



# EMPLOYEE UPDATE

Polynesian Cultural Center □ January 16, 1981

## Meet Kirk Garcia - Soaking Wet!



Most everyone at PCC knows Kirk Garcia. What some people may not know is that Kirk is not a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Some years ago his "calabash" uncle, Fa'aseo Mailo, encouraged him to come to BYU-Hawaii. He told Kirk that he would like the Laie people and be liked, in turn, by them. He was right on both counts.

Against his parents' wishes,

Kirk came to Laie to meet his first Mormons. "I expected Mormons to be weird, -- over-religious, over-bearing, and completely different from "normal" people in every respect. I've found that they're human, make mistakes like everybody else, but have higher goals and whether or not they accomplish them depends on the individual."

The missionaries maintain close contact with Kirk. On his last birthday his fellow employees, (in keeping with student tradition), pushed him into the lagoon. Kirk arrived at his missionary discussion appointment soaking wet. Village Operations staff teased the elders that they had missed their chance, for if they had set up their meeting by the lagoon, Kirk would already have been in the water!

Kirk has questions yet to be resolved about gospel doctrine and isn't sure he could join the Church and be a good member. His parents are very worried that he might

become a Mormon. Yet, with an obvious sincerity, he describes the deep friendships he has found among members. He and his room mates are as close as brothers, and he finds it depressing to share in every experience with them except that of filling a mission.

When asked whether his Laie experience has affected him permanently in any way, Kirk replied "My experience among Mormons here will affect the rest of my life I've learned to be truthful with myself, and I've learned that the Church affects the way you think. Everybody else in the whole world can do anything they want without any restrictions but Mormons are self-disciplined. I think that is a plus."

I should be added here that Kirk himself is definitely a plus to the Center. An amiable, willing worker, he very quickly breaks down barriers between people, puts them at ease, and shares his friendship with them.

## PCC Board Meets

Enjoying a few days of Hawaiian winter as they meet on matters important to the Center, the PCC Board of Directors and their wives are in the community this week. Some family members are also accompanying the group.

Members of the Board are: Elder Marvin J. Ashton, George Q. Cannon, J. Willard Marriott, F. William Gay, Ralph Rodgers, Fred A. Baker, and Jeffrey Holland.



Tongan Cultural Day dancers Dr. Inoke Funaki, and student Tafui Ata'ata  
See back page for more pictures

## "Point of View"

*"It is only when we know who we are that we can begin to know who we may become."*

Recent visiting groups to the Center from some of our home islands have indicated to us, subtly or otherwise, that they feel themselves superior in their cultures simply because they are not themselves employed in the tourist industry. In addition, they have very often conveyed the belief that Mormons do not make "good" Maoris or "good" Tongans, Tahitians, etc. Or further, that moving to live and/or marry in Hawaii is un-Fijian, un-Samoan, etc.

We can ask some questions of such beliefs: Am I less a Maori because I work in the tourist industry instead of the shearing shed? Am I less a Samoan because I live in Laie instead of Apia? Am I less a Fijian because I am Mormon instead of Catholic? Am I less Hawaiian because my wife is Chinese or Japanese?

Further, who makes the greater contribution of his culture -- one who stays home and occasionally

participates in cultural events locally, or the individual who journeys elsewhere and daily shares his culture on the international level?

I for one am proud of our students here in the Center. Secure in their cultural identities, they operate daily on the international level, contributing to the world scene and cross-cultural exchange in a very real way. We recently received a letter from the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor, Commander T. A. Goodall. A newcomer to Hawaii, he expressed his impression of these students with the following comments:

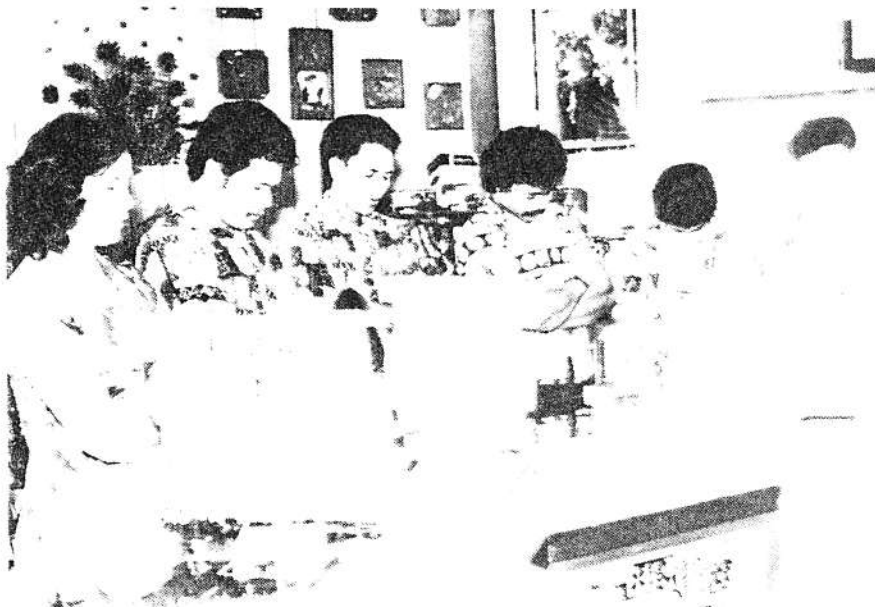
"...the individual performances given by your young Polynesian students throughout the day were characterized by genuine enthusiasm and pride in their cultural heritage. The youthful freshness, sincerity, and enthusiasm...is a tribute to their mothers and fathers, their Polynesian island homeland heritage, their individual self-pride, and BYU-Hawaii training. I am truly indebted to your young students who are continuing to preserve their individual heritages in the face of overwhelming superficial and materialistic "pro-

gress." They are indeed exceptional young men and women and I am deeply proud of them."

It is a truth that there are two things you cannot take away from an individual. -- his knowledge of himself, and his knowledge of his God. Here at PCC we know who we are, and we know who our God is. Commander Goodall made another observation which ably explains some of the criticism we sometimes face from our own homeland visitors. He said, "Perhaps being a world traveler as I have been, I was able to appreciate the students' outward and genuine enthusiasm more so than the average visitor."

Perhaps this is the key. One view is a narrow one, unenlightened by the realities and vision of the wider world. The other is all-encompassing, a larger perspective, hopefully, an eternal one. May we give thanks for our individual heritages gifted of the Father, and in that thanksgiving, may we please *Him* as Maoris, Hawaiians, Haoles, etc. For surely, we are His children, and ultimately, in *Him* our cultures are one.

## Shop Polynesia employees start day with prayer



If you hear angelic voices coming from Shop Polynesia around 9:45' each morning, it isn't a new stereo item on the shelves but the Shop personnel in their morning devotional.

The department meets daily to sing a hymn together, hear a spiritual thought - sometimes shared by visitors from other departments - and begin their day with a prayer.

Manager Alice Logan reveals a pride in her employees as she explains that the department has been meeting each morning for two years now. Certainly, the young men and women of her staff have a friendliness and helpfulness about them that is pleasing to find. There is no doubt that they believe in starting their day off right!

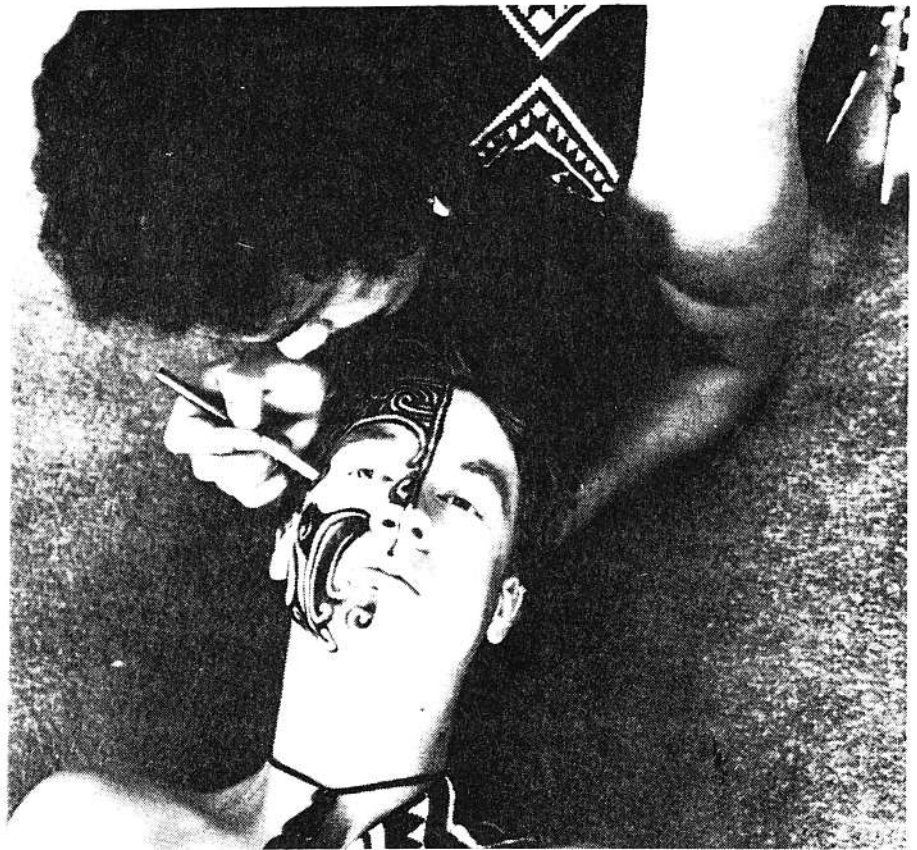
## Moko, Koru, and Wrinkles

A Maori group from Waikato University in Hamilton, New Zealand visited the Center this week to exchange cultural knowledge with members of the Maori Village.

A fascinating event was the application of **moko** on the faces of the young men of the group. Visitors crowded around to watch the patterns applied with grease pencils. The men took care to draw pleasing designs that were also culturally correct.

They explained how every line and curve had meaning that was easily read in olden times. The placement of lines conveyed the character of the warrior and his skills as an artist, craftsman, fighter, etc. Small **koru** or curves on the nose indicated blood and birth.

NOW, if only wrinkles could tell our stories!



## Europe center No Match for P.C.C.



Mrs. Bess Hawes and Baden Pere, enjoying P.C.C.'s cultural art displays.

Mrs. Bess Hawes, Director of the National Foundation for Culture and the Arts, spent what she termed "a delightful day" at PCC recently.

Hosted by the Cultural Education department, Mrs. Hawes viewed displays of ethnic art and crafts and writings. She expressed great interest in the Center's promotion of culture and in the enthusiasm of those involved with the teaching of crafts.

Cultural Education personnel were commended for their patient teaching of crafts. Mrs. Hawes explained that in all her travels she had found, in Europe, only one other center actually teaching ethnic crafts "but it is no match for what you are accomplishing here."

Mrs. Hawes left expressing the desire to have the National Foundation for Culture and the Arts involved with the Center in future events promoting art and crafts which continue to reflect the cultures of Polynesia.

# Tongan Cultural Day

**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
General Priesthood Meeting  
LAIE STAKE & BYU-H STAKE

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Sunday, January 18, 1981  
in the  
Laie Stake Chapel

## BYU-H Calendar

### Friday, January 16

10:30 a.m., auditorium  
Devotional, Lucile Johnson

4:00 p.m., Little Theater  
Faculty Meeting

9:30 p.m., Ballroom  
Aloha Dance

### Saturday, January 17

4:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.  
auditorium  
Movie, "Doctor Zhivago"

Ward Six Luau - Ballroom

### Sunday, January 18

Ward Six Conference  
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Laie Stake Center  
General Priesthood Meeting  
(Combined BYU-H, LAIE Stakes)

### Tuesday, January 20

7:30 p.m., Little Theater  
World Adventure Film "Paris"

7:30 p.m., gym, Volleyball  
LaVern University

### Wednesday, January 21

7:30 p.m., gym  
Basketball  
Yankton College

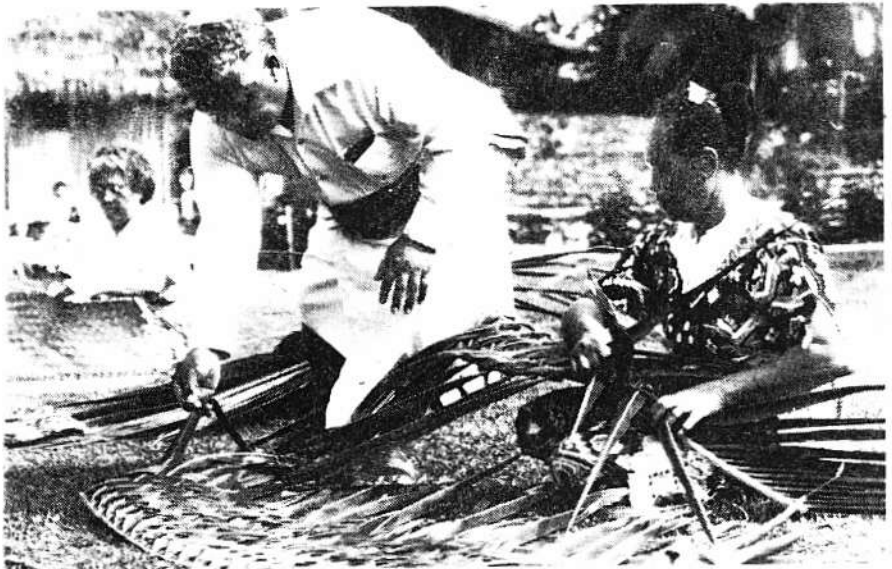
### Thursday, January 22

7:30 p.m., gym  
Volleyball  
LaVern University

CLUB NIGHT



Vandy Oura-1st Assistant Manager and Program Coordinator



Tongan Village Chief Tevita Taumoepeau examines woven articles during cultural day demonstrations



Solemn faced members of the sacred Kava circle await preparation of Kava