

## WE SHOULD DECIDE WHO SHOULD TAKE OVER —BUTZ AQUINO

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By CHIT L. MACAPAGAL

EVEN IN death, there is no peace for Fr. Edgar Kangleon. The 30-year-old priest who shocked a Christian nation with a confession of communist elements within the clergy and the church hierarchy died reportedly in a vehicular accident on New Year's Day. But circumstances surrounding his death raised more questions rather than ended his tale.

Both in Manila and in faraway Leyte, his home province, people wonder whether the accident was for real. Foreign and domestic press agencies of "salvaging" are still so fresh in the minds that a similarity is hastily struck and a detailed account of the accident does not seem to convince.

Cpl. Ronald Lee, the driver of the ill-fated Kharman Guia the priest was on an overnight stay in the residence of Col. Ed Ermita that Sunday, Jan. 1. The priest and his military driver rode a Land Rover to the officer's house at Camp Aguinaldo where Fr. Kangleon was also residing. The officer was not home but left word for the priest to wait.

Instead, Fr. Kangleon decided to visit two other persons, Fr. Pared at the

Villamor Air Base in Nichols and a mutual friend in nearby Pasay. At the Kangleon instructed his driver to go back to Camp Aguinaldo and exchange Land Rover for the Kharman Guia. The latter vehicle was lent to him by Markina Formation House Rev. Felicio Baybay. Around 10:30 p.m., Fr. Prospero Wides, CCM, for Camp Aguinaldo with Cpl. Lee driving the sports car, was with the priest from this moment on till the time of his death. Fr. Kangleon wanted to stop over at Greenhills for a "smoke. And so they de- parted.

On the corner of Ortiga Avenue and Conquistador Street, a Toyota Crown driven by Jose Balonan was struck by a passenger collided with the Kharman Guia. The police blotter records the time of the accident at 11:40 p.m.

Cpl. Lee and Balonan stopped at the scene. Mrs. Balonan called the investigating patrolman, had multiple physical injuries. Fr. Edgar Kangleon suffered brain damage and was clinically dead when admitted at the nearby Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital. The status of the priest upon hospital admission is confirmed by a letter from Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, O.S.A., who described the accident. The letter states: "Fr. Kangleon did have an accident... was there to administer the last sacraments... was clinically dead because of brain damage, on arrival but was kept alive since his vital functions of breathing and blood circulation were still present."

One doctor who was able to see Fr. Kangleon in the Intensive Care Unit

REPORTS FROM THE SOUTH

The unending controversy of Fr. Edgar Kangleon



Baybay church in Leyte: Kangleon's death left deep imprints of pain.

said that the priest's heart-beat was revived by a machine. The respirator, however, failed to register any breathing signs. Any chest movement, he added, was due only to the pumping action of the respirator. The same doctor observed that there were no bruises or wounds on the body. He saw no signs of a vehicular accident, broken ribs. But he said there was a hematoma (blood clot) on the frontal (right side of the forehead) extending to the optic area.

NEWSPAPER reports on the accident said the priest was hanging on to life and that his doctor had given him 48 hours to live. Friends of the attending physician talk about the doctor's consternation at the alleged false report. The doctor apparently re-

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ber of the CPP. Fr. Kangleon also implicated brother priests and fellow rector by mentioning another detainee's confession that the Cabatagan Social Action personnel were all involved in the revolutionary movement. The staff totaled 18 people: five priests, two nuns, 10 lay workers and one vicar general.

Fellow priests, then as now, did not believe Fr. Kangleon issued his statement without a great deal of pressure. A classroom in the seminary said: "He was a good friend, sincere and loyal. He wouldn't just leave you if you needed him. One of his teachers in the seminary pointed out that the priest's confession was too detailed and sophisticated" for the writing style of the seminarian he used to know.

Still, in the seminary, Fr. Kangleon showed certain respect for the laws but could surface under abnormal conditions. Classmates recalled that he was one too fond of drinking. His ordination was postponed for some time according to disobedience. Once, he was even linked with a nurse who was pregnant.

But a close friend said this only describes the priest before his transformation. The friend said, "Edgar was rather carefree but when it came to social action, there was a dramatic change in him. He then looked like a man who had a definite direction in life."

An information kit on the priest's confession prepared by a nun's analysis includes a nun's analysis of the priest's confession. The first few days of his detention, the nun recorded the priest's confession. The priest who said that Fr. Kangleon was concerned about his confession was in the church work while in prison.

On Nov. 27, 1982, a group of clergymen and journalists were able to see the priest's photograph that Kangleon was in fine condition. Later, however, Fr. Kangleon himself said that the detained priest complained, "Para akong nag-iisip ng coastero... please get me out... don't blame me if I go out under a gun." He also allegedly related that the army chaplain in the detention camp told him that "it is not for us to sign a statement."

His brother Junior told Verter that he was one of those able to visit the priest at this point. He said Fr. Kangleon wanted "wanting to get out

of something. "Gusto niyang umalis." Fioddo refused further comment.

THE KANGLEON confession hit the diocese of Cebu like a storm. The Social Action Center ceased operations. Of the five priests served with Presidential Commission Orders, one after has been arrested. Fr. Pete Luero, of the 10 lay workers, two have signed confessions and are now working in the military camps. The rest, including the nuns and the vicar general, are all in hiding.

The debris of the storm is still apparent in Catabalogan. Rebuilding is slow and difficult. Church support from lay people has weakened. The residents have had too many lessons to be learned from the case of Fr. Kangleon. Fr. Paz and the wave of arrests of the clergy in 1982. The priests in the diocese have grown wary. In fact, it is about two out of five clergymen it is said. Every action they take, every visitor they receive all in some way, is being scrutinized. The priests say. There are some who have been polarized. It's social action program hanging over the diocese. The priests have had to be retrained. Fr. Kangleon after his arrest last October, he was in a word to describe Fr. Kangleon at the time of his arrest. Fr. Kangleon, it would be "remorseful." The Cabatagan priest said that Fr. Kangleon regretted putting so many of his fellow priests in danger.

Msgr. Petilla also said Fr. Kangleon wanted some advice. He was confused. Where would he go? He feared the ostracism he would get from his fellow priests. He heard the NPA.

After due consultation with his superiors, Msgr. Petilla continued, "I advised him not to leave the diocese immediately after the amnesty." Msgr. Petilla said that Fr. Kangleon was in the custody of Binop Maguway when he was "the safest place" for him to stay.

He also advised Fr. Kangleon to work for his papers so the priest could go back to his home after five years. Fr. Kangleon liked the idea but he was not allowed to leave by mid-1984.

Fr. Kangleon told Msgr. Petilla, "I will start life anew." But there will be no new life to start. The tale of Fr. Kangleon has ended in the coastal town of Baybay. Peace and justice are now being sought by his home gone to welcoming arms. His brother priests, traveling six hours by bus from Catabalogan, accompanied Fr. Kangleon to his final resting place in Baybay.

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SHROUD OF FEAR IN CATABALOGAN. ONLY A day with some priest, Fr. Kangleon, Leyte, and I already speak in a whisper, ask my questions in a hush but we go about my research in the most unobtrusive manner. The sensitive, touching a subject like Fr. Edgar Kangleon and the social action program of the church in the south is gauged by the almost paralytic fear of the military. The wounds caused by the purge of the clergy of neighboring Samar in 1982 have not healed. The thin line between subversion and sabotage grows thinner still, sometimes diminishes in many cases, in this part of the mountain barrier. Realizing that a simple pastor will not cause actual up-

they help by organizing some kind of fact-finding people to be more vigilant of their rights, exposing military abuses. For their pains, they are suspected of having communist links and fearfully arrested. So they go about the streets of Tacloban, looking over their shoulders every now and then to see whether they are being followed. Lo and behold, easily acquired the habit. They point out to me certain individuals who they believe that belongs to intelligence people. They can spot an enemy in a crowd. Although made aware of this, I still lack the courage to do so.

around Tacloban, where they seem to be constant watch by the military. A mere visit, they say, will not be enough to save the military files. In search of my story, I ignore the warnings of my friends, prepare to put on my steepest smile as soon as I reach the portals of the military camp. My hosts in Catabalogan are only too careful. Interviews are conducted inside houses with curtains drawn. They say that informers abound in the houses around which they have a good view of the rectory with its big open windows. I am also told to be on the moonday bus back to Tacloban. Any later time would risk too much danger on the road. Of course, I'm more than happy to oblige.

On a quick tour of Catabalogan with my priest-guide, I notice the stark difference between the soldiers and their counterparts in Tacloban. Whenever my priest/friends and I drove

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# EDITORIAL & OPINION

## Concerning the death of Father Kangleon

**H**E WAS mortally wounded in an automobile accident, according to news reports. Because of brain damage, he was pronounced "clinically dead" on arrival at the hospital. Two days later, the last signs of any vital functions flickered out and he died.

On the face of it, one more accident victim in a metropolis not noted for safe, disciplined driving. One more routine entry in the police blotter out of scores of such cases each day, each week. Nothing out of the ordinary, one might say.

But the death by accident of Fr. Edgardo Kangleon now seems to have been anything but routine or ordinary. Rumor, conjecture and certain curious details about his confinement in the hospital have conspired to reopen, as it were, the file on Father Kangleon, to fan renewed interest in his case.

To begin with, Father Kangleon was no obscure, anonymous cleric. His social action work, his arrest and detention by the military, his TV confession to charges that he was involved in the Communist underground—all these had turned him into something like a famous figure, a news event. Not a few regarded him as a symbol of sorts, one of the more militant in the growing number of priests and nuns driven to "subversion"—by working for the poorest of the poor, the downtrodden.

There are many questions surrounding Fr. Kangleon in life and in death, questions whose answers may never come to light. But they must be asked still — if only to remind us that the Christian vocation to go to the aid of the least and the most oppressed of our brothers can exact a heavy price, in our Christian country, in our time.

Father Kangleon lived, suffered and died in a time of assassins.

## A fatuous answer

**S**OME of the best-known and/or most respected names in the political opposition have written an appeal to President Marcos. Through a full-page, paid advertisement (one wonders why they had to pay to get their appeal published), they defined what the government ought to do to make the May 14 parliamentary election a meaningful exercise in democracy.

Among other things, they said that the President should divest himself of his legislative and emergency powers and that the four vacancies in the Commission on Elections be filled through the appointment of impartial and unbiased men of integrity.

President Marcos chose not to answer the appeal, but one of his spokesmen did. And it was an answer so fatuous, so cloaked in the arrogance of power that it gave substance to the claim—aired in this paper last week by Banker Enrique Zobel—that the government has a duty to feed us the truth, all it does give us is a lot of hogwash (the term he used was more pungent, but we changed it to hogwash in deference to the more faint-hearted among our readers).

The spokesman said that the opposition's appeal was in fact no appeal. It was, in truth, the party's platform. A platform, he lectured the oppositionists rather pompously, is supposed to be put into effect—after the party has won power. What they were in effect asking, he went on, was that the government should implement it for them.

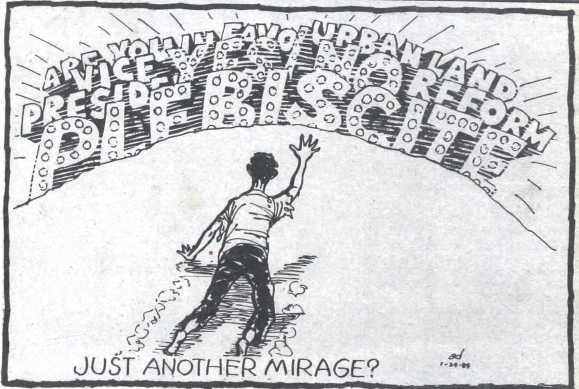
We can grasp the fatuousness of this position more fully if we were to put it in another context.

Suppose the coming election were a boxing contest between the titleholder, the government, and the challenger, the opposition. Suppose the challenger is convinced that, as arranged, the champion has everything in his favor: the judges, based on their past record, cannot be expected to render a just verdict. They will look the other way if the champion resorts to foul tactics. More important, in the unlikely event that the challenger should knock out the champion, the boxing commissioner could be depended upon to step in, and, by virtue of the powers he has, declare the bout a no-contest by stripping the new champion of his crown.

If the challenger knows all these things, shouldn't he ask for a change in the composition of the board of judges? Failing that, shouldn't he at least ask that the number of judges be increased to the limit allowed by the law? Shouldn't he demand, finally, that the boxing commissioner be stopped from using his extraordinary powers and nullifying the results if they are unfavorable to him?

But the presidential spokesman concerned says no. The challenger does not have the right to ask any of these things. First he must win the fight, no matter how lopsided the odds are stacked against him.

If these conditions remain, there is no point in continuing with the bout. The challenger would be well-advised to wait and fight another day—in another way.



In the light of Truth

SALVADOR P. LOPEZ

## The first 'burgis' demo

**O**N January 20, 1970, exactly fourteen years ago, the professors of the University of the Philippines marched in peaceful and orderly demonstration from Agrifina Circle behind the old Legislative Building to the gates of Malacañang. No, they were not demanding higher salaries and shorter hours, or asking President Marcos to resign: that wasn't necessary since he was in the second year of his second and, presumably, last term of office.

The professors were marching to protest the police brutality that had shocked the nation on the night of January 26 when scores of students were injured, some seriously, while demonstrating in front of Congress where President Marcos was delivering his State-of-the-Nation address. The U. P. professors were making history that day, and as President of the University I felt proud to be marching with them, not shouting slogans or bearing placards but with quiet dignity, behind the colors of the University and the banners of the various colleges and units.

At a meeting on January 20 the faculty had expressed alarm over what they saw as an emerging pattern of repression of civil liberties. They stressed the need to consider the incident of two days before in the context of a broad program of action to bring about the political, social and economic transformation of Philippine society. They formed a committee to draw up a Declaration to be presented to President Marcos at the end of a peaceful march and demonstration the following day.

In front of Malacañang, while some professors were speaking over a jeep-borne loudspeaker, I led a group of about 20 deans and professors through the gates and into the palace reception hall, on the invitation of the President. There we had a "confrontation" with President Marcos who was surrounded by the highest officials of the land. We presented to him the text of our Declaration.

After reading it, President Marcos demanded an explanation for the statement in the Declaration concerning the "emerging pattern of repression of the democratic rights of the people." He demanded proof of the charges of the "politicization of the armed forces" and "foreign interference in our national affairs" which he described as "mere generalizations." On the issue of police brutality, he said he had no power to control the police forces that were under the authority of the local governments.

In reply I assured President Marcos that the demonstration of professors had been spontaneously organized out of genuine sympathy for their students and a deep concern over the government's increasing reliance on the use of violence to stem the growing clamor for social change. The Declaration was being presented to him in the hope that the brutal repression of the student demonstration of January 26 would not be repeated.

When asked by President Marcos to explain why the U. P. faculty was holding the administration "accountable and responsible" for the "pattern

of repression," one professor quoted Rizal's statement that when a house is in disorder, the master of the house can and should be held responsible. This dictum was part of Philippine political philosophy, he declared.

The officials around the President bolstered his stand by saying that they were just as concerned as the professors over the welfare of the student youth. Indeed, a joint committee of the Senate and the House was scheduled the following week to conduct hearings that would go into the roots of student unrest. The hearings would give the faculty the opportunity to present evidence in support of allegations contained in the Declaration. The professors accepted the challenge.

The U. P. side, which included three vice-presidents, three deans, two directors, seven professors, and two administrative officers emphasized the nature of the Declaration as a statement of concern rather than an accusation, and the compelling moral obligation felt by the professors on behalf of their students. They reminded the President that the thinking of the professors covered a wide ideological spectrum since the University itself was bound to reflect all the shades of opinion that were found in the society of which it is a part.

The President was reminded that his overwhelming success in winning an unprecedented second term the year before had aroused fear of one-man rule that would seek to perpetuate itself in power. The statement drew from Mr. Marcos the assurance that he would not seek a third term. The discussion then turned to the fear that the deliberations of the Constitutional Convention would be manipulated to favor the few who were seeking a monopoly of power as against the interests of the people.

The meeting was brought to a close with President Marcos observing that he had rarely found occasion to engage in candid intellectual discussion, and that the exchange of views with U. P. professors was therefore welcome—a sentiment which the faculty members reciprocated.

Thus, the "confrontation," far from being a meeting between an angry and intolerant President and a group of tongue-tied and intimidated professors, turned out to be a full, frank and forceful exchange of ideas and opinions. The President employed all the gambits familiar to an experienced debater, including the rule that the best defense is offense. He was aggressive at all times and pressed his points relentlessly. But the delegation of U. P. professors, far from being overawed, quickly recovered from the initial shock of the Presidential debating tactic, rallied their forces, and answered him point for point, firmly yet respectfully. ■■■

So, if you want to know where the peaceful Makati demos of office workers, young executives, and burgis intellectuals had their beginnings, you could perhaps trace these to the historic march of U. P. professors of January 29, 1970. But the latter went through the palace gates, right into the *sanctum sanctorum* of what later turned out to be an absolute, perpetual dictatorship.

## VERITAS

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The human factor

MELINDA QUINTOS DE JESUS

Opposition demands impossible to fulfill?

**S**URELY nothing pleases President Marcos more than to have it said by even the most well-intentioned observers that the demands of the opposition are impossible to fulfill. The view reflects the blinders people so readily put on when viewing Marcos and his regime of 18 years. Now instead of forcing Marcos to heed public clamor, there are those who think his critics have asked for the moon. But the conditions set forth by 29 leaders of various political parties, movements, and citizens' groups force the return to democratic processes as a basis for holding elections. And their position simply states that the elections can be meaningful only if substantive reforms take place that will restore and extend human rights, set limits to the president's power to legislate, to make key appointments and to declare Martial Law.

It seems obvious that without such changes the elections can only be an empty exercise, effecting nothing more than a cosmetic pretense at democracy.

The primary question then is not how Marcos can implement these changes but whether Marcos should put all his resources to bring about these reforms.

While Marcos' loyalists insist that these requirements are unrealistic, no one has yet given any satisfactory reason why the President should continue to hold the kind of powers that contradict the point of the elections. And we don't think any reasonable person can without justifying Marcos as a dictator.

But are these conditions really impossible?

Occasional reflections

JOAQUIN G. BERNAS, S.J.

Crusading against illegitimacy

**A** FREQUENTLY heard argument against participation in voting exercises is that participation in plebiscite or election will legitimize an illegitimized regime. Two years ago, you don't vote in the plebiscite of January 27 or you will legitimize the 1973 Constitution under whose auspices the plebiscite will be held. After all, when we ratify an amendment to a contract, we also implicitly ratify the contract which is being amended, don't we? Again, don't vote in the May 1984 elections because you will thereby legitimize the constitution and administration under whose auspices they will be held.

The argument is very attractive especially if you are not somehow guilty of some act of legitimation. It should be less attractive for the tainted. These include those who voted in past plebiscites, referenda, and elections, especially those of 1976, 1978, 1980, and 1981; those who ran an office in these elections; those who have recognized the courts under the 1973 Constitution by litigating in them, even if only to ask for release on *habeas corpus*; those who have supported the present regime by their tax, even if it was only tax; those who have accepted employment in the government and government owned corporations or entered into contracts with them. Even those who ask the President to resign implicitly acknowledge that he is occupying a position from which resignation would be legally meaningful. When you add all these up, you could have a substantial majority of the electorate.

Thus, an intriguing question: how many times do you have to legitimize a constitution before it becomes legitimate? In the electoral exercises of 1976, the legitimization argument was used. People voted. Did that mean that legitimation succeeded? Again in 1978, in 1980, and in 1981 appeal was made to the legitimization argument, again people voted in substantial numbers. Did that mean that legitimation triumphed once again? The legitimization

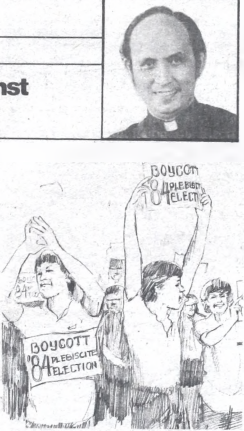
Most people do not have the kind of legal and constitutional know how to prescribe the means for implementation. But common sense suggests that for the man who so craftily wrenched such radical powers from the constitution, it should be relatively simple to work out the procedures so he can "legally" give them up.

Assemblyman Francisco Tatad's recent column in *Mt. and Ms.* sets forth very concrete ways of implementing the reforms. Our space does not allow us to cite them all, but the repeal to amendment 6 deserves attention. There are those even in the KBL who are of the opinion that amendment 6 ceases to be in force upon the establishment of the new Batasan. Tatad suggests two things: submit the amendment for ratification simultaneously with the May elections or the Minister of Justice could write an opinion expressing the above judgement and the President could issue his agreement in a formal statement. Simple!

As with all the other conditions, the means really depends only on the President's desire and will to examine the covenant he claims to hold with the people and to be faithful to it.

All through the years, Marcos has had people playing the game his way, by his rules. And he has become so clever at it that he has been able to project an image that has Western observers praising his "adherence to democratic principles" even as he exercises autocratic powers.

It is time perhaps to force the man to be true to his claims. To call his bluff. To withdraw the benefit of the doubt about his real intentions. And that time is now.



argument is once again being used in 1984. If people vote in droves, will the 1973 Constitution be finally legitimized? Or is that a relevant question? To my mind, it is an unwarranting question. Constitutional legitimacy is not eternal virtue. Constitutional legitimacy is principally a function of the system that is in power. The final arbiter of the legitimacy of a constitution of a system is the Supreme Court of the system. According to what norms? Naturally, according to the norms of the system by which the Supreme Court's bread is buttered. The Justices of the Supreme Court swore to defend this 1973 constitution and not the 1935 constitution or the Malolos constitution. And the constitution of a system means what the Supreme Court of that system says it means. Frustrating, yes; but that is basic constitutional dogma. Thus, arguments based on constitutional legitimacy will not get us anywhere. The real challenge is how to dismantle the structural horrors and stop the behavioral aberrations of the regime. We did finally classify the Japanese puppet republic of the 40's as *de facto* merely, but only after liberation.

Straight from the shoulder

LUIS D. BELTRAN

The Perez calculator and the Noah Principle



**T**HE other day, Local Governments Minister Jose Roño said that all the demands of the Opposition had been met. He said he understood why they were continuing to threaten to boycott the elections. I happened to run into one of the KBL advisers at the 365 Club and he also said that indeed all the Opposition demands had been met.

"They're unreasonable, that's what they are," said Gerry, the KBL adviser, "the President has already agreed to hold elections by district, restore the Vice-Presidency, call for a new registration of voters, amend the Constitution, why are they still complaining?"

"Well, some of them complain that even if a National Assembly composed of Opposition men were to be elected, the President still has powers under Amendment 6 of the Constitution and he could simply abolish the National Assembly."

"Well, isn't that good? What if the Assembly degenerates into a body like the Old Congress, always investigating. What if they started investigating the PLDT, the Meralco, the CDCP, PAL the coconut agencies, the sugar agencies — or worse, the University of Life or the Film Center — why, our entire democratic system could be threatened. They might even try to impeach the President and that would be like trying to defrock the Pope. Definitely, the President has to make sure he can make them jobless at any time."

"Well, Manfredo, Jose Concepcion says the Comelec should be reorganized and membership should be completed so they can find out why there are 1.4 million voters in Metro Manila than there are supposed to be."

"That Concepcion, he should stick to food and air-conditioners. Why should he object if there are 1.4 million voters not accounted for? It simply means that elections in Metro Manila are so exciting that even people from Ilocos Norte and Leyte vote here. Besides, the administration is trying to solve this. That's why we have the Population Commission, to encourage family planning. In a few decades, there will be less voters."

The Opposition says the President shouldn't be allowed to retain his power under Amendment 6 of making his own laws, because if the Assembly passed a law and the President didn't like it, all he has to do is issue a presidential decree and repeal that law."

"Well, isn't the Opposition always advocating a system of checks and balances? That's an empty, empty check!"

"Yes, but the Batasan can't repeal presidential decrees."

"Well, that's what you mean by balance."

"But what about the main fear of the Opposition that even if they participated in the voting, their votes might not be counted, or worse, they may be counted in favor of the KBL."

"That's the trouble with the Opposition. We are already doing everything to make sure they can vote, why should they insist that their votes be counted?"

"You mean you aren't planning to even count the votes?"

"Of course, we are. The people who will count are already being trained on the Perez calculators and the Noah principle."

"What are the Perez calculators?"

"They are a New Society invention named after one of our truly great mathematicians. They can add and multiply — but one can make them subtract or divide."

"What about the Noah principle of counting votes?"

"The principle is really very simple and was derived from the instructions given by the Commander-in-chief to Noah."

"Can you please summarize the Noah Principle?"

"It's really very simple: go forth and multiply."

Voting on the plebiscite questions this week is like eating durian — the first two questions on the restoration of the Vice-presidency and the election of assemblymen by district are the sweet meat. To get to it, however, you have to endure the

terrible smell, which comes from the questions on urban land reform and disposal of public lands.

The first two questions give back something that martial law took away; the last two is the ammunition the KBL needs to win in Metro Manila during the May elections.

Urban land reform and socialized housing — in case you were in Saudi Arabia and haven't heard — is taking somebody's private land away and "selling" (?) them to squatters on easy terms.

How is the game going to be played in May? The Minister of Human Settlements, Mrs. Inelda Marcos, has already unfolded the scenario at the Folk Arts theater. She says she will raise P60-million to buy the land on which her ZIP projects are located, and sell them to the resident (i.e. squatters).

An example of two such ZIP projects are those within the property of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, where some 25,000 squatters have taken over some 20 hectares of land which the UP had intended for academic buildings, staff housing and dormitories. The 20 hectares have been declared ZIP projects by the University of Human Settlements. Mrs. Marcos has followed up by conceding ownership of this land to the squatters residing on them by saying publicly that she intends to buy the land and then resell them to the "residents."

Okay, this will give the KBL about 5,000 votes in the UP area, but what will some 9,000 administrative personnel, 3,000 faculty members and some 35,000 students and their parents say. Some of them are even boarding with these squatters because there is limited faculty housing (only 800 houses) and no new dormitory has been put up in the thirteen years that Mr. Marcos has been "reforming society and saving the Republic."

Are these squatters your destitute type from the slums, stereotyped by pictures of unkempt people wearing tattered clothes?

A survey done by the University of the Philippines two years ago showed that these "squatters" hold down permanent jobs, live in well-built (even concrete) houses, own cars and appliances, take in boarders, are engaged in business etc. — in fact many are richer and have higher standards of living than UP professors. All Mrs. Marcos has to do is take a look at the places involved, and see if its worth sacrificing academic programs, student dormitories and educational facilities — just to get a few more votes.

Incidentally, Mrs. Marcos came to the UP in August, 1981 together with Highways Minister Jesse Hipolito and Deputy Minister Jolly Benitez. At that time, she ordered the building of new dormitories for UP students. If she takes out her two year old newspaper clippings, she will see the pictures.

Not of the dormitories — but of the Promising of them. And where are the dorms? In the Promised Land, probably.

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:** From Central Bank Governor Jose B. Fernandez on why the negotiations for re-scheduling the foreign debt might take some time: "This is not like going up to a bar and ordering a drink."

Absolutely right, Jobo. At a bar, they don't ask you if you have money to pay for your drinks. And they don't ask if you can add or subtract.

And the bartender acts as if he believes you if you tell him you have \$600-million more where that came from.

At the Malacañang clinic recently, rural health doctors were given a lecture by a Malacañang physician on what was good for their health.

"Remove the word YELLOW from your vocabulary and ANG BAYAN KO from the list of songs you know", thundered the Malacañang doctor.

INTERVIEW: AGAPITO 'BUTZ' AQUINO

I didn't want anyone to say that I organized KOMPIL to promote my personal ambitions'

By ROCHIT TAÑEDO

AT The Ateneo where he went to college, Agapito "Butz" Aquino had dreams that could make the coeds swoon, and a soulful look that could make them melt. Today, five months after his brother was gunned down from the airport tarmac, the dimples have become fatigue lines, and the soulful look is framed by crow's feet around his eyes.

Today, also, this businessman-turned-actor-turned crusader is playing the most important role of his life, not for laughs or for kicks, as before, but for keeps. He wants to make sure that Ninoy did not give up his life fruitlessly, that by his dying, he would give his countrymen a new life in freedom.

In the beginning, as Ninoy lay in state in his Times Street house, Butz's goal was much more modest. Like his mother, Doña Aurora, all he wanted was to let the world know what "they" had done to him. And so, with a few friends, he started planning the funeral route to give the largest possible number a chance to pay their final tribute to the fallen man.

But you think we went to 20,000 to line the route?" Butz asked anxiously.

When two million turned out, and when the crowded media chose to treat the event with a deafening silence, when people he did not even know started going to Butz to express their shock and outrage, when he realized that, throughout the land, only the voice of Radio Veritas was daring the people to listen, he began to see the situation in a new light.

"I saw the outpouring of grief and anger," he told *Veritas* in an interview held at his office in Makati, "and I realized they could be harnessed to bring about what Ninoy came back for." And, realizing this, he resolved to devote all his energies, all his waking hours, to give bone and sinew to the slogan just when gaining wide acceptance: "Ninoy, hindi ka nag-iisa."

In the beginning, his efforts were diffuse: marching in a rally here, speaking at a college convocation there, perorating at a meeting somewhere else. The response of the crowds was exhilarating and heady. It gave him a big lift hearing his brother's name being chanted everywhere, seeing him hailed as the new national hero.

But, in the silence of his room at night, as he tossed restlessly in bed, sleep eluding him because he was so homesick, Butz started having serious thoughts. After the rain of yellow confetti, what? After the rally fever had subsided, what had last gone had been shouted, what will have been accomplished?

"I saw how disunited the various opposition groups were," he said. "I saw also how they were united only in their common desire to see the Marcos rule ended. But they were working at cross-purposes, there was no unity in their methodology. And I wanted to myself something has to be done. We should decide who should take over."

And that was how the Kongreso ng Mamamayang Filipino, now better known as KOMPIL, was born. As he envisioned it, KOMPIL would be a multi-sectoral national coalition of all the civic organizations and concerned citizens who would address the question: is there life after Marcos? And they would do this in a two-day consultative congress which would be held in early January at the Ateneo covered courts in Quezon City.

People whom he approached for support of his idea, Butz admitted, were frankly skeptical. "What good would come out of a dialogue among people who are meeting each other for the first time?" they asked. "I would like to see the civic organizations and concerned citizens who would address the question: is there life after Marcos? And they would do this in a two-day consultative congress which would be held in early January at the Ateneo covered courts in Quezon City."

When he finally decided to go ahead, he put together into the committee, and he infected all his co-workers - volunteers, all of them - with his enthusiasm. But, as the date of the congress drew ever near, his mood grew more frustrated. The tensions increased, and everyone was high-strung.

"No one is permitted to get sick," he told his group with a wry grin. The quip dissolved the tension, and it was all systems go.

In retrospect, Butz admits, it was inevitable snags that blight such gatherings as (misplaced) registration forms, insufficient food trays, etc., the tomes of ever near-melting snow, the frustration of the Muslim areas. It arrived at a consensus of alternative leaders as varied in background as Enrique Zobel, the business tycoon, and the Communist party head now languishing in detention.

Butz beamed as he went over the roster, a roster so distinguished that it sounds like a who's who of Philippine politics, even of Philippine society. "It was decided," he said, "that I would be the names of those in the magic circle, names like Laurel, Diokno, Tañada, Rodrigo, even Sin."



Butz Aquino: "Ninoy came not in the spirit of confrontation."

In fact, the only name that was conspicuously missing was that of Aquino himself. But Butz had a ready explanation for that one. "I made it clear that I did not wish to be included," he said. "I didn't want anyone to say that I organized the KOMPIL to promote my personal ambitions."

He did say that his ambition right now is to see the diverse political groups united so they can present a common front. The leaders - if we are to judge from the full-page advertisement published recently - may already have been reached.

The advertisement, coming in the form of an appeal "for meaningful elections," contains the signatures of the heads of various groups: UNIDO, Liberal Party, COMPACT, JAJA, to mention only a few - and adopts a uniform stand vis-a-vis the May 14 elections. The leaders - and they include two Aquinos this time, Butz and Cory, Ninoy's widow - asked the President to accede to certain demands - the release of political prisoners, the appointment of additional Comelec commissioners, the lifting of the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, the relinquishing of his extraordinary power to issue decrees, the compiling of a new voters' list. If these demands are granted, they said, they would participate in the May election. If not, they would boycott.

The fact that the opposition groups, hitherto believed to be hopelessly and irreconcilably fragmented, have joined hands and presented a united front, Butz is convinced, has made "Marcos vulnerable." And this, he adds, "is a victory in itself."

Just five months ago, when Butz's own life was circumscribed by his bustings (an automotive agency, fiberglass furniture) and his stage acting,

The day he was interviewed, he had to rush to the airport to fulfill a speaking engagement in Makati. Then he had to rush back to Makati to address a rally at Ugartite Field. And, in the evening, he had to meet his daughter's classmates at the UP School of Business Administration and brief them on the current situation.

He expresses amazement over the fact that he seems to be in such high demand as a speaker at rallies nationwide. But those who have heard him do not share that amazement. They say that Butz has the same spell-binding quality that Ninoy had, and they point to the fact that in Leyte, which by any yardstick can be described only as "enemy territory," he kept a crowd of some 30,000 asking for more.

Butz does look like Ninoy in many ways. He may be leaner, but the family resemblance is unmistakable. Doña Aurora, in the widely circulated Betamax film on Ninoy, "Eleven Days in August," adverted to this similarity. She said that the airport crowd waiting to welcome Ninoy on August 21, shocked into silence when news of the assassination reached them, suddenly peeked up when Butz showed up. "They thought that he was Ninoy and that the news of the assassination was not true," she said.

The resemblance is more than skin-deep. In their bubbling personality, their outgoing attitude, their gift of gab, they are very much alike. But their communion is complete in their adherence to the ideal of national reconciliation.

"Ninoy came, not in the spirit of confrontation, but of reconciliation," Butz told *Veritas*. "He did not believe in violence. And those of us who are left to carry on, we can do no less."

It is incredible how a man can age so fast. One has heard of people turning grey overnight,

and this is almost true in Butz's case. People remark how much he has aged in five months. But he also says that he has never felt better in his life.

Perhaps this is because he knows he is not alone in what he is fighting for. The Aquinos, for one, have rallied behind him solidly in standing fast on KOMPIL's demands. "If the six demands are met, the whole family will campaign for participation; if not, everyone of them will campaign vigorously, and I say vigorously for a massive boycott. After all, we are fully prepared either way."

Butz's hectic schedule shows his determination to spread the demands of KOMPIL. "I believe these demands are the people's demands."

And it seems that almost everyone has joined cause with Butz: business, the Church, the farmers, students, laborers are all agreed that the battle is still far from over and that rallying behind KOMPIL could yet be the best weapon to pursue the struggle for freedom.

few would have dreamed that the debonair man-about-town would undergo such a magical transformation within so short a time.

He remembers, with quiet embarrassment, that he was so "unpoliticized" that he didn't even know what "sabotage" meant. When he was told that that was what had been done to his brother, he began his re-education.

Today, much of the flamboyance and the ebullience that he had been known for has gone. In their place has come an unobtrusive self-confidence, a quiet determination to work for the cause. He has little time for his business now, and no time at all for his acting, but he grows more and more convinced that he has found new meaning and purpose in his life.

people on its Armed Forces.

- Lt. Gen. Jesus Vargas (Ret.), Brig. Gen. Luis A. Villarreal (Ret.), Col. Francisco R. Isidoro (Ret.), Brig. Gen. Dionisio S. Ojeda AFP (Ret.), Brig. Gen. Simplicio F. Rivera (Ret.), Brig. Gen. Aristote T. Ferran (Ret.), Brig. Gen. Restituto B. Sances (Ret.), Col. D.C. Victoria (Ret.), Maj. Gen. Antonio de Veyras (Ret.), Maj. Gen. Daniel G. Lopa (Ret.), Brig. Gen. Crispino de Castro, AFP (Ret.), Col. Constantino R. Velasco, AFP (Ret.), Col. Jose R. Austria (Ret.), Col. Salvador C. Medina (Ret.), Col. Alberto Cruz (Ret.), Col. Antonio N. Moreno, Col. Ramon F. Mendoza, Col. Arturo Prudente, Brig. Gen. Albert B. Friedlander, AFP (Ret.), Commodore Simeon B. de Castro (Ret.), Col. Marcial Moral (Ret.), Col. Augustin M. Micanon (Ret.), Col. Luis Rivera (Ret.), Col. Adnan A. Tallaw (Ret.), Col. H.B. Tuzon (Ret.), Col. Godofredo Juliano (Ret.), Brig. Gen. Ramon Z. Aguirre (Ret.), Col. Florentino Cuarema (Ret.), Col. Leonardo Mayuga, and Col. Juan Arroyo (Ret.).

LETTER

A question of honor

THE President stated that the assassination of Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr. was a national shame. Since his assassination was executed while he was in the custody of, and being escorted by, elements of ANVSECOM, a unit of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the reputation and image of the AFP has been seriously affected and blemished. This stigma has naturally tainted the reputation of not only officers and men in the active service, but also those who have given their lifetime service to the nation and are now in retirement. The families of these officers and men so affected share in this unfortunate situation.

If investigative bodies and individuals believe that by covering or shielding those responsible for such a tragedy are doing the AFP a favor, they are entirely wrong.

For so long as those responsible, regardless of who they are, are not exposed, tried and punished, all other members of the AFP, especially the officers and men who risk and even lose their lives almost daily in the different fronts in defense of our country, will always carry that stigma so unfairly attached to them on that fateful day of 21 August 1983.

It is, therefore, the awesome duty of any Fact Finding Commission or investigative body, as well as eye-witnesses, civilian and military, to lift that stigma resting so heavily on the AFP. On their consciences lie such a heavy responsibility that will haunt them the rest of their lives if they do not act true to their oaths. Unless this is done it may be difficult to restore the much weakened confidence of the

LP SECRETARY GENERAL SAYS:

Presidential decrees, proclamations, etc., make '84 elections meaningless

By ROCHIT TANEDO

ABRAHAM Sarmiento, Secretary-General of the Liberal Party, revealed in a last Saturday...

have created two law-making bodies, the Interim Batasang Pambansa and the...

"The coming elections are absolutely meaningless because of Amendment No. 6," said Sarmiento...

The Official Gazette and the Kid Books published by the Batasang Pambansa after every session...

Third Regular Session - 49 statutes, 18 resolutions; Fourth Regular Session...

an estimate because of the many gaps in our law, said Sarmiento...

Volume 74, No. 76, Administrative Order 180 to 433 are missing. Besides, the number has, in all probability, grown...

"In view of all this, Sarmiento concluded, the elections this year are meaningless, the Batasang Pambansa being newly a useless, expensive and obstructive second legislature."

"Amendment No. 6 proclaimed to be in full force and effect on October 27, 1976 by Proclamation 1595...

With the pass of presidential decrees, letters of instructions, letters of authority...

There are eight ways by which presidential decrees, letters of instructions, letters of authority...

The number of presidential issuances are but a small fraction of the total number of laws enacted...

'84 election anomalies: A reprise in '84?

By GIGI OYOG

NO WONDER people are loathe or hesitant to go to the polls because they know the results of past elections have not always reflected the popular will.

several private vehicles were seen taking non-Tondo routes to different polling centers to vote.

that policemen, Metrocom troopers and various officials and various brigades openly campaigned for Marcos in the voting centers.

threatening people to vote or face imprisonment of six years, much longer term than what PD No. 1296 provides.

Such past exercises were riddled by fraud and cheating, prompting the voters to ask, "Will the 1984 elections be any different from the Batasang elections in May be clean, honest and only as elections should be?"

At the Marulas Chapel in the Manila Elementary School in Caloocan City, people not listed as registered voters were allowed to vote.

At the Villamor High School in Dikman, the Manila School in Manila, Kabataan Barangay voters were campaigning even inside pool booths.

At Torres High School in Tondo, the results of the balloting were prepared while voters were still being allowed to vote.

Presidential Decree Nos. 1296 and 1052 intimidated voters by compelling them to participate in the polls or risk imprisonment from one to six months, disqualification from holding public office and deprivation of the right of suffrage for six years.

In Pasig, a group of military men were seen voting repeatedly at Presidential Decree No. 1052 Elementary School in Caloocan City, using certificates issued by barangay officials and involving some "special order."

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At Torres High School in Tondo, the results of the balloting were prepared while voters were still being allowed to vote.

Presidential Decree No. 1053 warned that those who did not vote would either be jailed or placed under house arrest, or ordered to render public labor in government projects or report daily to the local police chief for the duration of the sentence.

The use of dubious credentials and names from barangay captains allowing just about anyone to vote, was rampant in Pasig, in Barangay Bagong Ilog, Ador Reyes, and Radio Veritas reported who questioned this procedure on election day, was roughed up by Mayor Emiliano Cruncho Jr. and his policemen-bodyguards.

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In Tondo, Manila, 16 public utility jeeps, three military jeeps and

Volunteers reported

the principal posted a memorandum threatening people to vote or face imprisonment of six years, much longer term than what PD No. 1296 provides.

At Torres High School in Tondo, the results of the balloting were prepared while voters were still being allowed to vote.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

MILLIONS of Filipinos are expected to troop to the polls this Friday to decide whether or not the proposed amendments to the Constitution should be adopted. However, provisions embodied in the proposals are still not too clear in many people's minds.

President to the Batasang Pambansa.

the presidential elections in 1987, the Speaker of the Batasang Pambansa shall act as President until the President shall have been elected during a special presidential election

is not more than 24 hectares.

Representation to the Batasang Pambansa

A Vice-President shall be elected at the same time with the President.

Distribution of Public Lands

Private corporations or associations may rent develop or be permitted to use forest lands with a size of not more than 1,000 hectares. The area, however, may be increased by the Batasang Pambansa upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority.

The two hundred members of the Batasang Pambansa shall include: a) representatives elected either by the different provinces, highly urbanized cities, or districts of Metro-Manila; b) elected or selected representatives of different and other sectors, labor, and other sectors, and c) members of the Cabinet appointed by the President.

The manner of election and removal from office, as well as the length of stay in office, of the President and the Vice-President shall be the same.

The Batasang Pambansa shall decide the size of public lands to be acquired by any individual, corporation or association under the following conditions: a) Private corporations or associations may only acquire public lands declared as alienable or non-forest areas by renting it for a fixed period. The size of the land shall not be more than one thousand hectares.

The State shall implement a agrarian reform program wherein public lands shall be distributed to qualified tenants, farmers and other landless citizens in accordance with limitations set by law.

Basico

BRIEFING POST

SOARING INFLATION RATE

The country's highest inflation rate recorded since 1975 was posted at 26.1 per cent last month, according to a report submitted to the Monetary Board last week by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

The report showed that the country's inflation rate started to climb by late October when the Philippines declared a moratorium on debt payment. The devaluation of the peso in October also helped to spur inflation, the report said.

MORE LAY-OFFS

With the labor sector still reeling from the impact of the economic crisis, the Philippines' government, which closely followed the airport killing of former Senator Benigno Aquino, Jr., 110 companies are reportedly preparing to lay-off about 68,000 workers in the next few months.

These firms are scheduled to either shut down or suspend normal operations because of difficulties in getting vital raw materials abroad. Another 38,000 workers will also be affected by production slowdowns in some 122 firms, according to a survey conducted by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines.

PVTA ANOMALY

An anomaly involving millions of pesos was recently unearthed in the Philippine Virginia Tobacco Administration (PVTA) in which high-ranking officials have been accused of misappropriating funds of the tobacco firm which has assets totaling P17,378,486. PVTA sources revealed that most of the PVTA's money have been used in the money market, time deposits and in other banking institutions by highly-placed officials of the firm. The same sources said that these officials used, without PVTA funds in business deals which are specifically prohibited under the tobacco firm's charter.

GRANT THEM, PLEASE

Cagayan de Oro City was the scene last January 18 of an emergency meeting by the FDP-Laban's national executive committee calling on President Marcos to grant the six points being asked by various opposition parties, movements, and organizations to insure clean and honest elections in May.

Mayor Aquilino Pimentel, Jr., who is still under house arrest, said if Marcos is sincere about holding clean and honest elections, he should grant these demands.

Former Tarlac Congressman Jose S. Cojuangco added that "unless the credibility of the democratic processes is restored, our country's state of crisis can only worsen."

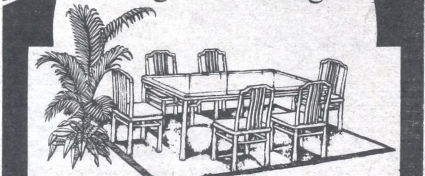
WORKERS' MARCH MOVED

A lot of people thought that the workers' rally last January 22 simply fizzled out, but the Kalsang Mayo Uno says it has simply been moved to February 5, also at the Lungsod Bonifacio at 3 p.m.

Called the "Poverty and Unemployment Rally," the march is aimed at protesting the widespread poverty besetting Filipino workers and the people at large, massive unemployment and lay-offs, low wages, the high cost of commodities and the continued suppression of workers' democratic rights.

10% OFF on items shown! Good up to Feb. 12 only!

Elegant Dining



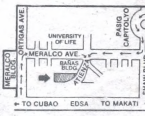
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## IMAGINARY CONVERSATIONS

## On the Great Plebiscite

By LUIS D. BELTRAN

IT WILL make President Marcos very happy to know that people are taking the Great Plebiscite seriously, as shown by a walking survey I took this weekend all over Metro-Manila.

I knew that I should start with the opinion-makers first of all and what better place should it be than the editorial offices of *Veritas*. I spotted our editor, Felix, in his usual mood of reading more contributions and liking it less.

"Mr. Bautista, what do you think of the Great Plebiscite?", I asked.

"Have you submitted your column, Beltran? Are you trying to be funny again by putting me in jail and depriving my 12 children of their father?", he snarled, as he broke a pencil.

Retreating hastily, I bounced off our reporter, Tress.

"What do you think of the Great Plebiscite, Tress?", I tried again.

"Get away from me, you dirty old man.

Can't you see I'm trying to finish this story about another decadent exhibition of ostentatious consumption of wealth by the comprador class of this fascist society", she shouted. Tress graduated pleasantly from UP.

Leaving the building, I almost bumped into Mel, our managing editor, struggling through the door with her usual load of attache case, vouchers, contributions, siopao and Coke. Behind her was our special events reporter, Chit, just back from Leyte after covering the story of Father Kangleon.

"Mel, what do you think of the Great Plebiscite?", I asked, holding the door open for her.

"What we need is a new political structure that begins with issues rather than personalities, with citizens rather than politicians. . . don't you read any other columns but yours? Where's your Tuta story, hah, where is it?"

"Later, M e l U h, Chit, what do you think of the Great Plebiscite?"

"Yes, but are you going to Vote?"

"Vote, why should I vote and legitimize this oppressive and repressive regime which grinds the people's rights in the dust. Anyway, we are on our way to picket the polling place."

"Yes, but afterwards, are you going to vote?"

"Of course not. We are all going to boycott. Besides, how can we vote when we are all below eighteen?"

"Afterwards, I went to Broadcast City to continue the survey and asked one of the newscasters, Pinky, the same question.

"Of course, I think it's a great idea, especially the one about the vice-presidency, provided the KBL makes sure that my boss, Bobby, is the vice-presidential candidate in 1987."

"But Pinky, nobody can do that, not even the KBL."

"That's what you think. Don't you remember that in 1978, Mr. Nobody, Mr. Neverheard and Attorney Amnesia all got more votes than Ninoy Aquino?"

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Going down to Ma-

Manila South Cemetery and saw a friend of mine, Freddie, who claims to be working for the Comelec.

"Freddie, what are you doing in the cemetery? Aren't you supposed to be working on the Great Plebiscite?"

Why are you going from tombstone to tombstone?" I asked, following him around.

"Can't you see I'm working? I'm checking the voter's list."

"What? How can you check the voter's list in a cemetery?"

"Simple, I have to make sure that these voters have at least six months' residence."

"While waiting for a taxi, I saw the car of Assemblyman Johnny and waved frantically. The car stopped and he motioned me to come in."

"Sir, are you on your way to vote in the Great Plebiscite?"

"Great Plebiscite? What's so great about it? It's already cost me a lot of money!"

"But I thought you would be happy, especially now that the elections for assemblymen might be by district in-

stead of by region."

"You think that should make me happy? Well, let me tell you. When the elections were by region, I never ordered new eye-glasses because it didn't matter whether I recognized my constituents or not, but now I have to be able to recognize everybody, especially mayors, governors and barangay officials. I used to spend all my time in my house in Forbes Park, but now I had to rebuild my house in my hometown. In addition, I now have to accept invitations of everybody who drops dead so his relatives will vote for me. I'll even have to keep this Mercedes out of sight and buy an ex-taxi, swap my Brioni suit for *manong*, drink from the same glass as my ward leaders, eat with my hands and ruin my manicles. I tell you the President doesn't know what sacrifice we have to go through to support him."

"That's terrible. But then, couldn't you quit?"

"What and ignore the voice of the people?"

"The voice of the people? You mean your constituents?"

"Of course not. I was talking about my wife, who likes traveling on a diplomatic passport and getting dollars from the Central Bank at the official rate. My relatives who are all casuals in government ministries and my mistress who smuggles dollars to Hong Kong every

week. If I quit, they would all kill me."

"Excuse me, but you can't build a house here," I said timidly, "this is the monument of our great patriot Jose Rizal. Besides, this is Denza's Park, you can't build a squatter shanty on it."

"Squatter shanty, hah? Haven't you heard of the Great Plebiscite?"

"Yes, but what has that got to do with it?"

"Well, as soon as they approve the amendment that the President can give land to the landless and dispose of public lands, I am going to be the owner of the Rizal Monument."

As I was about to re-monstrate with him, another man passed by carrying a large load of old galvanized roofing material, cartons and second-hand lumber.

The prospective owner of the Rizal monument, whose name I learned was Monching, called out to the other man.

"Oy, Voted Ambo, have you voted in the Great Plebiscite?"

"*Siempre, Fare. Yes na Yes talo na sa Urban land reform.*"

"The man then hurriedly left, followed by dozens of others, all carrying pieces of lumber and roofing material.

"Where are they all going?" I asked Monching.

"They are going to take their share of the patrimony of the nation and participate in the First Lady's livelihood and shelter program by starting their own Zonal Improvement Program or ZIP site."

"And where are they going to do that?"

"Why, in Malacanang Park, where else?"

# San Miguel Beer



# No ang beer



# Why not devalued further?

By JAIME V. ONGPIN

THE QUESTION of whether the peso will be devalued further is being raised by everyone these days. Although the question is deceptively simple, there is unfortunately no simple answer.

My own response to the question is that there is no economic reason for a further devaluation at this time, but unless public confidence in the present exchange rate is established and maintained, it will not be possible to prevent further repeated devaluations in the future.

Each time the peso has been devalued in the past, we have been given the usual economic reasons by our financial authorities, namely, that the "price" of foreign exchange has to be increased in order to correct our balance of payments deficits by encouraging exports and capital inflows on the one hand, and by discouraging imports and capital outflows on the other hand. Considering, however, that the peso had just been devalued to P11/\$1.00 as recently as June 23 for these very reasons, it is obvious that the further devaluation to P14/\$1.00 on October 5 was different from the usual exercise because it was precipitated by factors other than the usual economic problems.

(See related story on page 12)

In fact, the government itself publicly admitted at the time that the October 5 devaluation was intended to stem the rapid deterioration in our foreign exchange reserves due to "massive capital flight" in the wake of the Aquino assassination. What the government failed to admit publicly until the months later, however, was that the capital flight was not a new phenomenon. It had originally reported because \$600 million of our reserves never left the country after all — the amount was not there to begin with! (The Central Bank had been "window-dressing" its foreign exchange reserves for some time by swapping pesos for

short-term dollars on deposit with PNB; but somewhere along the way, the window-dressing turned to outright fraud when \$600 million of these deposits were no longer with PNB but in the United States to reflect this amount as part of its reserves!)

While it is now clear that the post-assassination capital flight was overstated by \$600 million, it is also clear that our foreign exchange reserves were overstated by the same amount. Which is like saying that our problem is not so much massive hemorrhaging as it is chronic anemia (complicated by a pathological lack of integrity).

Notwithstanding the peculiarities cited above, however, the fact remains that the magnitude of the capital flight since August 21 has been severe, and that speculative pressure on the peso has intensified even more despite (and perhaps partly because of) the October 5 devaluation. The black market premium over the official exchange rate had been approximately 20 per cent before October 5; by November-December the premium had increased to 30 per cent and currently it is around 60 per cent. What is causing this heavy pressure on the official exchange rate is a further devaluation at this time relieve this heavy pressure?

I submit that there are two principal factors behind the extraordinary pressure on the exchange rate as manifested by the present 60 per cent premium for black market dollars. The first of these is the fundamental law of supply and demand, i.e., there are far too few dollars available at the official exchange rate to satisfy even the normal demand for dollars for the importation and suspension of all foreign trade financing. In addition, the supply of dollars from the United States is being further reduced by devaluation because more than a few exporters are probably trying to maximize their peso profits by using the fundamental law of supply and demand to their advantage. The second factor is that the October 5 devaluation because more than a few exporters are probably trying to maximize their peso profits by using the fundamental law of supply and demand to their advantage. The second factor is that the October 5 devaluation because more than a few exporters are probably trying to maximize their peso profits by using the fundamental law of supply and demand to their advantage.

abnormal contraction in supply and an abnormal intensification of demand.

The second factor behind the pressure on the exchange rate is lack of confidence in CB's ability to defend the present rate. It is apparent to everyone including the CB that we simply do not have adequate foreign exchange reserves at present with which to defend the P14/\$1.00 rate, or any other rate for that matter. And until such time as the CB is able to reschedule our foreign debts, restore normal trade financing, and obtain new loans to rebuild our international reserves, this situation will not change.

Given the foregoing factors, common sense should tell us that there would be no point whatsoever in devaluing the peso further at this time. In fact, to devalue at this time would only aggravate rather than alleviate our problems. To begin with, such a move would only serve to reward currency speculators by proving they were right all along, and this in turn would provoke even greater speculation in the future against the new official rate, no matter how high that new rate is raised. Even more importantly, a further devaluation would inflict increasingly painful and perhaps unacceptable social costs upon those who are least able to afford such costs at a time when the population is already reeling not only from severe inflation due to the last two devaluations, but also from widespread unemployment due to the unavailability of imported raw materials.

What is needed most at this critical time is to persuade exporters who may have been stockpiling finished goods, delaying shipments, postponing collections or undervaluing their exports in order to keep domestic inflation and prices at reasonable transaction levels. If normal export levels can be quickly restored, the effect will be to increase the supply of official foreign exchange and thereby enable CB to ease the pressure by making more dollars available to those who need the greatest need. CB has complete historical records of every exporter's transactions prior to the October devaluation, and it should not be too difficult to identify and "persuade" those who have been holding back to force their short-term gains in favor of everyone's long-term benefit, including their own.

Reducing imports, while equally important, is not a problem at the moment because the debt moratorium has virtually resulted in the suspension of all importations except for the barest essentials to keep the economy from grinding to a complete halt. Once conventional trade fin-

ancing is resumed, however, it will be imperative to devise effective measures to ensure that the overall level of imports is kept within our limited means. For this purpose, I would favor a two-tier exchange system whereby exports, essential imports and capital transfers would be transacted at a fixed exchange rate, but all other imports and payments would be transacted at free market rates.

Under a two-tier system, the CB would handle all transactions at the official rate, and the commercial banks would handle all transactions at free market rates, using dollars supplied by CB. Among other things, the latter procedure would render black market operators largely superfluous, and the enormous profits from free market dollar sales would then be realized by CB which could eventually reallocate such profits for more productive purposes.

It has been said repeatedly that a two-tier system would never work in this country because such a system would be vulnerable to bureaucratic corruption. Considering our track record and demonstrated "ingenuity" however, I challenge anyone to come up with any system in this country that would be invulnerable to corruption. In any event, a two-tier system would at least make it possible to keep domestic inflation and prices for essential goods within reasonable bounds, whereas a completely free float of the exchange rate, given the present abnormal levels of supply and demand for dollars, would only wreak intolerable havoc on an already beleaguered consumer.

In the meantime, what else can be done to establish confidence in the present exchange rate? The recent appointment of a new CB governor who is widely respected both here and abroad is certainly a step in the right direction. And the new governor's recent public statements that the present exchange rate will remain at P14/\$1.00 are likewise helpful. What would even be more helpful, if it could be arranged, would be a public statement from the IMF itself that it is not advocating a further devaluation of the peso at this time, if that is in fact IMF's position.

While we realize that it is not normal procedure for the IMF to make such public statements, the present circumstances in the Philippines are hardly normal, to say the least, and an announcement from IMF would certainly go a long way to relieving the artificial and intense pressures on the peso at this critical time. The fact is, whether we like it or not, the average Filipino will not believe such a statement from his own government, but he will probably believe it if it comes from the IMF.

## Government "killing" export trade

By EFREN L. DANAO

THE government is killing export trade although everybody agrees that it is vital to Philippine economy, a leading exporter said recently.

Nemesio Co, president of the Confederation of Philippine Exporters (COPE), told members of the Philippine Economic Society that the gains brought about by the Oct. 5 devaluation of the peso have been eaten up by the ensuing cost increases.

Co cited the imposition of export taxes and the increase in the interest rates of export loans as the measures that are "killing the goose that lays the golden eggs."

He said that the interest rates on export loans in the Philippines are higher than those in Taiwan, Malaysia, Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand.

"We must take into account that these neighboring countries in the region are producing practically the same products as we do and sell to the same markets that we cater to."

"Everything being equal, except for the taxes that we pay and our interest rates being the highest, we can never make a go of it. What is happening right now is that they are

killing the goose that lays the golden eggs," Co emphasized.

He questioned the government line that the export taxes and increased interest rates on export loans have been imposed "to curtail inflation."

"If inflationary to maintain lower costs for exports? will agree if the end products are consumed locally. However, we are talking here of production for the world market!" he argued.

"The government should suspend all these export taxes which, according to our technocrats, are for the windfall profit exporters are getting because of the peso devaluation. The assumption of a windfall profit is a total misconception because the gains brought by the Oct. 5 devaluation have been eaten up by the ensuing cost increases," he added.

He criticized the Central Bank for increasing the interest rates of export loans.

"The Central Bank seems to be overprotecting the commercial banks at the expense of exporters who are sweating it out in contrast with the bankers who just stay inside their beautiful offices

surrounded by the prettiest secretaries in town," Co said.

Co also proposed the orientation of the tape and the giving of higher priority in dollar allocation for raw material importations by export industries.

"Since this is an abnormal situation as claimed by our technocrats, we should remove all barriers and red tape connected with the shipment of goods. We should do away with the export forms and just have one requiring a single signature," he proposed.

He deplored the fact that the orientation of the Philippine economy has always been toward imports.

"It should be otherwise now," he stated, adding, "A drastic change in orientation is what we need."

"We must increase productivity to a greater degree of self-reliance, thus limiting our craving for imported goods. At the same time, we must focus our eyes on the world market and find out what other things we can supply out of their normal requirements of goods and services," he said.

Co said that the change in orientation may be achieved

through education, revision of government policies and practices, concentration on agrifood industries rather than on a massive industrialization program, a more realistic export marketing strategy, and increased efficiency of labor.

"Our desire to change our orientation can only be realized if we educate our children that way. Productivity and world trade should be made a basic part of the curriculum," he said.

Turning to government policies and practices, Co said that these should be revised "to make them more adaptable to our expanded trading operations with the world."

"Competition from government agencies or government-controlled corporations should not be tolerated," he emphasized.

He voiced approval of the attention being given to the promotion of seven non-traditional products which have the highest export potentials.

"On the market side, concentration must be given to those countries where we have the biggest deficit at the moment. As a general rule, these countries should be buying more from us since they de-



use us with their products. We can even provide barter arrangements in this regard."

"Labor must be made more efficient. Our come-on to foreign investors is that labor here is very cheap. This is a misconception. Once you start analyzing

ing productivity and efficiency vis-a-vis the cost, you end up not getting any bargain," he argued.

He said that even training on labor efficiency may not be enough "since the problem is mainly attitudinal," he suggested an exchange program or

hiring of some foreign technicians to change the wrong attitude toward labor efficiency.

"A drastic change in our orientation cannot be achieved overnight. It may take a lifetime to achieve this change. The message is: START NOW," he concluded.

# Local industries last priority for forex

By FELIX K. MARAMBA, JR.

**THE ESSENTIAL** domestic industries is the sector that has been most affected by the present economic crisis. To us in industry, our survival is at stake. Every day of delay in our ability to import our raw materials means huge losses, while our factories and workers remain idle. Had we been warned about the situation, perhaps it could have been easier for us to face such problems. But I guess it is typical for us, Filipinos, not to act on a problem until it has grown out of proportion. Thus, we take measures to avert a disaster when we are already faced with it and not while we are still not directly affected by it.

I think this is what happened to us as regards our balance of payments problem. Our government officials knew that the crisis was forthcoming but they preferred to keep the matter to themselves. It was only on Aug. 20 when Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry officials had a dialog with Prime Minister Virata that we realized the seriousness of our problem. At that time, we were told that our foreign exchange receipts were not sufficient to cover our foreign exchange obligations and that unless something was done about the situation, we would be in real trouble. What happened on



of payments deficit had already exceeded \$2 billion.

Capital outflow amounting to about \$800 million resulted in an unmanageable liquidity position. The

interest rates started shooting up. Inflation crept in. The net result practically crippled our normal operations.

After our Aug. 20 dialog with Prime Minis-

ter Virata where he called on private sector assistance to solve the problem, the PCCI immediately organized the Balance of Payments Task Force.

Through a series of

to the extent of their cutback.

Although Central Bank and MTI favorably considered our recommendations, we soon found out that these were not enough. In a meeting with the Bat on Nov. 15, it was apparent that cutbacks will have to be increased to 20 per cent for highly essential items and 50 per cent for all others.

Obviously, due to the acute shortage of

ducts, textile fibers for basic clothing, livestock, iron and steel products, and paper products for newspaper, printing and writing paper, industrial packaging, sanitary paper and paper boards (box, kraft, chip).

2. Second priority shall be given to domestic products/exporters requiring imported raw materials to spare parts and supplies (EP and SEP category) for the

operations of our present

problems which are both economic and political in nature.

One of the recommendations of the 9th Philippine Business Conference was the establishment of a National Recovery Group. This crisis management team subsequently formed now addresses itself to the urgent national concerns, particularly the formulation of a balanced economic program, the continuous

**Only \$70 million has been allocated for imports and this is not enough.**

foreign exchange, everybody cannot be accommodated at the same time. Although PCCI is working for the allocation of foreign exchange for all domestic industries, a system of prioritizing still has to be devised to ensure the maximum utilization of whatever foreign exchange is available.

Again, thru consultations with the various industry associations, a list of vital industries was drawn up, which incidentally was also submitted to the 9th Philippine Business Conference for approval. This list was endorsed by the Central Bank for observance by commercial banks in the prioritization of available foreign exchange as embodied in CB Circular No. 970.

Prioritization of foreign exchange allocation as defined by CB Circular No. 970 are follows:

1. A voluntary 15 per cent cutback on imports by firms.
2. An increase in the marginal deposit for importations.
3. Submission to BOI/MT of a list of locally manufactured items to the end that importations of non-essential consumer items locally available be suspended.
4. To allow domestic industries which had never exported to earn their foreign exchange requirement for the importation of their raw material requirements

manufacture of products other than those listed under 1-b above;

3. Third priority shall be given to domestic producers requiring raw materials, spare parts and supplies necessary to complete the manufacture of products in priority 1-b and 2 above.

It must be pointed out that on the overall priorities in foreign exchange allocation the government will have to attend to the following order of priorities: oil imports; soft loans; grains and fertilizers; exports; and vital and all other industries.

As you can see, domestic industries are the last priority. As it is now, only about \$70 million has been allocated to imports which is not enough to go around.

Indeed, this situation has serious implications. It means that the solution to our foreign exchange problem is still far from being achieved. This means that firms will be forced to layoff workers and some factories will have to shut down; others will have no recourse but to stop their operations totally. It is a sink-or-swim situation. But are there choices left under the circumstances?

If you will recall, the recent 9th Philippine Business Conference addressed the problem of national economic survival. We pointed out to our national leadership the ramifi-

cations of our present problems which are both economic and political in nature.

One of the recommendations of the 9th Philippine Business Conference was the establishment of a National Recovery Group. This crisis management team subsequently formed now addresses itself to the urgent national concerns, particularly the formulation of a balanced economic program, the continuous

operations of our present problems which are both economic and political in nature.

1. *Foreign Investments* - It was pointed out by the Foreign Chamber that foreign investors are more interested in greater equity participation than in tax incentives. As per their recommendations, the President issued recently a presidential decree allowing 100 per cent foreign participation. However, certain aspects of the PD like divestment still have to be studied.

2. *Tulong Sa Bayan* - This program will seek to ease the burden of the unemployed and other elements of society, through community efforts by a variety of ways, e.g. job matching, return to the provinces, etc. To carry out the unemployment adjustment program it was agreed to seek the support of the Church, Jaycees, Rotarians, Lions, PTA, and other civic organizations. The national recovery group will simply act as the clearing house.

3. *Communication* - A meeting with the media will be conducted on a regular basis to apprise them of development in the recovery. The approach should be positive to build up confidence in the improvement of the economy.

4. *Buy Local Products* - This program will promote patronage for locally manufactured products.

5. *Oil Conservation* - Considering the huge foreign exchange drain for the oil bill, an oil conservation program should be vigorously pursued. In Taiwan, no office is allowed to use air conditioning during the cold season. In Germany, during their period of development, no car was allowed to



## BUSINESS EXPRESS

The inflation rate last December was 26.1 per cent, the highest since 1975, the National Economic Development Authority reported.

Central Bank Gov. Jose Fernandez echoed official denials of another peso devaluation.

The Philippines' first importation of whale meat to Japan has been impounded by Japan. The whales reportedly belonged to an endangered species whose hunting has been banned.

Labor Minister Blas Ople said that some 68,000 workers may lose their jobs during the first three months of 1984.

President Marcos has ordered the Ministry of Trade and Industry to prosecute profiteering suppliers of raw materials needed by export manufacturers.

The government is asking for a new \$165 million loan from foreign banks for the Bataan nuclear plant.

Total paidup capital investments in 1983 was P4.789 billion, down by 14.8 per cent from 1982's P5.62 billion, the Securities and Exchange Commission reported.

The government will closely monitor garment exports to check dollar salting.

Firms registered with the Board of Investments found guilty of overpricing, hoarding or profiteering would lose all fiscal incentives from the government, Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin warned.

**We take measures to avert disaster only when we are already facing it and not while we are not yet directly affected by it.**

Aug. 21 aggravated the situation. As explained to us by the Prime Minister, the termination of bank lines accelerated and shortened maturities such that by October, the balance

result was that letters of credits could not be opened and some which were opened were not honored by banks abroad. Confidence in the Philippine banking system reached a new low.

ter Virata where he called on private sector assistance to solve the problem, the PCCI immediately organized the Balance of Payments Task Force.

Through a series of

run on Sundays, except during emergency.

**6. Anti-economic Subsidies** — This program has been undertaken by PCCI through its PCCI/Customs Consultative Council in the implementation of the anti-smuggling law. Studies are being made to expand the program to include tax evasion, dollar salting, etc.

**7. Dollar Utilization** — This program is at present being pursued to a limited extent by the PCCI/MTI Task Force on Balance of Payments which is tasked with determining and prioritizing imported raw materials.

**8. Exports** — The program for export promotion is a long-felt need and, therefore, PCCI will undertake such a program to generate more foreign exchange earnings for the country.

These are programs that will be undertaken on the national level. I must point out that the instability of export returns creates recurrent balance of payments crisis unless we venture to restructure our industries. For the past centuries, we have been relying to a large extent on a few exportable commodities. What is needed is a proper balance between export and expansion and import substitution in the years to come.

There are more immediate steps that can be undertaken on the firm and industry level.

These are:  
1. Manufacturers within industry can meet to discuss raw-materials requirements and available inventories. Out of inventories available, firms within a particular industry can agree to borrow and lend from each other's inventory of raw materials during the duration of the crisis.

2. Studies are now being made to maximize the utilization of local substitute materials. The need to stimulate domestic research and development activities along this line should be emphasized.

3. Relative to item No. 2, studies should be undertaken regarding the utilization of local production of export components and maximizing the use of the same. Perhaps management should also divert some of the technological capability of their organizations to increase the ease of recycling their product by means of changes in raw material or design.

4. Studies should also be undertaken to limit importations to basic instead of intermediate or finished materials to maximize production facilities and capacities and thereby reduce importations.

5. Inasmuch as no dollar imports are being encouraged, it is suggested that this be utilized for the small amount of importation of materials required to

complete a given product.

6. For those who are not yet exporting, it is strongly recommended that maximum efforts should be exerted for them to penetrate the export market, and maximize their idle capacity.

**Limit importations to basic instead of intermediate or finished materials to maximize production and reduce importations.**

More than ever, there is need to look for export opportunities in other developing countries. We have relied too much on developed

countries, both as a source of imports and a market for exports. But experience has shown us that increasingly, these countries are get-

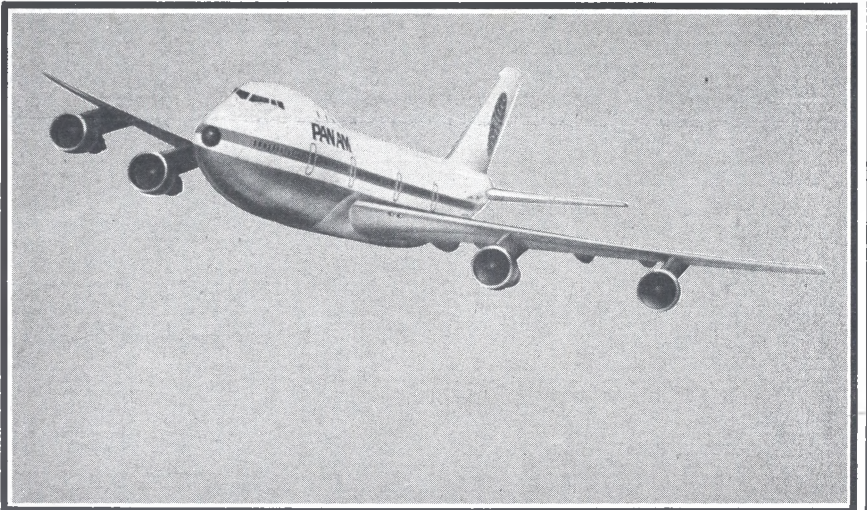
ting more protectionist in their stance. It is also about time that Asean countries act together and pursue joint planning to decide formally

which countries should specialize in particular product lines so that we may improve our competitiveness in the export market.

We face a more difficult year ahead. The domestic industries will bear the brunt of the financial crisis. But I

believe that success will belong to those industries, firms and individuals who are willing to adjust and let loose their creative energies, innovate and try new ideas and accept change in order to hurdle the crisis we find ourselves in.

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## Pan Am Experience. Di Kayang Pantayan.

(Economists Omar T. Cruz and Julio D. Climaco Jr. of the Center for Research and Communication assess the exchange rate prospects in 1984.)

# Another peso adjustment will compound our woes

By OMAR T. CRUZ and JULIO D. CLIMACO JR.



THIS YEAR should prove to be the most difficult since 1946 when the Philippines had to pick up the pieces after being ravaged by the Japanese. The country recovered from the destruction of that war. It suffered a dreadful economic malaise in 1970 but again, economic managers successfully handled the situation. It is difficult, however, to be optimistic about 1984, which threatens to be more challenging than our 1976 experience, even if there is no further adjustment in the threatened peso.

This year, the inflation rate is expected to jump to at least 20 percent once the full effects of the Oct. 5 1983 devaluation have permeated our economy. The domestic mass market, after experiencing a recession in real wages in 1981 and 1982, will be seriously affected as

consumer spending is expected to rise by a minute 2.2 to 2.3 percent.

The only possible saving factors are the domestic copra prices, which are foreseen to remain at their high levels, and the increased purchasing power of the families of overseas workers who great-

ly benefited from the two devaluation.

Investment is expected to drop precipitously in 1984. Only private housing can invest. The low business confidence, among ourselves and within the foreign business community, is the primary setback in this

sector. Imports will have large volume drops. Despite the negative repercussions, our import-dependent industries may just have to accept the harsh import barriers put up by the monetary authorities, if only to give due importance to the country's primary objective of reining in the BOP deficits.

Exports are expected to post a 5 percent volume increase in 1984 because of a 10 percent rise in nontraditionals that will offset a flat growth in traditional exports. Higher peso sales and increasing international demand can provide the basic push to exports.

Government consumption spending will be seriously affected by the tight financial bind. The higher wages, increased operating expenditures and debt servicing of public sector debt will put considerable pressure on the budget deficit.

The already high cost of credit will climb anew by 7 to 9 percent from the third to the fourth quarter this year. The contractionary monetary policies by the Central Bank plus the higher inflation rate are the primary propellers to surging bank loan rates. This development will mean a 3 to 5 percent add-on to the already prohibitive rates charged to the different sectors of the economy.

All these elements translate into an economy with zero growth in the near term. Already known as the laggard in the whole of ASEAN, this no-growth prospect is the worst so far in our economic history.

### The Uncertain Peso

General perceptions point to another "adjustment" of the peso against the US dollar. Still it is our belief that the peso can be kept at P14:51 till 1984 is over. This optimistic prognosis is conditioned by the following factors:

Adjusting the peso further will neither help

discourage imports nor boost exports. For most of 1984, opening of letters of credit will be a very serious business problem. Even after the second gigantic exchange rate adjustment, the surrounding psychological factors will tend to destabilize the buying attitude of our export customers. Thus, a further adjustment can no longer guarantee a boost in exports.

To maintain the competitive standing of our exports, we have to insure that our currency maintains its purchasing power relative to our major trading partners. Given this simple long-term measure of comparing the

mistic capital account picture in the balance of payments and a major restructuring in our foreign debt. Moreover, a slight surplus in the balance of payments is assumed.

### Peso Under Pressure?

A scenario of a further peso adjustment, which an increasing number of people would term as more realistic, has to be looked at. This will be determined by the following forces:

The presence of a two-tiered market (official and blackmarket) will exert further pressure on the official P14 to \$1 rate. The continued scarcity of dollars will undoubtedly force non-priority entities and those that cannot be just accommodated in the allocation to source the needed foreign exchange from the grey market to sustain their operations.

The pressure, however, will be less than that on the black market rates. The weakness in the economy and the increased rate of business closures will dampen the demand for dollars, easing the

our economic lives.

Needed: A Bias For Action

When and how the economy will go back to normally will depend on how the current crisis is handled. It is clear that the constraints on foreign exchange availability and, therefore, on importations will be with us at least up to the end of 1984. This will impact negatively on industrial production and the economy's growth prospects. We can continue to drift to far worse scenarios, in contrast to the upturn in the international economy, as long as the air of uncertainty and low confidence is not cleared. Since any underlying solution is dependent on how immediate credibility and confidence on national leadership is restored, an immediate resolve is imperative.

Over the medium and long term, the Philippines remains a very attractive market. Thus, entrepreneurs and businessmen will have to adopt a long-term perspective in order to partly offset the present short-term difficulties we are undergoing. In periods like this, it is our optimism that can pull us out of the rut.

Despite the heavy cloud of gloom, a number of opportunities in bright sectors abound. The area of nontraditional exports

## Devaluation worked well the first time

DEVALUATION, together with fiscal measures, was an effective remedy to yawning balance of payments deficits the first time it was implemented liberally (in February 1970 when the peso was released from the prevailing official rate of P2:90 to \$1 and allowed to float). To give us better insight into our economic malaise, let us review first our 1970 experience.

The late 1960s saw mounting balance of payments (BOP) deficits resulting from wild speculation against the peso, piling short-term obligations, excessive domestic demand, and heavy government spending. By 1969 BOP shortfall hit \$140 million, with the country's international reserves at only \$120 million or just enough to cover 1.3 months of imports.

To rein in the BOP deficits, as well as stabilize our overall economy, the national leadership removed the peso from its official exchange rate to the dollar (at P3:90 then), and this allowed it to float freely. With this bold peso float and a host of measures that included raising the banks' reserve requirement by 4 per cent imposing export tax, new taxes on travel and stock exchange transactions; lowering the rediscunt ceilings; raising the marginal reserves in LCs; restraining imports; and reducing fiscal spending; our BOP problem in 1970 was immediately corrected.

The steps taken were so effective that 1970 had a BOP surplus of \$20.9 million. Moreover, the government's cash position recorded a substantial improvement.

Curing this BOP problem, however, was not without a tradeoff. Inflation during the year surged to 16 per cent, the highest since post-

war economic history. A 33 per cent adjustment in minimum wages from P6 to P8 could not induce higher consumer spending with its growth rate falling to 1.8 per cent in 1970.

Gross investment dropped by 3.5 per cent as government slowed down in its infrastructure and public works, while private business firms postponed their plant and equipment expansions. The restrictions on imports and the apparent wait-and-see attitude of foreign investors further exacerbated this decline in overall investment.

Volume of imports, both goods and services, also dropped by 9.4 per cent. This drop was directly the outcome of the peso devaluation along with stringent import measures enforced by monetary authorities. Cost of credit in 1970 soared by 6.5 per cent amid Central Bank's stiff policy measures to control credit expansion and ultimately lessen our BOP gap.

Meanwhile, the primary growth contributors were exports and government consumption expenditures. Exports during the period were kept high by favorable world prices, especially those of our principal products, and expanded production of major exports like sugar and copper concentrates. The adoption of the floating exchange rate and the new export incentives set in place further boosted the country's exports.

Government current expenditures also perked up our overall activity. A slight deceleration in growth, however, was recorded as the government kept its expenditures at bay.

Higher wages plus increased prices of goods and services resulted in larger outlays for operating expenditures.

### IMPACT OF THE 1970 DEVALUATION (% growth rate)

	Average 1967-69	1970
Personal Consumption Expenditures	4.6	1.8
Gross Investment	10.2	7.0
Government Consumption Expenditures	7.9	6.4
Imports of Goods and Services	10.7	9.6
Gross Domestic Product	5.5	4.6
Inflation Rate	4.7	15.0
Interest Rates	1.9	4.5
P-\$ Exchange Rate (December average)	0.6	64.8

Sources: NEDA-NIA, Central Bank

### IMPACT OF THE 1983 DEVALUATIONS (% growth rate per year)

	1982	1983	1984
Personal Consumption Expenditures	3.3	3.0	4.0
Gross Investment	10.0	10.0	4.0
Government Consumption Expenditures	2.8	2.6	8.0
Exports of Goods and Services	1.2	1.0	0.0
Imports of Goods and Services	3.0	3.0	0.0
Gross Domestic Product (real)	1.4	1.3	0.0
Inflation Rate	10.2	12	20.2
Interest Rate	6.0	5-10	11.13
P-\$ Exchange Rate (Year-end)	9.12	14	16

\*Percent increase - 1/10 o/er 1/10 CRC Economic Forecasting Unit, October 15, 1983

relative price (inflation) differentials between the United States (our major trading partner) and the Philippines, the present exchange rate appears to put us on a competitive standing (based on economic considerations) up to the end of 1984.

Over the immediate term, however, a devaluation can be rationalized if there was a scheme for equitable or better distribution of income. Since we have yet to rectify our agricultural pricing policies for coconut, sugar and other commodities (which is the subject of the recent World Bank study), the benefits from a peso devaluation will not fall down to the majority of the populace. Rather, its adverse inflationary impact would become more predominant.

The scenario of a P14:51 till 1984 is a reason for optimism. It assumes a fairly opti-

pressure on foreign exchange rates. Still the big shortage of foreign exchange will exert a considerable upward push on the official rate to as much as P18 to \$1.

The equilibrium rate which economic factors dictate can be reached in several ways. A complete float would mean a gradual adjustment towards market levels. This approach will have less debilitating effects on inflation and the economy. Its major setback is that it could fuel another round of speculation on the foreign exchange rate. An outright devaluation, on the other hand, will exert immediate inflationary effects and impact adversely on the economy.

Another peso adjustment will definitely compound our economic difficulties. It could only sever the frayed fibers that hold

remains very attractive especially during these times when the international market is moving forward. Agriculture, aquaculture and food production will find lucrative markets not only in the country but also in other parts of the world. The area of private residential construction remains to be fully explored. These are just some of the few attractive sectors which will enable us to weather this critical times.

It is exactly during periods of crisis when we must face the issues squarely. We must face our responsibilities and accountabilities. We cannot afford ambivalence. We cannot continue playing a game of "chicken" with us. We have to have to make decisions now, not later. At this point, it is our willingness and ability to endure short-term setbacks that can pull us to a faster long-term growth.

# Kidney transplant in RP comes of age

By CHIT L. MACAPAGAL

NONE of the officially registered top five killer diseases in the Philippines are related to the kidney. This, however, has little effect on the local attention given to this particular ailment.

Popular interest, however, has recently been focused on the often-ignored organs. Despite denials from the government, talks persist that President Ferdinand E. Marcos is having some kidney problems. The retiring minister of foreign affairs, Gen. Carlos F. Romulo, went into dialysis treatment when his kidneys malfunctioned due to prostate problems. Even Soviet Prime Minister Yuri Andropov is said to be sharing similar renal troubles.

Outside of these coffee-drinking, semi-medicines in the Philippines was placed in the limelight through successful kidney transplant performed at the National Kidney Foundation of the Philippines last December.

Cadaver organ donation has yet to make headway in a predominantly Christian Philippines. The bone of contention lies not so much in technological capability or medical knowledge but rather in the moral issues surrounding the definition of death. When a person is pronounced dead so that doctors can take out an organ from it, an organ transplant.

In the medical profession, most practitioners go by the definition of "brain death" (flat EEG for at least one hour; fixed dilated pupil; no spontaneous respiration; no re-

flexes whatsoever; loss of consciousness that is not due to drugs or anesthesia).

This definition, however, is contested by many others, even by some medical practitioners themselves. There is as yet no legal definition. But according to nephrologist Dr. Enrique Ona, an Organ Act concerning the brain death issue is already awaiting presidential signature.

It is estimated that about 8,000 people in the Philippines die every year from kidney disease. Dr. Ona says that a considerable number of these people can have their lives saved or prolonged reasonably well by dialysis and transplantation.

According to urologist, a person whose kidney starts to malfunction may exhibit the following symptoms: weakness, pallor or paleness, black-out hypertension, edema on the legs or on the face, and blood in the urine or urine discoloration.

If the kidney failure leads to uremia, then the patient may experience difficulty in breathing, restlessness, abdominal pains and vomiting.

Because the strong kidney could not excrete the body's nitrogenous wastes, these wastes reach a certain level when something like this happens, then the patient undergoes dialysis treatment or a kidney transplant.

Another dialysis method is called peritoneal. This is done by using a machine and can be home-based. Peritoneal dialysis, however, involves a continuous treatment for two days

in a week whereas hemodialysis takes only about three to five hours per session, but usually done three times a week.

After the body fluids are cleaned by dialysis, a person may feel normal and strong for a few days. But then the un-excreted wastes rise up again to a level needing another dialysis treatment. This may go on and on until the patient dies or gets a new kidney.

If there is any headway in Philippine kidney medicine, it is the successes made in the field of transplantation. Since 1970, a total of 284 transplants have been performed in the Philippines, the majority of which (156) were done at the Kidney Center of the

Philippines.

Ninety per cent of transplant donors are siblings (brothers or sisters) and parents. The average age of a possible donor is 30. Patients who get their kidneys from a relative have longer life span. Among the transplant patients here, the longest record is 13 years.

Transplant patients can also get kidneys from non-relatives. Many of the donors, says Dr. Ona, are prison inmates who are approached by patients or doctors for a kidney donation. Dr. Ona says these prisoners are not under any pressure to donate nor is such an act a basis for pardon. "It is only duly recorded in their papers that they donated a kidney and

it is up to the authorities to take that as a matter for consideration," Dr. Ona explains. The longest life span of a patient from a non-related donor is so far seven years.

After a kidney transplant, a patient may go back to a normal diet and physical activity. But he must avoid any form of contact sports.

He also undergoes continuous medication which typically includes two kinds: steroids and immuno-suppressives. Steroids suppress kidney rejection by preventing the body from building new antibodies. A patient under steroids usually show puffiness in his extremities like the face.

The other medication

normally prescribed for such conditions are immuno-suppressives which are also prescribed for collagen diseases like the systemic lupus erythematosus. Collagen and kidney diseases, according to many kidney experts, are so interrelated that the usual mode of exit of a collagen disease is kidney failure. At such a stage, the status of the patient, says one urologist, is a "little grave."

There are two institutions established specifically for the treatment of kidney ailments: The Kidney Center of the Philippines (KICP) built in 1975. Located on the 4th floor of the Medical City Hospital, the KICP has 11 beds each with its own dialysis machine. The center uses

the facilities of the hospital, particularly the operating rooms, for its kidney surgeries. The center is headed by Dr. Filoteo Alamo who was once a physician of President Marcos.

Only last February, the National Kidney Foundation of the Philippines (NKFP) started full operations. It is equipped with six dialysis machines, five operating rooms, and other modern machines for kidney treatment like the ultra-sound machine, the renal scan and the digital subtraction and geography machine which takes 30 x-rays pictures in one second. The head of NKFP is Dr. Claver Ramos, currently an attending physician to President Marcos.

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### 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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## 2 share kidney of dead donor

TWO of the happier souls last Christmas were Jaime de la Cruz and Irene Pangan. They now share the two kidneys of one cadaver donor in the first double kidney transplant performed at the National Kidney Foundation of the Philippines early last month.

"*Magpakasanda ho ng Christmas namon,*" beams Jaime, a 33-year old sales agent from San Ildefonso, Bulacan. This is Jaime's second transplant. He first received a kidney nine years ago from a sister donor. That kidney functioned well for the next seven years until it started to fail from "chronic rejection."

Since that happened, he has been on dialysis treatment while waiting for a donor to come along. "We were spending around P4,000 a week," says Jaime who had to stop working since dialysis started to drain his strength considerably.

For two years, Jaime searched for a possible donor. He and his wife asked a number of relatives and approached several other persons, mostly prisoners, for a possible kidney donation. Almost all, says Jaime, were willing, but they could not match his tissue

type. He took about 20 tissue types, aside from relatives, but he could not find a match.

Irene Pangan, 33, did not have to search so long. She was working in Abu Dhabi as a baby sitter when her kidneys malfunctioned. She went home and was placed on dialysis late last year. But she was immediately listed in the cadaver program list of the NKFP, which meant that if a suitable donor comes along, a transplant can be performed on her right away.

After a brain operation, days of observation, and several tests, one victim of a whirlwind accident was proclaimed brain dead early last December. The family agreed to a kidney donation so that, according to the husband, "in her misfortune, some other human being can be saved."

On Friday, December 2 at 8 a.m., the woman was wheeled to the operating room of Medical City. After a six-hour operation, both her kidneys were removed and immediately cooled with a special hypotonic solution. The kidneys were placed in a special plastic bag and ice box and rushed to the NKFP where they were stored overnight.

The next day, the two transplants on Jaime and Irene were successfully performed. Now, both have gone back to live normal lives.

# Media coverage foul-up blamed on officials

**DATeline: AGRava**

By **BARBARA MAE NAREDO-DACANAY**

**F**OURTEEN photojournalists who regularly cover the airport beat were the ones accredited for the coverage of former Sen. Benigno Aquino's arrival. They were envied that day. But the nearest they ever got to CAL 811 when it arrived at about 1:04 p.m. — was the concrete air bridge.

They could have marched to the adjacent movable tube leading down to the gaping mouth of the plane and taken photos of Aquino, but they were prevented from doing so by three military men in polo barong.

Later, some media men blamed Col. Vicente Tigas, media relations officer of the Presidential Security Command, for "herding" them to that air bridge. Even MIA Manager Luis Tabuena was blamed for not allowing them to follow Aquino down the movable tube when Aquino was being "escorted" out of the plane.

The media men expected Aquino to talk to them because of his known friendliness to the press. They were unaware that seconds before his plane docked, a boarding party of four whisked him down the stairs, a secret passage for an alternate exit code-named Plan Bravo.

Gen. Luther Custodio, relieved AVSECOM commander, told the Board earlier that he, alone, decided to change Aquino's exit ten minutes before the plane arrived.

When the first shot was heard, p a n d e m o n i u m broke out. The media men peeped through the windows of the concrete air bridge and managed to take photos of the dead men on the tarmac and of jittery AVSECOM soldiers rushing towards the SWAT van and parked vehicles

when Aquino was shot. On the same day, Luciano Calwan of *Bolita* also took photos.

"I was alone when I entered MIA at around 11:30 a.m.," he reported. "At 12 noon all media men who regularly cover the airport beat were at the holding area. Col. Vicente Tigas was with us. I also saw MIA members talking with the CAL station manager, Richard Yu. . . I heard from my companions that ex-Senator Aquino might be on board CAL 811. But we all knew that CAL would park at Gate 8 as indicated in the schedule of arrivals. In fact, often we saw from the taxiway that the plane was coming in, we proceeded to the concrete air bridge, but Colonel Tigas instructed us not to go on to the movable tube. He further told us just to take photos and not to interfere with the flight. He all thought it was not a standard procedure. After a few minutes I heard a siren. After some seconds there was another single shot. Then I heard several more shots. I turned to the left side of the bridge that had an accessible view of the tarmac and I peeped out through one of the glass windows," Calwan narrated. He remembered that he was at the second window to the last which was quite a distance from the movable tube.

"I saw AVSECOM soldiers running about under the plane then I saw two bodies on the tarmac and I started taking pictures. I can't recall how many I took."

"One woman, a CAL passenger who came in from the tube, was crying and when I asked her why, she said, '... patay, patay na. . . si Ninoy,' Calwan continued.

"When I went to the arrival area, I saw a guard who prevented the foreign and local newsmen from entering the place.

"I left MIA at 3 p.m. I was at the office from 7 to 10 p.m. No, Rofriro did not ask me to surrender my negatives," Calwan said.

On Dec. 29, *Times Journal* photojournalist Benjamin Malumay took the witness stand.

"On Aug. 21 at 3 p.m., Mr. Rofriro came to my office to borrow my negatives. I consulted with my editor, Gus Villanueva, who finally said Mr. Rofriro could take all my negatives. That was the first time he ever borrowed my negatives," Malumay said.

"At around 12:15, I joined the newsmen at the concrete air bridge. We noticed that the MIA manager, Luis Tabuena, passed by and we tried to follow him. He was on his way to the movable tube but he stopped us and told us to stay where we were because we might block the passageway and the tube might collapse.

"I also noticed Col. Avelino Avil who went through the tube. We waited for a long time. Then at a sudden we heard a commotion. *Parang nagkaka-alamangyan*, *Parang nagkaka-alamangyan*," he said. "We thought the walls were being matted the so u n d r e v e r b e r a t e d through the entire tube.

"Then I heard a loud stream of a woman or the flight stewardess who normally stands by the door,"

Manuel Silva of the *Daily Express* looks at some negative strips. Behind him is Dean Andres Narvasa, general counsel of the Agrava Board.

Silva narrated, "The scream was preceded by a gunshot. It was a strong burst of fire and I thought it exploded inside the tube. My camera was pointed at the end of the tube because I was hoping that somebody or something might appear. I pushed it made me press the button on the camera. Then three men in barong rushed in from the tube and they all looked into the windows overlooking CAL 811. I heard Colonel Tigas give an order: Take cover, back out!"

"And did you obey?" asked Narvasa.

"I noticed the trigger on my camera I backed out, then I heard Ruby Sera say *ay bintara layo*. So we rushed there and took photos. We could hear Colonel Tigas giving an order in Tagalog, *Tama na, tama na*. Let's clear the place," he said. "I noticed that my co-newsmen continued taking photos to go back and shot more photos with them. The last part of my footage shows ex-Senator Aquino being lifted into the van. I saw a Filipina who disembarked from the plane," continued Silva. She shouted at us: *Pintay na nile sila hindi pa kayo umiwalay*.

"My negatives were turned over to Mr. Rofriro. Honestly, I did not pose any objection. I had an impression that he was a person with authority as he often helped us in our coverage. He is very valuable in assisting us when we cover the first family. Both Colonel Tigas and Mr. Rofriro often help us in this endeavor.

"When Mr. Rofriro asked for my negatives I had the impression that it was a ticklish matter since the films would be used for the investigation. At that time I don't know if there's a picture showing the actual shooting of ex-Senator Aquino," said Silva.

In this connection, Silva blamed MIA Manager Luis Tabuena for blocking the cameramen to take pictures of the fatal moment. "He knew we were not security risks. He knew that we wouldn't harm Aquino and he had no intention of crowding him. Had he been given the help we could have recorded the actual shooting," Silva concluded.

According to Silva, the newsmen also needed for Viewnews, the world's largest TV syndicate, was 230 stations in some 110 countries.

Recto Mercedez of *Times Journal* came to testify on January 29. He has the same story to tell but his pictures showed something else.

At least 10 frames of his negatives showed a mysterious man in a T-shirt who had his gun drawn near the tug while facing

the terminal building, away from the scene of the murder. For this, he was conjectured that he was not to leave the bodies of Aquino and Galman for a time. "It moved 10 to 15 feet away and backed up before the SWAT men loaded the body of Aquino," Perez said.

Perez admitted that he did not take the photo of the van leaving because he "did not see anything important about it. I took a photo of the van with its door closed, then another one when it was leaving and another one after Aquino had been put aboard."

Perez insisted that he saw with his own eyes the van moving away. "There were times when I was taking pictures without looking at my lens because I was peeping through the window," he explained.

After the first shot, Perez said he started to take photos but "I had to duck because an AVSECOM soldier who pointed his gun at me. So I took photos with my camera above my head." He added that he did not stay long in that position.

Other members of the Board during the proceedings:

"What was the role of Tigas and Rofriro in so far as the 14 media men were concerned?"

"Who was the crying woman? Where is she now? Did she actually see who shot Aquino?"

"Is there no picture of the actual shooting?"

The "crying woman" who was interviewed by the media men was Arlene Santos. "I know where she is now," said Agrava. She is not to be away from the passenger reporter compartment that "she is the same woman who was crying at Aquino in the Japanese take-off."

On January 9, Col. Vicente Tigas of PSC came to testify and defend himself from the numerous accusations hurled against him.

He was self-assured and eloquent as he gave this testimony: MIA manager Gen. Prospero Oliva, Sr. Avil and the military men at the concrete air bridge. "I cannot remember but I took his picture that day."

His negatives, Mercede told the Board, were taken by Rofriro "on orders of Gen. Prospero Oliva." He was Roberto Siete Reales of the Office of Media Affairs, who was supposed to be the contact prints of the negatives.

On January 9, Jose Macasa III of *Metro Manila Times* was before the Agrava Board to submit his photos taken on August 21. Like Mercede, he was self-assured and eloquent as he gave this testimony: MIA manager Gen. Prospero Oliva, Sr. Avil and the military men at the concrete air bridge. "I cannot remember but I took his picture that day."

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On the same day, Louis Pezeta of *Bulletin Today* was the reason he gave,

Bulletin's airport reporter Louie Perez examines the photographs he took last Aug. 21. Justice Corazon Agrava (behind Dean Narvasa) looks at other photographs.

# Boxer out to break jinx

By ROMY DE LA CRUZ

HE WAS only 12 when he had his ring debut and marked it for posterity by winning a gold medal in a barangay-level competition in Bago City, Negros Occidental.

Since then, Leopoldo Cantancio has won more gold medals as a representative of Bago City to several national boxing opens. At 17, he started campaigning abroad, winning a bronze as a fly-weight in the Golden Gloves in far-away Kenya.

He has seen action as about a dozen more international boxing meets, winning four other bronzes and five golds in the process, the latest of which was the 1983 Asian amateur boxing championships in Okinawa, Japan where he won a gold medal as a featherweight.

Now battle-weary after eight long years as ring gladiator, Cantancio aims to win just one more medal for posterity — the Olympic gold.

This is not an easy task, notwithstanding the golds he has won in the Marcos Cup in 1981, the King's Cup and ASEAN Cup in 1982, and the SEA Games and AABC last year. Nor did he win a gold medal in the Olympic Games.

But his handlers at the ABAP gym on Malugay street in Makati believe Cantancio stands a good chance of breaking this Olympic jinx.

"He has already blossomed into a world-class boxer," noted Clarito Deliva, a veteran trainer who works with Cantancio's corner in Okinawa. "He moves very well; his opponents could hardly keep up with the pace he sets."

Deliva, together with other boxing experts, trains Cantancio for endurance, speed, strength, grace, and precision. These traits plus fighting spirit, according to a boxing adage posted conspicuously in one corner of the gym, make a champion boxer.

Cantancio has been in serious training for seven months or five months before the AABC in

Okinawa. His shock defeat in the 1982 Asian Games held in New Delhi instilled in him a stronger resolve to train and work harder.

He goes jogging in the morning, works out in the afternoon, and observes the 10 p.m. curfew imposed on him and the rest of the boxers in the national pool, without complaining.

The only time he complained, which he actually just kept to himself, was when he did not win the "Boxer of the Year" award in 1982. He won two international titles that year, so he thought that was it. But the annual accolade was given instead to light flyweight Efren Tabanas by virtue of his silver medal finish in the Asian Games, one of two international meets where Cantancio failed to win a medal. The other one was the world boxing championships in Munich, West Germany.

But he is not one to sulk at his defeat.

Right after his Asian Games defeat, he trained hard and was awarded two successive gold medals — one in the ASEAN Games and the other at the AABC. He hopes to make it three golds in a row when he flies to Jakarta to participate in the President's Cup.

Hard work is no stranger to him. He is the eldest of six children of a poor farmer and a plain housewife from barangay Atipulan, Bago City. Recently, he bought his father a tricycle from his income as a PC corporal and his savings from his allowance as Project: Gintong Alay trainee to augment his parents' meager income from farming.

After the Olympic Games, he is undecided whether to pursue a career in pro boxing or in the military.

He thinks of the honor he could reap for himself and the country in the Olympics, but he also knows that life does not stop after the Olympics.

# Italian cyclist sets new world record

MEXICO CITY — Francesco Moser of Italy Friday sensationally wrote himself into the annals of cycling history here just when his career appeared to be approaching its close.

At 32, Moser, on a bike which looks as though it is straight out of science fiction, became the first man in cycling history to break the 50-kilometer barrier in an hour, answering all those critics who said he was too old.

The Italian managed 50,809.37 kilometers on Mexico City's high altitude concrete track which had been covered with a film of plastic for the record attempt, to beat the best Belgian Eddy Merckx's eleven-year-old record of 49,931.55, set here in October 1972.

On the way to his record Moser, whose heartbeat was recorded throughout by sophisticated electronic equipment, broke the world record with his times at five km, 10 km and 20 km.

Incredibly, Moser and his back-up team had been planning to

restrict themselves to a 20-kilometer test with the hour record bid scheduled for next Monday.

But Moser felt in such good shape, and with conditions so favorable, he decided to force ahead for his ultimate goal.

The former Italian road race champion, who has been at the top of cycling for just over ten years, got off to an ultra quick start and never looked back.

It was a triumph for science and the technicians behind the enormous preparation for Moser's attempt. For outside the rider's team few considered him

capable of such an exploit.

Moser is the first Italian to hold the hour record since Ercolo Baldini managed 46,394 km. at Milan in 1956, his record standing for only a year before being broken by Roger Riviere of France.

Riviere broke his own record five days later in Milan and his mark of 47,346.89 km. stood until 1967 when Ferdinand Bracke of Belgium managed 48,093 km. in Rome.

A year later Denmark's Ole Ritter came along with 48,653.92 km. here, his record standing until Merckx's effort in October 1972. (AFP)

# Fly title unification

GRENOBLE, France — European flyweight boxing champion Antonio Montero of France will have a world title fight in June despite the fact that the man he was scheduled to meet had lost his crown in Tokyo.

Robert Gonzales, Montero's tight-hand man, said Koji Kobayashi's second round knock out of World Boxing Council champion Frank Cepede of the Philippines did not change anything as they had already agreed terms with Kobayashi and Mexico's Gabriel Bernal, due to meet the Japanese in March, for a world championship at Nimes in the south of France on June 1.

met by two to three security men who allowed us to stay but not beyond the second window of the bridge."

Board Member Dante Santos asked Tigas why he did not allow the medication to go down to the me.

"Had they taken me, I would have even escorted them down although I was not sure if the AVSECOM would have allowed us to go," Tigas answered.

"Ferez and others testified that they wanted to go down to the barracks but they failed to ask your permission," Santos continued.

"I think they were thinking of their own comfort down although I was not sure if the AVSECOM would have allowed us to go down," Tigas said. "I would not use of the word 'headed' to describe how I took the medication to the concrete air bridge. Our relations are very cordial, in fact."

Board Member Amador Dizon asked Tigas what he meant when he said that Justice Aquino would be treated "like any ordinary citizen."

"Don't you agree that he is an opposition leader who has gained both national and international prestige?" asked Dizon.

"I can't give an opinion," Tigas said. "Do you really know that he is very popular in other countries?" Dizon asked with a poker face and even voice.

"I'm not sure if he is popular in other countries," Tigas answered.

"After this assessment, do you think it is proper to treat Ex-Senator Aquino like an ordinary citizen?" asked Dizon.

"I can't give any judgment. It was Colonel Avrial who would pass through Customs, Immigrations, and Quarantine, just like an ordinary citizen," Tigas declared.

After this spirited exchange,

lawyer, Juan T. David, dated January 9, 1984, from his maximum security cell at Fort Bonifacio.

Sison claimed that the presentation of Cawigan as a "witness" and an NPA commander before the Agrava Board was "malicious and immoral."

What was more dangerous, according to Sison, were the "fabrications" of Cawigan that were "calculated to make the New People's Army a scapegoat and to slander the assassination plot in the Aquino assassination."

Sison reiterated that Cawigan's testimony was "such a big joke and a jumble of lies that the audience at the Agrava Board could not resist laughing."

Sison avowed that he is in a position to assess the testimony of Cawigan who linked the New People's Army and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) in the Aquino assassination.

Sison stated that his "extensive and serious study of the ideology, policy (party program), system of organization, activities and morality of the CPP and NPA" makes him a legitimate spokesman of these two groups.

To start with, Sison said, he was not aware of any antagonism between Aquino and the NPA.

"It is well known in Tatarac area in the entire country that Sison and his family have always respected themselves, in an enlightened manner, with the peasantry and the rest of the people. In fact, President Marcos, himself, has accused Aquino of being a communist or a sympathizer of the CPP and NPA. Even Cawigan foolishly called him the highest NPA commander and said that NPA actually stood for 'Ninoy's People's Army,'"

Sison alleged.

Sison heaped praises on Aquino, calling him an "avowed ally of the people and a populist and an outstanding anti-fascist leader."

Sison added that the CPP and the NPA consider Aquino an ally since they often cite him "for his courage in fighting the Marcos regime, even as he was subjected to the most cruel kind of torture to soften him up."

Sison stated that President Marcos was giving self-contradictory statements when he claimed that the CPP or NPA were vengefully mad at Aquino because he was the alleged mastermind behind the mysterious deaths of those who testified against him.

Bernabe Buscayan, a 7d Victor Corpuz in mid '70s because he was the alleged mastermind behind the mysterious deaths of those who testified against him.

Sison says the false witnesses who were branded as "communist leaders" were actually "special agents" and "assets" of the AFP intelligence services.

"They were killed while in military custody after the perpetuation of their false testimonies against Aquino, Buscayan and Corpuz," Sison points out.



Col. Vicente Tigas of the Presidential Security Command reportedly "herded" media men away from Aquino.

DATELINE: AGRVA

Tigas said.

"It was MIA Manager Luis Tabuena who insisted that medians should be allowed to cover the affair as earlier arranged. But he said that only the medians would be accredited. And Avial agreed to the suggestion. So the list of 14 media men plus myself, Riofrio and Siete Reales was drawn and approved by Mr. Tabuena. I cannot remember if Macapagal was the one who prepared the list."

"Those who were called moved away from other medians," Tigas went on. "I did not join them at once because Tony Lopez of Askewek and Willy Bi-coro of UPI asked if I could join the group. I said it was too late because Mr. Tabuena was no longer around. From there I went to the comfort room of Quarantine. When I went back to the medians, I informed them of what Colonel Avial had told me. Because they might use the tube or the stairs. Actually there is another passage that he might use because I did not mention because I was sure it would not be used. I also said that if I would not be proper to stop Aquino with interviews because they (Avsecom) would not allow us."

"When the CAL plane was about to land, the 14 media men rushed to the concrete air bridge. I was having a cup of coffee and when I joined them I was

Jose Macapagal III of the Metro Manila Times identifies his negatives.

change, other members of the Board did not bother to ask Tigas anymore about the "crying woman" who said she saw who shot Aquino.

On January 13, Jolly Riofrio, President of the Press Photographers of the Philippines and chief cameraman of the Office of Media Affairs in Malacanan, appeared before the Agrava Board. He was fresh from a trip to China with the First Lady.

Little did he know that Justice Aquino would blow her top because he was able to take only four photos out of 36 on Aug. 31.

"I expected you to be an ace photographer and a super news camera man," said Justice Agrava with shaking voice and stern stare. "Why were you so afraid that you would compromise all the time you spent with your colleagues finished one to two rolls of films?"

When Agrava learned that Riofrio did not ask for a receipt when he forwarded the films that he had "borrowed" from the medians to the office of Colonel Tigas, he scolded him again with a trembling voice.

# ALLEGED Communist Party

Sison denounces government witness Rosendo Capinigan by calling him a liar and a military mercenary.

Sison claims that Cawigan's testimony before the Agrava Board was "self-contradicting, self-canceling, and obviously fabricated."

The statements of Sison were written to his

AFTER GETTING DEMANDS

# Teachers say fight is not yet over

**T**HE STRIKING public high school teachers in Quezon City, Marikina, San Juan, and Mandaluyong have returned to their classrooms but their fight for better pay and better working conditions is still far from over.

The 3,500 public school teachers ended their two-week-old sit-down strike last Jan. 15 after local authorities and the Metro Manila Commission substantially granted the teachers' demands.

Quezon City teachers got a 10 per cent salary increase, a P300 cost of living allowance, a P200 emergency allowance, a P50 clothing allowance and a longevity pay of P10 for every five years of service.

San Juan teachers got a monthly salary of P1,043 (former pay was P992), P250 cost of living allowance, P200 emergency allowance, P50 clothing allowance and P10 longevity pay for every five years of service.

The victory of the teachers, however, did not come on a silver platter. The teachers, headed by Adriano Valencia of the Ramon Magsaysay High School, presented their demands before Vice Gov. Ismael Mathay Jr. last November yet but Mathay told them to consult first with the Que-

zon City government to verify if the city could afford their demands.

The teachers had another fruitless meeting with Mathay before presenting their demands to Quezon City Mayor Adelina Rodriguez in mid-December. January 2 came and they still did not get any reply from Rodriguez, so the 3,500 teachers from 36 schools went on strike.

Valencia and other leaders of the striking teachers finally met with Rodriguez, Deputy Education Minister Hermenegildo Dumlaog, Marikinda Mayor Osomundo de Guzman, and other officials on Jan. 4. The teachers, however, were told that their demands could not be met unless existing ordinances are amended.

Valencia repudiated these ordinances, saying that they are "already obsolete because they no longer serve the best interest of the people."

When told that the government had no money, Valencia said, "The money is there. What is lacking is the willingness of officials to grant our just demands."

They were threatened with dismissal from the service should they continue with their strike but the

teachers remained steadfast in their decision to continue striking while talks go on "because it is the only way we could enforce our demands."

Valencia obviously got the goat of the officials, especially when he refused to accept their promise to look into the teachers' demands. He said they will lift their strike only if they have already received what they were asking.

"Your credibility has gone so low that even the teachers who are among the most patient persons suspect your word," he said.

The officials, however, had no choice but deal with Valencia because of the strong support given him by majority of the teachers.

Valencia said that some teachers, supervisors, and principals were against the strike but in the end, even they thanked him for they were covered by the increases in pay and allowances.

The teachers' eyes are now trained to representation in the school board to protect the interest of the teachers and to the recovery of some P3,000 due each teacher from the Quezon City government.

Valencia recounted that the local government granted teachers



and policemen a P50 pay hike in 1971 through Ordinance No. 8635 authored by then Councilor Rafael Miszon.

The policemen got their salary increase but the teachers did not, forcing the teachers to sue the Quezon City government. In 1981, Judge Jose Castro of the QC court of first instance ruled in favor of the teachers.

The leader and lawyer of the teachers, however, went into a compromise with the Quezon City agreement, agreeing to only one-half of what was due the teachers.

That agreement precipitated the change in the leadership and lawyer of the teachers' organization.

Valencia, who assumed his position as president of the teachers' association only last Nov. 12, said that he had been consulting with their new legal adviser on how to void the agreement between the former lawyer and leader and Quezon City.

Another issue they want to pursue is the representation of teachers in the local school board.

"The interest of the teachers are not well protected in the school board. Under a MECOS memorandum, teachers also cannot sit as officers of the Parents-Teachers Association. If a teacher sits in the school board, then we can help prevent unnecessary purchases and over pricing and see to it that parts of the school fund would be channeled for the benefit of teachers," Valencia stressed.

## POLITICS BLAMED

### 17 state colleges created without sufficient funds

**T**HE BATASSAN Pambansa created 17 state colleges and universities (SCUs) this year in spite of Budget Minister Manuel Alba's report that there are not enough funds to support already existing ones. There are now 74 SCUs in the country.

Sources from the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports (MECS) believe that the substantial increase of SCUs involves "politicizing" rather than meeting the educational needs of the rural areas.

"Legislating the conversion of schools into state institutions is a means of insuring the people's goodwill so that when election time comes, these assemblymen are assured of the people's votes," a MECS source candidly remark-

ed. "For those who cannot afford to study and live in Metro Manila, a state institution offering higher education is a welcome measure."

In the absence of clear-cut guidelines, however, a spate of "low-cost" tertiary schools have been converted into state schools.

MECS sources said that in spite of the substantial increases in the number of state schools, there has been no corresponding improvement in the quality of education these schools are supposed to provide.

An official from the Philippine Association of State Colleges and Universities (PASUC) said one guideline should provide that the school should have distinguished itself in a field before it can be considered for conversion to a state school. It is also important to find out whether the school's performance is in line with the standards of existing state schools. But these

guidelines are not being followed, the official said.

A glance at the BP bills which converted high schools into national schools this year showed that these schools failed to undertake any field of specialization. Furthermore, the schools did not show competency in a field which justified their existing status as state schools in the first place.

Charters of some of the new SCUs also showed that the guidelines set by PD 1437 regarding the selection of state college or university president, the composition, functions and term of office of the president and the board have not been followed.

The Battad case particularly brought to the fore "irregularities" in the selection of a president. The case also figured prominently in the resignation of Education Minister Onofre Corpuz last Dec. 15.

The education minister, who maintained that the "choice of state college president is not a popularity contest" but based on relevant qualifications and training to head a state college, had been bypassed twice in the selection of a president.

PD 1437 provides that the President of the Philippines appoints the president of a state college or university upon the recommendation of the education minister.

Rosario P. Pimentel, president of Bulacan College of Arts and Trades, was appointed based on the recommendation of Labor Minister Blas F. Ople, Bulacan Gov. Ignacio Santiago and Minister of State for Justice Teodoro Natidavid.

Fortuato Battad, president of Benguet State Agricultural College, was reportedly elected by the president Gov. Ben Palispis. Battad was not even favored by Corpuz who wanted Willie Depostario, a UP Los Baños agriculture professor, instead.

Gov. Palispis was even said to have lambasted the education minister's "interference" when Corpuz wrote a letter to the President protesting Battad's appointment.

PD 1437, promulgated on June 10, 1978, also defines the composition, term of office and the powers of the governing board. Technically, a state school does not fall under MECS supervision but under its own governing body, the board of trustees.

According to PD 1437, the governing board should consist of the MECS minister as chairman, a representative from NEDA, and two prominent citizens who have distinguished themselves in the specialized academic fields of the school, (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, commerce).

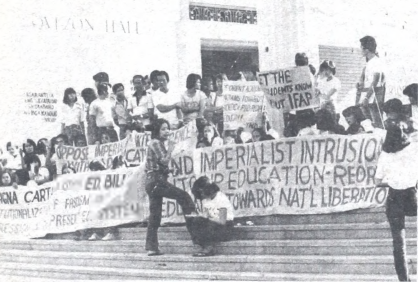
A PASUC source revealed that in some of the new SCUs created by the Batasan, the mayor or governor is included in the board and not the required authorities in the academic field. The source said the college wants to pursue.

One state college educationist candidly pointed out that while the "motivations" of educators are not always as straightforward as political strings are "normal."

The college and the board were created by legislative acts. Therefore, we are not as straightforward as political strings are "normal."

Another source went on to say that with these different motives, needs funds to maintain the upkeep of his college and candidly pointed out that the hand that feeds him."

PD 1437 fixes the term of office of the president for six years. The source said some charters have provided for a longer PD 1437, the college president will be the authority to appoint school officials and employees. — PA



## Dumlaog defends appointment of Laya

By PATRICIA L. ADVERSARIO

**D**EPUTY Education Minister Hermenegildo Dumlaog, considered to be the one most likely to succeed O.D. Corpuz, is expensive about giving in to new MECS Minister Jaime C. Laya.

"Why should I feel slighted? I would feel slighted if I was sure about getting the post, and I was never sure I'd get the position," he emphasized.

"If, in the process, I was considered for the position, fine. If not chosen, then it's not okay," Dumlaog said and shrugged.

Sources at the MECS

thought that with Dumlaog's "close association" with the President, he was the most likely choice for the position.

Unlike Corpuz, Dumlaog was not complaining about any "cordon sanitaire" or Mafia schemes that were out to isolate him from the President.

"It's true I have known the President for sometime. Is that a qualification?" Then he paused.

"Sometimes, that's even a disqualification," he said with a faint

smile.

When asked to elaborate, he drew back, then shuffled uneasily some papers.

"Forget that. I wasn't serious about that 'best remark,'" then he grinned.

"It's the President's prerogative to appoint any one he thinks is best for the post—even if he got somebody outside the ministry."

Some educators, however, cannot conceive how a technocrat was picked to run the education ministry.

"But there's no conflict. One can be a technocrat and a good educator at the same time.

What counts is performance. I don't know why one puts added meaning to the word technocrat. 'I strongly feel Laya is qualified. I feel comfortable with him,'" he added.

The new minister considers his appointment as a "meeting of the worlds of finance and education."

Alejandro Roces, former secretary of education believes otherwise.

"It is hard to appoint any body to a different post just because he has lost his credibility somewhere. Why should the education ministry be the dumping ground of a Central Bank failure?" Roces said.

When asked to react to Roces' remark, Dumlaog appeared momentarily at a loss.

"There's no basis for that remark. Though failures and mistakes can happen anywhere, the MECS and CB are entirely different institutions. Dumlaog stresses...





# CELEBRATION Sesame

## The TV street where Filipino children live, love, laugh, and learn

By FLOY QUINTOS

The specification, however, does not mean to exclude the child from the rural areas or from other socio-economic groups.

Another *Sesame* brochure says that the show is, "perhaps the most thoroughly researched TV program in the country." The development of the curriculum was marked by six months of research and extensive consultations with the country's leading educators, social scientists, linguists and child development experts. The curriculum goals for the first experimental season of *Sesame* stresses values and the development of a child's emotional and moral growth. Through the situations featured in the show, *Sesame* hopes to support home and school in teaching children the positive values of caring, sharing, cleanliness, resourcefulness, cooperation and perhaps the most

Kiko Matsing have been cast in the molds of *Sesame Street's* Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch (The creation of these puppets was supervised by the Children's Television Workshop in New York, but somehow you forget all US prototypes the moment Pong opens his mouth and begins to ask questions. Never mind if Pong resembles the minor, less complicated creations of CTW and is dressed like any other American kid or if Kiko speaks in the same raspy voice as Oscar. With Pong's multi-colored shell and Kiko's gaily decorated jellie, they've become distinctly folksy. Deo Noveno, a Filipino puppeteer who trained with CTW's Kermit Love, essays the role, complaining only of the "sauna-like" heat inside the shell. Sammy and Violy Badon, who work Kiko Matsing, are senior puppeteers of the performing

one of Repertory Philippines' lead actors. Sylvia, his amiable, soft-spoken wife is the model and actress Susan Africa. Bulwagang Ganimpal's Joe Gruta is Mang Lino. Tito and Dessa Quesada, who play Ben and Luz, began in theater during their high school days. The greatest challenge of *Sesame*, the cast generally agrees, is working with children. As Tito Quesada puts it, "You cannot fake your emotions here. Children have a built-in Geiger counter of sorts; even if you smile, they can feel your real disposition. So I learned how to level with them, I go gentle but straight and firm, never fawning or patronizing."

The *Sesame* community is people with such refreshingly different types, and even if they converse with giant turtles and monkeys, they are believable, they are credible. Consequently, this small community of workers has earned the respect of the industry. No tearjerking, no melodrama, no mestizo features or garbled attempts at speaking English, no quads about social classes or "lowly" professions. Instead, *Sesame* presents its viewers with an ideal community of people (and animals) working and learning together. Now do you understand why I wish *Sesame* had been around much earlier?

Of course, there are other things to wish for. Like say a character built around a farmer from Central Luzon, or a fisherman from Laguna de Bay. How about a Kalinga child or a Samal youngster, visiting *Sesame* and sharing with the neighborhood kids, their own unique experiences? Or should I be audacious and wish for a *Sesame* episode on the plight of the urban poor and the displaced minorities and the laborers. I'm not asking for too much. Just a television show that seeks to develop the right attitudes, one that focuses on the human spirit and the sense of community that is so important in times like these, without sugar coating the human condition. It will take a great deal of intelligence to be able to do just that and still stay clear of blatant propaganda, but won't it be worth the effort? Children are, after all, capable of more intelligence than we credit them with. And what about older brothers and sisters, yabos, housewives and folks who spend mornings in front of the TV set? They could learn too. Clearly, the possibilities are endless.

I WAS twelve that summer when *Sesame Street* was first broadcast in Manila, and like most other twelve year olds who had already learned to count beyond ten and tell "which of these things was not like the other," I relished *Sesame Street* purely for the whole hour of entertainment it offered. I remember sitting whole mornings with younger cousins and enjoying no less than the aid, the light banter of the muppets. Even if there was nothing more that I could learn from the show and its characters, it was important to me then, to traverse as often as I could that whole street which seemed so special.

I cannot tell what made *Sesame Street* so magical. I soon found out from watching *Barreta* and *Starky and Hutch* that the street where muppets and humans lived looked no different from the streets of the Bronx and the lower Eastside where muggings and shoot-outs were also so commonplace. Looking back at those mornings, I sometimes wonder what made Ernie and Bert's endless jelly-bean squabbles so engrossing, or what it was that made Oscar the Grouch and his garbage can world so interesting. What, I still ask myself, could have made a selfish monster with an insatiable desire for cookies, so lovable? Of Big Bird, the Sesame star, I remember only two things: that he was incredibly stupid and that he was yellow before the color was fashionable. Eventually Big Bird travelled to China for a special, and I was glad that he had crossed over from Sesame Street to the Great Wall just as I was glad when Kermit the frog went on to host his own show, complete with a porcine seductress and celebrity human beings as guests.

Of course, that first generation that grew up on the *Sesame Street* imports evolved sensibilities touched by American culture. How many youngsters mimicked Ernie or Bert or tried to laugh like Grover, or wanted milk and cookies for merienda and rubber duckies in their water pails? One thing for sure, it was a generation

that learned not to fear monsters, growing into able to find them cute and lovable.

So, just when I thought I had finally outgrown *Sesame Street*, *Sesame* comes along and one can't help wondering what sensitivities and sensibilities are now being nurtured by these preschoolers who watch Pong Pagong and Kiko Matsing frolicking through their own neighborhoods, one strewn with old tires and pigeon coops, with rusty tin cans and old iron grids, lined with water tanks, laundry lines and the back view of slightly greying apartment houses. If someone asks a child what color his skin is, he might now say with pride, like *Sesame's* Aling Nena does, that it isn't just brown, it is *kayumangging kaligatan* - and that it is the color of the Filipino.

Children in more affluent homes in the Philippines may be learning earlier in life how to relate to ambulant street vendors like Ben or repairmen like Mang Lino, how to find harmony and symmetry in the shapes, colors and noises of a crowded, lower-income urban neighborhood rather than just whitewash them in their mind. Perhaps these children would be learning to speak Filipino, not Taglish, making their native language truly the language of the heart.

The fact is that I'd like to think of myself as an adult for whom the learning process has just begun and that is why I watch *Sesame* every chance I get.

Never mind if the Philippine Sesame Street Project targets an audience of 4 to 6 year olds from the urban areas, and from the socio-economic group that a PSP hand-out labels as "middle-class."

Children from 4 to 6 are supposed to be equipped with the basic cognitive and socio-emotional skills and concepts about their own selves and their environment. The choice of urban children was based on the obvious fact that most television sets in the country are found in areas with electricity.



difficult goal of all, to emphasize growing up as a Filipino child. Thus, the distinctly Filipino environment and community.

There have been previous attempts at creating a Filipino series that was geared towards the education of children, but these paralleled *Sesame Street* only in the use of puppets and animation. It was obvious that these producers had missed out on those qualities that enable adults to communicate with children: the wit, the spontaneity, the sense of fun.

What direction would the show have taken without the expert guidance of New York's Children's Television Workshop, which produces *Sesame Street*?

There are no furry monsters on this street, instead there is an endearingly naive tortoise in a baseball cap, sneakers, sweatshirts and jogging pants and a street-wise monkey and his jeepney. It's obvious that Pong Pagong and

ensemble of the conservative Baptist Ministry. The husband and wife team have been puppeteers for the past 8 years. Noveno's experience includes a two year stint with *Batang Pinoy* and the handling of Japanese Bonraku puppets. Much as the puppets are hailed as *Sesame's* star attractions, the Filipino community who live on the street prove themselves equally engaging. My own personal favorite is Aling Nena, a 69-year old widow who runs a sari-sari store. No sugary lola is Aling Nena and unlike *Sesame Street's* Mr. Hooper, the character she most strongly parallels, she gives the impression that senility will never overtake her. As Aling Nena, actress Angie Ferro reminds one of a matriarch who's lived through a lot and emerged strong and wise. A woman of dignity.

Stage experience is a common factor that binds the *Sesame* performers. Mario, the science teacher is played by Junix Francian, who has made a name as

**SOS VILLAGE**

# Help for the Homeless Child

Text and photos by EMMIE M. ALTAMIRANO

One might forget their names but the stories of neglect and rejection which brought many of them to the SOS village for abandoned and orphaned children burns a hole in the mind and compels retelling.

What happens to an unwanted child? It is easy to "dispose" of one or two of them. Leave a one-and-a-half-year old baby from Calbayog in a parked jeep bound for Manila or in an office lobby or with a security guard. Or with reluctant grandparents who are unwilling and unable to care for them so that eventually they are forced to find prospects of a "better life", in the streets. Others who continue to live with their parents are often physically and emotionally brutalized. Some of these children have been found wandering the streets—barefoot, aimless, nameless.

Some of the 400 or so children in the five SOS villages — in Lipa City, Batangas; Cebu City, Davao, Tacloban and Calbayog, Samar—had been moving from one home to another, or one institution to another.

They are a pitiful sight when they come — a one-day old infant all shriveled like a prune. Another infant still had the umbilical cord attached to his belly. Many others bear other scars — cigarette butt burns for instance and other less perceptible wounds — constant nightmares, the inability to speak, a debilitating fear. They are withdrawn, fearful, and even hostile. For these children from oppressive institutions or homes, coming to the village is like being freed from a cage, according to Suzie Winternitz who together with her late husband, Dr.

George Winternitz, had brought the concept of SOS (Save Our Souls) villages to the Philippines.

No matter how beautiful and nicely-kept an institution may be, it is not a natural place for a child to grow up in because institutional life breaks up the normal world of childhood into fragments. Children are grouped according to sex and age; adults relate to them according to their respective functions, usually they attend the school inside the institution's compound and live practically isolated from the world outside. They cannot run around freely nor form meaningful personal relationships. Worse still, each child is usually seen as just another body to feed, clothe and to herd about.

Children develop an "institution or orphanage mentality" making them cling to

strangers. They seem to clutch at life, since they feel they have to compete for food and attention — all the time. When these children come to the village, they wofl down their food as if uncertain when the next one would come, or if it would be enough. They have no concept of privacy or ownership and they go around the individual houses without knocking, freely opening cupboards and closets. They do not have a concept of family as made up of parents and siblings. They have no concept of home.

One or two months later, they realize that there will always be enough food on the table, that here they do not just have a roof over their heads but "mothers" who try to give them the love of a natural mother. And that there are other



"What happens to an unwanted child?"



children who through sheer instinct apparently know how to help heal another child.

The scenes one comes upon at SOS — "mothers" tucking children to sleep or feeding or bathing them, children carrying babies just slightly smaller than themselves, children sharing an oversized umbrella which dwarfs them in the drizzle; children fetching water for their mothers or hanging the laundry or all of them gathered in the table making homemade *suman* or just laughing and playing together — are a departure from most caring institutions. There are personal touches as the framed photos of all the children on an open shelf in the sala decorated with plants and fresh flowers in milk cans painted white.

The creed of SOS children's village states that to uphold the dignity of man, each child not only enjoys the proclaimed right of home but he actually has a home; each child not only enjoys the proclaimed right of daily bread but is getting it and each child not only enjoys the proclaimed right of education but is in reality receiving it.

But even as some 400 children have found a "home" and a "family" in the SOS village, many other children — an increasing number of them, in fact — will sleep tonight hunched on a cardboard bed or the cold cement. How many more of them will be driven to the streets through neglect or sheer poverty at home to scavenge for food, to live by the rules of the urban jungle and that means survival of the fittest? In this jungle, a 7-year-old child can lose his innocence forever, tattooed and marked for life by a society which conveniently turns the other way.



An SOS village is home for 400 children who have been moving from one home or institution to another without ever knowing what it's like to belong to a family. SOS children are still lucky. The village tries to fill out the gaps, the emptiness of institutional life with an approach that tries to approximate mother's care and attention.



# PARENTING DURING A PERIOD OF NATIONAL CRISIS

By TERESITA QUINTOS-DELES

Some people have observed that the problems we face today constitute the most serious crisis to our nation since the end of World War II. As with every crisis situation, the times are rife both with the threat of destruction and violence but also with the possibility of new beginnings and renewed hopes for our people.

As Christians, we are obliged to become actively involved with the situation. We cannot remain aloof from the events that are determining day-by-day the shape of our country's future. We are not allowed to remain indifferent to our people's efforts at last to express and exercise their collective opinion for justice and freedom.

But as we participate in the various actions to achieve social redirection, those among us who are parents are also challenged to confront a further concern: What about our children? What are the implications of these national developments and our own social involvement on the way we raise our children? How shall we raise them so that they will be able to cope with the crisis and in fact remain positive agents during these troubled times?

**(1) Critical thinking.** Critical thinking is a sign of an active and independent mind. It refers to a person's capacity to stand back from a situation, question its premises, and make a judgement about the truth it proposes. The full exercise of critical thinking is essential to the maintenance of the democratic process and is essential enough, eleven years of authoritarian rule in the Philippines have attempted to eradicate the practice of critical thought among our people.

Critical thinking constitutes a value for human survival and human fulfillment in the most ordinary of times. It becomes truly imperative during periods of crisis when sharp divisions among the population become imminent.

Critical thinking in children begins in small ways: participation in the choice of their clothes, in decisions about play and free time, in reflective discussions about our relationships with other people. Even pre-school children can appreciate the fact that commercials on television can, and often do, lie; that there is something wrong when children have to earn their living in the streets; that their parents, as with other persons in authority, can make mistakes and that we can talk about it.

We plant the seed for critical thought in little children when we show them the value of what they say and that it is as important to us to listen to their thoughts as it is for them to listen to ours. The practice of critical thinking is nurtured every time they have to say affects the way we do things in our family, that their opinions help to determine the issues that concern us. We encourage critical thinking during these troubled times when we take the time to discuss

with our children the meaning of our actions - from the meaning of the black pin we wear on our shirt and of the yellow ribbons we see waving in the streets to the reason for our increasingly hectic work schedule.

**(2) Material simplicity.** If nothing else is clear about the implications of the crisis we now face, it is that we are coming into very difficult times on the economic front. The latest devaluation of the peso (which brought the rate of deterioration of the value of the peso to approximately 53% since January of this year) signals the following scenario: a sharp rise in prices and increasing shortage of basic commodities; the running out of raw materials and fuel to meet production needs; massive lay-off of workers as factories cut back production or even shut down; the breakdown of the transportation system immobilizing any available goods; the eventual collapse of the banking system. The most optimistic projections affirm that we are entering a period of scarcity; the only question is how long the recovery or the reconstruction of the economy

is instituted as a form of sacrifice. While it prunes our habits of excessive consumption, simple living is definitely a life-affirming lifestyle and must be introduced to children, as a positive concept.

Material simplicity constitutes an affirming lifestyle because it is based on the concept of stewardship rather than of selfishness. Stewardship is an attitude towards things - the world and its resources as well as one's personal belongings - as being here not for one's exclusive use but for the welfare of others, for the survival and continued growth of the human race.

Finally, material simplicity can be developed and sustained only in community with other people. We need a support group to avoid developing a feeling of isolation especially in younger people to whom peer group acceptance is of utmost importance. A community is also important to enable us to build alternative structures that are necessary to make the options of simple living viable and sustainable in a consumerist-oriented world.

**(3) Nonviolent action.** In his homily on the third night of the novena-masses for the late Senator Aquino, Fr. Jose Blanco, S.J., spoke on the theme of nonviolence. He underscored the point that "prevailing or 'winning' is not the goal of the nonviolent action, but the working out of the truth

rather insist that we sit down together to work out a mutual resolution of the conflict. We teach nonviolence when we show the children that winning is not the most important thing in the world - that "victory at all costs" is meaningless, that it is possible to develop our own violence as an object of play or entertainment. We

We further the cause of peace when we refuse to let our violence be an object of play or entertainment. We



will also refuse to glorify persons who promote and institutionalize the use of violence. We have to teach our children to recognize the courage and strength of nonviolent action.

All these affirmations do not deny the fact that the nonviolent person may sometimes have to undertake an act of violence, but this decision is never one to be taken lightly. In the Philippines, we would like to believe that the nonviolent approach to change is still a viable option for us. In a situation already rife with the threat of a violent struggle, however, it is still imperative to train our children in nonviolent action. We have to teach them to understand that what is important is the victory of truth and not of force.

**(4) Social justice and freedom.** The themes of social justice and freedom lie at the core of socially conscious parenting.

Justice and freedom are timeless values. They spring from our concept and appreciation of persons as beings with intellect and will, created in the image of God, standing at the apex of creation. Thus, every person has inalienable rights to a life with dignity and freedom.

These are also values appropriate to these times. Never yet in our entire history of self-rule have the basic rights of the Filipino people been so grossly violated. The political unrest now rocking major centers of the country is the eruption of long pent-up anger against eleven years of authoritarian rule that have quite effectively turned the Filipinos into "exiles in their own land," to quote his eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin. Filipinos today are subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention, alienated from the land and the fruits of their land, who control over their work and the fruits of their work, denied of any structures by which they

can seek redress from public servants who exploit rather than serve them.

We teach children about justice and freedom when we do not practice justice and freedom at home, affirming our respect for the inalienable rights of all the members of our family and household - adults as well as children, the female members equally with the males, the helpers as well as those whom they serve.

The practice of justice and freedom in our homes will lay the foundation on which can grow the values

of justice and freedom in our children.

But we must also introduce our children to the wider issues of justice and freedom outside our homes. It is not necessary to undertake an elaborate analysis of social issues with younger children. But we must establish our firm concern for the welfare of the oppressed people beyond our homes and immediate community.

As early in our children's lives as possible, we must bring them to recognize that there is a vast world of people beyond our homes, often living not very far away, who may live differently from us but with whom we are interrelated: the farmers who planted the rice and the fisher-folks who caught the fish on our dinner table, the workers who produced the other goods we use, etc.

Our children need to see our interest in social issues as an integral part of their regular family lifestyles, normally entering into our family discussions, affecting our decisions about expenditures and use of goods, permeating our friendships

and relationships. It is important that there should not be any serious discrepancy between the social values that we preach and our own personal behavior at home and with others.

**(5) Prayer and faith.** When we pray, we affirm that we are not alone. We establish communion with our God and gather strength from this affirmation between creature and God.

Our people's movement for justice which arose following the death of August 21 has, as one of its major characteristics, a visible dimension of prayer. Our initial mass gatherings were centered around churches. Our first forms of action constituted of prayer gatherings and processions. In periods of crisis, we affirm the value of prayer.

If we want to teach children the value of prayer, we have to set up quiet times and spaces in our homes. Silence is necessary for the two-way communication which is prayer to take place. At age two or ninety, we need to take time for this silence and not to be overwhelmed by events, not to be worn out or crushed by our own round of activities.

From our children's earliest days, we have to teach them to withdraw from the world. In the words of one of the Calls to Action that was circulated after August 21, "When we gather in peaceful community to ask the Lord of the Universe to heed our call, we express a commitment, arising from our deepest spiritual beliefs, not to surrender to the forces that would have us cowering in fear." From the silence of prayer, we arise to more determined action to "take away the occasion of war" from our world.

\*\*\*\*\*  
When my mother heard that I was writing an article on parenting during a time of crisis, she said that parenting supposed to be different during a time of crisis? Aren't I supposed to raise our children all times as if we were in a period of crisis?"

And my mother is right, of course. The meaning of parenting shouldn't suddenly change during a time of crisis. The only difference is that we should have to be more aware of the issues which we should address when the situation turns out to be

## PARENTING FOR PEACE & JUSTICE

Parenting for Peace and Justice (PPI) held its inaugural meeting Friday-Sunday, January 20-22 at the Loyola Retreat House in Angono, Rizal. PPI is part of the US-based Parenting for Peace and Justice Network, a movement initiated by James and Kathleen McGinnis in 1981 and which now has spread to every state in the U.S. and Canada.

PPI includes such concerns as helping children learn non-violent ways of resolving conflicts, countering consumer-

ism, and how whole families can be involved in working for peace and justice.

"The families' response to the current crisis" is how the members of the local coordinating team primarily see their efforts. They include Ging & Jojo Deles, Ferdie and Tita Hilario, Baby & Toto Malvar, and Fr. Ruben M. Tanseco, S.J.

For further information, interested parties may call Mr. House, tel. no. 8175691 or Tita and Ferdie Hilario tel. nos. 8330092 and 8330043.



# MANILA TIP-OFF

By MA. THERESA R. MARTELINO

## PERFORMING ARTS

**Insular Life Theater**  
(Insular Life Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati)  
January 29, February 4 - 3:30 and 8 p.m.  
February 3, 4 - 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.

**Bulwagang Gantimpala**  
(CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila)  
January 29, February 4 - 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.  
February 3 - 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)  
January 30 - 8 p.m.  
**Ylipopilakunan Laulayat Choir.** Also known as the Helsinki University Chorus, an all-male Finnish choir composed of 90 members with conductor Matti Hyokki. Repertoire includes the compositions of Pekka Kostianen, Jean Sibelius, Carl Orff, and Jan Sweelinck, among others.

**CCP Little Theater**  
(CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila)  
February 2 and 3 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Poulenc-Cocleux's Evening.** The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra performs under the baton of French conductor Jean Pierre Jacquillat. Presented by the CCP in association with the French Embassy.

**Folk Arts Theater**  
(CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila)  
February 4 - 7 p.m.  
**MET Parade of Stars.** A gala dinner-show featuring all the stars and artists who have appeared in any of the Manila Metropolitan Theater's productions. Includes excerpts from various musicals staged at the MET such as *Maula-ala Mo Kayá, Hindi Kita Malimot,* and *Dahil sa Iyo.* With the participation of the Metropolitan Theater Chorus, MET Dance Company, and the Manila Symphony Orchestra. Directed by Ramon Gil-Alonso. Presented in celebration of the MET's 5th anniversary.

**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.

**Open-Air Theater**  
(Rizal Park, Manila)  
January 29 - *Triplets* and *Biglang Yaman*, two Tagalog comedy films. Presented in cooperation with the LVN Film Archives.

February 4 - *Berlinger.* Directed by B. Sinkel and A. Brustellin. Presented in cooperation with the Goethe-Institut.

**HOTELS**  
**Hyatt Regency Manila**  
(2702 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City)  
At the Tempura-Misono: Unagi (eel) is the special for January.

At Cafe La Hacienda: A Filipino lunch buffet is available the whole week. Also included in the menu are nine dishes featuring asparagus from Baguio.

At Calesa Bar: Cynthia Patag is back performing at 7.9 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

**Philippine Plaza**  
(CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Manila)  
At Pier 7: Los Filipinos entertains nightly starting at 7 p.m. A daily lunch buffet is also offered at P115+ for adults and P77+ for children.

At Siete Pecados: Emille and the Midas Touch alternate performances with the Music Breakers Monday to Thursday at 7:30 p.m.-2 a.m. and Friday to Saturday at 8 p.m.-2 a.m.

## ART

**Heritage Center**  
(Cor. William and Lantana Sts., Cubao, Quezon City)  
*Pintig ng Buhay* 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.

**Ali Mall Shopping Center**  
(3rd Level, Cubao, Quezon City)

Larawan '84 exhibits the photographs of camera clubs, professional photographic organizations, and selected accomplished photographers from all over the country. In celebration of Photography Week. Until January 31.

## FILMS

**Metropolitan Museum of Manila**  
(Roxas Blvd., Manila)  
January 29, 4 p.m. - *Une Semaine de Vacances.* Directed by Bertrand Tavernier. Presented in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of France.

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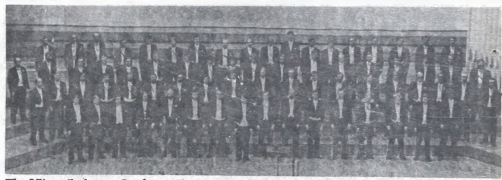
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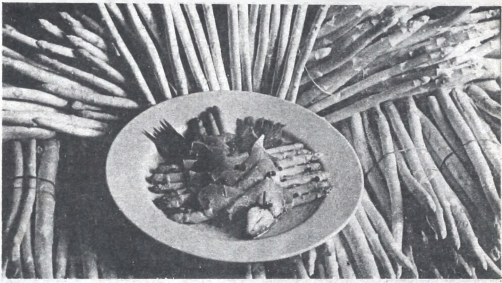


The Ylipopilakunan Laulayat Choir at the CCP



Cynthia Patag at the Hyatt.

Rosella and Russell Lorenzo



The asparagus avalanche at Hyatt.

## Primetime Specials

Rodolfo T. Reyes has reportedly resigned from his position as general manager of MBS-4, the government station, effective February 1. His successor has not been named although in the latter part of last year, rumors were rife that Imee Marcos Manotoc would take over Channel 4 since Mr. Reyes had supposedly already resigned his post. Although it was never confirmed that Mr. Reyes had actually resigned, it was bruited about that somebody from higher up had refused to accept his resignation.

9 Years Before Your Eyes, an 11-hour news documentary series which features the most significant news highlights from 1975 to 1983, premiered on RPN-9 on January 21. It will air for 11 consecutive Saturdays at 5-6 p.m.

If plans go through, Jerry Lewis, the American king of comedy, just might come along with Willie Nonopuccino in *Telescope '84* a charity project in the form of an 18-hour marathon variety special aimed at raising money for 22 charitable institutions. To be aired live from the Araneta Coliseum over MBS-4 starting on February 14 at 7 a.m. until 1 a.m. of February 15 without commercial interruption, the show is similar to the *Jerry Lewis Telethon* held every Labor Day in the United States.

Movie and television stars as well as other showbiz personalities will perform while they receive phone calls for pledges from the public. Raffle draws and contests are the other highlights of the presentation, portions of which will be telecast by the other TV stations from time to time.



**Joe Quirino** \*\*\*\*\*  
Joe Quirino's noontime show *JQ on One* which was recently moved to a primetime slot at 9:30-10:30 p.m. every Sunday has changed its title to *Seeing Stars on 2*. It seems that the BBC-2 management hopes to regain the popularity — and the ratings — the show enjoyed when it was still telecast on IBC-13.

\*\*\*\*\*  
RPN-9's upcoming series include two action-adventure series and a cartoon series. These are *Gavilan*, starring Robert Ulrich; *The Quest*, starring Perry King and Karen Austin, and *Pandamonium*.

## NETWORK

The following are some of the special TV shows lined up this week:

• Sunday, January 29 at 9 p.m., RPN-9's Sunday's Big Event features the concluding episode of the five-part miniseries *The Thorn Birds*. The miniseries, based on the best-selling novel by Colleen McCullough, records the life of an Australian frontier family and the forbidden love between a priest, Father Ralph de Bricassart, and a young girl, Meggie Cleary.

• Wednesday, February 1 at 8:30 p.m., RPN-9's Midweek Special features Tennessee Williams' *The Night of the Ignans* done by Repertory Philippines: Nestor Torre, Baby Barredo, Joy Virata, and Paul Holme star. Zenaida Amador directs.

• Friday, February 3 at 8:30 p.m. A cast of puppets takes over GMA Motion Pictures in the sci-fi film *Reveng* of the *Mysterious from Mars*.

• Saturday, February 4 at 9 p.m., *The Last Song*. GMA-7's feature on Marvelous Golden Movies, tells of a beautiful, happily-married young singer devoted to her engineer-husband and their young daughter. The intriguing drama takes on the thrills of industrial espionage as a company covers up for its chemical wastes and takes drastic steps to prevent the family from exposing it. Lynda Carter stars.



Lynda Carter stars in *The Last Song*.

# CECILLE CASTILLO'S STAR ON THE RISE

By JUSTINO DORMIENDO

Nearly five years ago, a gawky, innocent-looking, 15-year-old nymph, just out of high school, was well on her way to becoming the newest star in Philippine movies. She had been chosen from among 500 aspirants in a nationwide search for the girl who was to play the plum role in Cebo Ad. Castillo's *Ang Dalagang Pinagtaklan ng Panahon*, that year's most controversial movie about an Igorot maiden caught between the clashing forces of tradition and change. The movie was, for this young and inexperienced girl, more than just a lucky break. It meant the fulfillment of a childhood dream.

But as fate would have it, the stillborn star was caught in the real-life legal tussle over the film's material, with two parties claiming the movie was, in fact, their rightful property. As a result, two versions of the movie were made and, worse, simultaneously exhibited. To add to the injury, the girl's own director abandoned her and went on to make the other version (entitled *Alib-ib*), with bold star Rio Locsin in the title role. Instead of bringing her the promise of instant stardom, the movie ended up as a monumental disaster at the box office.

Like the film's ill-fated title, the career of Cecille Castillo never got off the ground again. Meanwhile, she decided to pursue her college studies, accepting assignments which came rather sporadically and where she was relegated to nothing but purely decorative roles as in *Boy Kano*,

*Barkada*, and *Pinoxy Boxer*. She vowed to give herself five years, that is, if she ever had a chance to recover from her being a "hopeless case."

The turning point finally came in 1982. Director Lino Brocka offered her a choice part in *Cain at Abel*, that of a submissive housemaid impregnated by the landlady's irresponsible son. Here, she was pitted against such acting stalwarts as Christopher de Leon, Philip Salvador and Mona Liza, and, for the first time, she elicited favorable reviews for her fine performance. Her portrayal was, in fact, so finely etched that the critics and the industry people alike took notice of her, resulting in a citation from the Manunuris and a nomination from the First Film Academy of the Philippines Awards. Though she did eventually lose to Liza Lorena in the FAP's acting derby, her producer, Bernie Yalong of Cine Surtex, promised her another role that would bring to the fore her new-found acting resources.

That promise was finally fulfilled in *Karnal*, where she was personally chosen by Director Mariou Diaz-Abaya to play the pivotal role of Puring, the city-bred wife who goes home to her husband's hometown, and later falls prey to the milieu's sexual repression and violence. Her performance is truly memorable: she is, by turns, timid, tender, and tormented. The Manila filmfest jurors must have been so impressed with Cecille's performance that she figured



Cecille's disappointment with the results of the recently-concluded Metro Manila Filmfest was partially compensated when *Karnal* was nominated for best foreign picture in the 1983 Oscar awards. If it wins, the young actress may still have the last laugh.

prominently in the best actress race, finally losing out to Coney Reyes-Mumar in a highly controversial decision, one of the last filmfest's biggest boo-boos.

The loss, coming as it does to an actress who was supremely confident of her ability as well as the film's overall superiority, drove Cecille to long fits of depression. Not one to mince her words, she even came out in print to denounce the irre-

gularity. "Masakit talaga ang nangyari," she says. "At ang nasama pa ay nag-leak ang results doon mismo sa CCP habang nasa backstage ako. I knew I did a good job. The award would have been a most timely Christmas gift for my parents."

For days and nights, she confesses, she sought solace in prayer and reflection, asking Him why it had to happen to her at this point in her life. She has

moved away from the pain and self-pity and now speaks with courage and optimism. Her greatest consolation is that a lot of people have come out of their way to personally congratulate her for a job well-done.

Cecille admits she had prepared long and hard for her role in *Karnal*. As part of her training, her director made her attend an intensive, seven-week workshop in acting,

together with Joel Torre and Grace Amibagosa, her co-stars who are comparative newcomers like her. The workshop involved lessons in formal classical ballet, mime, dialogue, speech and body acting. The stint, she says, made her more aware of her resources as a performer.

Director Diaz-Abaya was likewise impressed by Cecille's own efforts to improve herself. "Cecille proved to be a most diligent student," she says. "Her physical and emotional stamina were extraordinary. She does not only have a fantastic memory but also has the body equipment necessary for a role as challenging and as difficult as that of *Karnal*. All her features worked together in the delineation of character."

Cecille herself feels privileged about having worked with the director. It was an exposure worth all her time and effort. "Mariou treated me like her own daughter, personally coaching me on eye movement and line delivery, which were my pitfalls before. I have also gained invaluable exposure from the rest of the cast. They were all very helpful and cooperative. *Kaya nga siguro lumabas na maganda ang pelikula dahil lahat kami sa cast ay nagmamahalan.*"

Has Cecille's life drastically changed after *Karnal*? She says the only perceivable change is that it has made her more self-assured and more discriminating, particularly in choosing her next assignments. Her manager, Josie Mañago, who has constantly

supported her through thick and thin, says that there are several offers but these are mostly tentative. One is a bold drama while another from Jessie Ejercito is yet in the planning stage.

Meanwhile, Cecille is taking time off from the movies until that elusive dream role finally materializes. Instead she is now concentrating on her school work at San Juan de Letran where she is a candidate for graduation from the college of Business Administration this March. "Movies," she points out, "can wait, but my studies can't. *Iba na 'yung nakatapos.*" The movies are not stable, especially now that the industry has been gravely affected by the devaluation.

Cecille who is 19, comes from a middle-class family where traditional values still hold: hard work, respect for elders, and the necessity of a formal education. The third in a brood of three girls and two boys, Cecille is bent on pursuing her master's degree after graduation. "*Hindi na ako kailangang magapura sa movie career ko, tatalay may iba naman akong options sa buhay. Napatunayan ko na sa sarili kong pag-ginusto ko, ay kakayatin ko. Mabuti na ang nakasigturo ka kaysa mastrita ka na naman sa isang maling desisyon.*"

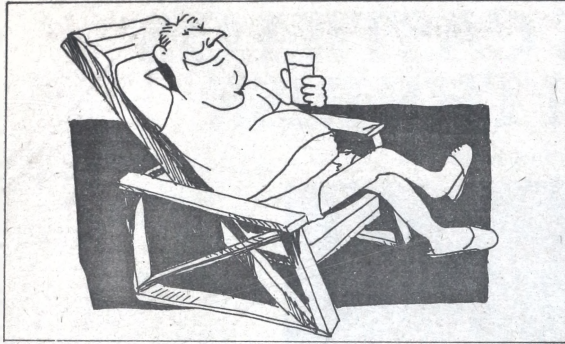
While she is in no hurry, events have a way of overtaking young actresses with her kind of talent. Cecille's star may shoot beyond her wildest dreams when *Karnal* enters the 1983 Oscar competition.



Equipped with a college education, Cecille is the rare breed in show business who takes acting seriously but wants to fall back on something other than showbusiness. She is shown here with Philip Salvador who plays her husband in *Karnal*.



In a highly dramatic scene, Cecille gives birth by a stream assisted only by a deaf mute played by Joel Torre.



# SANGGUNIANG BAYAN Binabaog ang Negatibong Pwersa

SA ISANG tipikal na bayan, hindi na katakata-taka kung may mga tao kang lantaran ng nagpapakita ng kawalang-kasiyahan sa gawa o performance ng kanilang sangguniang bayan —ang lokal (pambayan) na lehislatura. Hindi na nakapipilitang marinig ang ganito: "Ala namang ginagawa ang mga konsesal natin kundi magpakali ng tiyan!" Kaya sa maraming pagkakaatao, ang pangkaniyang gawing magmamangay ang nagdadalang-isip na magharap ng kanilang karangin at mamahayag ng interes sa harap ng sangguniang bayan. Hindi na buo ang paniniwala nilang may magagawa o nahahandang gumawa ng habang kaugnay ng kanilang problema o hanarin.

Bakit nangyari ito? Bakit naging mabuwag ang paniniwala at pangbahawakan ng tao sa kakayahang ng sangguniang bayan para maibigay sa kanila ang maramat na paghilingkot? Ano ang nagtutulak sa mamamayan para mag-isip na ang interes nila ay hindi na mapangalagalan—huwag nang maataas pa—ng sangguniang bayan sa pamamagitan ng lokal na lehislasyon? Sa tuwing tanong, bakit nag-isip ang taong ang sangguniang bayan ay wala nang tootong kapasidad na magbata?

**Ang sangguniang bayan**  
Alinsunod sa tadjana ng batas, ang sangguniang bayan ay binubuo ng mayor bilang tagapangulo, ng haramay, ng walong halal na kasanguni (konselhal) at ng tagapangulo ng Asosasyon ng mga Punong Barangay at Kabatang Barangay na hihirang ng Pangulo bilang kasanguni.

Batay sa pangangailangan ng bayan, ang sangguniang bayan ay nangangailangan ng maraming mga paksa, at kabit ilang beses sa isang buwan. Sa maliit

na bayan, ang pagpapulung minsan sa isang buwan ay sapat. Ngunit sa mga primera at segunda klaseng bayan, kung saan higit na kumplikado ang operasyon ng pangangasiwa at marami ang bagay na nangangailangan ng lehisasyon, ginagawang makalawa samuwan ang sesyon. Sakali at kailangan, tumatawag pa ng pangkaniyang pagpapulung sa pagitan ng pangkaraniwan at dipangkaraniwang sesyon. Kung ang pagbabatayan ay ang binanggit na set-up, walaag dapat maging dahilin para nasira ang tiwala ng bayan sa kapulungan. Tila hindi iyon magkukulang sa pagtugon sa pangangailangan ng tao. Kailangan ng mga aksiyon ang anumang bagay na humihingi ng pagbabatas.

### Pulitika

Tanging ang matatag na pagpursi ang maglalantad sa mga bagay na gumagapag at punipig sa sangguniang bayan para maging tootong epektibo. Makapangyarihan ang pulitika sa kapulungan. Iyon ang unang pwersang may malakas na impluwensya sa aksyon ng lokal na lehislatura.

Dahil sa tendensya ng mga kagawad na mamulitika—sa pag-iwi sa ambisyong muli pangkumandagit pagkatapos ng kasalukuyang panunungkulan—at "bumango" sa tao, naddudaw silang tumalak nang malaya at matapat sa mga sensitibong isyu. Alam nilang maraming o kumandagit minanila sa ganong isyu ay may magagalit na mga taong hindi na "magboboto" uli sa kanila sa tungkulin pagdating ng panahon. Kaya sa halip na matalakay nang ganap ang paksa, at mailantad ang pinakamabuting bagay ryon na mababatas sa kabutihan ng interes ng marami, ang isyu ay natatapos ng talakayan nang hindi neeksipolyt ang mabubuting aspeto;

hindi nababatas sa kapaburan ng mga mamamayan. Hatid din ng konsiderasyong pulitikal, ang mga kagawad ng sangguniang bayan ay maddaling nagpapatabay ng isang bagay na inisponsor ng mayor sa pamamagitan ng isang kagawad. Walang halaga sa kanya kung iyon ay para sa kabutihan ng ilan o ng marami. Hindi na importante sa kanila kung iyon ay mapanil sa interes ng tao. Kailangan lang nilang mabiyag—kasiyahan ang mayor (Sa mga kapartido, ang mayor ay kasamang dapat tulungan; sa mga kontra-partido, ang mayor ay "punong" dapat pakisama sa mga malapitan sa pagkakaatao sila'y nangangailangan.)

Politika pa rin ang ikanimatay ng ilang magagandang panukala mababatas. Kapag makapapabor sa sektor ng mga kabalan sa pulitika ng mayora sa sangguniang bayan, hindi magpapitibay ang anumang. Kahir maraming iba pa ang matunglung non, higit nilang bimbigyang-din ang pagsasagawa ng paghigang pulitikal. Halimbawa, ang isang ordinansang mangagalaga sa pangisdaan ng isang bayan ay "mamamatay" kapag makapabor sa mga lider-pulitiko-bukod sa maraming mamamayan—na nakalaban. Ang Dudurong ng mga pulitikoang kasanguni ang kalitong sa pulitika sa anumang paraang legal, tulad ng partidistang lehislasyon, mangahulugan ryan ng perseyo sa kabit sino—kabit sa kawawang pulitiko.

Minsan, sa pagitan ng mga kasanguni mismo ay humilitat nang mung pulitika. Kapag isang oposisionista ang nakapagharap ng isang panukalang ordinansang maganda at kung magpapitibay ay mga nagpapakali sa anting ng kopyos sa konsiderasyong pulitikal ng mga tao, ang nainngit na pangkat ng mayora ay magmamanoobra para maatras—at, sa huli, maikahon—ang panukala. Sa kaalaman nilang ang iskor para sa oposision ay punto laban sa mayora, gumamit sila sa pribilehiyo bilang kasanguni para kapunin ang magandang proposal ng kalaban. Kung sakali mang naipagkati nila sa tao ang mga biyaya ng mabubuong ordinansa, nasyiyatan silang isiping hindi napinog ang kanilang katagatang pampulitika.

### Kwalipikasyon

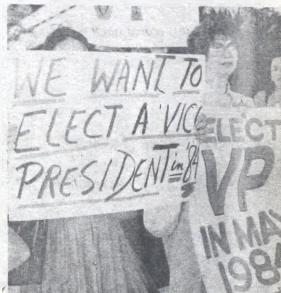
Lakas ding sumisira sa abilidad ng sangguniang bayan ang indibidwal na kakulangan ng kwalipikasyon ng mga kagawad. Kahit sila mga propesyonal—tiser, komersyante, inhinyero, arkitekto—hindi sila tiyak na kwalipikado sa pagbabatas. Madaling mangyaring ang isang kagawad na propesyonal—liban kung may background sa batas o lehislasyon sa sukating pormal o di-pormal—ay maalam sa samut-sari ng mga umiiral na batas at kasalukuyang pagbabatas. Kaya nga, hindi nya kayang gumawa ng metalino na mabuting lehislasyon bilang bahagi ng kapulungan. Maaring matapat siya sa tungkulin, mabuti at malinis ang intensyon sa pagkaisip sa interes ng publiko, ngunit ang gawain ay hindi obto ng kanyang kakayahan.

May mga pagkakaatao rin namang ang kasanguni ng sangguniang bayan ay talagang walang alam. Sapagkat ang kasanguni ay halal na opisyal, at ang pagkandidato sa pwesto ay nangangailangan lang ng pagiging-literado, may mga kasangungian nahahalal dahil sa populadong sa halip na dahil sa kwalipikasyon. Maaring gawa ng botong pagkasinigmento o botong emosyonal (bunga ng utiwirang pang) na nabiyag ng kandidato sa mamboboto o nakaraang sakripisyo nangwa, ng kandidato para sa bayan sa kabuuran.)

### PINTIG

# Sa pagkabuwag ng Kredibilidad ng Pamahalaan

NI AGUSTIN V. TORRES



IMPORANTE sa alinmang pamahalaan ang ganap na kredibilidad. Sa bagay na iyon nakasalalay ang kapangantagan, kaayus, at lahat ng iba pang bagay na kaugnay ng pamamahala. Mahirap buuin kahit sa isip lang ang kalagayan ng isang bansang ang administrasyon o pamahalaan ay walang kredibilidad.

Sa ating bansa, ang pamahalaan ay kasalukuyang nagdaragan ng unprecedented low sa sariling kredibilidad. Para sa maraming Pilipino, hindi lahat ng ipahayag ng pamunuan noon ay totoo at dapat panghawakan. May agam-agam sila; may pagdadalawang-istip. Hindi nila agad tinatangap ang ulaman bilang bagay na totoo o kasinungalingan. Pwedeng ito ay dahil sa mga magandang pangyayaring nagpakita sa kanila sa talampakang pagsinungaling ng ilang malaking pinuno kaugnay ng mga pambansang isyu na ang pinakuluhi ay ang di-tootong 600 milyong dolyar na reserba ng bansa.

Walang malamang ginawin ang mataatas na pinuno ng gobyerno ngayon para mapaniwala (uli) sa kasalukuyang pamahalaan si Juan dela Cruz. At nakaharap sila sa isang mabigat na gawain. Una, manhid na ang isip ng tao. Hindi nila gustong tumutala sa totoo at sa kasinungalingan, at sa halip, tinatangap ang lahat ng bagay nang may reserbyasyon. Ika-

law, aktibo ang oposision para tuluyang nangmasira ang paninwala ng tao sa gobyerno at magkaroon ng pagkakaatao matupad ang sarili nilang intensyon.

Kung tuluyang mawawakap ang paniniwala ng tao sa kasalukuyang administrasyon, kailangan-kailangan magawa ang isang matahirin na sistema ng pagpapalit doot. Maaring sa pamamagitan ng eleksiyon malinis, matapat at malaya. Sapagkat kung hindi ito magagawa, malaki ang posibilidad na bumangon ang tao at, tulak ng mga nararansang kahapran, gumamit ng karahasan para tangkang maipakos ang hangad na pagbabago.

Kung isang mapangnabig na posibleng resulta ang magulayan, ganoomman. Kapag umbabaw ang kaguluhan sa bansa, walang salang mabubuk-

san ang pinto ng pamamahala para sa ibang elemento tulad ng mga dayuhan o sakim na interes ng ilang nasa pwesto para sunong-bansa—at kapahamakan ang matatagap ng tao. Mula sa kalagayan ng bansa, mabubid sila sa lalong malaya.

Kaya sa pagtaatas sa interes ng nakararaming mamamayan, bowet isa ay dapat magikap at tumulong para sa pagsasagawa ng malinis at sandaling eleksiyon sa sandaling bumuwag nang tuloy ang paniniwala ng mga Pilipino sa pamahalaan ni Pangulong Marcos. Iyon ang pinakamalaking pagkakaatao para matanggap ng tao ang bagay na para sa kanila. Wala pang ibang paraan ng pagpapalit ng tagapanihala o administrasyon na sing-ekspitko, simbuti ng malinis na eleksiyon.

# Palaisipan

BLG. 11

### PAHALAANG

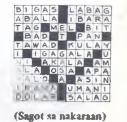
- 1 Isang diyerto
- 7 Gamit sa buho
- 11 Dalhin sa pinagmulan
- 12 Siyabo
- 13 Ina
- 14 Ibaok
- 16 Pangun-awa ni John Lennon
- 18 Dalok
- 19 Asia Letterz
- 20 Isang sindikato
- 22 Babago
- 24 Isang bayop
- 25 Isang tribu
- 26 Pamamila
- 28 Tanyag
- 31 Ahensya sa pagbabalita
- 32 Unang babae
- 33 Eksipresyon
- 34 Mmilit
- 37 Taya
- 38 Kasamang ng pata
- 39 Amerikano
- 42 Bateria
- 43 Sinyag sa bibig

### PABABA

- 1 Hihip
- 2 Himaymay
- 3 Ekspresyon ng pagtatalakay
- 4 Sapi
- 5 Mahilit na piraso
- 6 Oponang
- 7 Siidlan
- 8 Dokangero
- 9 Kopyos
- 10 Pook sa Espanya

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- 15 Hindi (ngglesi)
- 17 Pagkaing yari sa kalabasa
- 19 Karso
- 21 Napapanahon
- 22 Sakit sa pagdumi
- 23 Malt
- 25 Ikadkad
- 26 Suklob
- 27 Orden ng Pari
- 28 Maraming ginagawa
- 29 Bawang ang lakas
- 30 Nalalang
- 32 Sukat ng letra
- 34 Libro
- 35 Tikod
- 36 ——— Athin (Sagot sa nakaraan)





# An Imperial couple right out of my history class

By WILSON FLORES

(First Year, Management/Economics, Ateneo de Manila University)

*(History has always been dull reading for most people. After all, who wants to get acquainted with a lot of dead kings and fallen monuments? But there are times when history surprises us with something strangely familiar, a reflection of people we have met, events we have known. It does seem sometimes as if rulers and conquerors never really die and monuments fall only so they can rise again — and with a more terrible beauty than before.)*

AFTER THE decline of the Roman Empire, it broke up into two — Western Europe which was over-run by barbaric hordes and the East which endured as Byzantium. Emperor Justinian, the last of the Roman emperors, reigned over Byzantium during 527-565 AD. He was driven by the vision of reviving the old grandeur of the Roman Em-

pire, making it great again by reconquering its lost western provinces. His reign spurred a golden age of Byzantine art and the climax of imperial autocracy.

Justinian's achievements were not only the products of his sheer determination and ambition. He had wise predecessors in the past, and was aided immeasurably by his wife and co-ruler, Empress Theodora. Theodora was a resolute woman of no mean ambition. A former public entertainer and courtesan, she was gifted with extraordinary energy and practical intelligence. The plans to rebuild the capital city of Constantinople, reform Roman law and reconquer the West are usually attributed to Justinian, but since he consulted Theodora on all matters of policy, it is impossible to distinguish his ideas from hers. And surely without Theodora's iron will none of

these policies would have been carried through. For early in Justinian's reign a great urban riot rocked the empire and burned much of Constantinople. With the city in flames and rioters closing in on the imperial palace gates, Justinian was about to resign from his imperial office and flee when Theodora, refusing to depart, announced that she intended to die an empress. Justinian's courage was restored, the riots were quelled and the regime survived.

After the destructive riots, Justinian and Theodora set out to rebuild Constantinople on an unprecedented scale. Immense funds were poured to this end. The great church of Sancta Sophia, one of the greatest ancient works of art, was a product of this period. Justinian was himself so dazzled by the Sancta Sophia that he exclaimed, "Glory to God who has judged me

No vacancy. Mass lay-offs. Strikes, etc. These are just some of the signs of the times reflecting the almost insurmountable problems new graduates face everyday of their lives. Finding jobs is no easy task nowadays, considering the present state of the Philippine economy.

About a year ago, who could ever have guessed that we would be in the situation we are in right now? The escalation of prices of commodities has resulted in the escalation of mass lay-offs and the

worthy of accomplishing such a work as that! O Solomon, I have outdone thee!"

Roman law was also transformed by Justinian. He ordered the compilation of the *Corpus Juris Civilis*, the "body of civil law," which became the keystone of future European jurisprudence. Roman law once contained strong elements of popular sovereignty, but under the aegis of Emperor Justinian, it acquired an autocratic flavor. Late medieval and early modern European monarchs would someday adopt Justinian's precept that the emperor's decree is law.

With visions of reviving Rome's lost greatness again, Justinian and Theodora pushed into the West with war armies to drive the barbarians out of Europe. They almost succeeded, occupying almost all of the Mediterranean coastline regions during the final years of Justinian's reign, but the empire became impoverished and bankrupt. The reconquest efforts and extravagant expenditures drained the treasury and the military victories proved mostly ephemeral.

A devastating plague swept across Europe, crippling the Byzantine economy to 541-543 AD. Theodora died in 548 AD, leaving Justinian demoralized. The audacious policies of Emperor Justinian and Empress Theodora left the empire unstable and prostrate.

Source: *Medieval Europe: A Short History* by Prof. C. Warren Hollister

# Graduates become unemployed

By NOMER C. NUÑEZ  
(College of Commerce, Jose Rizal College)

temporary (?) ceasing of operations of some companies in the country. These companies have been unable to obtain the Letters of Credit which they need to import raw materials necessary for the completion of the products they manufacture. Without such Letters of Credit, the companies cannot function. At the same time, the increasing population of unemployed and the limited number of job openings has caused an intense competition between the new, inexperienced graduates and the experienced unemployed for those positions still left open. What brought about all these problems in our society today?

The floundering state of our economy resulted from the recent double devaluation of the local currency which in turn was caused by the flight of foreign capital out of the country. The situation was also triggered by the social upheaval following the assassination of the late ex-

Senator Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. at the Manila International Airport upon his return from a three-year self-exile in the United States.

The social unrest sent foreign investors investments of about \$200-600 million. The investments could have helped create more jobs, stabilize the economy and create an inflow of capital for the country. The bleakness of political and economic conditions in the country has now created doubts in the minds of foreign investors about the government's ability to normalize the situation. Such doubts have been reinforced by the recent reports about the Central Bank's non-existent \$600-million reserves, the closure of many companies, and the rapid decrease in some big multinational companies' manpower resources to minimize expenses and still make a profit.

To complicate matters there has been the

avalanche of price increases for basic commodities, the hoarding of these goods by some unscrupulous businessmen, and the temporary halting of supplies of these commodities—all resulting in panic-buying among most consumers.

For those who have more in life, such unhappy phases in the country's economy, although felt, are not really that worrisome. But to a great number of the masses, they are terrible.

While the government is still trying to stabilize the situation in the country, what will happen to the laid-off employees and workers? And what about the new graduates? What shall they do now? How about the students? What future awaits us? For if experienced workers are laid off and the new graduates cannot find jobs, what chances do we have for employment when our turn comes? Is there still hope in sight?

The future we face is bleak indeed, but life must go on. The big question is, HOW?

# BULLETIN BOARD

1984 STARTED off like a whirlwind for the concerned youth as they formed new organizations and greeted the year with protest actions. On January 14, for instance, the Science and Technology Movement — an organization of science students — was founded. Then on January 17, there was a students' demonstration at the U.S. Embassy. The issue of the "farjical lifting of martial law," and the "role of the U.S. in the economic crisis."

More activities were also slated for the succeeding days. As of presstime, these included: participation in a Poor People's March on January 27, with marchers starting off from five designated points and converging at the Liwasang Bonifacio at 3 p.m.; the formalization of the Students and Teachers Forum on January 25 and 26; the founding congress of the revived National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) on January 28 and 29; and the celebration of National Youth

Week from January 23 to 31.

A "Coffee Hour" was held at the Social Hall of the Philippine Women's University on January 18 from 3 to 5 p.m. The "Coffee Hour," an informal discussion period organized by the CEGP Education and Cultural Committee, had as guest speaker Dean Armando Malay. Dean Malay spoke on the lifting of martial law which, he said, was not a true "lifting" at all, but merely a means to redeem the Philippine government's international image. In the open forum that followed, the audience, composed mostly of students from PWU and other schools, expressed their views and reactions regarding the points raised by Dean Malay as well as some other issues, notably the coming Batsang Pambansa elections and the boycott campaign.

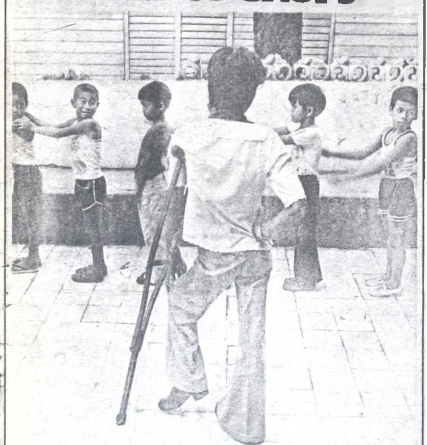
The role of transnational corporations (TNCs) in the country's

economy was tackled in a talk at Letran College. Following is a report from the CEGP News Bureau:

Transnational corporations (TNCs) and their role in the Philippine economy was the subject of a talk given by Loretta Ann Rosales of the Association of Concerned Teachers (ACT) at the 13th Student Leaders Forum meeting held January 14 at the Quezon Hall of Letran College. Rosales discussed the economic control exerted by TNCs in the country, the government's support of these corporations, and their effects on the small businessmen here. She also explained why workers organize foreign investors require a peaceful climate and docile workers to operate, that martial law was declared and laborers prohibited from striking.

The SLF meeting was attended by students from different national organizations, alliances, and student councils — (Henry Davison, CEGP News Bureau Director)

# CAMPUS CROPS



Who says the physically unfit can't teach physical fitness? And kids at that! "Able" PE teacher, above, with a crutch and one foot shank aside, easily toes his students in line.

KINTIN SAKITIN



By JYM E. ANDALIS

# CHILDREN'S COOKSHOP

By MAUR A. LICHAUCO



(Without our planning it, this issue has turned out with a special focus on children. What better way to cap these pages than this collection of children's recipes from no less than *Maur Aquino Lichauco*, one of the country's acclaimed cooks. These simple recipes cast out your young ones to discover one of the great pleasures in life — the loving preparation of food for friends and loved ones. Ed.)

## THE EGG AND YOU

### Soft Boiled Egg:

Into boiling water put 1 egg. Count 60 for a one-minute egg, count 180 or say three Hail Marys for a three-minute egg.

### Hard Boiled Egg:

Into boiling water put 1 egg. Leave there for ten minutes.

### Fried Egg:

Heat ½ cup cooking oil in a small skillet. (Use oil that has been used once to prevent sticking.) Break the egg in a saucer, place a pinch of salt and a small pinch of pepper. Slide the egg into the hot oil and fry till the egg white is soft but firm.

### Scrambled Egg:

Beat 1 egg in a cup. Add 1/8 tsp. salt, a pinch of pepper and 1 tablespoon of milk. Place 1 tablespoon of cooking oil in a skillet and pour the beaten egg in. Mix rapidly with a fork until semi-dry. Serve hot.

### Poached Egg:

Put water 1/3 full in a small skillet and let it boil. Break 1 egg into a saucera and slowly slide it into the water. Count two minutes and remove gently.

## FIXING THE MIXES

### Champorado:

Use prepared mix. Follow the instructions on the mix and add 2 more tablespoons of cocoa. Use fresh milk instead of evaporated milk.

### Hot Cake:

Use hot cake mix and follow the "ordinary" recipe. Instead of water use soda water (bottled). The hot cake will turn out more fluffy.



### Brownies:

Increase the butter to 2 more tablespoons and add 1 more egg to the recipe specified by the mix. The brownies will be "caker." The same thing may be done to a butterscotch mix. Note: These recipes will be enjoyed by smaller children because they're so easy to prepare.



## OTHER BREAKFAST FOODS

### French Toast:

- 4 eggs slightly beaten
- ½ cup milk
- 3 tablespoons sugar or Karo syrup
- 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg or cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 6 slices rasin bread or plain Pan Americano
- 2 tablespoons butter

Mix first 5 ingredients together. Soak bread in the mixture for about 20 minutes. Turn and let soak for another 10 minutes. Melt 2 teaspoons butter and fry. Do not turn except once. One side is cooked after reciting three Hail Marys.

### Churros and Chocolate churros:

- 1 ½ cups boiling water
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil

Mix together the flour and the salt. Put into the boiling water, mixing vigorously until it forms a ball. Put in an icing gun or paper ice squeeze in figure eights. Drop in 2 cups of boiling oil.

### chocolate:

- 1 tablet Antonio Paeo chocolate
- ¼ cup pure evaporated milk
- 3 tablespoons water
- 1 ½ tablespoons sugar

Mix together and put on the fire. When boiling beat with a rotary egg beater or an old fashioned chocolate beater until foamy.

Serve together hot



## QUICK SNACKS

### Ice Drop

Buy plastic ice drop bags from Divisoria. Buko: To the water of one young coconut or buko, add 2 tablespoons sugar. Grate the meat and put it in the ice drop.

Langa: To the sugared water of one coconut add ½ cup preserved langca from bottle bought in supermarket.

Corn: To the sugared water of one coconut add ½ cup of canned creamed corn.

### Poiworon

- ¾ cup powdered milk
- ¼ cup flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¾ cup soft butter (not melted but softened at room temperature)

Toast powdered milk in a pan in very low heat until beige colored. Mix in a bowl with all other ingredients. Shape in multicolorled lantern paper fringed at the edges and twist.

Note: If you wish to give this away make a box out of cartolina and put a handle. Decorate the basket with crepe paper.



## FIVE JUICES

### Sampaloc Juice:

Boil 2 cups of ripe sampaloc and simmer till pulp is mushy. Drain.

Strain the juice. Mash the sampaloc and add 1 cup of sugar if the sampaloc is sour and ½ cup sugar if it is sweet. This is a semi-concentrate.

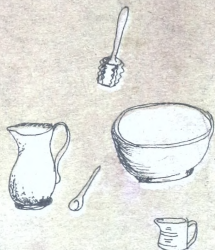
To serve: Prepare a parfait glass with finely cracked ice. Place concentrate. Garnish with a dayap or orange slice.

### Santolada:

- Make a light syrup of:
  - ½ face of panocha
  - 2 cups water
  - 1 tsp. kalamansi juice

Boil these together till slightly thick. Skim off the scum and pass the syrup through cheesecloth. Peel 3 ripe santol. Chop the rind with a knife then scrape off. Separate the seeds and add to the chopped meat.

Add the syrup to the santol and add 3 cups of ice water. Serves 6.



### Orange Julius:

- ½ cup fresh milk
- ½ tsp. vanilla
- 1/3 cup orange juice (if none, Tang maybe used)
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 5 ice cubes (cracked)

Put everything in the blender. Makes 2 cups.

Serving tip: Orange Julius is very popular with teenagers who like hearty drinks. Put in parfait glasses. Serve with straws tied with a ribbon made with the red cellophane of a cigarette pack. (Remember eating is not all taste — it is art too!)

### Guyabano Juice:

Open very ripe guyabanoes and remove from skin. Take out the seeds. Puree in the blender in the following proportion:

- 1 cup pulp
- ¼ cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon kalamansi juice

To make the guyabano juice: Add water and some sugar to taste.

Serving tip: May be served also as a puree in which case it should be put in an ice cream cup and served with a spoon. This is one of the cheapest, richest sources of Vit. C and B-1.

### Kalamansi Concentrate:

Squeeze enough *kalamansi* to make 1 cup of juice. Add to this 2 ½ cups sugar. Stir until sugar is dissolved.

Let stand until the juice becomes clear and there is a white foam on top. (This is the dirt maybe of your hands or the *kalamansi*.) Remove the foam as all the bitterness of the *kalamansi* is there. Place this concentrate, (syrupy juice) in a bottle.

To prepare: Put 2-3 tablespoons per 8 ounces of ice cold water.

Note: This takes a long time to prepare but the concentrate will keep in the freezer up to 6 months.