



## Empty nest not exactly as expected

After the last kid's gone, reality — and menopause — set in

BY KATHLEEN NORTON  
Gannett News Service

It's called the empty nest, but that's misleading.

It's really the tired nest. The cranky nest. The confused nest. Sometimes, all those at once.

The empty-tired-cranky-and-confused nest.

It is the punch line of the sick joke life plays on parents after they dreamt for years of

**COMMENTARY** everything they'd do

once the kids grew up, after their days as human checkbooks had ended and they had peace, quiet and only each other for company at the dinner table.

But the last kid leaves and the party's getting started when there is a knock at the door.

Surprise! Meet your new roommates! Ms. Menopause and Mr. Mid-Life Malaise!

You did not count on these two when you were making the "to do" list for the kid-free part of your life.

Every parent has this list. When my kids were bad, I locked myself in the bathroom, gobbled M&Ms and worked on my list. This was cheaper than Valium and didn't impair my driving.

These "kid-free" lists are pretty much all the same. They begin: We, Mr. and Mrs. Average Parent, will do the following when the kids are gone.

1. We will be naked more.  
2. We will parachute out of airplanes and climb mountains.

3. We will worry about ourselves first.

4. We will be the same people we were before we had kids.

5. We will be crazy and carefree with money.

Drumroll, please. Here comes that awful punch line. When the door slams after the last kid's out, you find:

1. Running around the house naked sounded better than it looks.

2. Your mind can climb mountains. Your lower back cannot.

3. You think you are done worrying about kids because they are grown up. But they are not done with you.

4. You'd like to be the same people you were before. If only you could remember that far back.

5. You are not capable of being carefree with money, or anything. Parenting beat it out of you.

The most carefree thing you do now is eating potato chips right before dinner. And you look around to make sure nobody is watching, even though you are in the house alone.

So, instead of wild partying, this is the scene in your kitchen every night.

SEE NEST, E3



Photos by JEFF WIDENER | The Honolulu Advertiser

Island Film Group founders Ric Galindez, left, and Roy Tjioe hope to lure filmmakers to Hawai'i.

## Looking at the big picture

Island Film Group shoots for building a \$100 million studio in Kapolei

BY MIKE GORDON  
Advertiser Staff Writer

**HĀLAWA** — When filmmakers come to Hawai'i, it's usually for the natural beauty: The balmy tropical backdrop of beaches, blue skies and swaying palms.

But that's what makes aspiring movie moguls Ric Galindez and Roy Tjioe such likable dreamers. The founders of Island Film Group believe they can convince filmmakers shooting on location in Hawai'i to come indoors.

Their carrot is a pair of soundproofed stages tucked into a warehouse a few blocks from the Hālawā Community Correctional Center.

Although small — the larger of the two soundstages is 5,000-square-feet — the facility



Island Film Group offers a pair of soundproof stages near Hālawā Community Correctional Center.

is the only other studio locally available besides the state-run facility at Diamond Head, which is leased to ABC's "Lost" until 2010.

But the pair, who are finishing work on their first major picture, "Princess Kaiulani," have a second idea

worthy of a summer blockbuster: They want to build a \$100 million studio on 22 acres in Kapolei. It would feature four 15,000-square-foot soundstages, 60,000 square feet of office space and a back lot.

SEE FILM, E5



NBC  
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## 'America's Got Talent' back for third season

Anything-goes reality show is 'ultimate' dream, judge says

BY MIKE HUGHES  
Gannett News Service

There's something about "America's Got Talent" — free-form, free-style, free of rules — that seems to fit its place and time.

"It's a kind of showcase for all American talent,"

says Piers Morgan, one of the judges. "In that way, we've become a sort of patriotic show."

He says that from an outside view. Two of the show's three judges (Morgan and Sharon Osbourne) are British; so are two of the three creators.

They built a show with a new-world view, he says. "It's the ultimate American dream."

Here is a world where jugglers and plate-spinners have equal status with cellists and sopranos. The first champion was an 11-

year-old singer; the second was a ventriloquist. "He signed a big contract in Las Vegas," Morgan says.

The show also seems to fit this time of year. When it began in 2006, producer Ken Warwick pegged it as a summer show.

"People have been out all day in the sun," he says. "They just want to sit down, have a beer and have a laugh."

The idea was to avoid rules,

SEE TALENT, E3

'America's Got Talent'

Series premiere  
8 tonight  
NBC

**Did you know?** The first winner, singer Bianca Ryan, is now 13; her album peaked at No. 57 on the Billboard chart. The second, ventriloquist Terry Fator, signed a \$1.5 million contract with the Las Vegas Hilton.

### ECO-SNACKING

Buying one big bag cuts down on waste

Shop smart, with this tip from Woman's Day magazine: Opt for one large container of your family's favorite munchies instead of smaller bags or boxes. If just one out of 10 products you bought had little or no packaging, it would eliminate 50 pounds of waste per household a year.

— Gannett News Service

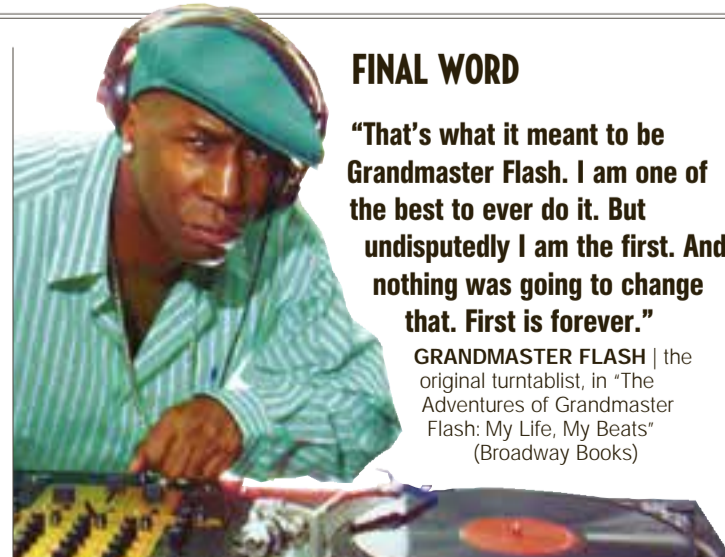


### FASHIONABLE FACE GUARDS

Colorful, functional particulate masks

It's not what you would expect from a costume and custom fashion designer, but Bertha Fernandez has partnered with Dr. Denyse Ray to create LadyEase particulate masks and Little LadyEase for girls. The masks, in pastel colors, are designed for women's and girls' faces, with a matching pouch for emergency and daily use — especially useful during voggy days. They sell for \$15.99 online at [www.ladyease.info](http://www.ladyease.info), or call 635-6548.

— Paula Rath



### FINAL WORD

"That's what it meant to be Grandmaster Flash. I am one of the best to ever do it. But undisputedly I am the first. And nothing was going to change that. First is forever."

**GRANDMASTER FLASH** | the original turntablist, in "The Adventures of Grandmaster Flash: My Life, My Beats" (Broadway Books)

