

DATELINE: U.S.A.

Because of its great relationship and importance to our present-day Filipino life, we are reprinting from The Faculty Jottings, official publication of the USC Faculty Club, excerpts of the letter of Miss Concepcion Kodit received by one of our Faculty members. Miss Kodit, a member of the Faculty staff, is in the United States, together with nine other grantees, to pursue higher studies in Guidance and Counseling under the Smith-Mundt scholarship grant.

When she wrote this letter she was the "adopted" daughter of an American family in Ohio, joining the family in their daily chores and seeing the American way of life. She wrote:

"Women here are the same women creatures we have in the Philippines. Sometimes bussing your ears off, sometimes so disturbingly silent; sometimes gossipy and poking their noses into other people's affairs, sometimes so unconcerned about their next-door neighbors; etc. I guess we must be the same all over.

"I've never seen fish here except the fish design in the drinking glass of Martha, my youngest American sister.

"The homes here do not use outside color as beautiful, or should I say, as radical as ours. The climate might be the reason. Neither are the houses artistically constructed. I have seen more beautiful artistic houses in the Philippines. But there is usually a healthy allowance between the houses here, displaying generous lawns, giving a wealthy atmosphere.

"I am amazed at the tremendous alacrity, agility, and efficiency of the American housewives in going about their chores without any help. Looking at them is enough strain on my heart... I am still in a pinch trying to catch up with the American pace of life...

"I have been invited to many parties here where I have to help set the table, prepare the meal, cat with my host or hosts, and finally do the dishes. Whereas in the Philippines, the guest sits pretty and waits avidly for the call to the table, here he or she (usually she) should be armed with the willingness to work and the knowledge of where to put the napkins, how to make real good punch, how to eat bread and butter, when to use mustard, etc. The Filipino boys and girls still have a long way to go to be more civilized and cultured in this aspect. A few of my Filipino companions here make a laughing stock of themselves for being all thumbs in this side of life. And two boys did not know they have to put the bedsheets over them instead of sleeping on the rough bed covers. It's a big shame for the Filipinos to travel and be helplessly ignorant of the things that happen in everyday life....

"Making our Filipino ideas and ways of living get across the American mind and snapping back the right answers to their many questions about the Philippines constitutes a pretty big assignment to us. One has to know Philippine history and geography forward and backward to be able to feel safe and to sound intelligent. Not just hitting on top or else he gets on the thick! I'm glad I'm a history major and was able to teach history!

"While plenty of dollars can bring a traveler to distant places on luxury and pleasure, I still think a lot of common sense and social graces can bring him further to the richer and more pleasant values of life. They are the best pennies one can arm himself with.

"...I am not hungry for Filipino food but I do hanker very much for Filipino news..." #

COMMUNISM . . . CHRISTMAS . . . THE COLLEGE STUDENT

by Urso Peñalosa

YOU, the college student, are the rich soil which the communist conspirator hopes to till. Your mind is the farm in which he hopes to implant alien seeds. Your subsequent acts are the products whose growth he strives to direct. The harvest which he seeks is the destruction of our democratic processes of government. What then can you, the college student, do about Communism? What does the spirit of Christmas say about this ideology?

First, know Communism. Distinguish promise from reality. The mess of pottage which he offers to tempt the weak, the shallow, and the short-sighted is the illusory promise of material security. That promise has seduced millions of people. It has made many a million slaves, the master being always the State.

Communism is the antithesis of Christianity. It is immoral. The end justifies the means, so it says. It feeds on ignorance. It lives on lies; it corrodes honor and destroys integrity.

To think, therefore, of the true meaning of Christmas is to be aware of the evils of communism. The spirit of Christmas teaches peace; communism advocates bloody revolution. The spirit of Christmas preaches fraternity; communism injects hatred, hate and mass discontent. Christmas reminds the world of the virtues of morality; communism seeks to uproot humanity from its Godly course.

Communism wears a cloak of varied colors. Know these colors by deeply instilling into your heart the meaning of Christmas, the precepts of Christianity. #