

High flying dreams



Photo courtesy of ST1 (SS/DV) David McKean

ST1 (SS/DV) David McKean makes his approach at Honolulu International Airport. When McKean was old enough, he decided to join the Navy as a pilot but learned he was too short. McKean has spent his Navy career diving in submarines, but after he retires he plans on taking his career in a different direction.

Deep sea Sailor dares to take to the air

JO2 Devin Wright
Staff Writer

Many Sailors' daily routine involve taking to the open waters, but one submariner's daily routine is chasing the open skies.

Sonar Technician Submarine 1st Class (SS/DV) David McKean of Naval Submarine Training Facility plans to retire from the Navy in April after 20 years of honorable service.

He has spent his career diving down to the ocean's depths in submarines, but there has always been a yearning in McKean to go in a different direction- up.

Since McKean was a child, he always wanted to fly. "For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a pilot," said McKean. "My grandfather was a pilot and his stories were always fascinating."

When McKean was old enough, he decided to join the Navy as a pilot, but was crushed to learn that at five feet four inches, he was too short. So he did

the next best thing - join the Navy undesignated.

McKean is a plank owner and worked undesignated onboard USS Pittsburgh (SSN 720) until he found a rate that would keep him challenged for the next 20 years, sonar technician, but the urge to learn to fly always lingered.

"In 1992, when I was stationed in San Diego, I decided to chase my dream of flying," McKean said. "I went to a local flight school, but quickly realized I didn't have the funds. I was a little irritated because when I joined the Navy, they didn't have a Montgomery G.I. Bill. Here I was with like 12 years in the military and can't get a dime for school, but people with only a year in were getting \$40,000," he said.

McKean was determined to learn to fly. He started writing to Congress asking for financial assistance. Every time he would send a letter to Congress, he would get one back denying his request. Congress

rejected his request for years until one day he received a letter of approval.

McKean began flight school in 2003 and since has earned his private, instructor's and commercial pilot's license at a cost of \$55,000 of which the Navy paid 60 percent.

On his off duty time, McKean works as a flight instructor at Flight School Hawai'i.

"I love it," said McKean. "It is still the coolest thing to me when you have no constraints. My wife and I will rent a plane and fly friends and family to Maui for the afternoon and then fly home in time for dinner."

McKean plans on flying as a career after he retires from the Navy.

"My ultimate dream is to fly for FedEx," said McKean. "Every time I look up and see a FedEx plane, I think someday that will be me, but if it doesn't happen with FedEx that's fine. I don't care who I fly for as long as I get to fly."



Photo courtesy of ST1(SS/DV) David McKean

ST1(SS/DV) David McKean prepares for take off at Honolulu International Airport. McKean is a trainer at Naval Submarine Training Facility Pacific. On his off duty time, McKean works as a flight instructor at Flight School Hawai'i. McKean says many students want to fly from island to island without having to fly on an airline.



Photo courtesy of ST1(SS/DV) David McKean

A sunken volcano off the coast of Maui is seen from the passenger's seat from a plane McKean rented. McKean and his wife enjoy flights to Maui for the afternoon. He and his wife often give family and friends a bird's eye view of Hawai'i's different islands.



Photo courtesy of ST1(SS/DV) David McKean

ST1(SS/DV) David McKean of Naval Submarine Training Facility Pacific sits in the cockpit of a plane use to teach students to fly. After years of trying to raise funds for pilot training, McKean earned his pilot's license in 2003 and shortly after, earned his instructor's and commercial pilots license. McKean hopes to one day fly a commercial airplane for FedEx.

Commentary

Focus on Fun

JO1 Daniel J. Calderón, Editor

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Time to hit the open air

There's something to be said about the natural hubris possessed by humanity. After all, what other creature dares defy its natural place as a land-dwelling animal using intellect and sheer bravado? I took my place among those daring individuals who challenge the notion that people were not meant to fly when I went up on my Be A Pilot lesson.

I met Solon, my instructor at Flight School Hawai'i, which is right next to the Honolulu Airport – a really convenient place to have a flight school I must say. We went through our paperwork and then out to see the plane I would be flying. I have to say it was a lot smaller than I expected.

The first thing we did was a safety check. Solon explained safety checks are conducted every time a plane gets ready to leave the deck. Nothing flies without inspection. That was a good thing, as far as I was concerned. It's the whole "kingdom lost for want of a nail" thing. You know?

So, once we got the inspection done, into the cockpit we went. Solon went over the controls and then we got the plane up and running. He let me taxi most of the way. I had to try and get the hang of the foot pedals for steering because the hand controls (which I'll call the steering wheel for the sake of ease even though that's not technically correct) were useless on the ground. Finally, we were set on the runway and ready for takeoff.

"Okay," he said. "Take us up."

I grabbed the steering wheel with my left hand and the throttle with my right and began pushing it in to give us power. As I gave the little Cessna all the power she could take, I began pulling back on the wheel. After a few seconds, I felt the front wheel come off the runway. It was soon followed by its companions on the rear of the plane and we shook free the shackles of gravity.

There was no jarring change, no shrugging of the bonds of earth. It was more of a resignation by the laws of nature that we were no longer beings bound to the ground and we were given our rightful places among the air, clouds and birds. To say I was thrilled is like saying the ocean is a little bit on the damp side. The feeling of utter exhilaration spread from the pit of my stomach beyond the tips of my toes and to every hair on my head. It was almost like falling in love again for the first time.

I banked to my right and could see the area I live in out my window. I could see H-1 stretching its asphalt-covered arm across Oahu and I could see the little cars trundling along like insects. For a moment, I pitied all of the people below me. I felt sorry that I couldn't share these feeling with them, sorry that they were bound to traveling in little lanes. Then, I lost myself in the sheer joy of flying.

I began flying a little to the left of H-1 as we headed toward Mililani. Once we reached an area Solon said was a training zone for novices like me, I was able to practice steeper climbs and dips along with left and right turns. I looped around in the air for what seemed a brief eternity before I knew it was time to head back.

As we turned toward our final destination, I was able to really look around. I could see

the mothball fleet, Pearl City and Aiea all stretched out below me. We flew over part of Pearl Harbor as we made our approach to the airport and I could see the Bowfin and the Missouri on the water. I could also see the Arizona below the surface and oh, how I wanted to see more.

It ended, however. Since it was just my first flight, I didn't land the plane. It was pretty windy and a landing is dicey for a first-timer on a calm day anyhow. Wisely, neither of us thought it was a good idea for me to try it. Reluctantly, I climbed out of the plane with a new love and a new respect for the pilots that carry me and my family home when I'm on leave.

Flight School Hawai'i is one of seven flight schools on the island participating in the Be a Pilot program. In that program, you can get your first lesson for \$49. You can also purchase that first lesson for someone as a gift. Kind of a change of pace from the old pair of socks, eh? Here are the places on Oahu that participate in the Be a Pilot program:

Flight School Hawai'i, Inc.

Honolulu International Airport
P.O. Box 6088
Honolulu, HI 96818
Phone: 808-837-7767
<http://www.flightschoolhawaii.com>

Big Kahuna Aviation

Honolulu International Airport
100 Iolana Place
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: (808) 836-7718

<http://www.bigkahunaaviation.com>

Eveland Aero

Honolulu International Airport
99 Mokuea Place
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: (808) 833-2113
www.evelandaero.com

Mueller Aviation, Inc.

Honolulu International Airport
PO Box 30523
Honolulu, HI 96820
Phone: 808-834-7710
<http://www.muelleraviation.com>

PATC-Honolulu Community College

Honolulu/Kalaeloa Airfield
140 Iako Place
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: (803) 837-8098

<http://www.hcc.hawaii.edu/aviation>

George's Aviation Services

Honolulu International Airport
10 Lagoon Drive, Bldg. 420, South Ramp
Honolulu, HI
Phone: (808) 834-2120
<http://www.georgesavation.com>

Moore Air, Inc.

Honolulu International Airport
90 Nakolo Place, Suite 24
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: (808) 833-5628
<http://www.mooreair.com>

For those of you who haven't bought presents yet, a certificate for a flight on a Cessna would make an awesome stocking stuffer. You send that special someone up and you ride along, taking pictures of him or her piloting a plane 1,500 feet above Oahu. Trust me, they'll love it. Next time, I'll tell you about the time I had to borrow the space shuttle to make a pizza delivery to the Mir space station, but that's another story...

Military hosts Special Olympics events

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley

Staff Writer

Service members from around the island volunteered at the Special Olympics Holiday Classic Dec. 4-5 at Hickam Air Force Base and Marine Corps Base Hawai'i, Kaneohe Bay, performing as officials, score keepers and supporters for more than 1,000 athletes participating in a variety of sporting events.

More than 900 volunteers, almost 60 percent of those military, aided athletes in bowling, speed skating, bocce ball and basketball events.

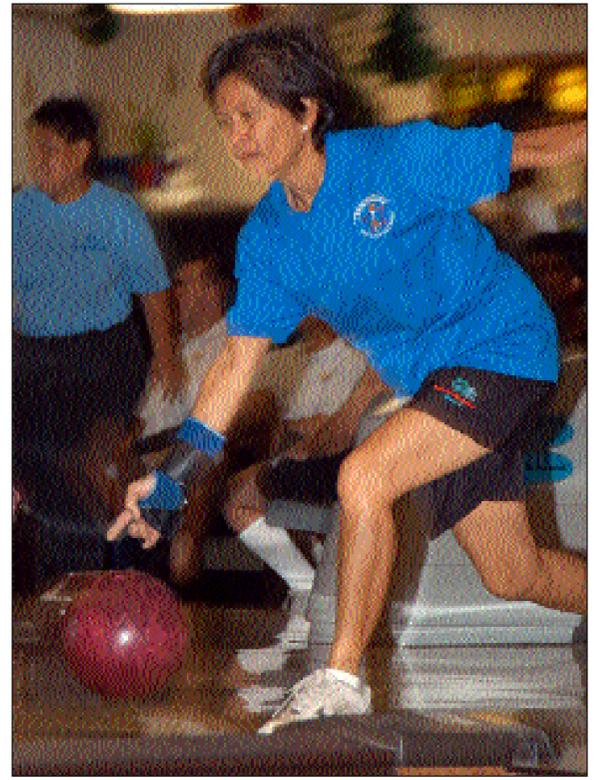
"The kid's faces were amazing," said Senior Airman Jasmine Lyle. "Their eyes were glittering and they were so excited when they got their awards."

The event was the largest in more than 20 years, according to Nancy Bottelo, president and chief executive officer for Special Olympics Hawai'i. She said the athlete's favorite event was the unified bowling.

"Unified bowling is really great because it's a competition where there are two people bowling," said Bottelo. "One of them is a Special Olympics athlete and the other is someone in the community, so it gives them a chance to really integrate with the community."

All of the Special Olympics athletes were grateful for all the volunteers who gave their time to help with the event.

"The volunteers are



U.S. Navy photo by JO3 Ryan C. McGinley

A Special Olympics athlete bowls at Hickam Lanes for the Holiday Classic. More than 1,000 athletes and 900 volunteers participated in the annual event, which included bowling, bocce ball, speed skating and basketball.

great," said Cheryl Shultz, an athlete. "They are always in high spirits and do a great job encouraging us."

Lyle said volunteering in the community is essential for a military member and she hopes more service members will join the program.

"The military is really concerned about the community because that's why we're out here, that's the reason we have our jobs, is to support and protect the community," said Lyle. "It's a great opportunity to come out, relax, have some fun and enjoy the time you have with the community."

Candle safety important during holiday season

Marcie Birk

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

During the winter and especially during the holidays, candle usage increases. According to the National Fire Protection Association, the month of December has twice as many home candle fires as an average month.

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) reports that nearly 85 percent of candle fire incidents were started because of consumer misuse. In four out of 10 fires, the candles were left unattended, abandoned or inadequately controlled. Combustible objects being left near candle flames caused nearly 25 percent of these candle fires. In December, holiday decorations are the most common item first ignited in candle fires.

To avoid candle fires, follow these three simple rules:

- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Never place a burning candle near (under, over, or next to) something that can catch fire.
- Keep burning candles out of reach of children and pets.

Always use a candleholder specifically designed for candle use that is heat resistant, sturdy and large enough to contain any drips or melted wax. Place the holder on a stable,

heat-resistant surface.

Use a candle snuffer or spoon to put out a candle. Blowing the flame may send sparks and hot wax flying. Don't use water to put out a candle because it can also cause hot wax to splatter and may cause glass containers to break.

Keep burning candles away from drafts, vents and fans. This will prevent rapid, uneven burning, smoking, and excessive dripping. Drafts can also blow lightweight curtains or papers into the flame where they can catch fire.

Put out a candle if the flame comes too close to the holder or container. Stop using a candle when two inches of wax remain (one-half inch if in a container) to prevent heat damage to the surface and to prevent glass containers from breaking.

Never move a burning candle when the wax is liquid. Place candles at least three inches apart to prevent them from melting neighboring candles.

Put a candle out if it smokes, flickers repeatedly or the flame becomes too high. Let the candle cool, trim the wick to one-fourth inch, check for drafts, then re-light.

For more information on safe candle use and other holiday safety tips, visit National Fire Protection Association at <http://www.nfpa.org/Research/NFPAFactSheets/NFPAFactSheets.asp>.

LIP provides '12 Days of Christmas' for single Sailors

Lacy Lynn
Staff Writer

Forget turtledoves and partridges in pear trees. Liberty in Paradise (LIP) has its own version of the "12 Days of Christmas," including horseback riding, sharks swimming and parasailing. From Dec. 21 through Jan. 1, single Sailors and geographical bachelors can enjoy discounted events and excursions at Pearl Harbor and around the island.

Most activities are offered free or at a small cost and transportation is provided. For day trips, like the Navatek I whale-watching cruise or an afternoon ride at Kualoa Ranch, LIP also provides lunches.

"We just want [Sailors] to get involved and get away from their jobs to enjoy Hawai'i while they're here," said Marc Milles, supervisory recreation specialist at LIP.

Reservations and payment must be made at least two days prior to the event, but Milles recommended Sailors register early for more in-demand adventures. Only the first 25 reservations will be accepted for most excursions. This year's first event, for instance, is LIP's "Jump Into Christmas" sky diving, which is about half the usual price at \$100.

For the less adventurous,



Photo by Lisa Hansen

Liberty in Paradise is holding '12 Days of Christmas,' from Dec. 21 through Jan. 1 so single Sailors and geographical bachelors can enjoy discounted events and excursions at Pearl Harbor.

there is free "cosmic bowling" at Naval Station Bowling Center on Dec. 27. Beeman Center is sponsoring an all-night pajama party and movie marathon from midnight to 9 a.m. Jan. 1. Christmas movies will be shown all night and breakfast will be served the next morning.

"During the holiday season, we want to give them extra things to do. We want to create a home away from home," said Milles.

One of the highlights of the "12 Days of Christmas" will be a free dinner catered by Sam Snead's at LIP from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 25.

In addition to the "12 Days of Christmas" events and excursions, LIP has arranged other holiday

activities throughout the month of December for Navy personnel away from home.

For Sailors who need help sending packages to friends and family, LIP "goes postal" Dec. 13 to get holiday mail to its destination on time. Sailors can also test their yuletide knowledge during the Christmas Trivia game show on Dec. 15 at Beeman Center. Free shuttles for all activities depart from LIP and Milles requested Sailors arrive at least 20 minutes early for all events.

Complete schedules of excursions and events are available at Liberty in Paradise. For more information, call 473-4279 or 473-5443.

'Old Ironsides' invites guests to join Boston harbor cruise

USS Constitution Public Affairs

USS Constitution, the world's oldest commissioned warship afloat, is inviting guests to take part in a cruise of Boston Harbor in July 2005.

The cruise is part of an educational outreach program called "Old Ironsides Across the Nation" (OIAN) that targets a different region of the country each year. This year's target region is the Pacific Northwest and Hawai'i.

Participants on the cruise are chosen via lottery on the USS Constitution Museum's Web site, www.oldironsidesacrossthenation.org. One hundred names will be selected for the cruise, and winners are allowed to bring up to three guests. Travel and lodging are covered at the winner's expense.

Events for the winners include a welcome reception by the USS Constitution Museum and special guided tours of the ship and its maintenance and repair facilities. Lottery forms can be found online at www.oldironsidesacrossthenation.org

OIAN is a collaborative effort between the United States Navy and the privately-owned USS Constitution Museum, located adjacent to the ship. Constitution's active-duty Navy crew and Constitution Museum staff travel to different regions of the United States, visiting communities and sharing the stories of "Old Ironsides'" rich history.

USS Constitution, at 207 years old, has seen many challenges in its time, from battling Barbary pirates in the Mediterranean to fighting old age in the 1930s. The ship is permanently moored with an active-duty Navy crew in Boston harbor.



Photo courtesy of USS Constitution Public Affairs

Constitution's active-duty Navy crew and Constitution Museum staff travel to different regions of the United States, visiting communities and sharing the stories of "Old Ironsides'" history.

Defense Financial Accounting Service announces schedule for tax statements

Defense Finance and Accounting Service

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) has compiled a schedule of dates when service members, military retirees and annuitants, and defense civilian employees can access their tax statements through myPay and when they can anticipate to receive the hardcopy delivery by mail.

Military members, retirees/annuitants and Department of Defense civilian employees will once again have access to view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

DFAS delivers personal pay information and provides the ability to process pay-related transactions in a timely, safe and secure manner for all its members through myPay. The Web-based system eliminates the risks associated with postal delivery by allowing members to access electronic tax statements and other financial information on line. myPay matches existing industry standards for the highest level of encryption and security. This prevents customer information from being accessed by others on the Internet.

Tax statements will be available as follows:

myPay Access:

- Retired Annual Statement - Dec. 4, 2004
- Retired 1099R - Dec. 13, 2004
- Annuitant Annual Statements - Dec. 13, 2004
- Annuitant 1099R - Dec. 14, 2004
- Air Force, Army, and Navy Reserve W2s - Dec. 27, 2004
- Civilian W2s - Jan. 6, 2005
- Marine Corps active and Reserve W2s - Jan. 10, 2005

Air Force, Army, and Navy Active W2 - Jan. 14, 2005

Mail Dates:

- Retired Annual Statement - Dec. 17-29, 2004
- Retired 1099R - Dec. 17-29, 2004
- Annuitant Annual Statements - Dec. 28-29, 2004
- Annuitant 1099R - Dec. 27-29, 2004
- Air Force, Army, and Navy Reserve W2s - Jan. 4-5, 2005
- Civilian W2s - Jan. 10-14, 2005
- Marine Corps Active and Reserve W2s - Jan. 18, 2005
- Air Force, Army, and Navy Active W2 - Jan. 18-24, 2005
- Statements available by mail only:**
- Special Compensation for Severely Disabled 1099Rs - Dec. 17, 2004
- VSI/SSB W2s - Jan. 4-5, 2005
- Travel W2s - Jan. 10-11, 2005
- Savings Deposit 1099INTs - Jan. 10-11, 2005

"During the months of January, February and March 2004, an average of 1.4 million myPay users viewed their tax statements each month, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements on line," said Jim Pitt, director of Electronic Commerce, DFAS Military and Civilian Pay Services. "Earlier access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information."

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is the world's largest finance and accounting operation. It provides responsive, professional finance and accounting services to the men and women who defend America.

For more about DFAS, visit www.dfas.mil.

Surfin' Santa entertains Navy children



Photo courtesy of Forest City Residential Management

Navy housing residents who live in the five PPV neighborhoods were invited to have their pictures taken with "Surfin' Santa" Dec. 3 at Hukulani Community Center. Families were also able to take their pets and dress them in Santa hats and antlers for the photo-taking session. Forest City sponsored the free event and provided digital images to those who participated.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation to host holiday events

Compiled by Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Naval Station Pearl Harbor has planned holiday events for Navy personnel and their families.

Winterfest, offering a variety of family-oriented activities, kicks off the holiday season at Club Pearl's Paradise Lounge.

The fest will begin today at 6 p.m. with the lighting of the Naval Station Christmas tree, accompanied by music by the COM-PACFLT Band and carols.

More than 30 performers from Hypersquad will treat the audience to a 30-minute dance performance featuring some of the latest dance moves beginning at 8 p.m.

A highlight of the evening will be a visit with Santa and families are encouraged to bring their cameras.

From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., families can enjoy activities, including games, booths, winter crafts, bounce houses, etc. Winterfest is free

and is open to all military and DoD families. For more information, call 473-0606.

Keiki will have two opportunities to have Breakfast with Santa at Sam Snead's Tavern at the Navy-Marine Golf Course.

The breakfast buffets will be from 8-10 a.m. Dec. 11 and Dec. 18 and will include storytelling and a visit with Santa.

The cost is \$5.95 per person. Reservations are necessary. To make reservations or for more information, call 421-7267.

Navy families are invited to a free holiday Boston-pops style lawn concert presented by the Pacific Fleet Concert Band.

The concert will be from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Dec. 15 at the USS Bowfin Memorial.

Dress is aloha attire. The event is open to all military-affiliated personnel and their families. No pets are permitted.

Free parking will be available at the USS Arizona Memorial. For more information, call 474-2194, ext. 128.

Navy researcher honored for worldwide HIV/AIDS education/prevention programs

Ellen Maurer
Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs

Navy civilian Dr. Richard A. Shaffer, assigned to the Naval Health Research Center in San Diego, received the Secretary of Defense Medal for Meritorious Civilian Service Nov. 16 in recognition of his efforts to build HIV/AIDS education

and prevention programs around the world.

As program manager of the Department of Defense (DoD) HIV/AIDS prevention program from September 2003 to August 2004, Shaffer facilitated DoD-established HIV prevention programs in 41 countries, including 29 sub-Saharan African countries. Traveling extensively, engaging ambassadors, ministers of

health and defense, and military leaders, Shaffer built a coalition of governmental, tri-service, university and international agencies to assist foreign militaries in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

"We know good health is a military readiness issue. Obviously, the impact that HIV/AIDS has on individuals in many countries around the world is catastrophic.

However, when a serious illness, such as AIDS, afflicts a large proportion of a country's defense force, the stability and security of that nation is at risk," said Shaffer. "In many parts of the world, a military's ability to meet its operational commitments will depend on the development of effective HIV/AIDS prevention and education programs."

Shaffer also serves as DoD's senior coordinator and principal advisor on military medical initiatives to the White House global AIDS coordinator for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

"The U.S. government has taken a key leadership role in the worldwide fight against HIV/AIDS over the past four years," added Shaffer. "Last

year, the president pledged to significantly increase international HIV/AIDS assistance from the U.S. Now with the president's new program, the Department of Defense has been able to dramatically increase assistance to our international partners to prevent and reverse the effects of HIV/AIDS in our military colleagues and on the readiness of their defense forces."

MWR

Movie Call

Sharkey Theater
Naval Station Pearl Harbor
(473-0726)

FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. The Grudge
(PG 13)

SATURDAY

2:30 p.m. Alfie (R)
4:30 p.m. Taxi (PG 13)
6:45 p.m. Surviving Christmas
(PG 13)

SUNDAY

2:30 p.m. Raise Your Voice
(PG)

4:45 p.m. The Grudge
(PG 13)

6:45 p.m. Alfie (R)

THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Surviving Christmas
(PG 13)

\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

Memorial Theater

Hickam Air Force Base
(449-2239)

FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. Ray (PG-13)

SATURDAY

2:00 p.m. The Incredibles
(PG)

7:00 p.m. Ray (PG-13)

SUNDAY

2:00 p.m. The Incredibles
(PG)

7:00 p.m. Ray (PG-13)

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Alfie (R)

\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

Sgt. Smith Theater

Schofield Barracks
(624-2585)

FRIDAY

7:00 p.m. The Grudge
(PG 13)

SATURDAY

7:00 p.m. I Heart Huckabees
(R)

SUNDAY

7:00 p.m. The Grudge
(PG 13)

\$3 adults; \$1.50 children (6-11)

Editor's note: Every effort has been made to provide the most up-to-date information at the time of publication. However, scheduling of these events is subject to change. It is recommended that you call the contact numbers for the individual events to determine whether or not the activity will be held.

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE EVENTS

- **Dec. 18:** Kealia Trail, 8:30 a.m., \$5. Register by **Dec. 15.**
- **Dec. 18:** Extreme parasailing, \$40, call for time. Register by **Dec. 15.**
- **Dec. 19:** Hawaiian sailing canoe and Mokelua Island adventure, 9 a.m., \$33. Register by **Dec. 16.**

WINTERFEST 2004

Winterfest 2004 begins at 6 p.m. today at Paradise Lounge, Club Pearl and offers entertainment for the entire family. A tree lighting ceremony opens the event. Holiday carols and special treats, children's crafts, a visit with Santa, games, a bounce house, face-painting and a performance by Hypersquad – a dance troupe which offers stylings of hip-hop, jazz ballet, tap and more – will all be part of the evening's celebration. Admission is free and open to all MWR patrons and families. For more information, call 839-4884.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Keiki can have Breakfast with Santa from 8-10 a.m. **Dec. 11 and Dec. 18** at Sam's Sneads Tavern. The breakfast buffet will include storytelling and a visit with Santa. The cost is \$5.95 per person. For reservations or more information, call Sam Snead's Tavern at 421-SAMS (7267).

JUNIOR GOLF HOLIDAY PROGRAM

A Junior Golf Holiday Program is

planned for **Dec. 11-12** and **Dec. 18-19** at Navy Marine Golf Course. Clinics will be held from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and are open to junior youth ages 17 and younger. Register at the pro shop. For more information, call 471-0348.

MERRY FITNESS

Join Navy Fitness for the "Twelve Days Before Christmas." Participants can earn the opportunity to win prizes with each visit to a Navy fitness facility between **Dec. 13-24**. Drawings will be held daily at all participating Navy fitness centers. For more information, call 473-0793.

HOLIDAY RACQUETBALL TOURNAMENT

A holiday racquetball tournament will be held **Dec. 17-18** at Bloch Arena racquetball courts. The time will be announced. Divisions will include: men's and women's singles and doubles, open, A, B, C and seniors 50 and over. Prizes will be awarded to top finishers. The cost is \$5 per player. Register by **Dec. 15** at Wentworth Pro Shop or on the web at www.greatlife-hawaii.com. For more information, call 473-0610.

'KING OF THE BEACH' SAND VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The "King of the Beach" Sand Volleyball Tournament will be held **Dec. 17-18** at Wentworth sand volleyball courts. The tournament is doubles only. Prizes will be awarded to top finishers. The cost is \$5 per person. Participants should register by **Dec. 15**. For more information, call 473-0610.

PEE WEE FLAG FOOTBALL REGISTRATION

Registration for Pee Wee flag football will be held through **Dec. 17** at the youth sports office, 600 Main St. The cost is \$35 and includes T-shirt,

medal and certificate. To register, participants should bring a current physical (dated no more than a year ago) and birth certificate. The activity is open to youth ages three-five years. For more information, call 474-3501.

HONOLULU CITY LIGHTS TROLLEY CHARTER

Enjoy the sounds of the city, thousands of twinkling lights and festive holiday displays as the open-air trolley makes its way through downtown Honolulu on the Honolulu City Lights trolley charter. Get your tickets at any Navy ITT office for the holiday jaunt. The cost is \$10 per person age six and up. Charter trolleys will pick up from Bloch Arena, at 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on **Dec. 17, 19 and 21**. For more information, call 473-1190.

HOLIDAY INLINE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

MWR will host a Holiday Inline Hockey Tournament on **Dec. 18-19**. Divisions will include adults (age 18 years and over), advanced and intermediate levels. Prizes will be awarded to top finishers. The time will be announced. The cost is \$5 per player. For more information, call the Boards & Blades skate shop at 473-3295.

ACTIVE DUTY TENNIS CLINIC

Learn the basics of tennis at a free active duty tennis clinic at 5:30 p.m. **Dec. 22** at Wentworth tennis courts. Racquets and balls will be provided. Spouses are welcome. Register by **Dec. 20**. For more information, call 473-0610.

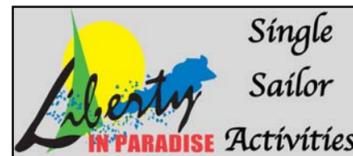
NAVY ITT OFFICES HOLIDAY HAM / HINDQUARTER GIVEAWAY

Visit any Navy ITT office and register to win a holiday ham. Complete an entry form and drop it

in the drawing box at any Navy ITT office. Drawing for the ham will be held at 8 a.m. **Dec. 20**. Drawing for the hindquarter will be at 8 a.m. **Dec. 27**. No purchase is necessary and entrants need not be present to win. For more information, call 473-1190.

HOLIDAY SKATEBOARD CONTEST

A Holiday Skateboard Contest is planned for **Dec. 30** at Boards & Blades Skate Park. Divisions will include open military (active duty), ages 18 and under, 14-17, 13 and under. Prizes will be awarded to top finishers. The cost is \$7 for advanced registration. The cost is \$10 if registering on the day of the event. For more information, call Boards & Blades skate shop at 473-3295.



- **Dec. 10:** Christmas social, 7-9 p.m., NCTAMS.
- **Dec. 11:** Paintball, \$25. 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 12:** Barbecue at the beach, \$5, 10 a.m. -5 p.m.
- **Dec. 13:** Liberty goes postal (get help to mail your packages home).
- **Dec. 15:** Christmas Trivia game show, 7 p.m., Beeman Center.

Weekly events:

- Sunday:** Chess tournament, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday:** WWE wrestling, 6:30 p.m.
- Tuesday:** 8-Ball tournament - 7 p.m.
- Wednesday:** Game show - 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday:** 9-Ball Pool tournament - 7 p.m.

Community Calendar

To have your activity or event featured in the Community Calendar, e-mail your requests to hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com or fax 473-2876. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's issue. Items will run on a space available basis.

Blood Drives:

- **Today:** 6:30 a.m.-noon, U.S. Army, AVN BDE and 314 CAV, Wheeler Air Force Base.
- **Dec. 23:** 9 a.m.-noon, U.S. Air Force, Hickam Community Center, Hickam Air Force Base.

The NEX Winter Wonderland Choo-Choo Train will treat children to rides at The Mall from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. through **Jan. 5, 2005**. Ticket prices are \$2.50 per child.

Holiday Lights Boat Tours will be hosted by Naval Station Pearl Harbor today, **Dec. 11 and Dec. 12**. The free boat tours will leave from Merry Point landing beginning at 7 p.m. and every 20 minutes thereafter. The last boat will depart at 8:10 p.m. The boat tours provide an opportunity to cruise past Pearl Harbor's holiday lights and ships while enjoying holiday music. No reservations are necessary and people of all ages are welcome. The event is also open to DoD employees and their families. No backpacks, fanny packs, luggage, diaper bags, camera bags, purses, large cameras/tripods are permitted. For more information, call 472-7150.

Michael Walther, author of "A Guide to Hawaii's Coastal Plants," will be at a book signing from noon-1 p.m. **Dec. 11** at the NEX. Patrons can learn about Hawaii's plants and how to save them.

The Hickam-Pearl Harbor chapter of the American Red Cross will offer a **babysitting course** on **Dec. 11** at the Pearl Harbor Red Cross office. Youth between the ages of 11-15 can become certified babysitters by taking the Red Cross class. The cost is \$35. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call 449-0166.

Meet Don Chapman, local author of "Mauna Ala," from noon-1 p.m. **Dec. 12** at the NEX. Those attending can find out how the author compiled the artistic details about the Royal Mausoleum and the caretakers behind it.

Join Admiral and Mrs. Doran in celebrating the holiday season at a **free Boston Pops-style concert** given by the Pacific Fleet Band beginning at 6:30 p.m. **Dec. 15** at the USS Bowfin Memorial. The festive event will entertain kids of all ages and rumor has it that a special guest will be visiting all the way from the North Pole. The event is open to all military and DoD personnel, their family members and sponsored guests. Dress is aloha attire. Pets are not permitted. Free parking is available at the USS Arizona Memorial. For more information, call 474-2194, ext. 128.

Professional Military Training (PMK) General Military Requirements for CPO, sponsored by the Navy Region First Class Petty Officers (FCPOA), will be held from 3-4 p.m. **Dec. 16** at Navy College, building 679, second floor, room 24B at Naval Station Pearl Harbor. For more information, contact PN1(SW/AW) Aughttry at patria.oughttry@navy.mil or 474-6616, or CTA1(SW) Alomar at wilmarie.alomar@navy.mil or 471-9734, ext. 216.

Various groups from "Our Ohana's 2nd Christmas

CD" will perform during the holiday season from 4-6 p.m. **Dec. 18** at the Navy Exchange.

First aid/CPR and babysitting classes will be offered by the Hickam Air Force Base/Pearl Harbor chapter of the American Red Cross in December. First aid and CPR classes will be given **Dec. 18**. All classes require pre-registration and payment at the time of registration. For more information or to register, call 449-0166 or stop by building 1105 at Hickam Air Force Base.

The American Red Cross, Hickam Service Center is seeking volunteers to fill the following positions: chairman of volunteers, records chairman and publicity chairman. For more information, call the Red Cross office at 449-0166. The office is located at 655 Vickers Ave., building 1105 and is open from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Security measures are enforced at the NEX. For customers' protection, bags, purses or personal bags larger than 12 inches-by-12 inches will not be allowed in the Navy Exchange.

The University of Oklahoma offers a master of arts in managerial economics and a master of public administration. The university's non-thesis programs can be completed in about 18 months. It also offers one-week classes that are TDY/TAD friendly. For more information, call 449-6364, email aphickam@ou.edu or visit their Web site at www.gouou.ou.edu.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly with T.O.P.S., a support group for men, women and children who are working together to lose weight. There is no obligation for the first meeting. There are five chapters on Oahu. Meetings are held in four locations at varying times. For more information, call Delcie, area captain, at 623-1403 or e-mail DelcieN@aol.com.

How to contact TriWest/TRICARE services - Beneficiaries can contact TriWest with enrollment; Primary Care Manager and address changes; program benefits questions; claims status; fee payments and locating network providers in the area by calling 1-888-TRIWEST (1-888-874-9378), visiting their web site at www.triwest.com, or visiting TRICARE Service Centers located at Makalapa Medical Clinic and Kaneohe Bay Medical Clinic. The TRICARE Service Center located at the Pearl Harbor Makalapa Clinic is open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. The TRICARE Service Center located at the Kaneohe Clinic is open from 7-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4 p.m.

The Children's Waiting Room is a place where parents can drop off their children if they have a doctor's appointment. The Armed Services YMCA is in need of volunteers to keep this program running at Tripler Army Medical Center. The hours of the waiting room are from 8 a.m.-noon Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Those who are interested in volunteering or who wish to place an appointment should call 833-1185.

The Pearl Harbor Aquatics Tsunami is a competitive swim team that practices daily at Richardson Pool. It is open to both military and civilian swimmers ages six years and up. The team is a USA swimming affiliate. For more information, visit the team's Web site at www.tsunamis.homestead.com or contact at 471-9181 or email: phsc@inix.com.



Alfie: A British bachelor in Manhattan named Alfie Elkins balances several relationships at once, but eventually his womanizing makes him question his seemingly carefree lifestyle.

The Grudge: Karen, an American student working with a Japanese health center for college credit, comes across a mysterious curse. Known as a "grudge," the curse was born inside of a house after its inhabitants died while consumed by rage.

I Heart Huckabees: See Review

The Incredibles: A dysfunctional family of famous superheroes, led by the retired and overweight Mr. Incredible, is placed in a quiet suburb by the witness protection program in order to protect them from their arch nemesis. And when the world is threatened, Mr. Incredible must go back to work to save the planet.

Raise Your Voice: A small-town girl gets the summer of her dreams when she gets to leave home for the summer and attend a performing-arts school in Los Angeles.

Ray: Ray Charles went blind at the age of seven. With the support of his determined single mother, he developed the fierce resolve, wit and incredible talent that would eventually enable him to overcome not only racism and the cruel prejudices against the blind, but also discover his own sound which revolutionized American popular music.

Surviving Christmas: Drew decides to go back to his childhood home to spend the holidays with family. But the people living there now are not Drew's family. Nevertheless, Drew has his mind set on a family Christmas.

Taxi: Belle, a talented New York City cab driver, is asked to partner with police officer Washburn, the worst driver on the NYPD. Her skills behind the wheel and souped-up car help Washburn pursue a gang of female bank robbers.

JO3 Ryan C. McGinley

I Heart Huckabees

There are some creatively goofy writers, directors and actors in Hollywood, who shy away from the norm in an attempt to enlighten their audience through satirically black comedies. Such films include "Rushmore," "The Royal Tenenbaums" and now the delightfully boring "I Heart Huckabees." To explain the plot or purpose of this film to anyone would require intimate knowledge of director David O. Russell's psyche. But it goes something like this.

In its most basic definition, Albert (Jason Schwartzman) is an overzealous environmentalist who hires two existential detectives to discover the meaning behind a series of coincidences in his life. The detectives follow him everywhere, recording every moment of his life in a demonic sort of way.

Then things get a little fuzzy. Enter Brad (Jude Law), a Huckabees executive who is promoting Albert's coalition while using him to build a strip mall. Brad hires the detectives as well to follow him and his girlfriend Dawn around, almost to get back at Albert. Then there is Tommy, who has already hired the detectives but questions their philosophies, leaning more toward the teachings of a French existential detective.

There are many other characters, all seemingly linked to these two detectives. But what is the purpose of this film? Why should audiences see it? Who knows? To understand this movie requires an understanding of nothing and everything at the same time.

Films such as this often have a message or realization, which promotes a new way of thinking. After all, these films are new and unique in themselves. But to garner a comprehension of "I Heart Huckabees" is just too difficult. It's painstakingly obvious that this film is going nowhere five minutes into the film with the line, "You rock, rock."

The film has moments of hilarity, which compensates somewhat for the confusion, but cannot sustain interest fully and help audiences understand what the heck is going on.

OVERALL RATING: 4

Tie one on for driving safety

Karen S. Spangler
Assistant Editor

It's the time of year for holiday cheer – a season filled with celebrations, parties and yule events. It's the time of year when traffic fatalities traditionally increase.

The holiday season is also a time when Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) launches its "Tie One On for Safety" holiday ribbon campaign.

Now in its 18th year, the campaign urges motorists to tie a red MADD ribbon to their vehicles as a pledge to drive safe and sober and to remind others to do the same. The campaign is in recognition of National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month in December and advises drivers to "Stay smart, stay sober, stay safe."

According to figures released from MADD, alcohol-related traffic deaths jumped by the largest percentage on record in 2000 and have increased since. Crashes involving alcohol represent 41 percent of total highway fatalities. A lack of safety belt usage was blamed for 59 percent of all traffic fatalities.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that during the 2003 holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve more than 2,100 people were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes and/or crashes where safety belts were

not used. Statistics for Hawai'i also revealed an increase in alcohol-related traffic deaths in 2003. The NHTSA noted 72 of the 135 fatalities, or 53 percent, were related to alcohol-impaired drivers. This compares to 39 percent of alcohol-related fatalities in 2002.

The Navy Region security department will conduct sobriety checkpoints throughout the holidays at various sites, including Navy housing neighborhoods. The effort is part of a national law enforcement campaign to promote safe driving habits and keep inebriated drivers off the roads. The Honolulu Police Department will also conduct increased sobriety checkpoints.

Navy Region security police advise military personnel that anyone who is caught driving under the influence (DUI), whether the offense is on base or off base, will have his driver's license suspended for one year. Drivers will not receive any warnings; the one-year license suspension is effective with the first DUI offense.

Base security officials have emphasized messages for driving safely: "Don't drink and drive" and "Buckle up." The rules are simple: If you drink, don't drive. If you drive, don't drink.

According to statistics provided by the NHTSA, a total of 17,103 people – an average of one every 30 minutes – were killed in crashes involving alcohol during 2003.

Or, to put it in a different perspective, that is the equivalent of two 757 passenger jets crashing each week for an entire year. Add to that number the more than half a million people who are injured in alcohol-related crashes each year.

About 41 percent of fatal crashes are attributed to alcohol-impaired drivers. The highest intoxication rate in fatal crashes, about 33 percent, is for drivers in the 21-24 age group. Drivers in the 25-34 age group are the second highest, comprising about 28 percent of fatal crashes involving impaired drivers.

The Naval Safety Center lists some of the myths used by DUI drivers:

- I don't have far to go.
- I don't feel any effects.
- I'm more alert after a few drinks.
- Coffee will sober me up.
- I just need some fresh air.
- I'll drive slowly and carefully.
- I've only been drinking beer.

The NHTSA offers these guidelines:

- When attending an event where you will be drinking alcohol beverages, either have a designated driver who is drinking only non-alcoholic beverages or take a bus or cab home.
- For those who are hosting an event where alcoholic beverages will be served, make certain that guests don't drive after drinking. Find them another ride home, call them a cab or offer them a spot on



U.S. Navy photo by JO3 Ryan C. McGinley

Crashes involving alcohol represent 41 percent of total highway fatalities. A lack of safety belt usage was blamed for 59 percent of all traffic fatalities.

the sofa, but don't allow them to drive home under the influence of alcohol.

Navy Region safety offers some additional driver survival strategies for the holidays:

- Always wear your seatbelt and insist that your passengers do the same.
- Remember that traffic is worse during this season and people are in a hurry. Be patient and courteous.
- Watch out for the other guy because his mind might be elsewhere. He might not be watching for you so be sure to watch out for him.
- Allow extra time for driving and finding parking to reduce

driver-related stress.

• Slow down at intersections and shopping centers. There is usually an increase in the number of people who run red lights during the holiday season – possibly because they are either in a hurry or have their minds on other things.

• Don't over extend yourself and decrease your safety-consciousness. Don't become a statistic.

• Don't drive if you are overly tired or have been drinking.

For more information about driving safety and driving safely, visit the Navy Region safety web site at www.hawaii.navy.mil/safety or visit the MADD web site at www.madd.org.

Care packages give Sailors a welcome gift from home

Tami Faram
Lifelines

Life at sea can be all work and no play. Military families know sending something special to their loved ones at sea makes time away more bearable. Care packages are a hot commodity aboard ship - whether it's a batch of home-baked cookies, the latest com-

pact disc or photographs of the kids.

Fleet and Family Support Center officials at Pearl Harbor, Hawai'i report Sailors are looking for anything that can keep them connected. They miss the everyday things that happen.

That has spurred some military families to send calendars along with their Sailor or

Marine who is departing with a ship or submarine. Whether a typical day may include a child's T-ball game or a household chore, the calendars help Sailors feel they are included in the family's daily routine.

Families also frequently send video tapes in care packages. Recording the children playing, dancing or singing or a new baby walking is always

welcome. And many military personnel are reciprocating by videotaping themselves reading a bedtime story sent home for the family to enjoy. The Fleet and Family Support Center in Pearl Harbor calls this "Stories From the Sea."

Holidays - perhaps the most difficult time for Sailors and Marines to be away from family members - are an impor-

tant time to send packages. Candies, cookies, popcorn, balloons, books and magazines, photographs and homemade gifts from the kids are always popular during the holiday season.

"It's important to send your care package at least two months ahead of time, if you're sending overseas for the holidays," said Ashlie Counts-

Jenkins, Navy wife and ombudsman coordinator for Naval Services FamilyLine. She added that, to avoid any problems with care packages arriving to the ship, family members often prepare items ahead of time and send them along as the ship departs. When the holiday arrives, the care packages are passed out among the crew.