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CORBETT HOUSE DEDICATED

On Valentine's Day, 1979, love at Palama Settlement found another expression when a new facility opened for those in need. Participating in the noon dedication ceremony of Corbett House were Chief Justice William Richardson of Hawaii's Supreme Court and Kahu David Kaupu of Kamehameha School.

Honored guests included Mrs. Nancy Corbett, widow of Judge Gerald Corbett, Judge Betty Vitousek and Miss Mary Jane Lee of the Family Court. All those attending the party had an opportunity to meet them, as well as House parents Kermit and Judy Obra and project manager Jim Miyasato. They all had a chance to sample the delicious punch and cookies provided by Corbett House cook Moses Kaleiwohi.

Corbett House is now open and operating 24 hours a day, providing a very closely supervised and well-structured live-in program for female status offenders. At present 3 girls are in residence. Eventually the home will be capable of accommodating ten girls assigned to us by the Family Court.

PERSONALITY CORNER: the new ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Russ St. Cook. If the name sounds familiar, don't be surprised; he's been here a while, working at Palama as a planner for the State Department of Health. Now Russ has joined Palama's staff as the assistant to Director Bob Higashino. His job includes working with Palama's budgets, overseeing our assets, and keeping tabs on financial matters.

Before working with SHPDA (you do know what those initials mean, don't you? if not, ask Earlene!), Russ was executive director of DASH (Drug Addiction Services Hawaii). He has also worked at the Waikiki Drug Clinic as counselor and administrator.

Russ, a graduate of Kamehameha School, majored in sociology at the University of Hawaii. He and his wife Carol live near the Ala Wai with their nine-year-old daughter Rachel. The elder St. Cooks occasionally go dancing; and one of Russ's spare time hobbies is carpentry. He likes to build things and he says, if necessary, break them. Russ also likes to travel and is especially fond of Canada. Last October he spent a week in Canada and another week in Nevada (Las Vegas, maybe?). Russ says his future plans include going to law school.

Russ thinks that community centers help keep things in perspective, and he feels that Palama's Learning Center is a really effective program. He says that the attitude here at Palama is "like milk and honey;" everyone seems to get along well with everyone else. He would like to have a chance to get to know more of Palama's staff. So staff members! when you have a spare minute drop into Russ St. Cook's office, upstairs in the Administration Building, to say hello.

"Organizationally, Palama Settlement has lots of happenings," said our new assistant director. "Things are taking place now at Palama, and I am glad to be a part of it."

NEW RECREATION DIRECTOR

When the Department of Parks and Recreation's lease of the gym ended and Palama regained full control of its recreation facilities, the Settlement hired a new Recreation Director, Kelvin Shoji. Kelvin works with people, getting them involved in new programs, for which he has been busy setting up schedules. In addition to his work here at Palama, Kelvin also coaches the boys J.V. basketball team and girls' varsity basketball team at Kaiser High School.

After graduating from Kalani High School in 1970, Kelvin Shoji went on to Linfield College in Oregon. He was there five years, majoring in P.E. and Health, and minoring in fishing, crabbing and water skiing. He also traveled a lot in the states and Canada. While in college, Kelvin enjoyed going to school, meeting new people, and finding out about himself. Going to college, he says, is something he won't forget or regret.

When he returned to Hawaii, Kelvin became a physical education director at the Y.B.A., where he worked for two years. His wife Lyn teaches P.E. at Kailua Intermediate. During their free time, the Shoji's go to basketball games and to the movies. Kelvin also likes to build his own furniture. He enjoys all sports, but his favorites are golf, tennis, basketball, and football.

G.G.I. PROGRAM

Those initials stand for Guided Group Interaction. This program had been at Palama for a number of years but had a year and a half absence until last November when the Family Court requested its renewal. Designed for youngsters of Hawaii who have multiple law violations, it provides an alternative for these kids: instead of going to a correctional institution, they are given a chance by the family court to remain in their community by participating in the G.G.I. program.

Using a group technique in which young men and women learn the decision-making process, G.G.I. has two group treaters at Palama, Joseph Piko and David Kam. Kenneth Ling is the program supervisor.

This group technique uses peer interaction, with everyone responsible for each other's actions. Decisions that are made, whether helpful or defective, affect all members of the group. All suggestions must come from the group, as a group, with the majority opinion the deciding factor. If a youngster isn't functioning well or is experiencing a problem at home, his parents also participate in the group.

Eight youngsters are now enrolled in the G.G.I. program. The group is beginning to take on responsibilities and to deal more honestly with themselves. The hopes and expectations of this technique are that it will prove beneficial to these particular youngsters, so that they may become contributing members of our community.

PAKOLEA PROJECT

Pakolea, which means "trained to grow straight," is now involved in basketball. The busy coaches are Kenneth Ling, James Kealoha, Dennis Okimoto, Dennis Tai, Dave Fujihara, Dave Kam, Ed Nakamura, and Terry Ono. Project director is Larry Keeno.

Youngsters in this program practice one hour daily, five days a week. In addition, each youngster must do two hours of academic work in the Learning Center every week, in order to be eligible for full playing time. With the help of volunteer parents, dinner is served to Pakolea participants four nights a week. This program depends largely on volunteers and their efforts. The major focus of the program is on responsibility.

Three separate categories of Pakolea are divided according to the age of the youngsters, into seven teams: the Pee Wee A's, B's, and C's; the Midget A's and B's; and the Bantam A's and B's.

Pakolea Winners for Mr. Basketball are as follows:

Pee Wee A - Ben Valle
B - Gordon Wong
Jeremiah Moeava
C - Rubin Cabico

Midget A - Albert Tufono
B - John Clemente

Bantam A - Albert Ganotici
Rodney Quiamzon
B - Daniel Ortiz

Miss Cheerleader - Betty Jo Sanchez

"TROUBLEMAKERS"

On Tuesday, Feb. 27, some men and women from Koolau Correctional Facility staged a play called The Troublemakers in Palama's Gym. Besides youngsters from Palama's programs, the audience included people from Waianae Rap Center, Hale O Ulu, and other youth organizations.

The plot of the play involved kids in trouble. When they are criticized and not given encouragement, they tend to feel inadequate and unwanted. Then they may turn away to seek from others the encouragement they need and it may not be in the right direction. These kids then tend to stay within the group they find, because it is the source of their encouragement, not because they are born criminals, as the stereotype of a "juvenile delinquent" makes them out to be.

It all started when Tremaine Tanayose, who works with the U.H. drama director, went to Koolau to teach the youngsters basic skills, including mime and voice projection. After he narrowed his original group down from thirty to six, everyone worked together to produce an original play relating to their lives and experiences. They hope that audiences viewing these experiences will stop and think about the direction they are taking with their own lives. The group from Koolau hopes to perform at Oahu Prison and Halawa Jail. For the opportunity to perform at Palama, they thanked the Family Court for cooperating; and for participating in their production, they thanked Andy Bumatai, Kamisami Kong, and Richard Nato.

INTERVIEW WITH ANDY BUMATAI

Our roving reporter was able to get a short but sweet interview with the islands' favorite comedian Andy Bumatai, while he was on Palama's campus for the performance of The Troublemakers. Asked for an opinion of the play, he replied, "The play was very realistic. I haven't seen anything like it before. It was really good."

Andy has been doing his comedy act professionally for two years now, and he hopes to expand to television and movies. For his act, Andy says that he gets his best material from conversations and situations of real life.

Andy may be a comedian, but during the interview he made this serious statement: "One of the most important things for success is to set realistic goals for oneself." When asked what his goal is, he replied, "To be in control of a great deal of money, not to spend, but to be able to make use of it." Andy says that he would like to see better programs for youngsters, providing something to motivate them. One of his ideas is to build a great factory in Leeward Oahu, where many people would be employed making products for sale in Kahala.

Andy will be married soon to Miss Rose Ann Niwalo. Palama wishes them good luck.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of Palama Settlement took place on the evening of March 19, 1979, in Rath Auditorium. Highlights included a delicious spaghetti dinner prepared by Palama's kitchen crew headed by Chef Annie Kainoa, great Hawaiian entertainment provided by Maile Montevon and her serenaders. Introduction of various guests, staff members, and board members, and the usual inspiring and at the same time down-to-earth speech by our leader, Bob Higashino. Bob presented Palama's winged "P" to Board vice president Joette Wheelon, who is going off the Board after serving for ten dedicated years. Mahalo and aloha from us all, Joette.

BOB HIGASHINO'S TRIP

Executive Director Bob Higashino left for the East Coast on Saturday, March 24. He went to Miami Beach, Florida, to attend the Sixth Annual Convention of Juvenile Justice from March 25 to the 29. The convention will consider a variety of topics of concern to Palama. It is a great way to broaden one's thinking by sharing different ideas and viewpoints. He will be visiting some of the family courts, detention homes, and youth programs in the Miami Beach area.

After the convention Bob is going to Washington to visit Representative Dan Akaka. Last October Palama Settlement sent plans for a new youth program C.A.P.Y., a Comprehensive Alcohol Program for Youth to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to review the program. It was designed when one of Palama's programs, Ke Ala Holo Pono, found that a lot of teenagers were using alcohol and that there isn't a program in this state to help young alcohol users. The program will be using outreach, treatment, and the learning center. It will also be working with the families.

Editor's note: This newsletter was intended to be a monthly publication; but so far it's been bi-monthly. Takes us a while to gear up.