



## Halau' Weather The Storm While Performing

The 1986 Merry Monarch Hula Competition proved to be a dramatic event indeed. It was held in a large, open ended building during a violent storm. Groups performed amidst rolling thunder, branched lightening, the wind, the rain, and flashfloods. Numerous blackouts, ranging from two to forty-five minutes long, plagued the competition.

Harry Brown, one of the musicians for the Center's halau stated that it was the most unusual Merry Monarch he had ever attended in light of the harsh weather. The weather caused the musicians to be less than 100% in the days prior to their performing with the halau. Several were sick with colds and Cy Bridges, the Kumu Hula, even lost his voice. It took them a lot of work to regain their strength but everything came together for the performance.

Cy Bridges noted that this years halau was one of the most unified groups he's ever taken to the Merry Monarch; both physically and spiritually.



Jay Akoi, a bishop as well as a musician with the halau, conducted the groups Sunday devotional which they held in the hallway of their hotel.

Cy is to be commended for retaining the fact that the group were representatives of the Center and of the Church, and that they acted accordingly. They also held morning and evening prayers as a group.

The halau expressed their gratitude to Bishop Kuikahi and the members in the Hilo Keaukaha Ward for their hospitality. Also, another mahalo went to Jay Akoi's parents who opened up their house to the halau when bad weather restricted their travel.

All in all the group was grateful for the never to be forgotten memories of their trip and especially for the gospel that brought them together.



## Chinese Delegation Experiencing All We Have To Offer

This week the Center has been the host of a foreign affairs delegation from China. Here on an official visit, the group is headed by Mr. Li Peishen, Deputy Director of Jilin Provincial Foreign Affairs Office. Mr. Li was accompanied by Mr. Chai Shoue (Director of China International Travel Service Changchun Branch), Mr. Sun Fenglou (Deputy Director of Propaganda and Planning Department of Jilin Provincial Tourism Bureau), Mr. Tan Yi (Deputy Chief of European and American Division of China International Travel Service), and Mr. Lin Baichun (General Manager of the Changbai Mountain Hotel).



This group has come here to learn more about tourism in the United States, in an effort to help China in developing its' tourist industry. The Center is considered a very successful attraction and the group wants to learn and experience all we have to offer.

They wanted to meet with organization experts, scholars, and public figures in cultural, artistic, scientific, academic, and economic fields. They would like to establish contacts and become acquainted and trained in these areas.

During his visit to China last year, President Rodgers assisted them in their efforts with training and tourism by giving advice and numerous lectures. He will be going there again this year.

Two of the five men from the delegation will be staying in Hawaii to learn advanced management and tourism from BYU-HC.



This visit marks the first time these men have been out of China. They have followed a busy schedule which included tours of the Centers' shows as well as behind the scenes and of BYU-Hawaii Campus. President Rodgers along with the Special Projects department took the group sight-seeing to the usual attractions including Valley of the Temples, Sea Life Park, the Pali Lookout, Punchbowl Cemetery, Paradise Park, University of Hawaii, the pineapple fields, Pearl Harbor, Iolani Palace, Chinatown, and Waikiki. As well as a few not so usual places like a large supermarket and a shopping mall (neither of which can be found in China).

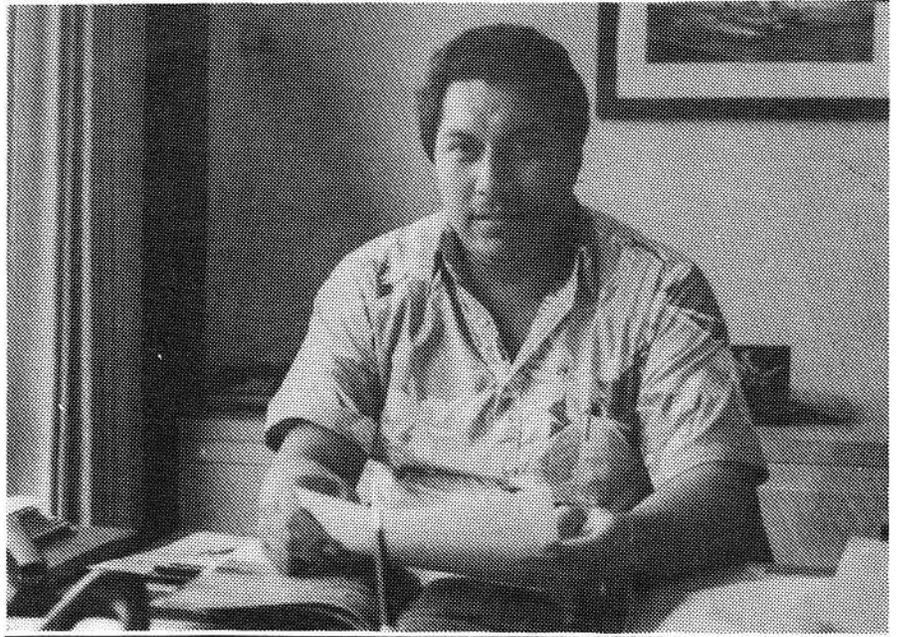
The delegation will be departing Honolulu for the West Coast where they will be covering Los Angeles and San Francisco's major attractions.

# Employee Turned Banker

Most of the employees at the Center will recognize the familiar face of Brent Schwenke, a former employee who recently left the Polynesian Cultural Center to find his fortune in Guam.

Brent began working here ten years ago as a demonstrator in the Samoan Village. He worked in the canoe pageant and the night show before serving a mission in Samoa in 1978. Upon returning in 1980, Brent worked in the Lights, Theater, and Sound Crew departments, where most of us probably remember him.

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Behind his desk on the 20th floor of the Castle & Cook Bldg. in downtown Honolulu.

During this time he earned a bachelors degree in Travel Management in 1981, another bachelors degree in Accounting in 1982 (both from BYU-HC), and recently in December of 1985 he obtained his MBA from Chaminade University.

Brent worked in the Waikiki Sales Office while training at the downtown Bank of Hawaii, as well as working on his masters program. He started training at the bank last year and has now been promoted to Loan Officer and placed in Guam. The job provides him with a house and a two year contract which can be extended if he wishes. He will be working for the Pacific Commercial Bank which is an affiliate of the Bank of Hawaii and of which the Bank of Hawaii is part owner.

When asked his feelings on the move to Guam Brent said, "I'll enjoy it, it'll be a little bit like going home (to Samoa) -- the weather is a lot like Samoa." He also said that eventually his family would like to return to Samoa. He also said that he will miss the people in Hawaii, at the Center, his friends, and the Sound Crew and Waikiki Office that he worked with.

Brent's wife Tagi, also familiar as a night show dancer, is excited and already has a job performing with a show in Guam. They have two children: Crystal, who's two years old, and Cherish, their one year old.

Guam is considered an up and coming business area, much like Hawaii was 20 years ago. It should prove a unique opportunity for the Schwenke family.

We send to them our aloha and best wishes for the future.

## Your Social Security For 1986

In an effort to help you to better understand what your social security deductions and benefits are all about, the Employee Benefits area of personnel is running a series of 5 articles. The articles will include information on Taxes, Retirement Benefits, Disability, Survivor Benefits and Medicare.

Should you have any questions about any of the articles, please feel free to contact Maka Obina, our Employee Benefits Consultant, at ext. 3191. Mahalo.

In 1986, **7.15%** of each of your paychecks is withheld to pay for Social Security. This amount is withheld on wages and salaries up to \$42,000.

This is 5.70% for Retirement, Disability, and Survivor Benefits and 1.45% to provide future hospital benefits under Medicare.

Persons earnings \$42,000 or more in 1986 will pay \$3,003 in Social Security taxes.

For 1987, the tax rate will remain the same, while the maximum earnings taxed is estimated to increase to approximately \$44,100, making the maximum tax payable being about \$3,153.

**Your employer pays an additional amount of tax equal to the tax you pay.**

Here are examples of Social Security taxes that will be paid on your earnings in 1986 and 1987.

ANNUAL EARNINGS	1986		1987	
	YOUR TAX	YOUR EMPLOYER'S TAX	YOUR TAX	YOUR EMPLOYER'S TAX
\$ 8,000	\$ 572	\$ 572	\$ 572	\$ 572
10,000	715	715	715	715
12,000	858	858	858	858
14,000	1,001	1,001	1,001	1,001
16,000	1,144	1,144	1,144	1,144
18,000	1,287	1,287	1,287	1,287
20,000	1,430	1,430	1,430	1,430
24,000	1,716	1,716	1,716	1,716
28,000	2,002	2,002	2,002	2,002
32,000	2,288	2,288	2,288	2,288
36,000	2,574	2,574	2,574	2,574
40,000	2,860	2,860	2,860	2,860
42,000	3,003	3,003	3,003	3,003
44,100	3,003	3,003	3,153*	3,153*

\*This figure depends on whether the taxable wage base will rise to the estimated \$44,100.

The **amount of earnings** subject to the Social Security tax increases by the same percentage that average pay levels increase throughout the country. The tax **rate** will increase two more times after 1987, until it reaches 7.65% in 1990.

### Income Taxes on Social Security Benefits

Persons with high incomes from other sources have part of their Social Security benefits (but not more than half) included in their taxable income for federal income tax purposes. The threshold amount is \$25,000 for single persons and \$32,000 for married couples filing a joint return (and zero for married couples filing separate returns if they live together at any time during the year). The regular Adjusted Gross Income, plus tax-exempt bond interest, plus one-half of Social Security benefits, is compared with the threshold amount, and half of any excess (but no more than half of the benefits) is added to the Adjusted Gross Income in computing income tax.

Example -- married couple

Adjusted gross income	\$30,000
Tax-free bond interest	4,000
1/2 of Social Security	6,000
Total	\$40,000
Less threshold amount	-32,000
Excess	\$8,000
Use 1/2 of excess	4,000
lessor 1/2 of Social Security	6,000

Income tax is based on adjusted gross income plus \$4,000, i.e., \$34,000.

Some state income-tax laws endeavor to follow the federal rules automatically, but most of them have already passed legislation to prevent taxing Social Security benefits. Consult your tax advisor on this.

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## Farewell To The Gee's

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Brother and Sister Gee, after having completed their 18 month mission at the Polynesian Cultural Center Mission Home, will be leaving for their home in Wyoming on April 24th. 1986.

The Center would like to extend our warmest, heartfelt farewell, in gratitude for their devoted service.

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## Boys, Boys, Boys

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Congratulations to Pam and Vatau Su'a; Pam recently gave birth to a 10lb 1oz baby boy, which they named Arthur Michael Su'a.

Congratulations to Joan and Bryan Bowles on the birth of their 8lb son which they named Javan.

Congratulations to Gil and Kalena Adolpho; Gil also gave birth to an 8lb baby boy.

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## Open Door Policy With President Rodgers

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All employees of the Polynesian Cultural Center are reminded that they are welcome to talk to President Rodgers during his 'Open Saturday' sessions. These sessions are held on the first Saturday of every month.

President Rodgers encourages anyone interested to call Darlene to set up a meeting with him. You will need to tell Darlene the nature of the meeting so that President Rodgers can be prepared with any pertinent information that is needed.

Rumor has it that President Rodgers is feeling a little lonely, so if you need a listening ear, President Rodgers is more than willing to listen.

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## CALENDAR

### Friday, April 18th

Roast Beef w/gravy, Deep Fried Mahi, scalloped potatoes, tartar sauce, corn, drink

### Saturday, 19th

Beef Curry Stew, Teri-Chicken w/sauce, rice, tossed salad w/1000 Island dressing, drink

### Monday 21th

Deep Fried Chicken w/giblet gravy, Beef Stew, rice, tossed salad w/dressing, drink

### Tuesday 22nd

Italian Spagetti, Roast Pork w/gravy, garlic bread, mixed veges., drink

### Wednesday 23rd

Braised Beef Tips, Pizza, oven brown potatoes, coleslaw salad, drink

### Thursday 24th

Hamburger Steak w/brown gravy, Beef Broccoli, three bean salad, steamed rice, drink

### Friday 25th

Roast Chicken w/gravy, Teriyaki Pork, coleslaw salad, rice, drink

### Saturday 26th

Salisbury Steak, Chili Frank, potato salad, dinner roll, mixed vegetables, drink

### Monday 28th

Pork Chop Suey, Breaded Pork w/brown gravy, rice, tossed salad w/1000 Island dressing, drink

### Tuesday 29th

Baked Lasagna, Sweet & Sour Spareribs, rice, garlic bread, mixed vegetables, drink

### Wednesday 30th

Kalua Pig, BBQ Chicken, rice, peas and carrots, drink

### Thursday, May 1st

Baked Meat Loaf, Chicken Stew, rice, corn, drink