

possibly imperishable monuments, to convey to future generations through a symbolism, one chapter in the fateful history of the world? With no such certainty could this be done by any other means than by the building of a pyramid, as in Egypt; or, by the erections of cyclopean works, as in farther India, and of tremendous images, as on Easter Island. And if, at the same time, there were sufficient knowledge and learning existing to accomplish it, would not the effort also be made to convey, at the same time, some hint of the possible period when such a cataclysm, or such a burning, should again overtake the earth.

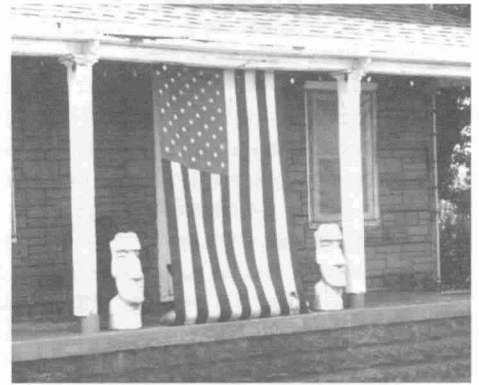
FRANK H. NORTON.

MOAI SIGHTINGS

A VERY DAPPER "MR MOAI" was discovered in a public park in Kevelaer, Holland, by Professor Dr Gunter Senft of the Max-Planck-Institut für Psycholinguistik, Nijmegen. Along with the bow tie and wire-rim glasses, check out the nose ring. Thanks to Steve Fischer for providing us with a picture of this hilarious mod *moai*.



TWO MOAI WERE spotted on a country road in southern Michigan by Kay and Tom Sanger. There, gracing a sagging wooden porch and accompanied by flags, stand two *moai* looking out over a cornfield.



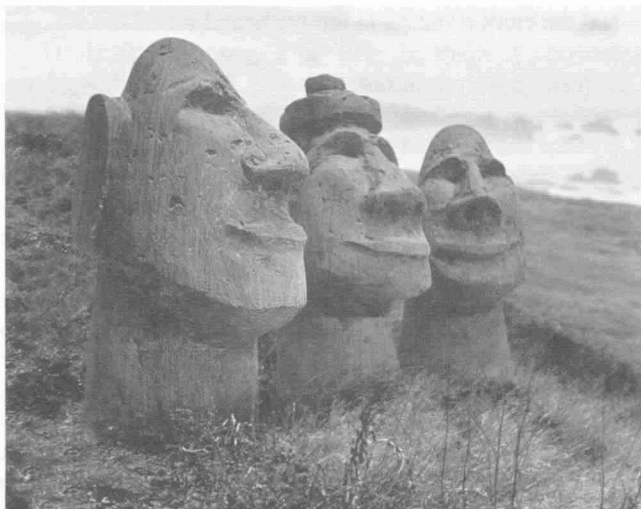
AND STILL IN THE MID-WEST, Joan Wozniak found a *moai* in front of the Kon Tiki bar at the Palmer House in Chicago. Its hands are folded under its chin as it gazes out under slitty eyelids.



ON THE BALBOA peninsula in Southern California, Joan Seaver Kurze snapped a photo of a *moai* peering dimly through a fly-stained window. It is flanked by Polynesian hula dolls.



CHARLIE LOVE REPORTED ON A MODERN-DAY *moai* that he found standing on the porch of an historic theater in the tiny company-town of Sinclair, Wyoming. The *moai* stands on the doorstep, presumably to greet theater-goers.



CHOCO-HOLICS ALERT: Three colossal Easter Island statues made from pure chocolate were photographed in a shop window of Chocolaterie Lieven Burie in Antwerp. They were created by Belgium's best-known chocolate-artist, Lieven Burnie, who worked several weeks on the chocolate statues. Each one weighed more than 30 kilograms (66 lbs). A photo of the three chocolate *moai* appeared in *De Morgen*, for April 14, 2001, and

RAPANUI ISLANDER, Luis Tepano Pont, who now lives in California, was startled to find a *moai* replica in a local garden store in Morro Bay. This fairly large and heavy cement statue has a depression on the topknot so it can double as a birdbath. It was manufactured in Canada.



EUGENE, OREGON HAS ITS Tiki Bar, called KoKoMo's Island Grill. Their 3-legged Monkey drink comes in a coconut mug, the Volcano comes in a Hula Girl bowl, their Kokomo Smoothie comes in a clam shell. A giant volcano is by the front door and a four foot *tiki* sits outside the door, while several *moai* populate the room. Rapanuiphile Marilyn Garrett Stearns sent us this photo. Reviewers on the Tiki Bar website gave the establishment 1½ Tikis (out of a possible five). See at <http://home.earthlink.net/~tikibars/tiki/kokomo.html>



THE LONG-DISTANCE PRIZE goes to Dr Ted Kurze of Newport Beach who spotted a *moai* in Dakar, Africa! It was amongst a huge collection of local carvings for sale to tourists, including miniature tribal drums, carved stools, painted masks, fake spears, and so on. They were all laid out dock-side for the passengers on the Queen Elizabeth II. And there, cheek by jowl with voodoo dolls, was a wood *moai*. Strange company indeed.



Solomon Islands

SNAKES ALIVE! SHOP OWNERS IN HONIARA were warned to be on the lookout for thieves who turn up with a large snake and, after frightening away the shopkeepers, help themselves to the stores' goods. Two such incidents happened in one week.

The Honolulu Advertiser, 28 January, 2002

Fiji

UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC (SUVA) SCIENTISTS revealed that freshwater mussels, locally called *kai* and found in Fiji's Rewa River (near Suva), contain trace metals such as copper, cadmium, lead, zinc and iron. These are present in much higher levels than the National Health Standard of Australia recommends and can be a threat to human organs. *Kai* is abundant in the Rewa River and is a major source of protein and income for those living in the area. Mussels are "filter feeders" and tend to accumulate pollutants such as heavy metals in their tissue. If consumed, either raw or cooked, by humans, they can be toxic. Sources of the contaminants are believed to be fuel, leaked over past years as residue from the mining industry that drains into a tributary, plus industrial wastes and the local rubbish dump.

University of the South Pacific, Suva. Vol. 1:15, 2001.

A RESEARCH TEAM FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC'S Geography Department has found that a build-up of sediments has reduced marine life in the Yanuca Channel that separates the Shangri-La Fijian Resort from mainland Viti Levu in Sigatoka. Forest clearance, combined with increased grazing and farming, has caused increased soil erosion, with the sediments draining into the Yanuca Channel. Solutions under discussion include reforestation along the watercourses, the banning of over-fishing and destructive fishing methods, and replanting corals. Dredging may be necessary.

University of the South Pacific, Suva. Vol. 1:19, 2001.

A TEAM OF SCIENTISTS FROM the University of the South Pacific at Suva, and the Fiji Museum, recently found more traces of Lapita pottery in a group of island in northeast Fiji. The 12-member team, headed by Patrick Nunn (USPS) found Lapita pottery in 12 locations on the islands of Qamea, Laucala, Matagi, and the Yanuca group.

University of the South Pacific, Suva. Vol. 2(2) 2002.

KAVA EXPORTERS IN FIJI and Vanuatu called for medical trials to determine if kava consumption is life threatening. Concerns were raised by German and Swiss authorities, claiming that kava-based products may be linked to liver problems. France has now joined Germany in suspending sale of kava-based products. Experts called by the Fiji Ministry of Agriculture claimed that there is no evidence that *yaqona* drinking damages the human liver. The kava pills that are sold overseas contain the same amount of kava lactones as one cup of liquid kava and Fijians and others in the Pacific islands drink many cupfuls a day without any side effects. The ban would dramatically slash exports of kava from both Fiji and Vanuatu.

Pacific News Bulletin 17(1), 2002

Niue

THE PEACE CORPS IS ENDING ITS NIUE OPERATION. Volunteers have been working on Niue for the last six years, providing assistance to small businesses, youth development, and fisheries. Reasons given are that the Corps finds it difficult to support services for the volunteers on this remote island, and Niue does not fall into the "country in need" category.

The Honolulu Advertiser, 28 January, 2002

Tuvalu

THE PACIFIC ISLAND STATE OF TUVALU, consisting of nine islands and 11,000 people, is about to pay the ultimate price for global warming. For years, the most interesting thing to happen in Tuvalu was the sale of its Internet domain, "TV", for \$50 million. But having traded in its virtual domain, it now is about to lose its real one to rising sea levels. Tuvalu authorities have conceded defeat and have sent out appeals to the governments of Australia and New Zealand to help in the evacuation of Tuvalu's population. A rebuff by Australia (see below) has led to the first group of evacuees heading for New Zealand. Tuvalu is paying for the rich world's experiment with global atmosphere, and literally going down in history.

Guardian Weekly, 6-12 December, 2001

LAST YEAR, AUSTRALIA REJECTED the request from Tuvalu to take part in a resettlement program for its residents. But then, as part of its "Pacific Solution", the government of Australia planned to ask Tuvalu to accept asylum seekers! So Tuvalu, with limited resources, was being asked by Australia to take in asylum seekers, despite the rising sea levels that are contaminating water sources and crops, and the fact that the islands are being abandoned.

Pacific News Bulletin 16(11), 2001

IN JANUARY, IT WAS ANNOUNCED that Tuvalu is considering taking legal action against the industrialized nations of the world for causing global warming. The court case would be funded by money received from the dot TV Internet suffix. In some villages, particularly on the smaller islands, rising seawater is seeping under the islands and coming up underneath villages. Although people find it unthinkable to move off their family land where they have lived for thousands of years, climate changes are forcing them to leave. The problem is also a social one in that, to go to someone else's land, they lose their identity, and this causes both social and health problems.

Pacific News Bulletin 17(1), 2002

Tonga

AN ARTICLE DESCRIBING EXCAVATIONS CONDUCTED by David Burley at Tongatapu made the *NY Times*. The item, by John Noble Wilford, described Burley's find of Lapita shards in 1999, indicating that seafarers had reached the Tonga Islands between 850 and 900 BC. The sandy minerals found in the pottery were not from Tonga, but are found only on the Santa Cruz Islands in Melanesia, some 1200 miles to the west. This suggests that the settlers who reached Tonga came directly from central Melanesia, not via Fiji.

New York Times, 8 January, 2002

KING TAUFA'AHAU TUPOU IV, age 83, has been accused of hiding some \$350 million in a secret bank account, according to *Kele'a*, a Tongan newspaper. It was not clear just where the king's alleged fortune supposedly came from. However, last month the palace used the government-owned *Tonga Chronicle* to claim that a Tongan national living in Australia was blackmailing the king over some gold bullion (said to be worth billions of dollars) allegedly taken from the 1806 wreck of an English sailing ship.

The Honolulu Advertiser, 19 January 2002

Samoa

AN ANTI-HIV/AIDS COMPOUND derived from the bark of the Samoan *mamala* tree (*Homolanthus mutans*) has the potential to inhibit HIV. The compound is called Prostratin. It was found that Samoan healers in Savai'i were using the *mamala* plant to treat hepatitis; their mixtures were sent to the NCI where the Prostratin compound was isolated. In licensing the compound for development, the people of Samoa will share in any potential reward: the Samoan government will get 12.5% of profits, and 6.7% will go to the village where the healers provided the initial information. The families of two Samoan women who passed along their knowledge of the tree's healing powers will each receive 0.4%.

Pacific News Bulletin 16(12), 2001

WEEKLY AIR CARGO SERVICE BETWEEN HONOLULU and American Samoa is being restored. Pacific Air Cargo will re-introduce cargo service as a result of winning a contract with the USPS to carry mail from Honolulu to Pago Pago and Guam.

The Honolulu Advertiser, 28 January 2002

Rarotonga, Cook Islands

FIGURES FROM THE RECENT CENSUS SHOW that the Cook Islands are experiencing a decline in population. Last year, 18,027 people were counted, a 5.6% decline since 1996. More Cook Islanders now live in New Zealand than in their home islands.

The Honolulu Advertiser, 22 January 2002

Tahiti

THE EURO HAS ARRIVED IN TAHITI but French-occupied territories in the Pacific will go on using the French Pacific Franc (CFP). Although the Euro will be available soon in even the most remote islands, it is not expected to make a large impact. A Euro is worth 119.33 CFP.

Pacific News Bulletin 17(1), 2002

Hawai'i

DENGUE FEVER HAS BEEN REPORTED FROM MAUI AND O'AHU. Three new cases in Maui and one on O'ahu have pushed the number of confirmed cases to over 100, according the Department of Health. Most confirmed cases are on Maui, with O'ahu second. Kaua'i has four cases. Health officials continue to urge residents to get rid of standing water. Dengue is spread by the bite of the *Aedes* mosquito and can be fatal. The current strain in Hawai'i is less serious, generally causing fever, headache, muscle pain, etc.

The Honolulu Advertiser, 25 January 2002

TWO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII' I ARCHAEOLOGICAL Field Schools are planned for Summer 2002. One will be on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) and one in Fiji. Visit the link below and pass the word along to students you think might be interested in joining one of these projects: <http://www.anthropology.hawaii.edu/projects/ppp/> Terry L. Hunt, Ph.D. Department of Anthropology, University of Hawai'i; 2424 Maile Way, Honolulu, HI 96822.

THE HAWAII' I CAVE TASK FORCE (H.B.375) has been formed to draft legislation pertaining to the protection of natural and cultural resources in the caves of Hawai'i. Currently there is no statute regarding cave "law". Due to the popular interest in exploring caves and the fact they often contain cultural features such as petroglyphs and burials, a risk has been perceived. The bill includes fines of not more than \$10,000 for each separate offense. This legislation may pit Native Hawaiians interested in the preservation of burial caves and sacred sites against entrepreneurs such as tour operators. Some insist that more Native Hawaiian involvement in the decision-making process is needed.

Society for Hawaiian Archaeology Newsletter 2(10), 2001

NEWS ITEMS IN HAWAII' I described a cease-and-desist order issued by the state Commission on Water Resource Management. The native Hawaiian group Kuleana Ku'ihaki LLC argued for the order to help stop the Makila Land Company from digging a well in the Kaua'ula Valley, Maui. The valley is said to contain petroglyphs, house sites, wetlands, reported burials and other cultural features. There is concern about the effects of the well on the aquifer, as well as plans for development of the valley. The Makila Land Company complained they were being treated unfairly.

Society for Hawaiian Archaeology Newsletter 3(1), 2002

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) HAS AWARDED a grant of \$1.4 million to the Archaeological Research Facility at UC Berkeley for a 3-year project, Human Ecodynamics in the Hawaiian Ecosystem, 1200-200 Years Before the Present. The project will be directed by Patrick Kirch of UC Berkeley, who will head a multidisciplinary team from Berkeley, University of Hawaii, Stanford, UCSB, and the University of Wisconsin. This is the largest single grant ever received by the Archaeological Research Facility at Berkeley. The project will examine two study sites, one on the Big Island of Hawai'i and one on Maui, and will address four research themes: study the spatial and temporal processes of agricultural development of Hawaiian landscapes, determine how human population growth and fluctuations were linked to resource use; examine the emergence of socio-political complexity, and track the dynamic effects of a growing human population on its natural resource base.

Society for Hawaiian Archaeology Newsletter 3(2), 2002

Juan Fernández Islands

IN FEBRUARY 2002, THE MAYOR of the Juan Fernández Islands claimed that searching for buried treasure is beneficial for the archipelago. He noted that some diggers have earned about US \$60 per day while searching for treasure in the sector of Puerto

Inglés on the island of Robinson Crusoe. The project, the brainchild of Bernard Keiser, an historian and businessman from the USA, involves digging for some 846 barrels of gold pieces and ingots with a value said to be close to 10 billion dollars. The mayor said that approximately 20% of the population is affected, either directly or indirectly, especially boat operators, diggers and hotel owners. The local island council approved the treasure-hunting project at the end of 2001. The mayor rejected criticisms of the park service (CONAF), indicating that in the zone of excavation there is only grass and the area has little value. However, councilor Jacqueline Vergara indicated that the tranquility of the island would be altered, especially if the treasure were found. "Nothing would remain on the island since all would be carried away or go to Señor Keiser," she stated. Currently the work is halted while waiting for a resolution from Conama (Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente), who wants reassurance that the region would be returned to its original state. CONAF says that earlier excavations have not been covered up.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso 4 February 2002

For those who are new to RNJ, a bit of background on the great treasure hunt may be of interest. In 1998, Chilean headlines announced the news of a fabulous treasure said to be buried at Puerto Inglés on Robinson Crusoe Island, off the coast of Chile. The papers stated that a North American, Bernard Keiser, was searching for 18th century pirate treasure. The headlines asked, "Who gets the gold?" and island residents, wanting their share of the loot, were said to be at the point of war against the foreigners. At that time, the mayor stated that the gold was from the English pirate, Francis Drake and, shortly after, it was announced that the treasure consisted of barrels of gold, gold coins, and fabulous jewels. Puerto Inglés was selected as a likely place to dig and Keiser was quoted as saying that he was 99% certain the gold was there. The treasure was at this point described in newspapers as equal to the Inca or Egyptian ruins, and a chest of gold and a gold rose and emerald necklace was added to the (imagined) booty. Newspapers in Chile noted that the value would be sufficient to pay off Chile's external debt and plans were being made to spend this great fortune. It was decided that the foreigners would get 25%, after Chile selected the most valuable archaeological pieces, up to 75% of the total. The island's municipality and its 700 inhabitants would profit from tourist activity, a museum, by selling souvenirs, and selling the film rights (a plot perfect for a Harrison Ford movie). Speculation continued over the months, with the fortune now said to be from an 18th century Spanish noble who buried six million gold pieces. Or maybe it was from the pirate Bartoleme Sharp who sacked a number of places on the mainland in the 1680s. Finally, the excavation reached bedrock, and nothing was found. The islanders were downcast as the prospects for faded, and the project was suspended. But, now, according to Chilean newspapers, it has been revived. Hope springs eternal.

Viña del Mar, Chile

THE UNIVERSITY OF VALPARAÍSO INAUGURATED the new Centro de Estudios Rapa Nui in November, the aims of which are to promote preservation of the island's culture and traditions

as well as its natural resources. Preservation, sustainable development, and the dissemination of information about the culture of Easter Island through academic activity, are some of the objectives of the new Centro de Estudios.

José Miguel Ramírez, director, stated that in order to reach these objectives, the Centro will be associated with the Fonck Museum, the Biblioteca Rapa Nui, and the Easter Island Foundation. Working together for academic exchange, publications and seminars, research and public extension are the main purposes, but the more specific common goals are to look for a new building for the Center at the Fonck Museum and the organization of the Sixth International Conference on Rapa Nui and Polynesia at the University of Valparaíso in Chile, in 2004.

The concept of having agreements with foundations and organizations is that it will facilitate the to receiving of support for conservation and sustainable development of the island. "We wish to assume the agreement that signifies Chile's (and Valparaíso's) historic connection with Rapa Nui," Ramírez commented. He noted that there exists scientific information in all fields and that, without doubt, these contribute to the culture of Rapa Nui and its people.

The new Centro de Estudios Rapa Nui is now a part of the Instituto de Estudios Humanísticos of the Universidad de Valparaíso. One of their first projects will be an English/Spanish paper on the history of Rapa Nui from 1888, with Grant McCall. Besides research and publications in English, Ramírez stated that he would like to publish a Spanish-language version of the *Rapa Nui Journal*.

He also envisions the involvement of the local Rapanui community, including students. The Centro will function under the Faculty of Humanities of the Universidad de Valparaíso, and is located at 1 Oriente 74, Viña del Mar.

"We will work on the interests and the necessities of the island, and in this context, it is equally valuable to make Rapa Nui known to Chileans because, curiously, foreigners know more about the island than we do," said Ramírez.

The "ceremonia academica" for the official opening of the Centro de Estudios Rapa Nui took place in the Sala Ruben Dario of the Centro de Extensión de la Universidad de Valparaíso, on 22 November 2001.

After a short presentation by Carlos Verdugo Serna, the Director of the Instituto Humanístico, Alma Campbell, the daughter of the late musicologist Ramon Campbell, introduced a choral group which sang one of her father's songs inspired by the island. A speech by José Miguel Ramírez followed concerning the aims of the Centro.

A new edition of Father Sebastián Englert's book on the legends of Easter Island, was introduced and this was followed by a dance performance by Karu Henua, a group of young Rapanui students from the University in Valparaíso.

Grant McCall presented a talk concerning the years around 1888 and the take-over of Easter Island by Chile and Policarpo Toro. McCall stated that he has searched in vain for the original document that gave Chile the official right to take charge of the island. However, he showed a contemporary copy that was not, of course, a Xerox (1888!) but was hand-written. It showed that six islanders had signed it with "Xs" after their names. While

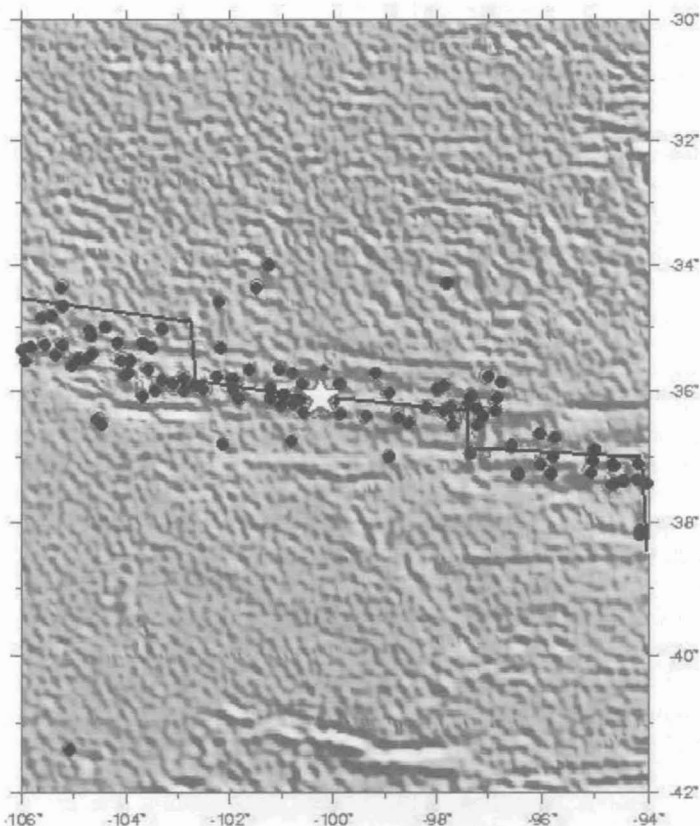
not quite saying that because the document no longer exists and the whole thing might have been a fabrication, McCall suggested this possibility.

José Miguel Ramírez-Aliaga, Director; Centro de Estudios Rapa Nui, Universidad de Valparaíso, can be reached at: rapanui@uv.cl

WHAT'S NEW IN HANGA ROA

AN EARTHQUAKE OCCURRED ON 15 FEBRUARY some 600 miles Southeast of Hanga Roa, intensity of 6.0 at a depth of ten km. The time was 01:46:38 UTC. The USGS chart below shows the plate boundaries, seismic events since 1990 to the present (dots) and the recent event (star). More information on USGS web site: http://neic.usgs.gov/neis/bulletin/020215014638_H.html

Earthquakes over the centuries surely made an impact on Rapa Nui, and likely caused damage to the archaeological sites. Many think that strong quakes in the past caused some of the island's statues to fall.



AN ARTICLE IN *EL MERCURIO DE VALPARAÍSO* STATED, "Easter Island Could Become Independent, if the 'Carta Fundamental' is Altered". The article explained that congressmen from both parties were analyzing the possibility of administrative independence for the island. It is clear that islanders are in favor of more autonomy. The 'Carta Fundamental' was written around 1950, and it defined the twelve regions of Chile; Easter Island was assigned to the Fifth Region (*Quinta Region* or V Region), and some senators suggested that it was time to make a

change. Underneath the article was a section titled "Islanders". In it, Mayor Petero Edmunds was quoted as saying that it is inconceivable that island problems are resolved four thousand kilometers away. And then he pointed out that it is ridiculous that a letter takes five hours to go from Easter Island to Santiago, but then it takes 15 days to get to Valparaíso. Edmunds also complained that a gravely ill islander who is flown to the continent lands in Santiago at night, and then reaches a Valparaíso hospital at 1 or 2 a.m. when there are no medical specialists on duty.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 16 October 2001

A NEW SUPPORT NETWORK FOR ISLA DE PASCUA. "Amigo Rapa Nui" is the name for a group in Chile who love the island and who wish to send support to the island inhabitants in order to strengthen the richness of its culture. The formation of this group was announced by the island's mayor, Pedro Edmunds Paoa, Dr Cristian Ovalle, president of the new group, and Vicente Vidal, administrative chief for UNESCO in Latin America and the Caribbean. UNESCO is backing this initiative.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 9 November 2001



The Easter Island Scholarship Award was presented to Alfonso Juan Francisco Rapu Cardinali ("Pancho") by Governor Enrique Pakarati Ika (far right), Viki Haoa Cardinali (left) and Ricardo Tuki Hereveri second from left). The presentation took place in front of a huge *reimiro* in the gardens of the Governor's office (Photo: Grant McCall).

A WAVE OF ROBBERIES has been cleared up on the island. The carabineros solved some eleven robberies that have affected both residents and tourists. Stolen goods that were recovered included television sets, musical instruments and cameras. These were valued at more than 4 million pesos (US\$6000). An 18 year-old man and two minors, aged 16 and 17, were detained. According to authorities, they are still looking for two other members of this band that was operating on Rapa Nui.

El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 18 November 2002

THE EASTER ISLAND FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD was presented to this year's winner, Alfonso Juan Francisco Rapu Cardinali ("Pancho") who is studying to become an architect. It was a close contest with many applicants. The applicants were finally narrowed down to five semi-finalists: Jose Dinamarca Tepano (age 24); Jose Hereveri Pate (age 17); Ioan Soler Hotu (age 20); Jorge Zuniga Tuki (age 22); and Alfonso Juan Francisco Rapu Cardinali (age 28). Our congratulations to all the contestants and we wish we could provide them all with scholarships.

The award winner, Pancho Rapu, attends La Universidad del Desarrollo in Santiago where he is a 6th year student. Pancho hopes that the knowledge gained from his studies will contribute to the growth and development of the island. His last workshop report dealt with plans for a new airport at Mataverí and he is now preparing a final thesis for his professional title.

The Governor of Rapa Nui, Enrique Pakarati Ika, who was part of the selection committee, added that the scholarship awards are of great benefit to Rapanui students, representing both important assistance and incentive. Our thanks to Don Enrique Pakarati Ika, Governor; Viki Haoa Cardinali; and Ricardo Tuki Hereveri. We are grateful to Marla Wold of the EIF for her assistance on this project. Please keep in mind that anyone can make a donation (tax-deductible) to the Foundation for a scholarship and we would be delighted to provide assistance to other students.

A MEETING OF MERCOSUR (Market of the South) took place on the island in February, with attendees from Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, plus invited persons from Europe. This 11th Meeting for cultural exchange proposed legislation in favor of cultural and educational initiatives to be applied to Easter Island. Mayor Petero Edmunds Paoa and the president of the Consejo de Ancianos, Alberto Hotus Teave urged attendees to avoid the "destruction of Easter Island." Edmunds stated that "We are a community of more than 3000 inhabitants, we are an ancestral people with 16,000 archaeological sites that need to be protected with a special treaty." It was urged that a modern constitutional legislation be created, not just a decree that can be "erased when convenient." Petero Edmunds further said that the Rapanui need to have internal autonomy – still Chilean, but with self-determination. Alberto Hotus agreed, but then Levi Araki Tepano interrupted with shouts, saying that Alberto does not represent *all* Rapanui. Hotus responded by saying he was elected by popular vote, and then put forth petitions asking for land, scholarships for students, and the definition of an electoral district for the island. Mayor Edmunds pointed out that, because everyone is a descendant of Hotu

Matu'a, all Rapanui think themselves kings. Whether the Cultural Parliament of Mercosur will result in anything concrete for the island is a complete unknown, but people are trying. All Rapanui who spoke agreed that internal autonomy is what is needed, and next week if you don't mind (*Grant McCall*).

IN MARCH, FOLLOWING THE MERCOSUR MEETING, the Comisión de la Verdad y del Nuevo Trato, which comes from the Ley Indígena, got moving. A sub-committee of this *Comisión* is headed by Mayor Edmunds, with Raul Teao and Mario Tuki as associates. They gathered at the Centro del Adulto Mayor, near the hospital, where they listened to complaints made by Rapanui and wrote them down. Teao listened about laws; Te Ra'i about economic development, Mario about education, and Tepano about bad treatment in the past. On Wednesday nights the results were presented. In May, a final report is to be written and sent to Santiago. And this was requested by the Chilean government! But more: all was conducted in Rapanui. The meetings, the announcements and the comments are all in Rapanui, but the final report will be in Spanish. Some islanders are skeptical of the whole process but this is the first time in 113 years that the Chilean government has asked the Rapanui about their complaints and what they want. Some young adults in the community feel left out as they do not speak Rapanui. These are people who were raised on the continent or abroad and never learned the Rapanui language. So it is the younger and more educated Rapanui who are least likely to speak the language.

(*Grant McCall*)

DENGUE FEVER ON RAPA NUI. According to the Institute of Public Health, nearly 3% of the inhabitants of Easter Island have caught the dengue virus but that the outbreak is "under control". This was confirmed following a report that blood samples of 11 persons tested positive and another 160 are in the category of "clinically confirmed", i.e. with classic symptoms of the disease. Of these, the majority are islanders and only a few are tourists, said the sub-secretary of Health, Gonzalo Navarrete. Continental Chile is the only country in South America where there is no dengue. It's bad in Brazil where 27 have died this year. The mosquito *Aedes aegypti* is the culprit, and it appears to have invaded Rapa Nui from Tahiti. US\$37,000 has been put aside to fight the outbreak. LanChile always fumigates the planes coming to the continent from the island; apparently not for those coming from Tahiti.

There was a previous dengue alert on Rapa Nui in 2000. Mayor Petero Edmunds accused the Ministry of Health of not taking the mosquito threat seriously when it was first detected two years ago. Edmunds said that fumigation was postponed then because the necessary funding (US\$33,000) was not available, and yet they spent \$45,000 to bring the sub-secretary of Health and other authorities to the island on an Air Force plane. "This is absurd," said Edmunds. "They came to tell me what I should do. They could have called on the telephone."

La Segunda of Santiago, 18 March 2002;
El Mercurio de Valparaíso, 20 March 2002

On the Margins of Sustainability. Prehistoric Settlement of Utrök Atoll, Northern Marshall Islands

Marshall I. Weisler BAR International Series 967, Archaeopress, Oxford. 2001. 144 pp. (122 B&W figures, photographs, maps and drawings, 24 tables, 3 appendices) £28.00 (US\$40.00), paper. ISBN 1-84171-254-X

Review by Felicia R. Beardsley, Ph.D.

On the Margins of Sustainability is a rich portrait of nearly 2,000 years of occupation on Utrök Atoll, a northern atoll in the Marshall Islands archipelago. It is part and parcel of a larger, integrated archaeological investigation conducted by the author, Dr. Marshall Weisler, on Utrök Atoll and three other atolls within the Republic of the Marshall Islands during his tenure as chief archaeologist for this small nation. Weisler's project was an ambitious one. His intent, as he tells us in the introductory pages to his monograph, is to outline the culture history and regional north-to-south variation throughout the Marshall Islands – from the timing and sequence of initial settlement to the distribution, density and diversity of occupation, along with recurring patterns of traditional social and political patterns continually renewed upon the taming of each newly settled atoll, coupled with the development and expansion of economic networks active in the historic era and only hypothesized for the prehistoric. The overall project, according to Weisler, is part of an archaeological training program focused on the involvement of local people, in part to establish a tangible and direct link between the contemporary population and their ancestral roots, and in part to establish a mechanism by which the local population can begin to take charge of the conservation and management of their own history.

As one of four atolls selected for a comparison between the dry northern groups and wet southern groups, Utrök is the farthest north. Its position is unique among the four, as it exhibited the least amount of average annual precipitation within the group, just barely within the limits of the biogeographical zone where coconuts still remain viable, but exhibit sparse growth and produce small nuts. This is a precipitous position, where any prolonged period of drought can spell disaster for economically important crops like coconuts and breadfruit, not to mention the resident human population. But it is also an important contribution in any comparative analysis such as this one, as it illustrates (and perhaps stretches our own comprehension of) the capacity for human endurance and perseverance within marginal environments. Such occupations force the question, why? How did people manage to survive under such precarious circumstances?

It is clear Weisler appreciates the process of exploration and discovery. He brings us a clear description of an heretofore obscured corner of life at the northern limits of the intertropical convergence zone, where both currents and climate are influenced by those that dominate the subtropical zone further north. His enthusiasm permeates most of the chapters, and is peppered with his own experiences during his stay in the islands. The