



Polynesian Cultural Center Employee Newsletter • Laie, Hawaii • Published Weekly • August 17, 1984

## **Samoan Cultural Day**

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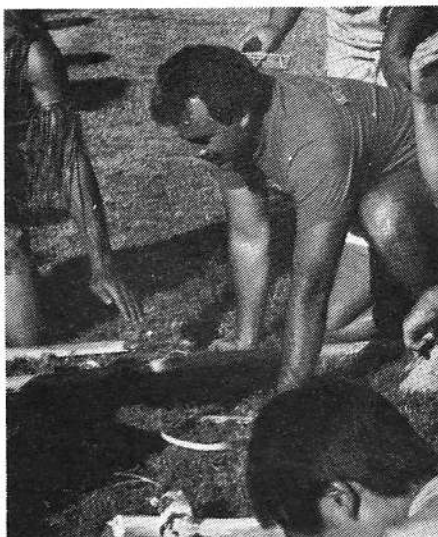
# Fijian village worker wins prize in Samoan Day Tauluga contest

A very exciting day for guests and village workers, the Samoan Cultural Day, Saturday, August 11, gave many the chance to compete in and learn about the Samoan cultural activities.

Guest competitions included lei, visor and bracelet making, fire starting and the fiti game. Marty Galinda of Los Angeles, California won the fire starting contest and was awarded a hau boat and woven fan for his efforts.

First place for visor making went to Bev Parrett. Village boys competed in a demonstration of their skill in climbing the coconut tree, husking and cracking the coconut and scraping it out. The first place team was Lokeni Lokeni and Uisa Peseta followed in second place by Iliafi Nauhi and Kuka Fareti. The third place team was Lynn Scanlan and Ailaoa Siilata followed in fourth by Fata Fiau and Naunna Malaefou.

The highlight of the day was the Tauluga dance competition with the first prize going to Ivone McCarthy of the Fijian Village, second prize to Victoria Laufou of Laie and third place to twins Ahitasi and Maonui Fiso of Laie Park.



## Update

The Update is published weekly by the Public Relations Department as a Service to employees of the Polynesian Cultural Center. Update Editor and Assistant to the Director.... Loni Manning



Ivone McCarthy-first place



Victoria Laufou-second place

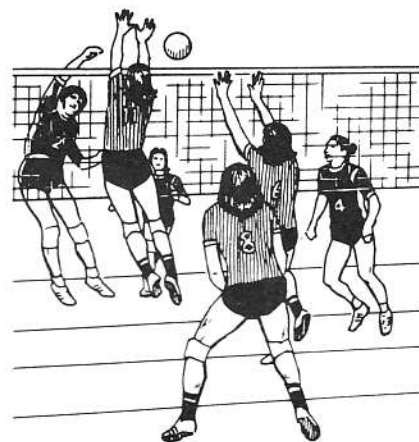


Ahitasi and Maonui Fiso-third place

## General Manager's Award

Five theater workers have received the General Managers \$25 award for their outstanding and consistent performance. Award winners include: Lucy Fonoimoana of the Tahitian section, Kim Makikau, Hawaiian section, Hema (Sione Luvaka), drummer, Tavita Maake, Tongan section and usher Collin Ramdeen. Vice-President Cy Bridges presented the awards. Congratulations go to these five theate personnel.

## Olympic fans, here's your chance!



Now that the Olympics are over, it is your chance to compete! The Polynesian Cultural Center will be opening the 1984 Volleyball Tournament for employees. So get your friends and co-workers together for that team spirit and department competition!! Departments may enter more than one team if there are enough interested players.

Teams may register with Vai Laumatia in the Orientation Room on the second floor of the Employee Building. All teams must register by August 31, with participating departments paying a \$20 registration fee. Tournament games will begin Saturday, September 15 at 7:00 A.M. All games will be played on Saturday mornings between 7 A.M. and 12 noon. Those chosen as team captains should meet September 3 at 9:00 A.M. in the Orientation Room. There will be tournament games for mens and womens teams. For further information contact Peter Johnson or Eric Beaver, of the Sports Committee, at Guest Services, ext. 3128.



# Special Projects...What is it?



Rubina Forrester, Vernice Pere and Joe Po'uha hang buntings on the band gazebo, one of the many projects handles by the Special Projects Department.

## Happy Birthday Ralph Rodgers...

The Polynesian Cultural Center would like to wish General Manager Ralph Rodgers a Happy Birthday. Rodgers who celebrates his birthday on August 16, will be returning from the mainland this weekend. All those who would like to wish him a Happy Birthday may sign his card, today, in the employee facility or Monday in the Special Projects office.



One of the most diverse and interesting departments in the Center is the Special Projects Department managed by Pam Su'a, and staffed by Margo Inkley--researcher and writer, Celva Boon--transcriber, Joe Po'uha--Special Projects Assistant, Tammy Au--Secretary to Special Projects and to Vice President Vernice Pere.

Recent special projects organized by this department include the employee Easter egg hunt, July 24th program and fireworks, 4th of July float, Chamber of Commerce 500 person dinner, last year's Anniversary activities, and more.

Their latest endeavors included the research, procurement of materials and decoration of the shave ice stand, Mission Complex, band gazebo and soon to be decorated Tahitian canoe landing.

The Special Projects Department is currently working on an oral history project where they have collected more than 75 histories from people who have seen the Center grow and change over the past 20 years. Each day this small staff keeps a daily historical record of special events, visitors and attendance counts at the Center, as well as conducting a bi-weekly survey of visitor attitudes collected from night show guests, the results being compiled and distributed to Management Team members. Historical and Cultural Research is one of the most important parts of this departments work as they compile materials document facts and coordinate research with the Institute for Polynesian Studies.

Special Projects is concerned with maintaining good community relations by coordinating activities with the Laie community and the university.

A very fascinating department, you may see anything from flower arranging, to sewing to hammering happening in the Special Projects area.

## Words of Wisdom

"The fear of becoming a 'has been' keeps some people from becoming anything."

"Life only demands from you the strength you possess. Only one feat is possible--not to have run away."



## News Bits

Laie Community Association Meeting  
--Wednesday, August 22, 6:45 P.M. at Laie Elementary School Cafetorium. This is a very important meeting--items to be discussed include drug and alcohol abuse and Kuilima development. Everyone is invited.

## Mapusaga Reunion Meeting

Final planning meeting for the Mapusaga High School reunion will be held this Sunday, August 19, 1984 at 6 P.M. at the Reid's residence: 55-529 Naniloa Loop. Call 293-2006 or BYU ext. 3665 for information.

## Cultural Corner

*Institute for Polynesian Studies*

Homesickness, that longing for home, the missing of one's family and island, is an integral part of the Polynesian psyche.

In the book *Maori and Polynesian* J. Macmillan Brown the author writes that homesickness is a feature of emigrant Maoris especially if the home has been left too far off for frequent returns. Even though the homesickness may diminish with the passing years, the actual migrants never lose it. The old sentiments are kept alive with their posterity.

A.M. Hocart in his book *Lau Islands*, Fiji has observed the same emotions among the people there:

"Lauans suffer from homesickness (tailasa); there are parts of Fiji where men are inclined to wander abroad; not so in Lau because they are comfortable and their islands have a charm for them. One man thus describes his feelings in Tonga: 'Both my body and my soul were homesick because they have different customs there. I did not like the way they prepared meals. If a man is homesick in Toga let him not go down to the beach and see the setting sun; there is not a bit of his soul that remains in Tonga: it is all in Fiji.' A man will become homesick if he wees 'the clouds of his country'."

## "Extra Mile" Award



**Vika Taukolo**

Two Village Operations workers have received the "Extra Mile" award this week. They are Vika Taukolo of the Tongan village and Lokeni Siilata from the Samoan village.

According to Village Operations Manager Haunani Kaanaana, Vika has outstanding qualities that are necessary in the hospitality industry. She is friendly, well groomed, well spoken and has an overwhelming abundance of patience which is absolutely necessary in her particular area of demonstration. She teaches guests how to make birds from the coconut leaf. In her group she usually has over twenty people, and should any of the guests misunderstand her instructions, Vika painstakingly retraces the steps. Every guest who starts a bird, completes it. Even when it is closing time, Vika stays on to help those not yet finished.

No, he does not climb the coconut tree, or husk the coconut, or do any of the show stopping acts of his fellow employees. But if you visit the Samoan



**Lokeni Siilata**

village, you would find Siilata sitting cross legged in the chiefs house surrounded by enthusiastic, busy guests. He greets each new person with a smile and "Talofa," and invites them to join the circle. He speaks slowly and clearly, giving step by step instructions about how to make a coconut "sun-visor" a very welcome addition to the guests attire, especially in the hot sun.

Guests feel very comfortable learning from Siilata, because he radiates positive feelings of goodwill. When the guests have completed their "sun-visor" Siilata compliments them and then places a flower in the visor. These flowers, he has gathered and brought to work with him.

Almost every evening, Siilata can be found still sitting in the Chiefs house making visors sometimes until seven o'clock.

Siilata goes more than the extra mile, his good works have traveled thousands of miles around the world, through his true Polynesian hospitality.