 or register online at www.arthritis.org

MAY 13: 9th Annual Honolulu Symphony Ball: "Shall We Dance?" Proceeds benefit the Honolulu Symphony's music education and community outreach programs. Hawaii Convention Center, Kalakaua Ballroom; 5:30 p.m.; \$250 per person; call 524-0815, ext. 244 to RSVP by May 5

MAY 13: "Applause! Encore!" A silent auction and dinner for Moiliili Community Center; event also celebrates the Moiliili

community and the recently released book, *Moiliili - The Life of a Community*; \$100 per person; call 955-1555

MAY 13: Salvation Army Celebrity Fashion Show, Boutique and Luncheon Featuring well-known celebrities including television and radio news personalities, local entertainers and other notables modeling the best in thrift shop fashion; a benefit for The Salvation Army. Sheraton Waikiki Hotel; 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; \$50 per person; call 440-1859

MAY 13: National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive The community is asked to leave non-perishable food at their mailboxes. Postal workers will pick up the canned goods and deliver the donations to the Hawaii Foodbank; a benefit for the Hawaii Foodbank; call 836-3600, ext. 239

MAY 16: Kaimuki High School PTA Project Grad 2006 Buy a pizza from Pizza Hut and submit the sales claim check form to Pizza Hut during time of purchase or delivery; 25 percent of each purchase supports Kaimuki High School PTA Project Grad 2006. The project's mission is to help make a successful and memorable event for graduating students of Kaimuki High School; call 733-4898 or visit www.kaimukihawaii.com; to download the form, visit www.kaimukihfoundation.org

MAY 20: 28th Annual Visitor Industry Charity Walk A fund-raiser helping local charities and non-profit organizations; call 923-0407 or visit www.charitywalkhawaii.org

MAY 20: Island Triathlon & Bike CycleSwap A garage sale for bikes and cycling accessories; a benefit for the Hawaii Bicycling League's BikeEd program. St. Mark's Church, 539 Kapahulu Ave.; 2 to 5 p.m.; call 732-7227

Send information about non-profit fund-raisers to: planetcalendar@pacificbasin.net

CHOO *on this*

BY: DAVID K. CHOO



COVENANT BOOKS & COFFEE offers creative menu items such as this Big Island Delight Sandwich and a bowl of Chicken and Sausage Gumbo.

HEAVENLY SOUP

Who knew lunch could be an ethereal experience?

I wish I had a couple more days to work on this review. It's not the writing part that needs more time. I'd still be typing away the night before deadline, as I always do.

Rather, it was the research that needed help. If I had an extra day or two, I could have sampled Covenant Books & Coffee's Chicken & Sausage Gumbo that was offered on May 3rd, or I could have enjoyed the Vegetable Minestrone on Thursday, May 4th, and hand delivered my copy to the printers. As it is, I should count myself lucky that I was able to eat Monday's Seafood Chowder and Tuesday's Italian Meatball and Pasta Soup.

Covenant Books & Coffee is owned by the Honolulu Bible Church from nearby Palolo Valley. Five years ago, church officials wanted to open a small bookstore in Kaimuki, but they also were realistic. They knew that a small Christian bookstore would have a hard time sustaining itself in the sleepy community, so they added a café to the business plan and opened Covenant Books & Coffee.

Covenant's space is neatly divided right down the middle, with book displays running along one wall and a dining area on the other. The back of the house is devoted to food service, with the restaurant's staff darting in and out like a swarm of busy bees.

The restaurant's menu, which largely has remained the same over the five years, features more than a dozen sandwiches, a handful of salads, and a collection of specialty coffees, teas and smoothies. Several months after opening, restaurant manager Dave Yoshimura began offering some soups that he created himself, and a neighborhood legend soon was born. Yoshimura's homemade soups became so popular that Covenant had to extend its hours till 9 p.m., and he started cooking up his brews in a massive 180-quart pot. But scheduling enough workers became a problem, so Yoshimura cut back soup production and restaurant's hours. He still, however, continued to create.

Today, Yoshimura is known as "il padrino," or the "Godfather of Soup." He's created more than 40 different kinds of soup and offers a different creation each day of the month. In fact, every month, he draws up a soup calendar, which he distributes in his restaurant and faxes to area offices.

On my first visit to Covenant, I was unaware of il

padrino's awesome powers. I ordered a Garlic Veggie on Rosemary Focaccia Sandwich and a small bowl of Seafood Chowder (\$9.50 for the two). The service was lightning fast. Shortly after sitting down, my sandwich was delivered to me. It featured marinated roasted red peppers, cucumbers, tomatoes, carrots, mushrooms, lettuce and cheese. The whole thing was spiced up with garlic spread that was powerfully flavorful with each bite but seemed to mellow with each chew. The roast peppers were the heroes of the sandwich. They were both savory and tangy and had a nice, tender texture.

My only criticism of the sandwich was that it was served ice cold, including the bun and toothpick that held it in place. The whole thing must have been sitting in the fridge, which explains why it was ready so quickly. But no harm, no foul.

The seafood chowder, on the other hand, was flawless. It had thick chunks of potato and big pieces of onion that were cut into rustic, irregular shapes. There were hearty helpings of chopped clams and other seafood things that I couldn't distinguish. I'm pretty sure there was fish in there, but I lost it in the brew. The broth was more like a potato soup than a cream soup, but that was OK with me.

On my visit the next day, I ordered the Half Sandwich and Soup Combination (\$6.25). For my sandwich I had a Big Island Delight on Onion Roll, which featured smoked chicken breast, Swiss cheese, bacon, avocado, lettuce and tomato. As I mentioned before, the featured soup was Italian Meatball & Pasta.

The sandwich was very good. OK, on to the soup: The tomato broth was thick, rich and shiny. It almost was syrupy. Inside were chunks of carrots and tomato, pieces of celery and onion and elbow macaroni along with several leaves of fresh spinach. I'm pretty sure that the meatballs were the same ones that I buy at Costco, but they tasted much better suspended in il padrino's savory liquid. The soup was hearty, perfectly balanced and smooth, smooth, smooth.

I'm sitting here with Yoshimura's soup calendar in front of me, cross checking it with my own appointment calendar. Will I have time to try his Creamy Chicken & Artichoke on Saturday? If I can re-arrange a couple of appointments, I can try his Corn & Crab Chowder on the 9th. But for sure, I can't miss his Pumpkin Bisque with Garlic Croutons on the 26th. ☞

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JUST FOR KICKS



In the United States, there are three major sports: football, baseball and basketball. Some may want to add NASCAR or hockey as well, but neither of those two sports lead off Sportscenter on a daily basis. It's football, baseball and basketball what we Americans enjoy following. We love the bone-crushing hits, the long ball and slam dunks.

If there is a local boy from Hawaii playing one of those sports professionally, we follow their progress with great interest. Imagine what it would be like if a kid from Hawaii was named the Super Bowl MVP in football or captured the Cy Young Award in baseball. What if a kid, let's say from Palolo, led his team to the NBA championship? We would go nuts!

Next month in Germany, the biggest sporting event in the world will take place: soccer's World Cup. Unlike baseball's recent World Baseball Classic, the best each country has to offer will be at the World Cup. For soccer players, it isn't just an honor to represent your country - it's a privilege and duty.

Last Tuesday, Brian Ching, who grew up in Haleiwa and went to Kamehameha School, was selected as one of only 23 players to represent the United States in the World Cup. A true local boy. "Tremendous," "awesome" and "incredible" were just a few of the adjectives that went through my mind when I heard the news. Then I thought how unfortunate it is that most people in Hawaii really don't comprehend the magnitude of this achievement.

I never really understood how big an event the World Cup was until 1986. I had just finished Army boot camp and was sent to my first duty station in what was then Amberg, West Germany. Talk about culture shock! There wasn't a lot of sports to follow since we only had one English TV channel. However, we did have two German TV stations, and since I had no idea what was being said, the only thing I could follow was sports. The start of the '86 World Cup coincided with my arrival, and I started to follow the action a bit. As the tournament progressed, it became apparent that Germany had a great shot at winning it all.

If Germany was playing, it was like a national holiday. The streets were empty and more than half the businesses in the small town I lived in shut down till after the match. I had never seen anything like it. After a German victory, the streets were filled with partying fans covered with face paint and wrapped in their nation's flag. I thought we were sports crazy in America, but we don't have anywhere near the level of enthusiasm the Germans have.

Germany made it to the championship match that year against Argentina. By then, I had befriended a few Germans and they invited me to watch the match at a local pub. They said it would be the closest thing to being there. They were right! Throughout the match the beer was flowing, the singing was non-stop and the pride was incredible. It was a blast! Unfortunately, the Germans lost and the total despair on the faces of the fans was gut wrenching. It was like a close family member had passed. It is something I will never forget.

Brian Ching and the rest of his teammates will kickoff their World Cup experience on June 12th against the Czech Republic. You may not be watching, but the rest of the world will be.

Scott Robbs is the voice of UH Wahine and Warrior volleyball on KKEA Sports Radio 1420 AM.

A DAY AT THE PARK

Seniors play gate ball for exercise, socializing



MEMBERS OF THE HAWAII Aikane Gate Ball Union take a break between games at Ala Moana Beach Park. Last year, 90-year-old Robert Shimoda (sitting in first row, wearing badge No. 9) and several of his fellow club mates participated in a gate ball tournament in Hokkaido, Japan.

Honolulu resident Robert Shimoda knows he isn't a threat to win the next world triathlon championship. Even at age 90, however, he isn't ready to become a couch potato, either.

"Us old people, just because we're retired doesn't mean we have to stay home in front of the TV," says Shimoda. "That's why I like gate ball. It's exercise, and you don't get senile. Plus, you get to form friendships and have fun."

Shimoda was one of 10 senior citizens who came out to Ala Moana Beach Park last Tuesday for a full morning of gate ball, a game derived from the centuries-old sport of croquet. The men and women are all members of the Hawaii Aikane Gate Ball Union (HAGBU), one of two gate ball clubs on Oahu.

"People who play gate ball don't become senile because they're always thinking," asserts another club member. "It's a game of strategy, a thinking game, so you're always using your brain. And of course, it's a chance for us to socialize and work as a team."

The group plays at the park three times a week. Another group of HAGBU members plays at the Neal Blaisdell Park in Aiea.

Ironically, although the game is popular among today's senior citizens, gate ball actually started as a recreational activity for youngsters. Gate ball originated in Hokkaido, Japan, in 1947. Included among HAGBU's 40 members, in fact, are Japanese nationals who stay and play in Hawaii every winter.

Gate ball is played with two teams of five players. There are 10 numbered balls (7.5 centimeters in diameter), and players wear badges numbered one to 10. Even-numbered players (white balls) make up one team, while odd-numbered players (red) comprise the other team. Play is in numerical sequence.

The playing area is roughly half the size of a regulation croquet lawn. Gate ball uses three hoops, or "gates," for scoring points. Balls do not come into play until they've passed through the first gate. Passing each gate scores a point; hitting the final goal pole scores two points. A

player is finished when he passes three gates and hits the ball against the goal pole. Norman (last name withheld), who at age 73 is one of the younger members of HAGBU, likens the game to basketball. "Both are team sports," he explains. "You really have to work together and help each other out. And just like basketball, you have a 'go-to guy,' someone who is a really good player."

Like basketball, gate ball is a timed sport. Each game consists of 30 minutes. "You have to learn to 'play the clock' and play defense," says Norman. "If you score too early, the other team has a chance to come right back."

How much does luck come into play? Norman smiles. "If you have the skill, luck will come your way," he says. "People who don't have the talent also don't have much luck."

OUT OF THE GATE:

According to the World Gate Ball Union, there are more than 10 million gate ball enthusiasts around the world, primarily in Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and North and South America. (An estimated five million people in China play gate ball.) Based in Tokyo, the WGU was formed in 1985.

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