

## THE GOV'T TAKES ONE STEP FORWARD ... IN THE WRONG DIRECTION

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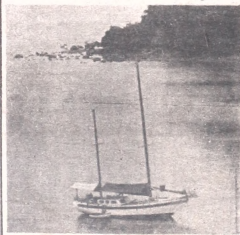
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### GALERA'S DILEMMA

For centuries the people of Puerto Galera have lived off the bounty of the sea. But recent developments have separated the people from the seas surrounding the island. In some areas the shoreline even became festooned with barbed wire.

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### PROTEST PAINTINGS

Starting with this issue, *Veritas* is running a series of noted artists' works depicting the protest movement.

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### RACE AGAINST TIME

Can the Philippines retain the Asian Youth basketball crown in Seoul this April? Coach Larry Albano holds the key to the answer.

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By ROCHIT TANEDO

# THE MEYCAUYAN INCIDENT

IT WAS a clear blunder on the part of military authorities who ordered a stop to the "Tartac to Tarmac-Ignore the Plebiscite Run" late evening of January 28.

Unwittingly, what had been planned by the organizers as a simple jogger exercise by some 300 participants from Concepcion, Tartac to the Manila International Airport, turned out to be a mass run from the outskirts of Meycauyan, Bulacan, to Manila after the Saturday confrontations.

Military officials said the NPA had plans to infiltrate the ranks of protesters, and that the runners had no permit and that they would cause "anarchy and traffic congestion."

For apparent support of the first argument, two suspects allegedly in possession of hand grenades, were arrested. However, Reil German, the march organizer, revealed that four of the participants that he said the persons they saw opening cars in the convoy were not the arrested. "In fact, we saw these same persons in the next town, following us," German said.

Butz Aquino, said that they had pointed out these men to Capt. Mallin, who confronted them in Meycauyan, but Mallin allegedly refused to arrest them and said "They don't belong to our unit."

Butz Aquino and the Tartac to Tarmac participants were forced to stay in the St. Francis churchyard in Meycauyan, Bulacan.

Military operatives and anti-riot squads blocked the entrance to Meycauyan while reinforcements of at least one company (made up of 100-150 armed soldiers) and three fire-trucks under the command of Col. Miguel Fontanilla blocked the entrances to the churchyard. Fontanilla said they had orders to disperse the protesters if they leave the church premises in organized groups.

The protesters were later joined by sympathizers from Meycauyan and nearby towns as more and more convays from Manila created a massive jam at the North Division Road Sunday evening.

Members of the Justice for Aquino, Justice for All announced an emergency meeting after Senator Ambrosio Padilla told the crowd in Meycauyan that he had talked with Gen. Ramos. Padilla said Ramos told him that: "I cannot do anything about this since I was not the one who gave the orders."

"We marched as peace-

ful citizens and the military treated us like criminals. "All we want to do is to continue this march in exercise of our constitutional rights but even this is too much to ask of Marcos' repressive regime," Butz Aquino said.

The sympathizer's emergency meeting at the Philippine Columbian Monday concluded that a first wave of mass protests against the military repression at Meycauyan be organized the very next morning at the St. Joseph's Church in Baintawak. "The march towards Meycauyan will be either Operation Salubong or Operation Saklong," Butz said. However, the Manila protesters were also warned by Col. Jose Dawit that there were orders to stop any form of mass action. It was also learned that all entrances to Meycauyan were blocked by the military operatives leaving Cory Aquino and her family, together with former Senators Lorenzo Tanada and Jose Diokno stranded. B u t z Aquino met with the military commander and negotiated for their entrance later on. The people that topped by Clover Leaf crowded inside St. Joseph's church and listened to sectoral leaders decry the repressive military rule of President Marcos.

By noontime, Monday, it was learned that the participants would be allowed to continue their march to the MIA but the protesters said they would stay the night "to avoid any kind of infiltration" and leave instead early Tuesday morning. They began their march after some thank-you ceremonies to the people of Meycauyan who had generously shared their hospitality, taking in the participants for lodging for three nights, and also feeding them continuously.

The pack was met by well-wishers who trooped to the Malanday, Valenzuela. Crowds soon joined them at organized assembly points along the Epifanio de los Santos Avenue, starting from Malabon, Montemonte, West Avenue, Quezon Avenue then to Esmar Market, Santolan Road, Ortigas and Boni Avenue, Buedia and Malibay where they were met by enthusiastic crowds offering food and drink. The heavy turnout of well-wishers was mainly due to the coverage of Radio Veritas and DZME where their sympathies and lamented the military's overbearing and repressive stance on the "harmless pack of joggers clad in shorts."



A phalanx of soldiers block the path of 300 runners in Meycauyan, Bulacan.



Butz Aquino, Jiglers Alajandino and other marchers from ATOM link hands as they leave the town.



A disabled participant watches from the sidelines as main body of the Tartac to Tarmac runners passes by.



In the Meycauyan church courtyard, analysts pause for a moment to listen to speakers.



The first jogger to reach Manila is greeted by confetti along EDSA near Quizon Avenue.

## Postmortem on the plebiscite

By RED BATARIO

AMID political and economic slumps which at first blish appeared to have eased off for the moment, the Philippines conducted its seventh plebiscite in 11 years to ratify four amendments to the Constitution.

It was an exercise met with skepticism by keen political observers who

were of one mind that elections under the present circumstances are as illegal (and therefore non-existent) as the continued rule of the present administration.

A week after the plebiscite, this skepticism was somehow bolstered by tabulations conducted by a respected business daily

showing that the boycott movement, at least in Metro Manila, took a big slice off the electorate cake. The independent tabulation showed that out of 126,105 registered voters in 296 precincts in Metro Manila alone, only 42,214 actually voted or 33 per cent of the total. Other reports late in the week revealed that votes turned out was only 35 to 40 per cent.

Contrary to government and COMELEC claims that the plebiscite had a successful voter turnout, reports indicated it had suffered a severe debuffing at the precinct level.

Voters who actually went to the polls revealed during random surveys conducted by this paper that they went out simply to exercise their right of suffrage without even considering the implications of the proposed amendments. Others said they did so out of fear of imprisonment. Some said they cast spoiled ballots.

On the other hand, hourly reports received by Radio Veritas from its field correspondents showed a very clear trend: As of 2:30 p.m. of January 27, only 25 per cent of registered voters in various Metro Manila localities had cast their ballots and by 5 p.m., the trend crept up to just 35 per cent.

Yet despite these reports from independent sources, television news roundups later in the evening showed an entirely different picture.

Nes and Myrna Hilario, who sat as panel referee persons of Radio Veritas' "Monitor on Plebiscite '84," said that the reports they received while "on board" were totally different from what they saw on television.

"Comelec Chairman Vicente Santiago even announced that 75 to 80 per cent of voters had cast their ballots as of 5 p.m. Who are the discrepancy? Who is telling the truth?" they asked.

Myrna Hilario also told

this paper how two Maryknoll coeds were allegedly harassed by four policemen at the Cubao Elementary School in Cubao, Quezon City on plebiscite day.

She said that the two girls were on communication research assignment from Maryknoll and were taking pictures of the polling place when accosted by the policemen, who they alleged, took the film from their camera and branded them as subversives. The policemen were identified through their nameplates by the girls as Eleda, Etalad, Ponferrada and Pasdagagan.

Other incidents a 10 m mared what was otherwise termed as a "generally peaceful" electoral exercise.

Business Day reported that in an elementary school in Quezon City, ballot boxes were closed right after the voting and brought to the house of the barangay captain where the counting was held.

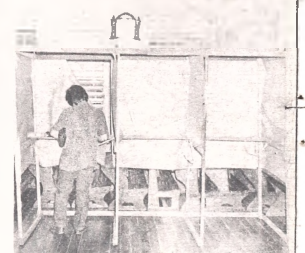
The paper also reported that a barangay captain in Merville Park was disturbed by being sampled ballots with "Yes" votes to voters and posting the samples in polling places.

In Precinct 22-B in Ca-

loocan City, 20 ballots were discovered missing while in the Sampalagan Elementary School in Caloocan, Precinct No. 23-C had 232 registered voters and 103 actual voters but the answers to Question No. 2 ran up to 185 or 82 more than the actual number of voters in another precinct in the same area, the actual number of voters was only 74 but Yes votes for Question No. 2 numbered 108.

By the time this issue goes to press, the Commission on Elections would have proclaimed the results of the plebiscite Wednesday. As of Monday, about half of the certificates of canvass had already been received by the COMELEC from 73 provinces and 60 cities.

But even as the COMELEC is prepping up for its official proclamation of the results, political analysts say the plebiscite had after all accomplished what it sought to do in the first place—give Mr. Marcos what he wants to get and show the world and the country's creditors that he still has mass support and also weak the Opposition's nose that he can still dish out a final political trump card.



Nearly empty classroom reflects degree of people's disinterest in the plebiscite.

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**The human factor**

MELINDA QUINTOS DE JESUS

**Reconciliation:  
Bereft of any meaning**

**L**IKE MANY good things these days, the word reconciliation seems to have come upon hard times. The object or victim of media hype, its coinage has been devalued by its very use. We hear it said by everybody and anybody, murmured as a prayerful ejaculation from the pulpit, blurted as a political expletive from the rostrum, leaving the word, and with a beautiful word it is, bereft of any real meaning.

And it is unfortunate that things have turned out this way. In a predominantly Christian nation, the idea of reconciliation, so richly endowed with spiritual nuances, could have revealed heretofore untested instruments of national renewal and survival.

Almost a year ago, Cardinal Sin first proposed the formation of a national reconciliation council, suggesting that government, church and private sectors initiate a process of dialogue that would evolve recommendations for national policy. He repeated that call in the midst of the turmoil that followed August 21 and again advanced the proposal when he spoke to the President in Malacañang sometime in September.

In a statement broadcast on television nationwide, Marcos said he was all for reconciliation but he was against people who sought power without first receiving a popular mandate. And that has been the only response given to the suggestion.

Such a reaction, or lack of it, has served to close the door on reconciliation as it is generally understood.

A recent issue of *Time* magazine recorded the meeting of Pope John Paul II with a man who made an attempt on his life, Mehmet Agca. Perhaps, the symbolism of

that scene illuminated the Christian message of human redemption and its relevance to the deep divisions that sunder nations and communities. "In a less exalted sense," *Time* observed, "the scene may be important because it suggests that human beings can respond to inhuman acts by being sane and civilized and forbearing, more decent perhaps than the killers deserve."

The question then that must be asked: Does reconciliation which presumes repentance and forgiveness still hold political applications for uniting the leadership and the people of the Philippines?

The answer to that question must recognize the highly complex transaction involved in reconciliation. In the public and social realm, reconciliation cannot disregard or override justice. Restraint and punishment and those conditions that safeguard against the recurrence of evil are still necessary for the ordering of society.

Reconciliation, both on the personal and political levels, supposes certain attitudes that lead to the individual's behavioral change and consequently, fundamental social change.

Anyone plotting the President's moves and actions since August 21 would now despair of reconciliation as an option. The man's grudging "concessions" are only designed to buy time, an indication that he has determined to hang tough against the people's discontent and disaffection.

The leaders of the Church must now look deeply into their tasks of evangelization and discern the prophetic role that can save this sad situation from becoming a national tragedy.

If only for the sake of the rest of the flock who do not live in palaces.

**Straight from the shoulder**

LUIS D. BELTRAN

**Marcos got what he wanted**

**I**N A country full of politicians, it is something of an achievement to be the smartest one of all. President Marcos is that politician. When he decided to conduct the plebiscite, he was quick to say that there was not enough time to have a new registration of voters—although he could have set a later time. Because the issues were seemingly non-partisan, there was no outcry about using the same voters list that brought us the electoral folders of 1978 and 1981. As a result, Mr. Marcos got what he wanted—the urban land reform amendment otherwise known as the give-the-quarters-land-and-their-hearts-and-minds-with-follow amendment with which he hopes to beat the Opposition in Metro-Manila. He also got the land grants amendment otherwise known as the give the Cronies-land-and-increase-their-economic-and-political-basis-amendment—with which he hopes to stay in power.

As a bonus, he has shown the IMF, the World Bank, Reagan etc. that he has "overwhelming" support or at least political clout. This, plus playing footsie with the Russkies may give him the economic support he now needs from the Americans.

There are other cute maneuvers perpetrated by the President. He calls the new voters registration for March—when anti-administration students are all in the urban areas studying. The elections will be in the provinces—where they will find they cannot vote. Mr. Marcos will of course say that it was the Opposition that wanted a new voters list in the first place—so its not his fault.

Another area in which Mr. Marcos displays his political acumen is his attack on former President Macapagal, which reminds us of his tactics in 1969 when he used every friend he had in his old Liberal Party to select Sergio Osmeña as his opponent. Between a war hero and a suspected collaborator, it was a no contest. Now, Marcos is hitting Macapagal, giving the former President a stature that he had lost after his defeat in 1965. The very obvious idea is to convince the Opposition that only Macapagal has the stature to irritate Marcos and therefore everyone should rally around Macapagal. By a remarkable coincidence, Macapagal has no political bailiwick—unlike the Laurels, the Aquinos, Tañada or Diokno. Nor does Macapagal have even a Party behind him. He is the easiest Opposition leader for Marcos to fight—so naturally, he is selecting Macapagal. Cute, very cute.

Mr. Marcos is very smart, yes, but the Opposition need not despair. Like Ninoy, Marcos is not alone. Hindi siya Nagisa. Marami siyang kasamang tanong. His Cabinet is like Russian roulette—he never knows which chamber is loaded with a Mistake. All the Opposition has to do is wait.

A Crony in the Coconut Industry has a pending application to lease 8,500 hectares of public land for agricultural development in Agusan.

Since he is landless in Agusan, maybe the President can give him the land under the new amendment.

**QUOTE OF THE YEAR:** "That's how the people will vote in May 1984", said President Marcos, commenting on the plebiscite.

And that's how your votes are going to be counted too.

The Comelec may already have a Crystal Ball when they say they don't need new members, to run the elections. Last Friday, on the seven o'clock news of Tina Monzon-Palma, Comelec chairman Vicente Santiago was already saying that his projection of 70 percent of the registered voters casting their ballots appeared certain. This was just after the voting precincts closed, given the time of the interview and the processing time for the videotape.



If the Comelec is this good—Nanme! can just ask them in May who won. Never mind the counting.

One Crony Newspaper was even better at prediction. Although their printing deadline is five p.m. and their reporters have to turn in stories by three p.m., they already had a "YES" trend—even before the voting precincts closed.

That's how the voting will be reported in May, 1984, folks.

Ilocos Norte Governor Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is turning out to be a surprise—a pleasant one for government agencies with projects in his province. It seems the young Marcos has put his foreign education to good use by setting up a staff system which monitors both provincial and national projects. The result has been surprise—bringing to such projects as the Currimao Processing Zone—a multi-million KKK project which he had been told was already being constructed. The Ilocos Norte governor decided to see for himself. He saw talahib grass and dust where the KKK had told him they already had "vertical structures." The result is that in the KKK offices in Manila, some heads are resting on fragile necks.

Two relatives of Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing are reportedly running in Pasay City for assemblymen, both with the Opposition—one is running with Undoy, the other with Lito. It is known that Bagatsing is reportedly being groomed to run for assemblyman in Manila.

Of course, Marcos never said politicians couldn't set up dynasties in the Opposition.

In Manila, the news is that President Marcos wants both Mayor Bagatsing and his Vice-Mayor Jimmy Barbers to run for the assembly. The arrangement is that whoever gets the most votes will stay as mayor of Manila. The betting is that Bagatsing will run. He knows that he never gave Barbers anything to do in four years, so all Barbers did was look after the barangays. Who's sorry now? As the song goes.

When business firms first announced that laid-off workers for the first quarter of 1984 would number in the thousands, Labor Minister Blas F. Ople came to the rescue with a press release. He would tell the Social Security System to give them a three-month loan. Unfortunately, the SSS has strict rules on loans—such as a 36-month contribution before eligibility. Since most of those laid-off were new employees without contributions totalling 36 months, none of them can take advantage of the loan. The net result: eat the newspapers. Any bright ideas?

The Ministry of Trade keeps trying to keep the cost of food, especially meat, by price control. Have they stopped to wonder why meat in Lipa City costs much less than in Manila? Or that the price decreases as you go southward? It isn't just the transportation cost—its 48 check-points manned by all sorts of police and military characters—who are worse than the proverbial middlemen.

A departing passenger for Amsterdam got the shock of his life recently when the immigration agents at the Manila International Airport stopped him from boarding his plane. The passenger, Shell executive Jose Tomas Bautista, age 28, was held because a Jose Bautista (no middle initials), age 57, had a tax evasion case pending in court. It took three days for Jose Tomas to get a clearance and leave the country. Imagine the number of Jose Bautistas in the country—who will all be held at the airport because the bureau of immigration hasn't heard about middle initials, pictures, birth certificates etc.—just names. Fortunately, Edmundo Reyes is not a common name, otherwise, they could hold him at the airport one of these days.

**Occasional reflections**

JOAQUIN G. BERNAS, S.J.

**The perversion of a Constitution**

**Y**ES, it can be done. It has been done. More and more it is being done.

The original concept of a Constitution as a democratic instrument is that it has for its primary function the limitation of power and the facilitation of the peaceable competition of social forces in a community. Its perversion consists in the concentration of power in the interest of a person, or of a *Junta*, a committee, an assembly, or a party. The words of Karl Lowenstein are worth pondering:

"There is little comfort in the fact that Constitutional democracy, in defeat, scored a Pyrrhic victory; no political system of today can afford to flout openly the democratic ideology that all power emanates from the people and that its exercise is legitimate only in conformity with their will. Intellectually, at least, the civilized world has graduated from authoritarianism. The nostalgic protestation of the elitist fringe notwithstanding, it is axiomatic that the people are the ultimate source of political power. Even Hitler had his Goebbels exalt the Third Reich as an "ennobled" democracy, whatever this, or similar semanticisms, may mean. A written Constitution imbues any political regime with a sort of respectability. The Machiavellians have come to realize that the democratic credo is the shingle under which they can pursue their sinister trade. The written constitution thus has become the protective coloring for the operation of

naked power. . . . Autocracy in the mid-twentieth century defiantly sails under the false authoritarianship pervaded the constitution from an instrument of freedom into a tool of oppression. Its original telos, the sharing of political power by several power holders to limit absolute power, has been transformed into its opposite."

We have just gone through another constitutional choreographic number. It would have been less painful if the choreographers and the sponsoring dance company had admitted that it was largely a pointless exercise. But it was nauseating to listen to *Panaywagan 84* and its principal vocalists sing pacens to democracy in aclear ratiocination. Submit Amendment 6 to popular ratification. Submit the accretions on martial law power to popular reexamination. Submit the crudities of the merely semantic constitutional document to popular refinement. Then the rhetoric of captive media will not have the hollow ring of Faustian laughter.

It matters little if the plebiscite was characterized by orderliness. Technical honesty does not make up for the deceptiveness of mere semanticism.

One is tempted to despair. But an aroused citizenry can yet pressure government not just into technical honesty but also into abandoning substantial deformity. Submit Amendment 6 to popular ratification. Submit the accretions on martial law power to popular reexamination. Submit the crudities of the merely semantic constitutional document to popular refinement. Then the rhetoric of captive media will not have the hollow ring of Faustian laughter.

## INTERVIEW: BISHOP FEDERICO ESCALER, S.J.

## "The first basis of reconciliation is truth"

By JESSELYNN GARCIA DE LA CRUZ

HERE CAN be no genuine reconciliation unless truth, justice and trust are present between the parties seeking to be reconciled.

This is the conclusion of Mindanao Bishop Federico Escaler, S.J., arrived at from an analysis of the directions taken by the movement towards reconciliation in the country. Head of the Catholic faithful in the Prelature of Iplil in Kidapawan, Cotabato, Bishop Escaler was interviewed by *Veritas* at the Villa San Miguel, residence of Manila Archbishop Jaime L. Cardinal Sin and venue of the 8th General Assembly and Annual Meeting of the Bishops' Businessmen's Conference during which, later in the afternoon, he was elected to the board of directors.

Recalling a discussion during a special meeting last October of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), the body to which all bishops in the country belong, Msgr. Escaler illustrated the futility of efforts towards reconciliation without the government's sincere participation.

The first basis of reconciliation is truth. Both sides must be willing to tell the truth and to base their explanation of issues and realities on truth as it is and not how they would like it to be. The second element of justice. Both parties must be ready to recognize that there is no peace unless there is justice. The third element is charity and faith. If there is no trust on both sides, then there can be no beginning at all. However, the bishop said, his thumbnail etching patterns on the table top, believing the even tone of his voice, in the Philippine context, what has been blocking reconciliation is the refusal of one of the parties to tell the truth and to admit that it has caused injustice.

"Up to now, we have given no credit on the part of the administration to admit any mistakes. Rather, they seem to look for all kinds of excuses, blaming others for their own mistakes. There can be no reconciliation unless the government and those who seek reconciliation admit that there is where there is injustice and are open to give justice where justice is due."

All the justice that the people are asking for is within the context of their Constitutional rights to act and to be. They just want these rights to be respected by the government and the military. "Allow them to live and to think freely to act and to be. The government and the way they would like to be governed — not treated as children, or like parrots locked up in a cage, fed but hunted all the time. The people want really to experience true freedom and not the mockery of what they call freedom."

And how can there be trust, he continued, if the people do not believe that those who talk about reconciliation are thinking only in terms of replacing him or his friends in the government — that it is a self-serving interest that they have."

WHILE there may be a basis for this suspicion in some instances, not all who criticize or who seek reconciliation are after his position and power, the bishop stressed.

"On the other hand, on the part of the government, there has been no give," he repeated, shaking his head slowly, sadly. "There has been one step backward and two steps forward — but in the wrong direction."

Drawing on his experience as a priest who has mediated between individuals, families and groups in conflict with each other, Msgr. Escaler declared earnestly, "As a bishop, I feel that the permanent basis of reconciliation is really faith and mutual values. If both parties do not embrace the same spiritual values or view reality from the same vantage point and the same direction, then there can be no reconciliation. It would just be a sham."

His idea for the mechanism for reconciliation, which is shared by the 20 other Mindanao bishops, Msgr. Escaler revealed during Cardinal Sin's suggestion of an advisory council. The southern bishops, he said, prefer dialogue among the sectors rather than an informal, non-structured, basis. This would be similar to the informal dialogues the president has had with businessmen. "Although most of the time it was a monologue rather than a dialogue," he commented wryly, "talks such as this can bring the people and the powers that be to the reality that the people themselves perceive."

But the Jesuit monitor does admit that, in the light of past experiences, he cannot be too optimistic that the government will be receptive to this suggestion, especially as far as meeting with bishops is concerned.

"I feel we bishops have been shut off by the President from reconciliation talks," he begins, etching patterns on the table top again. "Perhaps it is because he feels that we are mediators in politics, which the bishops are not. We are just interested in issues political or non-political, that have a basis in morality and in the welfare of our people. Because religion, as you know, is not just a matter of belief, but it is also to live. And creating the proper atmosphere through which they can really live as humans begins in prayer. But there being no cut-off, all avenues of the bishops have been cut off."

They hadn't tried. Even before this

crisis, Msgr. Escaler revealed, there had been attempts to sit down with the president. Again, he said, it had turned out to be a monologue, with the president berating the bishops for saying things they did not know about and threatening libel suits for statements made in a pastoral letter.

The bishop was referring to the meeting between President Marcos and a delegation from the CBCP in early August during which the latter made known their intention to release a pastoral letter calling for the abolition of the Presidential Commission Order (PCO).

"What happened?" He berated the bishops who saw him, threatened them with libel. And he told them: "Where are your documents, cases of PCO? And if you judge by what he says that no PCO is sent out without my signature, then he should know the exact number. Why did he have to tell the bishops 'Give me your lists and what the abuses are,' when he has those on file and our protest supposedly on file?" he asked rhetorically.

THAT was the occasion, Bishop Escaler continued, when some of the bishops had decided at the last minute not to read the pastoral letter, although the CBCP had earlier approved its simultaneous reading throughout the country, because an assurance had been given that a decree would be created to abolish the PCO. "Only to find out that step one was a step backward. The next thing we knew, we had the PDA (Preventive Detention Action), plus the formalization of PDs 1183 and 1184 and all those damnable decrees that further limit the rights of the people."

His brows knit together and he caps his chin in his hand. "That's what I mean. If you're going to have reconciliation, you're not supposed to be watching where you can trip the other guy. There has to be a lot of openness and sincerity."

He also recalls a recent conference that the bishops of Mindanao had had with some high ranking generals and national defense authorities when the tribal groups in Mindanao were being literally persecuted, harassed and manipulated by the PANAMIN. One of the defense officials, Msgr. Escaler reports, had said "You bishops have no guns, we have all the guns, so don't push us."

"Well, with an attitude like that, there can be no room for dialogue. So we just packed up and walked out," he narrated with the exasperation he must have felt then showing slighly.

The Mindanao bishops had consistently made it known to the government and the military that they would be receptive to sincere invitations to a dialogue, he said, but none that were not cloaked in deception and trickery had been received so far.

If the government would only open its eyes, it would realize that the bishops only want to help restore the credibility of government officials and of military and government processes and not see the churchmen's overtures as subversive activity, he urged.

Unless the government changes, I am afraid of the opposite taking place, namely that those people will have no alternative but to resort to violence. This is what the bishops are trying to stop. And in the process of our trying to calm down the people, the bishops, our priests and our lay leaders are accused of being subversives.

I had told the president and the general: that I've spoken to you, 'We are your best friends. We are trying to ward off violence from you and yet you accuse us of being perpetrators of violence. So we will not stop, even if you threaten us, because we believe we are trying to stop violence. It is you who are bringing violence on the people.'"

The bishop continued to explain that his ex-

perience in Mindanao has shown him that "where the military is not present, the people are very peaceful. But when you have a massive concentration of troops, the NPA's are attracted. Then people are disaffected, and our Christian communities are harassed and threatened. Now what can be the reaction of a bishop in the church, except to stand up against the military and against the government and tell the facts as they are, hoping that there will be a change."

THE prevailing military supremacy in the country, especially in Mindanao, is one issue the bishop feels very strongly about. It was one of the six issues discussed during the BBC General Assembly, the one specifically tackled by Msgr. Escaler as a workshop topic.

He summarizes this during the interview. The situation of militarization in our area, I must confess, is totally unknown to those in the big cities, because our condition is different. There you have complete supremacy of the military over civilians — civil officials kowtow to the military because the military have arms and they are in control. And this breeds corruption, besides the kidnapping, the terrorizing, the grabbing of lands taking place.

"And the small people are reacting — they are completely disgusted with the military. In one of our assemblies, I asked our leaders, 'Well, what do you want? If the NPAs are here and you don't have the military, what's going to happen to us?' The NPA will take over. And they tell me: 'No, monsignor, what we are saying is, let them do their job then disappear, get out. Because the fact that they overstay in one place leads to graft and corruption and abuses and further attracts the NPA to come over. So we just want to do the job that we're paying them to do, then get out.'"

Who wields the gun has the last say in affairs of the local government, the Iplil bishop reported, so much so that in Mindanao, the people, although affected by the economic crisis and other political issues, are more concerned with the continued and unabated militarization in their towns.

"The main concern of our people is how to live and continue living," he responded when questioned on how the present crisis affect the Mindanao townfolk. "It's as basic as that — survival. That's why when they learned about the Aquino assassination, they didn't get as excited as the people in the cities, because they're too worried about their own lives. Their main preoccupation is how to continue living. So, what they'd like to see is an end to all this militarization."

So far, nothing has been done despite talks

with the local civil and military officials and communications sent to them. For herein lies another problem, Msgr. Escaler lamented, all dialogues have to be with the President because of the centralization of powers.

"You cannot disagree with national defense people because they say they cannot do anything about it — 'You have to go to the President.' We go to the MEC's regarding our school problems, they tell us 'We can't do anything yet, it depends upon the President.' Questions of land ejectment of our tribal groups in Mindanao, the land officials say 'We can't do anything about this, you have to go to the President.'"

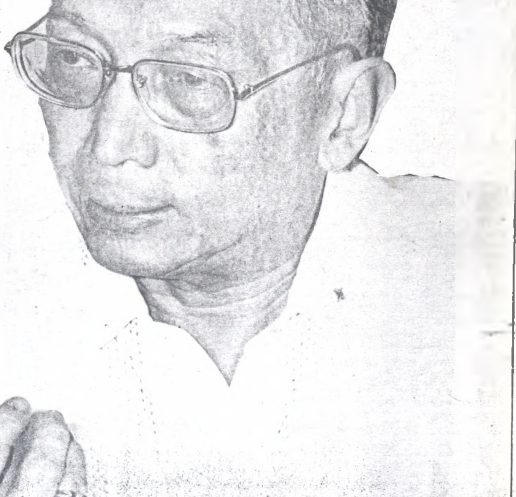
Once again, he cuts deep lines into the laminated table top, then continues in what sounds like a weary voice, "It seems to be impossible for one man to try to solve all the problems unless he commits himself in actuality to decentralization and allows his regional offices the power to decide. On paper he says all the time that they have been given the power to decide, but they don't. And the buck always goes to Malacañang. And, Malacañang is always closed right now to small people. There's no way they can get to Malacañang to get their voices heard. We bishops have tried to echo their wishes, sent letters, petitions to Malacañang. Not a single word of acknowledgment, so we know they haven't reached him."

He continues, his tone unchanged, "That's what I mean when one man assumes too much power and reserves to himself even the smallest decisions. Then you have a situation wherein there is no one to blame himself. But he refuses to admit that the blame lies with him — he finds all kinds of people to blame."

As it stands now, Bishop Escaler concluded, if the present trend continues and national reconciliation gets farther and farther beyond reach, then the only thing to hope for is a "moral miracle."

"I do hope that the prayers expressed by Cardinal Sin in one of his sermons would be answered. That there'd be a moral miracle, that the President would really take stock and look at himself and admit where he made a mistake. I think this would be the first step towards reconciliation — the sincerity to step down when he sees that he has been the cause of so much suffering and so much disaster in the country."

"If he's honest and open, and if he thinks that he is accountable for that, before the people and before God, he should be honest enough to step down. If he finds he's not, then let him start setting his own house in order, revamping his cabinet and really stopping the massive graft and corruption that seems to corrode every sector, especially the military."



**Bishops-Businessmen Conference for Human Development**  
**8th General Assembly & Annual Meeting**  
 January 24-28, 1984  
**THEME: "A FRAMEWORK FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION"**



The 8th General Assembly and annual meeting of the Bishops-Businessmen Conference. Both parties should agree to reconciliation moves.

# The Bishops-Businessmen Conference: Strongly-worded call for renewal

CONSIDERING the national shame that the Armed Forces of the Philippines brought upon the country when Ninoy Aquino was killed while in its custody, what should the President do? For all those responsible, including General Fabian C. Ver, AFP chief of staff, and Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio, chief of the Aviation Security Command (AVSECOM).

To make the newspaper boycott more effective and lasting, what should the businessmen do? They not only should stop reading the controlled press, they should also withhold all their advertising from it.

One would suppose that the above recommendations were advanced by youthful, fire-breathing campus militants. Quite the contrary. They were adopted—with minor amendments—by a group which, for sobriety and levelheadedness, has few equals in the Philippines.

The group was the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference. And the above resolutions were only two of those adopted during the annual meeting and general assembly at the Villa San Miguel, the residence of Jaime L. Cardinal Sin.

At the meeting, the 36 bishops and the 61 businessmen present attributed the national ills at present besetting the Philippines to the "ero-

sion of democratic traditions and institutions during martial law." They also called on all sectors of society to join hands in rebuilding the institutions and strengthening the traditions that have been undermined by 11 years of repression.

In its "Call for Renewal," the BBC pointed to three major problems as the root causes of the social divisions afflicting the country. These were the weakening of the principle of checks and balances necessary in a democratic state, the continued suspension or restriction of basic human rights affecting freedoms of the press, of expression and of peaceful assembly, and the expanded role of the armed forces in society which has resulted in growing militarization.

These three problems came to the fore after a primary discussion of six issues during a series of pre-conference workshops. And the challenge that confronted the participants at the 8th General Assembly was how to solve these issues to arrive at a "framework for national reconciliation," which was the theme of the annual meeting.

THE 97 member-participants were joined by about 125 other individuals from the religious, professional, government, military and media sectors. Together, they hoped to provide initia-

tives so that, as BBC co-chairman Vicente Jayme said in his keynote address, "all sectors that make up the nation can re-examine themselves and determine the things that have kept them apart, so that they can work together to make our nation whole again."

"The BBC believes that it could meaningfully contribute to the process of national reconciliation," Jayme continued, "by identifying the basic issues that, over the years, have significantly caused divisiveness between the government and the people. For the process to succeed, these basic issues should therefore be given sufficient attention and action."

The six issues that the BBC general assembly identified were the urgency of free elections in the light of the coming Batasang Pambansa elections in May, the problem of press freedom, the dilemma of an independent and honest judiciary, the need for the restoration and guarantee of basic Constitutional rights, the controversy over presidential succession, and the nagging doubts over the appropriate role of the military in government and other aspects of national life.

Focusing attention on these six issues which had been identified as the significant factors of the question of national reconciliation was easy. What the delegates had to strain for, argue about and even play over concerned resolutions

to be adopted and collective action to be taken by the BBC. In the afternoon especially, when resolutions that were not drafted by any of the six pre-conference workshops but by individual participants were presented to the body for adoption, the delegates found themselves in a dilemma: how to hammer out one consensus statement for the entire conference while still respecting the individual beliefs and sentiments of BBC members.

The resolution submitted to the body by retired Col. Simplicio Rivera, one of three military men who attended the Conference, was one such controversial resolution offered at the end of the discussion on the issue of militarization. In its original form, the strongly-worded statement had demanded the removal from office of the Armed Forces Chief of Staff Fabian Ver and Brig. Gen. Luther Custodio, for failing in their responsibility of proving security for Senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr., who was assassinated while in their custody.

Another resolution that elicited a flurry of reactions from the participants, particularly the businessmen, was made during the discussion on free press and the media. Jose Romero, an advertising man who admitted he had stopped writing when martial law was proclaimed, declared that if the people really wanted to effectively cut out support for the Marcos media—the newspapers that practice and espouse not freedom of the press but "freedom of praise," then a boycott of these newspapers is not enough. Publications are also supported by advertising and paid notices, he reminded the businessmen present, and suggested the adoption of a resolution "to prevent BBC members from advertising in Marcos papers and to advertise instead in the alternative press."

At this suggestion, an uneasy silence fell on the assembly as participants watched each other's reactions. Then a ripple of low murmurs ran through the body until Dr. Salvador P. Lopez, chairman of the workshop on Freedom of the Press and Media, offered an amendment to the resolution to make it read "The conference should prevail upon businessmen to avoid advertising in the Marcos media and to continue the newspaper boycott." The resolution was immediately carried.

Other resolutions presented by the pre-conference workshops and subsequently adopted by the general assembly sought the repeal of Amendment 6 which gives legislative powers to the President; the appointment of four more individuals to fill the existing vacancies in the Commission on Elections to ensure free and honest elections in May; the revocation of Presidential Decrees 1834, 1835, 1877, 1877-A and 1836; and the repeal of the Preventive Detention Act (PDA).

To uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary, the BBC recommended increases in the budget of the judiciary and in the salaries of judges and judicial personnel and urged the creation of a commission to select the members of the judiciary and prevent presidential appointments—Jeselyne G. de la Cruz.

## SIDEBAR

### Charting the next step

THE 8th General Assembly of the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference (BBC) ended on a contrasting note of fulfillment and uncertainty. Fulfillment for the delegates knowing that they had achieved their objective for the day, yet uncertainty about what the next step should be.

They had discussed the issues, drafted resolutions and recommendations, and were prepared to submit them to the authorities concerned for proper action. But after this, what?

"That's something else," thought four of the bishops who attended the assembly. *Vertias* found them together during the lunch hour, reflecting on the process that was taking place—they had come to the meeting to flesh out a workable framework for reconciliation.

But other bishops were more optimistic. Bishop Cirilo Almaro, who was elected to the board of directors for one year, was confident that the BBC would be able to exert some influence on the leadership and on the people.

"The BBC is respected," he said confidently. "In the last 13 years of its existence, the BBC has exerted a big influence on the other issues affecting the national situation."

Cesar Buenaventura, who was chairman of this year's conference, on the other hand felt that even if the BBC, specifically after the 8th annual meeting, is not able to immediately get the reforms that they seek, it is enough that the delegates "had created

awareness that we do have these problems. What we really want is to get people to think, to change attitudes and rethink ways of life."

"Bringing to the city their own perceptions and experiences outside Manila" and the businessmen learn from the churchmen, then it shows he had been enough for the general assembly.

This sentiment is echoed by Vicente Jayme, BBC co-chairman, who clarified that "over the years, the BBC has not been interested in saying 'This is our position. We are here to push others to work.'"

The body, he said, has always sought to provide a forum where the delegates could be freely discussed and, in the process, concerned sectors of society be awakened into action.

For the moment, the delegates felt it was enough during the assembly not only to draft a "framework for reconciliation" but to set an example of how dialogues that could lead to a genuine reconciliation should be conducted—a process they suggest should also be adopted on the national level.

"through a process of open, continuous and non-threatening exchanges of views and ideas through the venues of workshops or meetings, there may be effected a greater degree of understanding and cooperation among the various groups to necessary before an inner change of heart in people can take place."—JCC and CLM

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 March 19 - April 13, 1984

- AFTERNOON SESSION** 2:00 - 6:00 P.M.
1. EDP Concepts  
 February 20 - March 12 (M-W-F)  
 March 5 - 26, 1984 (M-F-T)
  2. COBOL 74 Programming  
 March 6 - April 26, 1984 (T-Th-S)
  3. Structured COBOL  
 April 3 - 14, 1984 (T-Th-S)
  4. Basic Systems Analysis Skills  
 April 24 - June 7, 1984 (T-Th-S)

- EVENING SESSION** (M-W-F) 6:00 - 9:00 P.M.
1. EDP Concepts  
 February 20 - March 23, 1984
  2. COBOL 74 Programming  
 February 20 - April 27, 1984

3. Structured COBOL  
 February 27 - March 16, 1984
4. Basic Systems Analysis Skills  
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# THE 'RELIGIOUS RADICALS'

## Priests who agitate for reforms in Samar are often tagged as subversives

By CHIT L. MACAPAGAL

ONE rainy evening, Fr. Bienvenido Chichillo of Catbalogan, Samar, was on his way home. In front of the rectory, he noticed a parked jeepney and heard a baby's cry. He found a family of three waiting for daybreak before proceeding down to the coast where a ferry could take them to Bicol, the father's home province.

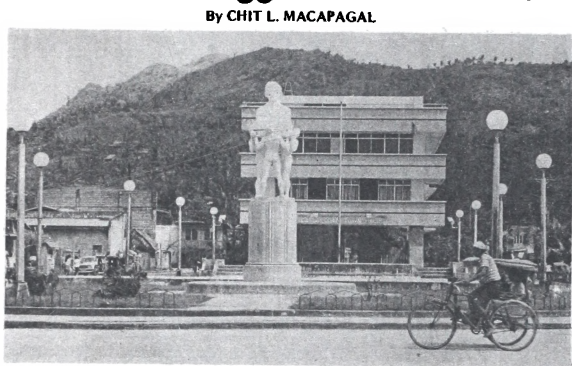
The priest invited the family to spend the night in the rectory. In the morning, after an early breakfast, the family was off on their journey.

Two days afterwards, information from informants revealed that the military had received a report on a priest "harboring a family of subversives" on that same rainy night and that the rectory was being closely watched.

What Fr. Chichillo committed was the most common mistake of religious in the strifed South: he neglected to ask the family for any form of identification. For that oversight he joins a long list of what the military calls "religious radicals."

According to a paper analyzing contemporary religious radicalism in the Philippines prepared by Galileo Kintanara of the National Defense College of the Philippines, there are "legitimate and subversive religious radicals."

The former include "priests who are apparently radicals in making criticism of the government but are not connected with any subversive organization. These priests may be opening their mouths only on their account in accordance with some pastoral precepts from the Catholic Bishops Conference of the



The site of the court battle on the case of the Calbayog diocese social action center. The military is out to prove the SAC is a center of subversive activities. The diocese supports the defense.

Philippines (CBCP)."

The Kintanara paper, in all probability, would be referring to Pope Paul VI's *Populorum Progressio* which speaks about international justice, land reform, the social nature of poverty and the right of people to opt for armed resistance in extremely unjust situations.

The "subversive religious radicals" on the other hand, are "members of the Christians for National Liberation (CNL)... because of their connection with the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) ... two organizations considered subversive by Rep. Act. 1790."

Finally, the paper considers members and religious radical adherents of the "Demokratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (DSSP) subversives because this organization has adopted a program calling for the armed overthrow of the state and the formation of an army for the purpose."

Religious radicals are closely associated with certain church activities, foremost among which is the social action program.

Mgr. Cipriano Ugel, archbishop of the diocese of Palo, is a "style defense" social action as the "aposto-

late of the Church concerning the problems of society like poverty, injustice and the physical or material needs of the people. It also means we work for and with the poor to fight injustice and oppression."

Bishop Julio X. Labayen, in an article on the development of social action in the Philippines, writes: "We changed gradually and experience was our best teacher. We found that credit unions mainly benefited the middle class. The Green Revolution, while it did provide more rice, widened the political and economic gap between the rich and the poor in rural areas. We realized that justice for farmers or sugar workers could not be found in the courts. Nor could decent housing or relocation site facilities be obtained for urban squatters through argumentation or appeals. There are similar examples with tribal people, fishermen and workers. We discovered that these problems could only be solved through strong demands from the people's organization."

"The priestly ministry involves a day to day dilemma in areas which have been militarized due to the active presence of Communist elements." A priest from Leyte describes the situation thus: "When we

huddle together with the people, we are suspected of plotting something. When we conduct seminars or teach-ins, we are suspected of spreading communist doctrines."

Priests know that the problems of their people cannot be solved by intermittent dole-outs from the government. "The social problem goes deeper," says one of them. And so they proceeded to make the people aware of their rights, organizing them into strong communities which could be mobilized "at a moment's notice," he adds.

Monseñor Ugel comments: "I will not be surprised if a priest becomes a radical. In these areas, we experience conditions of extreme poverty. If a priest is true to his priesthood, he does not have any choice but to work with the poor. In so doing, he is branded as subversive."

The Kintanara paper looks at these church communities as "the most dangerous form of subversive religious radicalism. Setting up Basic Christian Communities (BCCs) is considered "practically building an infrastructure of political power in the entire country."

But a number of bishops in the South ignore this government stance on the BCCs. Archbishop Antonio Mabutas of Davao, in a recent UNICEF press

conference, even offered the help of the BCCs in propagating the primary health program of the government.

Bishop Antonio Forchich of Bacolod says that through the BCCs, the Church teaches the people to "pay their taxes as well as fight for their rights." He adds, "If I am arrested for doing this, what will be guilty of?"

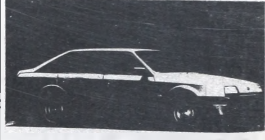
Some priests in Leyte, however, acknowledge that fact that they can likewise be "easily used by the NFA as well as by the military." It is their closeness to the people which makes them "highly prized" by both.

The Philippine paper says religious radicalism is difficult to curb. It says: "The Catholic hierarchy, represented by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), is protecting the religious radicals both wittingly and unwittingly."

To ease tensions in church and state relations, the government organized the Church-Military Liaison Committee (CMLC) a few years ago. While it helped to solve certain problems of church-military disagreement, the CMLC appears to have done little to make either party come to a more permanent compromise.

# BRIEFING POST

## HOT CARS



Newspaper reporters over the weekend alleged that some law enforcers have been selling stolen cars they have recovered.

The reports said that the PC anti-carnapping task force had received complaints from people who discovered only later that the recovered cars they thought were stolen and that some of these have already been recovered by law enforcement agencies.

## MAJOR DISRUPTION

In a recent cablegram to the country's 900 creditors, Prime Minister Cesar Virata said that unless foreign banks immediately come to the rescue by resuming trade financing, the country will be facing another crisis in the next few weeks.

After the Philippines stopped payments of trade-related debts amounting to \$4.4 billion, foreign banks retaliated by refusing to undertake trade transactions for the Philippines.

## MATCH FIRM LIGHTS UP



It was a nightmare of a fire and firemen called in from different stations of the metropolis had a hard time controlling it. And no wonder, what faced the firemen was a blazing match firm in Punta, Sta. Ana.

After the fire had died down, protesters estimated that property damage amounted to P5 million while 14 persons were reported injured, one then seriously.

The blaze reportedly started at 8:45 a.m., Sunday and razed the two-story building housing the lighter division of the Philippine Match Co.

## SEARCH FOR BETS

The search is on for the candidates to the coming Batasan elections in May.

President Marcos announced the other day that the ruling Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL) will start selecting its candidates after the Batasan adjourns the first week of February.

## PORK PRICES PEGGED



The Price Stabilization Council Monday fixed new prices on hogs at farmgate and wholesale levels to protect consumers from unanticipated increases in the prices of selected pork cuts.

So starting this week, the new pork price ceilings are: P16.65 per kilo (ex-farm) of live weight hogs and P22.40 per kilo of wholesale hog carcasses. The new ceilings are expected to bring down the prices of selected pork cuts to P24.25 per kilo.

## SANS USUAL ATMOSPHERE

The phibestic came and went last Friday minus the usual circus atmosphere which is part and parcel of Philippine elections. In fact, most of the people chose to stay home and ignore the exercise which many deem, as nothing but a "farce."

For those who went to the polls for the seventh plebiscite in 11 years, the mood was conspicuously devoid of color. It was, as some of them commented later, "just like any other day of the week."

# The agony of Fr. Pete Lucero

## 'I think I will be transferred down there again'

AT A distance, he was a picture of serenity. Fr. Pete Lucero, political detainee, seemed quite at peace, reading in his hut beside the military chapel at Camp Lukban, Catbalogan, Samar. But face to face, he looked very scared. His hands shook and his voice quivered.

"I think I will be transferred again down there," he said, pointing to a building below which was partly hidden by a thick cluster of trees. "Down there was the U2 detention center where, according to a letter which he wrote and managed to pass on to a nun during one of his court trials,

he was subjected on three occasions to physical and mental torture.

Fr. Pedro Lucero is a Calbayog priest who is on "leave" for alleged subversive activities, connected with the Social Action Center of Sept. 1, 1982. He was arrested on May 12, 1983 at the St. Vincent de Paul Formation House in Marikina. He was detained in Camp Aguinaldo and after a week was transferred to the Eastern Command in Catbalogan.

According to the fact sheet prepared by the Calbayog diocese, after his arrest, the transfer was made in a violation of an agreement that no such action would be taken by the military without the prior knowledge of the priest's superior, Msgr. Odoferdo Federnal. The military promised that Fr.

Lucero would be returned to Camp Aguinaldo. To this day, he remains in the Samar military camp.

On May 25, Fr. Pete Lucero wrote a significant confession was "forcibly squeezed" from him. He said he was blindfolded and handcuffed, while guards took turns in pouring water over his head and kept him all the time. He did not get any sleep. He was not given any food or drink. On May 25, from 10 p.m. to 8 p.m. the next day, he was deprived of sleep when his humanity became a mockery in itself.

In his personal letter, Fr. Lucero said he was tortured again on August 2 and a third time on August 5. Again he was deprived with water and not given any food or drink. The third time he was tortured, his hands were tied at the back, he was kept naked while water was again

poured continuously on him. "They started punching me all over the body... the excruciating pain almost made me faint."

Next, they applied ice all over my body... His genitals did not escape their sadistic attention."

"They also spat out phlegm on his face. Fr. Lucero said he was kept in a cell where he had to eat left-overs. He added that those who tortured him "were under the influence of Liquor."

The letter of Fr. Lucero was distributed to the media by some of his friends. A tabloid printed the story, after which the security on Fr. Lucero eased up a bit. He was transferred from the detention center to the custody of a military chaplain. He has not been tortured since. "I don't know how long I can hold on," he says. He knows that he could be moved back to

## Fr. Pete Lucero

the detention center any day. A motion for transfer has already been filed by the military. And experience tells him that when such motion is filed, it only takes a few days before it is carried out.

"I have no illusions of being free," says Fr. Lucero. But he is "strong and will try to remain so" — for as long as he can. CLM



# BUSINESS

## WORSE TO COME

# 'Calm' just eye of economic typhoon

By BERNARDO M. VILLEGAS

IT IS counterproductive, if not perilous, to lull Filipinos into complacency by talking about bright economic prospects for 1984, as some government people are wont to do. True, we have had a relative calm in the financial sector of these past few weeks, compared to the chaotic days that followed the shocking announcement last Oct. 17 of a 90-day freeze on principal payments on our foreign debt. But let us not be deceived by this apparent calm. It is probably just the eye of the economic typhoon passing through the country.

As in the case of 1970's Typhoon Yolung which destroyed most of Metro Manila after a lunchtime lull, the worst of the economic typhoon now buffeting us is still to come—most probably during this quarter. (What a heart-grawing way to begin the Year of the Rat!)

Some of my colleagues at CRC and I have been raising economic signals even as early as two years ago. We have seen the debt service rate rise to almost 30 per cent of our total export receipts (from goods and services), despite official statements that it was still below 20 per cent. We have warned our leaders about the potential disasters in prematurely embarking on the 11 major industrial projects (MIPs). We have lamented the multibillion-peso waste caused by monopoly capitalism. We have criticized anti-market moves in the sugar, coconut, abaca, and corn industries.

**FINANCIAL ICU**  
Early in 1982, we raised storm signal number 2 after the economy suffered a whopping \$1.1-billion balance of payments deficit. We even used a medical metaphor in publicly saying that we could think of the Philippine economy as having undergone a serious surgical operation this year, requiring that "it may in the financial intensive care unit" for some time. Post-surgical therapy, was supposed to be administered from 1983 till 1987. Only in 1982 were we expecting the "patients" to fully recover and, perhaps, complete again in the past year's economic growth. But, instead, by then, we could be a long way more

at 6 to 8 per cent per annum, as our neighboring "tiger economies" are doing now).

We were heartened to see people heeding the storm signals. By the second quarter of 1982, in fact, our economic ills were being treated with appropriate remedies. Market forces were being allowed freer rein. Even those managing monopolistic sectors like coconut and sugar were responding to constructive criticisms by allowing producers to benefit from higher prices. Our economic managers were determined to introduce austerity measures; limit foreign borrowings; drastically cut government budget deficits, and devalue the Philippine peso.

These stringent policies reinforced the remedial measures already applied as early as 1981, namely: floating of the interest rate, liberalization of trade through tariff reforms, a faster depreciation of the peso to gradually combat the ill effects of an overvalued currency, and increasing focus on agricultural productivity on all fronts.

What then made the "patient" succumb to a crisis even worse than that of 1982? Why all of a sudden did we have a BOP deficit in 1983 more than double the already shocking 1982 level? Just in mid-July 1983, hard data on nontraditional exports and services showed that we could have ended 1983 with a BOP deficit of only \$600 million!

The answer is obvious. The political events triggered by the assassination of former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. extinguished the already flickering confidence of creditors in our ailing economy. True, their nervousness had built up to near-paranoia because of their early traumatic experiences in Latin America, where they accumulated debts of \$300 billion in various stages of restructuring. Yet, until that black day in August 1983, which will forever be a stain on our national history, financial analysts all over the world clearly distinguished between the Latin America and Asia-Pacific.

In fact, this distinction should be a stark reminder for our government leaders who are quick to blame the international financial crisis for our home-

grown economic woes. Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Thailand also went on a borrowing spree after the two oil shocks. Even Malaysia, an oil-producing country, suffered a serious BOP deficit in 1982. All these countries were exposed to the same turbulent financial environment that we faced. How come they are still growing at 5 to 8 per cent per annum, while our economic growth has come to a screeching halt? As we have said just a while ago, the answer is obvious.

We agree wholly with the diagnosis that appeared in CB Governor Jaime Laya's *annual memoir* dated Oct. 31, 1983:

The major negative factor has been the country's capital account deterioration mainly in the third quarter. Expected loan and investment receipts failed to materialize and foreign lenders called for the repayment of outstanding loans to corporate borrowers... private and government banks and the Central Bank alike. Even hotel reservations and tourist arrivals fell abruptly. It seems clear that at the bottom of all much of this development were doubts in the mind of foreign observers, including financial institutions and investors, concerning the country's internal stability.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

There is clearly a cross in confidence. But let us not cry over spilled milk anymore. Mistakes have been committed, but they can be righted. The task now is to assess the seriousness of the crisis and to apply the necessary remedies.

Not even the most avid government propagandists expect our problems to be solved after the 90-day freeze. Despite concrete commitments of the IMF, the US government, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other agencies, the magnitude of our foreign debt problem calls for further moratoria after Jan. 17, 1984. Even if they do, it will place our total debt at \$25 billion, paying the interest bill alone (which cannot be postponed) would already exert a tremendous bur-



"He may be able to get up in five years — or never."

den on our meager foreign exchange earnings. For business planning purposes, we shall assume no significant relief in the "letter-of-credit crisis" until about June 1985. Draconian cuts in our imports can reach as much as 30-40 per cent (Mexico reduced its imports by 70 per cent in the first 10 months of 1983!). These will in turn lead to massive business failures in the Metro Manila area. Vocal industrialists estimate that 300,000 workers may be laid off in Metro Manila by 1984.

Although we can expect our political situation to stabilize later, the worst in the economic crisis is still to come in the next few months. The government now grants political concessions more readily because of the great pressure from the demonstrating "confetti revolutionaries." There is every reason to expect that the May 1984 elections will be relatively clean, as once apathetic citizens have turned increasingly vigilant.

Favorable political developments, however, cannot provide instant solutions to our economic problems. There will inevitably be a time lag. Since letters of credit literally dried up beginning mid-October last year, and since it usually takes at least three months from the time a letter of credit is opened to the actual arrival of imports in Manila, one can safely surmise that the

backlash of the economic typhoon will hit Metro Manila in the first quarter of 1984. We have to be prepared for about a third of large manufacturing firms in Metro Manila closing shop. Most of these will be in automotive assembly, chemicals, pulp and paper, metal fabrication, cosmetics and toilet preparations, and other import-dependent firms that cater mostly to the domestic market. Worse, most of them are among the top 1,000 corporations in the country.

### TACTICAL MEASURES

There will be tactical moves to minimize the damage on the Philippine economy. For instance, multinational corporations will be pressured to import either on consignment or as additional equity. Yet, this approach is just a temporary solution since the Philippines has to compete with numerous other countries for the funds of these transnational firms. If the long-term future of the Philippines does not brighten up, more of these foreign firms will pack up and go.

Some of the important-dependent firms may seek *ad hoc* approaches, if only to increase their exports and earn dollars to pay for their imported raw materials. Still, these "instant exports" (such as concentrates of soft drinks bottled by foreign companies) must show medium-term comparative

advantage if they are to be a dependable source of dollar earnings. It is possible that before we can get out of this crisis (which may last three to five years), such opportunities for "compensating" exports may dry up fast.

Needless to say, emergency funds of the Social Security System and other private provident funds can support unemployed workers and their families for very short periods only. Even the laudable plans of church organizations to organize "soup kitchens" in parishes can be no more than a palliative.

What we need are strategic moves by businessmen to complement the economic reforms already in place. Since we expect the recovery to take longer than we had previously expected (our estimate shows that the earliest our GDP can start growing again at 6 per cent or more per annum is 1989!), people in the private sector must implement measures in 1984 that will go beyond firefighting. Their tactical solutions must fit as much as possible into longer-term strategic directions.

There are two most important tactical moves that should be taken in 1984 and followed through with strategic measures in the years to come. The first is a "back-to-the-provinces" program. The second is an "accelerated manpower export" campaign. The 300,000 workers who

may be laid off in Metro Manila in 1984 translate into 1.8 million people without any source of livelihood. So, there is no question that 1984 provides the best opportunity to "decapitate" the monster that is Metro Manila.

Surely, the saving grace in 1984 will be agriculture, which is expected to grow by at least 1 per cent while the whole economy posts a decline. Especially fortunate will be paya and corn, as these will enjoy hefty volume and price increases. More-dear agricultural volume drop of around 10 per cent (after a decline of 35 per cent in 1983)—are expected to maintain the high incomes they started to enjoy in the second semester of 1983, thanks to upsurge in prices of about P4 to P5 per kilo.

Besides these old-time agricultural products, more investments will pour into nontraditional crops such as fruit trees, rubber, oil palm, cacao, coffee, and cassava. Fortunately, these agribusiness operations are generally labor-intensive and can thus absorb some of the displaced in Metro Manila.

Bankers, investors, and employers should take up themselves to facilitate this "back-province" solution to the massive unemployment problem in Metro Manila, and to a more limited degree, in Metro Cebu. The manufacturing or service enterprises, construction companies, affiliates engaged in agribusiness operations, and companies in cattle ranching, and shipping companies in mango orchards) can set the pace in relocating some of their displaced employees to their countryside

# There's a gold mine in crop diversification

By J.M. ZABALETA

NONTRADITIONAL crops offer this country one of the greatest opportunities for trade expansion, thus offering the investor better returns than any traditional crop. The profit potentials are extremely good, with avenues for growth exciting.

What are the major ingredients necessary to stimulate interest and hasten investments in these new fields of agriculture? First of all, we need venture capital money to go into agriculture with risks that may be as great as the rewards. An understanding of the nature of this type of agricultural investment is necessary from all sectors participating in its development.

Consequently, banks would have to shed their ultra-conservative mentality as well as their pawnshop image. They should be willing to take risks on the same extent as the exposure of the promponent.

Financial services still unavailable to agriculture sector must be developed. The introduction of long-term loans is not sufficient. Bankers must be ready to talk farming and farming finance. The banker must differentiate a loan to industry (where the factors of production such as machinery can be bought outright and therefore loan releases can be planned) from a loan to establish an orchard (where loan releases can and may have to be very flexible due to weather and other factors). When a factory drops in one year by 30 or 40 per cent, the business is usually doomed; but when an orchard drops 30 or 40



per cent, it may only mean that the crop necessitated pruning to increase production by 70 per cent next year.

Unless a banker is prepared to talk this language of the farmer, he might as well not consider farming finance. Banks must hire staffs conversant in agricultural lending, while their board of directors and senior officers must have faith in agriculture, and must be ready to roll with the punches. Those punches include droughts and diseases, unexpected varietal constraints and responses, pests, typhoons, and elements.

Leasing companies must take the challenges and opportunities available in agriculture. They must be ready to design packages suited to it, such as leasing dryers during the grain drying cycle only, back-end loads on leased equipment, and financing warehousing facilities by leasing.

The government's

role cannot be discounted in providing incentives unique to agriculture like allowing one year's losses to be carried over to that of a profitable year. We must bear in mind the uncertainties that bear down on farmers when individual crop years or crop cycles are unprofitable due to unforeseen weather, disease or other biological factors. The Agriculture Ministry must be ready to solve and resolve bureaucratic or regulatory constraints from other government agencies, with a direct bearing on the viability or the management of a project.

Some of these problems are the difficulties in securing rural licenses for farms, farm vehicles, and their head offices which are an absolute tool due to the remote locations of these projects; the difficulty in securing licenses from the FPA in importing the latest chemicals, growth regulators, trace elements,

organo-chemicals, such as seaweed extract, plant and animal hormones and new technology products which are unproven in the Philippines but which are necessary in the search for high-tech agriculture; and the difficulty of securing import approval for implementations and farm machinery which require a high degree of sophistication and where foreign patents and limited local demand require importation—and here I refer to such machinery as paddle wheels for aquaculture, drip irrigation, plastic mulch laying equipment for vegetables, vibratory plows and soil chisels, crop harvesters, and the like.

The Ministry of Agriculture could, in fact, consider establishing a small department for nontraditional export crops which would serve the needs of individual project proponents.

### STRONG BASE

While banks and go-

vernment agencies would have to gear themselves to meet the challenges of nontraditional and high-tech agriculture, the private sector's commitment to agricultural development will eventually decide the future of nontraditional crops, strengthening the agricultural base of our economy.

We need new entrepreneurs to multiply ten fold what big business can do. We need intensive vegetable growing for our own consumption, flowers and ornamentals for export, venture capital for spice farms, farms for the production of medicinal plants for the pharmaceutical industry, thousands of hectares of mangoes, guavas and other tropical fruits to supply the needs of a growing domestic and international market. Some are very long range investments; some are short range, but all offer investment opportunities

superior to those of the old smoke-stack industries.

### PRIME CROPS

Prime crops cannot be generalized. They must refer first to a specific market where reasonable margins are available, secondly, to the area where one is located and tends to operate, taking into account climate conditions, soil characteristics, irrigation and drainage constraints, distance to markets and a host of other factors.

We have identified a number of crops just waiting to be produced to meet an evergrowing market demand and which, given favorable growing conditions, could bring in handsome profits. These are crops which investors could get into or where well-established companies could enter into contract growing schemes with big or small.

Anyone considering a new crop or a farming investment should realize that a thorough knowledge of the crop, the product, and indeed the business itself is a prerequisite. Few crops presently grown in the Philippines are yielding anything like optimum figures. The very fact that most of our soils are seriously lacking in both organic matter and macro/micro-elements and also lack soil balance between elements preclude this high yield. If we are to raise more food crops, we will have to take these factors into account and break away from a rigid chemical NPK approach which for so long we have followed. Many of our crop disasters have been caused by planting in infertile and poorly prepared soils; more have been caused by planting the wrong crop in a soil type unsuited to the crop or at the wrong altitude or in the wrong rainfall belt. Far too few have been the right crop in the right place with good yields and a favorable market.

The potential benefits to the investor and to the economy are superior to that of most industries as the basic raw material is soil which is plentiful and non-dollar based, and the major investment is in land which does not have to be imported.

# Social cost of farm mechanization 'heavy'

By ANTONIO AG. TORRES

MECHANIZING sugar plantation operations can help lower production costs but the social price exacted is something to ponder upon in these times of economic crisis.

This is the major finding of a study on mechanization and labor employment in the sugarcane fields of the Negros provinces which are key producers of Philippine export sugar.

Some of the country's sugar plantations started mechanizing operations in the early 1980s. The move was compelled by a tailspin in sugar prices at the world market and the need for the domestic sugar industry to keep its prices competitive.

Objective of the study were the social changes brought about in the sugar farming communities of the Negros provinces with the advent of mechanization.

The study was conducted by Dr. Violeta Lopez-Gonzaga with grant assistance from the

International Development Research Center through the Philippine Social Science Council and the Visayas Research Consortium.

Highlights of the study were: ●Mechanization deepens the poverty of majority of rural workers dependent on the sugar plantations for their livelihood.

●Witnessing what befell workers in farms which had mechanized, those in other plantations are radicalized and seek to protect their jobs by forming militant labor organizations.

●Mechanization forces some of the laborers to migrate to urban areas to try their luck but the majority decide to remain in the plantations which they view as their "total life support system" and bank on the "mercy" of the operators.

●A few workers, those with skills needed by the machines introduced, are directly benefited. They enjoy increased income and opportunities which

enable them to further improve their economic status.

With the coming of the machines, the study reported that "the unskilled have found no real end to their off-milling unemployment as the work previously assigned to them has been efficiently absorbed by the implements."

Mechanization also shortened working days of the unskilled, meaning less income, and this has "led to bitter and aggressive feelings among the unskilled."

"In a number of cases, mechanization has led to their politicization and the establishment of a more united front against changes in management policies which affect them," the study said.

Another significant finding by the study is the displacement of women and youth labor by mechanization. For the already impoverished families of the unskilled rural workers, this meant increased financial hardship.



Mechanization of the sugar plantations has further depressed economic conditions of the unskilled workers while those of the skilled have improved. This widening gap "has

led to a sense of restiveness and resentment among the unskilled" and explains why unionization has gained much ground among the hacienda workers, the study added.—DEPTHnews

## 'Calm just eye...

(From Page 9)

operations. Some of the more daring Manila residents who will be laid off in 1984 may be convinced to become contract growers for a host of products like high-yielding corn, shrimp, cattle, rubber, or milk. After all, many of these in Manila today originally came from the farms. They may be attracted to the countryside if they see real opportunities in productive agribusiness activities, such as those now proliferating in specific regions in the Visayas and Mindanao.

### THE KEY OBSTACLE

The greatest obstacle to a quick turnaround in the countryside is obviously the lack of long-term capital for agricultural projects (which usually involve gestation periods of 5 to 7 years). Again, the cooperation of bankers is going to be critical in this program to mobilize the rural areas as instant generators of employment opportunities. With interest rates zooming to historic heights, however, there seems to be an insurmountable obstacle to agricultural financing.

Nevertheless, there are ample favorable developments that enterprising farmers can exploit in 1984. First, there will be the drying up of traditional opportunities in the financing of import-dependent manufactures and trading. Since import-dependent business is expected to drop by 30-40 per cent many financial institutions, especially the large universal banks, will face great difficulty in placing their investments. Even the bonanza they temporarily found in condominium units in 1982-1983 will lose some glitter, what with construction costs rising by 50-75 per cent and effective interest rates reaching levels beyond 30 per cent. Real estate, although still more attractive than manufacturing for the domestic market, will become less profitable in 1984. The excess liquidity of banks can now find only one green pasture: agribusiness. For this reason, we expect bankers to force themselves to learn as quickly as possible about agricultural financing.

This possible trend even expects a big boost via the \$300-million structural adjustment loan forthcoming from the World Bank, specifically for the improvement of our agricultural sector. In addition, financing productivity programs in such traditional crops as coconut and sugar, the proceeds from the World Bank loans can be utilized for such nontraditional crops as rubber (whose price has turned attractive) and cassava (from which the Thais have generated hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign exchange in the last 10 years).

Also being closely watched are the proceeds from the \$900 million that the US government is extending to the Philippines under the revised RP-US Military Rates Agreements. Part of this Economic Support Fund can be channeled to agri-business projects, especially in Central Luzon whose fertile plains must increasingly phase out sugar and paddy and be planned to more profitable crops such as vegetables and high-yielding corn, and fruits.

Also expected to be harnessed more efficiently are funds available from such agriculturally progressive countries as the Netherlands, Australia, and Canada. Their governments and private companies are interested in programs aimed at increasing agricultural productivity both in traditional and nontraditional crops.

Finally, the long-standing skepticism about go-

vestment-related industries such as construction, iron and steel, and automotive vehicles will also be hard hit by the economic storm of 1984.

### THREE HURDLES

There are three hurdles that a typical manufacturing firm will have to overcome, obviously one at a time:

1. First, it must be able to import indispensable raw materials or supplies. Given the likelihood that total imports will drop by 40-50 per cent from 1982 levels, there will be many casualties even in this first skirmish.

2. Even if we assume that a firm is able to obtain dollars (officially or through the black market) to open a letter of credit, it will have to face the formidable problem of coping with rapidly rising costs by having to jack up

its prices to astronomical levels. Such a pricing move may squeeze the markets dry, driving the firm to the shutdown point on its breakeven curve. When revenue is no longer sufficient to cover the direct costs of operation, there is clearly no point in continuing to operate.

3. Finally, even if a firm huddled the first two obstacles, it may be finally felled by the financial charges on its outstanding loans as these may have to be serviced at over 30 per cent rate of interest. Like the Philippine economy, many firms may have serious debt restructuring problems.

4. Subsidiaries or branches of multinational corporations that are willing to support their local affiliates through no-dollar imports brought in as part of their equity investment or through consignment or barter arrangement.

The moral of the lesson is clear: Manufacturing for the domestic market will take a back seat in at least the next three years in the national economy. Riding high will be agribusiness and export-oriented manufacturers plus all the service industries that can cater to these sunrise industries.

### SURVIVORS

There are going to be a few survivors among manufacturers:

1. Those who are fortunate enough to fall under the priority listing in the allocation of dollars.

2. Those who export all or most of what they produce.

3. Those who, at least temporarily, are able to make use of excess manufacturing capacity to produce goods for emergency exports to countries, suffering short-term shortages of manufactured articles.

4. Subsidiaries or branches of multinational corporations that are willing to support their local affiliates through no-dollar imports brought in as part of their equity investment or through consignment or barter arrangement.

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# IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS GOLD

We started mining gold in 1903, and as the largest gold producer in the Philippines, we have mined some 10,900,000 fine ounces worth over US\$5.0 billion at current prices.

We expanded into refractory chromite in 1934, and have since produced over 14.0 million tonnes of concentrates as the world's largest producer of this strategic mineral.

In 1959, we ventured outside mining, and today our principal subsidiary is an outstanding success in overseas and domestic industrial construction, alloy steel foundry castings, steel fabrication, and machinery sales.

In 1979, we completed our US\$106 million Dizon Copper-Gold mine, which is now the fourth largest copper producer in the Philippines.

Our future goal: to build an enduring earnings base via programmed growth and selective diversification in mining as well as other basic industries.

### 1982 Consolidated Highlights

TOTAL ASSETS	P3,166 million
REVENUE	P2,014 million
EARNINGS	P 113 million
PAYROLL & FRINGES	P 511 million
TAXES PAID	P 80 million
EMPLOYEES	19,542

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A REVIEW, MORE OR LESS, OF A "SEQUEL TO ORWELL"

UNLESS TIME is derailed in transit, or Earth as we know it ceases to exist — the dire prospect is not altogether improbable, both scientists and science-fictionists would remind us — 1994 will arrive as scheduled. That year will come puffing up with the usual cargo of fresh expectations, good news and bad — plus unknown freight that's bound to cause quite a stir at the station: a revival of worldwide interest in a novel, an upsurge of literary, social and political commentary similar to that which George Orwell's modern classic, 1984, has sparked in the last month or two.

Released only last month by a publishing firm reportedly backed by a clique of clerics and *bibron* manufacturers, 1994 promises to be as durable as Orwell's modern classic, although it's printed on the cheapest recycled newsprint so thin a sneeze could blow holes in it. (The old quality printers couldn't get any L/Cs for their bookpaper imports and are now considering going into the confectionery business.) And 1994 will doubtless produce as much controversy as 1984, so that ten years hence professors and pundits, critics and columnists and feature writers will be discussing and debating questions similar to those provoked of late by Orwell's anti-Utopian work.

Profound, ponderous, hypertensive, hardbreathing questions like: How close has the world come in 1994 to the frontiers

of tyranny and terror as defined by the author? How far has society gone past these borders into the totalitarian superstate depicted in such appalling detail in this novel?

What precisely is the nature of this dictatorship that the novelist, writing, it seems, out of the same despair that so possessed Orwell, would warn us against?

Is 1994 a tract against the betrayals and excesses of socialism, or more accurately, as social democrats have said of 1984, against the nightmarish distortions

of the humane Marxist dream such as turned Stalin's Russia into an archipelago of torture chambers, mass graves and labor camps? Or is the book more an indictment of the Omniscent Leader, its ruthless logic of repression, its nationalistic and Germanic communist passions, which the Germans were led to embrace under Adolf Hitler and the Italians under Benito Mussolini, who was after all the original totalitarian, having introduced the term itself in the vocabulary of the 20th century?

Or is 1994 to be read, as neoliberals have said of 1984, as an attack on all dictatorships, both of the Left and the Right, including those other, apparently more modest, less blatant models which essentially the same mania for power and the regimentation that enables it to prosper have installed in certain Third World countries? Regimes, for instance, founded on "constitutional authoritarianism" and proclaiming a "revolution from the center" or some such thing?

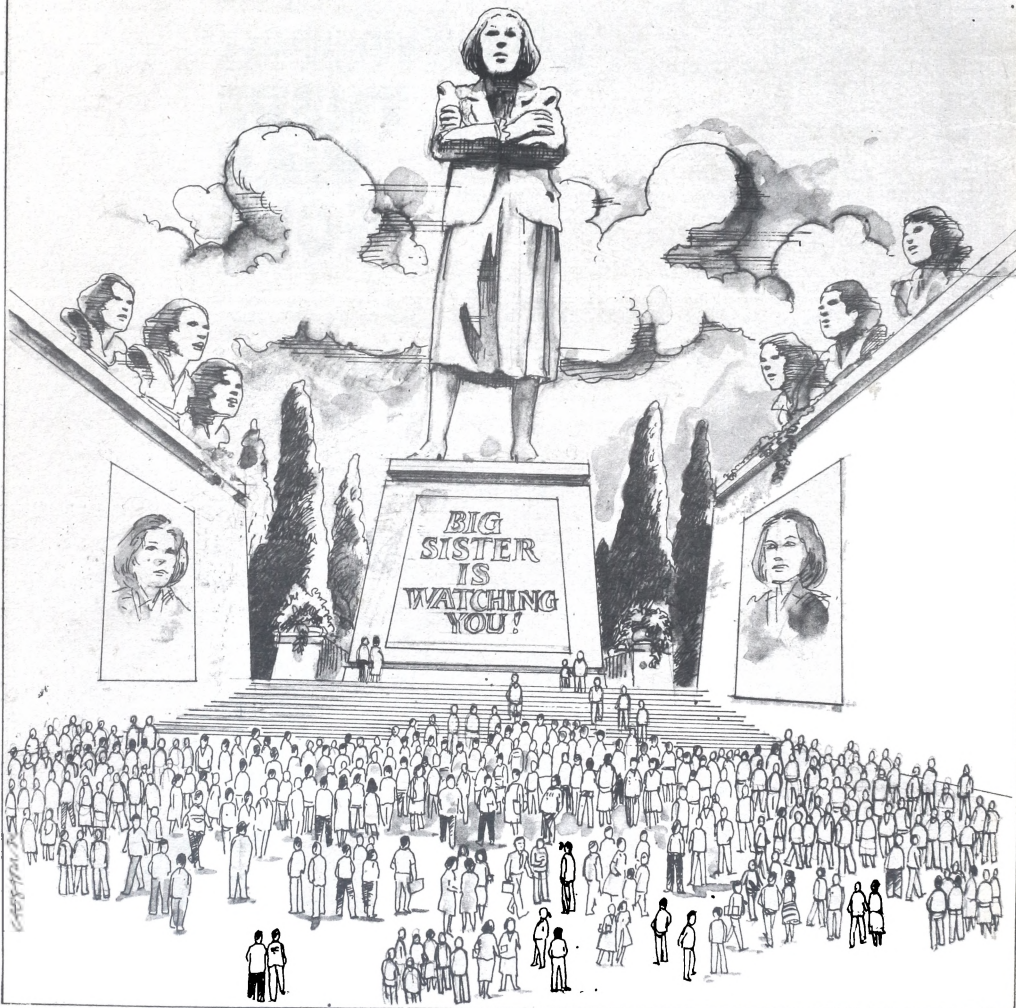
Is the problem of totalitarianism in its naked form — and its many disguises — still urgent and relevant in 1994? Or, more happily, is it, 10 years after this updated reprise of Orwell's fearful fantasy, a phenomenon whose time has passed, thanks to the brave, freedom-loving men and women who struggled against it and won, despite all odds, including the novelist's hopeless prophecy?

Or is 1994 merely one of 1984's forgettable fictions, constructed from the dubious lumber of private despondency, the author's unrelieved gloom over the crises of that troubled year, the devaluation of money, morals and morale, and the threat of more such inflictions on the body politic?

And so forth, and so on, . . . echoes and variants of the curiosity, the anxiety, even alarm, which Orwell's novel of political satire aroused among authors, scholars, journalists and a host of others with more

# LOOKING FORWARD TO 1994

By GREGORIO C. BRILLANTES



LOOKING FORWARD TO



than a passing interest in politics and literature, here and abroad, in the closing weeks of 1983 and at the start of 1984. . .

And in 1994, this "humble yet ambitious sequel to Orwell," as the novelist disarmingly calls this shamelessly derivative work in his preface, may well occasion the same flurry of activity which the wire services report as taking place or being scheduled in Europe and the U.S. On the agenda are stage plays on Orwellian themes in London, Orwell-related films on British television, a West German TV production on the last years of the British writer, who died in 1950; a two-day conference on 1984 at the Library of Congress in Washington next April; and panel discussions on Orwell's novel and the "realities of 1984" to be held in at least 30 American colleges during the year. French universities and Italian high schools have made 1984 required reading in English courses, while publishers on both sides of the Atlantic are set to reissue the novel.

The popularity of the Englishman's dark satire on tyranny has not been confined to the West. In Eastern Europe, says an AP report, there is currently a revival of interest, such as it is, in 1984, with more copies of the proscribed work being turned out by underground presses. A Leipzig newspaper has seen the book as "the bestseller of those who want a rebirth of the Cold War." A recent issue of the Moscow political journal, *New Times*, contends that "Orwell's nightmare society" has its counterpart in America, and that the real-life version of "Big Brother," the dictator in 1984, today lives in the White House and is named Ronald Reagan.

The novel and Orwell's other books, notably *Animal Farm*, his barbed parody on Stalinist officials, are banned in the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact nations — a left-handed compliment indeed to the heretical socialist who, as a member of the London-based Spanish Communist Party in 1939, learned to his dismay that doctrine Communist could be as fascist as Franco's Falangists.

SO IT goes, as Vonnegut would say. But the author of 1984 may not enjoy, whether posthumously or not, the same measure of celebrity — or notoriety — 10 years from now. For he has chosen to use, not even a recognizable pseudonym as Eric Blair did, but merely the letter "K," perhaps in conscious identification with the harassed, paranoid character in Kafka. His publishers have sworn never to reveal his identity even under torture, an announcement which the future will prove to be either a harmless piece of bravado or an irresistible temptation for some general or minister to issue a not-so-harmless invitation.

But even without the promotional tease, K's novel is likely to be a doctoral hachure or agitate authoritarian bangles, as the case may be. For 1984 not only resembles the anti-fatalistic original, it improves on it, if not formally, at least with respect to the material. Writing long after Orwell, who completed his novel in 1948, K succeeds in sounding more dramatic, more relevant and contemporary than the English author, especially in those key chapters in 1984 dealing with the Ministry of Composition, the Commission on Festivals, the Airport Arrivals Agency, the Idea Filtration Police and the Michief Preventive Resorts.

Such features of 1984's superlativity can confirm the charge, made by Prof. J. Q. Quiano in the *New Citizens Monthly*, that K has designed "merely a more elaborate copycat energy and a contemptible lack of originality." Be that as it may, K's "aesthetic virtues and stylistic sins," Dr. Luigi Belloni has pointed out in a recent Dilman covocation, have made the author of 1984 "to range further and probe deeper into the territory first staked out by Orwell" — and having departed from it, in the last 35 years ago, missed subsequent experiments and refinements of state control — technology made even more massive and effective by mind-bending drugs, computers, communications satellites and pesticides.

More significant and instructive, to our mind, than this inclusion of the new paraphernalia of dictatorship are the changes in the character that K has wrought in his futuristic political novel. (Imitation in this instance may well prove to be "found in the dustbin of history" in the words of the formidable essayist, S.F. Lapus.) The three Orwellian or rather K-innovations of 1984 takes the form of the *Newspeak*, the American superstate as a Western or Anglo-American dependent, "Big Sister" and not "Big Brother" in ruler and minister and the protagonist, K's version of Winston Smith. Does not set his will against the regime, but resolves from the very start to love, serve and obey "Big

Sister." Eastasia, one of the three warring superpowers in the Orwell novel, is in 1984 an even more brutal and dehumanizing regime than 1984's Oceania. K takes pains to convince us, with some success, that the Eastern tabort for barbarous despotism and impersonal cruelty, the reason for this quality of Eastasia's tyranny, suggests the author's greater vulnerability to the helplessness and passivity of the masses — a condition resulting from centuries of colonialism, poverty and ignorance — as depicted by Big Sister with the zealous help of the New Reality Party and its ministries, commissions and agencies. All told, Big Sister has easier job of it herding the masses of Eastasia into dumb submission than Big Brother had in Oceania.

As the "all-good-but-wise ruler" of Eastasia, Big Sister has her giant portraits, monuments and busts "as curvaceous as the original," murmurs the wretched (hero-etic) looking down with maternal tenderness on the sometimes parading, often laboring and always half-starved populace. 1984 tells it. Big Sister has been elected Supreme Leader of Eastasia by the Inner Council of the New Reality Party and the Board of Directors of the Retired Generals Association, a unanimous decision heartily supported by Eastasia's ally, a much more powerful superstate across the sea that, as K describes it, seems to be no other than Big Brother's Oceania.

THAT A woman should be dictator of Eastasia has, interestingly enough, created no little controversy in literary and academic circles since the publication of 1984.

One school of thought, represented by the noted American Marxist Dialectician, maintains that the masses of Eastasia, given the history — customs, traditions, libido, etc., have always needed a strong, authoritarian female figure to tyrannize them. Another school of thought, represented by the philosopher and philologist A. Navarete Sogob, insists that Big Sister's dictatorship is a "fatal flaw" — which neither the pro-Big Sister, male-dominated politics of Eastasia nor the so-called "democratic" Dialecticians, from the viewpoint, expressed by Dr. Gonzalo Laconyga, man-about-town and professor of biology at St. Paul's, can "do anything to" — is "an inescapable tyrant is unconvinced because false and unfair," "a distasteful sexist outrage against the innate qualities of women."

Though he doesn't put it in those galling words, the hero-etic in 1984 — named Andy, no surname, as if this Eastasian had only his identity and dignity to begin with — feels the same way about Big Sister when an escapee from a Michief Preventive Resort calls his skirted idol names too vile and shocking to print in this sober journal.

Like Winston Smith at the Ministry of Truth, Andy is an employee engaged at the Ministry of Economic and Financial Reality, in mangling, doctoring and otherwise revising facts and figures that are committed to the penmanship of Big Sister and the New Reality Party. Like Smith too, he has an affair with a fellow worker, a rebellious girl, the one who looks like a prostitute but he is not flouted by the Idea Filtration Police as he pursues and brings his amour to a consummation they both despise. For he has nothing to do with a fervent follower of Big Sister and seeks, even as he copes with the nonpolitical aims in his pants, to convert Chits to the ethereal truths of the New Reality.

How he woos and wins her is but one of several episodes in which Andy demonstrates his devotion to Big Sister. One day he enters the floors of the Ministry of Compassion after the day's work in the Ministry of Economic and Financial Reality. He recruits a group of musicians and a-go-gos dancers for the Commission on Festivals, repairs a stalled armored van of the Airport Arrivals Agency, and in the process attempts to short-circuit the electrodes and cut the pipes to the water-cure baths at the headquarters of the Idea Filtration Police, coming to his stop at his starvation wage to the upkeep of the Preventive Michief Resorts, and spends his love of all — repairing and washing and cleaning up the gigantic, ornate monuments and busts of Big Sister disgraced or splattered with unhygienic matter by a band of Eastasian deserters who call themselves the Great Reality Army.

All this Andy does in his simple, cheerless way — against a lurid background of brutality, violence, mass arrests, suggest trial detentions, the executions, thought control, slave labor, economic chaos, poverty, suffering, apathy and despair. Orwell 1984 ends with a broken, empty, utterly defeated Winston Smith confessing his love for Big Brother. K's 1984 ends on an ostensibly upbeat note — to reward Andy for his industrious, unflinching loyalty, Big Sister grants him an audience, a Perpetual Commission, a yearly leave a three-day vacation with extra luggage and a trip to the most Famous of the Famous (Big Sister) doing the work he loves best of all — repairing and washing and cleaning up the gigantic, ornate monuments and busts of Big Sister disgraced or splattered with unhygienic matter by a band of Eastasian deserters who call themselves the Great Reality Army.

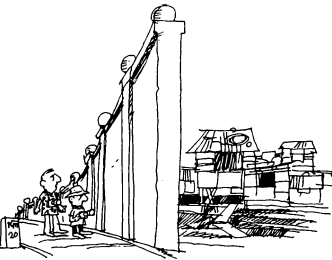
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One of the reasons for this communication snafu is the frequent difficulty, especially of those who come from certain regions, in producing some sounds properly. There was a friend, for

# Window-dressing

## WINDOW-DRESSING

ING came by a word recently with the revelation that the Central Bank carried in its books \$600 million that it did not have. The figure was carried in the CB books allegedly to make the country's foreign reserves look more attractive than it actually was. It might console CB officials responsible for the anomaly to know that they are not alone in window-dressing unattractive realities.



There were the Metro Manila officials, for instance, who wanted tourists to see only the beautiful side of the metropolis by erecting tall fences around squatter colonies.

Applicants for US tourist visas are also among the more notorious practitioners of window-dressing. A number of them are known to borrow a big amount from relatives and friends for deposit in banks. The bank books are then presented to US immigration officials to show that they have enough assets here to assure their return. The moment their visa application is approved, the amount is withdrawn from the bank.

Then there are the Metro Aides who are dissatisfied with the natural color of tree bark and proceed to coat the bark with white paint or lime.

Attempts to "improve" one's natural attributes are more frequent among women, however. There was the beauty contest winner turned movie actress who felt insecure with her inability to present a "bold front." She cured this by going to a surgeon who proceeded "to make mountains out of molehills."

An American woman a once went to a surgeon to have her bulging tummy tapered off. She dreamt of having a rounded figure but imagine her rage when she woke up after the surgery to find that her navel was no longer on the center of her tummy.

A townswoman who won a local beauty contest looked radiant during her coronation. What made her more

appealing was the prominent black mole on her right chin. The next day, her prominent black mole "moved" to her left chin.

The passage of years has detracted from the former good looks of a mayor of a town in Metro Manila. He was determined to hide this fact, however. Thus, whenever his photo is needed for publication, he simply hands out his photo that has been taken about 20 years ago.

How different things are from the time of Oliver Cromwell, former ruler of England, when a painter made him look like a real Cromwell. Cromwell rejected the portrait, asking the painter to make another showing him as he actually looked like, "w rits and all." — ELD

# How's that again?

By EFREN L. DANAO



By EFREN L. DANAO

and "ripit" as if it means somebody who could see the future.

Frequently, a slip of the tongue or malapropism keeps one from being understood immediately. There is the person who said he would decide things "on a base-to-base cases" which called a proposal "moot and epidemic."

Another source of difficulty in communicating is the penchant of some in using high-sounding words. Government technocrats are the most frequent users of this kind of words. Hearing their speeches and reading their reports are enough to make one's head spin, what with their liberal use of polysyllabic words.

A young man from the South who belonged to the same organization I did once stayed in our apartment for several days. He later wrote me a letter, thanking me for my kind "hospitalization."

I will not vouch for the authenticity of the following story but a friend insists it actually happened.

A *balikbayan* once got introduced to a man who had been married for a long time but had remained childless. When the *balikbayan* asked his new friend why this was so, the latter replied, "It's because of Maria — she's inconceivable."

When the *balikbayan* gave him a quizzical look, the local boy pondered his words for a moment, then his face lit up and he said, "Actually, what I mean is that Maria — she is impregnable."

\*CARPO (PUNCE)

EDUCATION officials usually take pride in saying that the Philippines is the third largest English-speaking country in the world, next only to the United States and England.

A number of Filipinos, indeed, claim that they could speak English. Many then talk in English, however, and most of them will have difficulty communicating their ideas.

One of the reasons for this communication snafu is the frequent difficulty, especially of those who come from certain regions, in producing some sounds properly. There was a friend, for

instance, who said he would not speak Tagalog very well and insisted on always talking with me in English. Once, I saw him with a companion who he introduced to me immediately. "Efrén, this is Tony. He is a bicker," my friend told me. "A bicker? Sounds interesting! Tell me, what does a bicker do?" I asked, and he replied, "As if amazed that I could not even understand what "bicker" meant.

Another acquaintance taking up a degree in commerce pronounced "finance" as if it were a sacrament.

# Puerto Galera: Paradise lost?



ALEXES SANTIAGO

Private vessels carrying tourists dock at Muelle Bay, Puerto Galera.

By PATRICIA L. ADVERSARIO

FOR centuries, the people of Puerto Galera have lived off the bounty of the sea.

But recent developments have separated the people from the seas surrounding Puerto Galera. In some areas the shoreline is even lined with barbed wire.

And the result is that in what was once a paradise of mountain, sea, sand and people are afraid, threatened with the loss of their livelihood and their land.

Ironically, presidential decrees designed to preserve Puerto Galera's rich marine resources and coves have cut-off and restricted the people's means of livelihood.

Presidential Proclamation No. 1801 which came out in 1978 declared Port Galera, Balatero Cove and Medio Island as zones and marine reserves under the control of the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA).

The rationale given was that water sports and tourism might cause ecological imbalance if allowed to continue unregulated.

PD 1605-A which was promulgated in November 1980 declared the enclosed coves and waters of Puerto Galera Bay as ecologically threatened zones and forbade the construction of marinas (docking areas for small boats), hotels, restaurants or any structures along the coastline of the area.

Ship repair and ship docking were also banned because the oil spills caused by the semi-permanent docking of large watercraft was said to cause pollution.

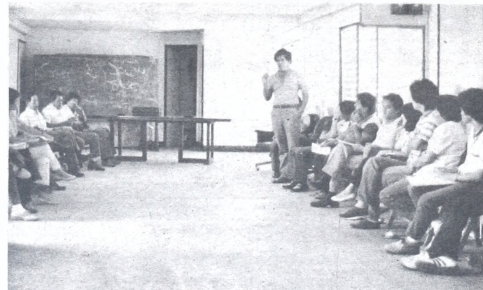
PD 1805 amending PD 1605-A empowered the PTA, Coast Guard, PC-INP, the Office of the President, the Ministry of Human Settlements, the provincial government of Oriental Mindoro and the courts to demolish constructions that fall within 25 meters from the high tide water mark.

The decree also vested the power to issue permits solely in the Office of the President.

An unnumbered circular from the Puerto Galera committee which controls and regulates all commercial, industrial and tourism-oriented activities within Puerto Galera even includes among its prohibited activities, the establishment of poultry and piggeries.

Another unnumbered circular also includes among its list of prohibited activities, vague blanket provisions like "industries that cause pollution or (that) pose hazards to the area" and "any other form of destructive activity."

\*\*\*  
THE prohibition of any structure within 25



Crisencio Yaco (standing), president of the Puerto Galera Tourism Association, stresses

meters from the high tide water line throughout Puerto Galera has encroached upon the existing family-owned enterprises.

Some of the lands have been inherited by the local residents from their ancestors and these residents have been paying land taxes to the municipal government for years.

Given the topography of Puerto Galera, the 25 meter rule is inapplicable, leaving residents with virtually no land. In Dalurran and the Muelle poblacion, the mountains already rise just five meters from the shoreline.

*Wala ng ibang lugar na maaring puntahan tapos pa'ti'yon lamang ang lugar ng pag-aari namin. Iba na ang may-ari ng lupa sa bundok,* a resident said.

The Philippine Tourism Authority, the Mindoro Regional Development Office (the government agency overseeing the development of Mindoro) and PHILTECH, MIRD's consultant, have given no explicit assurance to the people that they will be compensated for the land that

will be affected by PD 1805.

The prohibition of semi-permanent docking of large watercraft said to cause oil spills and sewage dumping threatens the long-time ship building and repair industry in Dalurran.

Residents are questioning why the industry should be prohibited when spillage of wood shavings into the sea have not really caused any major pollution damage.

But oil exploration and extraction which threatens greater ecological damage, is an exempted activity on "grounds of national interest" (found in an unnumbered circular pursuant to Proclamations No. 1801, PDs 1605-A and 1805).

There are serious doubts about whether the restrictive decrees are really geared towards the preservation and protection of the natural resources and the ecology of Puerto Galera.

For one, if the primary intention is to preserve the natural resources of Puerto Galera, why is the Philippine Tourism Authority and not the Ministry of Natural Resources involved?

The people also believe that the summary dismantling and prohibition of structures is a measure to give way for big establishments to take over the existing local family-owned enterprises catering to tourists.

Even in the face of resistance from the people over the 25-meter prohibition rule, an unnumbered circular has already been issued by the Puerto Galera Special Committee (composed of ministers of tourism, human settlements, and the local government, commissioner of immigration and deportation, Philippine Coast Guard commandant, chief of Constabulary and UP President) extending its control and jurisdiction up to the 100 meter mark.

\*\*\*  
THE people have no questions about the need to conserve the shoreline and the other resources of Puerto Galera, but they assert that these conservation measures should not be done by killing their means of livelihood and then taking over their industries.

Almost 80 per cent of the residents are engaged in local enterprises which cater to middle class backpack tourists from Europe. The flourishing backyard tourism industry in Puerto Galera includes some 300 cottages for rent, 38 res-

the need for tourism to be relevant to the needs of local residents.

# PUERTO GALERA

tourists, two diving camps and six windsurfing bases.

PHILTECH President Constancio Reyes, consultant to MIRDO, however, opts for a more "controlled development" for Puerto Galera as he believes that backpack tourism has sprouted in an almost "haphazard" manner.

Residents and owners of establishments believe otherwise. They said most of the establishments were planned, and they observed, "Our business have managed to feed us without their help so why don't they just leave us well alone." According to municipal Mayor Heranjo Nigido Aldeiza, the municipality earned P100,000 for the month of January alone from revenues collected from business establishments.

But the hecklers have not let Puerto Galera alone.

The Special Commission renders the municipal government virtually powerless, by referring authority to mere recommendations. Should the proposed amendment to PD 1805 be approved, revenues from the municipal treasury will now be controlled by the ATFA, Aldeiza said.

There are restrictions imposed for the banca operator who ferries the tourists around Puerto Galera or for the Sabang businessman with his private house made of concrete. He needs an exemption for projects or activities in Puerto Galera which are wholly or partially funded from foreign loans or grants.

This double standard legislation which the people vehemently oppose meant the inevitable entry of bigtime tourism which it is feared,

will ultimately displace the existing backyard tourism industry.

In a position paper, the residents said that "the people of Puerto Galera would be freely allowed to fully exercise all their own powers and functions to promote their own welfare and to determine for themselves the kind of tourism to become, more autonomous, self-reliant and self-progressive community."

The people maintain that with the entry of foreign-funded enterprises, income will no longer be controlled by the municipality.

Backyard tourism combines the ownership, management, and services of tourist facilities within the control of the local inhabitants. This avoids the situation where the ownership of the hotels are in the hands of those who come from outside and only the menial jobs are left for the local people.

"At present, the local residents are the owners of their own enterprises. But once big time tourism sets in, these people are bound to be displaced as dishwashers or elevator boys," Aldeiza said.

"Lupang ang turismo sa ating pangangailangan... marami ang pakikibang sa ita," said Cresoquio Yaco, Puerto Galera Tourism Association President.

"It is our hope that we keep the tourism industry within our control and as much as possible interference from the national government and those who come from outside. The ultimate controlling factor should be the local Sanguanigan Bayan. While we cannot entirely do away with the ATFA, let there be consultancy but not control during a transition stage with MIRDO and PHILTECH.

PHILTECH official Constancio Reyes reasoned out that Puerto Galera cannot live by itself and for itself. It has to consider its contribution to national tourism and to the national government.

A resident countered: "Should big establishments rise, will the government be able to provide us with decent alternative means of livelihood. O'bahe para na lang be learning ako na stipina ninyo sa aming sariling lugar."

EVEN with the people's resistance, big plans are already afoot in Puerto Galera about how best to guide the people to the "proper approach to tourism."

MIRDO, through its consultant PHILTECH, presented in a separate guideline with the local officials a proposed development package for Puerto Galera which includes the installment of two mini-hydro plants, the improvement of water and electrical facilities, transportation and communication amenities and a botanical garden.

An interview with a Sanguanigan Bayan member, however, revealed that the municipal government already has its own plans on how it can further improve the existing facilities in Puerto Galera.

The existing facilities are okay. The point of improving them further is that these plans are geared towards their plans (referring to MIRDO) which bigtime tourism - the kind of tourism they want," Melanio Lopez, Sanguanigan Bayan member said.

Prominent families in Metro Manila already hold extensive landholdings in the town. Records from the municipal assessor's office reveal that the Locsin already owns 226,028 hectares; Ayala Corporation, 35,621.5 hectares;

Yulo, 6,240 and the Kalawa, 95,4981 hectares. According to Yaco, these landowners are now in possession of 60 per cent of the prime beach lots in Puerto Galera.

Reyes did not deny that financing resources for the development package will come from the World Bank, the national government and from private persons.

Reyes demurred when asked to name the private persons who will partly finance the development projects. He did not deny, however, that these private persons who now own extensive landholdings in Puerto Galera are interested to go into development plans which they will ultimately own since they are already part of the community.

"The tourists would want to have some improvement on the roads for instance. It would be nice to have a sports complex for them," Reyes said.

Random interviews with several tourists staying in Puerto Galera, however, indicated they want Puerto Galera to remain as it is.

No tourists could be found complaining about dusty roads as they were often seen hiking barefoot about town. Some were even seen sprawled on the roofs of commuter jeeps soaking in the sun and the clouds of dust.

George Calvert, a 70-year old tourist who stays in Puerto Galera during the winter months is quoted as wanting Puerto Galera to remain as it is.

"I like primitive places, and they are here in Puerto Galera," he declared.

A tourist from Australia said that Manila is already big, noisy and expensive. "You go to Puerto Galera because you don't have big, expensive hotels here. If they'll start having those things built in Puerto Galera, I'd rather go somewhere else."

# Re-study of tourism benefits recommended

BY FELICIANO H. MAGNO

THE TOURISM industry of some developing Asian and Pacific nations could be an expensive and unnecessary adornment to their respective socio-economic development efforts.

Underlining such a possibility is the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). It recommends that governments concerned undertake in-depth studies to determine whether tourism is indeed a net contributor to economic growth or a negative factor.

ESCAP, which monitors socio-economic trends in the Asia-Pacific region, cannot at present tell whether tourism is benefitting the developing countries which have gone into the venture as a means of increasing their earnings of foreign exchange.

The inability of ESCAP is due to the dearth of updated tourism statistics which can prove with certainty that the industry is benefitting or contributing to economic growth of the developing nations.

Tourism statistics available are those from countries, like Singapore and Hong Kong, which have built their tourism industries into the level of prime contributors to national economic growth.

In urging the developing nations to undertake an economic analysis of their respective tourism industries, ESCAP suggests that three "must" components are:

Measuring the net economic effects and earnings from tourism; comparing tourism to investment in tourism with alternative uses of domestic resources; and forecasting future paths of the industry.

Such an analysis, if done competently, would enable governments of developing nations to adequately assess the economic

impacts of their respective tourism industries, ESCAP explains.

An ESCAP paper lists 13 costs and 14 benefits of the tourism industry to the private sector, the government and the general public. Assessment of which, singly and collectively, would also lead to a determination whether the industry is economically beneficial or not.

Costs to the private sector are utilization of domestic industries to service tourist demand; import requirements of the industry including repatriation of earnings of foreign tourists invited or made partners in the venture; and training expenditures for people manning the industry.

Benefits ranged against such costs are profits on sales to tourists; wages and taxes in tourist enterprises; and indirect economic effects mostly through inter-industry linkages.

On part of governments, expenses or investment required to help put up tourism industry include budgets of national tourism organizations; tax subsidies to tourist enterprises; subsidies to local goods and services provided by tourists; transport infrastructure; public utilities; outlays for government-operated tourist services; and other public amenities like use by tourists of zoos, parks, historical sites and monuments.

In addition to such expenditures, benefits that accrue to the government are income from tourist firms; licensing and registration fees; entry and departure taxes; air transport charges; and fees collected for tourism use of public amenities.

Tourism's costs to the general public are crowding, noise and loss of tranquility, meaning local residents are crowded out or denied use of their own natural resources, and social costs - increase in the price of construction of values due to "lifestyles" brought over by the visitors - and loss of indigenous culture.

Benefits derived by the public from the industry include what are called "positive externalities" - flow of information, exchange and the patronage by the tourists of local industries like handicrafts, food and beverage industries like hotels,

crafts; and use of tourism facilities during slack periods in arrival of foreign tourists.

Reviewing world tourism trends, ESCAP reports that bulk of the income from the industry continues to be controlled by the industrialized or developed countries which also lead to a determination whether the industry is economically beneficial or not.

The same figures indicate that the tourism industry is relatively new to many developing nations and its rapid growth "raises pressing policy questions for planning and economic management."

ESCAP also observes that for some Asian and Pacific nations, "revenues from tourism are already a major source of foreign exchange. Their growing dependence on such revenues makes it imperative that the industry policy area for the 1980's."

One of the needs of such a policy is planning in order to secure a clear understanding of the alternatives available, and the likely costs and benefits of pursuing various alternatives, according to ESCAP.

The Commission laments that tourism planning in developing nations in the region "is often myopic, focusing on the immediate number of tourists or short-term gains."

In many countries, little attention has been given to the costs of tourism and the full impact of tourist expenditures on the local economy. However, measuring effects of tourism is not enough. It is the mobility of consumers whose consumption behavior is especially important to develop a research-based, long-term planning approach which depicts the various dimensions of the industry and develops a methodology appropriate to such characteristics.

Turning to the drawing power of the ESCAP report, Franz Schatzman, Manila Hotel general manager, who, in effect, said that Filipinos have nobody to blame but themselves for the proliferation of foreigners in their hotel industry.

According to Mr. Schatzman, the Philippines is a net contributor to the world tourism industry.

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# Alien hotel execs' pay under fire

By MANOLO B. JARA

EXPATRIATE hotel managers in the country are embroiled in a controversy raging around the question of how best to reduce operational costs in the embattled industry.

"Out with expats," was the battlecry of the National Union of Workers in Hotels, Restaurants and Allied Industries (NUWHIRA) which represented what many concede to be the "extremist" view.

The more "moderate" stance was enunciated by Tourism Minister Jose D. Aspiras who suggested a reduction in the wages of expatriates. Estimates are that compensation for foreign managers ranges from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a month exclusive of housing, recreation and other privileges.

And caught in the middle of the controversy are the expatriates Franz Schatzman, Manila Hotel general manager, who, in effect, said that Filipinos have nobody to blame but themselves for the proliferation of foreigners in their hotel industry.

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# Local anesthesiologists cry 'ouch'

By AL IGNACIO

ONE out of 250 operations at the Philippine General Hospital results in death of the patient because of mismanagement of anesthesia, a leading anesthesiologist revealed recently.

Dr. Quintin J. Gomez, president of the recently concluded Eighth World Congress of Anesthesiologists, traced the high anesthetic mortality and morbidity in the country to the lack of properly trained personnel and proper equipment, especially in the management of poor risk patients and children.

Gomez said that many in the medical profession are still not properly trained on the proper administration of anesthesia and are, perhaps, unaware of the risks involved in its improper handling.

The 8th WCA was held at the Philippine

International Convention Center Jan. 22-27 and was attended by about 3,000 scientists and anesthesiologists from 77 countries. It was sponsored by the World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists (WFSA) and had for its theme "Anesthesia - Safety for all," underscoring its mission to make safe anesthesia available to as many people of the world as possible.

The eighth congress marked the first time in the 30-year history of the WFSA that a congress was held in a Third World country.

One of the participants recounted how a patient in war-torn Vietnam was found dead a few hours after what was considered a successful operation. It was later found that an oxygen mask was erroneously connected to the anesthesia gasmask.

The attending nurse did not know that the patient was getting gas instead of oxygen, resulting in the patient's death.

### IMPORTANCE

Before anesthesiology was not the sole domain of surgeons. Nurses and other medical personnel, though untrained, were allowed to administer local and regional anesthesia.

In the early part of the 19th century, however, a so-called "Renaissance" of medical anesthesia occurred in Great Britain, Canada, and the United States. Emphasis was placed on the training of physicians as specialists in anesthesia and the development of new and refined techniques of general anesthesia.

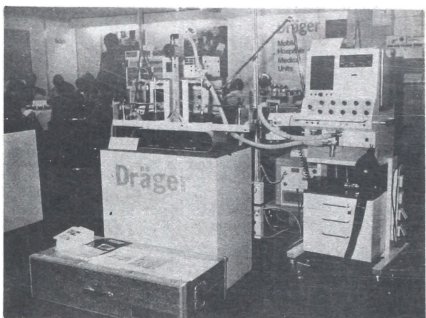
During the past three decades, the scientific knowledge, skill, and expertise of anesthesiologists have permitted

surgeons to operate on the critically ill, the very old, and the very young, with less or no pain to the patients. These have also paved the way for more radical operations like organ transplants, and those related to cancer, and the heart.

### EXPERTISE

Anesthesiologists have also lent their expertise to surgical and obstetric anesthesia and this led to the development of better post-anesthetic care and the development of modern respiratory therapy services; in the management of acute and chronic pain states, and more recently in the development of intensive care units and critical care medicine.

The real challenge facing anesthesiologists from the developed countries today is how



Most of the equipment used in anesthesiology, like the above, are so expensive that few Third World countries could afford them.

to come up with more practical methods of anesthesiology using cheaper machines and drugs so that these could be applied in developing countries.

It has been noted that many of the latest techniques introduced concerning anesthesia management called for

the use of very costly equipment which poor and developing countries could hardly afford.

One foreign observer at the WCA said that only the big hospitals in the developed countries could afford to buy the expensive equipment for anes-

thesiology.

Third World countries may have to wait a little longer for them to be able to apply the latest technology and techniques in anesthesiology. This issue will still be discussed in the next congress of WFSA to be held in Washington, DC in 1988.

## AFTER 40 YEARS

# Anti-malaria drive gains no headway

By ESPERANZA NAVA

THE Philippines is now on its fourth decade of trying to eradicate the malaria and chances are success will not be in its grasp even at the start of the 21st century.

Providing such a bleak overview of the malaria situation in the country is a scientific paper authored by the three top officials of the health ministry's Malaria Eradication Service (MES).

Jointly authored by MES Dir. Delfin G. Rivera, acting Deputy Director Cesar V. Valera,

and M. N. Santos, chief of the MES medical division, the paper states: "Malaria remains widely distributed in the Philippines in spite of three decades of eradication campaign."

Reason for the failure to effectively control the scourge spread by a certain mosquito species is the developing nation status of the Philippines. The paper cites the diminishing funds allocated by the government to the anti-malaria campaign.

Evaluating the anti-malaria drive from

1953 to 1981 or three whole decades, the paper lists the following "constraints":

- Uncontrolled population migration between malarious and non-endemic areas.

- Decreasing susceptibility of the mosquitoes (*A. flavirostris*, *A. litoralis* and *A. balabacensis*) to the insecticides being used against them.

- Resistance of the malarial parasites to prescribed drugs in use in the country.

- Shortages in equipment, transport and personnel being suffered by the MES.

- Diminishing budget allocated to the anti-malaria campaign due to the government's lack of resources plus the economic problem of inflation.

- Peace and order conditions in some malaria infested areas of the country.

The paper of the three government physicians does not give the number of Filipinos

presently afflicted with malaria nor does it detail the areas where the disease is most prevalent.

However, the paper tries to relieve its gloomy note by pointing out that "although the malaria situation looks hopeless, there were gains which the MES had tried to maintain" despite the constraints hobbling its operations.

Upbeat part of the paper also stresses that despite the odds, the

Philippines can still effectively control malaria provided it faithfully complies with a four-point recommendation from the 31st World Health Assembly.

The recommendations: A national will expressed by the government to support malaria control/eradication; adequate funding to support such a will; making malaria control/eradication an integral part of the overall national health program; and community participation.

Authors of the paper

emphasize that compliance with such recommendations is within the capability of the Philippine government. They add that the government has already come up with the required political will through establishment of the MES.

Delving into Philippine medical history, the paper recounts that studies on the disease started in the country as early as 1902 and that such investigations provided the entomological and epidemiological groundwork which served as the launching pad of nationwide anti-malaria campaigns.

Organized malaria control effort began in 1926. It was handled by the Malaria Control Section of the then Bureau of Health. Its activities were confined to anti-larval measures and treatment of cases with quinine. The effort lasted up to 1946. During 1926-1946, the paper says malaria is estimated to be responsible for about 20,000 deaths and two million cases annually.

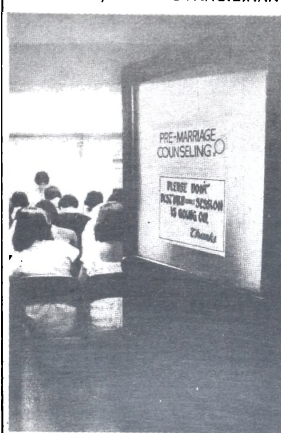
From 1946 to 1952, malaria was recorded by the health ministry as the top cause of morbidity in the Philippines and the fifth cause of mortality.

From 1966 to 1973, the anti-malaria campaign was reorganized with passage of a law (Republic Act 4832) which created MES. During 1973-1981, the MES was further strengthened by the government with such reinforcement virtually rendered meaningless due to lack of funding.

— DEPTNews

## Why are rural women more fertile?

By LOURDES PANGILINAN



MANY married women in the countryside still believe that if they get pregnant it "is God's will."

Such a belief is deeply ingrained and is a major factor which influences fertility behavior in the rural areas where most of the Philippines' population "explosion" is taking place, according to results of a university study.

Unless such a belief is tempered with knowledge of modern family planning practices, the study projected that population measures being implemented by the government in the countryside will encounter "rough going."

Titled "Fertility Behavior of Rural Women in an Agricultural Barrio," the study, conducted by Erlinda Guevarra of the Centro Escolar University, found that rural women tend to remain fertile due to ingrained beliefs and practices.

Such beliefs and practices are in turn determined by educational attainment, occupation, age at marriage, ages of existing children, husband's educational attainment, occupation, and religion, the study stressed.

It found:

- The lower the educational level of the married rural woman, the more children in the family. The reverse happens with higher educational levels.

- Wives who profess the Catholic religion tend to have more children than counterparts of other religious beliefs.

- Employed or partly employed couples have fewer children than families where the husband is the only one holding employment.

- Better educated husbands also result in fewer number of children in the family.

- Marriage at earlier age for the women means more children than those who marry when they are 25 years old or over.

The study reported that majority of the rural wives hold the belief that their getting

pregnant "is God's will" and that more children in the family has its own compensations.

Over 80 per cent of respondents interviewed belong to the low-income group whose perception of children is family income counting.

The study explained that majority of residents in the countryside belong to the landless poor and such depressed economic situation has compelled them to look upon children as "security for their old age."

It added that while family planning information may seem sufficient in the urban areas, the same does not apply in the countryside, especially in the villages where the poor reside.

Communities of the poor lack electrical service, other basic needs and recreational facilities, adding to this the pressure of religious beliefs and traditional practices. Combined, such factors help deepen resistance to prescribed changes, especially those which pertain to fertility, the study said.

In its report on the results of the 1980 national census, the National Census and Statistics Office (NCSO) placed the average geometric population growth rate of the Philippines during the 1975-1980 period at 2.71 per cent yearly.

The annual national population growth is highest in the countryside where an estimated near 80 per cent of Filipinos reside.

The national population as counted in 1980 stood at 48,098,460, showing an increase of 6,027,800 over the 1975 population of 42,070,660 or an increase of over a million a year.

The 1983 population is believed to have reached 52 million.

NCSO also reported that population growth rate in Mindanao is 3.58 per cent per annum, compared to 2.73 per cent for Luzon and 1.86 per cent for the Visayas. — DEPTNews



**CELEBRATION**

# ARTISTS CHRONICLE AN ERA

This begins a series of works by notable artists reflecting a sensibility in protest of the times. — Ed.



**Onib Olmedo: Ninoy Descending the Staircase**

# MANILA TIP-OFF

By MA. THERESA R. MARTELINO

**PERFORMING ARTS**

**CCP Little Theater**  
(CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila)  
February 5 - 7:30 p.m.

**PHSA Music Festival.** Featuring pianist Aries Caes. Presented by the Philippine High School for the Arts in cooperation with the CCP.

February 10, 11 - 7:30 p.m.

**Ballet Philippines Repertory Ensemble.** Dances performed by Ballet Philippines.

**Bulwagang Gantimpala**  
(CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila)  
February 5 - 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.

**Kapangyarihan ng Kinulayang Tubig.** Ronaldo C. Tumbokon's 2nd prize winner in the 1983 CCP Playwriting Contest, Category 1 presented by Bulwagang Gantimpala. Deals with faith healing.

**CCP Main Theater**  
(CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila)  
February 7 - 8 p.m.

**New York Harp Ensemble.** The American musical group performs with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra in this presentation of the CCP in association with the American Embassy.

**Insular Life Theater**  
(Insular Life Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati)  
February 5, 11 - 3:30 and 8 p.m.  
February 9, 10 - 8 p.m.

**Torch Song Trilogy.** Harvey Fierstein's Tony Award winning play on the third sex. Cast: Miguel Faustmann, Zenaida Amador, Paul Holme, Tommy Alvarado, and Baby Barredo. Directed by Baby Barredo. Presented by Repertory Philippines.

**FILMS**

**Open-Air Theater**  
(Rizal Park, Manila)

Every Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 p.m., Cinema in the Open Air, a project of the National Parks Development Committee. Free admission.

February 5 - *The Glass of Water.* German film classic about a court intrigue in seventeenth century Old England. Based on a comedy by Eugene Scribe. Directed by H. Kautner. Presented in cooperation with the Goethe Institut.

February 11 - *The Battle of Berlin.*

Full-length documentary on Berlin in 1945. Directed by Franz Baeke. Presented in cooperation with Goethe Institut.

**ART**

**Heritage Centre**  
(Cor. William and Lantana Sts., Cubao, Quezon City)

**Pintig ng Bahay** features the paintings of Rosella Sicat-Lorenzo and her son, Russell S. Lorenzo. Rosella is a business-administration graduate of the University of the Philippines who paints as a hobby. Russell is a recipient of the Anita Magsaysay-Ho scholarship. Until February 24.

**HOTELS**

**Hotel Intercontinental Manila**  
(Ayala Ave., Makati)

At the Bahia Lounge: E.J. Villacorta, Menchu Lauchengco, and Stella Ignacio of Repertory Philippines sing a wide repertoire ranging from Broadway to sentimental blues and ballads, to pop and medium rock, Mondays to Fridays at 5:30-10:30 p.m.

At the Prince Albert Rotisserie: Rare Beaujolais Nouveau wine 1983 is served exclusively.

**Manila Peninsula**  
(Cor. Makati and Ayala Aves., Makati)

At the Lobby: Drink of the month is St. Valentine, a mixture of rum, white wine, pineapple juice, syrup, and grenadine.

At La Bodega: An international fish and seafood buffet is offered at dinner-time every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Price is P110+ for adults and P70+ for children aged 12 and below.

**Cafe Bar**  
(Level 3, Ali Mall, Cubao, Quezon City)

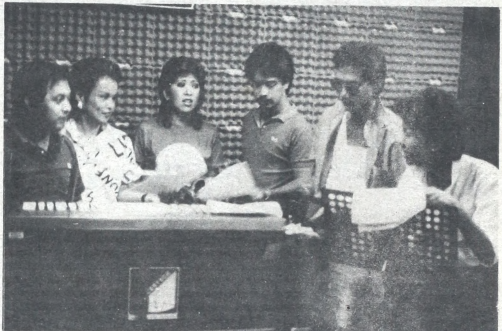
The Star Jazz Band composed of Nonong Avila, Henry Olib, Benjie Grey, and Mia Mirazol perform every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday at 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

**Miscellaneous**

Our Lady of Fatima Children's Learning Center holds a lecture series in the church compound. On February 18 the topic is "Understanding the Pre-School Child." The public is invited. For more information, call or visit Lourdes Tiambeg at the school on Baltazar St., Phil-Am Life Village, Las Pinas. Metro Manila with tel. no. 801-8864.



Star Jazz Band at the Cafe Bar.



The Circus Band reunites for a series of reunion concerts at the Rizal Theater in Makati on February 10, 11 and 12 in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Ayala Corporation. Tickets are available

at the lobbies of Rizal, Quad, and Greenbelt Theaters, Shoemart Cubao and Makati, Odyssey Greenhills, Eredivo, and Tavern-on-the-Square.

## NETWORK

ANTONIO C. Barreiro, deputy commissioner of National Telecommunications, has reportedly been tapped to replace Rodolfo T. Reyes as MBS-4's general manager. Mr. Reyes resigned effective February 1.

Angie Dickinson returns to the small screen in RPN-9's rerun of *Policewoman* starting February 2 at 7:30-8:30 p.m. The action-adventure series, which revolves around the undercover cop Sgt. Pepper Anderson (Dickinson) and her crime-fighting activities, replaces the local sitcom *S.T.E.E.R.* which was cancelled reportedly due to lack of sponsors. *S.T.E.E.R.*, starred Carmi Martin, Jimmy Javier, Ronnie Lazaro, Wendy Villarica, and Emig Tagle.

Contractual employees of Channel 4 are reportedly very unhappy about a memo stating that their contracts will not be renewed in 1984 as a cost-saving measure. Although the directive has not been implemented yet, these employees are raising their eyebrows at reports that the station's news staff have in the meantime been given hefty salary increases.

*Remington Steele*, a romantic comedy on private detectives, will premiere over Channel 7 on February 6 at 8:30 p.m. The series stars Stephanie Zimbalist and Pierce Brosnan.

Effective February 7, Inday Badiday's *True Confessions* will be transferred from its Mondays, 9:30 p.m. slot to Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. This is to accommodate *Matt Houston* which premieres on February 6 at 9:30 p.m.

*Progress '84*, an information package about the Bureau of International Revenue and its policies, will be telecast daily on RPN-9 starting February 13 at 4 p.m.



Pierce Brosnan and Stephanie Zimbalist in *Remington Steele*.

*SWAT* starring Mark Shera, Robert Ulrich, and Steve Forrest, will be rerun starting February 11 at 9 p.m. over Channel 2. In effect, *Manila Files* will be moved to a Tuesday, 8:30 p.m. timeslot.

*Superstar, Ang Bagong Kampeon*, and *Duplex*, three of RPN-9's longest-running programs, celebrate their anniversaries this month. Thus, the station's banner for the month is "Anniversary Program."

RPN-9's *Cine sa 9*, telecast from Mondays to Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., has a new title: *Magsine Tayo*.

## Primetime Specials

Here are the week's special shows and movies.

•Sunday, February 5 at 9 p.m., RPN-9 presents a Rock Hudson starlet, *A Fine Pair*. Hudson plays a police captain who gets tricked by a beautiful stranger into getting involved in a heist. Claudia Cardinale also stars in this Sunday's Big Event feature.

•RPN-9 brings back *Bare Essence* on Wednesday, February 6, at 8:30 p.m. Starring Linda Evans, Bruce Boxleitner, Donna Mills, and Genie Francis, this two-part movie explores the exciting world of the perfume industry.

•Also on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., GMA-7 presents the first part of a three-part documentary entitled *Catastrophe*. It features first hand accounts of heroic survivors of many of the world's most awesome and devastating disasters. Narrators Charles Bronson and Jill Ireland share the experiences of these men and women suddenly thrust into bizarre and terrifying tests of bravery and stamina. There are also interviews with experts exploring the larger issues of disaster prediction, prevention, and treatment of victims of these tragedies.

•Friday at 8:30 p.m., GMA-Motion Pictures airs *Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang*, a story about pre-teen kids who form a group called Child Power to protect children's rights from grown-up tyrants. Starring Alex Karras as the Hooded



Genie Francis and Bruce Boxleitner in *Bare Essence*.

Fang and Stephen Rosenberg as Jacob Two-Two.

•Saturday, Marvelous Golden Movies presents *A Promise of Love*, a two-hour made-for-TV movie. Valerie Bertinelli stars as a frightened 28-year-old Vietnam War widow untrained to face the responsibilities and the hard facts of living alone.

# In the realm of tears, blood and all that sweat

By JUSTINO DORMIENDO

TO THIS modern day and age, the local *komiks*, that chief purveyor of escapism, sensationalism, and soap-opera kind of amusement, still wields a dominant, if pervasive, stranglehold on Philippine cinema. Notice, for instance, how local filmmakers invariably turn to *komiks* material every time they wish to cook up Something Big, Popular and Downright Commercial. With its legion of avid followers, the *komiks* is guaranteed to bring in hordes upon hordes of moviegoers who will have no trouble identifying with the film's protagonists, keeping themselves perpetually glued to their seats as these long-suffering characters go through life's unexpected twists and turns.

The latest proof of this commercially successful *komiks*-to-screen transposition is Viva Films' *Kung Mahawi Man Ang Ulap*, based on Gilda Olivado's popular *komiks* fiction and now literally grafted to the screen by scriptwriters Orlando Nadres and Luahati Bautista. We only wonder why a major filmmaker of the stature and ability of Laurice Guillen who had done better work before (*Sakome*, for one) has opted to do a picture as blatantly dated and inferior as *Kung Mahawi*, a movie whose sensibility, to begin with, is as anachronistic as enjoying a Sampaguita Pictures family melodrama circa 1954.

As it is, KMMAU (let's settle for the less excruciating acronym) is gravely faulted not so much for its cinematic

treatment as for its overriding fidelity to the original source, although in this case the two seem hardly distinguishable. The plot, or more appropriately, subplots—is as unbearably convoluted as Zigzag Road on a cloudy day. The film's central character, Catherine (played by Hilda Koronel), goes through one terribly painful ordeal after another, the stuff of which could perhaps put to shame those hapless, harassed, and harangued heroines of many a Sampaguita melodrama.

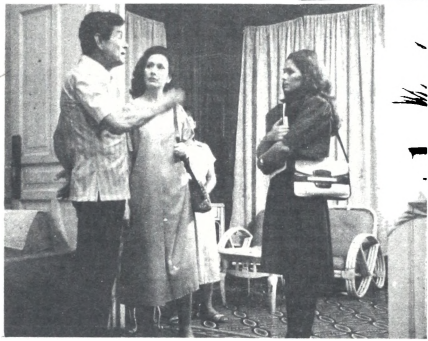
At the film's start, Catherine's widowed mother takes back her old-time beau, now a widower, and his three children. Her mother then marries this good-for-nothing rascal who is only out to victimize this poor, naive creature. Despite Catherine's initial protestations, the other family takes over the household and the family business as well. Catherine loses her job and the grocery store. Then she loses her own suitor to whom she is betrothed when her stepister seduces him.

As if this weren't enough yet, Catherine's stepbrother attempts to rape her. She kills him in a clear case of self-defense. But because of one damaging piece of testimony by her stepbrother, she is convicted by her own mother's refusal to testify on her behalf, she is convicted to a lifetime imprisonment. At this stage, the plot thickens with far stranger twists and turns. In prison, she gives birth to a child by her suitor Rustan who has been conveniently banished to the U.S.

The child is entrusted to her godmother, but upon the godmother's death, is passed on to her mother, who is now, at this stage, impoverished. When this poor woman finally comes to her wits, it is too late as she is made to fall down the stairs to her own contrived death.

Meanwhile, Catherine's sister conceals yet another plan to save her family from the

in fact, it is as tortuous and unrelieved in its gloominess. Blame it on the film's excessive hankering to portray the heroine's anguish and suffering in life and in love. Blame it on the characters' unbelievable naiveté allowing themselves to be usurped by the one family's greed and avarice. And blame it, most of all, on the filmmakers' concessions to prevailing taste for soap-operaic amuse-



With Laurice Guillen as director, Romy Vitug as cinematographer, and the acting of a powerhouse cast which includes Hilda Koronel, Christopher de Leon, Eddie Garcia, and Gloria Romero, it is hard to believe that *Kung Mahawi* still managed to fail.

threat of mendacity. She passes off the child as hers by Rustan, who has now miraculously returned. But because Rustan is completely deceived, the truth lets out, straight from the lawyer's mouth. The witness makes a retraction, and Catherine is set free. At the long-awaited end, Catherine exacts retribution from her tormentors, and claims her child from the father to boot.

The material may sound incredible, from the above synopsis, but

The performances are a mixed bag, but most of them of the unconvincing, unsympathetic kind. As Catherine, Hilda Koronel, fine actress that she is, is hampered by a plodding role which relies heavily on emoting rather than internalizing. Christopher de Leon is barely credible as the spineless, mindless Rustan. Gloria Romero is as confused as her part, a successful businesswoman who allows herself to be easily destroyed. As the quintessential villain,

Eddie Garcia is merely caricatured, while the performers who play his children, namely, Amy Austria, Isabel Rivas and Michael de Mesa simply have to look and sound evil and scheming. Alas, not even Romy Vitug's competent lighting and composition can save this film from its own self-made, pitiful disintegration.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Pascual Plata's first directorial assignment, may not have been derived from a *komiks* material, but both

in treatment and depiction of characters, much of it is *komiks*-like. Though fairly promising in its attempt to shed psychological light on the mind of a man driven to a life of vice and lawlessness, the film is weakened by its own excesses, the result of directorial heavy-handedness.

A good quarter of the film is, in fact, devoted to the principal character's traumatic childhood with a prostitute mother, his concomitant involvement in petty crimes, thereafter, his rise as his own syndicate's kingpin. The film also attempts to insinuate that, in this case, the most generous philanthropist yet comes from the most vicious of criminals.

There is also much confusion over the focus given to the material. While scenes of

bloodbath are shown in graphic detail, those that are meant to develop the "human" side of the protagonist Amber (coolly played by Ace Vergel) are mostly in vignettes, hardly offering genuine insight into his true character. His relationships with his now lunatic mother (Charito Solis), a teenage moll (Kristine Garcia), and a hard-to-please rich bitch (Myrna Velasco) do not elicit sympathy, much less understanding into the unusual mold of an anti-hero.

*Pascual* thus ends up as another exercise in gore and mayhem, sacrificing its original intentions to rise above the usual level of run-of-the-mill action flicks, and, finally, falling into the same trap of senselessness and viciousness that plague most of our movie today.

## Censorship may give way to film classification

By EFREN L. DANAO

SOME SECTORS may have won their battle against movie censorship in this country with the introduction last January of the new system of film classification.

The Film Academy of the Philippines (FAP), a private organization representing the entire movie industry will work for the new system if findings prove film classification as the better alternative.

The FAP was established in June 1981 through Executive Order 640-A issued by President Marcos. It is managed by a board of governors composed of the presidents or representatives of the 12 artistic, creative technical and non-technical guilds involved in filmmaking.

On Sept. 4, 1983, during a general assem-

blly at St. Joseph's College auditorium, FAP virtually declared "open war" against the censors' board and drafted a new Code of Self-Regulation and Classification System.

This was followed by a series of discussions on the guidelines for film classification and self-regulation. The guidelines were finally ratified and on Dec. 27, the Film Academy Classification Board was formed, headed by Nestor Torre, noted film critic, columnist, and movie, television and stage director.

Under the film classification system, there will be no cuts or deletions on films submitted for review. Instead, they will be classified according to the viewer's preference for which they are deemed "best suited, whether G, P, R, or X.

A "G" classification means that a film is suitable for all ages; "P" means parental advice is recommended for persons under 18; "R" means the film is suitable for adults only, and an "X" means the film is not recommended for commercial exhibition.

Torre stressed that censorship is contrary to the dignity of responsible human beings. "I am an adult and I know what is right and what is wrong. I feel humiliated that the board of censors should dictate what kind of movies I should see and what not to see," he said.

Torre revealed that the producers have been "traumatized" by the censors' after several "unfortunate" and "degrading" incidents. They charged the

censors with "condescending and insulting treatment of producers and distributors, inconsistency in the classification of films, unreasonable screening and evaluation procedures and arbitrary and inconsistent interpretation and implementation of censorship guidelines."

He said that mental censorship has stifled the creativity of writers, directors, and others engaged in movie production.

"It was this traumatic experience with the censors that led FAP to organize the FACB," he revealed.

The FACB is composed of 36 members drawn from the different guilds of the FAP. Only six constitute a review panel with Torre,

the chairman as the seventh.

Since the FACB is composed of persons coming from the movie industry itself, what is the assurance that these members would not be guided by their own interests?

"Our members are prohibited from reviewing films whose production they had been involved in. You know, one of the things that amazes me is the members' sense of delicacy. Once, we were about to review a film when one of the panel members voluntarily inhibited himself, saying that the producer was a cousin of his. We didn't know this fact and the panel member could have kept quiet. Yet, he volunteered the information and begged

off from the panel. That is the kind of members we have at the FACB," Torre said with obvious pride in his eyes.

The producer of the film should have a representative in the review and this representative is allowed to make oral representations for whatever ratings he may desire. If the producer is not satisfied with the rating given his film, he may request reconsideration from an appeals committee composed of members of the FACB board of governors. The decision of the appeals committee is final.

"We do not just rate a film. We also explain why a film is given such a classification," Torre said.

All films produced by members of the Philippine Motion Pictures

Producers Association and the Independent Movie Producers Association of the Philippines have assured the FACB that all their films would be submitted for classification. They constitute 70 percent of the movie producers in the country, Torre added.

The FACB has no police powers or a system that is not yet the governing system. Censorship is still the prevailing system so we could not possibly impose any sanctions," Torre stressed.

He noted that the new system has been drawing support from the broad spectrum of society.

# Our prospects for clean clothes and related anxieties

By GRAZIELA C. FRANCIA

WHAT IS the official word on soap and detergents? Come June are we still going to be able to wash our plates, our clothes and ourselves? Procter and Gamble PMC's Mr. Fernando Langcauan and Mr. Alberto Manlapit gave this reply.

"Since this crisis crashed down on our ears a moratorium was declared on dollars so we purposely began to cut back our production of detergents. If we continued to manufacture in full blast our raw materials would be depleted so much faster and they can't be replenished without letters of

credit. It doesn't help any that unlike grains and paper, hygienic products are not listed as vital industries when they're used by everyone — young or old, rich or poor, male or female or swar.

"But then we figured that even if soap and detergents were classified as essentials that still would not solve our problem. The supply of dollars is so limited and thousands, like the drug manufacturers, are lining up for a slice of it. After the tiny pie has been divided among all the essential industries, what we could get is just a morsel.

"So what we have done instead is increase our capacity for producing laundry soap instead of continuing to produce detergents whose raw materials will be depleted by the second quarter of 1984. We are rejuvenating our laundry soap production because it died when we put Tide on the market. We have been rehabilitating our soap-making equipment, retrieving those no longer even in the compound. We're really back to where we were during the Japanese time. But then maybe if we had taken stock of the situation ten years

back we should have done it then. This development is good for the soul, if not for business.

"Anyone can make laundry soap, unlike detergents, which require a high technology. Small factories have resumed making soap in some provinces like Cebu and Laguna. It's simplicity itself — all you need is a concrete bath. In coconut growing regions you cook your *lating* and there's the oil, and you get lye from the ashes of the stove.

"This reversion will require from us a regional type of manufacturing — instead of sending

the product to say, Mindanao, and bear the heavy cost of transportation per bar we just open soap factories there. Only PMC and PRC are seriously making detergents and soaps so the need for hygienic products is still our responsibility to fill. Since no matter how much soap we produce will not be enough the small cottage industries will do the rest. They will survive because without our overhead their soap will be cheaper than ours."

Just in case it doesn't work that way, here, folks, is . . .

## HOW TO MAKE SOAP

Soap making in the home is practical in places where there is an abundance of fats or oils. Many women of Mindanao have already begun to make their own laundry soap.

### Description of Ingredients:

#### FAT AND OIL

Use animal oil or vegetable fat, not mineral extract. Often used animal fats are those of cow, horse, sheep or pig. Though not as solid, the fat of chicken is also considered for oil. Often used for soap is vegetable oil from coconut, fruits of the nipa palm, corn, *oliva* (olive) cotton seeds, *mango*, peanuts or castor oil. Good soap is made out of a mixture of fat and oil.

To make hard soap for use with hot water:

Use 1.4 kg. lard melted from fat of cow, horse or sheep.

To make washing and bath soap:

Use 1.4 kg. lard from the fat of sheep or cow and 1.4 kg. from vegetal matter. The best oil is extracted from dried meat of coconut or palm nut. Soap made from palm nut is harder than soap made from coconut oil.

#### LYE (LIHIA)

One may use prepared lye (lihia), called caustic soda, or lye extracted from ash. Caustic soda is cheap and easy to obtain. It is poisonous and should be kept out of the reach of children. Do not get lye into direct contact with any part of the body.

#### BORAX

Borax is cheap, makes soap bubblier and improves its appearance.

#### PERFUME

This is not essential but it improves the quality of the soap specially if it is made from rancid fat. Citrus oil works as a preservative as well.

#### WATER

Fresh water is preferred. Sea water has minerals not conducive to cleaning qualities. Slightly salty water may be used but should first be neutralized in this manner: To every 1 gallon (3.8 liters) of salt water, mix 1 teaspoon (15 ml.) of lye. Mix the water while pouring the lye then set aside for

several days, undisturbed. Separate the water on top for soap-making and throw the rest away.

Rain water may also be used for soap making.

#### UTENSILS

Pail (*timba*, *balde*) pot, or *kawa* made of lead or clay (aluminum is melted by lye). Ceramic or glass cups for measuring.

Mixing spoon, paddle or stick of wood or enamel.

Wooden or cardboard form for moulding the soap, 2-3 inches deep. Coconut halves or dried *upo* shell may also be used as moulds.

Slippery cloth or paper for lining the mould. Cut two pieces — one wider than the mould, the other longer than the mould. This will make it easier to remove the cooked soap.

Thermometer (18° to 65°C) is useful but not essential.

#### COOKING PROCEDURE:

Fat should be clean. To clean: Boil an equal amount of fat and water in a clay pot or cauldron. Remove the container from the fire and strain the fat through a bamboo strainer or *katcha* cloth. Add one part cold water to every four parts of hot lard. Do not mix. Allow to cool. The fat on the top will be clean. (An unpeeled sliced potato put in at the start of the boiling will help in the cleaning.)

Take the right amount of the now clean and solidified fat and melt this in the pot where the soap is to be cooked. Set aside the right amount of water and the right amount of lye.

Slowly trickle the lye into the water. This mixture will become very hot and may splash. Cool. To get the proper coolness, touch the bottom of the pot — It should be the same temperature as your hand. Never put your finger into the mixture.

Cool the melted fat down to body temperature. Mix in the borax.

Next pour the lye into the melted fat in small amounts and very slowly. While pouring stir in one direction. Continue stirring until the mixture thickens (about 30 minutes). Leave the mixture alone, stirring only once or twice every 15 or 20 minutes. After a few hours, when the mixture is as thick as honey, pour into the paper-lined mould.

### SOAP RECIPES

#### INGREDIENTS:

For 4.1 kg. soap  
Oil or clean solid fat:  
13 cups (3 liters) or 2.75 kg  
Borax (optional):  
¼ cup (57 ml.)  
Lye (Sodium hydroxide crystals):  
370 gms.  
Water:  
5 cups (1.2 liters)  
Perfume:  
oil of sassafras: 4 tps (20 ml.)

oil of wintergreen: 2 tps. (10 ml.)  
oil of citronella: 2 tps (10 ml.)  
oil of cloves: 1 tsp. (5 ml.)  
oil of lemon: 1 tsp. (5 ml.)

For one bar of soap  
Oil or clean solid fat:  
1 cup (230 ml.)  
Borax (optional):  
Lye (sodium hydroxide crystals):  
5 tps (23.5 gms.)  
Water:  
½ cup (115 ml.)  
Perfume: a few drops

1. Cover the mould. Let the soap set for 48 hours in room temperature. Do not bump or disturb the mould in any way or the ingredients may separate.

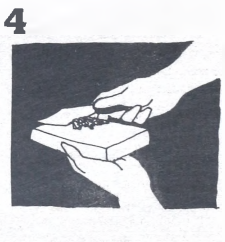
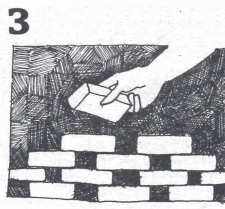
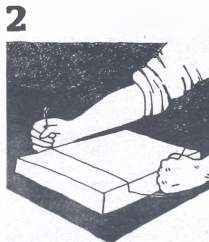
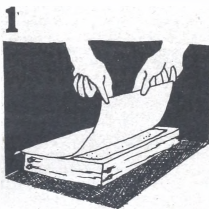
2. After two days the soap should be hard. Remove the mould and cut into desired sizes with a strong piece of string or fine wire.

3. Stack in such a way that each bar is exposed to the air. The bars may be stored the normal way in two or four weeks.

4. Good soap is hard, white, clean-smelling and tasteless. The top, if scraped, should yield curly shavings.

N.B. If your soap does not turn out right, you can always go to the river and find a stone to scrub with. Another useful body scrubber is the dried netted pulp of a *patola*.

— Soap procedure courtesy of Technology Resource Center



## SPORTS

## SPORT SHORTS

## All-Filipino PBA

When the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) opens its first of three conferences this March, Billy Ray Bates and company won't be there anymore pricking baskets and bringing home dollars.

The PBA board of governors

has agreed during a special meet to adopt an all-Filipino format throughout the 1984 season to stave off a threat of some teams to withdraw participation in view of the country's foreign currency problem.

## Manila Marathon Winner

Kjell Erik-Stahl of Sweden ran 2:19.24 for 42.195 kilometers in Manila "to escape the harsh Swedish winter."

And he ran fast enough to win the third Manila international marathon, one of the fastest and best organized marathons held in

the country in years.

Unfortunately, the best Filipino entry could manage only a ninth place finish through Jimmy Potester's 2:32.04. Some 25 countries, mostly from Europe, joined the race.

## Money in the Olympics

There's big money in the Olympic Games.

The Winter Games in Sarajevo this month and the Summer Olympics at Los Angeles in July and August will gross over \$70 million in television revenue for the International Olympic Committee (IOC). This amount is only one-third of the total television income, with the rest going to the host country.

Skiers and track stars are openly making money, but the prize money and advertising payments have to be held in trust by the

athletes' national sports federations to insure that the athletes don't go into the hands of promoters and commercial sponsors.

The IOC has recognized the fact that world standards are so high that gold medal prospects devote their whole time to their sports, and they cannot do that without income. The Philippines' own sprint queen Lydia de Vega, who is now busy preparing for the Olympics, has appeared in the movies, but part of her income goes to the Philippine Olympic Committee.

## Another Knockout

Another knockout rocked Philippine boxing when Fernando Gloria, fighting for the Oriental Pacific junior welterweight title, was knocked out by Kim Chung-shik of South Korea. Gloria's end came at 2:21 in the eighth round

of the scheduled 12-round title bout at Seoul's Munhwa gym. One week earlier, Frank Cedeño lost his WBC flyweight crown to Koji Kobayashi of Japan via a second round knockout loss in Tokyo.

## 19th Straight in 21 Years

The FEU softballes secured its 19th title victory in 21 years by blasting off UST, 5-3, in the Metro Manila UAAP women's softball championship. FEU first

won the title in 1963 and has never relinquished it since then, except in 1972 and 1973 when the UAAP was suspended due to "martial law."

## National UAAP in Bacolod

The annual UAAP national games, the country's biggest sporting spectacle outside of the Palaring Pambansa, now Palaring Filipino, will be held in Bacolod City on Feb. 23 to 26.

The University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos will host the

four-day athletic meet to be participated in by 30 big colleges and universities representing defending champion Metro Manila, the Visayas, Southern Mindanao, Northern Mindanao, North-Central Luzon, and Southern Tagalog-Bicol.

## New Hobie '14 Champ

A man who said he doesn't know whether to cry, sing, or laugh is the proud winner of the World Hobie, 14 World Championship held in the choppy waters off Puerto Azul beach in Cavite. Bob Curry, a 26-year-old wa-

ter observer in the US Air Force, became the first man to win the race on his first try since another American, Jeff Camapa, won the inaugural staging of the biennial meet in Hawaii in 1973.

## Dorre wins in women's marathon

Unheralded Katrin Dorre of East Germany made a powerful sprint in the last 1.5 km to win the third Osaka International Women's marathon in 2:31.41.

Her winning time assured her a berth in the Los Angeles Olympic Games Marathon as the East German Athletics Federation set the qualifying time for the olympic marathon at 2:33, according to informants.

The 22-year-old East German, who was running her fourth marathon, overtook Japan's front runner Akemi Masuda near the 41 km mark to take the honor.

Masuda, 20, who had collapsed near the 15-km mark in last year's race, was second in 2:32.05.

The short 151 cms tall Masuda leapt to the head of the field near the 12-km point and at one stage she took a nearly 800-meter lead over the second running Dorre and Denmark's Dorte Rasmussen, one of the favorites, who finished fourth in 2:35.23.

Hungary's Karolin Szabo in her ninth marathon came in third in 2:35.38 and Laurie Crisp of the United States, who was running in the full marathon for the first time was fifth in 2:37.01.



Although this year's RP Youth Team is better man-for-man according to coach Larry Albano the successful 1982 team (in photo) had more time to prepare for the campaign.

## RP youth 5 races vs. time

By ROMY DE LA CRUZ

CAN THE Philippines retain the Asian Youth basketball crown in Seoul this April?

A full-time school administrator and a part-time basketball coach holds the key to the answer. And to give this query its popular response, Larry Albano, 40, administrator of Scout Albano Memorial Colleges, has changed his order of priorities since he was appointed last month to coach the RP Youth team.

He gets up very early in the morning not to give his school a spot check, but to take a quick drive to the Rizal memorial complex in Vito Cruz to join 15 RP Youth hopefuls in their daily workouts.

The group starts the day by doing some physical conditioning at 6 o'clock, to be followed one hour later by shooting and defensive drills, to be capped by playing a practice game against an amateur ballclub.

The team expects to meet some PBA teams in exhibition matches this month and hopes to arrange some games against the "naturalized" Filipinos in March. The group will fly to Seoul in the first week of April in time for their scheduled games from April 7 to 21.

"We're racing against time," Albano told Veritas over breakfast at the Rizal Memorial Sports Grille. "We now have less than three months to prepare."

Albano thinks his team is bet-

ter man-for-man than the RP Youth squad that regained the Asian Youth crown two years ago in Manila. But the successful 1982 RP Youth cast had terrific teamwork, developed through six months of intensive preparations supported by businessman Eduardo M. Cojuangco.

"Our team is not only short of time, but also of funds," sighed Albano, a statement which he did not have to elaborate. Right there during the interview, he was not sure where to charge the bill incurred by his boys for their breakfast of coffee, bread, and egg. He said: "We've been told that the ambassador (Cojuangco) will help the team financially; we hope he can come to our rescue now."

Despite his problems, Albano looks undaunted. This is his third assignment as head coach of a national team and his first appointment that did not draw any objections from some other interested parties who claimed he was too inexperienced to coach a national team.

This is only his seventh year of coaching, three years of which were spent as high school coach of Letran. After helping the school win the NCAA juniors' title in 1979, Albano was given the break to coach the senior team in the same league.

He did not win the title on his first try in 1981, but his team finally won it in 1982 and success-

fully defended the title last year for Letran's first back-to-back victories in 22 years.

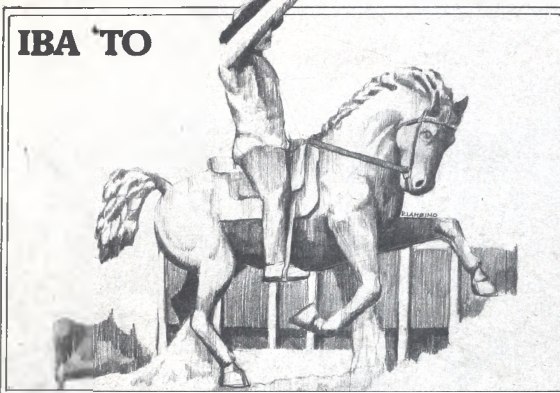
Albano had a series of good breaks after that. He was appointed to assist coach Nathaniel Canson in the Asian Games in New Delhi where the locals landed fourth place. He also coached the Philippine team that won the second ASEAN school youth championship.

But even with these credentials, his detractors believed he was not ready for his appointment as head coach of the national basketball team to the SEA Games held in Singapore last year. He disproved all of them by steering the locals to a gold medal finish in the biennial games.

Still, he himself admits he lacks coaching exposure, so he goes out of his way to consult with the likes of Ron Jacobs, Nilo Verona, and Nemie Villegas. "I think my administrative know-how and understanding of human behavior compensate for my lack of coaching experience." And he proved that in only two years as a national coach.

Right now, his main concern is how to jell his boys into a cohesive team. "If think if they can develop unity and camaraderie among themselves in time for the Seoul meet, I think we can still be champions," he said, stressing the if due to the time element involved.

# IBA TO



## Ito ba si Bonifacio?

Si Andres Bonifacio, ang Supremo ng Katipunan, ay natanawhan ng mga tao sa anyo ng isang poble ng paesano. Tipikal na paglalarawan sa kanya ang nakasumbbrero, nakadamit nang butado sa dib-dib, nakalalis ang pang-baril at nakatapak. Ang hawak niya ay gulok at sa tagiliran, sa kabila ng kalubitan, may sukos siyang babal.

Isang kakaibang rebulto ng bayani ang matatagpuan sa Imelda Park, Baliuag, Bulacan. Ipinakikita

roon si Bonifacio sa puso ng isang heneral ng militar — naka-uniforme, kumpleto ng aklat at baril, may bota, nakakabayong pero nakasumbbrero pa rin ng balangote — ang tanging natirang pagkakaikilan sa kanya bukod sa anyong pisikal ng mukha.

Ayon sa rekord, ang rebulto ay "pananaw" ng eskultor.

# Mapanirang uod ng mga komersyanteng kagawad

NI AGUSTIN V. TORRES

ANO ANG isang komersyanteng kasanguni?

Kasama ng pulitika at kabobohan sa pagbabatas, ang pangungumeryo ng isang kasanguni — kagawad ng sanguniang bayan/lungsod — ay isang mangangaw-sak na pwersa sa loob ng lehislaturang lokal. Iyon ang uod na sumisira sa kapulungan. At sa kasalukuyan, hindi na kakaunti ang komersyanteng kasanguni. Napakarami na ng mga kasanguniang gumagawang sa kanilang pwesto para makapaghanapbuhay.

Ang komersyanteng kasanguniang nagwawakas, sumisira sa kapulungan ay naboboto sa tungkulin dahil sa pagpapahalaga ng tao sa kagawad ng isang lokal na populadoridad sa pamamayan, partikular sa kani-lalang sektor. Ang nakalahampas sa poble ng botante ay ang katotohanang hindi katiyagan ng mabuting paglilingkod ang magandang kwalipikasyon ng akademiko ng lokal. Kahit ano pa ang katatagan ng akademiko ng isang opisyal ng bayan, kung wala sa sarili niya ang hangad at debosyon magsihi sa tao, hindi siya magiging epektibo sa anumang posisyon.

Madaling makikilala ang isang komersyanteng kasanguni. Pinag-hahangaran niya ang mahalal sa tungkol para lang matulungan ang pribadong hanapbuhay. Tuwiran o hindi man.

Sa pagbabatas, unang kondisyon ng mga kasanguniang ito ang interes ng sariling ne-



goso o hanapbuhay. Kung, halimbawa, mayari siya ng isang malaking kultihan ng katad sa bayan, natural na sumalangit siya sa ordinarang mahikipit na kumokontra o nagpaparusa sa mga hanapbuhay na nakapaparapuri sa kaniyang pangalan. Sa kaniya, ang pananagumpay ng negosyo o pamumuhunan niya ang tanging mahalaga.

Ginagamit din ng opisyal na ito ang "posisyon" para mapabura ang hanapbuhay niya (na, mangyari pa, nakapangalan sa iba) sa mga pakikipagtransaksyon sa governmentong lokal. Kung may gasolinahan siya, tiyak na siya na ang makapagsu-suplay ng gasolina sa mga saakyan ng lokal na government. At tiyak

ang pagbabayad sa kaniya dahil isa siya sa mga nagpapatibay ng badyet ng bayan.

Ganoon din, kapag nakikita pagtanasasyon sa mga pribadong tao o kumpanya, pinalilitaw niya ang bigat ng nakatamang "kasanguni" sa kaniyang pangalan. At dahil alam ng kasap niya na iyon — ang tibulo — ang kasanguni niya para makagawa ng pabor o makapamerhoso sa si anumang negosyo sa sinumang tao mula sa loob ng silid-pulungan, tintingan niyang iyon ay mensahe na ng blackmail. Ang kasanguni ay kasingkahulugan ng pagpasabi ng:

"Pag hindi mo ako pinaburay ay alam mo nang pwedeng may mangyari sa hanapbuhay na hindi mo magugustuhan."

Dahil sa kaniyang kalikasan, ang komersyanteng kasanguni ay mabilis umaksoy sa

mga resolusiyong nagbibigay ng mga dagdag na biyaya sa mga kawani at opisyal (na kinabibilangan niya), pagtataas kaya ng sahod o nagkakaalob ng mga kapaburhan tulad ng libreng paggamit ng sasakyan o makinanya ng bayan.

Isa pang lantad na katangian ng ganitong kasanguni ang kahusayan niyang magtayo sa mga nughahanan na nangangalangan ng tunglo na pinsyalat. At kung masukol naman, magaling siyang tumanggap maghabi ng mga pagdadahalan.

**Mapanira**  
Ang pagkakaroon ng komersyanteng kasanguni sa sanguniang bayan/lungsod ay nangangahulugan ng pagkamutit ng kapulungan. Dahil sa paluko na ang pagbabatas o nakatunon sa ilang interes na personal ng mga kasanguniang nangungumeryo, nakakaligtan no-

# PINTIG

## Tama na ang isang Marcos

NI AGUSTIN V. TORRES

ANG PUBLIKONG kasamtayan ni Asaniblyan Teodoro C. Nativityd kay Labor Minister Blas F. Ople sa pangalangang-panguluhan, bagaman it malinao na isang maniobrang pamulitika, ay mahalaga na para pag-ukulan ng pansin. Gina-wa ni Nativityd ang pag-endorso sa kalalawigan nang parangalan si Ople bilang natatanging anak ng Hagonoy, Bulacan.

Walang nakatitayak na hindi parte ng istratheyang at ambisyon ni Ople ang maging pangalangang pangulo sa kahit, pangulo ng bansa. Kuli na sinong pulitiko ay nangangarap na magkaroon ng pagkaka-taon sa puwesto ng pangulo. Sa kaniyang pulitikal, iyon ang pinakamatatayog na hangarin.

Ngunit sa kalagayan, ang maaring huluan ng tao ay ang uri ng administrasyong mabibigay ni Ople sa Pilipino. Kasaligan ang paniniwalang ang administrasyong maihaaharap niya sa ay simpleng eks-tensyon lang ng rehimen Marcos. Itutalak niya ng pagiging-strategist para sundan ang halimbawa ni Marcos — isang strategist din.

Sa maraming nakaraang pagkakaataon, na-

ipakita ni Ople ang kasamtayan sa gamit ng istratheyang mga gawain. Istratheyang ang naging tungkod niya para mahalal sa Batasan. Istratheyang ang naglapit sa kaniya — bagaman, sabi ni Mel Lopez, hindi ganong malapit — sa Malakanyang. Istratheyang ang ginamit niya para masamantalang ang siwayson at mapalakid ng Ministry of Labor and Employment ang pangalan niya bilang minister. At, ngayon, istratheyang rin ang ginagamit niya para mahalal uli sa Batasan. (Nihilang niya ang mga lider-pulitiko sa pamamagitan ng alaala-cards, calculators, at pata ng hamon. Sinusuwya niya boto ng maliit sa pamamagitan ng pangangon-pangangon sa mga natitawag sa trabaho, at, pang-akit ng pagkumpleso sa ibang bansa paris ng Saudi Arabia.)

Hangang mga restatista ng istratheyang matagumpay na nagawa dahil tiyak na mahalaga. Ngunit malupit — napakalupit — ng epekto nito sa sumula. Halimbawa, sa ilalim ng administrasyong strategist na si Marcos, napasama ang bansa kasunod ng pagpalto ng

isang istratheyang nagiging dahilang ng pagpabog ng pamansang ekonomiya. Sa hangad niyang maikubli ang radikal niyang pamumulitikan maaring salungatin ng tao kung manulit, ang mga niyang ipinangutang ng bansa para pununatin sa pagpapasagana ng kabuhayan ng tao. Ang taong busog ay hindi magrebelde; hindi makakikita sa opresyon — ganoan man iyon kalantad — para mag-alumpit hit at unalna. Ngunit sumblayang ang istratheyang — hindi unmutal ng kabuhayan sa kabilang ng bilyun-bilyong puhuhung isinaksak doon. At ngayon, gutom ang mga tao, kulang sa hanapbuhay; hindi naman matulungan ng pamahatungan kuba pa sa di-nababayaran utang.

Na ilang kayang dahil ng tao ang mga epekto ng isa pang pagbabayad ng istratheyang mabiyadong mapangwaksak iyon at higit na sa kanyang daning ng Pilipino ang anumang magsamang bunga. Sa terminong pulitikal, tama na sa Pilipino ang isang Marcos. Ang isa pa uli, halimbawa mang nasa likod ng bagong pangalan at mukha para ni Ople, ay kalabisan na.

on ang kabutihan ng mga tao. At ang mga tao, na hindi naman nanatiling tang sa mga nangyayari, ay nagkakaroon ng pangit na mga sa kagawad, sa sanguniang at sa pamahalaang lokal. Dumudulo ito sa pagkawala ng kanilang pagtititawala ng kahit paniniwalang lang sa totoang layunin ng administrasyong pampamayan.

Sa harap ng ganitong patuloy na erosyon ng pagtititawala ng tao sa lehislaturang pamayan ng mga kagawad, sa pagpawala ng mataling kabang. Kailang magpilig ang pagkawala ng tiwala roon ng tao.

Magbanggit na isang mabatang parangang eleksyon. Ngunit hanggang hindi nagiging malatino ang tao bilang botante, hindi magiging totoang ang kontensyong eleksyon ang magpapatibay sa sanguniang at magbabalik sa pagtititawala roon ng mga tao. Hindi dapat na basta boboto lang ang botante. Dapat siyang bumoto nang walang impluwensya ng emosyonalismo o mababaw na pagpapahalaga sa mga katangian ng kandidato. Sa ganito, ang eleksyon — ipinalalagay ritong magiging walang impluwensya ng emosyonalismo o mababaw na pagpapahalaga sa mga katangian ng kandidato. Sa ganito, ang eleksyon — ipinalalagay ritong magiging walang impluwensya ng emosyonalismo o mababaw na pagpapahalaga sa mga katangian ng kandidato.

# Palaisipan

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PAHALANG:

- Sanga
- Taki
- Alabeto
- 11 Uul — lamang-yug
- 13 Malaking ibon
- Pacno
- Mabilis na hayop
- Asta
- Tali
- 19 — lubi — isang halaga
- 21 Custo
- 22 Ribon
- 23 Laki
- 24 Paala
- 25 Pinangungunahan
- 26 Bayag
- 27 Ha
- 31 Unang oras
- 32 Los Angeles
- 33 Taba ng alimango
- 34 — A — sanga
- 35 Ilantad
- 36 Himala
- 39 Hangin sa tiyan

5 Panuro

6 Bantog

7 Pang-ukol

8 Bunga ng pangangasinan

9 Sahod

10 Isuot

11 Abala

12 Mawaring giwagaw

13 Isang himaymay

14 Sahod

15 Natatangi

16 Kapok

17 Hayop na alaga

18 Tagtag

19 Sibuhay

20 Dating pagkabuod

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**THE WET LOOK** of the early '70s. The metallic of the '80s. The biggie. The pirate. The prairie. Crumpled, trendy, funk or mini, these fashions have come and gone, making their debut on the campuses, a reflection of student lifestyles and concerns.

When 1983 brought down two hard-punching devaluations on the economy, coupled with nationalistic uprisings from the most unexpected people, in Ayala, Liwasang Bonifacio, Mendiola and even Ongpin, students all over were the first ones to feel the crunch and they showed it... outwardly.

There was a gradual transition from gel-haired young men sporting executive-type shirts with rolled sleeves and slanted gabardine slacks (making *paporma* to the girls,) to polo- or t-shirt-and-denim-clad guys wearing rubber shoes that replaced shiny leather footwear.

Most noticeable were the fashionable *wawaw*s who used to parade around exclusive schools dressed in shrieking YSLs or Chanel's or their local versions to match clicking P-20's heeled shoes and randy accessories in their quest for *bonggan*. They have now become a minority among those inconspicuously dressed in simple blouse-d-skirt pieces, wash-

# FROM AYALA TO U-BELT

## Dressing up (or down) the studentry

MARY ANNE Y. SARTE  
AB English III, St. Scholastica's College

and-wear pants and reasonably-priced shoes.

The shift of preference to more comfortable, casual, simple and cheaper clothing is now a trend among the studentry.

The reason? "*Taghirap, et' (a season of hardship)*" wails one coed. "We can't afford the things we used to wear - unlike before."

Unlike before. There was a time when the campuses set the trend among the young with flashy, expensive-looking-and-smelling clothes which, although they covered the body, bared the tastes and pocketbooks of their wearers. P100 then could buy you a set of coordinates in exclusive department stores; now it can buy you only one piece of garment in a general merchandise store. If you're lucky, you could catch it on sale on some busy sidewalk or underpass.

Perhaps, the change to simpler styles reflect changing attitudes and the more practical clothes maybe a reaction which smacks of protest. Clothes have been used as a response to the times. Generally



speaking, the remarkable change in manner of dressing betrays a formation of a different set of values and attitudes toward present societal conditions.

An example is the Ninyomianya boom after Aug. 21. Whoever thought that after 13 years of an autocratic regime, nine of which were spent under martial rule, people would march out in the streets all clad in yellow paraphernalia: t-shirts, caps, visors, headbands, pins and ribbons? Campus sidewalks were (some still are) flooded with these items, the students walked around or joined rallies in *Nasa-an ang Kalayaan?*, *Who Killed Ninoy?*, or *Stop Repression*.

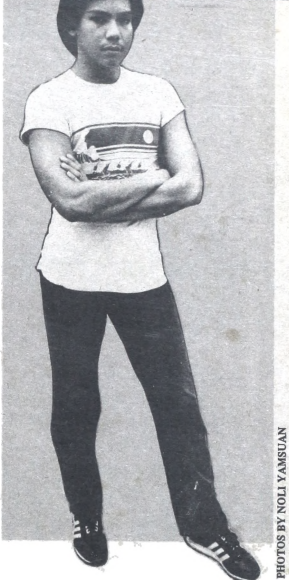
Of course, there still



are the remaining waves of flashy dressers along the University Belt area or around other schools in the metropolis. But for the most part, the conclusion holds true,

a general consensus agrees upon by students:

Simple. Cheap. But with lots of character. In economic and political crises, there is no



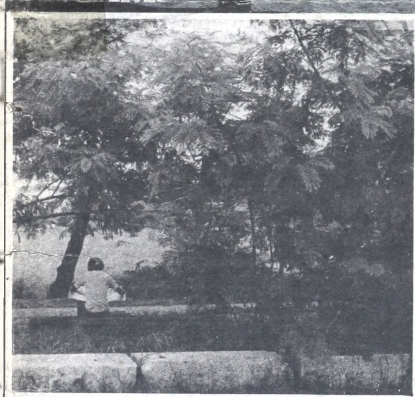
PHOTOS BY NOLLI YAMSIAN

**FASHION'S TRANSITIONS.** Campus wear has changed noticeably in the last two decades. Today, students go for cheap, simple clothes with lots of character.

choice left but to adjust our lifestyles to survive, even if it means dressing down to the basics. Dressing up for an occasion? Might as well parade

your leftover party clothes for the last time before another devaluation crunches through. Just hope it will not leave us naked. And bloody furious, too.

## CAMPUS CROPS



PEACE & QUIET. In this shady spot on the Lyceum grounds, one young man takes time off from the maddening whirl of student life.

## SLF Focuses on First Quarter storm

By HENRY TUASON  
(CEGP News Bureau Director)

STUDENTS representing national organizations, local alliances and student councils met in the 14th Student Leaders' Forum at Vinzons Hall, U.P., Diliman on Saturday, January 21.

The meeting was held in preparation for National Youth Week (January 24-31) and the commemoration of the First Quarter Storm (FQS), a series of huge

demonstrations staged during the first three months of 1970.

Guest speaker at the forum was Armando J. Malay, former U.P. dean and at present chairman of the Kapisanan Para sa Pagpapalaya at Amnestsya ng mga Detenido (KAPATID).

Malay reminisced about the days of the First Quarter Storm,

the "UP barricade" put up by students sympathizing with the then striking jeepney drivers, and the rally, sponsored by the National Union of Students of the Philippines, that was held in front of the old Congress building when President Marcos delivered his State of the Nation address. That rally ended in a confrontation between the students and the police.

## BULLETIN BOARD

CULTURE and technology, art and science, were the themes of the University Week celebration at the University of St. Tomas from January 23 to 29. The week featured an impressive line-up of activities, organized and sponsored by the various colleges in the university as well as by the Central Student Council.

Among the activities were library and art exhibits; a math quiz, an essay-writing contest, and an on-the-spot painting contest; talks on philosophy, science education, and economics; an international film festival; a fashion show, called "SARIAN-YO," sponsored by the College of Architecture and Fine Arts; and, on January 27, a celebrated mass in honor of St. Thomas of Aquinas, patron saint of UST.

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University Week ended on Sunday, Ja-

nuary 29, with a parade and review of the UST Corp of Cadets and the presentation of sponsors, held on the university's parade grounds at 9 a.m. to honor the Rector, and the UST administration and faculty.

In the afternoon of that same day, the UST alumni had their general homecoming at the Education Auditorium. This was sponsored by the UST Alumni Association.

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This week promises to be still very colorful at the UST. On February 9, the university's annual song festival will be held at 5 p.m. in the College of Medicine Auditorium. Participants are choral groups from the different colleges within the university.

On February 8, 10, and 12, the English Department will sponsor a "Drama Showcase," to be presented at the Education Auditorium

at 2 p.m. It will feature various types and techniques of drama.

Finally, on February 11 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., *The Variarian*, the university's official student publication, will hold the Intercollegiate Quiz Show with participating teams from the different colleges of the University.

All these activities are open to the public.

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Activities in other campuses meanwhile have lived the first week of January.

Scheduled for Janu-

ry 25, Wednesday: a symposium on "Youth in Response to the Signs of the Times" at the College of the Holy Spirit, and another CEGP Coffee Hour on the "First Quarter Storm" at Trinity College.

For January 26, an overnight vigil at the UP sunken gardens was planned as part of the commemoration of the First Quarter Storm. Also scheduled for the FQS celebration was a culminating activity on January 31 at the Liwasang Bonifacio.

### TO BUDDING WRITERS AND CAMERA BUGS:

Veritas welcomes contributions of articles by and/or about the youth, as well as candid shots of campus scenes for the Campus Crops section. All manuscripts should be typewritten and double-spaced. Published contributions will be paid for. All articles and photos should come with the contributor's name and phone number (if any). Student contributors should also include their course, year and school. Send all contributions to: *Veritas* Youth, Bustamante Press, Panay Avenue, Q.C.

### KINTIN SAKITIN

BIKING IS EXERCISE.



JUST BALANCING YOURSELF ON IT IS A TREMENDOUS EXPERTISE OF ENERGY.



By JYM E. ANDALIS



