



update 81

Polynesian Cultural Center

January 23, 1981

On Special Assignment



General Manager Bill Cravens recently announced the appointment of Rich Christensen as an assistant on special assignment to the Administration. Rich has worked at the PCC in the past in purchasing and areas of farm and maintenance.

Prior to his PCC employment, he had taught music in Samoa and the mainland for fifteen years. Experienced also in the business world, he is in the process of selling a travel agency he has owned for the past two years.

Born and raised on a large farm in Idaho, Rich was manager of the Church plantation in Samoa for three years. His professional experience also extends to construction work and interstate trucking on the mainland.

Asked his feelings on his return to PCC, Rich says, "I'm here because I love it here at the Center. I feel the community needs to support the Center in every way. We don't realize to what extent our community is supported by PCC."

BACK-STAGE SPOTLIGHT

There's no spotlight highlighting the accounting major counting thousands of dollars in the cash room every night. Yet his performance is every bit as honest and commendable as the fire-dancer's on stage. No-one applauds the back-stage crew who doesn't get through work until hours after every one else and whose job includes picking up everyone

else's trash in the after-show theater. The best evidence of how well they do their job is the cleanliness of the theater that greets the next day's crowd in spite of the thousands who used it the previous night.

How many of us have noticed the crews who daily prepare the grounds and facilities of the Center, then

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PCC Board of Directors Visit



From left, Bill Gay, Bill Marriott, Ralph Rodgers, Jeffrey Holland, Fred Baker, George Cannon, and Elder Marvin J. Ashton.

Too good for IRS

When news of the latest development in PCC's tax case broke in December, the Honolulu Advertiser of December 12 carried both the story and this Editorial. We think it a perceptive comment on the situation!

Reliable sources say that the Polynesian Cultural Center has a contingency plan to regain the tax-exempt status the Internal Revenue Service recently lifted, reportedly because the center is "too professional, like Hollywood."

Under the plan, the center will retrain student-performers to dance woodenly and sing flat. Holes will be drilled in the theater roof to leak rain on tourists.

Guides in the Fijian Village will speak in New York accents and say they "don't know nothing about making copra." The evening show will continue to feature the Samoan fire knife dance, billed as "a spectacular demonstration of skill and bravery you may never forget." No one will forget the new version, in which the dancer sets fire to himself, the hall, and the lagoon.

Observers believe the new standards will be low enough to satisfy even the IRS.

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leave before the rest of us arrive? They clean restrooms, sweep roads, drag-net the lagoon, clear drains, rake lawns, weed gardens, clean windows, wax floors, shampoo carpets, pick flowers, etc. The list seems endless of those jobs which must be done before the Center opens each morning.

Sometimes we forget them and only remember them when Kona winds dump extra leaves over the lawns and we realize that we've never seen the grounds looking untidy like that before. Here's thanks to the crews who help make our work areas more pleasant for the rest of us, and who set the stage daily for the pageantry and performances that please our public.

Much Mahalo to all the "behind-the-scenes" people! Please know our appreciation of your work. It's nice to work in pleasant surroundings.

BYU-H CALENDER

Friday, January 23

10:30 a.m., auditorium
Cook Islands Club

STAKE NIGHT

Saturday, January 24

4:30 p.m. & 8:30 p.m.
auditorium

Movies, "101 Dalmatians" and
"North Avenue Irregulars"

Ballroom, LUAU
BYU-H Ward 9

Sunday, January 25

Ward 9 Conference
BYU-H Stake Fireside

Wednesday, January 27

7:00 p.m., gym
Basketball
Elon College

6:30 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.
auditorium
Film Classics
"Barrabbas"

viewpoint

vernicepere

"By overvaluing the civilizing power of science and technology, man runs the risk of creating a world devoid of beauty, value, and meaning."

Jon Carroll Lloyd

"Arts and Arcanum"

Recently, I asked a Center guest how she had enjoyed the night show "Invitation to Paradise." Her reply was "Oh, I was impressed, but I concentrated on the lighting and the staging and the special effects. I was more interested in those than the dancers."

The fact that this woman had arrived at the Center with preconceived ideas and the stated resolution that she was not going to enjoy herself because she had heard the show was "too Hollywood" interested me.

If her answer to my question was honest, she was unaware that she had now revealed herself totally entertained by all that could be called "Hollywood" in the production! However, I have my doubts about the honesty of her reply. It would take a particularly insensitive individual to appreciate the performance of a battery of inanimate footlights more than a row of young students obviously enjoying a spirited performance of cultural dance.

I do have this guest to thank for the thoughts her reply gave me. It has been written that "technology is the new art of our age." Certainly, we can point to great scientific advances in our societies in our day. Yet, how many of us feel closer to God and each other because of such technological "blessings"? We have greater speed, power, mechanical aids, health, communication, and opportunities than ever before. But are we better

able to recognize and respond to beauty because of them? Are we more able to appreciate quality in hand-crafted goods, to understand and respond spiritually to basic human values that reach across all cultures?

We are concerned here at the Center with both the preservation and the sharing of values. These values include basic human and Mormon as well as cultural principles. Our greatest asset is the people who work here. I disagree with my guest. I think the students, the grandmothers, the fathers, brothers, sisters, mothers, -- the people who daily share themselves with our guests will always be of more value than the most sophisticated, computerized, technological equipment we could buy.

No doubt there will occasionally be those who cannot see a performer for the glory of the spotlight. But I think such an individual will also be unable to see one tree for the magnitude of the forest, or one wave for the vastness of the ocean. Poets call this ability to see with the spirit of revelation to "see feelingly."

May our sciences serve us in helping us towards a discovery of the divinity within ourselves and each other, and may we then find ourselves better able to find God. We have such opportunities in abundance as we work together to fulfill the vision of the Polynesian Cultural Center.