‘Being a college student today versus 20 years ago is living in a completely different world.’

COLLEGE BEFORE GOOGLE PG. 8
Spring break on the brain? If you’re like me, you are counting down the days until you have some time off school and work. Midterms are over and the weight of classes may have lightened up. It always feels like the semester just flies by after spring break but don’t miss out on all the fun activities and events coming up.

When we return after spring break there is a lot going on before the semester is pau. Ke Kalahea and BOSP are hosting a media symposium and that will feature different speakers from publications across Hawaii, as well as, feedback from the students who are currently attending the College Media Conference in New York. This symposium will be held on April 9 and is free to all UHH students.

We will also have the student art show in the later part of April and submissions are being accepted until the end of March. Get your art featured and displayed if your submission is chosen!

Enjoy your break and catch back up with Ke Kalahea when our next issue is released, April 4 at News and Brews.

Britni Schock
Editor in Chief
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Roller derby players are strong, fast, talented, motivated, and—with derby names like Anita Whiskey, Reba Smack N’ FlyHer, and Nerf Hurt-Her—ruthless and witty. Roller derby is a fast-paced, adrenaline-filled, full-contact sport and also happens to be one of the fastest growing sports in America, according to the Women’s Flat Track Derby Association (WFTDA).

Born in the early 1930s, the initial idea for roller derby began with film publicist Leo Seltzer’s Transcontinental Roller Derby, an endurance race along a banked track featuring a team of one man and one woman. Occasionally, skaters would crash into each other as they attempted to pass those who were ahead of them. Realizing this was an exciting element to the sport, the skating marathon developed into a more aggressive, physical competition that highlighted falls and collisions between skaters. According to the WFTDA, this eventually became the foundation of modern roller derby: “two teams of five skaters who score points by passing members of the opposing team.”

Although both men and women competed in roller derby from the beginning, the female-dominated nature of contemporary roller derby can be traced back to the early 2000s when all-female roller derby leagues were formed and managed by the skaters themselves. According to the WFTDA, by 2010, there were over 450 flat track roller derby leagues worldwide.

Unknown to many, Hilo has its very own roller derby league known as the Paradise Roller Girls (PRG). Founded in February 2010, PRG was started by a small group of women wanting some fun and excitement in the small town of Hilo. Starting with merely a dozen women, PRG has grown into an island-wide league of more than 50 members from all walks of life.

“Common stereotypes are that roller girls are all tatted up trouble makers who love to fight all rolled up into one insane person, but most of us are far from it,” Alison “Nerf Hurt-Her” Wagner, Head of Coaching for PRG, stated. “Most people would never assume many of us would play roller derby in our spare time. I have friends and coworkers to this day that still don’t believe I could ever play roller derby. While some of us may have tattoos, or are a little nutty, we are really more than any of those traits. We are school teachers, moms, nerds, nurses, you name it...they play roller derby!” When she’s not busy being a derby badass, Wagner is a biological science technician for the US Forest Service as well as a Master Sergeant in the US Air Force Reserves.

So what is roller derby anyways? Roller derby is a full-contact sport played on quad roller skates by players skating around an oval flat track. The game (also called a “bout”) is composed of a series of 2 minute countdowns called “jams.” At the start of every jam, each team sends 5 players onto the track: One “jammer” (point scorer), three “blockers” (defensive/defensive players), and one “pivot” (a special blocker with the ability to become a jammer). The players can be identified by their helmet covers; a star is designated for the jammer and a stripe for the pivot. “The jammer is the only one who can score points,” Wagner stated. “She does this by lapping opposing players while trying to get through the ‘pack.’ The pack is made up of pivots/blockers from both teams attempting to do offense to help their jammer out, while doing defense to stop the opposing jammer. The referees can call penalties and send people to the box if they violate any rules. Most of the rules in roller derby are safety related (no punching, tripping, hitting someone’s head, etc.) but some are game related... Basically there is a lot going on when you first start watching roller derby; just like every sport you have to watch a few games to really get it. Just pay attention to your favorite jammer and watch what happens around her. The action is usually around them, then you will start to get the hang of the game.”

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Can you believe that March is almost halfway over? With Spring Break only a week away, March is practically over with. March was an important month for the Chartered School Organizations (CSO) because they were trying to recruit new members for the upcoming year.

Last week Wednesday, they participated in the Recruitment Rally to try to encourage the student body to get involved next semester. There were also a lot of amazing events that happened in the first two weeks of March, like celebrating Doctor Seuss’s birthday, and Relay for Life.

But what is there to do in the last few weeks of March? Well, there’s always going on some awesome adventure during Spring Break (March 19–27), but there is also a lot of fun things to do on campus both before and after the glorious week we have off from school.

If you are picking this issue up hot off the presses, that means today is March 14, or 3/14, which is Pi Day. To celebrate this ridiculously large number, that also sounds like a delicious treat, Student Activities Council (SAC) is hosting Pi Day. So if you like free dessert and celebrating a mathematical constant, check the event out.

SAC is hosting a lot of other events during the last half of March. One of the ones I am most excited about is Blackout Night. Falling on Saint Patrick’s Day, it’s not the kind of blacking out that some people do to celebrate the holiday.

Instead from 5–10 p.m., students will have a chance to stick their hand in a mystery box and try to guess what exactly it is that they’re touching. Given the day it falls on, don’t forget to wear green, and don’t forget to check out SAC’s other event celebrating the holiday.

Another event that is happening before Spring Break is the FLOW. The Board of Media Broadcasting (BOMB) is hosting this FLOW. It is happening March 16 at Campus Center Plaza from 6–9 p.m.

One of the things I’m really looking forward to is the talent portion of the festivities. Students can go up on stage and perform something.

If I had the time (and the courage… and the talent) I would definitely want to do something for the talent portion of the event since there’s the chance that you can win some awesome things for participating.

Once Spring Break comes to its inevitable end, SAC is hosting two more events in the month of June. The first is a pool tournament on March 28.

While I have no talent at anything competitive, the event is pretty fun to watch. At the previous Pool Tournament, which was on Feb. 29, they had free pizza. It was delicious. I ate way too much. SAC also has a really cool stamp card thing going and if you haven’t gotten one yet, you should definitely check it out. The last SAC event in March is a Dorm Inform on March 31.

While the Board of Student Publications (BOSP) and the publications have a lot going on in March, most of it is behind the scenes. Hohonu and Kanilehua are working on getting the academic journal and literary magazine put together, and the BOSP is working on prepping for the three big events happening in April: The Media Symposium (April 9), The BOSP Art Show (April 20), and Ka Maka Ku (April 30). More information about those events will come out as their dates draw closer.

Ke Kalahea also has a lot going on in March. Some of the staff is headed to New York for the College Media Association conference. They plan on having a panel at the Media Symposium to talk about what they learn on the trip. Ke Kalahea also has the News and Brews event on March 14 with free breakfast for the participants. The next News and Brews will be April 4.

The semester is flying by quickly, and if you don’t pay attention, you might miss the chance to go to all of the different events the CSOs put on for the student body.

I hope that you all go to some of the events and I hope nothing but wonderful things happen to all of you.
Roller derby isn’t just all physical either—players also have to be on top of their mental game. Players need to have the confidence in themselves to make strategic plays, they need to figure out how they can help their teammates, how they can outplay their opponents, and how to convince themselves to get back up after a nasty fall. “Playing derby forces you to be fully in the moment on the track,” Rebecca “Reba Smack N’ FlyHer” Hillbert, a referee and former skater for PRG, stated. “If you are not focused, you may get clocked by an unseen hit, or just end up letting the jammer get by untouched. I hate when that happens, but when you have some success in that 2 minute jam, it’s the greatest feeling.”

PRG encourages anyone interested in joining roller derby to attend league practices. League practices will help skaters develop their skating skills, increase their confidence on the track, and learn the game of roller derby. “I started back in May of 2012 without knowing how to skate,” Wagner stated. “By April of 2013 I was playing my first game, and have been playing ever since. I know that sounds like a long time in training but I assure you every step of learning how to skate and lay derby was fun, even the falling!”

For younger skaters interested in playing roller derby, PRG’s Big Island Babes co-ed junior roller derby league is open to children ages 7–17. PRG also supports the Hawaiian HoneyBadgers, an elite team of players recognized and selected for their skating ability, teamwork, attitude and attendance. According to PRG, members must attend a minimum of 16-20 hours per month of league practices. In addition to league practices, members also work for various committees that are required to keep the league up and running.

One of the best parts of roller derby is said to be the companionship that exists among the team. Being apart of roller derby means that members form close, family-like bonds with their teammates that can last a lifetime. “No matter where you travel or visit, when you meet roller derby people there is this instant connection where you feel like you’re part of a family,” stated Kate “Anita Whiskey” Wood, Events Chairperson and Captain of the Hawaiian HoneyBadgers. “I would not be nearly as happy without these derby people in my life!” In line with their core values of teamwork and sportsmanship, PRG states, “Roller derby is a sport that is all about the team. Communication and coordination on the track is key for successful play. A unique camaraderie exists amongst roller derby players, even on opposing teams. No matter how fierce the competition is on the track, the teams will come together socially afterwards.”

Since PRG is an amateur sports league, members of the league and the community have acted as the main source of funding for PRG since its 2010 inception. “PRG is funded by skaters dues, sponsorship’s from amazing local businesses and fundraisers,” Wagner stated. “It is kept alive by the blood, sweat, and tears of nearly as happy without these derby people in my life!” in line with their core values of teamwork and sportsmanship, PRG states, “Roller derby is a sport that is all about the team. Communication and coordination on the track is key for successful play. A unique camaraderie exists amongst roller derby players, even on opposing teams. No matter how fierce the competition is on the track, the teams will come together socially afterwards.”

“I think one of our biggest ways we benefit the community though can’t be written off on taxes, or people showing others that no matter what your gender, age, sexual preference, religion, political beliefs, etc. you can still be active and have fun together. There is a little saying in the roller derby community and that is ‘roller derby saved my soul’. Many people find derby in a transitional period of their lives and the hard work you put in and the camaraderie you receive is just what we need sometimes. If only one person joins the team and is helped through a rough time in their life, we have served our community well. Plus we put on a damn good show at our games at the Civic!”

On most Friday nights, PRG hosts a community event featuring a live DJ at Wainaku Gymnasium from 6-8pm called Free Skate Friday. As the name suggests, Free Skate Friday welcomes everyone of all ages and skill levels to skate for free in a safe, family-friendly environment. PRG allows attendees to borrow a pair of skates and protective gear on a first-come, first-served basis. Helmets are required and are also available for use. Scheduled Free Skate Friday dates are subject to change. Visit www.facebook.com/FreeSkateFridays/ to check for changes and updates.

PRG’s next bout will be a doubleheader (two games played in succession) at the Honoka’a Sports Complex on Saturday, April 2, 2016. PRG will also be hosting a tripleheader against WFTDA rivals, the Waimea Wranglers and the Pacific Roller Derby Hulagans at the Civic Center on Saturday, April 30.

From experienced skaters to total beginners, PRG welcomes all interested members with open arms. For those who aren’t quite interested in skating, there are still ways to support and become apart of the PRG family. “We are always recruiting skaters, referees, non skating officials, sponsors, volunteers, and fans,” Wood stated. “Roller derby is growing at an exponential rate worldwide. Come join the fun!”

For more information, visit www.paradiserollergirls.com and follow PRG on facebook at www.facebook.com/paradiserollergirls.
The Internet was meant to be something other than what it is today, but has evolved into a cyberspatial web, another source of knowledge shared around the world.

Originally, the Internet was first developed as a weapon for the government during the Cold War, and it was not even called the Internet. According to history.com, it was originally referred to as Arpanet, and in the 1980’s, it was only used by scientists to share data from one computer to another.

The Internet that we are familiar with was welcomed into the world in 1991 when a Swiss computer programmer introduced the “world wide web,” its name a reference to the “web” of information that anyone would be able to retrieve. Still though, the Internet was not yet a household name.

It wasn’t until 1992 that Congress decided to make the Internet available for commercial use, opening the doors for the tech-savvy lives we live today. It was then that the boom began. Search engines were launched, email became widely used, and companies created websites and did business online. It would still be another 10 years before Google was one of the top used search engines, and nearly another 20 before Facebook and Netflix really took off.

With the rapidity of these changes, it’s hard to even imagine what life was like before it, especially as a college student.

College applications, financial aid forms, scholarships, class availability and schedule building, school payments, housing and meal plan choice– it’s hard to think of anything college students do not use the internet for. And that does not even include everyday personal use for things like live streaming movies, social media, blogging, the news, and more.

Being a college student today versus 20 years ago is living in a completely different world. Today, the ease of which we access information has almost completely suppressed memories of life before Siri and S-Voice. If the state of panic that ensues during a temporary Wi-Fi outage is any indication, this generation does not know what to do without Internet connection.

This begs the questions, how would one “do” college without all the online amenities that are now so readily and expectedly available? How is research done without Google? How are papers typed without Microsoft word?

Lisa Schulaner, a student from 1996-1998 and again from 2001-2003 recalls her experience as a college student without common use of the Internet.

“There were a lot of times I had to go to the library to do research, use their computers, microfiche, books, etc. I remember going to the library and using the computer to find books on a specific topic,” Schulaner said.

She also recalls the inconvenience of finding books (or the lack there-of) at the library. After returning to college years later, Schulaner remembers witnessing the advancements in technology and even taking part in such.

“When I went back in 2001 I had a laptop and I remember doing much more online. A lot changed in such a short time. But nothing like today. Search engines weren’t as good. It was hard to find what you were looking for sometimes,” Schulaner said.

Few business listings, books or articles were online. Google maps was nonexistent.
When asked about how different life was outside of classroom, Schulaner commented about not being able to reach her family and friends as easily, feeling homesick when no one was home to answer her calls. While she now enjoys the ease at which she can connect with her loved ones, she has noticed that people rarely just sit and talk without the distraction of cell-phones and electronics.

Michele Ebersole, a Chair and Associate Professor at UH Hilo and a graduate of the University of Oregon recalls her college experience.

“I did have a word processor to do papers, so we were entering the computer age. We couldn’t save different documents on the word processor so much of the ‘thinking’ was crafted by hand then transferred onto the word processor,” Ebersole said. “I recall having to shift a bit when having to craft papers on the computer instead of writing them out by hand first.”

Growing up, one of the biggest differences Ebersole remembers was not having a cell phone.

“We didn’t have easy and instant access to information and sophisticated technologies. Things took longer, we had to wait to get home to call a friend and we didn’t have the freedom to travel very far when using the phone.

“We grew up as a generation of television and MTV (music television) so I think that it hasn’t changed much in those terms, but we definitely had to wait until the next week’s episode as opposed to being able to watch one episode after another as on Netflix,” Ebersole said.

The University of California released a study in 2013 about the rising amount of media consumption by Americans, and their projections for the coming years.

“By 2015, Americans are expected to consume media for more than 1.7 trillion hours, or an average 15.5 hours per person per day, again not counting workplace time. The amount of media delivered will exceed 8.75 zettabytes annually, or 74 gigabytes, which is equal to approximately nine DVDs worth of data sent to the average consumer on a typical day.”

Little doubt is seen as the progressively rising numbers haunt society as more and more of our lives are lived online today. Gone are the days of searching the shelves at the local video store looking for the most recent releases, hoping that not all the copies were rented out. Or the disappointment of realizing that they were or that nothing new had come out since the previous weekend, leaving you having to take your chances with an older film down the middle rows.

Today, video stores are practically non-existent. According to Blockbuster.com, in 2014 only about 50 Blockbuster stores remained operative in the U.S.. Live streaming sites have taken over the movie and television-watching world.

Now, there are so many options instantly available to all that one can easily spend more time looking for something to watch then they spend actually watching it.

Dr. Mark Panek, an english professor at UH Hilo and a graduate of Colby College in Maine shared his experiences in the differences of doing research when he was in college versus that of college students today.

“Today people don’t seem to take advantage of the different search engines that the library offers. A lot of people will Google things the easy way and look for a number of sources rather than what is in fact the best, most comprehensive, and most well respected source that would make their paper even more persuasive,” Panek said.

Panek seems to show mixed emotions about the Internet and its capable search engines.

“It’s infinitely easier to learn basic facts about certain things but there is also a lot of clutter out there and it’s hard to find the things that are the best and the most reliable. If people are pressed for time or they’re lazy or they don’t really care about the product that they hand in, Google has not really been a great thing. But for people who plan ahead and look at it as a process and look for people who in fact know what they’re talking about it can be useful,” Panek said.

It would seem that the more easily accessible knowledge has become, the less time is spent, and the less care is put into actually retaining it. Why memorize what the word means when you can ask Siri? Why learn the street names when you can use Google Maps? Why spend the time reading about a research topic when one can just Google it a few days before it’s due? But what does this mean for us? Does a college degree today equal a college degree 20 years ago? Did students then work harder than we do now? Did they learn more? Are they smarter? We may never know.

There is no denying that the advances we have made since the Internet first made its way into our everyday lives have improved many aspects of them, and we will only move forward.

However, something to be said for all those that got through their college years without what we so desperately rely on for everything; so hats off to you for surviving the “dark” ages! And to all you current college students, don't sell yourself short! Take the time to embrace the opportunities you have to learn your craft and become a knowledgeable human being. After all, the art of Google-ing does not an intelligent person make.
The month of March is crunch-time for presidential candidates – those who have survived the first round of voting in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada, and South Carolina must prove to others they are it for the long haul.

This make-or-break moment is best encapsulated by Super Tuesday: on March 1, twelve states and one territory (American Samoa) voted in the Republican and Democratic primaries. Super Tuesday is also nicknamed the "SEC Primary", due to many of the March 1 states being in the South. Yet in both parties’ races, the main benefactors of Southern voters were New Yorkers.

With the votes tallied up, real estate mogul Donald Trump and former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton each scored impressive victories on Super Tuesday; secure in their status as front-runners of their respective parties, Trump and Clinton both won seven states, thus amassing a sizable lead in delegates against their rivals.

At the same time, of course, other candidates managed to amass delegates.

On the Republican side, U.S. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas won his home state, as well as neighboring Oklahoma and distant Alaska. Meanwhile, U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders triumphed in four states – including his native Vermont – against Clinton. Still, if the overall results of Super Tuesday are any guide, voters may very well brace themselves for an epic Trump vs. Clinton showdown in November.

Ke Kalahea recently spoke with Dr. Todd Belt, Professor of Political Science at UH Hilo, to hear what he had to say about the rollercoaster year 2016 has been so far. Sure enough, the first thing discussed was The Donald.

“At this point, he is far and away the front-runner,” Belt said of Trump's status in the Republican race for president.

Today's reality is a far cry from when Trump first began his campaign last summer, a time when few took him seriously.

“This looked like a joke last year; it looked like a publicity stunt, it looked like a joke, and it may have intended to be, but it's taken on a life of its own.”

Trump's current edge in most polls could spell serious trouble for U.S. Senator Marco Rubio and Governor John Kasich, whose respective home states of Florida and Ohio will vote March 15.

“If candidates cannot deliver their own state, that's a bad sign – especially if the candidate is a U.S. Senator who has won statewide in the past, and has the donor base, the volunteer base, and the experience with winning there,” Belt said.

The GOP primaries in Florida and Ohio could also prove crucial as each states award their delegates in a winner-take-all fashion.
“An important aspect of the primary process is that the Republicans do have more winner-take-all states, which allows a candidate who’s behind in the delegate count to catch up quickly, whereas it’s a bit more difficult in the Democratic primary because of the proportional distribution of delegates,” Belt said.

Pivoting to the Democratic primary process, where an establishment Clinton faces the socialist Sanders, Belt characterized the latter’s support as relying on younger voters — considered more progressive than their older counterparts — and thus not necessarily more protest voters.

“It’s not just an anti-Hillary vote, because a lot of young people are attracted to his message. I think his message does resonate with young people, who tend to be much more liberal on the political spectrum, and much more receptive to his message…”

Belt succinctly noted that “Younger people are more idealistic.”

As to what is fueling the ascendant activist wings of both political parties? According to some political observers, America is getting its own taste of European-style politics.

“It’s definitely fair [to say Americans are having a taste of European-style politics]. One of my colleagues calls it ‘democratic distemper,’ with the idea being that people really have become much more polarized on these issues…”

Belt explained, however, that his colleague’s aforementioned analysis does have one important caveat: “…the far-right populist parties in Europe as being similar to Trump — whereas the European mainstream is Bernie Sanders… Trump’s ideas would be considered fringe in Europe, so you have to realize that our political spectrum is shifted significantly to the right from the European political spectrum, so saying that it’s being played on both sides I think is not quite correct. I think it’s correct on the right: I think the anti-immigrant issues are similar to ‘Golden Dawn’ in Greece or other far-right movements in Europe.

But why is all this happening now? From Belt’s perspective, the progression of the Digital Age “plays a big role” in distinguishing 2016 from elections of yesteryear.

“I think a lot of it has to do with the fragmentation of media… now people pay attention to niche media within their small group of friends and they really don’t expand or expose themselves to ideas from other sides. The type of communications media that people use now plays a big role… we don’t have policy discussions on Twitter. People on Facebook, if something’s too long, they’ll often type “TLDR”: too long didn’t read. So it’s the nature of the media and the way that people are using it that is contributing to polarization.”

When it comes to polarization in today’s D.C., Exhibit A would be the current scuffle over what to do about the Supreme Court.

With Antonin Scalia’s unexpected passing in February, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell swiftly refused to consider anyone nominated by President Obama, preferring to wait until next year when a new president is sworn into office.

Obama in turn has made it clear he will nominate someone to fill Scalia’s seat, in spite of what Senate Republicans’ threats to ignore or filibuster the eventual nominee. At the heart of why Republicans want to wait until 2017 to confirm Scalia’s replacement is the “Thurmond Rule,” an informal policy where custom presides and senators are discouraged from nominating Supreme Court justices during an election year.

When asked if today’s moves by McConnell constitute what happened when Abe Fortas, LBJ’s nominee for chief justice, was filibustered in 1968 by U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond of South Carolina (the rule’s namesake), Belt stressed that Washington has changed tremendously in the half-century since the Thurmond Rule was born.

“It’s a totally different ballpark, and I think it has to do with the hyper-partisan-ship… For as long as Senators’ ideologies have been tracked and ranked, this is the first time ever where you don’t see any overlap between the parties. In other words, it used to be that the most liberal Republican was more liberal than the most conservative Democrat in the Senate. [With the absence of such an overlap], the potential for compromise is really just not there anymore… Members of Congress are speaking to their bases and they’re speaking to voters who are much stricter ideologically in terms of what they want out of government… certain policies just can’t get passed anymore like immigration or entitlement reform… the wings of the party are very active and social media gives them a megaphone for their voices… I think that it’s not just that the leadership is leading the public, I think that the leadership is following the public.”

For his part, President Obama is testing the waters by floating a few names of individuals he could hypothetically nominate to the Court. One of those names belonged to Brian Sandoval, the Republican governor of Nevada, whose legal and political background is seen by most as relatively moderate. (Sandoval subsequently stated that he was flattered, but not interested in joining the Supreme Court.)

As Belt sees it, this is only part of a larger “game of chess” being played by Obama and Congress — especially when it comes to what influences politicians’ electoral prospects.

“[Obama’s hypothetical nomination of Brian Sandoval], that’s sort of a trial balloon to see if they [Senate Republicans] would accept anyone, though I don’t know if that was a serious move… One of the things that I think will happen is that the Senate Republican leadership is going to have to be responsive to the junior senators who were elected in 2010. A lot of those senators are in purple states — first-term senators are especially vulnerable, and could get thrown out very quickly. The Republicans are of course worried about maintaining their majority in the Senate… 2/3 of the senators up for election in 2016 are Republicans, whereas the opposite was true two years ago [in the 2014 elections]. There’s going to be pressure from those rank-and-file senators in purple states on their leadership if they see this issue as threatening their reelection prospects… This gives President Obama an opportunity to ‘go public’ — to go out to states where those vulnerable senators are from and blasting what he sees as their obstructionism. So we may see some fireworks go off between them [Obama and Senate Republicans].”

Belt then offered a possible theory explaining McConnell’s initial insensitivity: “It’s important to remember the Republican leadership could be staking out a hard position in order to compromise [on an eventual SCOTUS nominee]. They don’t want to appear as if they’re “willing to take anybody” Obama nominates… if they stake out a hard position now, it’s possible they’ll be able to [get Obama to] move towards the center by agreeing on a more centrist, moderate pick that Republicans can live with… But remember, it’s a two-way street: vulnerable senators rely upon leadership to distribute much-needed campaign funds and resources [through the NRSC, DSCC, etc.]. There’s a give-and-take, as the rank-and-file provide the numbers for a majority, while the leadership help allocate funds for members to get reelected…

A few byproducts of increased political polarization include the fall of “ticket-splitters” as well as the reduced number of competitive seats up for election in 2016.

“Split-ticket voting is becoming less and less likely today… The Republicans have a significant margin in the House right now. Usually there’s only about 60 seats that are considered “swing-seats”, but the Republicans already have a siz-able majority of that number. It’s unlikely that they’ll lose the House…”

When the 45th President of the United States is inaugurated next January, Belt argued that one of the first things indicating whether or not they will be effective at governing is “the people that they surround themselves with. The President – him or herself – is not the only person that deals with Congress or deals with executive departments to implement policy.”

Belt added that “Donald Trump is correct, in one sense, in that “You have to hire good people”, and one of the most important things that a president does – especially in the transition period before they actually take office – is put people in place that will be effective, so perhaps someone like Hillary [Clinton] who’s more of those people and understands who might be more effective [in helping govern] because of her experience, though certainly Bernie Sanders has a lot of experience and knows who may or may not be effective, but will he necessarily make those appointments if they clash with his ideology? That’s a question to consider.”

Aside from competent executive agency leaders, Belt likewise pointed to the ability of a president (or lack thereof) to fully take advantage of his/her first few months in office.

“…the other thing about the presidential honeymoon is that it’s becoming, as one professor I know says, “Nasty, brutish, and short”, and a lot of this has to do with the increased speed of media, and the fact that the president’s first hundred days, this sort of mandate and the honeymoon, the idea is supposed to be ‘give the president a chance’ and it’s also a time before resistance to certain policies can coalesce, but that coalescing can happen much quicker now because of so many different media sources. It’s going to be tough for whoever takes over… it would probably be easier for a Republican president if they have a Republican Senate to help them, and there’s going to be a Republican House almost assuredly – so it would be very difficult for a Democrat.”

Turning to local politics, Dr. Belt highlighted the significance of the Big Island’s highest office, the mayoralty; indeed, Big Island residents will go to the polls in November to decide who will succeed Billy Kenoi as Mayor of Hawai’i County.

“The Mayor’s race of course is wide open – it’s an open seat…” as Kenoi is term-limited.

Who will emerge as our next mayor? Perhaps, if Belt’s prediction is correct, it will be a former mayor – and a man who’s already tried to get his old job back before…

“I wouldn’t be surprised to see Harry Kim throw his hat back in the ring, as there’s still quite a few weeks before the filing deadline…” Sure enough, Kim announced Mar. 3 that he was in fact planning to seek the office he held for eight years prior to Kenoi.

Belt went on to say that “I think the mayoral election should be very, very interesting, because our mayor is very important for the island – particularly regarding the County’s relationship to the State. More and more, our relations with the State will matter, from agriculture to dengue fever and Zika virus… as well as the distribution of Transient Accommodations Tax revenue [TAT], for sure.”
Danniel Wilson

Sports Editor & Copy Chief
Hannah Hawkins

Photos Courtesy of Danielle Wilson

She throws things. Hits things. Even steals things. She allows no one to get from point A to point B without her consent. 
She may seem like someone to avoid but there is more to Danielle Wilson than meets the eye. In fact, you'd probably never suspect this behavior from looking at the blonde hair, blue-eye, sweetest-smiling softball player.

Wilson began playing at the age of five, following in her father's baseball footsteps. After a rocky beginning to her athletic career, Wilson flourished into an outstanding player.

"It's actually kind of a funny story. I played half of my first year then broke my arm and couldn't play the rest of the season," Wilson said.

But even with the traumatic injury for the five-year-old, something about the game beckoned her return. And with that love for the game, the California native grew up in pursuit of being the best softball player possible.

"It was always a dream of mine to grow up and make it big in the softball world. Of course, like any other kid, I dreamed of making it to the pros, but where I grew up, it was almost not an option to not play softball in college," Wilson said.

"Growing up in SoCal, softball was huge and my dad put a lot of pressure on me, which only made me work even harder. I worked myself to rearrange my life over, " Wilson said. "She has shown me how successful someone can be. Furthermore, she is the one person in my life that has shown me to do what you happy, no matter what other people think of you. If they don't like what you're doing then they aren't worth trying to rearrange your life over," Wilson said. "She has also taught me that the harder you work, the more successful you will be. She was the one who inspired me to become not only the player, but also the person I am today."

That being said, Wilson's personality off the softball field radiate to everyone she encounters.

"I like to think that I am a good friend in that I am always there for people," Wilson said. "No matter what time of the day it is or where I am, I always try to help my friends and family with whatever they need. I put others first."

But don't be mistaken; when she's on the pitcher's mound, it's a whole other ballgame.

In 2015, Wilson recorded three doubles, two homers and eight runs batted in. She was 13-7 with a 3.81 earned run average and 7.47 ERA over 15.2 innings pitched in 2014.

"I'm definitely a different person when I play softball. Everyone has always told me I have great composure as a pitcher. Even when things are bothering me, other teams don't know because I've learned to keep the same face on the mound constantly," Wilson said. "I become more aggressive and I'd like to say I have a little bit of an attitude when pitching."

One word of wisdom that Wilson wishes to pass onto others is the idea of "believing."

"I would say one of my favorite words is believe. In sports, or even anything in life, confidence plays a huge role in what you do and do not accomplish. Believing in yourself is the main piece of confidence."

In sports, or even anything in life, confidence plays a huge role in what you do and do not accomplish. Believing in yourself is the main piece of confidence.
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Though Scalia was characterized by virtually all of his contemporaries as a right-leaning jurist, "activist;" such thinking was prevalent in the post-Civil Rights era, where decisions like Roe v. Wade – which legalized abortion nationwide – were seen as straying from beyond what the Founding Fathers envisioned for their country.

Dr. Sarah Marusek, an associate professor of political science at UH Hilo who specializes in public law, elaborated on Scalia’s influence over modern American jurisprudence, placing emphasis on his legal philosophy.

"Antonin Scalia was a Supreme Court Justice who took an originalist approach to interpreting the Constitution. Originalism – also called original intent and closely related to textualism – is the idea that the words and meaning of the Constitution should be thought of as they were originally written, and intended to mean, in the late 1700s," referring to the time in which the Constitution was drafted.

Marusek explained how Scalia's outlook differed from other jurists, mainly concerning the aforementioned issue of 'text' versus 'context'.

"Scalia’s approach was opposite the approach referred to as 'a living Constitutional model,' in which the Constitution is contextually interpreted according to a changing, evolving society."

Scalia’s originalism is associated with conservative scholars, weary of judicial rulings being too "activist;" such thinking was prevalent in the post-Civil Rights era, where decisions like Roe v. Wade – which legalized abortion nationwide – were seen as straying from beyond what the Founding Fathers had envisioned for their country.

Though Scalia was characterized by virtually all of his contemporaries as a right-leaning jurist, Marusek says that members of the Supreme Court are meant to display a significant degree of independent thinking not beholden to partisan interests.

"While neither approach is always 'liberal' nor 'conservative,' Scalia’s approach was dependably originalist. The diversity of approaches taken by members of the Supreme Court provides the foundation for a democratic court."

For Marusek, this is just the continuation of an age-old question: what is law? "Because the Constitution is so broadly written with a wide scope of possible application, the variety of interpretive approaches provides a vital source for judicial debate. For over two hundred years, such deliberation keeps the Court, and the Constitution, consistently responsive to contemporary American life and its many changing facets," Marusek said.
Brief: Sunday Feb. 21 was Imiloa Astronomy Center’s 10th birthday! In celebration of their birthday, Imiloa hosted a free family event where kids and adults alike could participate in hands-on activities, eat cotton candy and cake, explore the exhibit hall, and watch planetarium shows. If you missed it this year, definitely check it out next year! After all, Imiloa is just a quick walk up Nowelo street from the University of Hawaii at Hilo campus.

For those of you who don’t know, Imiloa brings together Astronomy and Hawaiian culture to tell stories about our universe, solar system, and home right here on the Big Island through their exhibit hall and planetarium. According to their website, their mission statement is “to honor Maunakea by sharing Hawaiian culture and science to inspire exploration.”

Planetarium shows happen every day except Monday (when Imiloa is closed) and sometimes there are special shows and talks like the Pink Floyd light show and how origami can help us learn more about space. Most of the “special” talks are done by professionals from the field and are one-time things. So if you see an event you’re interested in at Imiloa, don’t wait to buy your tickets!
The Student Life Center (SLC) here at UH Hilo hosts a series of free events and outdoor activities every weekend for students to enjoy. Once a month, a student-staffed boat takes students through Hilo Bay, past the break wall, and along Hamakua coast for whale watching. February’s whale watching event was a special opportunity for some of us here at Ke Kalahea as the news staff experienced this first hand.

Spring is the best time to whale watch in Hawai‘i because “Humpback whales migrate here from Alaska to have babies and escape the cold,” Zack Gorski, a student staff member of the boat and Ke Kalahea, said. “But a lot of people hypothesize that this year has seen a real shortage of whales because of El Nino and its changes to the weather and ocean currents.”

Gorski is also the Teaching Assistant for the Biology of Marine Mammals Lab. Hilo Bay is usually full of whales, but on one of the lab’s runs with a hydrophone, they were able to record a single whale song. “One whale song usually lasts about 20 minutes and it’s hard to distinguish the sounds of one whale’s song from another. So it was really weird and cool to be able to record a single song when usually Hilo bay sounds more like white noise,” Gorski said.

February’s whale watch saw only two whales total, though previous trips have seen more. Even if there are no whales, the views of the Hilo and Hamakua coastlines are beautiful with Maunakea and Maunaloa clear of vog and clouds early in the morning.

‘It was really weird and cool to be able to record a single [whale] song when usually Hilo Bay sounds more like white noise’

Zack Gorski
Ke Kalahea's editor in chief, Britni taking a photo of Hilo's coastline.

Energetic students waiting to see some whales.

Students enjoying the view of the Hamakua coastline.

The Honoli'i bridge.

Energetic students waiting to see some whales.
University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

MEDIA SYMPOSIUM

Presented by Ke Kalahea Student News Publication

Saturday April 9th, 2016 From 9 A.M to 3 P.M.
Located in Campus Center 301 & 306
There will be a Senatorial Candidate Forum at 2 P.M.

Our featured speakers are Don Wallace from Honolulu Magazine, Michael Shapiro from Hana Hou Magazine, Mindy Pennybacker from Honolulu Star-Advertiser, Chad Blair from Civil Beat, Nancy Cook Lauer from West Hawaii Today, Julie Ziemelis, a PR “Guru,” Jeff Portnoy, attorney renowned for his First Amendment expertise, and more.

For questions, for pre-registration, or for disability accommodations, contact Tiffany Edwards Hunt at (808) 938-8592 or email kalahea@hawaii.edu

Free for UH Hilo students w/ valid ID
$5 for the general public