



May 7, 1982

# update 82

Polynesian Cultural Center

## Volleyball Girls Put PCC in National Playoffs!

Congratulations are due to the PCC Womens' Volleyball team!

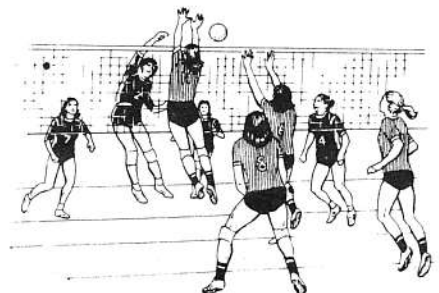
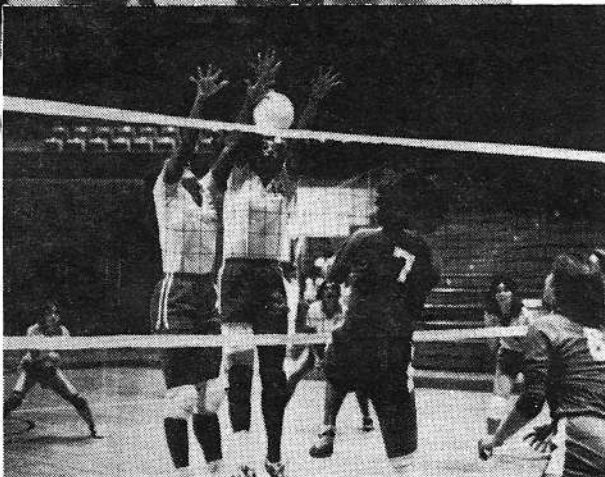
The girls came third in the State Regional playoffs for the AA (open) division, and have been invited to participate in the Nationals to be held in Hilo May 10 - 15.

The Nationals will bring together forty teams from across the United States, most of them first place winners in their regions.

Competition will be tough for the PCC girls, all of whom will be a lot younger than the players on the other teams. However, the team has proved itself already by this invitation, and our congratulations and full support go with them.

To the Polynesian Cultural Center girls -- Good Luck!

Photo by Earl Millham



## NEWS

# Management Changes Announced



Haunani Kaanaana

The General Manager has announced new appointments effective immediately.

Kalili Hunt has been reassigned to the position of Research Assistant in the Center. Haunani Kaanaana is named as the new Village Operations manager, and Afani Hō Kum will head the Cultural Orientation department.

Good wishes are extended to each of these employees as they begin new assignments!

## Cultural Research Corner

By Ed Kamaouha

The botanical name for "kava" was coined by Forrester, who called it "piper methysticum", an intoxicating pepper. The chemical analysis made by Cuzent reveals in the roots of the plant, a volative oil, yellowish lemon in color, starchy, and a balsamic resin.

Medical projects claim it is a spinal depressant rather than a cerebral depressant. It steadies the pulse, does not raise the temperature, and acts as a diuretic stomach tonic. Its chief medical use is the cure of chronic cystitis. Ellis, in Hawaii, recognizes the ava as a spinal depressant due to its ability to influence loss of control over the muscles of the legs.

Wide belief has it that kava is an alcoholic intoxicant, but some scholars dismiss that notion. Mariner relates that Tongans took food with kava to prevent nausea.

In Samoa, the heavy kava drinker allows it to be fermented for a day or two so that the pepper is mixed to give it a strong burning taste. Ha-

waiian kava is the strongest, while Samoan is the mildest.

Many legends tell of the origin of kava. In Western Samoa, Pili the demi-god, tells the story of Suasami'ava'ava, the son of the king of Fiji. When he died, he told a Samoan woman to care for the plant that would grow from his grave. A beautiful plant did spring up, and the woman noticed that arat that nibbled the root of the plant grew dizzy. She took this great treasure to Samoa.

In Eastern Samoa, legends say that Tagaloalagi, the supreme god of the skies, held a meeting with his son Taetagaloa. Lefanoga, another son, had attempted to eavesdrop as he took kava from the gods' plantation. He was caught doing so, and as he tried to flee, the kava grew heavier, and he slipped under its weight. He fell through the heavens still clinging to the kava root, and landed on the islands of Manu'a where he planted the kava for the Royal Family of Manu'a.

## May Day Winners Announced

The winners of the lei making contest held in the Center this past May Day are as follows:

Fresh Materials category:

- 1st Prize** - Vasiti Turagavou (Laie Community entrant)  
**2nd Prize** - Margo Howlett (PCC employee)

Dried Materials category:

- 1st Prize** - Penina Ngatuvai (PCC employee)  
**2nd Prize** - Selai Lesu (PCC employee)

Artificial Materials category:

- 1st Prize** - Silina Mocetoka (Laie Community entrant)

Shell Materials category:

- 1st Prize** - Lusiana Tawaqa (PCC employee)  
**2nd Prize** - Tauamo Malufau (PCC employee)

Winners of the Department Category

- 1) Fresh Materials: Fijian Village
- 2) Dried Materials: Weavers
- 3) Artificial Materials: Maori Village

Over-all Department Prizes:

- 1st Prize:** Fijian Village (\$100 cash)  
**2nd Prize:** Maori Village and Wardrobe (\$10 each)  
**3rd Prize:** Hawaiian Village (3 gal tub of ice cream)

Overall Individual Category:

- 1st Prize:** Vasiti Turagavou  
**2nd Prize:** Mata Manueli  
**3rd Prize:** Margo Howlett

## Canoe Winners

Tahiti won the Canoe Decorating Contest on May Day. Tonga was second, and the Maori Canoe third.

# NEWS

## May Day Pageantry Impressive

PCC's May Day pageantry was colorful and impressive this year.

Shown here are a few employees who participated in the Canoe Pageant.



**Gary Kamauoha**  
on the Samoan Canoe.



**Joe Manumaleuga, also of the Samoan Canoe.**

Photos by Vernice Pere



**Waisea Lesuma and Pauline Sokia on the Fijian Alii Canoe.**

### Introducing



## Elder Robert E. Wells

Elder Robert E. Wells has been a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy of the Church since October 1, 1976.

After graduating from Brigham Young University, Elder Wells spent 18 years as a banking executive in South America. In 1974, he was called as head of Central Purchasing for the Church's worldwide operations.

As a young man, Elder Wells served as a missionary in South America. He has been a branch president in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay, and a Regional Representative.

While he was living in Ecuador, he was called to serve as a mission president in Mexico for three years.

The father of seven children, Elder Wells is currently residing in Santiago, Chile, as supervisor of the Church's activities in Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

He was born on December 28, 1927 in Las Vegas, Nevada to Robert S. Wells and Zella V. Earl. His first wife, Meryl, died in an airplane crash in Argentina. He later married Helen Walser of El Paso, Texas.

# EDITORIAL

## viewpoint vernicepere

Our Laie community will host many visitors to the BYUH annual Womens' Conference this weekend. As I prepared to participate by sharing the role that women play within the Center in the preservation of culture, I was made aware of a conference planner's concern that such a presentation might be too "touristy."

That comment has caused me to review the place of our ethnic culture in our lives as women in the wider world in which we live and work. Many women employees here in the Center educate and entertain our guests, and this, presumably, is the role that critics would call "touristy." However, what must be seen in that endeavour is the fact of its value. The weaving of a basket must be seen as a worthy pursuit requiring skill and practice, patience, creativity, and a sense of beauty and design.

If it is "touristy" to share such insights, then I hope that we do so daily in all areas of our presentations. I am reminded of weaver Emma Langi's observation in last week's Update when she said "Weaving may seem boring, but I feel proud when the tourists watch and admire my techniques."

Emma expresses the artist's universal pleasure in work that is appreciated and admired as it is done with excellence. No one questions the artist to choose his materials and paint with oil, water, or acrylics, nor the sculptor to choose between marble and stone. We are left wondering, then, what materials a Polynesian weaver might choose to work with to avoid a "touristy" result at the same time that she adheres to traditional demands in her art.

Is the difference in the object produced by the craftsman? Are Emma's baskets less authentic and therefore more "touristy" than Sui Aiolutepua's fine mat?

What Emma's example suggests is that, in Polynesia, to weave a basket with excellence is, in every way, to fulfil oneself as a woman. To pound the tapa and ink on the designs with care and pride is to achieve the same end. Likewise, to stitch the weeks and months into a Hawaiian quilt, to fold a year into a fine mat, or to dance into old age with dignity and grace is to celebrate being woman in Polynesia.

In an age when women are urged to "be different," it is pleasing to know that the Center provides the stage for women of Polynesia to be themselves -- with excellence -- and to find fulfilment in doing so.

Pride in workmanship, willingness to engage in laborious activity in order to produce work of beauty, attention to detail, patience, simplicity, grace. All of these, and more, are characteristic of the women who contribute daily to both the Center's specific presentations and overall image.

## Happy Birthday!

Mele Taumoepeau	May 7
Moana Ofahengaue	7
Benjamin Pokipala	7
Sela Sanft	7
Taavaoga Soifua	8
Mark Paul	8
Anna Wong	9
Robin Crowell	9
Sione Unga	10
Siliva Brown	10
Yin Huat Thong	10
Sione Tupola	11
Lata Fale	11
James Kaka	11
Tagivale Faumuina	11
Tanya Santos	11
Josefa Sokia	13
Makeleta Finau	13

## New Employees

New employees in the Center as announced by the Personnel Office recently include:

Art Hannemann and Vai Laumatia, who have been hired as Personnel Trainers.

Ben Nhipali, who has accepted a position in the Center Cash Room.

Valerie Cravens, who will head the Center sports program for the summer.

Watch the Update for feature articles on these new employees in future issues.