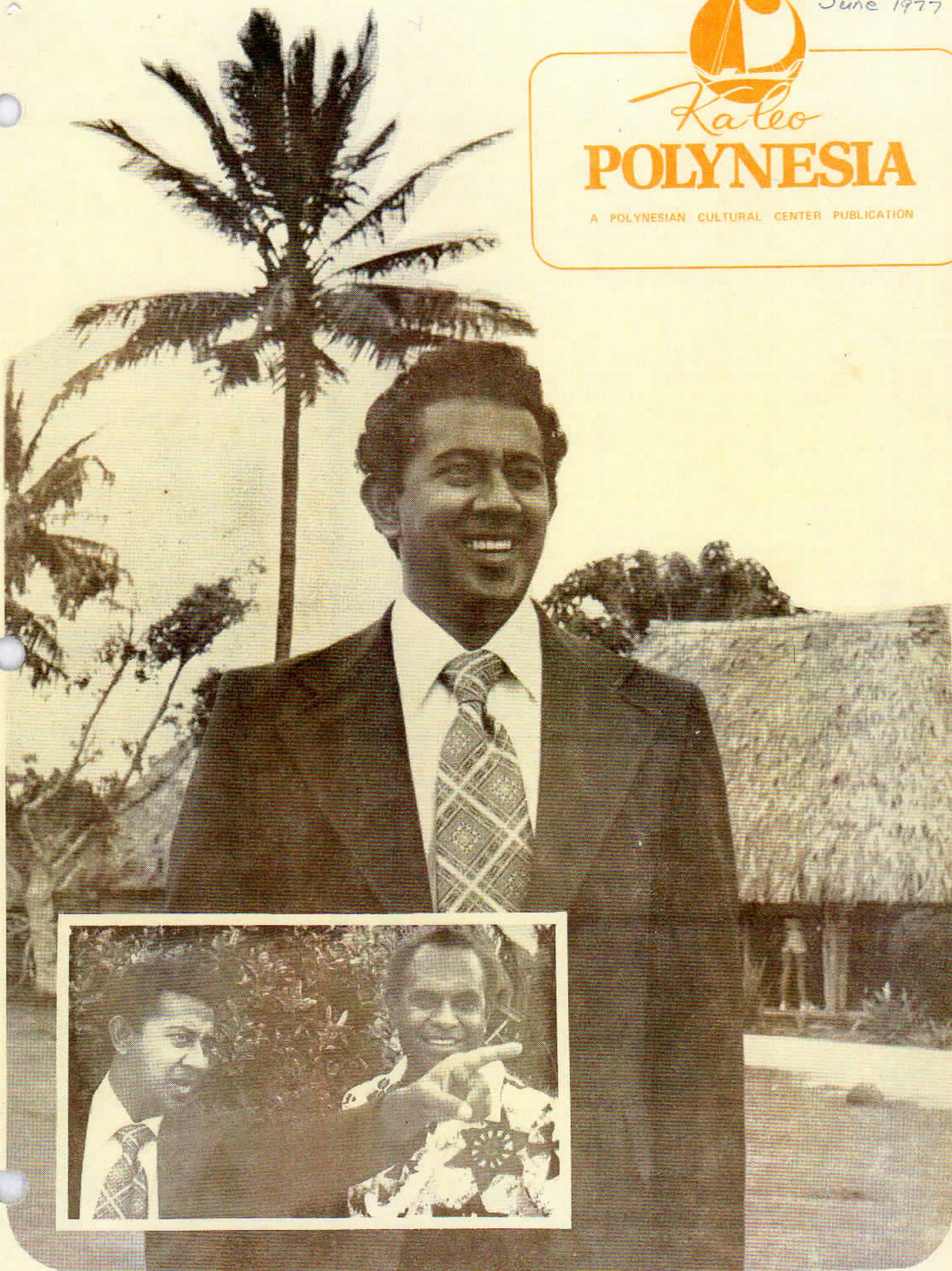


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*Kaleo*  
**POLYNESIA**

A POLYNESIAN CULTURAL CENTER PUBLICATION



# PCC - "The Greatest Show on Earth"

by Reginald Schwenke

For Tongan-born Pita R. Vamanrav, 33, the Polynesian Cultural Center "will always have the greatest show on earth."

And, perhaps, no one feels this more than he. Pita has been a familiar face at the Polynesian Cultural Center since its opening in 1963.

And now after 13 years in Hawaii, Pita and his wife Seini, have decided to move back to Tonga to assist in a family business. He has resigned as manager of village operations.

"I'm not resigning, I'm going to take a part of the PCC back with me to my homeland," he said.

He expressed regrets of having to leave his home away from home, but is anxiously looking forward to the challenges he expects to face in Tonga.

He adds: "There are no words that express how much I love this place and its people...."

"But I have the greatest admiration and love for President Cravens and the many people I have worked with over the years, especially the students of BYU-Hawaii, whom I have come to love and respect."

He also paid tribute to former stake president Faasea Mailo and the members of the Laie Hawaii Stake High Council who had worked with him over the past four years.

"I have been blessed to have had the privilege of serving the Lord and my countrymen here.... I am going to miss it."

Pita arrived in Hawaii following graduation from Liahona High School. He graduated from the Church College of Hawaii in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science degree after fulfilling a mission call back to Tonga for two years.

He met and later married his charming Tongan wife in the Hawaii Temple in 1971 and it was a short time after that he was hired full-time at the PCC as assistant coordinator of village operations under Madsen Elkington.

Within a year, he moved up to fill the then-vacant position of coordinator of village operations which he held until his replacement was named in mid-May.

Beneath that handsome and youthful face, one can perceive this man will become a great asset to the people of Tonga and to himself.

He has a quality of humbleness that leads one to think that he will be perceptive to the problems and needs of his people.

After 13 years, Pita is going home - enriched with the blessings of a righteous dedication to the Lord.

And the naive young man who left his home and his country to further his education will return home a knowledgeable and experienced man in his chosen field and in the work of the Lord.

It is therefore fitting that we dedicate this first edition of "Ka Leo Polynesia" to this man who is called in Tonga by his chieftain title, 'Fonua Ki He Hau', but affectionately known at the Polynesian Cultural Center as "Pita."



If you're an avid television watcher, then more likely than not you've seen him before.

Here Richard Denning and his actress wife, Evelyn, are pictured watching the afternoon canoe pageant at the Polynesian Cultural Center recently.

If you're still trying to place the face, it's that of the Governor of Hawaii in the crime-drama series, Hawaii Five O, which is aired weekly on CBS television.

Pictured with them is Crete Rudolph, a part-time guide at the PCC when she is not attending classes at BYU-Hawaii.

Mr. and Mrs. Denning are not strangers to Hawaii, they have been

here 10 years - since Hawaii Five O was conceived for television.

When asked for impressions of the Polynesian Cultural Center, he answered enthusiastically: "I'm overwhelmed at the magnitude of this place. It feels so authentic."

"In the ten years we have been in Hawaii, this is the first time we have been here - and we love it," Mrs. Denning added.

The couple were visiting their nephew, Richard Ankers and his wife, LaVon, both students at BYU-Hawaii.

They loved their trip so much they left the student couple souvenirs of their visit. An entire script of a Hawaii Five O episode.