UNITED STATES
The press is suddenly filled with various advertisements that use images of moai to tout their products. An ad in the Explorers Journal is particularly notable in that it advertises a classy watch by Breitling, dubbed the “Mata-Rangi Expedition” model, commemorating “the voyage of the largest reed vessel built by modern man.” The watch has a logo showing a drawing of the Mata Rangi on its face. However, the ad neglects to mention that the ill-fated Mata Rangi sunk ignominiously shortly after being launched from Anakena beach, its crew (and stowaways) being rescued by the Stray Dog, a passing sailboat (we are not making this up). For background on the Mata Rangi and its short unhappy life, see RNJ 10(3):63, 11(1):43, 11(2):96, and 11(3):138.

The other advertisements are for Crowne Plaza Hotels and Kinko’s. The Crowne Plaza ad features a shot of Ahu Akivi’s statues, apparently symbolizing members of a stoned Board of Directors. Kinko’s is a computer generated set of four moai from Rano Raraku, pushing Kinko’s expertise in creating exciting images for presentations.

LAHAINA, MAUI
AMID POLYNESIAN CHANTS, the Mayor of Hanga Roa, Petero Edmunds Paoa was welcomed to Lahaina. Edmunds was there to establish “sister-island” ties. Maui leaders hope the association will encourage the growing renaissance of native cultures. Edmunds said he hopes to learn methods of disposal of trash and sewage as used on Maui, and reforestation methods which may benefit Rapa Nui. In return, he has offered to share his people’s knowledge of Polynesian culture, which has remained fairly intact. Leaders of the two islands exchanged gifts before the signing of the sister-island agreement. Councilman Sol Kaho’ohalahala led the renewal of the relationship and said there is evidence of a relationship in the oral and spiritual traditions of both islands.

HONOLULU, HAWAII
IT HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED that the Hokule’a will visit Easter Island next year. Polynesian Voyaging Society President Myron Thompson said it will be the most ambitious journey of the Hokule’a. They plan to leave Hawai’i in June of 1999, arrive to Rapa Nui in October, and return in December. The voyage will be chronicled by National Geographic.

Thirty students from Kamehameha schools in Hawai’i visited Easter Island. One of the student projects was to help restore the ecosystem. As part of a cultural exchange, the students planted sandalwood and koa saplings. As a result of the Easter Island-Hawaiian interchange, professional exchanges are being discussed between Hawai’i’s Department of Land and Natural Resources and Rapa Nui’s National Park officials.

The students took two computers to the island in order to connect Hanga Roa’s school with the internet. All this activity is connected to the voyage of the Hokule’a; the Hokule’a’s escort ship will carry the phone line system and satellite. That way there will be a three-way system of communication to track the Hokule’a.

ALSO IN HONOLULU is yet another adventurer attempting to prove the diffusionist theory of ancient races. Gene Savoy is off on a seven-year voyage around the world in a replica of an ancient sailing vessel, trying to prove that pre-Columbian Peru had contact with civilizations as far away as Japan and the