ANOTHER PALACE TAKEOVER

On August 17 a group of Native Hawaiians claiming to be the state's legitimate rulers occupied the grounds of an historic palace for two hours before being arrested by state officers in the second recent takeover attempt of its kind.

A staff member of the Iolani Palace was allegedly assaulted during the takeover and when she called for help from a Honolulu police officer she was told palace grounds were not under city police jurisdiction. Hawai'i's governor, Linda Lingle, said there would be an investigation into the police response. She also said the people who invaded the palace "have to be shown it's not going to be acceptable".

A group of men wearing red shirts stenciled with "security" in yellow on the back took over the grounds of the palace by chaining the gates and posting signs that read "Property of the Kingdom of Hawaiian Trust".

The executive director of the Friends of Iolani Palace and other staff members were locked down in the palace and an administration building during the takeover.

State law officers climbed over the fence a few hours after the takeover began and made 20 arrests. The palace, normally open to tours, remained closed the rest of the weekend to assess any damage and to ensure its security.

Laura Theilen, director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, which oversees the palace, condemned the takeover. "We intend to charge them to the fullest extent of the law", she said.

The pro-sovereignty group identified its leader as King Akahi Nui, who was among those arrested. An "occupation public information bulletin" distributed by a member of the group said in part, "Majesty Akahi Nui, the King of Hawaii, has now reoccupied the throne of Hawaii. The Kingdom of Hawaii is now re-enacted". Akahi Nui claims to have been crowned in 1998.

Several Native Hawaiian organizations have rival claims to sovereignty over the islands. Another group calling itself the Hawaiian Kingdom Government occupied the palace grounds on April 30 and has been getting permits to set up on the grounds each week since then. That group claims to be operating a functioning government from the palace grounds.

The ornate palace is operated as a museum of Hawaiian royalty. King Kalakaua built it, and it also served as the residence for his sister and successor, Queen Liliuokalani, the islands' last ruling monarch. She was imprisoned in the palace after the 1893 U.S.-supported overthrow of the monarchy. After falling into disrepair, the palace was restored in the 1970s as a National Historic Landmark.

WHAT'S NEW ELSEWHERE

THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS, a UNESCO World heritage site, were under a botanical alert on August 19 after a destructive Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly) was detected on the archipelago, the Agricultural Health Service reported. Medflies (Ceratitis capitata Wiedemann), one of the most invasive insects that can wreak havoc to a wide range of fruit crops, were found on San Cristobal and Santa Cruz islands and pose a "high risk to the preservation of native plants ... and several crops in the farming sectors of the islands". Measures to contain the infestation include restricting the transportation of plants from the mainland and between the islands and stricter controls at airports and port facilities.

Source: Yahoo! News (August 19, 2008)

THREE MONTHS AFTER DEPARTING LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, a raft literally made of junk landed August 28th at Ala Wai Harbor in Honolulu. Two men — Marcus Eriksen and Joel Paschal — crossed 2,600 miles of open Pacific on a 30-foot vessel made of salvaged sailboat masts, pontoons filled with 15,000 plastic bottles, and cabin made from the fuselage of a Cessna airplane. Tanned, dirty, and hungry but greeted by a crowd of about two dozen who provided leis, fresh food, and beer, the two men said they "got used to eating fish and peanut butter". They also had no shortage of problems, from difficulty leaving the Long Beach area (because the raft could only sail down wind), damage due to a storm, and running low on supplies because, while at sea, they realized they were traveling only half a mile per hour and it would take them much longer to reach Hawai'i than the previously anticipated six weeks. But they were able to contact a solo rowboater who happened to be in the same area (who was low on water) and they were able to meet and exchange resources. The goal of the trip was to creatively raise awareness about plastic debris and pollution in the ocean. Single-use plastics, the adventurers said, should be banned because they are wasteful and usually end up in the ocean. The team, which posted online videos and reports of their trip (www.junkraft.com), hopes to visit schools around Oahu to share their experience, is working on a documentary film about the voyage to raise public awareness of the danger of plastics.

Source: Yahoo! News (August 28, 2008)

OF THE 29,004 FOREIGN-EXCHANGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS in the world studying for a semester or two between 2007 and 2008, 189 of those in the U.S. were from Oceania (134 from Australia) whereas 76 American students visited Oceania (41 in Australia).

Source: National Geographic (September 2008)
files) and helped with programming by connecting the library staff with EIF members who gave presentations as part of the Easter Island lecture series. EIF member Joan Seaver Kurze gave a lecture entitled “Maria, Madre de Rapa Nui, Saints Carved by Islanders”. Joan also provided several items from her collection of wood carvings for display at the main Pasadena Library. Photographs and several rare books about Easter Island and current EIF publications contributed to the display. EIF member Mark Sherman, of the International String Figure Association, gave a presentation entitled “Kai-Kai, Easter Island String Figures”. Other events included a presentation by Nancy Lutekhaus, from the USC Department of Anthropology, and book discussions at all of the Pasadena branch libraries. There was an “Evening with the Author” in which Jennifer Vanderbes and Kitty Connolly (Botanical Education Manager at the Huntington Gardens) discussed Easter Island and members of the audience were able to ask Ms. Vanderbes questions. Afterwards there was a book signing. The program was a great success and the EIF was pleased to be able to partner with the library and help deepen public knowledge about Easter Island. It was gratifying that some of our members were able to participate in and attend the programs. If you have not yet read the novel Easter Island, we highly recommend it. It is a wonderful book that chronicles the lives of two women conducting research on the island at different periods in time. It was a real delight to meet Ms. Vanderbes in person and hear her speak about how her ideas for the book came to fruition.

LA COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART GETS OCEANIC COLLECTION

According to a Yahoo! News report via the Associated Press, last week the Los Angeles County Museum of Art announced the acquisition of a vast collection of sculptures and artefacts from Polynesia, Melanesia, and other Oceania cultures. The 46-piece collection includes an 18th century Hawaiian drum collected by Captain James Cook in 1778 as well as a dance paddle (rapa) and a moai kavakava from Easter Island (c. 1800). The collection was acquired from Masco Corp., a cabinetry company based in Taylor, Michigan. LACMA plans to begin exhibiting the collection in early 2009.

NEWEST DWARF PLANET NAMED “MAKEMAKE”

According to a Universe Today news report, the newest dwarf planet (actually discovered three years ago and until recently known only as “2005 FY9”, and also as “136472”) has been officially named “Makemake”, after the supreme Easter Island deity. The dwarf planet (or “plutoid”, as it is referred to by some) is estimated to be 1500 km (932 mi.) across, which is about half the size of our Moon and two-thirds the diameter of Pluto. The article, including a photograph of the dwarf planet (which is also posted to the Easter Island Yahoo! Group photos section) can be viewed if you point your Web browser to: http://www.universetoday.com/2008/07/14/newest-dwarf-planet-and-plutoid-makemake/

Note: We would have featured a photo of the dwarf planet but it looks like a slightly dull ball-bearing with even fewer interesting surface details. Maybe next time the Hubble Space Telescope is pointed in that direction...

NATIVE TREES IN DANGER

Judging from a news report brought to us by Bill Liller, it appears that indiscriminate pruning of a dozen Toromiro trees on the grounds of a condominium in Concon in Chile has jeopardized their survival. The July 15 article from El Mercurio de Valparaiso states that the seeds from which these trees were grown came from botanical efforts in England but, because they were planted in a private area, there is apparently little that local environmental authorities can do about it.

FROM ONE ISLAND TO ANOTHER...

Not exactly a moai sighting, but there’s an eco-outfitters clothing company on the Isle of Wight known as “Rapanui”. Founded by two surfer dudes, Rapanui creates what the owners call a 100% sustainable brand of clothing — made of ethical and eco-friendly fabrics. Altogether they sell t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, and even “ethical underwear”. They use renewable energy to power their manufacturing system (32 wind turbines and a solar array). According to their Web site, “triple-certified fair-trade organic cotton is transported to the factory by camel and then the finished garment is stocked in a paper-free, carbon-neutral office”. After shipping to customers, they donate 5% of their profits to environmental charities. “Rapanui wants to inspire all to consider sustainable alternatives. The unique power of fashion can be used to create positive change, so Rapanui offers just that; the opportunity to extend green values into the clothes we wear and the products we buy”.

Source: Isle of Wight County Press - (http://www.iwcp.co.uk/News/Nikkis_winning_ways_with_design_1.aspx)

A FRENCH EXHIBITION: Le Mystère Lapérouse

March 19 - October 20, 2008

“An incredible investigation through the centuries, to revive maritime forwarding ‘Lapérouse’ (1785-1788) ordered by Louis XVI, the preparations, its unfolding and its stopovers, then his tragic disappearance in the middle of the southern Pacific a long time remained mysterious and finally the successive excavations with their batches of discoveries. As many enthralling subjects for more many people”.
A BELGIAN EXHIBITION: Île de Pâques 1934-1935
10/30/08 - 11/30/08
"Following in the footsteps of the exhibition at the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt, ... approximately 120 objects have been brought from some 50 museums and special collections... Magnificent wooden and impressive stone sculptures...”

THE FOREST LAWN MUSEUM in Glendale, California, is hosting an exhibition, “In Search of Tiki”, featuring a fascinating contrast between the traditional Oceanic art made by the native peoples of the Pacific Islands and the entire gamut of second-generation Pan-Pacific artefacts that embellished restaurants and bars after World War II. The exhibit will also include inventive interpretations by a new group of artists who are stretching the genre, thus embodying the Forest Lawn Museum’s goal to enrich, inspire, and educate the community.

Serving as guest curators for the exhibition are authors Douglas Nason and Jeff Fox. “In Search of Tiki” will run through January 4, 2009. Hours: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. For more information, call 1-800-204-3131 or check out Forest Lawn’s Web site (http://forestlawn.com/).

HUDSON ENTERTAINMENT ANNOUNCES ITS LINEUP
Hudson Entertainment, the North American publishing arm for Hudson Soft (www.hudsonsoft.net), announced their lineup for the Penny Arcade Expo 2008 scheduled in Seattle for the last week in August and it includes Fishing Master World Tour for Wii where players can catch fish in their native waters around the world in the first ever global fishing game on Wii. The game offers more than forty different locations, including the Amazon River, under the Golden Gate Bridge, and Easter Island. Anglers use the Wii Remote and Nunchuk to catch fish just like in real life. Pull the Wii Remote left and right as the fish fights from the end of the line and adjust the drag to avoid breaking the line. Once players have their skills down, they can compete with friends with four-person multiplayer modes, catch rare fish with exclusive boss battle controls or jump online in Wi-Fi leaderboards tracking the best players in the U.S.


NEW PACIFIC PUBLICATIONS
The following list was compiled from Pacific News from Mânao, an electronic newsletter from the University of Hawai`i’s Center for Pacific Island Studies. If you are interested in receiving the e-mail newsletter, please send a request to Letitia Hickson, Outreach Coordinator <cpis@hawaii.edu>

Books

American Aloha: Cultural Tourism and the Negotiation of Tradition, by Heather A Diamond, focuses on the Smithsonian Folklife Festival. The 1989 festival, in Washington, DC, celebrated Hawai`i’s multicultural heritage through its traditional arts. The program was re-staged a year later in Honolulu. Diamond used archival research and extensive interviews with festival organizers and participants to uncover the behind-the-scenes story of the festival. 2008; 280 pages; ISBN 978-0-8248-3171-4; cloth.

Art d’Océanie / Art of Oceania, by Alain Brianchon, in French with English translations by Roy Benyon, contains more than 150 unpublished photos of objects from Melanesia and Western Polynesia held in private collections. Published by Footprint Pacifique. 2007; 189 pages; ISBN 2-908186-26-4.

Bridging Our Sea of Islands; French Polynesian Literature within an Oceanic Context, by Kareva Mataeta-Allain, situates Mar`i language literature within Oceanic frameworks and includes excerpts of her translations of Mar`i works. Published by VDM Verlag Dr Mueller E K., in Germany. 2008; 228 pages; ISBN 978-3-836-48699-6; paper.


Come on Shore and We Will Kill and Eat You All: A New Zealand Story, by Christina Thompson, editor of Harvard Review, is the story of the cultural collision between Westerners and the Maori of Aotearoa / New Zealand. It is told partly as a history of the complex and bloody period of contact in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and partly as a love story (Thompson’s marriage to a Maori man). Published by Bloomsbury, USA. 2008; 256 pages; ISBN 978-1-596-91126-0; cloth.


Maraea and the Albatrosses, a children’s book by well-known author Patricia Grace, is about Maraean, an elderly Maori woman who lives by the sea. The story explores her special relationship with the local albatrosses, as she begins her last journey in life. Published by Penguin. 2008; pages; ISBN 978-0-143-50266-1; cloth.

Murder Casts a Shadow is the first mystery novel by playwright and writer Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl. The mystery, set in the 1930s, begins with the theft of King Kalakaua’s portrait from the Bishop Museum. A series of brutal murders follows, and an unlikely pair (newspaper reporter...