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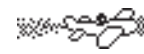
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Volume 21 Number 1

The Militia of Molokai's Community Newspaper—Every Wednesday

January 5, 2005

HAPPY NEW YEAR

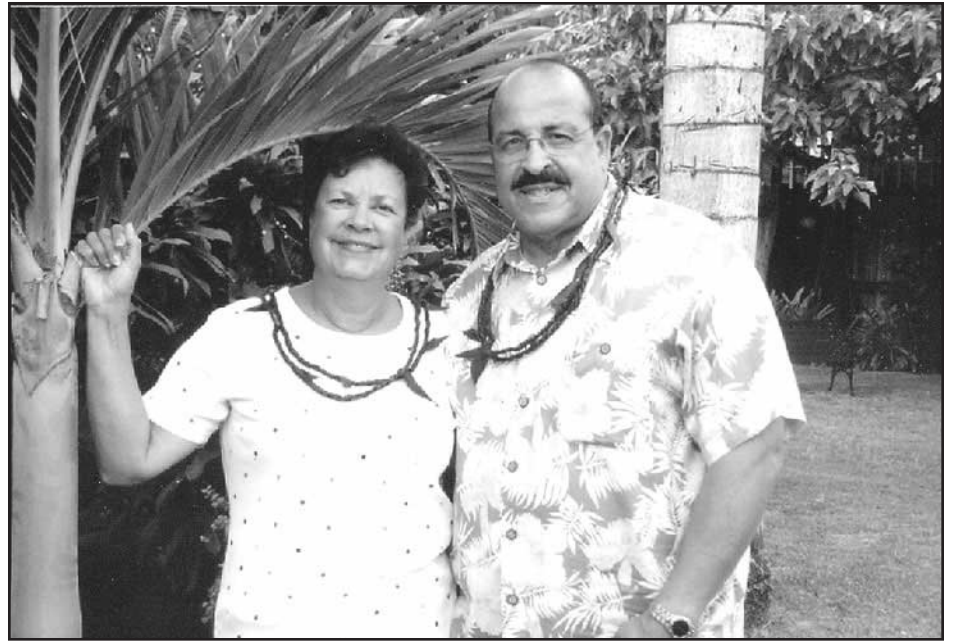


Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.—The MAN

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Evangelist Art Bushnell and Mrs. Bushnell
Gospel Festival this Friday

Information submitted by Kenneth Nip
 The Gospel Festival is coming to Molokai. Evangelist Art Bushnell from Honolulu will speak at the festival at the Mitchell Pauole Center beginning Friday, January 7, 2005 at 7:15pm.

The opening night topic chosen is "What is the Gospel? Could it be the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? Why is it important today? a look on the inside."

Bushnell has conducted the gospel festival in many parts of the world. From Molokai, the festival will be held on Oahu. Come to the festival! It's free!

The festival is sponsored by the Molokai Seventh-day Adventist Church.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mana'e Graves Desecrated

The members of Malama Pono O'Ka Aina and The Mana'e Kupuna Council would like to express concerns regarding gravesite desecration. Land on the east side of Molokai (TMK: 5-6-04-21) has been partially cleared by Dedrick Manaba of Manaba Enterprises. In this clearing process he has wiped clean the markers of several gravesites in spite of prior warnings from surviving family members of the Rodrigues family.

As the family members proceed to inform the proper state and county officials a white wash of truth begins. Molokai's building inspector Carl Puhi along with Sara Collins from the state historic preservation department clearly walked through this "investigation" to cover their tracts. In short Carl Puhi and Sara Collins has just concluded that the graves in question do not exist.

People beware the graves of your family members could be next in order to facilitate expansion and for the prosperity of a few.

Mana'e Kupuna Council: Zaidarene Kalipi (808) 558-8159 and Malama Pono O'Ka Aina: Linda Place phone number to contact: (808) 558-8182

MHS & MIS Science Fair Held

Wed. Dec 8, the science depts. at MHS and MIS held our annual Science Fair. The following students have been selected to travel to Maui on Fri. Jan. 28 to compete in the Maui County Science Fair.

Intermediate: Lohiao Paoa, Kanahale Montizor, Jacob Cruz, Julie Bicoy, Zachary Barrows, Tiare Bermudez, Courtney Keanini, AJ Sibayan, Kaelin Tancayo, Leya-Justina Luafalemana, Ichanese Rapanot, Estrella Madani, Chentel Villa.

High School: Jeanette Tensfeldt, Zaneta Whitten, Nicole Shook, Chelae Primacio, Jason Piros, Louigie Ponce, Aaron Delos Reyes, Crystal Yuen, Lamerticha Gorsich, Makalele Gorsich, Kamuela Tapia, Jeremy Adachi, Josiah Cruz, Jade Dela Cruz, Rayna Hiro, Keani Kawano, Tierra Madani, Alya Bicoy, Carmen McCartney, Liz Kahooahano, Pilahi Arce, Joseph Cook, Chase Phillips.

The science teachers at both schools would like to congratulate these students for a job well done. We would also like to thank all the people who helped with the fair, especially Adele Lee for getting the judges and all the judges for their time and hard work.

Good luck students, Scott Hemenway

• **BULLETIN BOARD** •

- January 1, Saturday - *Happy New Year 2005!*
- January 5, Wednesday - Molokai Fisheries Management mtg.
- January 10, Monday - Kilohana Teachers' Work Day
- January 11, Tuesday - Kilohana Students return to school
- January 15, Saturday - Ka Moloka'i Makahiki
- January 17, Monday - *Martin Luther King Day*
- February 1, Tuesday - *Kung Hee Fat Choy! Chinese New Year*



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Birth Announcement

Baby girl **Jazmine-Lyn Nohealani Stone** was born on December 17, 2004 to Shylynn "Peaches" Stone and Kawika Stone. Baby Jazmine-Lyn has a brother, Akeo and two sisters Healani & Kanoe. Grandma Claire & Dean Place of East End and Grandma Helene Nohea Stone of Ho'olehua also welcome Jazmine-Lyn to the family.



US Soldier found NOT guilty of 'Dereliction of Duty' for having Consensual Sex while he should have been guarding the camp

Only 25 Years for shooting the Iraqi boy with 11 bullets after sex.

By JAY PRICE, Staff Writer jprice@newsobserver.com.

A North Carolina National Guard member thought to be the first U.S. soldier convicted of murdering an Iraqi said he "snapped" and shot the 17-year-old boy after they had consensual sex, according to court-martial records released this week.

Pvt. Federico Daniel Merida, 21, of Biscoe, a tiny town south of Asheboro, pleaded guilty during a court-martial in Iraq to shooting the Iraqi national guard private, whose name the Army withheld. Merida was sentenced Sept. 25 to 25 years in prison and reduced in rank. He will be dishonorably discharged.

Army officials at Forward Operating Base Danger, where the court-martial was held, released the records to The News & Observer on Thursday.

According to the records, Zaggam and Merida were on guard duty May 11 in a tower on the perimeter of an Army camp near Tikrit in northern Iraq. About 10:30 p.m., Merida shot Zaggam repeatedly with his M-4 carbine.

The "gay panic" motive was the third that Merida offered. He first told investigators that Zaggam demanded money at gunpoint. Later, he said he killed Zaggam because the boy forced him to have sex.

Interviewed a third time by skeptical investigators, Merida said he got angry after the two had consensual sex. When the boy went to the latrine, Merida began to craft an excuse for killing him.

According to the records, Merida told investigators that he picked up Zaggam's AK-47 rifle and chambered a bullet so that it was ready to fire. He then pulled out the magazine, which held the rest of the bullets, and put it aside.

When Zaggam returned, Merida handed the gun back. Merida then grabbed the boy's trigger finger, forcing him to fire a bullet into the ceiling.

Merida then radioed the camp headquarters and said Zaggam had tried to kill him after demanding money. Merida dropped the radio and raised his own gun, a short version of the M-16 assault rifle.

Merida first shot at the floor of the guard tower, then into Zaggam's legs, according to an account that Merida signed for the court-martial. Zaggam tried to wrest away the rifle, and Merida shot him in the groin. Zaggam clutched at a railing and fell down the stairs as Merida kept shooting.

"The accused fired a couple more rounds into the lifeless body ... then took his magazine out and set it aside, put his weapon down, and called ... to report that he had just killed the Iraqi soldier who had tried to rob him," the account signed by Merida said.

The boy was hit by 11 bullets.

In an agreement with the Army that limited his prison sentence to no more than 25 years, Merida pleaded NOT guilty to premeditated murder but guilty to murder without premeditation. He pleaded guilty to two counts of giving false statements in his initial explanations.

(GET THIS!!!) He was found NOT guilty of dereliction of duty for having consensual sex while he should have been guarding the camp.

During the court-martial, Merida apologized to the victim's family.

Merida is confined at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., a Leavenworth spokeswoman said. Merida is a member of the 113th Field Artillery Battalion's Battery B, based in Monroe. He deployed to Iraq early this year with an N.C. National Guard brigade of several thousand soldiers, which was placed under command of the 1st Infantry Division.

Maj. Robert Carver, a spokesman at the N.C. National Guard's Raleigh headquarters, said "Obviously one of the things we're trying to do in Iraq is foster an environment that includes the rule of law rather than dictatorship, and hopefully this demonstrates that to the Iraqis," he said. "The rule of law was applied, and the guilty have been punished."

[Psssttt-Bring US troops home, NOW.—The MAN]



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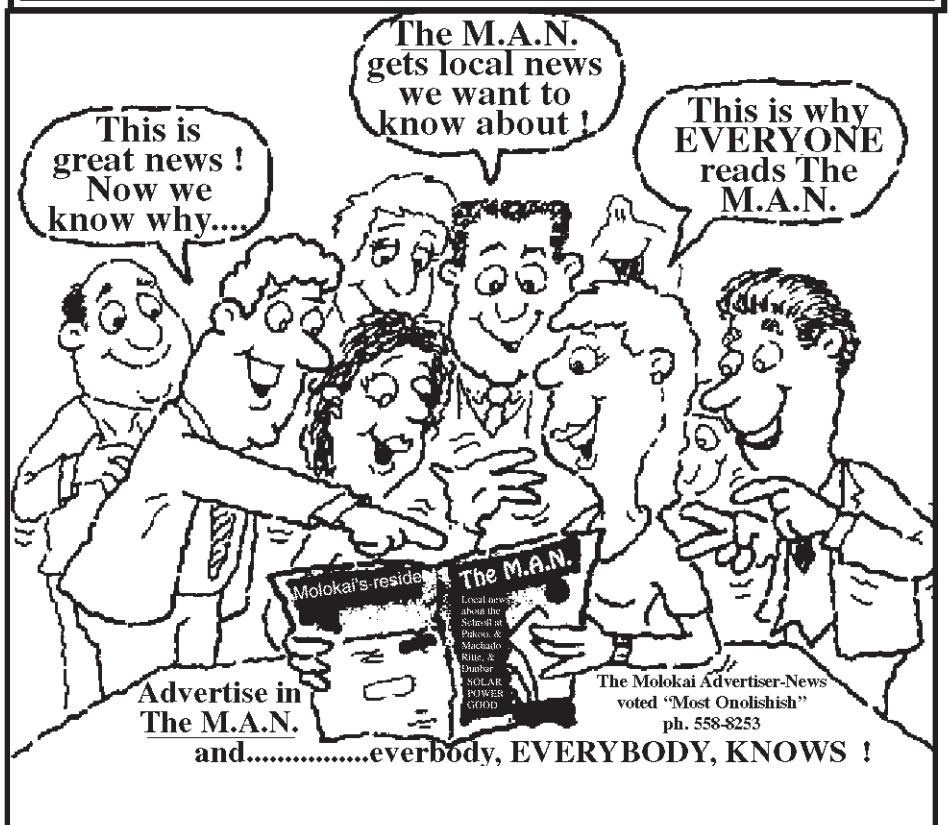
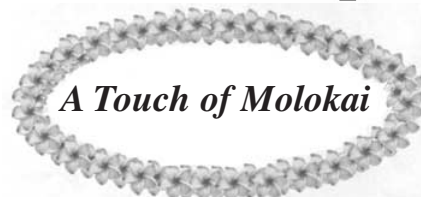
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