



March 20, 1981

update 81

Polynesian Cultural Center

Future Center Youth?



Two PAAC Club members are practicing "Keeping their eyes on the hands" during their rendition of a Tahitian hula.

"Am I getting old or are the employees getting younger?" You might have asked yourself that, as did some Center workers last Saturday, as they noticed the new young faces of entertainers, guides, and village workers. Kahuku High School students representing their chapter of the Pacific & Asian Affairs Council hosted students from Hawaii's surrounding schools at an all day event celebrating the theme of "Polynesia".

The PAAC is an organization designed to supplement high school curriculum with conferences, programs and exchanges which will educate students as well as adults in the different aspects of the Asian and

Pacific cultures, according to Carol Knudsen, PAAC representative.

Why are high school students getting involved in the PAAC? "I joined with my friends to learn more about Hawaiian culture," comments a very gracious Hawaiian Village guide, student Lei Kalama who comes from a Hawaiian, Chinese, Portugese, Haole background

Sherri Burns of Mid Pacific High School shares her enthusiasm with her new-found friends from other visiting schools, "I am glad that I could come to PCC today and see how the different Polynesian groups live. It is important to know that you don't have to depend

on industry and modern conveniences to live and survive."

Stanley Otake, Kahuku student, is also a Center employee in the night show. Stanley, who comes from a Hawaiian, Japanese, Haole background, didn't perform his dancing skills for the visitors, but amazed and amused all with his humorous and precise dialogue while demonstrating Samoan coconut cracking methods.

These and many other experiences are made available to community and school groups through the efforts of the Cultural Education Department with Baden Pere, Howard Lua, and their staff of Polynesian specialists.

More photos on following page.

Plan Now for May Day

May 2 is Lei Day at the Center this year. Although there are still several weeks before that date arrives, personnel are advised to start planning now to participate in the several events which are scheduled. These include: Lei-Making Contest, Canoe-Decorating Contest, and a Lei Queen Contest.

Further details are available from Vendy Oura, Howard Lua, Sophia Mocetoka, Kalili Hunt, or Bill Wallace. Watch the Update for future announcements!

**Kahuku student demonstrates
poi pounding in Hawaiian village**



Coconut grating, Kahuku style

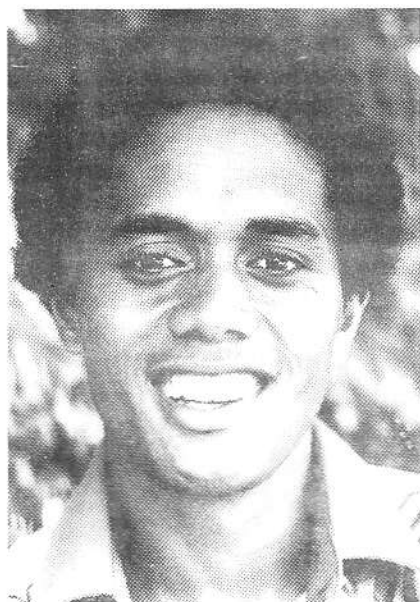
PAAC members make new friends on canoe tour



**The day started with preparing
food for the umu**

Outstanding Employee of the Month:

James Niumatalolo



James (Junior) Niumatalolo was chosen as February's "Employee of the Month" for the Cultural Orientation Department. He was chosen from among several other employees for being prompt, dependable, and a trusted worker.

James is 21 years of age, and returned honorably from the California Sacramento Mission in October of 1980. He attributes his blessings in life to obedience in following the prophets' words and his loving parents, Simi and Lamala.

His goal in life is to graduate in Business Management and then earn a Masters in Business Law. As for finding an eternal companion, James is still searching but feels he'll be blessed soon. Congratulations James, for being a great example to us all!

Announcement:

Cultural Presentations announces new leaders for the Fijian Canoe. Viliame Finau is now Canoe Leader, with Mata Manuelli his assistant.

viewpoint vernicepere

"To clothe a man falsely ... is to distress his spirit..."

Some days ago I spent several hours in discussion with a visitor who had many criticisms about the Center. He professed intimate knowledge of Polynesia but his comments betrayed an intellectual learning that lacked the spiritual understanding vital to such knowledge. In "clothing" the Polynesian, he preferred to cut the man to fit the suit, which is another way of saying we were expected to conform to the measurements of a tailor unknowing of our proportions or style.

In true cross-cultural understanding, book learning is useful but incomplete. This is even more so when the books are written by men who are strangers to the culture of which they write. Such facts as are gleaned by strangers are usually seen "through the wrong end of a microscope."

I told my visitor that Polynesians have been beneath the microscope for many years now but those adjusting its lens and focusing on our cultures are yet unable to see a clear picture of us. What is needed is our own telling of our story to the world, for our own view of ourselves is infinitely more correct and valid than the conclusions of outsiders.

Who can speak with more love and pride of our heritage than we ourselves? Chief Luther Standing Bear of the Oglala band of Sioux attended "the white man's school at Carlisle, Pennsylvania" in 1879 when he was eleven years old. After four years at the school he became a teacher of his own people. Later he was an interpreter, lecturer, and writer. In his autobiography, *Land of the Spotted Eagle*, he discusses with insight, the profound changes upon his people's culture that followed contact with the white man.

As he observes therein, the imposition of one culture upon another is, in many ways, a burden which is only fully revealed as those imposed upon tell their own story. There are few places in the world which allow minority peoples this opportunity. PCC is a pioneer in this regard.

There is much more to our story than is readily apparent to the casual Center visitor. Many do not ever learn that the thousands of yards of sennit that bind our buildings together are rolled inch by inch between the fingers and thigh in the making. They often come with the preconceived idea that we worshipped idols or the wind, stars, or sea, and leave again without ever hearing the name of Io or perceiving that, like the Indian, we knew that God may be approached through his creations. Likewise, their short stay usually does not allow an exploration of the philosophy, abstract reasoning, or spirituality of our traditional world-view.

Certainly, there is an example for us in Chief Luther's life and words. We need to encourage our students not only towards school subjects that will assure them of financial independence in the world, but also towards that in-depth understanding and compassion for their culture that awaits discovery beneath the surface of things. The rewards of such exploration are many, not the least of which is that true knowledge and cultural pride which avoids the dilemma Chief Luther describes, for the fuller quote of his words reads:

"To clothe a man falsely is only to distress his spirit and to make him incongruous and ridiculous."

BYU-HC Calendar

Friday, March 20.

10.30 am
Auditorium
BYU Devotional
Lance & Londa Chase

9.30 pm
Ballroom
Preference Ball

7.30 pm
Kaneohe Stake House
Know Your Religion

Saturday, March 21.

6.30 pm
Little Theater
Movie: Xanadu
9.30 pm
Ballroom
Movie: Xanadu

Monday March 23

HOLIDAY
KUHIO DAY
Track and Soccer

Tuesday, March 24

4.00pm
Softball
8.00pm Ballroom
Loma Linda Choir
8.00 pm
Basketball

Wednesday, March 25.

10.30 am
Auditorium
Cal State LA

Chamber Singers

6.30 & 9.30
Little Theater
Film Classics

Thursday March 26.

11.30 am
AC 155
Women's Luncheon
Softball/Soccer
4.00 pm
Basketball
8.00 pm

New Appointments

Nona Enesa



"I like the chocolate milkshakes!" -- That is the recommendation of the new Makaala Snack Bar Manager, Nona Enesa. Nona officially started work in her new position in Food Services Monday 16, and what a start! Each day at the beginning of a shift, Snack Bar workers meet to inform, motivate, and personalize their day's duties and tie it all together with a spiritual thought and prayer.

"I am glad to be back at the Center because the environment is so good. I think one of the main purposes of the Center is missionary work ... it is the little things that are important, like being courteous and conveying a pleasant image to our visitors. "

Her goals for the Snack Bar include increasing sales by improving menus, service and appearance of both employees and the facilities. "We have a good staff, and anything is possible with the full support of your workers. I feel, already, that I am getting really good support from both management and co-workers."

Harry Brown



Musician, entertainer, Education Specialist, and more! That is Harry Brown, new employee in the Cultural Education Department. He has been appointed as the coordinator of Documentaion and Displays which has to do with some up-and-coming projects, part of which will involve video-taping the many educational programs provided by PCC, to help document what is being done at the Center in the different departments, and also to provide a preview of what the students from the local schools and other groups will be seeing when they come to the Center. Eventually he hopes to make special tapes of legends, plants, music, and anything else to do with Polynesia that would provide an educational resource library.

"I feel that in working for a place or company, rather than feeling that the company should give something, I would like to contribute back to the company. I like working with people. I love Polynesia, and hope to show people what we have to offer here."