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# PACIFIC™

MAGAZINE

**Internment:  
postwar camps  
on Saipan**

**Outrigger:  
sailing  
from Anuta**

**Seeing  
Suva  
on foot**

**Interviews:  
Robert Rex,  
Premier of Niue;  
Hilda Lini,  
Women's Bureau**

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S/43



Solomon Islands \$91.50  
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**Sir Thomas Davis Defeated  
in Cook Islands, Page 11**



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## Cover

**A Rarotongan woman at home in the Cook Islands. Photo by George Balazs. The Cook Islands voted out incumbent Prime Minister Sir Thomas Davis in March 30 elections. See story on page 11.**

## Independence Front Considers Split

*Radio Australia*

The Independence Front, with a majority in New Caledonia's territorial assembly, says it might consider formation of a provisional government in exile, based in Vanuatu, and a unilateral declaration of independence from France. This followed disclosure of a communique from the French government which proposed the future replacement of the current government council with a territorial government. It would have an assembly with an elected president who would appoint and dismiss ministers.

In a statement in late March, the Independence Front, which unites five parties or movements, said it could not accept the overall internal autonomy package proposed by France which would retain control of defense, law, and order.

## Sanitation Project Funding Requested

*The National Union, Ponape*

The Truk cholera epidemic proved the need for water and sewage projects for outer islands throughout the Federated States of Micronesia, according to Truk Gov. Erhart Aten. Aten appeared before the U.S. House Interior Public Lands and Parks Subcommittee in Washington on February 28 to request \$15.9 million to complete construction of water catchments and water-sealed toilets throughout Truk to prevent the spread of cholera to the rest of the FSM. The cost of combating cholera, if it spreads to any of the other FSM states, could cost even more than the funds requested for Truk, the governor said.

[As of mid-March, 2,173 cholera-like cases had been reported with 833 bacteriologically confirmed since last August out of a population of some 38,000. New cases have slowed to a trickle.]

## Tuvalu Health Plan

*Tuvalu News Sheet, Funafuti*

The Save the Children Federation has been given the go-ahead by Government to develop a comprehensive primary health care system which will provide integrated curative, preventative, promotive health services to all citizens of Tuvalu, which will be cost effective, and which will place maximum emphasis on community

involvement and the utilization of local resources. In developing such a system, the following areas will be taken into account: nutrition; maternal and child care; environmental sanitation; personal hygiene; family planning; immunization; common diseases; and accidents.

## Marshalls Propose New Agreement to U.S.

*Gazette, Marshall Islands*

The Cabinet of the Republic of the Marshall Islands approved on March 11 a draft proposal for a Mutual Security Agreement to be considered in place of the Compact of Free Association. It is a widely held view among both Marshallese and American officials that the Compact would not win approval of the Marshallese voters or the U.S. Congress.

Recognizing the desire of both governments to terminate the Trusteeship, the Agreement provides for U.S. recognition of the Marshall Islands as fully independent without any conditions. It then provides for American military and national security requirements in the Marshall Islands, and, in return, provides for appropriate economic assistance to the Marshalls.

[The Agreement calls for \$50 million annually for 15 years, plus \$15 million annually for Kwajalein use and other military activities.]

The Agreement stipulates that all claims resulting from the past U.S. nuclear testing program and other military activities in the Marshalls shall be eligible for judicial review in the Federal Courts of the U.S. The Compact proposes that all such claims be settled by payment of a specified amount and be barred from U.S. courts forevermore.

## Turn Off the Lights

*Marianas Variety, Saipan*

[From an editorial.] The Public Works Department reported in late February that 2,700 consumers are behind payment in their utility bills. Some are several years behind, and some owe several thousands to the government-operated utility. Bills which piled up before Oct. 1, 1982, total \$1.9 million, and in the first quarter alone of this fiscal period, customers did not pay a total of \$304,000. More incredible is the fact that of those 2,700 delinquent customers, only 14 have had their electricity cut off since last June.

## Rubbed Wrong Way

*PDN, Guam*

Citizens for a Decent Community joined religious leaders in supporting a bill which they hope will wipe out houses of prostitution. The bill would require that most of the people who give massages be certified. License requirements would be an official health certificate, training certification, and a clean police record over the past five years. "I think 99% of massage parlors along Marine Drive would be out of business," a spokesman for CDC said in a public hearing.

## Journalist Deported From Port Vila

*Fiji Times, Suva*

The editor of Vanuatu's only independent newspaper, *The Voice of Vanuatu*, claimed that outspoken comments in her paper against Prime Minister Father Walter Lini were responsible for her deportation. Christine Coombe was deported to Australia in late March. She told reporters in Brisbane that she feared Vanuatu was heading toward a dictatorship. Outspoken comments about the country's power struggles (in which three cabinet ministers were recently either sacked or resigned) and alleged loan-raising irregularities by Lini had led to her deportation, she claimed.

## All Created Equal

*Samoa News, Pago Pago*

A 1981 law barring untitled persons from going to court to dispute the decision of their senior *matai* (chief) on family matters has been declared unconstitutional by the high court. In a decision issued March 7, Chief Justice Robert Gardner found that the constitution of American Samoa entitles all persons to due process of law. "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law," American Samoa's constitution says. That constitution does not distinguish between *matais* and non-*matais*: "It protects all people," Gardner wrote.

*News Briefs items are drawn from the region's news media. Because of space limitations, material might be edited slightly from the original sources cited.*

# Melanesian Winds in Polynesian Sails



by Richard Feinberg

**A**nuta is a tiny, isolated Polynesian island in the eastern Solomons, and its people are among the most traditional in Polynesia. They are ruled, as in the old days, by hereditary chiefs, imbued by virtue of their genealogies with awesome *mana*. Principles of kinship, family organization, ritual, and economic life remain largely unchanged.

Anutans are among the few remaining Pacific island people to make long deep-sea voyages in the old-style vessels. As recently as 1966, a canoe was sailed through stormy seas to Tikopia, over 70 miles distant. And annual voyages to Patutaka (sometimes cited as Fataka or Mitre Island), an uninhabited rock more than 30 miles to the southeast, continue to this day.

I had been living on Anuta for just under three months, engaged in the first stages of an anthropological investigation. One evening, at 10 o'clock, Pu Tokerau—my host and mentor in Anutan ways—approached to ask if I would sail with him to Patutaka the next morning. The purpose of the voyage was, he said, to hunt for birds.

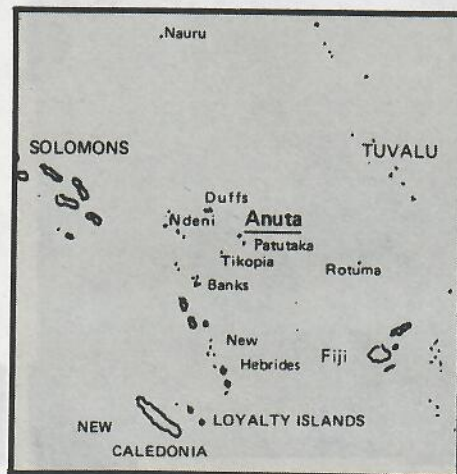
I was surprised to see that he would undertake a three- to four-day ocean voyage with so little time for preparation. And I faced the prospect of the trip with trepidation, knowing it would be uncomfortable to sit for days in a wooden canoe, with no protection from the elements, no good place to sleep, and no promise of adequate food. Still, I knew I had been offered a rare opportunity and would not have missed it.

I expected that we would be leaving first thing in the morning, so I got up early to complete some notes and pack my gear. When I finished

around 10:00 a.m., I found the men still working to prepare the canoes. By the time that they had moved the vessels to the launching site, plugged some of the larger holes, rigged the masts and sails, and loaded the supplies, it was already mid-day.

Pu Toke(rau) had commented that we would not bring prepared food because it was in short supply. I suggested that we fire up a cooking oven and postpone our trip until the food was ready, but he argued that we ought to leave as soon as possible to take advantage of a favorable wind.

It seemed to me that there was not much wind from anywhere, and Pu Toke had said earlier that lack of food was one of the great problems of this journey. My concern, however, proved to be unfounded. In addition to biscuits and tuna, taken from my own supplies, each canoe was packed with about 50 drinking coconuts, two watermelons, several gallons of water, a couple bundles of sugarcane, and plenty of cooked food, including taro puddings, several varieties of *ma* (starchy food which has been fer-



Above: A sailing canoe of Anuta.  
Left: Anuta is a Polynesian outlier in the midst of Melanesia.

mented in underground pits), baked *Cyrtosperma* corns, and a half dozen sweet potatoes.

About noontime, we finally got underway. The expedition included two canoes: a 32-foot vessel called *Puinga* and the smaller *Tapurupuru*, measuring 26 feet. I sailed in *Puinga* with Pu Toke and five other men; *Tapurupuru* had a complement of six Anutan sailors. In addition, one woman sailed in each canoe. This would be extraordinary on local fishing trips, but on a voyage that may last for several days, women come along to cook and tend supplies.

**A** man's first trip to Patutaka is marked by a rite of passage known as *te vai pa*, and despite the fact that I was just a short-term visitor, I was required to go through the ceremony. Thus, while the canoes were being readied, I was painted with turmeric and dressed in an Anutan waist cloth.

When we left, the sea was calm; the sky but slightly overcast. It soon became apparent, however, that the wind had shifted, and we had to paddle most of the way into a headwind which became stronger as the day progressed. To use the sail at all, we had to tack. On an Anutan canoe, this meant paddling for perhaps an hour and a half to the east, then sailing for 20 minutes to the south, and repeating the process.

Before we started out, Pu Toke had estimated that we would get to Patutaka between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m., but by late afternoon, when the two canoes rendezvoused for the evening prayer, our destination was still no more than an occasionally visible speck on the horizon.

As night fell, the air turned crisp and cool, but with the exercise of constant paddling, it was pleasantly refreshing. After a couple of hours at sea, we fell into a smooth rhythm. As we proceeded on our zig-zag course, my mind wandered to the thousands of similar voyages which took place over the centuries, populating and shaping the history of the Pacific islands. In our canoe, we had enough supplies to last a week at sea, and it struck me how easy it would have been to reach Tikopia or even more distant islands. It struck me how easy it was to develop a sense of con-

fidence that all you have to do is provision yourself for a week or two at sea and expect that in whatever direction you go you will probably find land. And it struck me how almost inevitable it was for seafaring people, with their sense of self-confidence and lust for travel and adventure, to find and settle virtually every habitable island in the Pacific.

As the hours passed, however, the warm glow of satisfaction soon gave way to boredom. After midnight, lightning brightened the sky, reminding us that the completion of our journey was not by any means assured.

As we paddled through the rain, the cold became intense. Pu Toke removed his shirt and gave it to Nau Rongovaru, who was crouching in the "hold" for some slight protection from the wind as she guarded the fire stick. Otherwise, my companions seemed oblivious to the temperature. I felt a bit bashful about putting on my plastic raincoat but finally conceded to my better judgement.

By 3:00 a.m., I started dozing off each time we took a break from paddling. But as we never halted long enough for me to find a semi-comfortable position, I probably did not get more than 15 minutes sleep. I had a short "battle" with Pu Tongotere, who wanted me to stop and rest. But all in all, I managed to remain awake and contribute to the shared effort.

When dawn finally arrived, Patutaka was clearly visible. I went astern to get my camera when suddenly there was a hit on one of our trolling lines. Despite taking down one of the sails, the fish held three of us to a standstill for 15 minutes before breaking the 80 pound test line and escaping. Within a few minutes, there was a hit on the other even heavier line, which promptly snapped. Pu Tongotere quickly put on a new hook

and bait. Immediately the line was taken—and snapped once more.

At about 8:00 a.m., after a good 20 hours at sea, we arrived at our destination—a two-peaked monolith with huge breakers crashing into its 500-foot rock walls, and sending spray 40 feet into the air. After rendezvousing for the morning prayer, we went around the island to a semi-protected cove where the waves looked almost reasonable. The boat pulled up to within 50 yards of shore, and the rest of the way we had to swim.

I decided to try taking all my gear at once. I had not counted, however, upon the strong current and rip tide created by the ocean rushing past the outside of the cove, the four- to six-foot waves pounding in toward the rocks, and the water surging back to sea. Thus, I got only about two thirds of the way before the package became too much of a burden and I had to set it down. The bundle was sealed well enough to float, but it was not completely waterproof. Especially, the bag with camera and film, which I had opened several times, leaked badly, saturating the contents.

Patutaka is as inhospitable an island as one could imagine in a South Sea environment. The landing site



**Water-damaged souvenirs of the author's sail on a traditional canoe.**

**The bundle with his camera leaked while he swam to shore.**

consisted of a narrow canyon, surrounded on three sides by sheer cliffs and by the ocean on the fourth. The canyon floor comprised volcanic boulders, with no soil and not even a flat surface large enough to sit comfortably.

After a breakfast of sweet potato and limpets, most of us laid down to sleep as well as we could on the rocks. A few men went back to watch the canoes (there is no place where they might be beached) and did some fishing for the evening meal. And two or three men went around to the other side of the island to check out the trail to the summit.

The sun became quite hot, and it was impossible to sleep, so I decided to explore the island. But I soon found walking on the rough, hot boulders difficult and painful.

It was apparent that there was no place to go in any case. The rocks absorbed the sun's heat, making the canyon into a scalding oven, and the prospect of climbing out of the water again over the sharp rocks discouraged me from going for a swim.

The only "fresh" water consisted of stagnant pools in the rocks, where rain accumulated. The only mammals were rats. Yet, there were insects in

abundance. Nonetheless, the island is a fascinating place. The appearance of its cliffs and floor is very different from the other islands of the eastern Solomons. Its numerous tidal pools housed many species of marine fauna. Aside from limpets, there were fish and eels which I could not identify, crabs by the hundreds, and thousands of tiny fish which cling to moist rocks and jump several feet when startled. Especially at dawn and dusk, the sky was blackened with birds swarming over the hills.

By mid-afternoon, Pu Teakena and Pu Tongotere had returned from their scouting expedition to report that the trail to the hilltop was impassible, so there would be no bird hunting that night. Pu Toke said that we would check it again the next morning, and if the waves had not subsided enough to get ashore at the path, we would have to leave without the birds for which we had come.

That night, I slept upon a rock which was surprisingly well contoured to my body and was even protected a bit by an overhanging ledge so that with my raincoat as a blanket, I was able to stay reasonably warm and dry despite a good deal of rain. Pu Toke managed to crawl under the same ledge, but Pu Matauea and the two women slept in the rain all night. Most of the men went fishing; the rest went to the second hill and captured a half dozen birds.

The next morning, I was set to leave when I was told we would be staying another day to collect limpets in lieu of the birds. So I braced myself for another boring, hot, uncomfortable day. But by now, the paper I had brought was fairly dry, so I passed the morning with informants outlining Anuta's kinship system. In the afternoon, I asked if we could paddle once around the island. Pu Toke was about to pick up several people who had

gone in search of coconuts and yams, and he suggested that I join him.

Being prepared for the current, carting only my camera, and letting the water carry me, the swim to the canoe was very easy. Once we got out of the cove, however, the wind kicked up to over 20 knots, creating big waves and a chop that constantly sent water over the outrigger and into the canoe as we waited for our comrades. None of the party seemed to have much trouble getting through the 10- to 12-foot surf, but for their efforts, they found few dry coconuts and no yams at all.

**W**ith 11 people and a stormy sea, the vessel seemed more like a submarine as we circumnavigated Patutaka. When one sees the island from a distance, it is not apparent just how big it is. But after paddling around it, Patutaka looks to be perhaps a mile in length with peaks far higher than Anuta's hill. Hard as it is to believe, the spot where we camped was not only the flattest looking place on the entire island, but its four- to six-foot waves offshore constituted the best landing site.

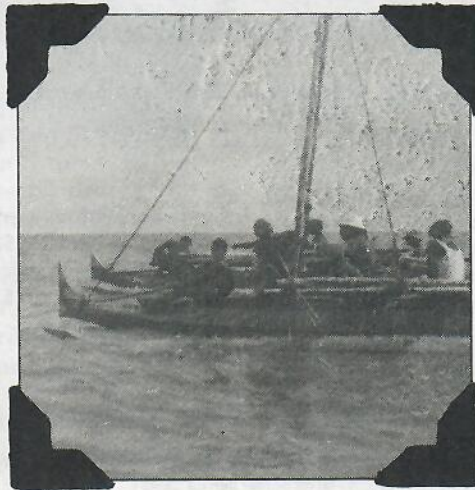
When we returned to the campsite, it was almost dusk. After dinner, Pu Toke went out to watch the canoe for the night. I stayed ashore again and for the first time in three days got a fairly good night's rest.

The next morning, Pu Toke wanted to be underway by 7:00 a.m., so at daybreak we began loading the canoes. We would have been on schedule, but then we waited for a fairly lengthy prayer and spent a long time eating breakfast. By the time we actually put out to sea, it was mid-morning. But this time, running before a steady wind of 20 knots, we covered the 30-plus miles by early afternoon.

I was met at the beach by my "bond-friend" Pu Paone and several classificatory "father's sisters" to complete the *va pa* rites. As the remainder of the crew began to carry the canoes up to the beach, *Puinga's* bow broke off. I later asked what would have happened had it broken a few hours earlier. Pu Toke summed up the consensus when he answered with a laugh: "We don't know. Might be we could have died at sea."

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*Richard Feinberg is an associate professor of anthropology at Kent State University, Ohio, USA. His voyage to Patutaka occurred during field work on Anuta in 1972-73.*





The Suva municipal market is a popular destination for tourists due to its color and activity.

# Seeing Suva

## By Foot

by Robert F. Kay

**M**ere Nawaqatabu glanced once again at the clock on the lobby wall of the Fiji Visitors Bureau. It was several minutes before 10:00 a.m. and her walking tour was about to depart. "Let's give the Nicholsons a few more minutes to get here," she told me. "If not, I'll give you a personal tour."

At precisely 10 o'clock, a freshly scrubbed American family stood at the doorway looking for the person who would lead them around Suva. Mere grinned at the Nicholsons and their three youngsters and we all exchanged introductions.

She clasped her hands together and shyly went into a lecturer's pose. "Before we begin the tour I'd like to give you a little background on Suva," she said. "The

first white settlers came here in the 1870s to plant sugar cane and cotton. Both crops failed because the climate and soil were too poor to support them. Suva became the capital of Fiji in 1882 because the old capital, Levuka, was surrounded by cliffs and there was no room to expand. Suva was chosen over several sites because of its fine harbor and because of political considerations. The Polynesian Company, a trading firm, owned 90,000 acres of land here and it was to their benefit for Suva to become the capital."

Mere explained that in recent years villagers from outlying areas had increasingly flocked to Suva in search of work and better educational opportunities for their children. Her own family had migrated to Suva from the Lau Islands and had benefited from the move. Here her brother had found work as a longshoreman, her nephew had become a doctor, and she had graduated from a secretarial school.

After Mere's mini-lecture we crossed Usher Street, a four lane free-for-all, to the cavernous municipal market. The sidewalk surrounding it was lined with stands from which vendors sold vegetables and with others who sat cross-legged on mats, hawking oranges and huge grapefruits. The interior of the market, which resembled a warehouse, was also cluttered with stalls. As we passed through the crowded bazaar, we were greeted by mounds of long string beans, hot peppers, bananas, taro, mangos, cassava, papayas, and a host of other exotic fruits and vegetables.

We followed her, wending through shoppers clustered

## GPH: 'Echo of Empire'

by Alec Hepburn

The British Empire may be long gone, but it will never really be dead while there are still places like the Grand Pacific Hotel, a dignified white colonial-era edifice that graces Victoria Parade in Suva, the capital of the Fiji Isles.

Shaded by soaring coconut palms and set back from the busy road behind broad green lawns and beds of tropical flowers, the Grand Pacific today is every bit as elegant as it was in its heyday in the 1920s. A real "Echo of Empire" in a rapidly changing world.

In those long ago days, the British colonials would sit in their wicker chairs in the main lounge, amid the potted palms in their highly-polished brass urns, cooled by slowly revolving ceiling fans, while white-turbaned waiters served them iced drinks or afternoon tea.

Sixty years later very little has changed. Only the British colonials are gone. The wicker chairs, the potted palms and the ceiling fans are all still there. Modern-day tourists can still enjoy the height of colonial elegance as they sip a cooling drink, though nowadays the waiters wear Fijian sulus rather than Indian garb.

The story of the Grand Pacific is really the story of Suva itself, for when the hotel was opened in May 1914, the Fijian capital was just a little over 40 years old and still no more than a collection of rough shacks in a forgotten backwater of the British Empire. Hotel and city were to grow side by side.

Until 1914 Suva had no real hotel accommodation for travelers, the closest being a rough and ready South Seas establishment called "The Suva Hotel." With the opening of the Grand Pacific, the Fijian capital suddenly had a quality hotel that was to set the standard in elegance and comfort for the entire South Pacific. It even offered its guests iced bath water.

The Grand Pacific Hotel, or G.P.H. as it was often called, was built by the Union Steam Ship Company as a staging point for its New Zealand and Canadian based shipping services.

The beautiful harbor-side site chosen for the hotel was the spot where commoners were allowed to land in the days of the Fijian Kings. Beyond the limits of Suva when the hotel was opened, Victoria Parade was extended out to it and slowly upgraded from a rough track into the beautiful rain tree lined boulevard it is today.

A historic city landmark, the Grand Pacific is a truly unique building, for it was designed in the manner of the first class accommodation found on oceanliners of the period. Its original suites are like ship cabins, opening one side onto a wide verandah or "deck," on the other side onto a balcony that looks down into the main lounge. In the old days, saltwater baths and shipboard plumbing added to the nautical atmosphere.

Large modern accommodation wings have been added to the hotel over the years, as well as a swimming pool garden with its accompanying bars and facilities, but the main building is still much as it was.

Across the way, on weekends, white-flanneled cricketers play on the bright green grass of Albert Park. Nearby is the very British "Thurston Gardens" and next door is Government House, guarded by soldiers in scarlet tunics. Viewed from the breeze-cooled verandah of the Grand Pacific Hotel, the echo of the old British Empire is taking a long time to fade away.

around the stalls, down the aisles. She hoisted a coconut in the air and explained its uses. "From this we get fiber for string, water to drink, milk for sauces and desserts, and animal feed. And that's just for starters!"

Mrs. Nicholson picked up a green bottle of pungent smelling oil and before she had an opportunity to ask, Mere said, "It's coconut oil for the skin. We rub it on after bathing and use it as a baby oil or for massage." Mrs. Nicholson bought a bottle of the oil and several brown bags of aromatic Indian spices to take home. I purchased a pound of kava root, which is strained through water to produce the national drink of Fiji. We paused to peek inside a special kava drinking room within the market where the sounds of boisterous story telling and gossip echoed from wall to wall. Seated on benches, men and women gestured animatedly and downed half coconut shells brimming with kava. The bitter tasting, dishwater colored brew is drunk copiously in homes, offices, and villages throughout Fiji.

Adjacent to the market, the bus terminal roared with incoming and outgoing diesels that belched plumes of black smoke. Buses jockeyed for position and honked impatiently in an effort to pull alongside of concrete islands crowded with grocery-laden "maramas" (housewives). While passengers stepped aboard the buses, Indians hawked packets of peanuts and roasted peas (called beans) through the windows to those already seated. The barefoot paperboys, not to be outdone, cried "Sun-Tieeems" as they peddled copies of the daily *Fiji Sun* and *Fiji Times*, the rival morning papers. I bought a copy of each and a slice of ice-chilled pineapple from a vendor.

Mere signaled that it was once again time to dodge cars across Usher Street. In a few moments we were on Cummings Street, a narrow lane where most of Suva's duty free shops are located. Aside from the array of receivers, speakers, digital watches and jewelry were fabric stores with bolts of cloth in tropical prints and exotic Indian material for saris. We inspected the cloth and upon Mere's advice, purchased several yards for "sulus," wrap-around skirts which are standard casual wear for men and women in the Pacific.

Mere gave us further advice on duty free shopping, which involves bargaining, an art many of us are not accustomed to. She told us, "Don't let the salesmen pressure you. Realize the first price they quote you will be double or triple the actual value. Go to several shops and compare notes. Don't be afraid to dicker, it's a way of life here. Finally, make sure the guarantee is valid and that you have tested what you are buying before you leave the country."

Outside one of the stores a schoolgirl greeted Mere and the two bantered in Fijian. Mere unhesitatingly slipped her a few dollars and the girl disappeared into the crowd. "She's my niece and she needed some money for schoolbooks," our guide explained. "In Fiji when someone says 'keri-keri,' which means 'please may I have. . .,' it is impossible to refuse them. We end up giving away almost everything—clothes, money, food—you name it. This is why we are all poor but also why no one ever starves in this country," she said.

Continuing the tour, we crossed a small bridge over the Nabukalou Creek, which flows through the heart of town. Running along the banks of the waterway is a colonnaded path called the "Terry Walk." Architectur-



ally, it was the most beautiful part of Suva.

Mere interrupted my reverie and pointed out the Wan-Q restaurant on Cummings Street. "Good Chinese food at the Wan-Q. Pretty waitresses too. For Indian food, try the Curry Shop next to the bookstore on Pratt Street. It's inexpensive and has the best curry in town."

"Speaking of food," she said, "it's about time we take a break." Nobody argued with that idea and we followed her down Suva's busy main thoroughfare, Victoria Parade, past shoe shines, newspaper boys, and small booths where Indian vendors sold "beans," peanuts, and sweets.

Strolling by us were sari-draped Indian women, smartly dressed Chinese businessmen, muscular Fijian laborers, long haired Rotuman (Polynesian) beauties clad in designer jeans, and former colonials (known colloquially as "Europeans") conspicuous in their knee-length shorts and long stockings.

We ducked into an alley that revealed a shady plaza known as Victoria Arcade. In the center were tables and a pop stand. Mere ordered scones, tea, and Cokes while the Nicholson kids eyed the fish and chips, meat pies, fried egg sandwiches, and curry inside the glass case. Just as we sat down at a table the sky turned steel gray and rain began to pelt down.

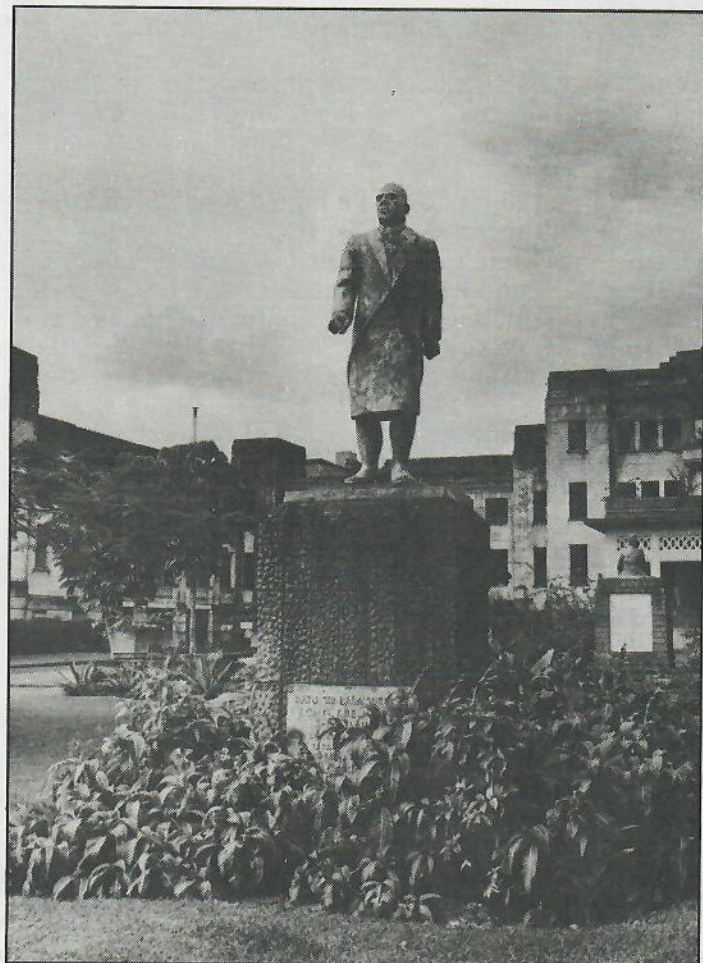
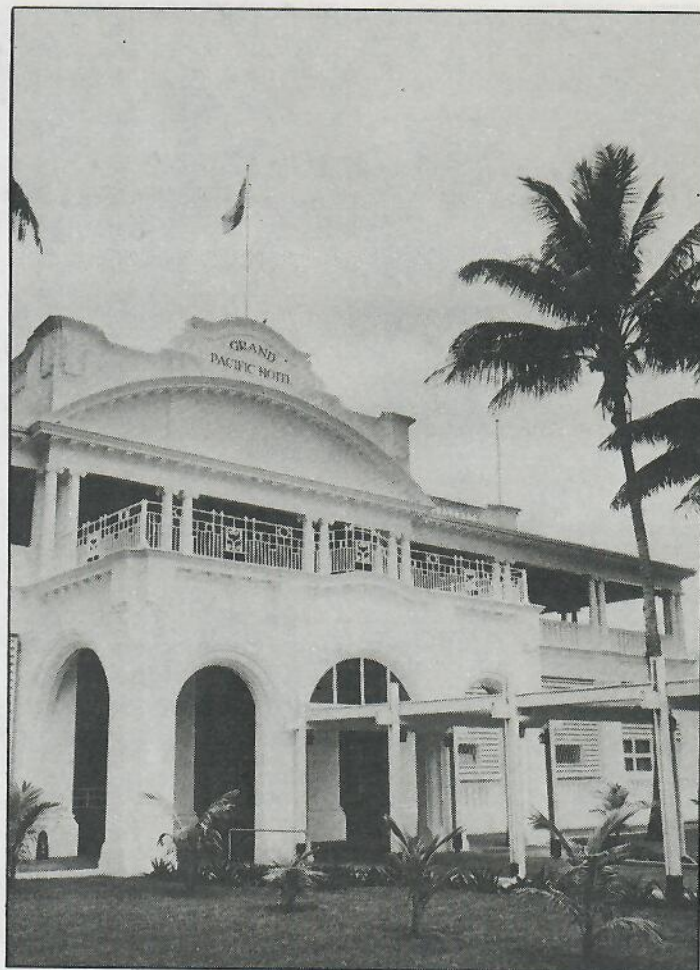
We ducked under a nearby awning and Mere said, "It rains 140 inches a year on this side of the island so you can expect showers at any time." After the deluge ceased we returned to our table. In a few moments the sun broke through the clouds and steam rose in wisps from the wet pavement. Nourished, we continued down Victoria Parade.

At Gordon Street, Mere pointed out the offices of the *Fiji Times*, the oldest newspaper in the South Pacific. We paused beneath a sign that said "Lucky Eddie's," a nightclub which she said was the local hot spot. "Across the street," she told us, "is the Old Town Hall which is now an aquarium, giftshop, and snack bar. It was built around the turn of the century and was the original museum as well as a play house. It's a beautiful building, don't you reckon?" We nodded in unison. The two story structure, painted a garish purple, had an ornamental grille that fringed the balcony. It was a gem of colonial architecture. "Behind the Old Town Hall," she added, "is an Olympic size swimming pool in case you want to take a dip."

**F**urther down Victoria Parade we passed the city library, one of the many around the world built from the donations of Andrew Carnegie, the American steel magnate. We peeked inside and noted that Carnegie's yellowed portrait hung behind the librarian's desk.

Several hundred yards down the street we stopped before a collection of gray, official looking buildings dominated by a clock tower. In the foreground was a statue. We paused to listen to Mere.

"These are the government buildings and the parliamentary house. They were built in the 1930s over a swamp. Several miles of pilings had to be sunk to keep the structure stable. This spot is known as Naigagi which translates as 'The Crusher.' At one time there was a sugar mill here and after that, a red-light district. The



Top: The Grand Pacific Hotel; Right  
Independence leader Sakuna's statue  
in Government Center.

PHOTOS BY LOU DEMATTEIS



**Mere Nawaqatabu perambulates through the heart of Suva with tourists six days a week.**

statue is of Ratu Sukuna, one of the architects of Fijian independence. Across the street from us is the Travel-Lodge, which has one of the best restaurants in town," she said.

At this point of the tour, the humid weather and the Nicholson kids dictated that we stop once again for refreshments. Mere suggested that we continue up the street to the Grand Pacific Hotel and rest there. Known as the "GPH," this elegant, white porticoed building is a monument to the colonial era. We sat beneath the shaded verandah and ordered Cokes from a waiter clad in a white, skirt-like sulu (see page 30).

We chatted and watched a group of high schoolers play soccer across the street in Albert Park, a huge athletic field. In the adjacent field a cricket match was under way and nearby, the tennis courts were filled to capacity. Mrs. Nicholson remarked accurately that the whole country was "sports crazy." Leafing through the sports sections of the *Sun* and *Times* confirmed this.

Mere commented that the park where the kids were playing soccer was the landing site of the "Southern Cross," the first plane to fly from the United States to Australia. "The year was 1929," she said, "and we really weren't ready for trans-Pacific crossings. A number of palm trees had to be cut down near the park to make room for a landing strip."

Refreshed, we arose for the final leg of the tour, a visit to Thurston Gardens and the Fiji Museum. Shaded by enormous rain trees, the grounds of the Gardens were carefully tended by slender Indians who weeded the earth with huge "bush knives" (machetes). Ferns, vines,

orchids, frangipani, and a variety of other flora from throughout Fiji thrive here.

In the shadows, mongooses scampered like squirrels, wary of the human intruders. Introduced from India to rid the countryside of snakes in the canefields, the slinky animals prey on rats and live in a symbiotic relationship with man.

Located within the Gardens is the Fiji Museum, which should not be missed. We paid the small fee and, once inside, were awestruck at the sight of a 100-foot double-hulled canoe. On vessels like this, built without a single nail or without the benefit of a dimestore compass, Fijians were able to navigate thousands of miles of ocean and populate the islands.

Under severe financial restraints, the museum had done a tremendous job in presentation and preservation of Fiji's national treasures. Mere said the director, Fergus Clunie, had recently returned from a trip to the U.S. where, ironically, there were more Fijian artifacts than in Fiji. "Your sailors and missionaries took back quite a bit of our art," she said.

Before hailing a taxi to take us back to the TravelLodge, we shook hands with Mere, whom we now felt very close to. Through her, Suva had taken on its own personality. It was no longer another rainy tropical port, but a town whose streets and alleys we had treaded upon, whose residents we had rubbed shoulders with, and whose hospitality had touched us.

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*Details on this "Walking Tour of Fiji" are available from Mere Nawaqatabu, Box 3119, Lami, Suva, Fiji.*

# Pacific Progress

by *Muliufi F. Hannemann*

The Pacific Basin Development Council, headed by the governors of American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Marianas, has been in existence for 2½ years. Given the myriad suspicions and doubts that have surfaced from time to time since its inception, it is to PBDC's credit that it has not only managed to survive but has developed into a viable regional entity.

At the outset, some questioned the wisdom of having PBDC headquartered in Hawaii, especially in light of Gov. George Ariyoshi serving as its initial board president. The skeptics felt that this would result in Hawaii's priorities superceding territorial interests and concerns.

Other critics decried the concept of regional cooperation that the governors were espousing so freely and openly beginning with the 1980 Kuilima Conference which gave rise to PBDC. Yet others were incensed that the governors hired a "mainlander" instead of a Pacific islander as the executive director to head PBDC's day-to-day operations.

Nonetheless, it is safe to assert that an examination of the Council's record, even a cursory one, would reveal quite clearly that all of the aforementioned fears and allegations have failed to materialize.

Ariyoshi has continuously demonstrated a genuine concern in promoting the interests of the territories with respect to PBDC's programs, projects, and leadership. Although there was strong sentiment for him to remain in his post for a second year, Ariyoshi voluntarily stepped down as president of the board at their 1981 annual meeting in Guam. He insisted that it was important to rotate the leadership position amongst his territorial colleagues.

Gov. Peter Coleman of American Samoa, the other founding father left on the board, continues to be a steadying influence. Long regarded as an avid proponent of regional cooperation in the Pacific, Coleman is constantly seeking mutually beneficial areas in which the American flag islands can work together with their neighbors in the Pacific Basin.

The two replacements of the board's original members, Gov. Ricardo Bordallo of Guam and Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio of the Common-

wealth of the Northern Marianas, have assumed their positions with the same amount of enthusiasm and vigor that their predecessors, governors Paul Calvo and Carlos Camacho, exhibited.

Tenorio hosted a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (comprised of each of the key aides to the governors) of PBDC in November 1982 and will host the sixth board meeting slated for late fall in Saipan,



in which he is expected to replace Coleman as president of the board.

Bordallo, at his inaugural board meeting in Washington, D.C., in March (the first board meeting outside of the Pacific region), gave an eloquent presentation on fisheries development in the central, western, and southern Pacific and offered poignant comments and recommendations during the course of the meeting.

Jerry Norris, who was hired as the executive director (from a pool of well over 100 applicants), had been employed as the director of the Western Governors' Office, Council of State Governments. It was this nine-year tenure with CSG that brought him into contact with Hawaii and the U.S. territories through their participation in the Western Governors' Conference. Therefore, Norris' first-hand familiarity with insular issues and needs coupled with his experience of dealing with numerous federal agencies and departments made him a tailor-made choice to the governors.

Judging from the various projects that PBDC has been working on for the past 2½ years—in particular fisheries, tourism, transportation, and

agriculture—the Council's basic thrust has been that meaningful economic development stems from an integrated approach that cuts across speciality areas. One must balance research and technology on marketing promotions with the caveat that the uniqueness of each of the individual islands' environment and culture be respected.

For this approach to be successful, it must include inter-action with the U.S. federal agencies. It is no secret that without the financial assistance and support of the federal government, economic development in the American flag islands would be extremely difficult to pursue. Therein lies the biggest accomplishment of PBDC to date; it has successfully managed to lay the foundation for a constructive working relationship with a cross-section of the agencies in Washington.

Initially, many feared that Reaganomics would jeopardize PBDC's annual funding from the Department of Commerce. Fortunately, that has not happened as Commerce continues to provide the financial support that complements each individual island's contribution to the Council. On another optimistic note, the Department of the Interior's Assistant Secretary Pedro Sanjuan recently pledged his Territorial Office's support towards joint projects of mutual concern.

Prior to PBDC, territorial matters were almost totally confined to Interior since the Office of Territorial and International Affairs is housed within its halls. However, the Council's ambitious endeavors (in 1982, PBDC was involved in over 60 projects) has led to the development of productive relationships with other departments like Transportation, Energy, and, of course, Commerce; agencies such as the Civil Aeronautics Board; and congressional offices ranging from Senators Inouye, Matsunaga, McClure, and Weicker to Representatives Akaka, Hefel, Sunia, Won Pat, Yates, and the late Phillip Burton.

Albeit, PBDC efforts to date have not resulted in booming and flourishing insular economies in the region. But for the first time, Washington has an effective mechanism emanating from the islands from which to bolster regional economic

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development. The islands, in turn, have collectively begun to develop a greater awareness in the nation's capital of their uniqueness and concerns. Convening a board meeting in D.C. that was well attended by federal representatives definitely underscores this major point.

PBDC's mission is far from complete. Sooner or later it will have to grapple with the question of additional membership, especially from the Micronesian governments. Funding, or the uncertainty of it, will always remain a problem. Notwithstanding these factors, its greatest challenge in the immediate future lies in strengthening its partnership with the private sector as envisaged at the Kulima Conference. Thus far, it has managed to forge a successful alliance with federal, state, and territorial officials. Creating and promoting greater involvement and participation by the private sector can only serve to enhance its efforts considerably.

*Muliufi Hannemann is administrative assistant and specialist on Pacific affairs to the governor of Hawaii. He formerly worked in the Office of Territorial and International Affairs in Washington, D.C.*

## Solomons Promote Melanesian Bloc

by Earl J. Kapon

Pan-Melanesian sentiment may be strong enough to bring about an alliance bloc among Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu, but such an alliance may adversely affect the Pacific Way.

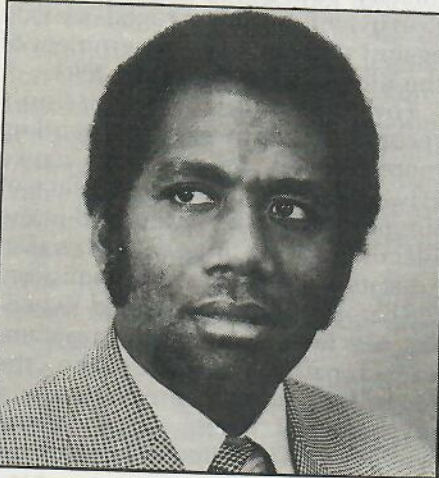
Solomon Islands is taking the lead in pursuing the establishment of a Melanesian Alliance Bloc. A program of action issued in late 1981 established the alliance concept as a policy of the Solomon Islands government, saying the aim of the alliance is to promote economic, social and political prosperity in the region.

The three Melanesian states, together, have not had any official meeting to discuss the concept. However, there have been informal discussions on the subject at regional conferences and at other contacts by the three countries. Vanuatu had expressed its wish to follow Solomon Islands' lead in pursuing the concept. All three governments acknowledge the existence of a Melanesian spirit of brotherhood, thus, the general agreement is to build upon it by for-

malizing a Melanesian alliance.

But the concept is opposed by people who wish to maintain a Pacific-wide fraternity. The three proponents of the Melanesian Alliance Bloc are aware that other member countries of the South Pacific Forum view the concept with suspicion. Just west of Papua New Guinea, the Indonesians may not welcome the Melanesian move because such a Melanesian organization could step up expression of concern for the rights of Melanesians within Indonesia.

Within the Solomon Islands' parliament, the Opposition Group is




SOLOMON IS GOVT PHOTO

**Kenilorea: opposes the bloc.**

against formal establishment of a Melanesian Alliance Bloc. Former Prime Minister Sir Peter Kenilorea, who leads the Opposition Group, said such a Melanesian Alliance Bloc would weaken ties in the existing Pacific regional organizations. He said such weakening in ties could create division and possibly a counter-alliance bloc by the Polynesian states.

Kenilorea said he fears that a situation of a divided Pacific may give rise to the possibility of the super powers taking sides in the new alliances. He said any siding by a super power would belie the well-intentioned aims of an alliance. If this happens, he said, the sovereign rights of the countries making up such an alliance would also be threatened.

Kenilorea also cautions that such a new organization would be costly to run since the three Melanesian states already have financial commitments in the existing Pacific regional organizations. He adds that a Melanesian Alliance Bloc, with a divisive nature, will not attract aid donors unless the big powers want it for their own ends.



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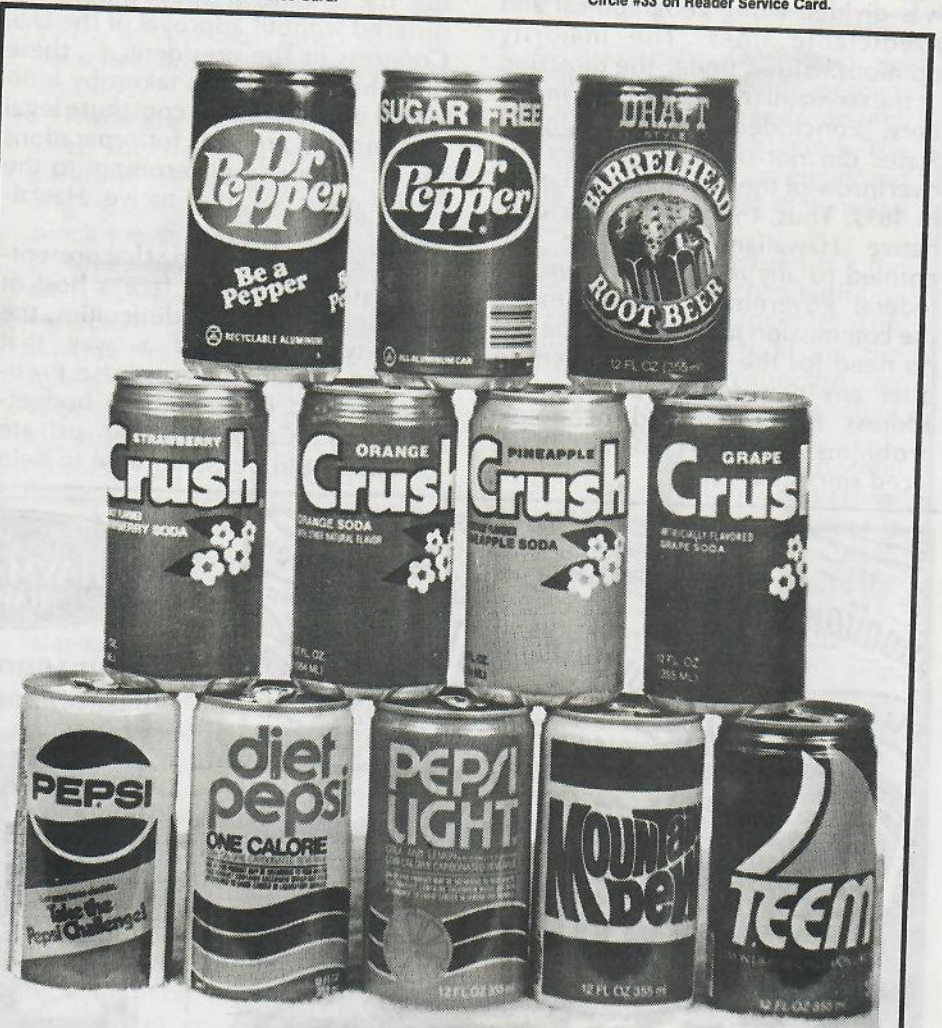


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# Hawaiians Win a Few/Lose a Few

by Michael Leidemann

Native Hawaiians were the subject of three separate reports released in March. The results present a mixed picture of historical and current problems faced by the Hawaiians and a hodgepodge of proposed solutions.

The first, and probably most significant, report was that of the Native Hawaiian Study Commission, a presidentially-appointed panel looking into the historical situation which gave rise to modern-day problems.

In the end, the nine-member panel was divided along geographical and predictable lines. The majority opinion, written under the direction of the six mainland commission members, concluded that the United States did not officially support the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy in 1893. Thus, the majority decided, native Hawaiians today are not entitled to any reparations from the federal government. What's more, the commission majority said, there is no need for the U.S. government to offer any new federal programs to address the social and economic problems native Hawaiians have faced since that time.

The three Hawaii members of the commission disagreed. They said they would draft a minority report that accuses the U.S. government of deliberately plotting the overthrow of the monarchy. Commission Chairman Kina'u Boyd Kamali'i said the minority report would be presented to Congress with a strong lobbying effort for some sort of compensation for Hawaiians.

The major finding—and the most controversial one—in the report concludes: "While the commission finds that the landing of troops in 1893 was ordered without approval of the U.S. Congress or the president . . . these unauthorized actions taken by individual officials do not constitute legal or equitable grounds for reparations from the federal government to the descendants of the native Hawaiians."

While acknowledging that present-day native Hawaiians face a host of economic and social difficulties, the majority decided—in a way that seemed guaranteed to please President Ronald Reagan and a budget-conscious Congress—that private groups would be better able to help

the Hawaiians than an influx of federal funds.

The commission's final report closely followed an original draft, released last September. By the time the final report was released, Kamali'i and other Hawaiian commission members were disassociating themselves entirely from it.

"If there's going to be any dissent, it will be in a separate report to Congress," Kamali'i said.

A draft of that minority report challenged nearly every conclusion and recommendation of the majority. Kamali'i's report concluded that U.S. military and diplomatic representatives incited and encouraged "treason against the legitimate government of the Kingdom of Hawaii" in 1893.

The presidential commission's recommendations against extending more federal programs to native Hawaiians flew straight in the face of the next federal report to land in the islands—that of the native Hawaiian Educational Assessment Commission.

That group recommended sweeping new federal and private programs to aid native Hawaiians, who, the report said, suffer severe cultural and psychological stress in a school system that is ill-suited to their needs.



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The report, a joint effort of the federal government and the Bishop Estate/Kamehameha Schools, recommended that new education programs be launched to aid students from preschool to graduate school.

Among the proposals was a call for teaching elementary school students better basic skills, so Hawaiian scores in standardized tests in language and math would be better. At the other end of the spectrum was a suggestion that more graduate-level scholarships be offered to help native Hawaiians pursuing advanced degrees.

The report was greeted enthusiastically by elected and school officials. U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye said he already had begun drafting legislation to implement some of the commission's recommendations. Hawaii Schools Superintendent Donnis Thompson said the study would legitimize the need for many of the programs the public school system already has embarked on.

The ink was barely dry on press reports of that report when the next one was out. This time a joint federal-state study was recommending sweeping changes in the Hawaiian Homes Commission and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

When investigators began work last year, they said records of the commission were in such sorry shape they doubted that they would ever be able to sort them out completely. In a draft report released March 25, study members were able to make enough sense of the situation to conclude far more efficiency is needed in managing the Hawaiian Homes Lands and in parceling out homesites to native Hawaiians.

The group's most startling conclusion, however, was that the transfer of thousands of acres of homestead lands to other purposes had been carried out illegally. The group recommended that the transfers—including those involving huge tracts of forest preserve land on Maui and Hawaii island—be rescinded and declared void. In essence, the study said, unless that was done native Hawaiians would continue to be cheated of the economic benefit the lands might provide for them.

The group stopped short of saying, however, that the land should be returned to its original uses. Instead, the group recommended that new ways be found to legitimize the land transfers so that an economic benefit might flow to the rightful heirs of the land. □

## Energy Savers

by Cliff Terry

### Solar Shade Screens

Since the greatest energy consumption in a building in the Pacific comes from air conditioning, one good way to cut down that energy use is to reduce the load on the air conditioning system. This means keeping the sun's heat out of the building so the air conditioner doesn't have to remove it.

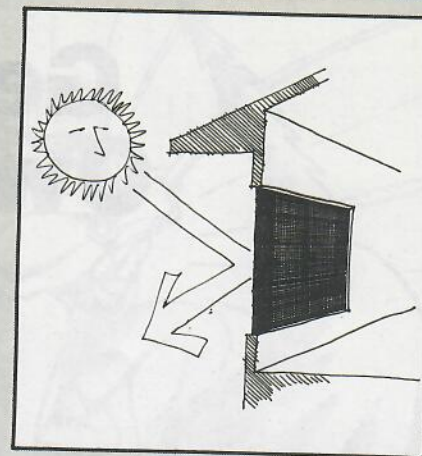
Solar heat enters a building through uninsulated walls and roofs, but the most direct path for solar heat is through glass windows and doors.

There are a number of ways to keep this heat out. Awnings and canopies are effective for high sun angles, but if they are installed to block low morning and afternoon sun they interfere with views and air circulation. Solar films and reflective glass work well at limiting the sun's heat, since they reflect it at either the inner or outer surface of the glass. Reflective materials, though, can act as mirrors from the inside at night, reducing or eliminating views outward but allowing vision inward. They also require the windows to be closed to work, which eliminates the possibility of combining solar control with natural ventilation.

Venetian blinds and light-colored draperies may seem to keep the heat out of a building, but they don't do as much as you might think. They block the direct sun from shining on you inside the window, so you feel cooler without the radiant heat on your body. The heat still penetrates the glass, however, and except in rare cases cannot be reflected back out.

The secret to controlling the sun's heat is the use of solar shade devices outside the glass. In addition to awnings and reflective films, an effective solution is the use of solar shade screens. These materials take many forms, but generally resemble ordinary insect screens. They're usually installed over windows in frames similar to normal screens, and keep bugs out equally well. The thing they do better than insect screens is block the sun.

There are several types of shade



screens available. One looks like very tiny venetian blinds, perhaps 1/6 of an inch deep and one inch wide between vertical wires. The tiny slats are set at an angle and shade the interior just as venetian blinds do.

Another type of screen is a flat plastic material punched with tiny holes closely spaced together. This product works by reducing the area through which the sun can penetrate to much less than ordinary insect screen.

A third type is woven like normal screen, but instead of one vertical strand to one horizontal, uses a flat bundle of vertical strands to block about half of the surface area of the screen.

Each of these materials blocks a different amount of the sun's heat depending on its design and the conditions under which it's used. One product claims "up to 70% reduction in heat and glare;" another shows reductions of nearly 90% at angles which correspond to its construction.

Like most products, these screens are not without drawbacks. One is that by reducing solar heat they also reduce natural light and cut down on visibility through them to the outside. It can result in increased energy consumption for artificial lighting in a commercial building where daytime activities require higher light levels. The manufacturers claim that decreases in visibility are not so great as to cause problems, but it would be a good idea to check their effects before buying.

*Cliff Terry is a principal with the Honolulu firm of TRB/Hawaii, specializing in architectural energy consultation and design of buildings for the Pacific Basin.*

# Interview

## Hilda Lini, Pacific Women's Resource Bureau

interview by Giff Johnson

**P**acific: What is the focus of your activity with the South Pacific Women's Resource Bureau?

**Lini:** My position with the South Pacific Commission is Women's Program Officer. It is a new program of the SPC which is dealing with women's programs throughout the Pacific region. The Pacific Women's Resource Bureau, attached to the SPC, came about because women in the Pacific have been having a series of meetings since the first Pacific women's conference was held in 1975 and they realized that there are so many issues facing Pacific women, and the Pacific community as a whole, that they decided it would be good to have a coordinating center.

A Pacific Women's Resource Center was set up in Suva in 1975 after the first conference there, but it only survived for a year and a half. After the big international women's meeting that was held in Denmark, another Pacific women's meeting was held in Fiji in late 1980 and the women at that meeting still felt it was important that a women's resource center continue, but they didn't know where it should



GIFF JOHNSON

be located.

About the same time there was a South Pacific Conference in Papua New Guinea in October 1980 where the role of Pacific women was discussed. The women from PNG marched into the conference room and demanded that women be included in the discussion. There was no reason why the Pacific women should have been excluded and only men were discussing women in the Pacific.

All of these meetings set the stage for the very important Pacific Women's Seminar held in Tahiti in

July 1981 which worked out the role and function of the Bureau and what programs it was going to undertake. That conference decided the Pacific Women's Resource Bureau should focus on seven priority areas:

(1) the establishment of a resource bureau and information center;

(2) evaluation of the Community Education Training Center [in Fiji] to develop new curriculum more focused on health education, business management, and awareness raising;

(3) a health survey of women in the Pacific, especially issues such as child bearing. There isn't enough information available on health of women so the survey will determine what sorts of diseases are causing deaths of women and programs needed;

(4) women and child health and nutrition;

(5) a socio-economic survey of Pacific women;

(6) a Pacific pre-school project;

(7) the South Pacific Regional Environmental Program, which deals with pollution from factories and from development such as building roads or mining. There was a really strong feeling about the nuclear testing in the Pacific that is destroying

*Hilda Lini of Vanuatu became the first women's program development officer of the newly established Pacific Women's Resource Bureau in May 1982. The Bureau operates from the South Pacific Commission, based in Noumea.*

*After graduating from the University of Papua New Guinea with a degree in journalism, she established and edited Vanuatu's first independent newspaper.*

*During Vanuatu's drive for independence in the 1970s, she*

*was a member of the Vanuaaku Pati's executive council, was editor of the Pati's newsletter, and was coordinator of the women working for independence.*

*Lini has traveled to women's conferences and other meetings in the Pacific, Europe, the U.S., the Caribbean, and Asia. Her position with the Women's Bureau takes her to all corners of the Pacific for consultation and training sessions.*

*This interview was conducted in Honolulu last November.*



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the environment and also the proposed nuclear waste dumping.

**Pacific:** It seems there has been very little communication between the north and south Pacific islands. Do you find that women share many of the same concerns and problems in Micronesia as they do in the South Pacific?

**Lini:** I have only visited one island in Micronesia and that is Palau. In Palau, a two-day workshop was held and the women came from all the states. The focus of the workshop was for them to identify their priority needs. . . .

I have found that in most countries the problems are similar among the women. In Palau, however, I found one of the priorities they put out was the abuse of drugs. I couldn't think of any other place in the South Pacific where that happens, but the Palauan women identified it as a priority area.

The other priority area was separation or divorce cases. I was told that the rate was quite high in Palau. At the same time I felt that Palau had developed ahead of other countries in some ways. They have a lot of qualified people, graduates from universities, whereas some of the countries in the South Pacific do not have the same number of graduates.

**Pacific:** What do you think are the biggest challenges facing Pacific women today?

**Lini:** I think one area that Pacific women are aware of is that they have been depending so much on outside people to come and tell them what they should do or what is best for them. The outsiders come and give them new ideas. They bring in new technologies to help solve their problems. But I believe women in the Pacific today feel that they have had enough of this. A lot of countries are saying we now have our own people who understand the situation well and we can do it, except we are not properly organized.

That's new because before we'd be waiting for someone to come and tell us what to do. This new attitude reflects the experience of some of these new technologies that do not work in these countries. So women are now reconsidering what they should be accepting from somebody coming in from outside.

The best thing I can do is to [let the women] determine what is it they need help on, instead of my having to

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tell them. I don't know what the situation in each country is like, so when I started out, I decided to make an initial visit to all the countries. I would explain the role of the Women's Bureau to all the women's groups that exist in each country and find out what their needs are.

Because the Bureau is attached to the SPC, I feel that there is a lot of support coming from the governments. For example, if I visit a country, the Foreign Affairs department will take care of my visit. If the women tell me there is something the government is not doing for them—often they find it difficult to take it to the government—it is my job to go and see the ministry responsible and remind them that they supported the idea of the Bureau and they wanted to support women's activities and programs, so they should give their support.

One thing I think the governments fear is new ideas going to the women, and they don't really like activities or programs to be geared just for the women. They want activities to benefit the entire community. Once you start to do things just for the women, that's when you get some criticism. They say, "Is this what



TERRY PALUMBO

**One thing the governments fear is new ideas going to the women, and they don't like activities or programs to be geared just for the women.**

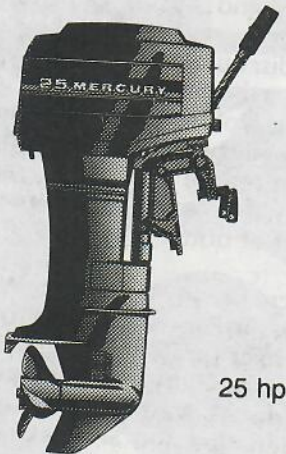
women's liberation is all about?" They tell me, "We would rather have community activities for all the people." In some places men have attended meetings where I have

spoken and afterwards the men came and told me: "After all that, it's not women's liberation you are talking about but it's the basic needs of the community," and they realize that these are the programs the Women's Bureau is trying to implement.

**Pacific: How do you respond to the criticism and why do you feel women need separate programs just designed for women?**

**Lini:** I don't see any women's activities or programs that don't benefit the community. I think the only thing that makes us define them as women's programs is the fact that women are very organized. They have women's groups and they want to do something about the community. The youth have some programs going on, but the men, I don't think they have so many programs. The men would depend on the government's projects that are for everybody, whereas the women specifically pick up areas that they want to work on. When they see something that's not right in the community, they try to help out and that's why they identify the women's projects as projects for the benefit of the community.

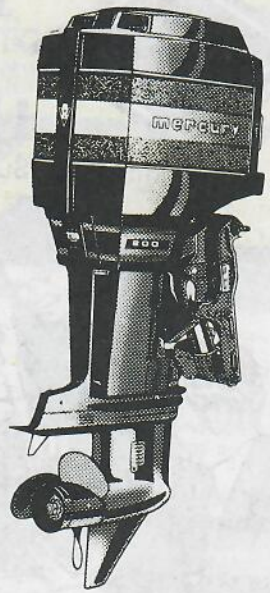
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**Pacific:** In your meetings with women in different parts of the Pacific, what are several of the key issues or problems that they are raising?

**Lini:** The main ones are nutrition, health, and alcoholic problems. It's not really the women who are engaged in that [alcohol], but they feel that the abuse of alcohol is getting bad and it's the women and children who suffer from it the worst.

**Pacific:** There has been a lot of controversy over the use of infant formula. Do you feel that infant formula is widely used in the Pacific and are you trying to deal with this as a problem?

**Lini:** In the Pacific, there are already programs going on to counteract the bottle feeding of babies. The SPC has a program on nutrition in which they encourage women to breast-feed their children. I know that some countries have taken up a law preventing mothers from bottle feeding their child unless they have a prescription from their doctors to justify that the mother cannot breast-feed their child. Even with a prescription from the doctor, they encourage women to feed their babies in whatever way is healthier, particularly in the rural areas where it is very difficult to sterilize bottles.

In Vanuatu, very few women bottle feed their babies. Everybody breast-feeds them, except the ones who work in town and can afford to buy a bottle. But even the minority who bottle feed have been discouraged from bottle feeding their babies.

In 1981 there was a seminar on the effects of urbanization and western diets on the Vanuatu population. Doctors and nurses came out with resolutions saying that they should really discourage bottle feeding. So I think in the South Pacific it is not a very big problem because a campaign has already been going on and a lot of women realize how cheap, safe, and healthy it is for them to breast-feed instead of bottle feeding.

**Pacific:** The 1981 Pacific Women's Seminar in Papeete stated strong concern over pollution of the Pacific environment by nuclear and other hazardous wastes. They recommended that the SPC take positive action to educate people, research the problem, and implement effective health measures. Can you discuss what specific things have been done

on these issues since 1981?

**Lini:** It was one of the issues taken up very strongly by some countries, but some other countries were not very enthusiastic. I think it was the venue of the conference which made them afraid because it was held in Tahiti and they knew they were talking about the French nuclear testing which is going on right there. It is an issue that has been taken up at all women's conferences since 1975.

At the Women's Seminar in Tahiti, it was Kiribati who brought up the nuclear testing issue and Palau supported it very strongly. There was a lot of discussion on it. However, the Seminar did say that the Resource Bureau has to take this on as one of its seven priority programs. Women know what it is when we start talking about the bomb and fallout from the tests—they do feel it is dangerous.

**Pacific:** Have Pacific governments adopted conscious policies to encourage greater employment opportunities for women?

**Lini:** When we talk about employment, I think it means working for a salary. I would say a lot of Pacific



**Pacific countries can't afford to discriminate against women because the number of qualified people is limited and they need all their resources.**

countries look for people who have the qualifications—whether they are men or women, as long as they have the qualifications or experience, they will take them into any job. I don't

know of any country that would discriminate against women because they are women. I don't think many Pacific countries could afford to do that because the number of qualified people is limited and they need all their resources.

At the same time I feel that women are working every day, except that it's not on a salary basis. Their governments should recognize they are working for the economic development of the country because most of the women work in their gardens, and most of them weave mats and baskets. Although they don't get paid for it, and it's not recognized anywhere in the data, it plays a very important role. The women contribute a lot towards development in the Pacific. This is why one of the priorities identified by the Women's Seminar is to conduct a socio-economic survey to find out how much women are putting into economic development. There is very little information available on the productivity of the women.

**Pacific:** Men hold the vast majority of elected positions and top level

(Continued on page 64.)

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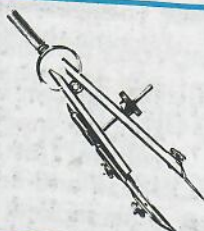
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(Rex: Continued from page 18.)

Niueans living on Niue, while about 10,000 have gone to New Zealand seeking employment and education. Does this slow the development of Niue? And how is employment on Niue itself?

**Rex:** There's quite a lot of employment for the ordinary workers. The government is the biggest employer on the island, but there's still a lot of laboring work. Just about all of our able-bodied young people are employed by Public Works and various other departments and a few in the private sector. As to those returning from overseas, we face the same problems as other territories. There are a few who fail to return after their education, but generally they're pretty good—there's a good return rate. I should say 80 to 90% return. Yes, it's high. We're not complaining, really.

**Pacific:** Niueans, from the time of Captain Cook, have had an unfortunate reputation. John Williams, the missionary, was rebuffed, and as late as the 1950s, the New Zealand resident commissioner was murdered. Of course, this reputation also kept blackbirders away. Have Niueans found it hard to escape this reputation?

**Rex:** No, not at all. The unfortunate affair of the resident commissioner being murdered was never properly explained. I know for a fact that the outside world didn't know of the real reason behind it. I can say this without fear of contradiction from anyone. I was under the same man when I was a public servant. His name was Mr. Larson and I can't speak highly enough of the man—one of the most far-sighted resident commissioners that Niue ever had. He was firm but he had to be firm. As the saying goes, if you love your child, don't spare the rod. He was also judge of the high court, and was accused of cruelty for putting them [criminals] straight and doing his job. And by doing his job, he was not popular. He never looked for popularity. So, these three prisoners escaped and murdered him. They were under the influence of bush beer. They later said he was a cruel man who ill-treated the Niueans. It was far from being the truth.

As for Cook, well, he gave my island the name of Savage Island, which was

a misnomer. They didn't intend to kill them, but they were so afraid of foreigners coming in that they went ahead and frightened them away. They threw spears but hurt no one. Cannibalism, by the way, was never practiced on the island. But it was unfortunate that we were given that name.

**Pacific:** In 1975, the New Zealand Vocational Training Council, with advice from Auckland University, published a pamphlet called *Understanding Polynesians*. In it, they wrote about *musu*, the Polynesian moodiness, and commented: "Niueans are particularly prone to it and this probably explains why they have a reputation in some circles for being surly or insolent, whereas in many cases the man is probably suffering from sheer fright or nervousness." Would you care to comment?


**Rex:** That's a tall one for me to comment on. No, there is an element of truth in that. It's the same that happened with Cook there and the same with John Williams. They've always been suspicious of foreigners, as I've said. I don't blame my forefathers. They were raided by parties, especially from Tonga, so naturally they would take an objection to anyone attempting to land on the island. So it was natural that they would do anything, within their power and means, to keep strangers off.

But I wouldn't agree that they don't get along with New Zealand. My people have fitted themselves very well into New Zealand. But there are a lot of Polynesians that flock down to there, especially to Auckland. If any of them do anything wrong, the policeman can hardly tell whether it's a Samoan, a Niuean, a Cook Islander or a Tongan. If a Niuean commits a crime, he won't admit he's a Niuean. He'll probably say, "Oh, I'm a Tongan," or "I'm a Samoan." And the same with the Tongans and Samoans. But they've adapted themselves very well. They're not any more *musu* than any other Pacific people.

**Pacific: Is independence in the future for Niue?**

**Rex:** I don't think there is any real need for us to go independent. As I said earlier, we're practically independent now. New Zealand has no veto power over our laws, we make them and pass them. I'm more than happy with the set up now. □

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