

WHAT'S NEW IN POLYNESIA

Hawai'i

Emissions from Kilauea volcano (called "vog") have been identified as the cause of eye and lung irritation on the island of Hawai'i. A physicist with the New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, R. L. Chuan, reports that two vents on Kilauea are producing this pollution. A vent at Pu'u O'o produces an aerosol mass that is around 80% sulphur. Chuan estimates that the Pu'u O'o vent emits about 1,000 metric tons per day in a plume that is carried along by prevailing winds. Lava from another vent, closer to the sea at Kupaianaha, is mostly degassed before it reaches the sea and contains little sulfuric acid. However, it is still hot when it plunges into the ocean and explosively evaporates seawater along with the dissolved salts to produce hydrogen chloride gas which then hydrates to hydrochloric acid. These chemical reactions are no surprise to anyone who has hiked the lower reaches of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. If the winds are coming from the east, their usual pattern, the fumes can be stifling.

Chemical & Engineering News, American Chemical Society, January 15, 1966.

In August 1995, the Hawai'i Supreme Court issued a landmark ruling that alters land use in Hawai'i. The court expressed that all government agencies have an enforceable duty to preserve and protect traditional rights. The ruling requires state protection of traditional and customary rights and upholds native Hawaiian legal standing in issues relating to their gathering, cultural and spiritual practices. This ruling grew out of plans to build two resort hotels, residential units, a golf course, businesses, roads and a sewage plant on the Kona Coast of the Big Island. The development was to cover more than 400 acres of land and encompass more than 7,000 feet of coastline. The area is used by locals who gather shrimp from the ponds and fish from the coastline; the resort would have barred Native Hawaiians from their traditional activities on this land.

In Brief: Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Winter 1995-6.

New Zealand

Maoris in Poverty Bay have backed off from their threats toward the crew of the *Endeavour* replica but want an apology and compensation before settling a 226 year-old dispute. In December the tribes passed resolutions saying that past outrages committed by Captain James Cook in 1769 might be "cured" with an apology and a price (or fee) from the Queen and the British Government.

New Zealand Herald, 18 December, 1995.

Tokelau

E-mail is about to replace the usual sporadic mail service to Tokelau's three atolls that are now linked only by shortwave radio to Apia, in Western Samoa. Household telephones, card phones and a telephone exchange will be

installed on each of the low-lying atolls that rise a mere 5 meters above sea level at their highest point. Around \$3 million is being spent to give access to the rest of the world.

New Zealand Herald, 22 November 1995.

What's New in Hanga Roa

- Hanga Roa village has its first taxi! A private car is now sporting a "taxi" for rent sign. It is not clear how one engages this vehicle, other than waving it down on the main street.

- Another French restaurant is open for business in Hanga Roa, called Kona Koa. It features a South Seas decor and extensive menu not all of which was available the night we were there. The other French restaurant is Le Taverne du Pêcheur, located near the caleta. The former snack bar and changing rooms at the beach, Playa Pea, has been converted to a restaurant (of the same name) with a deck overlooking the bay.

- A statue at Ahu Tautira that formerly was in two broken segments has been repaired and set up, the project funded by the Municipalidad. The *ahu* now has two erect statues; another one is standing nearby, placed on a pedestal by the Chilean Navy some time in the 1940s. It is positioned incorrectly as it faces out to sea not inland. It is said that this statue came from the area around Ahu Tepeu.



Newly erected statue at Ahu Tautira.

- Hanga Piko, the little harbor just south of the village, is seeing some archaeological activity. Claudio Cristino is excavating piles of rubble that mark a former *ahu* and statue. The statue is broken in two segments. The *ahu* itself is destroyed, the *paenga* having been removed over the years for other projects. What is left are piles of rubble that comprised the interior of the *ahu*. Some burial crypts were found, containing skeletons. Skulls with incised designs were