

Stepping out of the **BOX**



Outgoing *Ka Mō'i* editor
No'u Revilla '04 reflects on
her time as editor-in-chief of the
Kapālama Campus newspaper

by No'u Revilla

I never would have thought that having nothing of something would be a good thing. But I was wrong.

As I look back on graduation, I realize that I have no regrets...and it couldn't feel sweeter.

Of course, there were many things that could possibly take the form of a regret.

For instance, in our Valentine's Day 2004 issue of *Ka Mō'i*, the center spread – a new element that I spearheaded this year as the editor-in-chief – featured a baseball diamond graphic with a story headlined "The Dating Game."

The article offered advice and counseling on going from "first base to home plate" with sidebars offering points of view from the girls' and boys' teams as well as what students should look for in a Valentine.

At the time, Kamehameha Schools had already been put into the limelight with the student video scandal, so my "flagrant display of sex" was accosted as inappropriate.

Regret? Absolutely not.

As a staff reporter during my junior year at Kamehameha, I learned just how little interest the student body had in reading *Ka Mō'i*. I would walk through the building halls and peek into classrooms to see how well our issues were doing, only to see them being discarded after a glance at the front page.

As editor-in-chief, my main objective was to change student appreciation for their newspaper. Not only did I want my classmates to look at the headlines and browse the captions, but I also wanted them to want to read *Ka Mō'i*.

Progressively, student readership increased as we generated more and more issues. Upon distributing the Valentine's Day issue, student interest was peaking, and the "Dating Game" center spread received a remarkable response.

That day, when I walked through the halls,

I saw people devouring *Ka Mō'i* with attention – and handing me compliments on the newspaper! While stuffing their bags with copies so they could show their parents, people were telling their friends, "You've got to see the new *Ka Mō'i*!"



Kamehameha Schools motivated me to pump up the volume of my inner voice and build the courage to listen to it.

As a two-year staff member and the editor-in-chief, such attention to your work takes your breath away.

Each succeeding issue received more

attention than the former, and I am proud to announce that we completely sold out – there were no extra copies available anywhere – our April Fool's issue, which was a comedic hit.

What a journalist's dream!

While the Valentine's Day center spread was risky, it was something I had to do. The decision came from my gut instinct... and I had to climb out of the "box" and listen to it.

After all, one of Kamehameha's greatest attributes is its support for students in helping them cultivate confidence in themselves. With assistance from teachers like Jim Slagel, **Abraham Mokunui '82**, Elizabeth Truesdell and Senora Osserman, the school's atmosphere is conducive to opening discussion and sharing opinions.

Listening to gut instinct is not about breaking the rules – it's not even about rules. Some people go through life trying to silence their inner voice that is screaming at them to do something different, which more often than not, defies conventional behavior.

Kamehameha Schools motivated me to pump up the volume of my inner voice and build the courage to listen to it. So far, I have listened to all of my gut instincts, and consequently, I have no regrets.

It doesn't matter whether or not my decisions were successful in the eyes of others. What matters is that I jumped out of the "box" and was brave enough to listen to my heart.

Despite the school uniforms, the rules, and the specifications, Kamehameha Schools still allows its students the freedom to find who they are.

Thank you, Kamehameha, for granting me a clean record with no regrets.

No'u Revilla, daughter of 2003-04 Association of Teachers and Parents (ATP) president Debbie Revilla, will be studying journalism this fall at New York University.