



Kalihi ASC reaches 82% of Goal



Dan Takamatsu, Dick and Bev Wong, and Sally Wong (extreme right) listen attentively to Kalihi Executive Director Tony Pfaltzgraff at the ASC Kickoff.

As of the second report meeting, February 21, the Kalihi YMCA secured \$102,155 in cash and pledges or 82% of its goal of \$125,000 for 2008. The Kalihi Y's Men's and Women's Division brought in a total of 56 members for \$9,075, with one more report to go. Dan Takamatsu, and Tom Kusatsu, captains of Board teams, brought in 5 members for \$2,400, and 4 members for \$1150, respectively. Campaign

workers Dick Wong, Phil Chun, Greg Lee, Mike Lacuesta, Eddie Miwa, Wayne Kim, and Tony Pfaltzgraff were led by captain Sally Wong. Sunny Young served on the Camp Erdman team. Former Y's Man Leon Florendo served as the Campaign Chair for the second year in a row. The campaign will have a drop off report on March 6, and the Victory Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, March 29, at the Kalihi YMCA.

Laugh a Little, Live Longer

2008 Stella Awards

Unbelievable! It's time once again to review the winners of the Annual "Stella Awards", named after the 81-year old Stella Liebeck who spilled hot coffee on herself and successfully sued McDonald's in NM. That case inspired the Stella Awards for the most frivolous, ridiculous, successful lawsuits in the U.S. This Year's Winners:

5th Place (tie): Kathleen Robertson of Austin, Texas, was awarded \$80,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering the misbehaving child was Ms. Robertson's son.

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CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday!

January

- 28 Wayne Kim
- 28 Masa Ishikawa (Sapporo)

February

- 5 Masanobu Nosaka (Sapporo)
- 9 Masami Yoshimura (Sapporo)
- 17 Dan Takamatsu
- 18 Sally Wong
- 22 Kazuo Odani (Sapporo)

March

- 12 Tony Pfaltzgraff
- 22 Anna Lacuesta
- 24 Tom Kusatsu

Happy Anniversary!

January

- 4 Carl & Adele Tanaka

February

- 5 Sally & Wilfred Wong
- 7 Ray & Joann Takeshita
- 27 Phil & Mei-Chih Chun

March

- 4 Tony Pfaltzgraff & Charlene Young
- 24 Dick & Bev Wong



Carl Tanaka toughs it out at last year's Honolulu Marathon despite the pain.

His story on page 2.



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Kikuko Fujikawa sent an e-mail to report that **Kenzo**, her husband and past president of our Brother Club, Sapporo kita Y's Men's Club, is suffering from Parkinson's disease and fell down at home last year. He was in rehab until December, 2006. Since then he has been able to walk with a cane, started to attend Y's Men's Club meetings since April, and was able to take a vacation in New Zealand in October of this year. Those who wish to contact Kikuko and Kenzo can reach them at <fujikawa0008@ybb.ne.jp>... The YMCA of Honolulu has more staffing changes: **Maile Kanemaru** has resigned as the Central Branch's Executive and will concentrate on directing the Weed and Seed Program. Executive **Shin Domen** has left the West Oahu Branch, **Michael Doss** has left Nuuanu Branch to head the Leeward Branch, while **Glenn**

Tsugawa, chief financial officer for the YMCA of Honolulu has left for a similar position with a mainland YMCA... Our sympathies go to the families of Hilo Y's Men **Ken Aratani** and **Leslie Wung**, who passed away recently. Also to the family of **George Schulze**, East Kauai Y's Man who also passed away... **Sally Wong** presided at the last club meeting, as **Dan and Ethel Takamatsu** went to try their luck in Las Vegas... Regional Director **Phil Sammer** made his official visit to Kalihi at this meeting. The YMCA of Honolulu announced plans to relocate the Central Branch to McKinley High School in the future, if negotiations with the Department of Education Work out. The YMCA is also planning drop it's college student programming at Atherton (University) Branch in the future and will sell the property.

5th place (tie): 19-year old Carl Truman of Los Angeles won \$74,000 and medical expenses when his neighbor ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Mr Truman apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbor's hubcaps.

5th Place (tie): Terrence Dickson of Bristol, Pennsylvania, was leaving a house he had just finished robbing by way of the garage. He was not able to get the garage door to go up since the automatic door opener was malfunctioning. He couldn't re-enter the house because the door connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut. The family was on vacation and Mr. Dickson found himself locked in the garage for eight days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found, and a large bag of dry dog food. He sued the homeowner's insurance claiming the situation caused him undue mental anguish. The jury agreed to the tune of \$500,000.

MARATHON MAN:

Carl Tanaka Finishes the 2007 Honolulu Marathon

Carl Tanaka wrote that he was able to run and complete the Honolulu Marathon last December in a time of 4:10:50. Overall he missed his personal goal by 5 minutes. He wasn't sure he could run the race, as he bruised his metatarsal (ball of foot) the week before the race. Carl soaked his foot in ice water all week, ran very little and took lots of Advil. "The hardest part of the race was about the 20 mile mark where I saw lots of runners walking! This made it difficult because your mind is telling you to 'go ahead' and do the same... 'it's okay!' So I kept whispering to myself, 'tough it out', over and over until the feeling passed. Luckily it did!" Carl trained for nine months, but the training never took him beyond 20 miles and even then it was only twice. His greatest fear was that he couldn't



finish the race after all that training. "The point I knew for certain I would finish was as I passed the water fountain on Kalakaua Avenue, and in the distance you could see in large letters—FINISH LINE. It looked so far away, yet so near. I ran as hard as I could. My legs were literally screaming in agony as I ran." It took 3 days before his legs were back to normal. He'll decide after 30 days if he'll run another Marathon.

4th Place: Jerry Williams of Little Rock, Arkansas, was awarded \$14,500 and medical expenses after being bitten on the buttocks by his next door neighbor's beagle. The beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard. The award was less than sought because the jury felt the dog might have been just a little provoked at the time by Mr. Williams who had climbed over the fence into the yard and was shooting it repeatedly with a pellet gun.

3rd Place: A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay Amber Carson of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, \$113,500 after she slipped on a soft drink and broke her coccyx (tailbone). The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Carson had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument.

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Thought for Today

Five lessons to make you think about the way we treat people:

1. Cleaning Lady

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?" Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely", said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say 'hello.'" I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

2. Pickup in the Rain

One night, at 11:30 p.m., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway, trying to endure a lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car. A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled '60s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote own his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was

attached. It read: "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night.

The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away... God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others. Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole."

3. Always Remember Those Who Serve

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. "Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies. You see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

4. The Obstacle in Our Path

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the

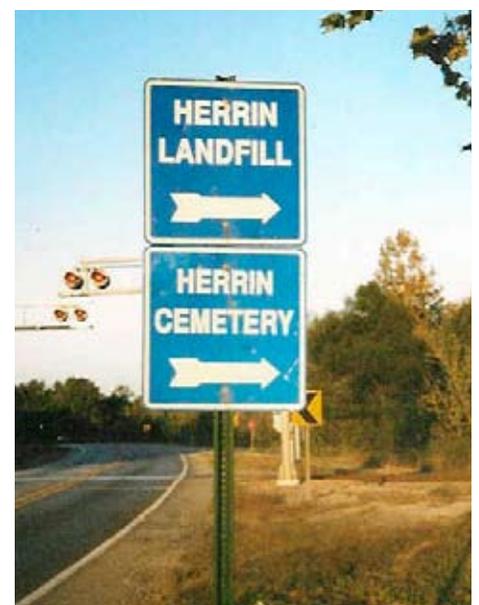
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Stella Awards

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2nd Place: Kara Walton of Claymont, Delaware, successfully sued the owner of a night club in a neighboring city when she fell from the bathroom window to the floor and knocked out her two front teeth. This occurred while Ms. Walton was trying to sneak through the window in the ladies room to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge. She was awarded \$12,000 and dental expenses.

1st Place: This year's run away winner was Mrs. Merv Grazinski of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Mrs. Grazinski purchased a brand new 32 foot Winnebago motor home. On her first trip home, (from OU football game), having driven onto the freeway, she set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the driver's seat to go into the back & make herself a sandwich. Not surprisingly, the RV left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Mrs. Grazinski sued Winnebago for not advising her in the owner's manual that she couldn't actually do this. The jury awarded her \$1,750,000 plus a new motor home. The company actually changed their manuals on the basis of this suit, just in case there were any other complete morons around.



Thought for Today

Continued from page 3

King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand! Every obstacle

presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

5. Giving when it counts

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz, who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath

and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?" Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her but he had chosen to save her anyway.

International News

Congratulations to our Hawaiian Region's Phil Sammer, who was voted as the new U.S. Area President Elect. Phil, a member of the Central Y's Men's Club, is currently serving his second term as Hawaiian Regional Director.

District & Regional News

The Regional Convention will be held at the Royal Lahaina Hotel, May 15-17, 2008. Registration fee of \$25 per attendee will be charged. Assignments: booklets, Kalihi; program, Central; auction/door prizes, Kaimuki; hospitality, Hilo; golf tournament, Ray Seto; training, Paul Kuromoto; goody bags, Nuuuanu; Sunday worship service, Maui; business meetings, Area Rep. Phil Sammer; ground transportation, individual attendees. The Region and Metro District voted to give a special contribution to the Waiakea YMCA to help with their budget deficits.

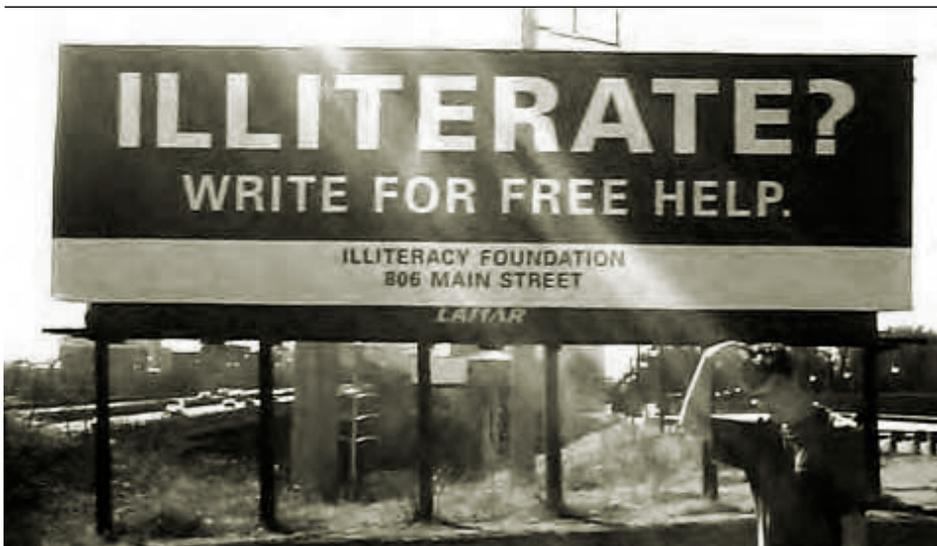
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The Sticky Secrets of Marriage

Q: How do you decide who to marry? **A:** No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.
—**Kristen, age 10**

Q: How would you make a marriage work? **A:** Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck.
—**Ricky, age 10**

Q: Is it better to be single or married? **A:** It's better for girls to be single, but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. —**Anita, age 9**