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### PROSTITUTION PATROL

## Police cruising Craigslist for crime

BY MARY VORSINO  
Advertiser Urban Honolulu Writer

Advertisements for erotic services on Craigslist are coming under increased scrutiny by Hawai'i law enforcement officials, who say the popular Web site and others like it are making the job of cracking down on prostitution more difficult, while opening up avenues for child prostitution and for predators to find victims.

"Prostitution is flourishing online," said Maj. Susan Dowsett, head of the Honolulu police narcotics/vice division, adding that the use of Web sites for prostitution is growing.

Craigslist has drawn national attention recently because a murder in Boston allegedly involved an ad placed on the site.

Law enforcement locally pointed to three recent prostitution cases involving the Internet.

Last week, Dowsett said, HPD officers conducted a "reverse prostitution" sting, arresting three men for soliciting

SEE CRAIGSLIST, A2

### ASIAN-AMERICANS IRATE

## Admissions changes at UC raise objections

BY TERENCE CHEA  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A new admissions policy set to take effect at the University of California system in three years is raising fears among Asian-Americans that it will reduce their numbers on campus, where they account for 40 percent of all undergraduates.

University officials say the new standards — the biggest change in UC admissions since 1960 — are intended to widen the pool of high school applicants and make the process more fair.

But Asian-American advocates, parents and lawmakers are angrily calling on the university to rescind the policy, which will apply at all nine of the system's undergraduate campuses.

They point to a UC projection that the new standards would sharply reduce Asian-American admissions while resulting in little change for blacks and Hispanics, and a big

SEE COLLEGE, A5

# Isles saw 922 birds hit planes since '04

FAA, under pressure, for first time releases data on wildlife strikes

BY CHRISTIE WILSON  
Advertiser Staff Writer

There have been 922 aircraft collisions with birds in Hawai'i in the past five years, but no injuries or fatalities to humans, according to Federal Aviation

Administration data posted for the first time yesterday.

The bird strikes did cause flight delays and cancellations, and in one case, more than \$1 million in damage to a United Airlines Boeing 757 when a barn owl was ingested by a jet engine as the plane was taking off from Lihue Airport in May 2005.

The FAA National Wildlife Strike Database shows 286 reports of bird

strikes at Honolulu International Airport from 2004 through Nov. 30, 2008, 238 at Lihue Airport on Kaua'i, 124 at Maui's Kahului Airport, 110 at Hilo Airport, five at Kona International Airport, and a smattering of incidents at the state's smaller airfields.

Total damage from the incidents was reported at \$1.3 million.

SEE BIRDS, A2

# NAVY HONORS SAILORS' SAVIOR

Pearl Harbor worker freed trapped crew from capsized Oklahoma after Dec. 7 attack



GREGORY YAMAMOTO | The Honolulu Advertiser



Courtesy of Delleah-Mae Ortiz

ABOVE: Claude Ortiz — a one-time Mr. America competitor — was a shipyard worker at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese attacked on Dec. 7, 1941. Ortiz helped free dozens of trapped sailors from the overturned USS Oklahoma that day.

LEFT: Ortiz, now 87, and his wife Delleah-Mae, 76, are still active after 60 years.

BY WILLIAM COLE  
Advertiser Military Writer

Claude Ortiz still remembers the panicked sailors banging from the inside of the hull of the overturned USS Oklahoma.

It was Dec. 7, 1941, and the battleship had rolled over after taking five torpedoes. Altogether, 429 crew were killed. But after the attack, dozens remained trapped inside.

Ortiz, a Pearl Harbor shipyard worker, was strong — he later took sixth place in a Mr. America contest — and he was called on to chisel through the steel hull to save the trapped sailors.

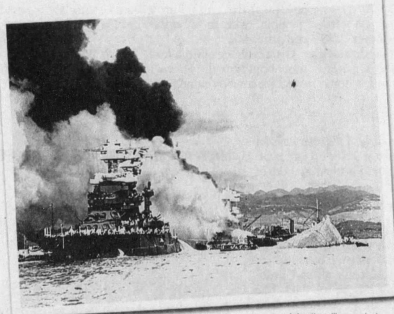
"So I cut a hole about 30 inches in diameter and everyone started jumping out. Some guy grabbed me and kissed me," the now white-haired Ortiz said with a laugh.

He became a hero that day, but it was just part of the remarkable story of Claude Ortiz.

Ortiz is a paniola, champion-holding rodeo rider, saddle maker, recondition weightlifter, Navy veteran and among the Pearl Harbor shipyard workers who pitched in to save others on Dec. 7, 1941.

The spirit of that accomplishment — if

SEE ORTIZ, A2



Advertiser library photo

The capsized USS Oklahoma languishes next to the battleship Maryland after the Pearl Harbor attack. When the Oklahoma overturned, it also trapped dozens of sailors inside.

Pearl Harbor worker will be honored for saving lives after attack. See a report at

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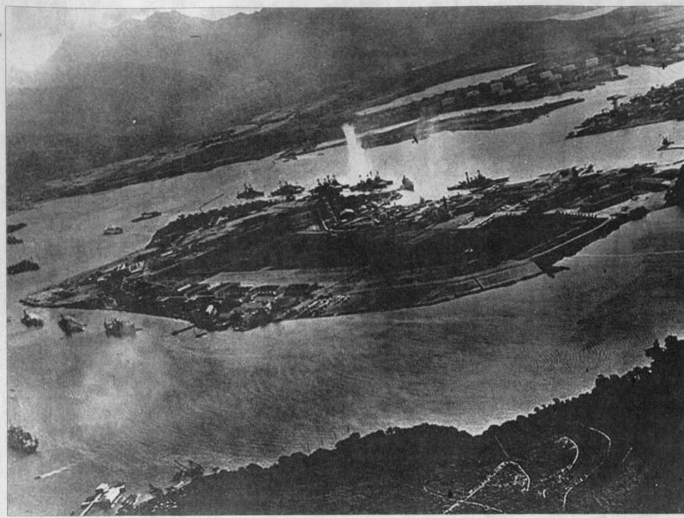
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A Japanese torpedo landed a direct hit on the USS Oklahoma — one of five strikes that eventually capsized the battleship.

## Ortiz

CONTINUED FROM A1

not the physical strength — is still embodied in the 87-year-old Hawai'i man who in January lost his lower left leg to diabetes.

"When I think back, sometimes I still think I can do it, ride and all that, because I used to like to go to the ranch and help them round up cattle," Ortiz said.

He still does ride two horses he has in Pūpūkea — he had 27 at one time — but right now he's convalescing at the Veterans Affairs Community Living Center on the grounds of Tripler Army Medical Center.

### EXTENDING THANKS

Today, Ortiz will get a bit of recognition and thanks from the shipyard and from state Sen. Norman Sakamoto, D-15th (Waimalu, Airport, Salt Lake), who will express the Senate's appreciation to Ortiz "for his exceptional leadership and outstanding service to our country."

"Our Navy will always remember the heroic civilians like Claude who, on the morning of Dec. 7, jack-hammered through the hull of the USS Oklahoma to save the lives of our sailors, pulled sailors to safety from oil-covered water, and rushed to fight the hundreds of fires burning across Pearl Harbor," said shipyard commander Capt. Greg Thomas. "After the attack, Claude and the shipyarders resurrected the U.S. Pacific Fleet from the bottom of Pearl Harbor, repairing 15 of 18 major ships damaged in the attack — ships that returned to battle and carried the war home to Japan."

Sakamoto called Ortiz an "unsung hero." He and Thomas will give their thanks today at 2 p.m. at the VA center.

**"Oh yeah, I still like to ride, but my wife always tells me, at my age, I've got to watch it now. I don't know, something about me, sometimes I like to be macho."**

CLAUDE ORTIZ

### ACTION-FILLED LIFE

The recognition of Ortiz has become even more poignant with the passage of 67 years; the Senate citation says he is believed to be the only surviving member of the shipyard team that rescued 32 men from the Oklahoma.

An initial attempt to free the men was using a blowtorch, but the fumes killed some of the trapped sailors. Ortiz, a chipper and caulker, was recruited because of his skill with the pneumatic tool that could cut through the battleship's hull.

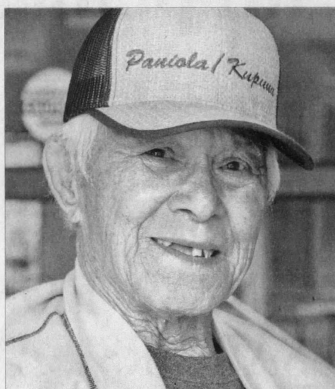
Before the escape route was fully opened, panicked men were trying to squeeze their way out, cutting themselves in the process. At the time, Ortiz didn't think much of what he did, he said. It was years later that the lifesaving effort really sunk in.

Last year, at a Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard centennial event where Ortiz was recognized, several of the men he saved were present. One kissed him again.

Ortiz, of Chinese, Filipino and Spanish descent, grew up where Hickam Air Force Base is now. He worked at Kahuku Ranch and became a paniola.

He once held a bulldogging world record. During the week, he worked at the shipyard, and on weekends he was on the ranch.

On Dec. 7, Ortiz was working on the destroyer USS Shaw in a floating drydock when he saw the Japanese planes winging over. A bomb



GREGORY YAMAMOTO | The Honolulu Advertiser

Claude Ortiz has been a record-holding rodeo rider and champion weightlifter, but his courage in rescuing sailors on Dec. 7, 1941, is what he will be honored for today.

exploded on the Shaw, killing some sailors, injuring others and throwing Ortiz against a railing.

He later volunteered for the Navy, and saw action in the South Pacific on a destroyer.

Ortiz said in 1945 he took sixth place in the Mr. America contest. He married his wife, Delilah-Mae, when he was 27 and she was 16.

"They say I robbed the cradle, but she robbed the old man's home," Ortiz joked yesterday.

The couple had eight children and took in 43 over the years from broken homes, said Delilah-Mae Ortiz, who surfs and skydives at age 76. This year marks their 63rd wedding anniversary.

### SPRIT STILL STRONG

Ortiz was the subject of the book "The Aloha Cowboy." Just don't call him a "paniolo," with an "o" at the end instead of an "a."

Ortiz launches into a lecture about how the Hawai'i ward for cowboy came from

"Española," how "paniolo" was a change made by a mistaken Mainlander who wrote about the cowboy tradition, and how that word has a completely different — and undesirable — meaning in Hawaiian.

Yesterday, looking frail in a wheelchair but with a quick smile and laugh, Ortiz talked about his love of riding horses. He wore a baseball hat that says "Paniola / Kupuna."

"Oh yeah, I still like to ride, but my wife always tells me, at my age, I've got to watch it now," he said. "I don't know, something about me, sometimes I like to be macho."

He still loves galloping. "I can still ride, but to get on a horse, I have a hard time now, but once I'm on, I'm OK," he said.

In three years, he'll be 90, and he still plans to be riding. "I hope so," he said.

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# Craigslist

CONTINUED FROM A1

prostitutes through a "networking Web site." Dowsett didn't say if the Web site was Craigslist.org, but did say officers check ads daily on that site and others to catch trends.

• On March 25, Kaua'i police arrested a 25-year-old California woman and three men during a sting following a tip about an erotic services ad on Craigslist. Lt. Hank Barriga, of the KPD criminal intelligence unit, said the woman's stop on Kaua'i was allegedly one of several on the Neighbor Islands she had set up. "Kaua'i was one of her stops during her stay," Barriga said.

• In another local case involving Craigslist, a 21-year-old Hawai'i man has been charged in federal court with two counts of sex trafficking of a minor after he allegedly posted ads on the Web site soliciting sex for two girls, whose ages were not available.

The case against Bronson K. Iseri, who was indicted in September, is one of at least three involving erotic services ads on Craigslist under investigation by the U.S. attorney general's office in Hawai'i, officials said this week. Charges have not been filed in the other cases.

### BOSTON SUSPECT

Larry Butrick, criminal chief at the office, said Web sites like Craigslist have brought a new dimension to prostitution and sex trafficking that law enforcement is still trying to tackle.

"I think that we're not even scratching the surface," he said. "It's such a vast reservoir for predators."

Craigslist, best known for garage sale and housewarming ads, has been thrust into the media spotlight in recent days after the murder in Boston of a woman who advertised "massage services" on the site. Philip Markoff, a medical student suspected in the case, is also accused of robbing another woman who had placed an ad on the site.

The crimes are prompting some calls for increased oversight at Craigslist.

In response, Craigslist CEO Jim Buckmaster has said he intends to play a larger role "with respect to Internet safety and security." That's on top of changes made last year to the erotic services section of the site, which included requiring a fee, credit card and phone number for ads. Law enforcement agencies can subpoena that information, under a deal reached with states.

### EROTIC SERVICES ADS

Though there are other networking Web sites where prostitution ads can be found, officials say Craigslist appears to be the site of choice for pimps and "freelance prostitutes" because it is easily accessible and gets lots of Web traffic. A scan of the Web site this week showed dozens of ads for erotic services statewide, most of them on O'ahu.

The ads are careful in their wording — asking, for example, for "roses" instead of cash.

It's unclear how many arrests locally have been made because of erotic services ads on Craigslist or other sites, largely because police do not track the statistics separately from other prostitution arrests. But HPD's Dowsett did say that the recent HPD sting is part of an increased effort to crack down on Internet-based prostitution in Hawai'i, which can often be linked to other crimes, including child sex trafficking, drugs, weapons and exploitation of immigrants.

She added that prostitution ads on Craigslist and similar sites have "changed the patterns of prostitution," making it easier for prostitutes to get clients and evade police.

"The Internet is a more discreet way for people to meet prostitutes," she said. "Prostitutes are using laptops and cell phones to arrange encounters for money, then moving on to the next location."

### RURAL ACCESS

Sites such as Craigslist, officials say, also are used by prostitutes to offer services in rural parts of the Neighbor Islands, which had previously seen little to no prostitution. Police said the recent Kaua'i case is believed to be the first Internet prostitution sting there, but comes as officials are seeing more prostitutes offering services in rural parts of the Neighbor Islands.

Tracy Ryan of Arresting Prostitutes is Legal Exploitation, which advocates for decriminalizing prostitution in Hawai'i, said the advantage of Craigslist for prostitutes is that they can work without a pimp, though she pointed out that some pimps also post ads.

The big downside is that prostitutes can't easily assess whether a client means harm.

"On the street," she said, "at least you see the person."

Reach Mary Vorsino at [mvorsino@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:mvorsino@honoluluadvertiser.com) or 754-8286.

## Birds

CONTINUED FROM A1

Nationally, the FAA list of wildlife strikes details more than 89,000 incidents since 1990, costing 11 people their lives. Most incidents were bird strikes, but deer and other animals have been hit on runways, too.

During that time, there were 2,042 wildlife strikes with civilian and military planes at Hawai'i airports.

Last year, there were 129 bird strikes at Hawai'i airports through Nov. 30, including 42 each at Honolulu and Lihue, 17 at Kahului, 11 at Hilo and five at Kapalua Airport in West Maui. None were reported at Kona.

The FAA has refused for a decade to adopt a National Transportation Safety Board recommendation to make the reports mandatory. Yesterday's first disclosure of the entire FAA database, including the locations of strikes, occurred largely because of pressure follow-

ing the ditching of a US Airways jet in the Hudson River on Jan. 15 after bird strikes knocked out both of its engines.

### GOLDEN PLOVER MOST HIT

The Pacific golden plover, which favors open, grassy fields, was by far the bird most frequently involved in Hawai'i aircraft collisions, according to the data. The migratory birds collided with planes on at least 275 occasions over the past five years. Barn owls were second, with 94 strikes. Aircraft also struck three mongooses, two cats and a dog.

Wildlife experts say birds increasingly are finding food and living near cities and airports year round rather than migrating. A study of bird populations around Lihue Airport found the aircraft strikes may be related to the island's damp weather, perhaps due to increased seed production along runways during the rainy months.

To manage bird populations at the state's airports, the state Department of Transportation has a \$1.5 million annual contract with the U.S. Department of Agricul-

### HAWAII BIRD-PLANE STRIKES 2004-2008

AIRPORT	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008*	TOTAL
Honolulu	62	66	48	68	42	286
Kahului	35	26	21	25	17	124
Hilo	36	28	19	16	11	110
Kona	0	4	0	1	0	5
Lihue	31	74	63	28	42	238

\* Through Nov. 30

Source: Federal Aviation Administration National Wildlife Strike Database

ture's Wildlife Services division. The FAA database contains strike reports voluntarily reported to the agency by pilots, airlines, airports and others. It's estimated that only about 20 percent of bird strikes are reported.

Topping the list of airports where planes were either substantially damaged or destroyed by birds since 2000 were John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York with at least 30 such accidents, and Sacramento International Airport in California with at least 28.

During that same period, there were only two incidents in Hawai'i

of a plane sustaining substantial damage from a bird strike: the May 2005 incident at the Kaua'i airport, and an Oct. 13, 2007, bird strike of an American Airlines Boeing 757 as it was taking off from Honolulu International Airport. That collision resulted in a canceled flight and \$60,000 in repairs, according to the FAA database.

### CAUTION IN COMPARISONS

FAA spokesman Ian Gregor cautioned "against comparing one airport's bird strike numbers to another airport. If a certain airport is very diligent in reporting these kinds of events, its diligence could make it

appear as if it has more bird strikes than an airport that isn't as diligent."

Since 2000, reported bird strikes have resulted in five fatalities and 93 injuries nationally. The cost of repairs during that period was estimated at more than \$267 million in inflation-adjusted dollars, but many of the incident reports contained no estimate of the repair cost.

The largest trade association of U.S. airlines hastened to note that bird strikes "are, of course, rare events."

"The vast majority of cases result in little or no aircraft damage," the Air Transport Association of America added.

An overwhelming majority of reported strikes — nearly 16,000 — occurred on approach for landing, the data showed. An additional 20,000 were split nearly evenly among takeoff, landing and climbing.

The Associated Press contributed to this report. Reach Christie Wilson at [cwilson@honoluluadvertiser.com](mailto:cwilson@honoluluadvertiser.com) or 808-244-4880.