

Imua Polenisia

Contents:	Volume 3; Issue No. 4
PCC Crowns 1998 World Fire Knife Champions	page 2
"We Are Samoa" High School Arts Festival	3
Performers Star in 1998 Miss Universe Pageant	4
PCC and the Hawaii Temple Visitors' Center Join Forces	6
PCC Launches New Advertising Campaign	7

Message from the President

Endure It Well

I am convinced that the team of PCC associates is the finest team of performers and employees in the world. A day does not go by but what I feel an enormous sense of gratitude for your ongoing, diligent efforts in making the Polynesian Cultural Center one of the great fulfillments of a prophet's vision so many years ago.

This year's theme of Faith has many aspects that will literally bring blessings untold to all who unlock its power. I am impressed by an article written by Elder Neal A. Maxwell in the Ensign in April 1997, titled "Enduring Well."

In that, Elder Maxwell illustrates that enduring through trials brings blessings.

Our faith—and works—have already begun to bring blessings, but we are far from reaching the level of visitors we need. Many have prayed and asked our Father in Heaven in faith for answers and direction in helping the PCC increase our number of visitors and continue to bring forth more to hear and feel our messages. Many have seen early answers from those prayers. We all must pray more. We all must ask with more intent. We must all ask with deeper faith. And then we all must trust in the Lord and endure it well.

The Book of Mormon teaches us blessings are bestowed on us when we demonstrate our deep faith.

"For if there be no faith among the children of men, God can do no miracle among them; wherefore he shewed not himself until after their faith.

Behold, it was the faith of Alma and Amulek that caused the prison to tumble to the earth.

Behold, it was the faith of Nephi and Lehi, that wrought the change upon the Lamanites, that they were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost.

Behold it was the faith of Ammon and his brethren which wrought so great a miracle among the Lamanites.

"Yea, and even all they which wrought miracles, wrought them by faith, even those which were before Christ, and also them which were after."

And it was by faith that the three disciples obtained a promise that they should not taste of death; and they obtained not the promise until after their faith.

"And neither at any time hath any wrought miracles until after their faith; wherefore they first believed in the Son of God."

And there were many whose faith was so exceeding strong even before Christ came, which could not be kept from within the veil, but truly saw with their eyes the things which they had beheld with an eye of faith, and they were glad" (Ether 12:12-19).

It is that type of faith that unlatches the door for blessings to flow forth. I know God hears our prayers. I know He answers them. I also know we are witnessing a refining process so we can accomplish His will.

When I ponder on the meaning of "endure it well," I reflect on the Prophet Joseph Smith and the trials he endured in Liberty Jail in the spring of 1839. As you recall, he asked, "O God, where art thou? And where is the pavilion that covereth thy hiding place?"

"How long shall thy hand be stayed, and

thine eye, yea thy pure eye, behold from the eternal heavens the wrongs of thy people and of thy servants, and thine ear be penetrated with their cries?"

"Yea, O Lord, how long shall they suffer these wrongs and unlawful oppressions, before thine heart shall be softened toward them, and thy bowels be moved with compassion toward them?" (D&C 121:1-3).

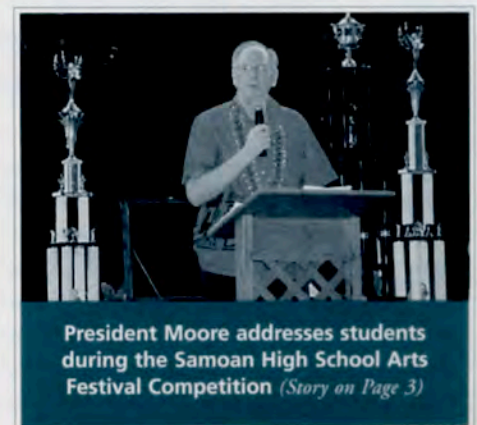
Then came the Lord's comforting promise: "My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment;"

"And then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high; thou shalt triumph over all thy foes." (D&C 121:7-8)

My dear brothers and sisters, let us endure well whatever comes our way. Let us continue to act in faith so our Heavenly Father will help us find answers to our questions. I know He will do that. I know you know He will do that. In faith, let us strengthen each other so we can reach even greater heights.

As always, I thank you for your dedicated, unsurpassed devotion to the mission of the Polynesian Cultural Center.

President Lester Moore



President Moore addresses students during the Samoan High School Arts Festival Competition (Story on Page 3)

1998

WE ARE SAMOA

ARTS FESTIVAL AT THE
POLYNESIAN CULTURAL CENTER



▲ (above) Jonah Slade, from Kona, Hawaii was the winner of the Junior Fire Knife Competition.

(right) Pati Levasa has become a true Samoan fire knife dancer with an aggressive style. The two small photos top and bottom reflect some of his heroic technique by having the fire touch his mouth and feet. The middle photo exemplifies his ability to connect with his audience. All of these attributes combine to make him a true champion. ►

(photos courtesy Network Photo)



Pati Levasa of Samoa Goes "Back to Back" in Winning the 1998 World Fire Knife Dance Competition

Maybe now, Pati Levasa of Samoa will get used to wearing the crown of fire knife dancing champion of the world—because on Saturday, May 16th, he made it two years in a row. Levasa, 20, won the 1998 World Fire Knife Dance Competition at the Polynesian Cultural Center (PCC), successfully defending the championship he won a year ago.

After being named world champion a second straight time, Levasa expressed his gratitude to God, the PCC, and his supporters. Speaking through an interpreter, he praised his competitors and said, "It feels good to recapture the title and I am very proud to represent my culture." Levasa humbly added that, after winning back-to-back titles, he now "feels like a true fire knife dancer."

Levasa was the third of three finalists to perform and confessed to fits of nervousness and running short of breath while awaiting his turn. It did not show. He dazzled the packed house at the Pacific Theater with a blindingly fast and fearlessly creative program that ignored the perils of the flaming, razor-sharp knives. He revealed a strength and stamina that belies his slender frame.

Levasa scored highest with all five judges in besting the other two finalists, Afatia Thompson of Honolulu and Kome Feagaima'ali'i of Samoa, who finished second and third respectively. Thompson is the son of entertainers Jack and Cha Thompson and a running back with the University of Hawaii football team.

Levasa started fire knife dancing seven years ago and performs regularly in his native Samoa. To prepare for this year's competition, he has been training for the past month, running, working out, and practicing with the fire knives daily. He plans to return next year and defend his title.

Along with winning his second consecutive world championship, Levasa received a check for \$4,000. His immediate goal is to attend Brigham Young University-Hawaii in the fall semester.

The 1998 World Fire Knife Dance Competition was the concluding event of the popular "We Are Samoa" Festival, which ran from May 8-16.

High school students throughout Hawaii show their culture and skills in scholarship through entertaining and friendly competition

65 High School Seniors Competed for 1998 Sterling Scholar Awards



▲ (above) A high school group presents a complete Samoan royal court. The Taupou (village princess), the high chief, the talking chief, and Aumga (untitled man—the working force of the village). Both the princess and high chief are wearing the ceremonial dress of Samoa, the fine mat and taiga (head dress).

◀ (left) A Young lady giving a Lauga (a speech of welcome) The chiefly language has a deeper meaning which few people are able to understand and is difficult to speak.

▼ (below) Students competing in timed events such as basket weaving and cooking.



On May 30, 65 Hawaii high school seniors and their families were hoping the expense of attending college this fall would be eased considerably, courtesy of the Polynesian Cultural Center and several generous corporations.

Students were finalists to earn college scholarships in the 12th annual Sterling Scholar awards program. The awards were presented at the PCC's Pacific Theater.

"We're all very proud of the Sterling Scholar awards, but it's especially rewarding to see how accomplished these young people are and the honor they bring to their schools," said PCC President Lester Moore. "All of them are winners in every sense of the word."

A total of \$112,000 dollars in scholarships were presented in 13 categories, ranging from traditional school subjects like English and mathematics to more contemporary topics like Hawaiian studies and visual arts. There were five finalists in each category.

The most prestigious award is the general scholarship, which awarded a total of \$16,000 dollars, \$8,000 for the winner, \$4,000 for second, and \$2,000 for third. The other 12 categories awarded a total of \$8,000, \$4,000 for first, \$2,000 for second, and \$1,000 for third. All of the remaining finalists received a \$500 dollar US Savings Bond.

The Sterling Scholar awards program is one of the most comprehensive high school scholarship programs in the country. Since its inception in 1987, the program has presented more than 1 million dollars in scholarships to high school seniors throughout the state. The program is open to all high school seniors in Hawaii. Judges from each category reviewed the student portfolios and interviewed the finalists before selecting this year's sterling scholars.

In addition to the PCC, this year's title sponsors of the Sterling Scholar program included Coca-Cola, The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, NBC Hawaii News 8, First Hawaiian Bank, and DFS Hawaii.



Nancy Chang
from Kaiser High School was awarded the General Scholarship Award.

PCC Helps Open Hawai'i Convention Center



Cy Bridges,
Cultural Islands Director
for the Polynesian
Cultural Center

The long-awaited grand opening of the Hawai'i Convention Center on June 11 began with the help of another Center used to hosting festive groups of visitors.

The PCC had a major role in the opening, providing cultural entertainment that shows the best of Polynesia and Hawai'i.

On the morning of June 11, a ceremonial untying of the lei welcomed guests into the Convention Center accompanied by a Hawaiian chant from our own Cy Bridges.

Cy's spiritual, melodic voice was ideal for such an important event. "We're very happy for Cy and the Center," said President Les Moore.

"It's a great honor to participate in the opening of a facility that will promote the unique culture and history of the Hawaiian islands."

President Les Moore

That same evening, 16 PCC performers participated in the opening reception and gala. The culture of the islands is the order of the day, so the PCC was an obvious choice. A room full of dignitaries, along with media from around the world, were impressed by the cultural pageantry of the entertainers.

The opening ceremonies conclude on Friday, June 12, with the Ala Wai Canoe Pageant. Two canoes with members from four island villages, Tahiti, Samoa, Tonga and New Zealand, will provide water-borne entertainment usually seen only in La'ie.

Again, there is no one better to represent the culture and history of Polynesia for all of Hawai'i than the "Convention Center of the North Shore."



PCC performers break between rehearsals to pose with pageant choreographer and his assistants. Performers' names are Piko Kahalekomo, Sione Lauaki, Wallen Magalei, Edward Pula, Nephi Setoki, Bil Keni, Kiri Fualautoalasi, Malcolm Rabe, Eric Dutro.

PCC Performers had Starring Role in Miss Universe Pageant—On Stage and Off

When the 1998 Miss Universe Pageant came to Hawaii, the producers were intent on showing Polynesia's trademark qualities to the rest of the world. Not surprisingly, a top choice for entertainment was the Polynesian Cultural Center.

On May 12, one of the first images the worldwide television audience saw was a Tongan spear dance, courtesy of the PCC. Later in the show, the PCC's top fire knife dancer performed brilliantly with a flaming double knife routine. And yet, as good as they were, it was what happened behind the scenes that impressed producers most.

"It was a team effort from the outset," said PCC Marketing Director Dave Cole. In March, Special Events Manager Ellen Gay Dela Rosa organized—literally overnight—a stage show audition of Polynesian entertainment that received a standing ovation from the Hollywood visitors.

That whirlwind audition, however, was a sign of what was to come in the frenetic



weeks leading up to one of TV's most extravagant live broadcasts. In April and May, Stage Manager David Tiave balanced the everyday performances at the PCC with the demands of daily 90-minute commutes and a grueling schedule of rehearsals for the dozen performers. Through it all, the PCC's entertainers never wavered in their approach to the task at hand.

Their tireless and uncomplaining work ethic did not go unnoticed by the Pageant's producers. "I've never worked with a more professional group," said Choreographer Scott Grossman. "The way they were prepared, the way they handled themselves, and the way they performed was an example to us all."

Grossman gushed with praise when asked about their conduct during the seemingly unending and sometimes tedious rehearsals. "I was very impressed how they worked so well together and seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience," he said. "They never complained and we will never forget them. Working with the PCC has been a joy."

(Continued on next page)

Miss Universe Pageant (continued)

One incident, more than any other, typified the respect earned by the PCC. In early May, following another long day of rehearsals, the performers returned to the dressing room. The floor was a mess. Although it was not their doing, the PCC's entertainers cleaned the area. Wardrobe personnel were stunned to see them take such responsibility for the actions of others. The deed was reported to the entire production crew the next day.

"I've never worked with a more professional group. The way they were prepared, the way they handled themselves, and the way they performed was an example to us all...Working with the PCC has been a joy."

Scott Grossman,
Pageant Choreographer

As for the Pageant, over 2 billion people in 74 countries watched the Tongan spear dancers open the show with a sparkling display of Polynesian culture. 30 minutes later, Sielu, the PCC's star fire knife dancer, led the 10 finalists onto the stage for the swimsuit portion of the pageant. Despite the pressures of a worldwide audience, he performed flawlessly.

Perhaps it was the PCC's destiny to play such a prominent role in the Pageant. After all, the parents of Miss Universe 1997 Brook Lee met at neighboring Brigham Young University-Hawaii, and B.J. Lee, Brook's aunt, performed in the PCC's "Horizons" Night Show. Miss Universe and the PCC, it was a match made in Laie for the rest of the world to see.

Employee Profile:

For the past decade, Sielu Avea has entertained millions of visitors from around the world with his eye-popping fire knife dance routine at the Polynesian Cultural Center.

On May 12, he had an opportunity to display the skills of his Samoan heritage before a worldwide televised audience of more than two billion people as a featured entertainer at the Miss Universe Pageant. His performance came during the swimsuit competition.

Sielu is a former World Fire Knife Dance Champion and a highlight act of the PCC's night show, "Horizons." His dazzlingly acrobatic program is a spectacular combination of balletic grace and edge-of-your-seat danger that involves his entire body—even his mouth—in twirling the fire-lit knives.

He is proof that fire knife dancing is an art form requiring more bravery than athleticism. The knives are sharp and the flames red hot—and Sielu has the scars to prove it. But with constant practice, hard work, and unwavering dedication, the effort has paid off; he has been one of the PCC's most popular performer for the past 10 years.

A native of Samoa, Sielu joined the PCC 17 years ago as a musician. He aspired to be a fire knife dancer and went to work at honing his new-found craft. Its significance to Samoa's history and the challenge fire knife dancing presented intrigued him greatly. "Since I got here, I've wanted to be a fire knife dancer because it's such a proud part of my people's culture," said Sielu.

"Being a good fire knife dancer requires time and commitment," he continued. "A lot of guys give it a try, but they quit after getting burned or cut. Success depends on how determined you are, how much you want to sacrifice."



Chief Sielu Avea, Fire Knife Champion
& World Renowned Entertainer

"Since I got here, I've wanted to be a fire knife dancer because it's such a proud part of my people's culture."

Sielu has entertained millions at the PCC and audiences around the world. Among his television credits are "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and "Murder She Wrote." Most recently, he returned from a show in Taiwan and in May he was the main draw at a benefit show in West Valley City, Utah, to raise money for a Polynesian community center.

For Sielu, exposing audiences to the beauty of Samoa's culture is motivation enough to continually perfect his routine and make it more exciting. And he is quick to share his knowledge with others. He regularly travels to Samoa and trains teens on the art of fire knife dancing. One of his disciples, Pati Levasa, won both last year's and this year's World Fire Knife Dance Competition.

PCC Calendar of Events:

JULY

Friday	3	Independence Holiday
Fri.-Sat.	17,18	PCC Board Meeting
Mon.-Sat	20-25	Tahiti/Marquesas Week
Saturday	25	Tahiti/Marquesas Cultural Devotional 9am
Saturday	25	Pioneer Day Food Fest, Little Circle, 2-10am
Thursday	23	PCC Team Meeting, IMAX Theater, 10am
Thurs.-Sat.	30-1	BYUH Education Week

AUGUST

Saturday	22	Hawaii Cultural Day Devotional, 9am
Sat.-Sat.	22-29	Hawaii Festival
Tuesday	25	PCC Team Meeting, IMAX Theater, 10am
Thursday	27	Senior Management Update Meeting, 9-1pm

The Polynesian Cultural Center and the Hawai'i Temple Visitors' Center Join Hands to Welcome the World

Written By: Elder Talmage W. Nielsen, Director of the Hawai'i Temple Visitors' Center



Missionaries at the Hawai'i Temple Visitors' Center: (Front row left to right), Sister and Elder Guyman, Sister and Elder Williams, Sister and Elder Nielsen, Sister and Elder Mikesell. (Middle row) Sister Brown, Sister Allen, Sister Padeken, Sister Weller, Sister Kim, Sister Coyle, Sister Boyd, Sister Simpson. (Back row) Sister Clark, Sister McClure, Sister Blanch, Sister Montague, Sister Bateman and Sister Workman.

It is clearly evident that the PCC provides a unique experience for its guests that is interesting, exciting, educational and filled with fun and adventure. What may be less obvious to the casual observer is the effect it has upon beliefs and perceptions.

The happy symbiotic interaction of a variety of races and cultures provides a subliminal message of brotherhood and respect for diversity. The juxtaposition of the Polynesian Cultural Center and the BYU-Hawaii and the substantial support each provides the other is evident to all who see the night show or take the Laie Tour and learn about this connection. Respect for the Church is a regular fall-out and from the wholesomeness and happiness seen among all the employees, performers, students and missionary guides.

Warmed and influenced by all of this, most guests who take the Laie Tour discover something of inestimable worth as they enter the sacred Temple grounds and feel the peace, serenity, comfort and warmth of the Holy Spirit. Let me list a few of the hundreds of comments by visitors to the Temple complex who try to explain what has happened to them. Not one of these expressions comes from a church member and most do not know what it is they are experiencing:

"Today I understand about Jesus Christ. I feel a deep emotion." (Visitor from Japan)

"I felt peace in myself. This church is settling."

"I did not understand a word, but I felt His love."

"I can feel in my heart Jesus Christ is God, and I can feel he has great power."

"I felt somehow more in touch with God today."

"Today I learned about Jesus Christ for the first time and I think he's wonderful." (Visitor from Japan)

"Thank you. I feel warmth in my heart. This was the highlight of my vacation."

"I feel like I have been cleansed. I feel peace and beauty in my heart."

"Today I learned that I am a child of God."

"My father died six years ago. I want to see him once more. Will he be resurrected like Jesus?"

"Jesus healed the sick. Do you think he could help my mother with her rheumatism?"

"I wish I could be more like Christ. His heart is so kind."

"There are so many faiths I don't know what to believe. If Christ is in my heart will I be okay?"

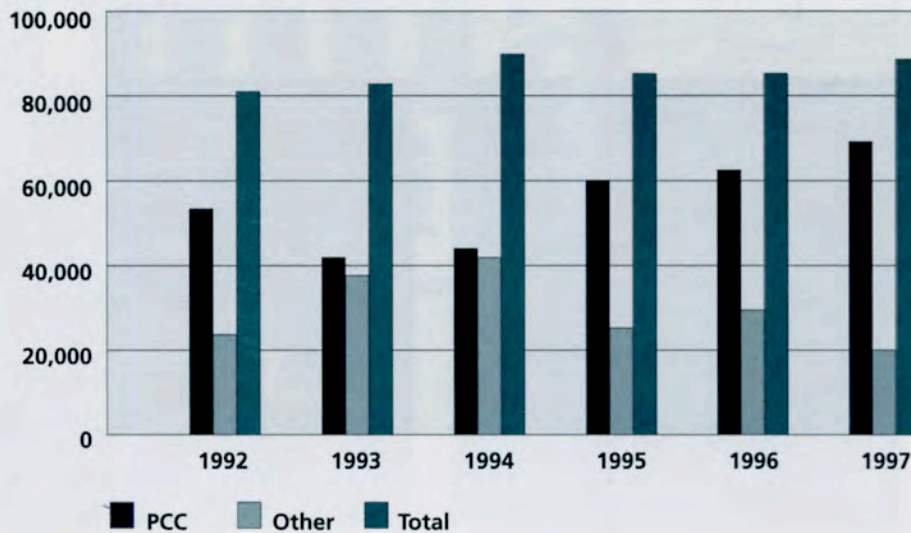
Other comments by visitors call attention to the beauty of the Temple and gardens, still others to the power of the message. Many refer to warmth, sincerity, friendliness, courtesy and conviction of the young missionary sisters. Hundreds express admiration for the standards of the Church, the lives of its members, the emphasis on family values, and the way we take care of our own. A few know about the humanitarian services of the Church. These efforts are properly not advertised. Many comment on our television spots and talk of their love for the Tabernacle Choir broadcasts. Most are astonished by the extensive volunteer work of members in many worthy causes including missionary work. All leave knowing that Christ is the center of our religion and the foundation of our hope and joy. They know He is the ideal we strive to emulate.

There were 616,236 visitors to the Polynesian Cultural Center during 1997. One hundred eighteen thousand visited the Hawai'i Temple Visitors' Center. Over five thousand visitors agreed to have missionaries visit them and bring the Book of Mormon, or some other special offering, and hear a message. Of this number 3,752 came from the visitors who took the Laie Tour from the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Most of this is seed planting. We do not know the harvest. Church wide statistics indicate that half of all converts to the Church have been influenced by a visitors' center.

(Continued on next page, far column)

Number of Guests Who Have Visited the Hawaii Temple Visitors Center



Giving Tourists A Taste of the "Real" Hawaii

What is the best way to give visitors an idea of what they will see, hear and experience at the Polynesian Cultural Center? Ensure your advertising is right on the mark.

The PCC launched a new advertising campaign in April 1998 to communicate the essence of the PCC experience.

The strategy for the campaign was based on an in-depth research project with Westbound PCC customers and prospective customers that identified key factors in the decision to visit, or not visit, the PCC. Using these insights, statements that describe the PCC experience were tested in focus groups.

The research concluded most Westbound visitors seek a chance to experience the "real" Hawaii, its culture and history, and also to be entertained.

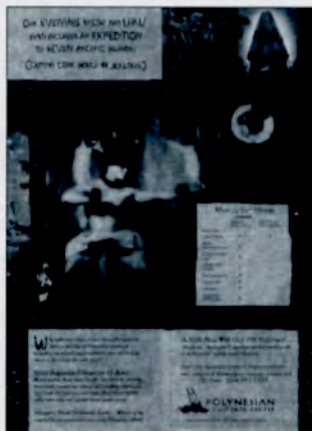
"The PCC is unlike any other attraction on Oahu because it fulfills these desires," said Dave Cole, PCC marketing director. "It allows visitors to see, hear and experience the real Hawaii/Polynesia."

Thus, the message of the advertising campaign was created. "We want to convince visitors that the only place to experience the 'real' Polynesia is at the PCC," said Dave Newbold, creative director at Salt Lake City-based FJCNW&R, which conducted the research study and developed the campaign.

Advertisements currently running in publications such as Oahu Drive Guide, Best of Oahu, Hawaii State Travel Planner, Pleasant Hawaiian, Oahu Visitors Bureau Planner, Spotlight Oahu Gold and This Week Oahu feature islanders making jewelry from leaves, reenacting war dances, dancing with fire, climbing four-story trees to find fruit and playing drums.

Using footage from the IMAX movie "Polynesian Odyssey" combined with images of the current PCC experience, 60-second television spots also depict authentic, ancient traditions and activities of the Polynesian people. The television campaign will begin on July 1.

"As the ads suggest, we don't want tourists to come thousands of miles to Hawaii and never really see it," said Newbold.



Left: Spread from the June 1-8, 1998 "This Week" Oahu Magazine.

Temple Visitor's Center (continued)

We have recently received three heart warming messages from Hungary, Canada and Japan:

Japan: "I am taking English lessons. I met people at the Visitors' Center. I didn't know you had such a wonderful, beautiful Church in Hawaii. I would like to go to America and study. I stopped smoking and drinking to keep school standards. Right now I don't want to look for another Church."

Hungary: "We had a great experience in our city Szeged. Some days ago two young men both from the U.S, invited us for a pleasant talking, even in Hungarian language! And handed over the Book of Mormon, written also in Hungarian. Dear Mr. Nielsen, we would like to express our gratitude so that you remember us and sent us this beautiful book. Together our thanks we send you and Mrs. Nielsen, our greetings and best wishes."

Canadian Missionary: "We have a firm baptismal commitment from a recently married couple who went to the Hawaii Temple Visitors' Center. They felt a spirit and accepted a visit from the missionaries. We met them a few weeks ago. We are looking to baptize them in a few weeks. The work that you are doing does change lives."

One can only imagine the thousands of people who will be lifted and blessed by our combined outreach to the world. The work is rolling forth and we are privileged to play our own unique parts in what is now a global effort to build the kingdom. We are grateful to work with all of you at the Polynesian Cultural Center at such an exciting time in history. The blessings of the Lord are evident everywhere we look.

Maintenance Department Employees of the Month

April 1998:

*P.M. Crew/Lead: Peter Taialele
Full Time/Painter: Warner Pukahi*

Winners chose from the following awards:
Dinner for two at the Luau or Ambassador,
five movie tickets, or \$25 cash.

Center Gets Royal Treatment in Taiwan

The promo team recently made a five-day trip to Taiwan which left them feeling like rock stars on tour.

Twenty performers and a cultural artisan made the trip to Tai-Tung, accompanied by President Les Moore, Human Resources Vice President John Muaina, Special Events Manager Ellen Gay Dela Rosa, and Stage Manager David Tiawe. The Center made five performances in all, but their appearance at the national junior sports festival showed how popular they are in Taiwan.

To kick off the Olympic-style competition, the promo team led Taiwan athletes into the stadium. However, it was the PCC entertainers who drew screams and shrieks from the more than 5,000 spectators.

The clamor intensified during their performance. "The whole experience gave me a very warm feeling," said Eric Dutro, one of the student dancers.

Afterwards, the promo team was besieged with autograph and photo requests. Although given the best seats in the house, they missed most of the competition as their time was spent fulfilling fan requests for momentos.

This response would become commonplace for the remainder of their trip. "The Taiwanese treated us like kings and gave us the red carpet treatment the whole time," Dutro said.

The trip to Taiwan was the fifth visit for David Tiawe, and his second trip to Tai-Tung. He said the entire trip was very well planned. "It's always a humbling experience to go on these trips and see that others aren't as fortunate as we are living in Hawai'i," commented Tiawe.

"It was such a privilege to promote Hawai'i and to try and help the economy," said Tiawe.



Photo taken during the promo team's second trip to Taitung County.

Polynesian Cultural Center Performers Lit Up the West Valley City E Center



Chief Sielu Avea



Vili Fihoko

On May 9th, two of the star entertainers from the PCC gave a special command performance at the E Center in West Valley City, Utah, to help raise money for a new Polynesian community center. The E Center, which accommodates an audience of 9,000 was sold out with many on a waiting list hoping to get in.

The PCC is Hawaii's #1 paid visitor attraction and Samoan fire knife dancer Sielu Avea and Tongan master drummer Vili Fihoko are two big reasons why. Millions of visitors around the world have marveled at their skills and laughed at their comedic antics.

"The people of West Valley City and the Greater Salt Lake area are going to be absolutely amazed at the show that Sielu and Vili give," said PCC Director of Marketing Dave Cole before the performers arrived in Salt Lake. "They are exceptional talents and wonderfully gifted entertainers."

Sielu is a native of Samoa and joined the PCC 17 years ago. He recently returned from a performance in Taiwan and has entertained audiences around the world. Among his television credits are "The Oprah Winfrey Show" and "Murder She Wrote."

Vili was born in Tonga and has been with the Center for a decade. He became a drummer only five years ago, but quickly established himself as a crowd favorite. Though built like a power lifter and being an intimidating presence, Vili has a good-

natured personality and a terrific sense of humor which he uses to great effect during his performance. He is one of the PCC's most popular and recognized entertainers.

The money raised from the show will be used to begin the process of developing a Polynesian-based community center in Utah. About three years ago, Polynesian community leaders approached West Valley City officials with the idea of building a center. Talks have since accelerated in the past six months and the money raised from Saturday's show will go a long way toward advancing those plans.

"This event is one of those essential components that not only begins to make a center of this type economically feasible, but also brings the entire community closer together,"

**Bob Buchanan, West Valley City,
Economic Development Administrator**

"The kind of center envisioned by the Polynesian community is a facility the people want and need," he continued. "It will provide lots of opportunities to showcase the Polynesian culture and perpetuate their heritage for future generations in the Greater Salt Lake area."



A non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of Polynesia while providing educational opportunities for students at adjoining Brigham Young University-Hawaii. Founded in 1963 by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.