WE HAVE AN ODDITY to report, in regard to moai sightings. For years a fake moai sat out in front of a restaurant in Cambridge, MA with the name Aku-Aku, and which served ersatz Polynesian food. Well, the restaurant is now a seafood place, called “Summer Shack”—but what to do about the moai out front? They added a hat, beard, pipe and fisherman’s jacket, transforming the moai into a Maine fisherman! (photo by William Liller).

ANOTHER MOAI sighting from El Lay has been reported by Rapanuiophile Suzanne Williams who submitted photos of North Hollywood’s “Tonga Hut” where a large wood moai stands in front to welcome customers. The Tonga Hut is sandwiched between a bridal salon and a gift shop.

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROFESSOR Terry Hunt was startled to discovers a new moai (sand sculpture) on the beach at ‘Anakena. The eyes were Styrofoam, not coral (photo by Scott Nicolay).

THE ISLAND OF Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, harbors the remains of four victims of the U.S. Civil War, dating to 135 years ago. These are the wrecks of four whalers—three are of U.S. registry and one of Hawaiian registry. They were sunk by the Confederate raider Shenandoah in April 1865. The Shenandoah attacked and burned the whalers during its first stop in the Pacific. At this time, Gen. Robert E. Lee had already surrendered at Appomattox, but the ship’s captain didn’t hear about the end of the war until several months later. Evidence of the three vessels was found during an underwater archaeological survey over the past month.

Leading the team were Suzanne Finney, doctoral student at the University of Hawaii-Manoa Department of Anthropology, and Frank Cantelas, Eastern Carolina University staff archaeologist. Anthropology professor Michael W. Graves is the project’s principal investigator.

Ms Finney plans to return to Pohnpei next summer, and hopes to find a fourth wreck in Pohnahtik Harbor, Madoleinhmw Province. She believes that the team found two of three U.S. whalers and the Hawaiian whaler, Harvest. According to accounts, three whalers burned together, drifted onto the reef and sank, and the Hawaiian vessel burned last. The remains of the other two ships are “almost end-to-end,” she said. “We were hand-sifting and realized we had material from two wrecks—not one.” A tip came from a local fishermen who asked what they were doing and then said he knew where there was another wreck, a few hundred feet away.

The scuba divers found the three wrecks in about 25 to 30 feet of water, despite poor visibility from silt washing into the harbor from rivers. Finney said they recovered large sections of keel and some pieces of copper sheathing, which may help them date the wrecks. The Shenandoah was sent to the Pacific during the final months of the Civil War in 1865 to destroy the American whaling fleet. In 18 months, it captured more than 30 whaling ships, including the four at Pohnpei.
Looking at the wrecks and the Civil War episode is a first step toward a management plan for Micronesia’s underwater resources. Specialists from the Pohnpei State Historic Preservation Office participated in the project, funded by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program.

**FIJI**
The **Physics Department** at the University of the South Pacific (Suva, Fiji) has received F$61,308 as part of the French Embassy funding to the School of Pure and Applied Sciences. The money will help establish collaborative research in environmental physics and climate change, and expand research links in marine physics.

**STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS OF ARCHITECTURE** and anthropology from Vienna, Austria, visited Fiji and Samoa to study traditional architecture. The teams will return next year to visit Vanuatu and New Caledonia with the results to be published. They found that traditional Pacific architecture is disappearing due to the high cost of building and maintaining traditional structures. The International Student Visits’ program began in the 1980s and hosts around five or six groups a year, mainly from Europe and North America. Under the program, USP organizes lectures, visits to important sites in Fiji, and some stays.

**PROFESSOR JOHN MORRISON** of the Oceans & Cultural Research Center, University of Wollongong, Australia, spoke at the Laucala Campus, Suva (Fiji) on the subject of waste management. His lecture described the environmental problems that result in polluted streams, litter-strewn streets, and eyesores on the edges of towns where rubbish is dumped. One mechanism to reduce sources of waste is to examine the imports profile to determine which materials are likely to lead to considerable quantities of waste and impose a tariff or prohibit their importation. This is a serious problem on small islands that lack the infrastructure to recycle.

**A FUJIAN-LANGUAGE HANDBOOK** concerning the cultural, political, and botanical aspects of kava has been produced. Sales of kava have dropped following news of the product as causing liver disease. Kava merchants say that the kava in the west is not the same as the raw material grown in the Pacific, but has chemicals added to it by pharmaceutical companies.

**FIJIAN POLITICS HAS COST** the sugar industry millions of dollars. Between the displacement of people, industrial boycotts, and resistance to change, the sugar industry now finds itself on the verge of collapse. The chairman of the Sugar Commission of Fiji declared it a “human tragedy”.

**AOTEAROA**
A **LABEL OF AUTHENTICITY** for items of Māori manufacture has been created. “Toi iho māori” trademarks will benefit the sale and production and provide an increased awareness of Māori art and culture. In the past, native artists have found it hard to find markets for their work, and they have been at a disadvantage when faced with cheap imitations from non-Māori entrepreneurs.

**COOK ISLANDS**
A **CONTROVERSIAL TREATMENT** for diabetes has been proposed to the Cook Islands by a New Zealand biotechnology company. The government of the Cooks is deciding whether to accept the proposal that involves inserting live animal cells into humans. The New Zealand government rejected the experiment as too risky. But some Cook Islands volunteers who suffer from diabetes are willing to try the experiment.

**RA’IVAVAE**

**AN AIRPORT RUNWAY** is being built in the lovely lagoon at Ra’ivavae, surely an ill-advised project. The photo shows the runway under construction. A piece of the main island can be seen on the left. The runway will be long enough to accommodate small jets. There goes the neighborhood. Thanks to Pandora Nash Karner for the photograph.

**PITCAIRN**
**AFTER SOME 200 YEARS,** Britain’s colonial history officially ended when more than 200,000 island residents around the world were granted full citizenship. One of those islands is little Pitcairn Island. The new order means that islanders, who formerly had British Dependent Territories passports (with limited rights of access to Britain), now have full citizenship. This will allow them to live, train and work in Britain or anywhere else in the EU. However, British citizens do not have the reciprocal right to live overseas.

**HAWAI’I**
**BUT ALL IS NOT ROSY ON PITCAIRN.** Widespread sex abuse has been charged by New Zealand and British police who say that as many as twenty men from the island may be charged. A trial likely would be held in New Zealand where many of the alleged offenders now live. The police began investigating an alleged December 1999 rape on Pitcairn. Since then, the New Zealand media reports a large number of complaints, with about twenty present or former Pitcairners accused of sexually abusing girls as young as 12 years. If charges are made and a trial is held on the island, it would be only the second one for the small territory. In 1897, Harry A. Christian, a descendant of Fletcher Christian, was hanged in Fiji after being convicted on Pitcairn of killing his wife and child.
THE NONI PLANT, used in traditional healing throughout Polynesia, has become one of the most popular complementary treatments worldwide for all kinds of diseases. Yet, there is no evidence that the plant is useful medically, says Dr. Brian Issell, clinical sciences program director at the Cancer Research Center of Hawai’i. He has received a National Institutes of Health grant to conduct the first scientific study of the use of noni in humans. Noni, extracted from the Indian mulberry plant, has been used for more than 1,000 years in traditional healing practices of native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders and Asian populations. Noni emerged as “a prominent phenomenon” in the early 1990s in Hawaii. It was used in traditional Hawaiian medicine, but now it is very popular worldwide. Its reputation preceded demonstrated scientific merit. Issell said he was prompted to look at noni because many people say it is helping them. Studies have shown it has some effect on cancer cells. “We want to see if it works or not, and how good the compounds are,” Issell said. He plans to begin research when the noni capsules arrive; a mainland company is producing them with freeze-dried extract from Hawaii-grown plants. Cancer patients for whom standard treatments haven’t worked will be recruited to take the capsules. The first phase is to figure out what doses can be tolerated and if there is any evidence that noni causes the cancer to shrink. Patients will be evaluated regularly, with measurements of the tumors and other things such as fatigue and general quality of life, he said. The next stage will be to identify ingredients in noni that are anti-cancer agents. Issell has been involved in developing other anti-cancer drugs from plants.

Honolulu Star-Bulletin, 19 July 2002

Marquesas Islands

Lucien Kimitete at Kamuihei Ceremonial Center, Day 1 of the Fifth Marquesan Festival of Arts, Hatiheu, Nuku Hiva, December 28, 1999 (photo by Carol Ivory).

A TRAGIC LOSS FOR THE MARQUESAS. On May 23, 2002, a twin engine Piper PA34 airplane carrying Lucien Ro’o Kimitete, cultural and political leader of the Marquesas Islands, disappeared somewhere between Fakarava and Katiu atolls in the Tuamotus. With Kimitete were three other leaders of Fetia Api, a political party in opposition to French Polynesia Territorial President, Gaston Flosse: Boris Léontieff, Arsen Tuairau, and Ferfine Besseyre. Despite continued searches, as of mid-August, there has been no sign of the plane or its passengers.

Kimitete had been mayor of Nuku Hiva since 1991 and delegate to the Territorial Assembly since 1996. His political and personal agenda has always had, as its sole aim, the preservation of Marquesan identity and culture, both within the Marquesas and vis-à-vis Tahitian political domination within French Polynesia. He was considered unique as a somewhat reluctant politician, as much poet and bard. As a cultural leader, he was among the founders of Motu Haka o Te Henua Enana, the Marquesan cultural association founded in 1978. He was the heart and soul of the 5th Festival of Marquesan Arts, which took place December 27-31, 1999, on Nuku Hiva as part of the world’s Year 2000 ceremonies. Most recently, he worked to establish a Marquesan Academy to teach and conserve the Marquesan language, history and culture.

Kimitete, 48 years old, leaves his wife, Debora, who is committed to finding Lucien and to continuing his Marquesan cultural program, and four children. The people of all the Marquesas Islands, not just Nuku Hiva, are devastated at his disappearance, but hold out a fading hope that he and the others may still be found.

Carol Ivory, Fine Arts Center Washington State University

Note: Tahiti Pacifique magazine, No. 136:40-41 for August 2002, contains a moving tribute to Kimitete.
LAST YEAR, THE "SURVIVOR" TV series was filmed on Nuku Hiva. Some 230 film crew personnel came to construct buildings, roads, and a "tribal council" (a fake Polynesian structure with a palm frond roof). The French Polynesian Council of Ministers declared four of the island's valleys "off-limits" and filming began on November 12. There were problems. The Marquesans wanted a "Tahiti Mystic Island" logo and website address to be added as part of the program's credits in the hope that publicity would reinvigorate tourism in French Polynesia. However, indigenous islanders were invisible in the film; the jungle-shrouded peaks were digitally re-mastered to obscure all signs of habitation; and the island's animals and produce seemed available for easy trapping and plucking. The most that was seen of the people were a few quick shots of statuesque, tattooed warriors during the commercial breaks. Traditional chants for background music were synthesized into "world music". Crafts were worked into the "challenges" the "tribes" engaged in, such as the contestants struggling to ingest fafara, a fermented raw fish dish considered inedible by Westerners. When voting each other out, the players wrote names on tapa and put them in a carved umete (the "immunity trophy" was the type of wooden tiki sculpted for the tourist trade). Differences between the producers and the locals were taken to the local court: one plaintiff requested and was granted a cash settlement of $23,000. For another case, the owner of the land where the "tribal council" was built "won" - but he only won the right to have the structure dismantled after filming. The 74-year-old caretaker of Hakatea village had his house, dock and plumbing system bulldozed so the valley would appear uninhabited. A prefab was put up for him elsewhere, but he was not happy: "The Americans are quick and rich... We didn't want to move, but there was strong pressure.

Some islanders were won over, mostly by the thought that tourists would be attracted to the islands and that nearly 400 locals would be hired. Some were hired to guard the valleys from security breaches or to act as drivers and other assistants. Wages were high (by local standards). But there was discontent when fishermen were unable to fish and prices went up. Those employed by the production were happy to get money for the use of their vehicles, but were frustrated by having to wait all day at the producers' beck and call. One said, "They pay me for doing nothing. They are crazy..."

After the production ended, the air-conditioned cruise ship on which half of the production crew had been housed was detained by customs in Tahiti because the producers had not made correct arrangements with the government for using the ship in such manner. A tax of $444,000 was levied.

The end result: the expected tidal wave of American tourists would be attracted to the islands and that nearly 400 locals would be hired. Some were hired to guard the valleys from security breaches or to act as drivers and other assistants. Wages were high (by local standards). But there was discontent when fishermen were unable to fish and prices went up. Those employed by the production were happy to get money for the use of their vehicles, but were frustrated by having to wait all day at the producers' beck and call. One said, "They pay me for doing nothing. They are crazy..."

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The end result: the expected tidal wave of American tourists probably will not happen, for not only is the nono (the biting fly that causes itchy, infected wounds) "bad press", but the average tourist finds the difficulties and cost of visiting these islands to be insurmountable. The film production left the Marquesan islanders little in the way of economic benefit, but did leave them with some indignation that 'Enana once more lost a chance to represent their own culture to the world.

[After Kathleen C. Riley, Anthropology News, May 2002]

NORFOLK

NORFOLK ISLAND HAS HAD ITS FIRST HOMICIDE in 150 years, and nearly all residents plus tourists are being asked to submit to fingerprinting in order to help find the killer. Federal police from Australia have notified 1000 of the island's 1500 residents, age 15-70, to voluntarily submit to fingerprinting, plus 680 Australians and New Zealanders who were on holiday at the time that a young Australian woman was murdered.

Center for Pacific Island Studies, August 9, 2002

WHAT'S NEW IN HANGA ROA

NEWS FROM LANCHILE AIRLINES in June brought a collective gasp from both islanders and visitors. It was announced (on the web site for Pacific Magazine and in newspapers in Chile) that LanChile intended to drop Tahiti from its trans-Pacific itinerary in July. The announcement involved a change in route to Santiago-Auckland-Sydney, without the twice-weekly stopover in French Polynesia's largest island. The reason given was cost-cutting, following a code sharing agreement between LanChile and Australia's Qantas. The announced cancellation of flights connecting Rapa Nui with Tahiti and the rest of the Pacific would have cut islanders off from visiting relatives in Tahiti, to say nothing of losing tourists coming to Rapa Nui from that direction. It was then discovered that LanChile was playing 'chicken' in an effort to get a reduction in landing charges imposed by Tahiti. Tahiti blinked, reduced the cost of the charges, and LanChile then changed its mind. Whew.

THE ISLAND'S BANK on Tu'u Maheke has an ATM machine inside the bank. That is the good news. The bad news: it is only accessible during banking hours and for cash advances against a MasterCard. For a Visa cash advance, you have to go to the counter. Take your passport.

A HOLLYWOOD TV SERIES is on "hold" because of its use of moai replicas! Rapanui's mayor, Petero Edmunds, "made his move" and Chilenos and Rapanui living in the United States protested against Paramount Studios in Hollywood where "Laverne and Shirley Survivors", a satire on realistic programs, was being filmed. The moai figures were in use as scenery and were rented from "CP Three", a rental store for items for movie sets. CP Three rents the moai for US$380 each or will sell them for US$7800 each. The TV film shows four moai (called "tiki heads") surrounded by vegetation that gives the impression of a tropical island. The plot of the film program is said to make fun of the statues. Paramount was told to cease immediately or risk having to pay US$150,000 for "cultural insult". Mayor Edmunds also wants a letter of apology. Alerted by El Mercurio, Mayor Edmunds sent a communication to the Rapa-Nui Foundation, a denouncement to the Director of UNESCO, and also commissioned his brother, René Edmunds Paoa, who lives in California, to coordinate activities of protest and negotiation with Paramount Studios and all the rest of the companies producing movies, commercials or TV or movie specials. A group of 50 Chilenos from Los Angeles protested in front of the studios, demanding that the series, which is "trampling on the culture" of Rapa Nui, cease immediately. Because about a half million dollars has so far been invested, the producer ran the