Unearthing worms

by Theresa Worden
Ka ‘Ohana Staff Reporter

Tucked quietly away on Windward’s campus will soon be the seeds of change — a wriggling revolution in 20 feet of pipe on the mountainside of Hale ‘Akoakoa.

WCC is one of the first sites in the state to invest in this state-of-the-art, low-tech Vermicomposting System. Other vermicomposts pioneers are Hoku Elementary School, the Hawaii State Hospital and KCC.

“This is happening,” said Media Center’s Sandie Carmichael, “and the worms will need consistent care, year-round.”

Carmichael, who initiated the project, said the worms would be composting a combination of food waste from WCC cafeteria and paper from the copy center.

Cooperative efforts with cafeteria staff and the commitment of Media Center student help will be integral to the general care of Windward’s living investment.

According to Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs Dr. Richard Fulton, the equipment was purchased with past summer session revenues. Funds from summer sessions, which are typically reserved for equipment and for the departments teaching the courses, can also be used for new campus projects.

The total WCC cost of the equipment (with worms and training) was $5,454.55. Increases in the cost of materials have pushed the retail price of the same equipment to almost $7,000, according to Mindy Jaffe, owner of Waikiki Worms.

The system’s ingenious design is the culmination of years of hard work and trial and error by Jaffe. “Emphasis on the error,” Jaffe said, referring to her development of the first commercial, self-harvesting worm composting bin.

Accidental discoveries and years of observation combined, creating a system that requires minimal effort and takes advantage of the worms’ natural behavior.

The result? WCC’s newest residents will silently munch away 2,000 pounds of leftover food, paper and cardboard. Jaffe said after the first year, that ton of organic waste will become 125 pounds of commercial-grade fertilizer.

A similar yield of valuable plant nutrient can be expected every six months, all without ever having to sift through the muck to harvest the vermicast and separate the worms to start the cycle over.

This compost could be used to feed on-campus plants or for an herb garden for the cafeteria. It could also become 125 pounds of commercial-grade fertilizer.

Here are a few reminders to plan accordingly:

• Students should pay their library fines before Dec. 18 so they can register and get their grades.
• The WCC bookstore will be closed so try to buy remaining textbooks as soon as possible.
• The WCC testing center will be closed during this period.
• There will be no campus mail delivery or postal services.

The Financial Aid office will be processing financial aid packages with reduced staffing but will not be open for walk-in inquiries.

Most campus buildings will be closed to the public, with the exception of Hale Alakai.

Academic advising, as well as advice about the online application form and general financial aid advice, will be available in Hale Alakai’s, Room 113.

Happy Holidays

Cash in at WCC book buyback

by Ka ‘Ohana
News Staff

Students looking for some extra holiday cash can take their textbooks to the book buyback at the WCC bookstore, Dec. 14 – 18.

Just beware that other people may also be coveting your books and looking for opportunities to steal them. “I’ve been here 19 years,” said bookstore assistant Elaine Manuel, “and the problem just gets worse every year.”

She described students’ cars being broken into for the books in the backseat and books getting stolen while students were in the bathroom.

The book buyback system is one way students can recoup some of the original cost of their texts.

The bookstore will buy textbooks from students for all UH campuses. So, even if WCC professors don’t require certain books for their classes, they might be used at other UH campuses.

Generally, students can get back 50 percent of the book’s retail price. However, the bookstores have a limited number of used books they can buy, so the advice for students is to sell their books as soon as their finals are over.

Plan ahead for your holiday break

by Ka ‘Ohana
News Staff

Over the holiday break, WCC is joining the other UH system campuses to achieve energy savings and accommodate provisions of the recent Hawaii Government Employees Association settlement.

The result is several campus offices will be “closed to the public” Dec. 21-31 and will reopen Jan. 4. The first day of classes is Jan. 11.

Plan ahead for your holiday break — a wriggling revolution in 20 feet of pipe on the mountainside of Hale ‘Akoakoa.

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Supporting the walking wounded

by Summer Cavasso
Ko 'Ohana Writer

When the planes hit the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001, it shocked the nation. It enraged the nation. It united the nation. It was war, and many answered Uncle Sam’s call to arms. Enlistments rose to a record high in the aftermath of 9/11.

Young men and women committed their lives for love of country. But their story does not end there.

We watched on television from the comfort of our homes as they fought for us in Iraq and Afghanistan. We mourned for those who perished. But what of those who came home?

According to a 2003 New England study, “in 6 soldiers returning from Iraq suffered from PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder),” it goes without saying that war takes a toll on a person. Many of the men and women go into battle as one person and return as another.

Dr. Victor Voth, a licensed clinical social worker, counseled couples after a spouse returns from Iraq or Afghanistan. According to him, when the soldiers serve in Iraq or Afghanistan, they suffer from lack of sleep.

“The stress of what they are doing (and) lack of sleep takes an incredible toll,” said Dr. Voth. For many, this has led to PTSD.

PTSD is not originally a military term; it is used for others such as rape victims. In fact, you can see many similarities in the symptoms.

“They avoid talking about it,” said Dr. Voth. “They re-experience it, they are emotionally numb, they have flashbacks and nightmares or they experience hyperarousal.”

Hyperarousal is a condition where a soldier is extremely reactive. He or she could “go from 0 to 90 miles an hour” in a second when something as simple as a helicopter flies over, said Dr. Voth.

He has counseled men who didn’t want their wives to touch them in the middle of the night because they might bolt up and attack them.

Joshua Mears, a specialist in the Army who has served in Iraq and is now preparing for a second deployment, said it was difficult to adjust back to “normal” life.

“You were used to only four hours of sleep,” he said. “You were used to hearing explosions throughout the night. You would wake up in the middle of the night on fire, ready to fight.”

Many soldiers also struggle with regret. “You always think if I did something differently, if…” sighed Mears. “You wake up a lot thinking of the lost soldiers, asking why they had to die and not us.”

Although it has been about a year since he returned to Hawai‘i, “to this day” he experiences nightmares. “You wake up with a cold sweat.” Mears lost five fellow soldiers during his deployment; one was his best friend. These were hard blows for Mears. “(I) cried a lot, relied on other soldiers who went through it before” and the support of family and friends.

Now, as the time draws close for his second deployment to Iraq, Mears is remembering the thoughts and feelings of his first deployment. “I was terrified,” said Mears. “(There was) a lot of exploring and thinking about death.”

Does he have any hesitation or fears about his impending deployment?

“Not really, knowing that we’re going to Iraq where there is less fighting,” he replied. If they were being deployed to Afghanistan, the current “hot spot,” he said he would feel much the same as the first time.

With his second deployment, things are a little different. He will be getting married in a couple of weeks and will enjoy his honeymoon and Christmas with his family before leaving for Iraq.

And this deployment is not at the beginning of the war but rather at the end. His team will be tearing down the bases and preparing to exit.

The war in Iraq and Afghanistan has affected and changed the lives of so many in our armed services.

However, the Army has learned to recognize PTSD and helped the men and women who suffer from it through counselors such as Dr. Voth and the support of the government and community.

The goal is to give these soldiers the support they need — both on the battlefront and when they return.

Hawai‘i more at risk with onset of El Niño

by Patrick Hscalla
Ko ‘Ohana Editor in Chief

Long lines at the gas pump…barren grocery store shelves…empty battery displays…and skyrocketing bottled water sales. Scenes such as these are sure signs that a hurricane is heading our way.

It seems almost unbelievable that these beautiful islands could be scarred by a natural disaster, but anyone who has lived through a hurricane knows they should not be taken lightly. Just ask someone from New Orleans.

A hurricane is a tropical cyclone in which winds reach speeds in excess of 74 miles per hour. Along with these winds come torrential rains and the ability to produce high waves and damaging storm surges. They are the largest storms on Earth.

Though not as frequent as hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, the Hawaiian Islands are no strangers to these monsters.

The last two hurricanes to make landfall in Hawai‘i were Iva in 1982 and Iniki in 1992, and damages exceeded $2.5 billion statewide. During Iniki, the eye of the storm passed directly over Kaua‘i, destroying thousands of homes and killing six people. Damage to O‘ahu and other islands was also extensive. Fortunately, the Hawaiian Islands have been spared from any disasters such as these in recent years, but WCC professor Lloyd McCoy warns that changing conditions could lead to another whipper snapper this way soon.

“We’ve been so lucky,” said McCoy, “because the storms this season stayed south, though a couple did head this way.”

McCoy stressed that a current shift to El Niño conditions will heighten Hawai‘i’s chances for a major storm.

“What fuels a hurricane is heat…warm water,” said McCoy. “Where we (Hawai‘i) get our water temperatures is an El Niño in the equatorial Pacific.”

An El Niño occurs when easterly trade winds weaken across the Pacific, and warmer waters of the western Pacific move eastward and eventually reach the South American coast. This periodic shift is thought to happen roughly every four to seven years.

“With an El Niño the storms track right into us because the warmer water is...
WCC wireless whenever and wherever

by Michael Tom
Special to Ka ‘Ohana

A new campus wireless system that provides students, faculty and staff with greater coverage and faster speed is now available, thanks to WCC’s Computing Services and a Title III federal grant.

Since August 2006, the college has had wireless hotspots in every building that provided wireless access from the lobbies, conference rooms, and selected common areas such as the library and the cafeteria.

Coverage didn’t extend to most classrooms, though, and the system wasn’t very reliable with various access points freezing every week and needing to be manually reset.

Now, students and faculty will have reliable wireless access wherever they go in campus buildings and in adjacent outdoor seating areas. Upload and download speeds will be faster too, thanks to stronger signals and added support.

The primary means to gain wireless access is now through the “WCC Campus WPA2” network using the passphrase “windward96744.”

The original “WCC Campus” network password, “96744,” will continue to be available for older devices that can’t support stronger WPA2 security, but it won’t provide the faster speeds.

Students having difficulty gaining wireless access can contact the Computing Services staff for assistance by calling 235-7314 or stopping by their offices in No’eau 121. WCC’s wireless network is built on cutting-edge ZoneFlex 7962 access points from Ruckus Wireless.

Ruckus is a relatively new company founded in 2004. The outstanding performance and cost-effectiveness of their products have led to being ranked #1 on Inc. Magazine’s 2009 list of America’s Top 100 Fastest Growing Private Telecommunications Companies.

WCC’s wireless network upgrade was made possible through Title III funds secured by Vice Chancellor of Student Services Lui Hokoana that provided $35,000 for the Ruckus Wireless equipment and $15,000 for upgrades to the underlying wired network.

The new Ruckus Wireless system should serve the college well for at least the next five years and possibly much longer. I believe we’re the first campus in the UH system to provide its students with ubiquitous wireless coverage at fast 802.11n speeds, and we have a system that’s prepared to accommodate significant growth.

We’re already seeing up to 100 simultaneous wireless connections from laptops and portable devices such as iPhones and the iPod Touch, and I wouldn’t be surprised for that number to quadruple in the coming years.

ASUH-WCC plans more events for spring

by Ka ‘Ohana
News Staff

A SUH-WCC president Casey-Blu Judd said students can look forward to another full semester of activities in the spring.

They include a Welcome Back event Jan. 11, a “Speak Out” session on a current community issue Feb. 11, more Mid-Month Munchies and a free concert with food and games and the possible addition of a free campus concert in April.

“We’re on a good path now,” said Judd. “The student government has really grown and developed as a group.”

Judd said the highlight of the fall semester was the Halloween Haunted Hotel, a project coordinated by the student government, which drew crowds of people.

“That project was really inspirational,” Judd said.

“It showed us we could do a bigger event for the community.”

Judd said there are also plans to incorporate leadership training into the student government experience with independent study and service learning opportunities.

Any student who wants to get involved can contact student life advisor Leslie Opulauaho at 235-7469 or stop by Hale Akoakoa 207.

By Ka ‘Ohana

Hurricanes from page 2

here,” said McCoy. “It’s when hurricanes cross land or get into cold water they lose their engine. As long as it is able to continue getting warmth from the ocean, it’s going to continue to be a hurricane.”

Both hurricane Iwa and Iniki occurred during an El Niño year.

So conditions are ripe, and as history has shown, these storms are a real threat to our isolated home and should not be ignored.

“We are overdue…we are in for a lot of damage out here that we’re not prepared for,” warned McCoy.

So how prepared are you for a hurricane? According to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), early preparation is essential.

People in hurricane-prone areas should develop a family hurricane preparedness plan, create a disaster supply kit and be aware of evacuation routes and shelters in their area.

They also should learn how to properly hurricane-proof their home and have a pet plan (many hotels and shelters will not allow pets).

For detailed instructions visit www.hawaii.hawaii.edu/ " Hurricane_prevention.shtml.

Happy Holidays from the staff of Ka Ohana

At the ASUH-WCC induction: (front) Jason Kamalu-Grupen, Elijah Martin, Charine Fernandez; (back) Leslie Opulauaho, Ali Sek, Chancellor Doug Dykstra, Vice-Chancellor Lui Hokoana, Casey-Blu Judd, Jason McMullen.
WCC students conquer WorldQuest

WCC student team placed among the top winners in the University WorldQuest competition at the UH-Mānoa campus Nov. 19, sponsored by the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council. President G.B. Robertson (at left), Chancellor of Academic Affairs Reed Dasenbrock (second from right) and other community college leaders were on hand to support the students.

Joshua Garcia, Jason McMullen, Phillip Michaels and Vandeth Sek took third place in the rigorous competition against over 20 teams from four-year colleges and universities.

A UH-Mānoa Honors College team took first place and the Pacific and Asian Affairs Council.

“Almost every question in this one,” said McMullen. “We were happy to place first in the 2008 spring competition.”

Phi Theta Kappa induction

WCC’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges, welcomed 27 new members this fall. Membership in the group provides opportunities for leadership, service and fellowship.

The new inductees are: Kimberly Anderson, Kaela Bryant, Micah Castro, Natalie Choe, Patricia Correa and Michael Fellez.

Newly inducted members of Windward Community College’s academic honor society, Phi Theta Kappa.

Windward worms

offset the estimated 750 pounds of fertilizer purchased yearly by the WCC agriculture program, according to Dave Ringuette, AG coordinator.

“Systems change is the easy part – that’s getting in the equipment,” said Jaffe. “The challenge is getting people committed to run the system. It’s the social change – that’s the hard part.”

The management of the Pipeline system will be successful at sites like WCC. The biggest drawback to worm composting on the commercial-scale in the past was the labor-intensive “harvesting.” Separating the worms from the castings, or harvest- ing, is necessary twice a year in regular worm bins, and happens — you guessed it — one handful at a time.

Without harvesting, traditional bins cannot sustain living conditions to keep the worm population healthy.

The mere 20 feet of pipe that will run the system will demonstrate to other facilities how to implement changes at their own sites.

Figure out incentives to get the job done may sound easy, but it will take training, time and commitment for the system to work.

The worms will consume about one ton of organic waste per year, according to Jaffe. But WCC’s worm composting system can be more than just a source of fertilizer – bigger than the mere 20 feet of pipe that can quietly recycle food scraps and paper waste.

WCC can lead the way, becoming a model other worm sites will look to for inspiration. But only if we – as individuals and as a campus – can commit to the simple changes necessary to step up and become leaders. Got ideas? Join the discussion by going to blog.KaOhana-Online.org.
Find your future in journalism

by Lance Sabado
Ka ‘Ohana Staff Reporter

Nowadays, you’re lucky if you can find a job — much less a career. Indeed, the reality is that unemployment is climbing, companies are closing down and the job market is extremely competitive. But if the future of mass media intrigues you, there’s a way to find out if the field is for you. WCC is offering its Journalism 205 (basic news writing) and Journ 285V (newspaper lab) classes this spring semester on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:45-11 a.m. and 11:35 a.m. - 12:50 p.m. respectively.

The courses cover a range of subject matter — from writing in journalistic style to graphic design and photography — which can ultimately lead to various careers in TV, print, Web, public relations and advertising. The courses have helped to launch careers for some very successful people in Hawai‘i’s local media. Here is a look at their journey towards journalism and their thoughts on the field and its future:

Melissa Malahoff-Kamei
Senior Account Executive, McNeil Wilson Communications

For Melissa Malahoff-Kamei, majoring in journalism once seemed far-fetched. “I took journalism classes at WCC as electives and really enjoyed them. But at the time, I didn’t think of it as a career. As I went through college, I learned that there were a lot of things that interested me,” says Malahoff-Kamei.

After getting her Associate in Arts degree, Malahoff-Kamei transferred to UH-Manoa. When a friend decided to change her major to journalism with an emphasis on public relations, Malahoff-Kamei saw an advisor about taking some classes in the same subject. She enjoyed the classes so much that she chose to make it her major, too. It was then she realized that the journalism classes she took at WCC were not in vain. She says about this, “The WCC journalism class helped give me an introduction to the field and allowed me a glimpse into the industry before fully committing to it. I realized I enjoyed the WCC class so much that when the opportunity presented itself the second time around, I decided it was a really good option.”

Currently, Malahoff-Kamei is a senior account executive at McNeil Wilson Communications, with major clients in the travel and tourism industry. Although she loves what she’s doing, she adds that the public relations field is continually growing and becoming more demanding.

“It’s not your typical broadcast versus print anymore. The field is changing — the availability of content online, the fact that people are turning more towards online media than ever before. The field is evolving and a lot more journalists are doing blogging and a little bit of everything.”

Brooks Baehr
News Reporter, KGMB 9 News

Although Brooks Baehr is now a household name, he’s had to work his way up the ranks to get where he is today.

Baehr has worked at the Sun Press, KHVN Newsradio 99, Oceanic Time Warner Cable and KHNL. But he had his first, true taste of journalism at WCC. Baehr says, “The journalism class at Windward gave me a really strong foundation and allowed me to write for a journalism class in high school and wrote a few things for the school paper, but hadn’t really considered journalism as a career until I enrolled at WCC.”

He adds, “What I liked most about journalism class at Windward, other than the teacher, was the variety of ‘real life’ stuff we did. We interviewed newsmakers. We wrote. We did the layout. They even let me take pictures.”

Today, the class has served him well and he is a news reporter for KGMB 9.

Occasionally he fills in as both a play-by-play voice on KFVE and sports anchor for Hawaii News Now.

Baehr feels that hands-on experience is key for succeeding in the journalism field.

“Anyone who is really interested in a career as a reporter or news editor should study journalism in college. Write for the school newspaper, get involved in journalism club, visit newsrooms and talk to the journalists or page editors. Get your hands dirty. Eventually, if you’re good, you’ll find a job.”

James Gonser
Community News/Web Site Editor, Honolulu Advertiser

James Gonser’s love affair with journalism began almost immediately.

“When I first went to WCC, I didn’t know what I was going to study in college. I just happened upon the journalism class and it really altered the course of my entire life,” says Gonser.

“It opened a lot of doors for me. The class showed me that there was something I could do. I just found that I loved journalism,” says Gonser.

After Gonser earned his bachelor’s degree in journalism, he was awarded an internship and worked at Pacific Business News.

Then later, he worked at the Sun Press newspaper (now MidWeek) as managing editor for six years.

Today, Gonser works at the Honolulu Advertiser and currently is their community news editor.

He has some advice on becoming successful in both life and the journalism industry.

Gonser says, “The thing to do right now is to get a job and not be so worried that you’re getting the top pay or getting some type of quick recognition or quick advancement.

“Do anything you can do to make yourself more valuable to the employer. Journalism is going to be around, and the more things that you’ve done, the more valuable you are to the company. Develop skills and you will be less of a problem and that will help your career every time.”

Curious about the media? Wonder how we get the news? Want to expand your skills?

Then check out:
JOURN 205 (WI)
Basic News Writing
9:45 - 11 a.m. T, Th

Journ 285V (WI)
Newspaper Lab
11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. T, Th

Both meet the writing-intensive requirement.
For more info, email libby@hawaii.edu or call 235-7396.

Ka ‘Ohana boys blogging

by Lance Sabado
Ka ‘Ohana Staff Reporter

The award-winning Ka ‘Ohana newspaper has recently added blogging for the Honolulu Advertiser to their repertoire.

The new blogging site, myAdvertiserU, is to help UH students share their news, ideas and multimedia with each other and the community.

In a recent article about the launch of the site, Honolulu Advertiser community news editor James Gonser said, “For the past three years, myAdvertiserU.com has provided a free venue for community groups to post news stories and promote events online.

“We created myAdvertiserU to give students experience in writing and posting stories online to help them with their careers and to let our readers know what is happening on campus,” added Gonser.

Ka ‘Ohana boys blogging

Blogsers Baron Hashimoto, Damian Lyman and Lance Sabado.

Journalism 285V students Baron Hashimoto, Damian Lyman and Lance Sabado represent WCC on the website. They blog about sports, music and entertainment respectively and you can expect their blogs weekly.

Hashimoto says he values the opportunity. “Blogging for the Honolulu Advertiser is a fun experience. They feel knowing someone is actually reading my blog and commenting on it gives me a small taste of success.”

You can visit the Ka ‘Ohana’s home page at kaohanaonline.org or its blogging page at wccskao- hana.honadvblogs.com.
Sweet Christmas treats for the senses

The holidays offer more than a chance to score great loot. We celebrate traditions with family, indulge in decadent seasonal delights, and reminisce about Christmases past. Enjoy our collection of sugar-coated goodness to add to your holiday cheer. 

A Christmas Carol: Over a Century

Charles Dickens’ classic tale tells of a seemingly heartless man who takes a journey through his past, present and future that changes his attitude and outlook on life. Over the last century, this story has been brought to life in many different ways. From the classic 1980 movie format to plays, cartoons and in 3-D, the story’s timeless messages endure. Mickey Mouse and friends, Tom and Jerry, and the Flintstones, Kermit the Frog and his pals and Sesame Street inhabitants have all done renditions of the classic.

Newer isn’t always better: vinyl’s steady resurgence

Modern society constantly wants its music technology smaller and faster. And they want apps, too. And phones built into their music players. And camaras.

Vinyl records tell a story, heavily loaded out of fashion in the 80s and 90s to make room for cassette tapes and, eventually, compact discs. Don’t throw away your old albums — they belong to. Find the correct answers on page 12.

Christmas Movies through the decades

by MJ Christopher

1942 Holiday Inn
Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire

Vaudville performer, Jim Hardy decides to retire after his partner runs off with his girlfriend. He starts a farm inn on New Paltz and operates it to the public on major holidays. Things work out well for him until his old partner shows up and Hardy’s new friend, Linda Mason, catches his eye.

1946 It’s A Wonderful Life
James Stewart, Donna Reed

George Bailey is a man who has given everything he possibly could to his hometown at the expense of his own dreams. One Christmas Eve, he decides that his life is not worth it after discovering he has lost a huge loan. His guardian angel, Clarence, comes to Earth to persuade him that suicide is not the answer. George isn’t convinced, so Clarence shows him what the town would have been like had he never been born. He realizes the impact he made and concludes that he really does have a wonderful life.

1947 Miracle on 34th St.
Maureen O’Hara, Natalie Wood

When the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade is cut a Santa Claus, event planner Doris must find a new one soon. A man calling himself Kris Kringle arrives to take the place and does a great job. Doris is skeptical about his being the real Santa Claus, as is her daughter, Susan. When he plays who he really is, Kringle allows himself to be institutionalized at Bellevue and put on trial. It takes a lawyer who believes in him to show that he really is Santa Claus.

1983 A Christmas Story
Darren Dalton, Peter Billingsley

Ralphie knows exactly what he wants for Christmas: a Red Ryder Carbine Action 200-shot, blueprint Air Rifle. Throughout his mission to convince everyone that it is the best gift and he should have it, his friend gets his tongue stuck to a pole in a little dog fight and is shot down by his parents, teacher and even Santa Claus with the famous line: “You’ll shoot your eye out, kid.”

1989 Christmas Vacation
Chevy Chase, Beverly D’Angelo, Randy Quaid

The Griswolds are having Christmas at their house this year, and they are hoping for the best. When do you ever find perfect? With this family, of course! The normal craziness ensues as relatives arrive at, of course, who can forget Uncle Eddie. However, Clark continues to try for the greatest Christmas because he knows that his Christmas bonus is coming soon.

1990 Home Alone
Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci

Kevin McAllister is eight years old and has just been forgotten by his family as they fly off to Christmas vacation. At first he won’t allow Santa to sneak in and open the presents under the tree. His best “Ho, ho, ho” as he lay down, was his own Mrs. Claus.

2003 Elf
Will Ferrell, James Caan

A spoiled elf faces the prospects of not having Christmas with the help of a single-minded department store manager.

2009 Miracle on 34th St.
Kate Mara, Peter Scolari

A young lawyer takes on the case of a man who claims to be Santa Claus.

2013 A Christmas Memory
Leslie Opulauoho

A Christmas memory I have is spending Christmas dinner with my family. We gather to watch “The Sound of Music” during the holiday break. Throughout college, and even now, whenever we can form the schedule, we are a family that celebrates Christmas. We celebrate traditions with family, indulge in decadent seasonal delights, and reminisce about Christmases past. Enjoy our collection of sugar-coated goodness to add to your holiday cheer.

Holiday shopping on a budget

bytc price

A midst the stress of finals and the holiday season, it’s easy to get overwhelmed with the idea of Christmas shopping for loved ones. All across America, stores are running specials to entice customers into their stores. But how do you afford presents for friends and family this year?

There are many ways WCC students are becoming savvy shoppers — from making homemade gifts to saving by shopping through Rosslyn. “I bought a TV, and buying it online I saved about $50,” she says.

So when you’re about to buy that obligatory iTunes gift card or the $50 you don’t know what else to get him or her, consider vinyl. It’s just not for old people anymore.

Sweet Christmas treats for the senses

The holidays offer more than a chance to score great loot. We celebrate traditions with family, indulge in decadent seasonal delights, and reminisce about Christmases past. Enjoy our collection of sugar-coated goodness to add to your holiday cheer.
Financial trouble for the Honolulu Symphony

A serious lack of funding is causing dissonance and threatening the future of the Honolulu Symphony. This month the organization officially filed for bankruptcy.

“We’re talking about a $1.8 million debt, and that’s separate of payroll. There are vendor debts, printing, office rental, stagehands, lighting, and all the expenses that go into putting on a concert. And these have been in arrears since last season,” says Peter Shaindin, chairman of the board of the Honolulu Symphony.

He adds, “We have no choice but to reorganize. Filing a Chapter 11 means that we go on a business plan, saying to the judge, ‘This is our situation; please work us through it financially.’”

The Honolulu Symphony has been around for over 100 years and describes itself as “the oldest American orchestra west of the Rocky Mountains.” With its long history of performances, it has become a staple for the community in the performing arts.

To handle the financial crisis, they have decided to cancel their concerts for the rest of the year and may decide on canceling some next year as well. Steve Dinion, timpanist for the Honolulu Symphony and chair of the Honolulu Symphony Musician’s Orchestra Committee, says of the cancellations, “We’re very concerned that the future of the Honolulu Symphony is in serious jeopardy by not producing concerts.”

Dinion adds, “Most of a symphony orchestra’s income comes from fundraising. By not producing concerts, it’s going to make it harder—almost impossible—for all forms of income.”

The lack of income for the organization directly affects the musicians. “For us musicians, it’s going to be hard to survive here. Some musicians are going to have to leave Hawai’i to look for work. Unlike a lot of metropolitan areas, there’s not much work available outside of the orchestra.”

To add to this, almost half of the musicians were notified that their HMSA health insurance was terminated at the beginning of November.

There is a major impact for patrons too. The Honolulu Symphony has a
The University of Hawai’i Warriors entered the 2009 season like every other team in college football: playing for a winning record and a bowl game.

Unfortunately, they fell one win short, getting bamboozled by the Wisconsin Badgers 51–10. The Badgers are a Big Ten team whose “run it down your throat” type offense with halfback John Clay really wore down the Hawai’i defenders.

For the Warriors, it’s a story of what could have been. The season couldn’t have started any better when they won their first two games. But after a crushing loss to UNLV in the last minute of the game, the Warriors never looked the same.

Senior quarterback Greg Alexander suffered a season-ending injury against Louisiana Tech and the Warriors went on a six-game losing streak in which four were double-digit losses to Boise State, Fresno State, Idaho, and Nevada, the top teams in the WAC.

However, this adversity didn’t faze coach Greg McMackin as he pushed the team’s goal of “Drive for Five,” which he put in front of the team after their six-game losing streak: “Win their remaining five games and the Warriors would get their bowl bid. Whatever the reason, this type of motivation worked as the Warriors went on to a perfect 4-0 in November, winning three conference games and then upsetting Navy, whom very few gave the Warriors a chance to beat.

“McMackin’s words weren’t taken lightly, and his confidence rubbed off on players like senior linebacker Blaze Soares, who’s become a believer.”

Believe it or not, that’s one guy (McMackin) who has had so much confidence in his team,” Soares said. “All of us believe in one another.”

The team certainly faced its share of adversity this season, starting with McMackin’s gay slur that brought the coach to tears in his apology, the season-ending injury to senior Greg Alexander, and the tsunami in America Samoa that affected players on the team.

“I respect and love these players. They’ve fought, competed, worked, believed and stayed unified. And if we pull this off (the Drive for Five), I’ll never forget this group.”

McMackin said before the final showdown against Wisconsin, although Warrior fans didn’t get their Christmas wish of a Hawai’i Bowl game, which would’ve pitted them against former head coach June Jones and the SMU Mustangs. The team showed glimpses of progress and might have found their quarterback of the future in Bryant Moniz.

McMackin encouraging his team to keep fighting and getting back to a .500 record after a horrid six-game losing streak should instill some confidence in Hawai’i fans. Maybe we’ll never have another magical 12-0 season and make it to a BCS Bowl game again, but one thing is certain with McMackin in charge: the Warriors will play with heart and a belief that they can win.

On top of the world with Dino

by Scott Lyon
Ka ‘Ohana Writer

E ver wonder who transforms downtown Honolulu into a holiday light display? The answer comes from above the ground floor and on the walls.

World Wide Window Cleaning makes buildings shine year round from 400 feet above the ground. Only at this time of year, the talented blue–skirted crew illuminates the streets as well.

“If we hang from buildings, then we can hang from trees. It’s all about needs. If I can take care of my customers, it’ll be profitable,” says Constantino “Dino” Pertzoff, 42, the company’s founder.

Yet, this is a man who, despite all of his achievements, started from the ground up. “I came to Hawai’i from Maine to surf and got to the University of Hawai’i. I started cleaning windows at store fronts down in Waikiki to make a living. I cleaned Domino’s windows for a free pizza. That’s how I was able to eat!”

World Wide has triumphed, even though the economy is in a deep recession.

The popular Discovery Channel show “Dirty Jobs” took note of this and featured World Wide on one of their shows. Dino picked the most complicated building in the city to have host Mike Rowe rappel from — more commonly known in the trade as “doing a drop.”

It took place at the 40-story One Waterfront Tower. The best way to describe the structure is that it looks like glass piping — but it’s all windows. Some of the overhangs are so deep that they require a block and tackle to pull you in towards the glass.

Today, World Wide commands the contracts of approximately 40 Honolulu high-rises and employs approximately 50 people, including the staff.

The key component of Dino’s success was when he diversified the entire structure of his business for the 21st century. He set out to establish four new entities to work as satellite companies of World Wide, the “mother ship” as Dino refers to it. Together, they all work in unison and support each other, but ultimately World Wide is still the dominant entity.

In the world of rappelling from the roofs of 40-story structures, you trust your life to whatever you anchor your ropes to. For most, climbing over the parapet wall of a building’s roof into your bosom chair isn’t easy.

Looking 400 feet down can seem like a long way to some, incomprehensible to many. You have many backup strategies in place as required by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration). Your chair, equipped with your bucket, is secured by a descending device known as an SRT (Single Rappelling Technique), and you have an extra lanyard attached to your safety line.

Up on the roof, you are anchored to a $400 anchor installed by Honolulu Anchor, a company created by Dino and his friend Dave Anderson.

Should that fail for whatever reason (by the way, it never has for Dino), you have an additional back-up to whatever end standpipe or solid object you can find on the roof.

There really isn’t much danger involved at that point — just don’t get your hair too close to the SRT. If it ends up getting caught and sucked up into the device, you will have a new haircut.

Once your descent begins, it really becomes entertaining. Who knows what you’ll see as you pass people’s apartments and offices.

With great views and jokes with your cohorts, you begin to forget that you’re cleaning windows, or even working, as you descend in unison and race each other to the ground.

Dino openly confides that divine intervention is responsible for his success as well. “We started the company in 1998. When I turned to God and stopped my old habits, my life did a one-eighty. Suddenly, everything with the business began to click. I wouldn’t trade that for anything.”

Mike Rowe from “Dirty Jobs” probably would. On the show, it appears that it all happened very quickly, but Dino said it took all day to complete a single drop as Rowe made his harrowing descent for the cameras.

For more about the company, or if you simply want a crazy job hanging lights on downtown trees for the holidays, visit their Web site at worldwidewindows.net.
He‘eia fishpond being restored

by Patty Yonehiro
Ka‘Ohana Assistant Editor

Just yards away from Kamehameha Highway in Kāne‘ohe lies an ancient Hawaiian treasure. Many people are probably unaware of He‘eia fishpond, a 600- to 800-year-old resource hidden in the residential area near King Intermediate School. The property, owned by Kamehameha Schools, is being restored by conservation and restoration organization Paepae o He‘eia. Executive director Hi‘ilei Kawelo says the fishpond and land parcel are used as outdoor classrooms for various educational programs.

The property runs from up the makua (mountain) side down to Pihi, the loko i’a (fishpond).

Kawelo explained “Pihi” was the original name of the He‘eia fishpond and said, “It’s really important to not only reconnect with the land physically, but to use the traditional place names because within them is their story of how these places came to be and why.”

The name Pihi came from the unique shape of the 88-acre pond. The walls of the loko i’a create what looks like the rim of an opihi (shellfish).

Take in the view of He‘eia State Park and the yet-to-be-restored portion of Pihi loko (a measuring 1.3 miles in a full circle. Just 10 years ago, the breathtaking area was completely covered in mangrove. It was then that eager volunteer conservationists took on the arduous task of clearing the area.

“This work takes persistence, patience and lots of love,” Kawelo said from the heart.

Thanks to the restoration efforts of Paepae o He‘eia and volunteers, much of the invasive species has been eradicated from the fishpond, allowing the indigenous plants to renew themselves. They’ve also restored about 1,500 feet of perimeter rock wall with another 5,500 feet to complete the job.

This pond utilizes the most highly technological system of all the ancient fishponds by incorporating a mākāhā or sluice gate. It allows the water to flow through grids placed at different locations in the wall, three on the freshwater side and three the ocean side.

On the mountain side of the property, freshwater from the stream is used to irrigate kalo (taro) crops. The plants act as a filter system for sediment, and the clean water is allowed to flow into the fishpond, creating the perfect brackish water environment wherein micro-organisms thrive, thereby supporting fish life.

Fish cultivation has been successful at Pihi — however, only on a small scale. “It’s trial and error; there are no kapuana (elders) to tell us how it was done,” said Kawelo.

More volunteers are always needed, especially from WCC and the surrounding Koolau communities. “We want people to come out and experience; learn the rich history of this place,” Kawelo implored.

Paepae o He‘eia offers education, restoration and revenue-generating programs for the community to get involved in. For more information on Paepae o He‘eia and their programs, go to www.paepaeoheeia.org.

Funds for Waikalua Loko

by Patty Yonehiro
Ka‘Ohana Assistant Editor

The future of another Hawaiian fishpond — Waikalua Loko near the Kkokahi YWCA — rests with a long-time partnership between WCC and the Pacific American Foundation.

Recently, WCC received an $800,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to help PAF purchase the fishpond from its current owners, Bayview Golf Course.

Funds remaining after the purchase will be used to help with restoration of the fishpond as well as development of programs and service learning opportunities for students.

“Our whole purpose is to become a model for other fishpond sites,” said Herb Lee, Jr., executive director of PAF. “We’ve developed a curriculum, using the fishpond and ahupua’a practices, that meets the DOE’s content and performance standards in science, math, social studies and language.

Students, from kindergarden to doctoral candidates, visit the pond on a regular basis.

“We also trained about 1,200 teachers statewide in the curriculum and have about 50 core volunteers,” added Lee.

Waikalua Loko is an 11-acre site that uses mākāhā or sluice gates to regulate the flow of water and sustain fish and plant life.

Since 1980, WCC has been using the property as a community science lab for many courses ranging from oceanography and marine biology to Polynesian voyaging and Hawaiian studies.

“WCC’s faculty, including Dave Krupp, Floyd McCoy, Winston Kong, and Clady Tamaru, have had students do water quality testing, analyzing sediment and provided help with other areas,” said Lee.

The Hawai‘i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) has been another key partner, who will work with the college in developing programs and service learning projects.

PAF will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance costs of the fishpond. Everyone is invited to get involved with restoration on scheduled community workdays.

For more information, go to www.waikalualokofishpond.org.

Pounding out a living

Hukiki ke kalo Huki, huki mana! Kuii ke kalo! Kuii, kuii maai! - Pull the taro Pull, pull! Pound the taro! Pound, pound! That’s the ku-leana (responsibility) of Daniel Anthony as one of the owners of Mana ‘Ai (Pow- er Food).

The small family business sells kalo (taro), fresh poi, pa‘ai (hand-pounded kalo) and ia malo‘o (dried fish).

Anthony tries to keep everything about Mana ‘Ai as culturally authentic as possible; however, he said challenges regarding Department of Health regulations are proving difficult for the traditional practice of hand-pounded kalo.

Ancient Hawaiians believe that kalo is the source of life, both spiritually and physically. It’s evident that Anthony has a deep respect for the spiritual side of kalo. It’s reflected in Anthony’s love for his family and in the way he operates Mana ‘Ai.

“I’ve been around kalo all my life; it’s what I love to do,” Anthony said passionately. He explained choosing to pound kalo as a business “was also a lifestyle choice,” one that embraces the Hawaiian culture. “I do it for my family, for their future,” he added.

Anthony is enthusiastic to share his knowledge and teach people about the many facets of kalo. “I’d like to see the ancient waterways and kalo fields restored,” said Anthony. He feels strongly that the land could also help rebuild and strengthen our communities as well as restore a sense of pride and purpose beyond the obvious nutritional benefits and aspects of sustainability.

Kyrie Kilinoe had the opportunity to experience a first-hand lesson in kuii ‘ai, or pounding kalo, from Anthony.
What is your wish for the world in 2010?

My wish is that people realize religion doesn't need to cause fighting and for everyone to be less greedy. I wish our troops and money would stop being dumped into the Middle East. I wish some sort of peace for Israel.

— Joshua Rodriguez

I wish there to be less terrorism in the world. We live in a world where groups and alliances are being formed and taking away many innocent lives.

— Toriano Taulogo

I wish for gas prices to go down or an alternate fuel be made that is equally productive but cheap. I want the American soldiers to come back home from the war and the countries to compromise so people don't have to risk their lives.

— Brent Watanabe

I wish for peace. I wish for everyone to stop judging one another and to see everyone as equal. I wish for us to emerge from this economic crisis. I wish for the world to Go Green!

— Candice Parcher

I wish more people to be eco-friendly. I wish everyone would care about the Earth and more research be done on our own planet and not on Mars. I wish the world would come to a sensible agreement of peace. I wish the world would love more. I wish that not a single person would be a victim of terrorism in 2010.

— Joshua Lamont

My wish for 2010 is that marijuana be legalized so the government can tax it and get this country out of debt. I believe the taxes on that alone can bring the budget to an acceptable balance. I also wish for a housing allotment for full-time college students. It would be nice.

— Rochelle Chambers

I would enjoy it if people in America read more. I want more Americans (to spend) their free time reading books instead of watching cheap, frivolous reality shows. I believe this may change the next generation and improve all kinds of things throughout the world.

— Robert Jenner

I suppose my wish could be labeled as unrealistic—but if there were no prejudice that would be a world I’d love to live in. No religious hate, racial discrimination, etc. If every country and person could pull together to help the priorities of the world, not just themselves, that would be my wish for 2010.

— Sam Maxwell

I hope the healthcare bill goes over well and I hope for world peace and unicorns.

— Colin Casady

My wish is to divide the richest one percent of the world's wealth to the working poor class, then let's see who runs the show with real democracy not bought with money.

— Jason Word

There are a lot of things I would wish for the world in 2010, but I find nearly all of them impossible to become reality. I will say, I wish for people to care about what is happening around them because, like in the past, individuals can make a difference.

— Ada Garcia

My biggest wish is for us to come out of this economic crisis. A lot of people are struggling, aren't getting paid enough and getting laid off from their jobs. I want America to learn from it. I wish that the war would end. There are so many people dead from it. I'm not even sure why the world is still at war. We need to bring our troops home to their families. I want peace!

— Jennie Ortegon

Honolulu Symphony: a community resource

From page 8

fan base—some of whom have been attending the symphony for years and even decades.

“Theres no opportunity for them (the patrons) to hear classical music performed by a full orchestra—no Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Gershwin, Shostakovich—nothing,” says Dinion.

“The symphony isn't only for people who like classical music. Its also for people who like the Pops concerts. We do Broadway, country, Hawaiian, rock and roll, jazz.”

Some say the biggest impact will be on the community as a whole and young, aspiring musicians. Although the Honolulu Symphony is known mostly for its shows at the Blaisdell Center Concert Hall, many of the symphony’s musicians perform and teach music in the community.

Kimura remembers a personal experience with the Honolulu Symphony.

“As a child, I had the opportunity to perform with the Honolulu Symphony three times. The last performance was when I was a senior in high school. I performed the 3rd movement of ‘The Gershwin Piano Concerto in F.'

“I stepped out on stage and the students started to clap and cheer. The music started and I was transported into another world and all I cared about was making music. I forgot about everything around me. At the end of the piece, the students were clapping and cheering so loudly that it snapped me back into reality. That moment solidified my decision to make music my life.”

Despite the obstacles, Shaindlin has faith that the symphony will bounce back and grow from all this.

“I view this situation—as challenging and daunting as it is—as a huge opportunity for the institution to reconceive itself for the future.”

Certainly, though, the orchestra’s musicians and the community are not ready for the Honolulu Symphony’s final curtain call.
She said, “I was embarrassed to try at first, but I felt really proud when I was done. I couldn’t want to share the pa’i’ai with my family.” An equally proud Anthony encouraged, “That’s what it’s all about.”

As traditional Hawaiian companies grow, so will the need for state regulations that are culturally sensitive to their practice, both ancient and modern. Mana’Ai’s future may be uncertain; however, Anthony perseveres to find the delicate balance that will allow him to perpetuate Hawaiian culture in today’s westernized Hawai’i.

For more information on Mana’Ai and their products visit http://manaai.com/ or call 542-1326.

 massages

TIPS THAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

It is frightening to think that someone around you could be disturbed enough to go on a shooting rampage. You may not believe it could happen on your campus or in your workplace, but others have thought that way only to be horrified by the reality of gunshots and the loss of friends and colleagues.

You can take steps that can help you survive if this situation should occur. Do not depend on someone else; knowing what to do yourself could save your life and those around you.

HOW TO RESPOND

Your first priority is getting yourself to safety: call 911 when it is safe to do so.

EVACUATE

• Have an escape route and plan in mind. Examine your surroundings and practice your escape.
• Use any exit available (windows, fire exits, etc.) that can move you away from gunshots.
• Leave your belongings behind; they may impede your escape.
• Keep your hands visible at all times to show others you are not armed.

HIDE OUT

• If escape is not an option, hide in an area out of the shooter’s view, putting as many obstacles between you and the shooter.
• Barricade entry to your hiding spot with anything possible.
• Keep as quiet as possible.

HOW TO REACT WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT ARRIVE

• Remain calm and follow officers’ instructions to the letter.
• Immediately raise hands and spread fingers to show you are not armed, and keep hands visible at all times.
• Avoid pointing, screaming and/or yelling.
• Avoid making quick movements toward officers.
• Do not stop to ask officers for help or direction when evacuating. Proceed in direction from which officers are entering premises.

Take Action

• As a last resort, and only if your life is in imminent danger, attempt to incapacitate the shooter. Use whatever means necessary to take control of the situation.

answers:

A. MJ Lewis   B. Christine Akiona   C. Libby Young   D. Robert Barclay
E. Carla Rogers   F. Kathleen French   G. Alan Ragains