

# Tok Blong Pasifik

News and Views on the Pacific Islands

June 1996

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SOUTH PACIFIC

PEOPLES FOUNDATION

## Featuring

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Building Bridges Between  
Indigenous Youth

A World of Change -  
An Interview with Pacific Youth

Articles by Pacific youth  
on culture, leadership, economic  
development and more

Special Reports:  
Nerve Gas Disposal  
Fiji's Constitutional Review



Photo: Philippe Melois

## Through the Eyes of Youth

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Cover Photo: Boy fishing, Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu. Photo by Philippe Metois, Box 526, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

## ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

**Tok Blong Pasifik** is a phrase in Pidgin, a language used in parts of the Pacific. A rough equivalent would be "News from the Pacific". **Tok Blong Pasifik** (ISSN: 1196-8206) is published by the South Pacific Peoples Foundation of Canada (SPPF). Our aim is to promote awareness of development, social justice, environment and other issues of importance to Pacific Islanders. Through the magazine, we hope to provide readers with a window on the Pacific that will foster understanding and promote support for Pacific Island peoples. SPPF gratefully acknowledges support for this publication from the Canadian International Development Agency.

### For further information contact:

SPPF, 1921 Fernwood Road, Victoria  
British Columbia, V8T 2Y6, Canada

TEL: (604) 381-4131

FAX: (604) 388-5258

sppf@sppf.org

EDITOR: Stuart Wulff

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Margaret Argue

DESKTOP PUBLISHING & PRINTING:

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## EDITORIAL POLICY

We welcome contributions to **Tok Blong Pasifik** and readers' comments and suggestions. A priority is placed upon contributions from Pacific Islanders and others currently living in the Islands. As an issues focused magazine, **Tok Blong Pasifik** often includes material that is contentious. Views expressed are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of SPPF or financial supporters of the magazine. We reserve the right to edit material.

## SUBSCRIBE TODAY

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# Tok Tok



**S**PPF has benefited from the enthusiastic input of several South Pacific youth over the past several months. The source of this energetic infusion has been Pearson College, our sponsor for this issue. One component of the Pearson programme is a one week community

service practicum for all students. SPPF has hosted students in the past and this year hosted three students: Fredlyn Nako of Vanuatu, Faye Nuakona of Papua New Guinea and Eroni Rakuita of Fiji. In addition to helping out around the office, you'll find their contributions on Pages 8-10, 12 and 15 of this issue of *Tok Blong Pasifik*.

We so enjoyed having Fredlyn, Faye and Eroni that we invited South Pacific students attending Pearson College to join us in organizing and implementing our 1996 Pacific Networking Conference (see report on Page 16). Fredlyn, Eroni and Antonieta Pincheira of Chile spent two weeks with SPPF at the end of May, helping out with last minute organising and planning a

youth component within the conference. Canadian youth were also involved, with Amanda Bullen of Youth for Social Justice playing a key role on our planning committee for the conference. Over 20 youth participated in the conference and recommended to the rest of the participants that "adults in elected or leadership or NGO positions need to involve young people in talks, meetings, etc. as a means to develop future leadership skills among youth". This is a recommendation that SPPF will be taking to heart and that we commend to all readers of *Tok Blong Pasifik*.

It is also important that youth be given opportunities to be heard. The 1996 conference was the second consecutive one featuring special provision for youth involvement. This is the second issue of *Tok Blong Pasifik* focusing on the contributions and perspectives of youth. Our first such issue, *Youth Talk*, was in November 1992 and was very well received by readers in the Pacific and elsewhere. We trust you will find it equally stimulating to read this latest issue and see life and the Pacific "through the eyes of youth".

*Stuart Wulff for SPPF*



## SPPF

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## In Memorium - Darlene Keju Johnson

**D**arlene Keju, whose name is linked for many with the issue of nuclear radiation effects on the Marshallese people, died June 18 in Majuro after a long bout with cancer. She was 45 years old. In 1983 at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Vancouver, Darlene brought to the attention of the world the health conditions of Marshallese suffering the long term effects of nuclear radiation exposure. For doing so, she was criticized by the Marshalls and US governments. She was later instrumental in founding and supporting Youth to Youth in Health (YTYIH), an association of young Marshallese who made health education their mission. SPPF joins Darlene's many friends and admirers around the world in

celebrating her life and mourning her passing. In memory of Darlene, donations can be sent to YTYIH, Building Fund, PO Box 3149, Majuro, Marshall Islands, 96960.





# Letters to the Editor

## Health Survey to Examine Nuclear Testing

Dear Mr. Wulff,

I would like to congratulate you for the March issue of *Tok Blong Pasifik*. I have been very interested by various articles and in particular by Archbishop Pogo's address to SPPF's 1995 Annual Meeting. This article really reflects what we feel about the exploitation of our Pacific resources by foreigners.

Ending nuclear testing does not mean eliminating the nuclear wastes and the fears of our people. The Church and NGOs in Tahiti, the Europe-Pacific Solidarity Network and the World Council of Churches are doing with experts an independent survey on the health of people who worked on Moruroa. We plan to start the survey in June and conduct it over a period of six months. We hope a report will be available by the end of the year.

*John Doom, Executive Secretary for the Pacific, World Council of Churches*

## PNG Objects to Bougainville Coverage

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express the concern of the Papua New Guinea High Commission to Canada regarding the article, "Women's Voices on the Bougainville Crisis" by Dr. Jared Keil, which appeared in your September-December 1995 edition.

### How to write to us

Letters must be signed and carry the writer's name and address. SPPF reserves the right to edit letters for brevity, style or legal reasons. Send to SPPF and mark to the attention of the editor, *Tok Blong Pasifik*.

The article painted a one-sided story of the Bougainville saga and attempted to lay the full blame for the sufferings of women and children on the Papua New Guinea government. You totally ignored the atrocities committed by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), the real instigators of the unfortunate emergency situation. Part of the blame should be levelled at the BRA, the main perpetrators of the cruel acts against innocent people. Your treatment of the so called "blockade of Bougainville" shows indifference to the current prevailing circumstance. To continue to insist that "the most deadly weapon for thousands of Bougainvilleans has been the blockade" is totally misleading. The blockade was lifted shortly after its imposition in the early part of the crisis.

In the past eighteen (18) months, the PNG Government has done everything humanly possible to facilitate a peaceful solution to this problem. Concurrent with this, it has also endeavored in a very responsible manner to reconstruct and restore services to almost 60% of Bougainville. The peace process, including peace talks between the rebels and the Bougainville Transitional Government held last December in Cairns, was fully supported by the PNG Government. It was one of the series of dialogues between all affected parties to find not only a peaceful solution but a lasting one.

International agencies have been allowed free access to the island. The UN Human Rights Commission resolutions on Bougainville recognize the PNG government's efforts in restoring normalcy on Bougainville. At the invitation of the PNG government, the UN Inter-Agency Assistance Program is assisting the

reconstruction program towards a lasting peace on Bougainville.

The role of PNGDF soldiers in Bougainville is basically to ensure that government services are open and that foreign aid including relief supplies are channeled through legitimate authorities to the total population of Bougainville. They have been successful in most cases, but in a number of instances have been ambushed by the rebels whose primary agenda is to frustrate peace efforts and prevent the people from getting access to essential government services. The soldiers are not the enemies as you claim in your published articles.

The PNG government and the Bougainville Transitional Government are both doing what they can with very limited resources in what has become a very difficult situation. Your bulletin's misrepresentation of the crisis is not helping the overall situation.

*Nagora Bogan, MBE, Ambassador*

*[Editor's Note: We welcome the ambassador's explanation of his government's perspective on the Bougainville crisis. However, Tok Blong Pasifik has regularly carried coverage of the Bougainville situation, including both the various efforts of the PNG Government and others to resolve the crisis and the concerns raised by numerous international observers and agencies about practices of the PNGDF and BRA in the conflict. The same issue of Tok Blong Pasifik that carried the article of concern to the ambassador also carried a news report on the peace process. Arguing a lack of fairness in coverage from one article ignores this broader context. To claim that the article represents the position of SPPF also ignores our editorial policy - see inside front cover - which states that views expressed by*

*Continued on Page 3*





## PACIFIC NEWS UPDATES

### Regional

#### France's Forum Status in Doubt

France's status as a Post-Forum Dialogue partner is still in suspension as the annual South Pacific Forum meeting of government leaders approaches. Dialogue partners, including Canada and several other donor countries, meet with Forum representatives at a Post-Forum Dialogue following the Forum meetings. France was suspended last year when it refused to cancel its nuclear testing programme. While some member countries favour readmission, others felt it was too soon to invite France back for the 1996 meeting. It was decided that the decision would be made at the Forum meeting, making it unlikely that France will

attend the Dialogue a couple of days later, even if the decision is favourable. This year's meeting will be in the Marshall Islands.

[From: *Pacific Report*, Jun 26/96]

#### Five Pacific Nations Among Least Developed

The UN's list of 48 "least developed countries" (LDCs) includes the Pacific Island nations of Kiribati, Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. But Vanuatu is now there only by choice. The UN notified the Vanuatu government that Vanuatu's economic development justified it graduating to the category of "developing country", but the government chose to stay in the LDC category for now, feeling that the country was not yet ready for "developing" status. The UN was more negative about prospects for the other Pacific LDCs, noting negative savings rates

*Editor's note—continued from Page 2*  
contributors do not necessarily reflect the position of SPPF. Notwithstanding these points, the compilation by Dr. Keil did include some criticism of the BRA. Other comments are critical of the general impact of the war, which would imply criticism of all parties to the conflict. When made aware of the ambassador's concerns, Dr. Keil emphasized this point and that the dating of the sources he quotes should have made clear that the article focuses on a period prior to the recent peace efforts and is thus focused on the impact of the conflict rather than

the broader and more recent context. Dr. Keil also noted that the article was not a stating of his views, let alone SPPF's, but a compilation of a range of "Women's Voices on the Bougainville Crisis" from various sources. The ambassador's comment on lifting the blockade "shortly after its imposition in the early part of the crisis" is perplexing. Whatever one calls it, the restriction of aid and international access to Bougainville for several years during the crisis has been widely documented and indeed criticised in several UN Human Rights Commission resolutions.]

over the past decade for all four.

[From: *Go Between*, Apr/May 95;

*Vanuatu Trading Post*, Dec 20/95]

#### UN Decolonisation Meeting Creates a Stir

The UN's Decolonisation Committee met in June in Port Moresby, with much of the controversy happening outside the meeting. The PNG Government prompted concern from the UN and other organisations when it denied a visa to Lopeti Senituli, director of the Suva-based Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (secretariat of the Nuclear Free & Independent Pacific Movement). Senituli has long been a spokesperson on decolonisation issues in the Pacific and had been invited to appear before the Committee as a witness. PNG blocked his presence because of previous criticism of PNG's actions on Bougainville. Outside the meeting, protesters gathered to criticise the PNG Government and Decolonisation Committee for not considering the case of Indonesian occupied West Papua (Irian Jaya). UN officials refused to meet the demonstrators, noting that their mandate only permits them to consider territories approved by the UN. Meanwhile, the US delegation to the UN criticised the meeting for even occurring. The US refuses to report to the committee on its colonies, despite a UN requirement that this take place, and is trying to have the committee abolished.

[From: *Washington Pacific Report*, Jun 15/96]

#### Nuclear Waste Plan Draws Protests

A US company is proposing to buy privately owned Palmyra Island (1000 miles south of Hawai'i) and turn it into a commercial storage facility for high level nuclear waste. Key players in the company have previously tried to interest



the Marshall Islands government in such a facility and also tried to acquire Midway Island from the US Navy. The latest moves have drawn protests from the Kiribati Government and politicians in Hawai'i. US Senator Daniel Akaka has introduced a bill which would prohibit the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission from licensing any high level nuclear waste facilities outside the 50 states.

[From: *Washington Pacific Report*, Jun 15/96]



## Melanesia

### BHP Settles over Ok Tedi

BHP has settled its dispute with villagers along the Ok Tedi and Fly Rivers affected by its mine at Ok Tedi. The villagers had launched a multi-billion dollar suit against BHP in Australia, demanding compensation for damage caused by mine tailings dumped into the rivers and seeking construction of a tailings dam. Despite legislation by the PNG Government last year imposing a 110 million kina settlement and outlawing the seeking of further compensation, BHP continued to negotiate with community representatives. The settlement was hailed by village representatives as a model for settling disputes between landowners, resource companies and the government. It includes the original K110 million plus K40 million for villagers most affected

by the tailings. BHP also agreed to cover the legal costs of the villagers and to spend up to Aust\$400 million on a tailings disposal system. The PNG Government agreed to purchase a further 10% equity in Ok Tedi on behalf of the villagers. BHP expects it to take about two years to decide on the best method and construct the disposal system. An independent inquiry established by the government will examine disposal options. BHP is also exploring ways to rehabilitate the Ok Tedi and Fly Rivers.

[From: *Pacific Report*, Jun 26/96; press releases]

### Bougainville Conflict Escalates Again

PNG Defence Forces have launched a major offensive against the Bougainville Revolutionary Army. PNG has more than doubled the number of troops on Bougainville and aims to wipe out the BRA in "Operation High Speed II". PNG Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, says that his government is committed to reconstruction on Bougainville, but that BRA "criminals" were obstructing the government programme and must be eliminated. The assault has been deplored by Bougainville Premier, Theodore Miriung, who continues to push for a negotiated settlement. The new Australian Government has expressed concern about the PNG Government's actions, leading to a harsh response from Prime Minister Chan. Numerous attacks by PNG Defence Forces across the border into Solomon Islands have also heightened tensions with the Solomon Islands Government. PNG claims that the Solomons Government is supporting the rebel BRA, while the Solomons Government insists that it is only providing humanitarian assistance and trying to encourage a settlement to the conflict. PNG has ordered Bougainvillean

villagers in the conflict area to abandon their homes and move into government care centres to avoid being caught up in the fighting..

[From: *The Australian*, Jun 19/96; *Sydney Morning Herald*, Jun 19/96; *Pacific Report*, Jun 26/96]

### Bougainville Spokesman Goes into Exile

Martin Miriori, a spokesperson for the rebel Bougainville Interim Government, has abandoned the Solomon Islands for exile in the Netherlands. Miriori and his family were granted refugee status by the Netherlands government. Miriori took up residence in Honiara at the start of the war and has functioned as the primary conduit for communications between the rebel leadership and the outside world. He also coordinated humanitarian relief for people in rebel occupied Bougainville. Miriori says he will continue to promote the Bougainville cause through membership in the



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[From: *Europe-Pacific Solidarity Bulletin*, May-Jun/96]

## Kanaks Call for International Mediation

The Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), the principal coalition of pro-independence groups in New Caledonia, has announced that it would like the UN to mediate in any future talks with France concerning independence. The FLNKS recently broke off talks with the French Government and the anti-independence Rally for Caledonia in the Republic concerning implementation of the Matignon Accords when France's prime minister stated that the French Government was not willing to consider independence for New Caledonia. The Accords, signed in 1988, provide for a 1998 referendum on self-determination.

[From: *Pacific Report*, Jun 26/96]

## West Papua Hostage Taking Ends

An Indonesian army operation led to the release of remaining hostages held by the West Papuan independence movement, the OPM. Two of the remaining 11 hostages were killed during the operation. The crisis began when 26 hostages were seized in January by an OPM unit. All the hostages were connected with the Lorentz Operation Team 1995, which began research last November in an area where tensions were already high because of local opposition to Freeport-McMoran's huge mine in West Papua. The fact that 7 hostages were European drew international media attention to conditions in West Papua. The International Red Cross became involved in negotiations with the OPM, but was unable to secure the

release of the remaining hostages. The Indonesian human rights organisation, Tapol, has called for an investigation into the hostage deaths, noting uncertainty about who was responsible. Expressing concern about army operations against local inhabitants as a response to the OPM actions, a common pattern, Tapol has called for the presence of an independent international monitoring team.

[From: *Pacific News Bulletin*, Jun/96]

## PNG Student Newspaper Wins Award

*Uni Tavor*, the newspaper put out by journalism students at the University of Papua New Guinea, has been awarded the JEA Ossie Award for best student newspaper. Uni Tavor was in competition with the best student newspapers in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific and was described by the judge as "head and shoulders above the others".

[From: *The Independent*, Apr 26/96]

## Polynesia

### Study Launched on Nuclear Testing Impact

The Evangelical Church of Polynesia, Hiti Tau (umbrella group for local NGOs) and the Dutch University of Wageningen will conduct a comprehensive study of the impact of French nuclear testing on the health and well-being of the local population in French Polynesia. While the French government insists that the tests have had no negative impacts, local people cite anecdotal evidence in claiming that health impacts have been considerable. To date, there have been no comprehensive studies to confirm either position. The aim of the current study is to obtain solid data on the environmental and

health situation of identified risk groups, Polynesians who worked at the test sites and inhabitants of the islands within 500 kms. of the test sites. The study is being partially funded by the World Council of Churches (See appeal on Page 28).

[From: *Europe-Pacific Solidarity Bulletin*, May-Jun/96]

## Western Samoa Election Leads to Minority Government

Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana and his Human Rights Protection Party lost ground in Western Samoa's April election. The HRPP won 23 seats in the 49 member Parliament, but retained power with the support of 3 Independent MPs. 13 Independents were elected, suggesting disillusionment with both the HRPP and the opposition Samoa National Development Party. The HRPP has been hurt by allegations of corruption and by its highly unpopular Value Added Goods and Services Tax.

[From: *Pacific Report*, May 1/96]

## Micronesia

### Marshalls Government Seeks Nuclear Testing Data

The Marshall Islands Government has asked the Government Affairs Committee of the US Senate to assist in efforts to gain access to information about the impact of nuclear testing on the Marshallese. The Marshalls government has repeatedly tried to gain access to medical records of Marshallese patients treated in the US, but US government laboratories have refused to make them available. US reports on the nuclear testing programme are also still being withheld. The presence of Marshallese subjects at several US facilities when these facilities were involved in radiation experiments



using human subjects has also prompted concerns that the Marshallese may have been unknowingly exposed to radiation through these tests as well as the atmospheric weapons tests in their own islands. The Marshalls government wants an independent inquiry. It has also asked that US funded treatment programmes for radiation victims be extended from the four atolls currently covered to other atolls where people were exposed to radioactive fallout. The original terms for the treatment programme, limiting it to the four atolls, were negotiated prior to the US government's release of secret documentation confirming that the US was aware that its testing programme affected other atoll populations even while it was denying this publicly and negotiating the more limited treatment programme.

[From: *Pacific News Bulletin*, Apr/96]

## Canada

### Panel OKs BHP Diamond Mine

A government environmental review panel has recommended approval of Canada's first diamond mine. The mine in the Northwest Territories has been proposed by Australian mining giant, BHP Minerals. The recommendation came despite testimony that questioned BHP's environmental record and treatment of indigenous peoples in other mining operations such as Ok Tedi in PNG. Local First Nations organisations and environmental groups criticised the decision and the review process itself. The Canadian government is expected to make a final decision on the mine within the next couple of months.

[From: *Victoria Times-Colonist*, June 22/96 & Jul 4/96]

### Placer Dome Hurt by Philippines Spill

Canada's Placer Dome mining company, already under attack for its subsidiary's operations in PNG (See March *Tok Blong Pasifik* and below), is also dealing with fallout from a major spill at its Marcopper mine in the Philippines. Placer is a 40% owner of Marcopper. The collapse of a tailings containment system at the mine in April resulted in the discharge of millions of tons of waste into two rivers. As a result, the mine remains closed while the damage is repaired. The Philippines government has also revoked the mine's permit and filed criminal charges against three mine officials. Despite the loss of jobs for 800 workers, thousands of local residents are demanding that the mine be shut permanently. While Placer Dome is a minority owner, it says that it attaches great importance to its environmental record and will assume the bulk of costs associated with cleanup and repair. With those clean-up costs and the writing off of loans to now non-producing Marcopper, Placer expects to take a \$40 million loss.

[From: *Victoria Times-Colonist*, Jun 25/96 & Jun 28/96]

### Villagers Challenge Placer Mine in PNG

The Kulini Strickland Landowners Association, representing villagers on the Lagaiap and Strickland Rivers downstream from the Porgera gold mine, is protesting against mine pollution. The Porgera Joint Venture is operated by Placer Pacific, a subsidiary of Canada's Placer Dome mining company. Porgera has been under attack by villagers and environmentalists for its pollution of rivers downstream from the mine (See March *Tok Blong Pasifik*). The mine dumps its tailings into the river system (as do other mines in PNG). Critics allege that this has had negative

environmental and health impacts, including deaths of villagers, fish and animals downstream from the mine. The PNG government has exempted the mine from meeting a number of limits on toxic substances in the river. A June 14 decision by the PNG Minister for Environment and Conservation to extend the exemption for another 18 months has prompted the latest protest from the landowners association. Noting that BHP has recently agreed to build a tailings containment system for its Ok Tedi mine and alleging that Porgera is "arguably the worst polluter in the Pacific", the landowners are demanding that the company fund an independent environmental assessment and that they immediately build a tailings retention or disposal facility. Placer Pacific denies that its wastes represent an environmental or health threat.

[From: *press release; reports; correspondence*]

### INCO Looking at Major New Mine in New Caledonia

Canadian nickel mining giant, INCO, will likely be developing a new \$670 million nickel mine in New Caledonia. A feasibility study is being conducted for INCO by SNC-Lavalin and includes an environmental impact assessment (EIA) as well as meetings with local communities. INCO decided to conduct a full EIA and comply with Canadian environmental standards, even though EIAs are not required in New Caledonia. The Goro mine would be in the south of the main island and would involve a new extraction process called pressure acid leaching to maximise the recovery of nickel and cobalt. INCO expects the feasibility study to be completed by the end of 1996.

[From: *INCO 1995 Annual Report; Pacific Report*, Mar 20/96]





## Building Bridges between Indigenous Youth

by Jennifer Goodyear-Ka'opua

Last spring (1995), the American Friends Service Committee in Hawai'i put me in contact with the South Pacific Peoples Foundation. I was invited to attend their annual Pacific Networking Conference and present an overview of the Hawaiian sovereignty movement, particularly from a youth perspective.

The three day conference was held at Lake Cowichan on the traditional territory of one of the First Nations of Vancouver Island. Other Pacific Islander resource people, both men and women, came from the Solomon Islands, Bougainville, Tonga and Vanuatu. Most of the participants were from Canada. For many, it was the first they'd heard about the current struggle for self-determination by Native Hawaiians.

The conference was one of the most valuable learning experiences that I have had in the past few years and a welcome opportunity to share some of the issues that are happening here in Hawai'i. I learned a great deal, both within the conference sessions and in talking to people outside the formal constraints of the various workshops.

The friendships I made with the other Pacific Islanders left lasting impressions on me. When I first arrived, I felt somewhat isolated from them because my skin wasn't as dark, my hair not as curly and my English not as heavily accented. I questioned my authenticity as a Pacific Islander and the seriousness of my struggle. But the Islanders' immediate acceptance of me and their interest in the Hawaiian struggle changed that. I realised that the people who failed to recognise me as a Pacific Islander were not the other Islanders, but some of the white Canadians. They seemed to think I wasn't exotic enough to be a "real" Pacific Islander. Once I was able to give my presentation, people were very receptive and genuinely interested, but it showed that people need to be careful of separating according to physical appearances or the colour of one's skin. The divisions between Pacific Islanders, and on some levels between Hawaiians, are often made not by the people themselves but by outsiders, often by our colonisers.

I came to see clearly that as Hawaiians proceed with a movement toward sovereignty, we must re-establish our ancestral connections with the Pacific. Too often,

people's sense of Hawai'i as part of America has eclipsed the reality of Hawai'i as an island of the Pacific. Realising myself as part of a larger Pacific family has enhanced my sense of myself as a Kanaka Maoli Hawai'i.

My experiences at the conference also showed me the importance of youth in any movement for social justice. Youth energise and impassion social movements and our involvement is critical in ensuring the longevity of significant social change. Adults should encourage, not dominate, youth by providing resources for organising and by reassuring us that our ideas and efforts are valued.

There were not as many First Nations people attending the conference as I had hoped there would be. The conference provided a wonderful opportunity for networking between indigenous peoples and I would have liked to see even more of that. Unfortunately, I had to return to Hawai'i immediately after the conference and thus missed out on visits to First Nations communities that had been organised for the other Pacific Islanders.

It was pointed out by a First Nations woman who had helped to organise the conference that, while many of the white Canadians there were very knowledgeable and sympathetic to the independence struggles of the South Pacific, they were often ignorant and sometimes unsupportive of the native struggles in Canada. It seemed to her very short-sighted to focus on the struggles of the Pacific without making the connections to the First Nations peoples of Canada.

This seems to be an important lesson for non-Native peace activists and supporters of justice who live here in Hawai'i. One cannot adequately address issues of peace and justice globally without first looking and acting locally. In Hawai'i, this means that any complete peace or justice movement must include support for Hawaiian self-determination and a return of Hawaiian lands to the Kanaka Maoli Hawai'i.

Jennifer Goodyear-Ka'opua is a student at the University of Hawai'i.





# A World of Change

## An Interview with Pacific Youth

*SPPF's Stuart Wulff conducted this interview with three Pacific youth who were on temporary volunteer placements with SPPF. All three - Fredlyn Nako of Vanuatu, Faye Nuakona of Papua New Guinea and Eroni Rakuita of Fiji - were students at Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific.*

### STUART:

What do you think the future holds for you? Do you see yourselves going on to university?

### FAYE:

Before I came here I had a clear goal. I wanted to be a pilot. Since I've been here, I just want to help people, maybe through some sort of social organisation. Maybe I'll study or get a job. I just want to take it as it comes.

### FREDLYN:

It's the same with me. Before I came I was thinking of becoming a lawyer, but now I'd like to do something with languages or something that will give me an opportunity to work in different

countries as a diplomat.

### ERONI:

My aim was to be a lawyer, but I've thought about the present situation in Fiji, the political instability, and I think it would be

better for me to get a career in public administration. I see native Fijians slowly losing their culture and traditions. If I can get a position in government, then I can try to bring back this possibility for Fijians and try to bring unity amongst the people as it is a multi-racial country

### STUART:

The Pacific is changing. The experiences you've had are different from those of your parents had and your children's are likely to be even more different. What do you feel are some of the major issues for young people today in your countries?

### FAYE:

I think the biggest problem lies in education. I wish there were more universities, colleges and senior high schools where people could get a higher level of education and therefore better employment. There are thousands of unemployed students every year. They don't have anything to do. They don't want to go back to the villages and work in the gardens or do anything useful. They just want to hang out in the streets, beg, turn into rascals and rob people. That's one of the main issues I think my country has - criminal activity. I just wish people were more educated. Maybe it's not the solution, but I think it would help if people had something to keep them occupied.

### FREDLYN:

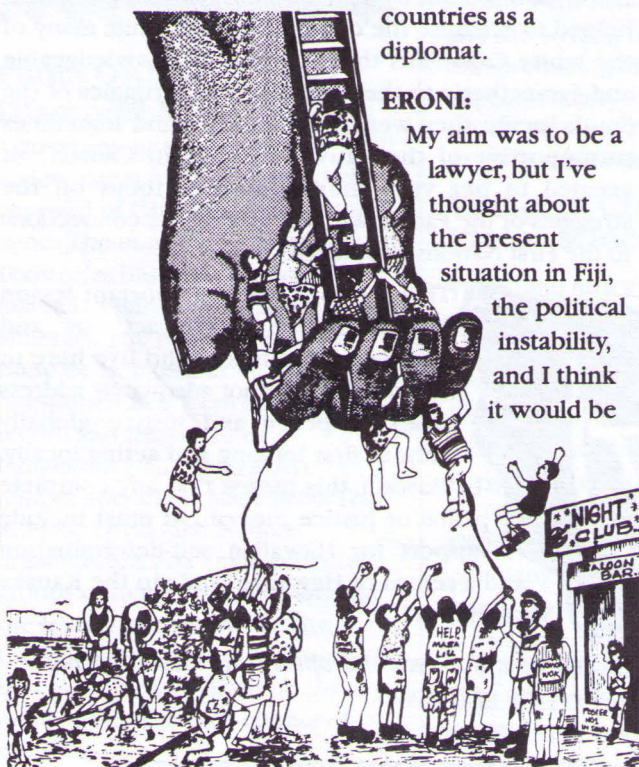
In my country we have the same problem. Each year we have a lot of dropouts. There aren't enough high schools. Employment is down and most jobs these days are for those who have completed high school.

### ERONI:

I think some of the problems lie with parents who don't prepare children for their future. The children are unprepared to face situations such as unemployment. It would be better if parents tried to bring up their children in the traditional way so it can give them a role to play in the village if they cannot make it to higher education.

### STUART:

Faye and Fredlyn have talked about young people not wanting to go back to the village. Yet Eroni suggests that a solution to unemployment is to keep young



From: Link, Nov/Dec 1998



people in the village and strengthen their sense of their traditional culture. Is there a contradiction? Do you disagree with what he's saying?

**FAYE:**

I agree in a way, but Western ideas are influencing young people. There are so many attractions for rural to urban migration. People are bored of living in the village and want to experience something new. I don't really think it's a fault of the parents. They can't help it if their kids want to go away.

**FREDLYN:**

These days everybody sees education as essential and most of the high schools are in town. Some students have never had the experience of living in town. It's exciting for them and, by the time they're finished their schooling or dropped out, some of them won't go back to their villages. For children who have spent all their life in town, they feel like they belong to the town. I grew up in town. I've gone back to my island only two times and, even though that is where I am originally from, I don't have a sense of belonging to that place.

**FAYE:**

The main reason I live in the city is because my parents had to move there to get a job and go to university. I usually regard myself as being from Port Moresby, not from Manus. In a way I'm pushing away my culture, but I try my best; I try to go home to see my grandparents ever year so that I learn about something.

**ERONI:**

It is the responsibility of parents to bring the culture and traditions from the village to the children. It will make the link between the children and the village.

**FAYE:**

Don't you think it will be hard if the parents have different cultures? My Dad and Mom come from different places, so the only common culture we share is a western culture. I don't speak my Dad's or Mom's languages, so we speak in English.

**ERONI:**

It depends on tradition whether you belong to the father's or the mother's side. In Fiji, when a woman marries a man, the children belong to the father's side. The parents have to tell the children that their father's side is more important, because it is where they will stay and where they will go back to after working in town.

**FAYE:**

That is not the case in all societies.

**FREDLYN:**

My parents have the feeling that they still belong to their island, their local area. But for me, the next generation, I start to lose that feeling. What I have is a general feeling for my national culture. At least I still have some knowledge about what my parents have gone through. But I am really scared about my children and grandchildren. They will not have any roots to their culture.

**FAYE:**

My parents' generation has the attitude that when they retire they have a home in the village. I don't know where I will go after I retire. The most important thing is where you are going to be buried when you die. My grandchildren might have a different attitude. They may not want to go back to where they are originally from. They may want to be buried somewhere else. I guess things have changed.

**STUART:**

It is very evident, Eroni, that your formative experiences have been more traditional and village based and that you have a different sense of connection to that.

**ERONI:**

I have got this pride in me. My parents tell me: "This is you, this is where you stand, this is your role. After we have gone you will take over. It is your responsibility. There is nobody else to do it."

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# One Tie for My People

by Eroni Rakuita

The approach of another century prompts questions about the future of the chiefly system in Fiji, a system which for hundreds of years has bound Fijian societies together. A chief is a symbol of authority and unity. The existence of the chief determines the very existence of Fijians as a people. It also simplifies the various roles that people play in the society. However, it is sad to notice that this integral part of the Fijian heritage is slowly disappearing. I believe the cause does not stem from westernisation but from the Fijian people themselves.

The present generation, in their desire to gain knowledge, are turning their backs on their customs and tradition. Having gained knowledge and money, they begin thinking that they are independent and should therefore be making more decisions. This makes them question at times the decisions that their chiefs make. Some have even gone to the extent of condemning chiefs in public. Little do these people know that in doing this, they are actually destroying the most revered part of their ancestors' traditional system. Moreover, they fail to see that they are slowly untying the knots that have kept Fijians bound together. The

sons and daughters of Fiji are slowly invalidating a part of them which I believe, once gone, can never be restored.

However, the most horrifying thing threatening the existence of the chiefly system is the people of chiefly blood themselves. In the olden days, people looked upon their chiefs as appointed by the gods. With the coming of Christianity, this belief was further strengthened. But today chiefly positions are treated by many as a prize to fight for. Those of chiefly blood are now in many parts of Fiji divided because of their ambition to have the position. As a result the tribes are divided and people take sides as if in an election. Such tribes are "flocks without a shepherd" and my tribe is one of them.

For nine years since the death of our chief, relatives of chiefly blood have been fighting for the position and our tribe remains without a leader. My tribe has been torn into two factions, each supporting the person they think is the rightful chief. As a result, people stop talking to each other and hatred flares up. People are slowly forsaking the roles that have been handed down for generations. This has resulted in the emerging

generation being totally unaware of the role that they are supposed to play for their tribe and chief. Some have taken the role of others where the rightful player of the role is in the other faction. This has confused everything. Given time no one will remember who their ancestors were and what their role was within the society.

The untying of the knot that has bound us for years has started from the knot itself. Those of chiefly blood, in their ambition and greed, have trampled on the position which they are supposed to uphold as a God-given gift. The people, in their ambition for knowledge and power, are slashing these knots by condemning and questioning the descendants of the once revered and respected chiefs of days long gone. This deep root of Fijian existence and unity is being threatened. If left unresolved, its breakdown will soon be beyond repair.

*Eroni Rakuita is a first year student representing Fiji at Pearson College.*



Photo: Alison Gardner

Eroni shares a laugh with a fellow student from Ghana





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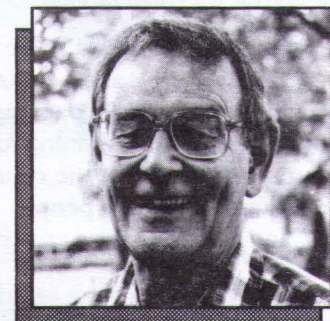


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Yvette Buziak



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# Can Tourism Provide Economic Development for Papua New Guinea?

by Faye Nuakona

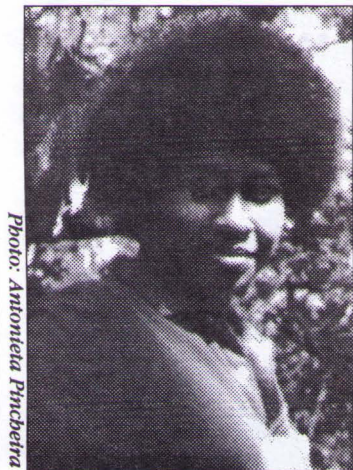


Photo: Antonietta Pincheira

Papua New Guinea has been going through an unbearable financial crisis. Whose fault is this? Has the government misused a lot of money, or is it the people's ignorance which makes them stand by and let things happen even if decisions will not benefit them in the end? I think that the main problem lies in a lack of awareness and educa-

tion. When people have no idea how the country is run, how can they possibly know if what the government does is for the country's benefit?

If the government could spend more money on the necessary infrastructure and tools to improve education, maybe that would decrease the level of unemployment and increase training for the variety of jobs which are available. What the country needs now and in the future is skilled people who have the knowledge and ability to enhance economic development.

Economic development will not solve all problems. It may even develop new ones. However, at least there is some sense of achievement and people may seek ways of doing things better. It may also prevent the criminal activities which occur only because people are idle and unemployed.

Papua New Guinea is one of the most fortunate countries in the South Pacific. It has enormous wealth in its natural resource. It also has great potential for tourism as a source of revenue for the government and people. There are many opportunities for foreigners to gain new experiences and learn about cultures very different from their own.

The first step is to develop more tourism infrastructure to attract visitors from abroad. If tourism becomes as big an industry as mining, forestry and agriculture, the people will have a chance to benefit from

presenting their cultural traditions and arts and from guiding outsiders in various eco-tourism expeditions. As Western ideas are introduced into a non-Western society, people also begin to consider their own beliefs to be of less significance. If delivered in the right way, tourism can encourage people to feel proud of their culture so that they will teach the younger generations about their traditions.

PNG faces great publicity whenever there are tribal fights or when news of its high crime rate appears in the press. Along with many places, PNG has a high rate of criminal activity, but I think that PNG as a whole is not as dangerous as most would put it. While trying to reduce our crime rate, we need to work on promoting the positive aspects of PNG so that it gets as much tourism attention as other South Pacific islands.

The government needs to remember that it represents its people and should try to ensure that people benefit from the resources of the country. The promotion of good quality tourism may be an alternative means to encourage development and bring pride to the people of PNG.

*Faye Nuakona is from PNG and has just completed two years of study at Pearson College.*



Photo: Gerry Schuurkamp

*Can tourism provide a better future for these young Papua New Guineans?*



# Tobacco Consumption in Kiribati

*By Bateriki Neneia, Taabiriia Kararaua, Maritaake Torooro,  
Atan Betero & Auria Kitina*

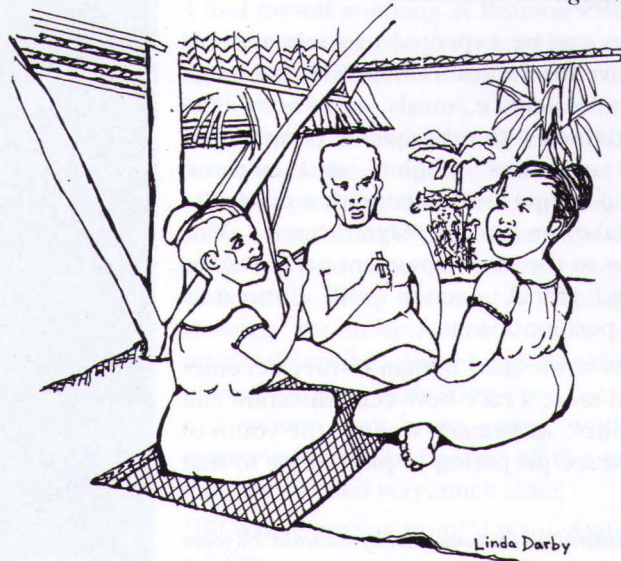
**B**efore whalers came to the Gilbert Islands, smoking and drinking were not practised. The first contact was in the 1840s. The islanders became smokers and enjoyed it. Traditional goods such as coconuts were not the only items exchanged for tobacco. The giving of women to the crews to satisfy their sexual desire was practised as well.

Tobacco remains the priority import today besides rice, flour, sugar and tinned foods. It has now become a basic need and part of local custom.

We conducted household surveys in several communities in South Tarawa. Surveys showed fewer female than male smokers. Traditional values have encouraged men to smoke, while women smokers have in the past been frowned upon. More females smoke in the larger government and recreation centres. A possible explanation is that tradition is not strictly observed in these villages. The largest proportion of smokers is composed of teenagers and young adults. The number of smokers increases with age to 42% at ages 16-20, followed by a gradual decline.

Sharing of cigarettes among two or more people is commonly practised in Kiribati. Contagious and dangerous diseases can be easily spread. More than 4000 toxic chemicals have been found in tobacco. Smoking during pregnancy affects the unborn child.. Diseases such as heart disease, lung cancer and chronic lung diseases are caused by smoking. The smoke inhaled by non-smokers is also harmful.

*Continued on Page 27*



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# Celebrating Diversity, Avoiding Catastrophe

## Education for a Better World

by Peter Bavinton

Located on the Pacific near Victoria, British Columbia, a unique global village has been educating and training for service young men and women from many lands for the past 22 years. As one of nine United World Colleges on four continents, Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific stands as Canada's national memorial to the late prime minister and Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

Pearson College is a residential community where 200 young people, aged 16 to 19, from over 70 countries come together each year with an international team of teachers to learn about themselves and the world which they will inherit. The two-year international baccalaureate curriculum and the intense community service programme encourage the development of students who become socially aware and committed to returning home with perspectives which transcend nationalism, respect diversity and promote international understanding.

Most students come to Pearson College on a full scholarship, providing them with an education equivalent to their last year of high school and first year of university. The scholarship policy makes it possible for young people from all backgrounds to join the programme.

International understanding is not a subject that can be taught. At Pearson College it is a way of life. Lester Pearson once said, "How can there be peace without people understanding each other and how can this be if they don't know each other?" The true lessons in understanding come by sharing experiences.

*Alan Biribo brought his musical talents from Fiji*



Photo: Antonieta Pincheira

Often opinions and beliefs are challenged and stretched beyond limits previously imagined. Perhaps Zia Abbas, a student from Pakistan, summed it up best, "We do not all learn to think alike; we do learn how each other thinks."

Students also participate in community service. Programmes such as dance or drama with disabled young adults, visits to the elderly, and teaching physically or mentally challenged people to swim, sail or scuba dive enrich the community and equip students to begin a lifetime of service.

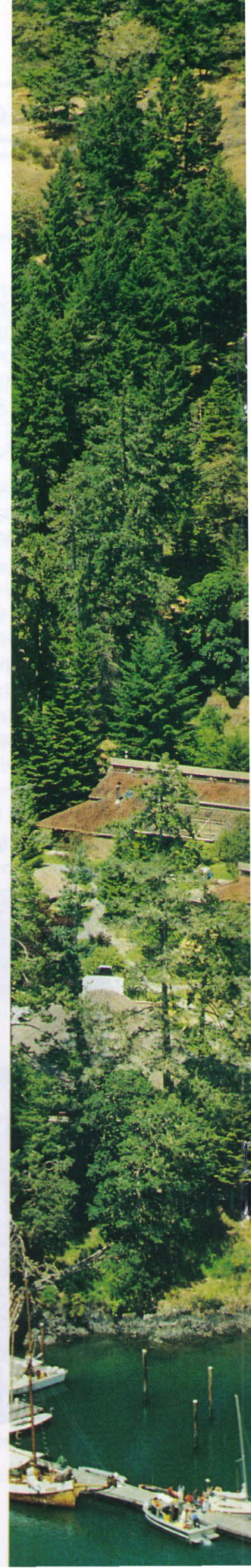
The phrase "of the Pacific" underscores the college's connection to the Pacific Rim and Islands since first opening its doors. The South Pacific has been represented with scholarships from Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Western Samoa, New Zealand, Kiribati, Australia, Indonesia and Vanuatu. New scholarships may allow expansion of Pacific representation before the millenium draws to a close.

Since 1974, over 2,100 students from 108 countries have graduated from Pearson College. The effort of United World Colleges throughout the world has produced 27,500 graduates from 132 countries. Significantly, after completing post-secondary education, 93% of the graduates return to their home countries. Although still quite young to have taken on senior decision-making roles, they are increasingly assuming leadership roles in business, science, education and politics. Many are active in their communities.

Graduates can be expected to apply a global perspective for the rest of their lives. Through sharing a residence, meals, classrooms and many activities with other young people from different countries, religions and cultures, issues and events associated with a particular region take on greater significance. This sensitivity to the interdependent nature of the emerging global society will ultimately generate positive change.

H.G. Wells wrote that "human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe". At Pearson College the youth of the world are preparing to participate in that race.

*Born an Australian and adopted by Canada 20 years ago, Peter Bavinton is President of Pearson College.*





# From Vanuatu to Canada

by Fredlyn Nako

Somewhere in the midst of the Pacific Ocean - out of the eruption of active volcanoes - lies a group of tiny islands, long unmapped and even now appearing only as dots on world maps. Vanuatu is its name.

I think back with nostalgia to a time ten years ago, still fresh experiences that I'd like to share with you. Life then was difficult, yet care free, with minimal influence from outside the country. I vaguely remember at five years of age that Vanuatu had its independence and before that the rebellion. I remember hearing shouts, strange loud noises and thinking to myself, "This is the end". But it wasn't.

Education was compulsory but many children, me included, never thought it was that important and we could hardly wait to get out of the classroom. Every day after school we went in search of fruit since there were rows of orange and guava trees next to the school. However, schoolwork soon became more frequent and we had to study more. Time was the boss. Education became an essential thing.

The years brought dramatic changes. Hotels and resorts were built and attracted international visitors as tourism became Vanuatu's main industry. Business enterprises were established, providing jobs. The two main towns became busier as people moved into them. New means of transportation were introduced and computers appeared in the schools.

Now my life has taken a very different turn and I find myself studying at Pearson College. My first impression was that everything seemed so complete; I wondered whether I could cope with the change. I took a ride into town and was amazed to see how busy everything was. I went into the shopping malls and the size shocked me as well as the long queue waiting to be served. In Vanuatu, if we have that many people in one supermarket, the other markets will surely be quite empty! While walking through the streets, the thought of being attacked kept me alert. I was surprised to see crowds of people walking very fast knowing just where they were going, while I was somewhat confused because all the streets and buildings looked very much alike.

"Hi! Where are you from?" I wanted someone to ask me.

"I'm from Vanuatu," I would reply.

"Where's that?" An expected question.

"Oh, it's in the South Pacific, northeast of Australia."

I felt like I was in the middle of nowhere, but that soon became fun!

I was told that Victoria is in the warmest part of Canada, but I found it extremely cold. My Canadian friends were amused to see me wearing hand gloves and a scarf even before winter had begun!

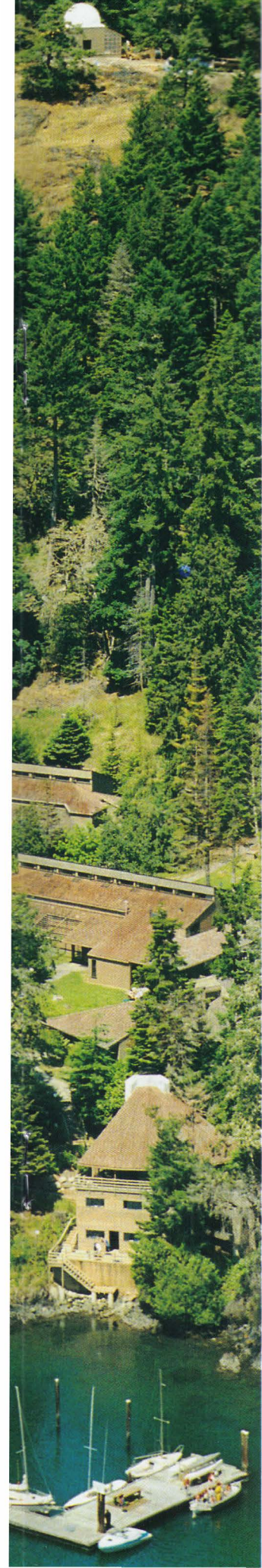
During orientation week, I tried out 'tree-top walking', a part of the college's wilderness programme. High up in the branches was a 'path' of strong ropes. As the wind swayed our bridge among the branches, a great fear took hold of me, but I was determined to complete the journey. This was an experience I will never forget.

Being at Pearson College with 200 students from 78 different countries is a great privilege for me. Not only do I have the chance to study overseas, but I also have the opportunity to integrate with students from around the world and to learn about their cultures. I am learning a lot about big cities and of course about Canadian culture too. I've already learnt to accept many changes, and I'm sure there will be more to come.

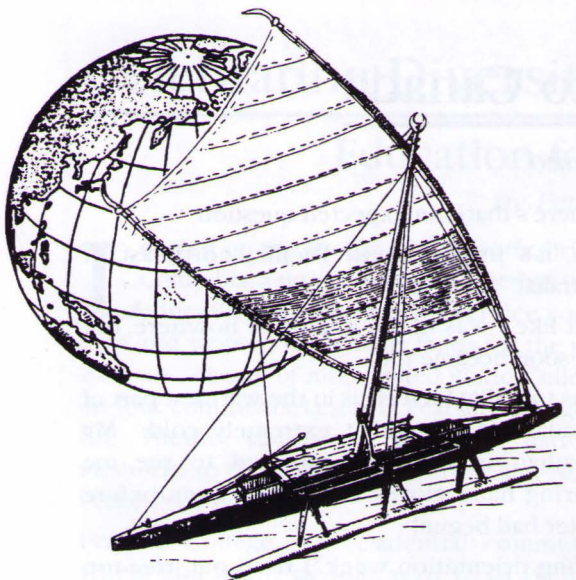
*Fredlyn Nako is a first year student representing Vanuatu at Pearson College.*

*Fredlyn participates in Pearson College's sailing programme*

Photo: Antonieta Pincheira







## SPPF's Executive Director Challenges Government on Global Education

Stuart Wulff has urged the Canadian government to increase its support for the education of Canadians about global issues. He made his comments in a televised appearance before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The April 18 session was partly in response to the government's 1995 decision to cut its financial support for the education programmes of organisations like SPPF. Stuart noted that global issues education is in need of revitalisation and provided examples of new approaches being initiated by organisations like SPPF. He condemned the government funding cuts, noting that reform rather than retreat was needed in the government's commitment to education. The Canadian International Development Agency has responded to the criticism from SPPF and others by establishing an internal working group to propose new policies on education. SPPF has been asked to provide input to this process.

# SPPF in action

## South Pacific Peoples Foundation



### "Beyond Beijing and Moruroa"

#### Conference Draws Record Pacific Participation

Around 60 people gathered at Lake Cowichan for SPPF's annual Pacific Networking Conference (May 31 - June 2), with a record 13 of those participants from the South Pacific. Participants were treated to productive sessions on such topics as the struggle for sovereignty in Tahiti, addressing the environmental impact of French nuclear testing, women and politics, women and development, the roles of women and youth in sovereignty struggles, Canadian mining in the Pacific, structural adjustment programmes, global climate change, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the effort to stop US naval weapons testing in Canada's Nanoose Bay.

In keeping with the "Beijing" theme, most Pacific participants were women. Youth were active in organising the conference and there were several youth workshops at the conference. Members of several First Nations attended the conference and the Pacific Islanders also visited with local First Nations people. Participants urged SPPF to continue facilitating exchanges between Pacific Islanders and indigenous peoples in North America.

Special thanks is owed to the Pacific resource people (including those from the local Fijian community who assisted with aspects of the programme), the planning committee and the funders who enabled SPPF to offer its 13th annual conference (BC Global Development Fund, United Church of Canada, Anglican Church of Canada, Inter Pares).

Conference proceedings will be available from SPPF.

#### Tahitians Visit Saskatchewan

After the conference, Auxilia Haereraaroa and Ahuura Paia of the Tahitian independence party, Tavini Huiraatira, traveled to Saskatoon. Both women have a strong interest in nuclear issues and are involved in efforts to address concerns about nuclear wastes from the French nuclear weapons testing programme. While in Saskatoon, they met with a range of people working on nuclear and indigenous rights issues.



## Supporting People with Disabilities in Vanuatu

### An Open Letter from Altaire Butler

*Altaire Butler, an occupational therapist, is SPPF's first overseas placement. She is working with the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People. CUSO is also involved in the placement.*

My first 2 months in Vanuatu have flown by quickly. I arrived in Port Vila on February 28th to join the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People (VSDP) in order to provide them with assistance as part of the latest partnership between SPPF and one of its Pacific partners.

VSDP is a non-governmental organization and the primary service provider for those with disabilities in Vanuatu. In 1991 they adopted a community based rehabilitation focus after a survey of disabled people and their families indicated that they wanted to receive services within their own communities. Four field workers were trained in the recognition of common disabling conditions and basic rehabilitation. The field workers spend 3 weeks of each month traveling to the islands seeing clients, and 1 week in the Port Vila office completing paper work and meeting with each other regarding difficult cases. Two new field workers were hired in April.

The objectives of this project are two fold. The first is to assist in the upgrading of the field workers' skills and knowledge through the provision of training. The second is to help establish linkages between VSDP and the regional and international communities of people with disabilities. This will allow for greater information exchange and the opportunity to improve the society's advocacy role.

My first tasks upon arrival were to complete a needs assessment and get a firm grasp of VSDP's current direction. I also had to learn Bislama kwiktaem (learn to speak Bislama quickly) and familiarize myself with the culture. I've accompanied 3 of the 4 field workers out to the islands of Tongoa, Pentecost and Espiritu Santo and have a visit to Tanna planned. This has given me a first hand look at what they encounter in the field, from common conditions to attitudes, difficulties and barriers. This has also been the ideal immersion environment for learning the language, customs and culture. The pace of work is very different. Often we only see 1 or 2 clients per day. This leaves lots of time for storian (chatting), which is a great opportunity to learn about people's attitudes and beliefs on a whole range of topics.

I'm very busy planning the training sessions which will begin in June. I hope to utilize a participatory teaching approach, allowing the field workers with more experience to guide those that don't have as much. We will also be inviting others in the community who might benefit from these training opportunities (eg: pre-school teachers, community health workers, nurses and the hospital physiotherapist).

A visit to the Disabled People's Rehabilitation Association of Solomon Islands (DPRA) is planned for later this year. Two members of VSDP will go on the 3 week trip. VSDP's community based rehabilitation programme focuses on the delivery of service to those with disabilities, while DPRA has a stronger focus on advocacy. A link between these two organizations will promote the sharing of information about these different approaches, with each gaining from the experience of the other. A later linkage trip to Canada is also planned.

I'm excited by the challenges of the year ahead. VSDP offers much to people with disabilities in Vanuatu. This joint project between SPPF and VSDP will help them to build on the strengths they already possess and to develop the skills to focus on new areas of concern such as advocacy and building relationships with other organizations for those with disabilities.

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# Window On The Arts

## Maui's *Hapa* Preserves Island Heritage

by Taran March

Hawaii blesses its residents with a certain mind-set, in Hawaiian called *ohana*, a reverence and appreciation for the land, people, language and spirit of the islands. Hawaiian music in particular holds an evocative power surpassing its tourist hype, soothing even as it inspires a melancholy longing for peace and harmony. I think of *ohana* as I listen to *Hapa's* Keli'i Kaneali'i sing *Ku'u Lei Awapubi*.

Lead singer of the Maui-based group, Kaneali'i possesses a superb set of pipes - the resonantly clear, rich Hawaiian tenor, uninflected and broad of range. "When I heard Keli'i's voice, I knew I had met my musical soul mate," says the other half of *Hapa's* duo, composer Barry Flanagan. "He has the sweet Paul McCartney on his end and my raw nasally rock 'n' roll on mine - two voices that are different harmonise much better. That's the magic of our vocals."

But they apparently manage other magic with equal skill, if their sweep of the 1994 *Na Hoku Hanohano* ("Stars of Distinction") awards is any indication - best album, best group, best single and best song among other credits. That same year their album, an eight-year, on-again, off-again effort, was finally released. Over 50,000 *Hapa* CDs and cassettes sold within twelve months and Tower Records declared it their best-selling Hawaiian album. On

O'ahu it even muscled out new releases by Pearl Jam and UB40.

So what's the story behind this successful odd couple, a local boy and a New Jersey expatriate? Chinese-Hawaiian Kaneali'i grew up on O'ahu, star of his high school choir, and learned *ki ho'alu* (slack key) guitar from his uncle. Migrating to Maui in 1978, Kaneali'i soon joined Martin Pahinui's band performing at the Royal Lahaina Resort. In the meantime, Flanagan had picked up his guitar and fled New Jersey for Colorado, where a friend gave him an album by Martin Pahinui's brother, slack-key legend Gabby Pahinui. The sound proved irresistible and Flanagan, determined to learn from the master, arrived on Maui a scant month after Pahinui's death in 1980. Flanagan's Lahaina neighbours introduced him to a friend of Pahinui's, who later showed up at Flanagan's house and, true to Hawaiian oral tradition, taught him his first slack-key tune.

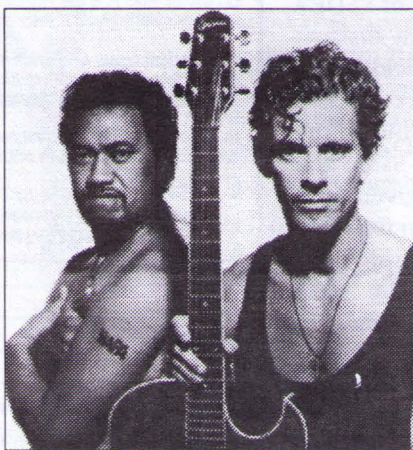


Photo: Camera Hawan

At a Christmas party soon after, Kaneali'i and Flanagan crossed paths. "When we met, [Kaneali'i] was playing nothing but contemporary," said Flanagan. "It was a strange mix, me playing his kind of music, he playing mine. This has been a blessed musical marriage right from the start." Their band name also arrived propitiously. "A friend of mine came in one night when we were playing and yelled '*'hapa'*'", recalled Kaneali'i. The term is shorthand for *hapa haole*, (half white), and aptly describes their music's cultural blend.

Stylistically, their sound strays from the strictly traditional, liberally mixing Flanagan's Ry Cooder, Al DiMeola and Pat Metheny influences into the melodic loose weave of slack-key. Though most of the album's songs are composed by Flanagan, two standards received the *Hapa* treatment, with mixed results. *Ka Uluwehi O Ke Kai*, by Edith Kanaka'ole, bizarrely includes a harmonica, banjo and fiddle along with a 12-string rhythm guitar and ipu drum. Emily Taylor's *Ku'u Lei Awapubi* fares better with just guitars and bass, emphasising the lovely vocals. For this song, Flanagan coaxed Kenny Loggins into contributing backup harmonies in Hawaiian. Stephen Stills was likewise pressed into service for a paniolo guitar solo in *Kaopuiki Aloha*, written for Flanagan's mentor neighbours. Overlooked in the Hoku hysteria surrounding *Lei Pikake*

Continued on inside back cover



# Nerve Gas Disposal - Let the People Decide

by Kilali Alailima

At the 1995 Council of the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO), several hundred delegates from 22+ Pacific countries joined citizens around the world to support efforts to safely eliminate stockpiles of deadly chemical weapons. The Council called on the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to deny the US Army's request to continue incinerating nerve gas beyond the June 30, 1995, deadline. Despite opposition from groups like PIANGO in the Pacific and others in the US, EPA approved continuation of the burning.

Why would Pacific peoples be so concerned with these actions taken by EPA and the US Army? The answer lies in geography, history and the risks associated with the storage and disposal of chemical weapons.

Kalama (Johnston) Atoll, an island 717 nautical miles to the southwest of Hawai'i, is the site of the US Army's prototype chemical weapons disposal facility, the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS). Even before it was built, the chemical weapons disposal programme was mired in controversy both in the Pacific and the continental US, where 8 other facilities are scheduled to be built. For Pacific peoples, the decision to develop the facility at Kalama Atoll was yet another use of the region by superpowers to conduct a highly dangerous activity rather than risk the political fallout of doing it in their own backyard.

Furthermore, the island was already highly contaminated from past military activities. After World War II, the atoll was used for nuclear and anti-satellite missile testing until 1992, when two aborted missile tests resulted in the

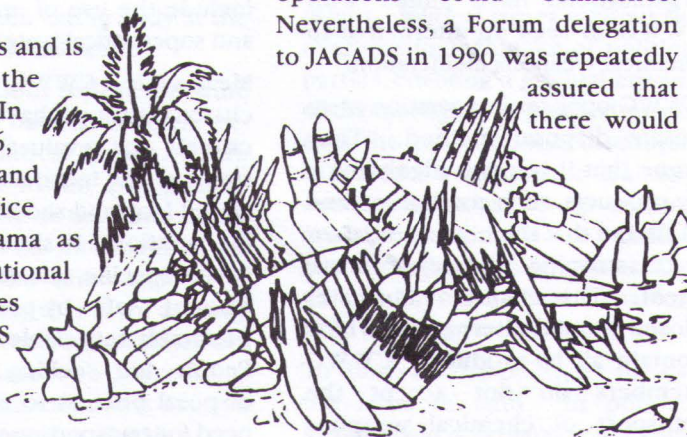
scattering of plutonium on the island and in the ocean. Clean-up, estimated at more than US\$15 million, is a risky business. In April 1995, several workers suffered from radiation exposure. Agent Orange was also stored at Kalama Atoll after the Vietnam war. It is estimated that 250,000 lbs of the defoliant has contaminated underlying soils and is leeching into the ocean. In February 1986, the US Fish and Wildlife Service identified Kalama as one of 10 National Wildlife Refuges in the US needing immediate clean-up.

There was international condemnation of the US plan to ship 100,000 chemical weapons from Germany to Kalama in 1990. It enraged Pacific peoples because the Army's 1983 Final Environmental Impact Statement said that there would be no transportation of additional weapons to JACADS. There was no prior consultation with Pacific nations regarding the German shipment.

It took a meeting of President Bush with the South Pacific Forum, representing 15 Pacific Island Nations, Australia and New Zealand, to obtain their agreement to the shipment of the weapons to Kalama. In return President Bush gave his assurance that the operation would not result in harm to people or the environment. He also stated that the facility would be completely dismantled after the stockpiles were incinerated and would not become a permanent hazardous wastes disposal site.

Furthermore, only chemical weapons stockpiled in the Pacific would be shipped to it.

Even before JACADS commenced operations it was found to have serious flaws. In a 1990 pre-operational survey, an Army team found 281 deficiencies of which 160 had to be fixed before operations could commence. Nevertheless, a Forum delegation to JACADS in 1990 was repeatedly assured that there would



be no release of nerve agent from the incinerator and that all the weapons would be destroyed by 1995 when the permit expired.

In fact, the performance of JACADS has been anything but ideal. The facility has been in operation less than 50% of scheduled time. Problems have included 4 live nerve agent releases, explosions and fires in the furnaces, equipment failures and parts melt downs. The incinerators operate at extremely high temperatures, placing stress on the hardware and requiring frequent maintenance. In March 1995, EPA fined the Army \$122,000 for 3 previous violations of its federal hazardous waste permit including the release of nerve agent on March 4, 1994. Yet another accidental release of nerve agent occurred later that month.

A parallel development has been the growing citizens' movement in the continental US opposing the



Army's plan to build 8 incineration facilities near population centers. The Chemical Weapons Working Group, established in 1990, includes community representatives from the 8 continental sites and Hawai'i. Headquartered in Kentucky, the CWWG has expanded to include over 20 organisations and almost 200 support organisations worldwide. Russian citizen and environmental organisations have joined with CWWG to seek an alternative to chemical weapons incineration.

CWWG opposes incineration as an unsafe disposal method. They argue that it releases highly toxic by-products such as dioxins and PCBs and that there is potential for a catastrophic release of nerve agent. The coalition advocates closed looped alternatives which contain all by-products. CWWG members do not accept the transport of chemical weapons from one community to another that opposes it.

Despite the Army's assertion that incineration was the best method, CWWG testified at US Congressional hearings that safer alternatives exist, but the Army had

not seriously considered them. As a result of public pressure, funds were appropriated by Congress in 1993 to study neutralization of nerve agent. A little more than a year later, Army scientists announced that a combination treatment of hot water and sewage sludge action on mustard gas produced a liquid by-product less toxic than beer. Other closed loop methods that look promising include the use of molten metals and supercritical water oxidation.

Meanwhile, CWWG and other citizens' groups have developed criteria for evaluating disposal systems. The technology should be closed loop and should not involve incineration. It should be waste stream-specific, safe, result in a low amount of by-products and preferably recyclable by-products. People are seeking a portable disposal process to minimize the need for transporting weapons to a disposal site. The technology should preferably be lower cost than the current programme without compromising on safety and should be able to put the disposal process on a fast time line. Finally, determining the

appropriate method of disposal should have citizen participation at all levels of decision-making.

The controversy is coming to a head with legal battles being waged by CWWG, the Sierra Club, Greenpeace and several Indian tribes to stop construction of incineration facilities. Citizens are also waging battles to stop incinerators from being constructed in their states and have been able to generate enough legislative support to pass more restrictive safety requirements.

In the Pacific, the Army has submitted an application to continue burning at JACADS for another 10 years. Public comments can be submitted to EPA now, with a draft decision due in August. The final permit decision is expected in late September or early October.

The US Army's Chemical Weapons Disposal Program is a shared concern of peoples and organisations in the Pacific, US and Russia. It is unfortunate the US military made most of its decisions on disposal almost three decades ago without the benefit of community involvement. When it tried to promote its preferred choice through expensive public relations campaigns, the opposite effect occurred in many of the communities affected. People began to organise against what they saw as an unsafe program.

Had the military taken a consensual rather than top down approach, we might well have enjoyed a different situation today. There might have been citizen cooperation rather than costly litigation and the US might have been much further along in the disposal of chemical weapons. With citizen input, an innovative disposal method might have been developed that was safer, cheaper, portable and producing recyclable by-products. It can still be done. However, as one environmental officer working for the military stated off the record: "When you have too many vested interests in a particular technology, where even the engineers stand to make a percentage of the profits, it is highly unlikely that there will be support for a change in the preferred alternative. What is clearly logical from an environmental and human health perspective is not from a profit motive. This is the problem."

*Continued on Page 27*

Requests for information and submissions of comments on the JACADS extension can be made to John McCarroll, EPA point person on JACADS at 75 Hawthorne St., Mail Stop H-3-3, San Francisco, CA 94105 (Tel: 415-744-2057 or Fax: 415-744-1044). Information can also be requested from Chemical Weapons Working Group (CWWG) at P.O. Box 467, Berea, Kentucky (Tel: 606-986-7565 or Fax: 606-986-2695) or from Kilali Alailima, American Friends Service Committee at 2426 O'ahu Ave., Honolulu, HI 96822 (Tel: 808-988-1124 or Fax: 808-988-3217).



# The Challenge of Fiji's Constitutional Review

by Satendra Prasad

*The government committee reviewing Fiji's controversial 1990 constitution will soon submit its report. Parallel with this process, there has been a "Citizens Constitutional Forum".*

*Satendra Prasad, a member of the CCF secretariat and a lecturer at the University of the South Pacific, reflects on the constitutional review and the role of the CCF. This article is adapted from a presentation to the South Pacific Society in London on April 2, 1996. Part 2 will appear in the September issue of Tok Blong Pasifik.*

This is a crucial stage in the constitutional review process, where one stage is about to be completed and another aimed at building a consensus for reform is yet to start. The importance of civil society and notions of good governance have gained some currency in Fiji recently and it would be difficult to imagine that any sustainable settlement can occur without the inclusion of civil society.

## Civil society and democratisation

It is often assumed that civic institutions act as a natural counterweight to the powers of the state and that civil society will naturally evolve as a force for democratisation. The CCF's work challenges much of the conventional thinking on the role of civil society in democratisation.

Fiji has a long and mainly painful history of racial separateness which deeply communalised its

political and social institutions. The problems that arise from such a history were acutely aggravated by the 1987 military coups. Fiji's problems are far greater than simply a return to democratic government through a democratic constitution. Steps are required to reverse a tide of communalism which has been eating away at the heart of Fiji's social fabric.

Civic institutions reflect the same divisions that have come to characterise the political system. There were groups within civil society that fell on one or the other of the main sides in the aftermath of the coups. At the same time it is simplistic to say that there are only two sides. To straitjacket all shades of opinion into two blocs is to deny that differentiations exist in Fiji as in all societies. Besides race, people have numerous other interests that may be a basis for political and social association: gender, rural vs. urban, landowner vs. tenant, and others. Even within the Fijian and Indo-Fijian categories there are diverse cultural, linguistic and religious groups. By denying expression to such interests and locking them all into two main ethno-political ideologies, incalculable harm is done to democracy.

The quality of parliamentary debates in recent times amply demonstrates the consequences of Fiji's racial preoccupation, reducing important policy issues to some form or other of racial bargaining. The CCF has provided an alternative space where Fiji's diverse civic institutions can participate in discussions about problems that Fiji faces and ways of dealing with them. Such a space

enables interaction between civic institutions and the party political system so that the diversity of opinions and interests are given expression. It provides perhaps the only current forum where the politics of race are truly subservient to the wider national interests and allows citizens to discuss political issues without the overbearing influence of political parties, enabling a gradual erosion of the monopoly of political parties over the constitutional discourse. It provides a vehicle for building consensus progressively without forcing individuals to defend entrenched ethnic positions. The CCF is thus a radical departure from existing practice in Fiji.

To illustrate the point, let me use the issue of land. In political forums, land is projected as a Fijian landowner and Indo-Fijian tenant issue. Yet over 30% of agricultural tenancies were held by individual Fijians. These leases also run out



Prime Minister Rabuka and other political leaders will soon be studying the report of the Government's Constitution Review Committee



soon. Many of these tenants also complain about high rents. There are almost 2500 Indo-Fijian farmers who are tenants on freehold holdings, often under lease terms that are far worse than under native lands. Through state lands, the state is one of the largest landlords. Despite such differentiation, our entire preoccupation has been with the rights and interests of Fijian landowners and Indo-Fijian tenants on native lands.

The weight of history lies heavy on the review process. Unless the focus is shifted decisively away from race, constitutional debate will be locked into a form of bargaining for race-based privileges. This can lead to some form of accommodation negotiated by leaders of racial groups, but whenever leadership is changed or challenged such accommodations will stand challenged. Hence the CCF proposes to anchor constitutional change (both its form and its process) directly amongst the people rather than solely amongst political parties and peak political leaders.

### **Setting a framework for dealing with Fiji's problems**

CCF's first contribution was in setting an agenda of national issues. The initial consultation provided an opportunity for people representing the range of views to think about what Fiji's problems were. Ever since the coups, indeed long prior to that, Fiji's problems were presented as the balance between political privilege for Fijians and economic privilege for Indo-Fijians, but many problems that Fiji faced cut across ethnic communities. An ethnic presentation of these was shown to have inhibited our ability to even identify many of our problems. It took a lot of discussion. An even greater challenge lay in establishing "sufficient consensus" about that agenda. But perhaps for the first

time in Fiji's recent history, an effort was made to understand Fiji's problems from a national perspective. When we proceeded from such a starting point, constitutional and political problems were immediately viewed in a light that was radically different, enabling us to begin from fresh starting points.

The Westminster system was recognised as sponsoring a 'winner takes all' system, raising the stakes for control of political office and patronage. When this system is superimposed on an already racialised political system, the winner takes all mentality begins to prescribe the behaviour of ethnic groups both within and outside the political system. Political parties get used to securing their parliamentary strength by creating racial voting blocks. Communalism on one side generates communalism on the other.

Such a system easily leads to brinkmanship and, when the military is monopolised by one ethnic group, political domination can be taken for granted. It distorts the conduct of government, inhibits the national potential and harms social and economic progress. Ethnic politics breeds ethnic patronage. When power passes to other groups, the privileges that accrue through such association are similarly lost. So the feeling of loss is real and it takes a distinct ethnic form.

### **How can we transcend this?**

The CCF has sought to shift the political discourse. One way was to set at the forefront an agenda of what the real national issues were and what actions were needed to redress them. The constitution is only one, though the most important, of these problems. Landlessness, lack of economic opportunities, poverty, social exclusion and serious underem-

ployment are issues that cut across ethnic groups.

Fiji faces acute economic problems. The World Bank and UNDP have noted the deterioration in many indicators of social development. While the short term downturns were arrested through recovery in the sugar, tourism and TFF (tax free manufacturing) sectors, Fiji has remained static otherwise. A generous system of incentives has attracted investors to set up mainly garment factories in Fiji, creating some 8,000 jobs since 1987. But the preferential access to Australian and US markets for TFF products runs out in less than a decade. This has, however, compensated for 3000 manufacturing sector jobs lost due to deregulation. Incomes from sugar have declined in real terms and the future of this industry is precarious at best. While official unemployment hovers around 7%, real unemployment and serious underemployment is in excess of 25%. Youth unemployment is as high as 30% in key urban areas. One in three families lives under the official poverty line and there has been an over 300% increase in recipients of family assistance from 1989 to 1994. In almost all categories, the proportions of Indo-Fijians under poverty is higher, dispelling the myth that they enjoy economic advantages.

Unless these serious problems are contained, any constitutional settlement can be undermined. This is a lesson we can draw from South Africa. In multi-ethnic societies, it is very easy for social unrest to take on ethnic forms, making containment far more difficult.

*[In September's Tok Blong Pasifik: Why the Constitution Review Commission can only go so far; CCF principles for constitutional change]*





# Canadian Investment in New Zealand

## *It's Much Bigger Than You Think*

by Murray Horton

*Foreign investment has often been a contentious issue in Canada. But Canadians are less aware of Canadian investment in other parts of the world and the local concerns sometimes prompted by these "foreign investors". This article, by the staff person for the Campaign Against Foreign Control of Aotearoa (New Zealand), provides one look at the expanding Canadian role in the New Zealand economy.*

While Asian investment in New Zealand is significant and growing, the point needs to be made that the sum total of Asian investment doesn't come anywhere near that of our major foreign owners, all of whom are white. The Big Three are Australia, the US and Britain. No surprises there. But there is a fourth and it's not one that readily springs to mind. Canada. The latest available statistics from the Overseas Investment Commission (OIC) are for 1994, when the Commission approved NZ\$435 million worth of Canadian investment. In 1993, Canada was the third biggest foreign investor (in non-land transactions). Four transactions approved by the OIC totalled \$1.5 billion. We know about one of them - the buyout of Fletcher Challenge's methanol assets, but the others are a mystery. We can only conclude that they were suppressed by the OIC.

Nor was 1993 a flash in the pan. Calgary based energy transnational TransAlta has world wide assets worth NZ\$5 billion. Its activities in

New Zealand include a joint venture with Auckland's Mercury Energy to build a 110MW gas fired power station and a venture with Fletcher Challenge Ltd., which is seeking the right to build the Stratford power station in Taranaki. In November 1994 TransAlta paid \$50 million to buy a 20% stake in Energy Direct, the Hutt Valley power company. In December 1994 TransAlta moved onto juicier prey and paid \$120 million to buy the 49% of Capital Power put up for sale by the Wellington City Council. Councillor Hazel Armstrong, who resigned as a Capital Power director just before the sale, revealed that the "secret shareholder documentation showed TransAlta would have the right to appoint the managing director or chief executive, would have a right of veto on Capital Power's business plan, valuation, line charge and statement of corporate intent" (Press, 7/12/94).

So the capital's power company is now Canadian owned and controlled. This one purchase propelled TransAlta into the big league of owners of New Zealand's crazy quilt of deregulated power companies and made it, along with Utilicorp of the US, one of the two big foreign owners. This was a highly controversial and fiercely contested decision. Winston Peters, leader of New Zealand First, branded it an act of treachery: "It is an outrage that a council, led by a former Labour Cabinet minister and one regarded as on the Left of her party, should be selling off critical assets and worse, giving up control to a minority shareholder" (Press, 7/12/94).

The rationale given was that the Council needed the money to repay debt and to fund the long overdue sewerage upgrade. So Wellington residents have literally

been sold for the crock of the old proverbial. This exactly mirrors what has happened on the national level - publicly owned assets being sold to repay debt.

The biggest Canadian takeover was by Methanex Corporation in 1993 when it bought out Fletcher Challenge Limited's methanol operations in Taranaki. The Canadians paid US\$250 million cash, plus issuing 74 million Methanex shares to FCL. Fletcher made a double profit out of this deal. In 1990 the Labour Government paid FCL \$172 million to take over the State's 75% share in the plant that produces the methanol. It was one of the more disgraceful of Labour's sorry record with public assets - it wasn't a sale or even a giveaway. The Government actually used taxpayers' money to pay a gigantic New Zealand-based transnational to become the private owner of a key part of the energy industry (after \$2.1 billion of taxpayers' money was spent building it). Within three years FCL had sold it into foreign ownership, making a major profit and using the transaction to finance a reduction in its corporate debt. For its part Methanex became the owner of the largest methanol producer in the world, controlling about 20% of world supply. It includes a plant in Chile as well as the New Zealand operations.

Canadian companies have been involved in other aspects of the energy sector. For example, TCPL Resources and Norcen International have been involved in offshore oil and gas projects in Taranaki.

The best known Canadian takeover was when Canwest Global Communications Corporation bought out TV3 in 1991. The

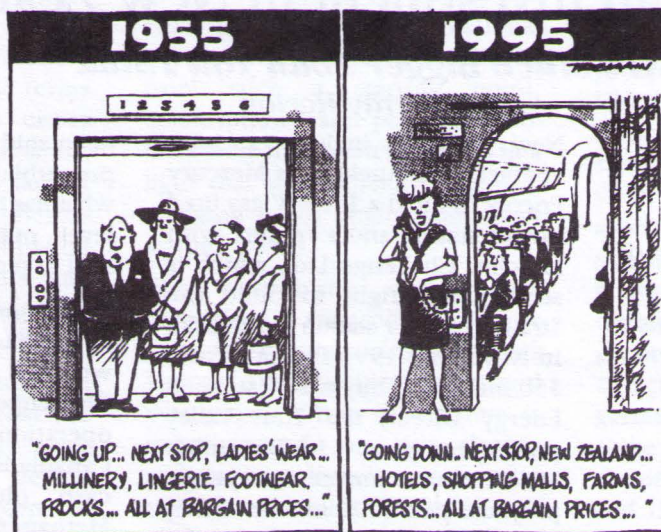


fledgling private network had gone into receivership a mere six months after its much ballyhooed launch in 1989. The receivership was forced by the pullout by giant American network NBC, a major shareholder. The National government obliged the media transnationals by changing the law (without public consultation) to allow 100% foreign ownership of TV networks. Canwest is currently in the running to buy Radio New Zealand's network of commercial stations. There is a great irony in this. When Canadian press baron Lord Thomson of Fleet tried to take over Wellington Publishing in 1965, the Holyoake National Government blocked him by passing the News Media Ownership Act, which limited foreign ownership of newspapers to 15%. But as they say, that was then and this is now.

Telecom is American owned but its rival Clear Communications has substantial Canadian ownership. Bell Canada International (NZ) Ltd. owns 25%. The remaining 75% is equally owned by MCI of the US, Todd Communications and TVNZ Investments, both of New Zealand. So Canadian transnationals have a substantial involvement with both TVNZ and TV3.

There are surprises with some familiar names too. The Ford Motor Company is American (in fact synonymous with 20th century American capitalism), but the ownership of the New Zealand subsidiary rests entirely with Ford Canada (which is itself American owned).

McCain Foods Ltd (as in the "Ah McCain's, you've done it again" TV ads) is becoming a force to be reckoned with in the foodstuffs sector. In 1990 it bought out



Alpine Foods Ltd for \$3.8 million and its Washdyke processing plant competes with Watties (owned by Heinz of the US) for peas, carrots, potatoes and beans. It has initiated large scale planting of sweetcorn for processing in Canterbury. In 1991 the Overseas Investment Commission (OIC) approved McCain's buying 2.5 hectares near Christchurch for \$850,000 and operating a processing plant. In 1993 the OIC approved McCain's building and operating a potato processing plant at Washdyke; previously it had imported its french fries.

Canadian money is moving into New Zealand commercial property. A leading player is the Kiwi Income Property Trust, 30% Canadian owned. Starting from 1993 it has bought a shopping mall in Palmerston North (for \$14 million); the Kmart Plaza in Porirua (\$42 million); Northlands Shopping Mall in Christchurch (\$8.5 million) and commercial buildings in Auckland and Christchurch. In 1994 the OIC approved Waihara Holdings Ltd buying Wellington's Majestic Centre for "approximately" \$48.5 million. Waihara is owned 50/50 by Kiwi Income and the FCMI Group of Canada. The Majestic Centre cost \$200 million to build in 1991.

Thomson Corporation of Canada (founded by the very same Lord Thomson who unsuccessfully tried to muscle into Wellington newspaper ownership in 1965) is one of the world's biggest publishing companies. In 1994 its New Zealand subsidiary Sweet and Maxwell bought law publishing firm Brooker and Friend for an amount suppressed by the OIC.

There have been numerous cases of Canadians buying rural land.

Although Canada is not a country that springs readily to mind when thinking of the foreign owners of New Zealand, Canadian transnationals have a substantial presence here in many key sectors. Canadian investment needs to be monitored as rigorously as the much better known other major owners.

"This country faces extinction as an independent nation. It is threatened by the effects of the present government's destructive policies: crisis levels of unemployment and poverty, deep cuts to the economic base, sustained attacks on the social programs and cultural institutions".

Sound familiar? But it was written about Canada, not New Zealand. The people of our two countries have got much in common when it comes to suffering the effects of the lunatic economic policies that have enabled the transnationals to laugh all the way to the bank. And we have much to teach each other about responding to the transnational onslaught. We need to build links with our Canadian counterparts and work together.

*Edited reprint from Watchdog, No. 78, May 1995.*





# Fighting a Cold Foe

by Sondra White

*Frozen beneath a sheet of commanding energy, the ice addict is numb to the world around him. Elevated by a false sense of power and well-being, she rejects food, water and sleep for hours and sometimes days. Depressed, exhausted and confused after the trip down, he wonders where to get money for his next fix. Desperate to escape reality, she steals from her family and the cruel cycle starts again. Alone in a prison cell, he wishes he never took the first "toke". Lifeless in a coffin, she now knows the cold truth about ice.*

On Guam, several courageous individuals have recognized this "cold truth" and are doing something about it. With Guam's First Lady Geri Gutierrez at the helm, several GovGuam agencies, private businesses and members of the media have united to help stop the use of a drug that has shattered the lives of users and non-users alike.

In July, representatives from the Police Department, Department of Education, Attorney General's Office, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Superior Court, private sector and media came together on the Guam Crime Commission's Subcommittee on Prevention and Education. The group focused on the root cause of our problem and declared war on violent crimes and drugs, particularly ice.

Despite her hectic schedule, Geri Gutierrez is devoting a significant share of her time and energy to the

War on Ice. She is supportive of the committee's efforts and realistic about what it will take to eliminate ice on Guam. "A lot of what I'm doing now is an investment in the children of the island," she says. "We need to educate the public. Too many people are unaware of the dangers of this drug, but there are so many things that can be done. It's going to be a long, hard haul, but we've got to start somewhere. We're inviting other organizations and businesses on the island to join



First Lady Geri Gutierrez

forces with us so that we're not little squeaks in the dark; so we're a ROAR."

On August 23, 1995, the task force organized "Operation First Day," a comprehensive drug awareness campaign with a positive message to Guam's youth that people care about them. Volunteers lined the entrances of six schools to welcome students back from summer vacation and to encourage them to do well. The volunteers also discussed the dangers of ice and distributed information on the drug.

But educating children is only half the battle. When it comes to age, race, socioeconomic level or gender, ice does not discriminate. Sgt. Frank Blas of the Guam Police Department says the drug is affecting people from ages 8 to 80: "Everyone seems convinced that if we talk to children we're going to nip this problem," Blas says. "We need to talk to parents as well. You would be amazed at how many 14- and 15-year-olds know everything about ice, but their parents know nothing. Who's using ice? The girl next door. The uncle. The sister. The brother. The mother. The father. It's scary when you have an 8-year-old come in and explain exactly how to use this stuff, and in the same hour you arrest a 70-year-old for dealing."

"Ice" is an extremely pure, smokable form of a synthetic drug medically known as methamphetamine, which is a potent central nervous system stimulant. Methamphetamine became popular for non-medical purposes in the early '70s. "Speed freaks" used injectable methamphetamine for its stimulating and euphoric effects. On Guam and elsewhere, the use of ice is growing rapidly. The state of Hawaii has experienced a serious "epidemic," and some fear Guam may be following the same path.

"Hawaii has already peaked and ice use has stayed at a certain level there for a long time," says Blas of GPD. Hopefully, this is our peak. I'm really optimistic about the things we're doing here to fight this drug."

Most of the ice on Guam is smuggled in from the Philippines, Korea, Japan, Hawaii or California. In some cases, the ingredients are imported to Guam and the finished product is synthesized on the island in secret, portable labs. Mary



Kolski, a substance abuse counselor with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, says on-island ice production makes it even more dangerous.

"I've been told there are three labs on Guam, but I have no proof," Kolski says. "To tell you the truth, I really don't want to know. I want to live to see 48, so I don't ask for details. The scary thing is that I don't know too many people on Guam who are chemistry experts. You've got people who don't know anything about chemicals making this drug and the fumes alone are very toxic."

On the street, one gram of ice costs anywhere from \$250 to \$400. To illustrate the economics of the ice trade, Kolski mentioned one reformed dealer who is owed \$300,000 from customers on the street. One "collector" in her group brought in more than \$90,000 per week from ice sales.

People use ice for many reasons, all of which are centered around the drug's intense euphoric and stimulant effects. When smoked, ice produces a "rush" that lasts from 4 to 30 hours compared with 15 to 30 minutes from crack cocaine. Some take the drug to stay awake and alert for a long drive or to study for exams. Others take it to lose weight. Still others use ice because they feel pressure to do so by their peers. Many continue using ice because they can't stop. With low to moderate use, ice users experience alertness, a sense of well-being, elevated body temperature and blood pressure, increased heart and respiratory rates, confusion and dizziness. With higher doses, the user may feel extremely anxious and irritable. Some feel a sense of power, often linked with an opposite sense of paranoia. The confusion and hostility often leads to violence. An overdose of ice can cause delirium, panic, irregular heart beat and high

blood pressure, circulatory collapse, nausea and vomiting, seizures, coma and even death.

"You probably won't die from the drug itself," Kolski says, "but in the end you will suffer from its related heart attack, stroke, body seizure or respiratory failure, suicide or simply being on the wrong side of an



*Sgt. Frank Blas, Guam Police Department*

angry dealer. You don't see a lot of old ice freaks, because if you're lucky enough to avoid all the other complications, eventually your heart will just give out."

With several years of experience, the Special Investigations Section of the Guam Police Department is making headway in the fight against this dangerous drug. Still, ice-related crime and violence is on the rise. According to a report by GPD, ice was virtually unheard of on Guam in 1989. There were 28 arrests in 1993 and 47 in 1994. Since January 1995, 104 people have been arrested on Guam in connection with ice use or dealing and the Customs Department has confiscated about \$9 million worth of ice. Ice-related burglaries, aggravated assaults and car accidents also have increased dramatically, Blas says, and more than 75 percent of the murders on Guam are drug related.

"Enforcement alone is not going to solve this problem," Blas says. "We must educate the public and you must educate yourself. Make it your business to know everything there is to know about ice. Convince yourself and others of the ills of drug use. Don't be afraid to take a stand. Most people won't do anything until the problem affects them and sometimes it is too late."

During the last three years, GPD has presented more than 300 workshops on drug awareness, prevention and education, from nurseries to senior citizens centers. The department meets weekly with other GovGuam agencies to maintain a uniform demand reduction program. Blas and one other GPD officer represent the Police Department on the First Lady's task force. He's pleased that the community has joined forces with GPD and optimistic that the momentum will last.

While education and enforcement keep GPD busy in the War on Ice, recovery is the focus of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. A new Ice Outpatient Program is helping addicts and their families to live ice-free. They have been meeting with Kolski for two hours each week in an attempt to recover from the powerful grip of ice. Rather than focusing strictly on recovery, Kolski says the program deals with life situations such as anger management, control, resentment, goal setting and making choices, all of which are warped when a person is using ice. The "Icings Group" also deals with relapse, which is a common occurrence among ice users.

"You're looking at a lot of destruction here," Kolski says. "Normally by the time a user asks for help they've gone through all the family's money, the car, the land anything that can be used for



# REACH FOR THE MOON

For more than 15 years, Moon Travel Handbooks have been guiding independent travelers through the South Pacific, providing insider's knowledge, candid commentary, and adventurous coverage. Author David Stanley provides in-depth details on the region's turbulent history and the local cultures, customs, and traditions to help travelers get the most from each visit.

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collateral; it's all gone. In most cases the family has nothing left, and the addict often turns to violence." Although she's pleased with the increased community awareness, Kolski hopes the "War" is more than just lip service.

"The War on Ice is not a proactive movement," she says. "It's reactive. Proactive would have been six years ago. I'm afraid we're doing too little too late. Not that it won't help, but we're way behind."

She also worries that with a sole focus on ice, the use of other drugs, legal and illegal, may be ignored. "Ice is a definite problem" she says. "It's the worst drug I've seen in 19 years, but the other drugs are still here. Most kids aren't starting with ice. They're starting with over-the-counter products like butane, gasoline and other inhalants and then 'graduating' to marijuana, cocaine and finally ice. Drugs have been accepted on Guam. Betel nut is culturally acceptable, as is alcohol and marijuana. You don't go to a fiesta without alcohol. If you accept all those other drugs, what's wrong with this one?"

If a person is not using ice, he or she probably knows someone who is, or has been affected in some way by ice-related crime or violence. It's a problem Geri Gutierrez holds close to her heart and she blames it on a lack of human values.

"I strongly believe that a terrible deterioration of basic human values is really to blame for all of this," she says. "People must respect themselves so they can start respecting other human beings, and this is very much lacking in today's society. We're all so materialistic and concerned with making a living that we forget our priorities. For those thinking about trying ice, I want to tell you how very special and important you are, to me, to your family, to the community and to yourself."

*Edited reprint from Rising Tide, Vol 1 No 2, Oct/Nov 1995.*

## *Tobacco—Continued from Page 13*

Because the smoking rate is highest among young people, we recommend that parents limit the amount of cash given to their children and teach them about the bad effects of smoking. Teachers should teach their classes about the effects of smoking and should show good examples by not smoking in the school. Storekeepers should not allow children to buy cigarettes. Banning of smoking in public places can save the lives of non-smokers, especially young children, by providing a chance for non-smokers to breathe clean, healthy air.

*This article has been adapted by SPPF from a report, "Economics of Tobacco Import and Consumption in South Tarawa", prepared by five young volunteer researchers at the Atoll Research Centre, Tarawa, Kiribati. The research was supported by the Canada Fund.*



## *Nerve Gas—Continued from page 20*

From that standpoint, it becomes clear why this has been an uphill battle. When Congress in 1986 mandated the elimination of all US stockpiles of chemical weapons, the cost was estimated at \$1.8 billion. Today that cost has risen to \$12 billion with \$19 billion more to remove weapons buried around the country.

An opportunity exists to comment to EPA on the JACADS permit. Should burning be stopped until a safer alternative is developed? Should there be closer scrutiny by EPA or even independent monitoring? Where do you stand?

*Kilali Alailima is the Honolulu based coordinator of the American Friends Service Committee's Pacific Programme.*





# Classified Advertising

## EVENTS

### History, Culture and Power in the Pacific Conference

July 9-13. University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Keynote speakers are Dr Lilikala Kame'eleihiwa, well known for her role in the Hawaiian sovereignty movement, and Professor Greg Denning, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Melbourne.

Contact: David Hanlon, Dept of History, U of HI at Manoa, 2530 Dole St., Sakamaki A-203, Honolulu, HI 96822. Tel: 808/956-9957. Fax: 808/956-9600. <hanlon@hawaii.edu>

### The Pacific Family: Navigating to Excellence

August 6-8. 13th Annual Pacific Educational Conference. Pohnpei, FSM.

Contact: PEC '96 Organizing Committee, Pohnpei State Department of Education, PO Box 250, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM 96941. Tel: 691/320-2102. Fax: 691/320-3864 or through PREL at <prelcon@prel.hawaii.edu>

### Multi-Ethnic Literatures Across the Americas and the Pacific: Exchanges, Contestations, and Alliances. 1997 MELUS Conference.

April 18-20, 1997. Speakers (subject to funding) include Linga Hogan, Haunani-Kay Trask, Albert Wendt, Subramani and Konai Thaman. Possible topics: narrating North America and the Pacific; Emerging literatures &

languages; reconfiguring American literary & cultural studies.

Contact: Ruth Hsu, Dept of English, U of HI at Manoa. Fax: 808/956-3083. <rhsu@hawaii.edu>

## CALL FOR PAPERS

1997 MELUS Conference Organizing Committee would welcome proposals for papers or panels. See above conference notice for possible topic ideas and contact info.

## RESOURCES

### *The Indonesian NGO Agenda: Toward the Year 2000*

Indonesian NGOs are part of the struggle for a democratic political and economic system. The newly released English edition of this book has translations of presentations and working papers from a 1994 NGO Seminar in Jakarta that discussed development problems and challenges. Published by CESDA-LP3ES, this edition is produced by the Indonesia-Canada Forum and YAPIKA. 1996. 308 pp Ppbk. Price (incl. postage & handling) in Canada - \$20, international - US\$15.00.

Order from ICF, RR #1, Murray's Site, C-21, Halfmoon Bay, BC, V0N 1Y0, Canada. Tel/Fax: 604/885-9192. <icf@sunshine.net> Homepage <www.ics.bc.ca/icf/homepage.html>.

### *Contemporary Women's Issues Database*

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## APPEAL

### Appeal to fund Tahiti independent health survey

This appeal has been launched to fund an independent health survey for the inhabitants and workers on Moruroa, Fangataufa and a 500 km area around the French nuclear test sites. Hiti Tau, the Evangelical Church of French Polynesia, the World Council of Churches and European peace and Pacific interest groups believe an independent study is the only way to prove links between the tests and the inhabitants' health, and for them to claim compensation for their sufferings. Send donations to Hiti Tau (coalition of NGOs in French Polynesia), BP 4611, Papeete, Tahiti, French Polynesia. Tel: 011/689/521 371. Fax: 011/679/572 880. SPPF is happy to provide more appeal information on request.

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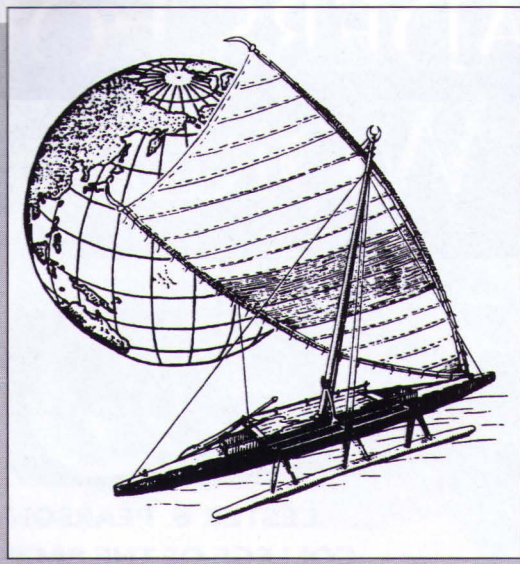
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### ***Are Sweet Dreams Made of This? Tourism in Bali and Eastern Indonesia***

(BY JOHN MCCARTHY, 128 PP) AND **DISCUSSION GUIDE** (BY GLENDA LASSLETT, 28 PP)

Travelers and teachers alike will want to order this book and accompanying discussion guide. The pair, published in 1994 by the Indonesian Resources and Information Program of Australia, are a thought provoking account of the social and environmental impact of tourism on local communities in Bali, Lombok, East Timor and Irian Jaya.

The book is well researched, highly readable and generously illustrated. The four geographic sections are sub-divided into such topics as "Cultural tourism or touristic culture?", "Planning blight", "Enclave tourism" and "Geeks of the modern world". The accompanying discussion guide will be especially welcomed by teachers and includes activities to promote discussion and reflection.

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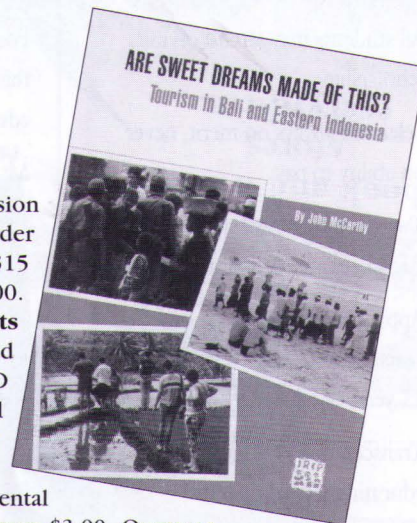
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*HAPA—Continued from Page 18*

and *Ku'u Lei*, *Ku'uipo* is *Justin's Lullabye*, a simple instrumental that shows off the slack-key talents of Kaneali'i and Flanagan.

With reggae-based Hawaiian music ruling on O'ahu, Hapa should be commended for its commitment to perpetuate Hawaiian music and lyrics. A portion of the proceeds of their work goes to *Punana Leo o Maui*, Maui's Hawaiian-language preschool.

*Taran March* is executive editor at *Moon Publications*. In her spare time, she plays bluegrass banjo with her band, *String Nation*.

Reprinted from *Travel Matters*, Fall 1995 (Moon Publications)

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