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We Forum

*To seek
and live
the truth
and share
a vision*

VOL 13

NO. 63

WEDNESDAY

SEPTEMBER 20, 1989

IN METRO MANILA

P 2 only

**Guns case plot
to topple Cory?**

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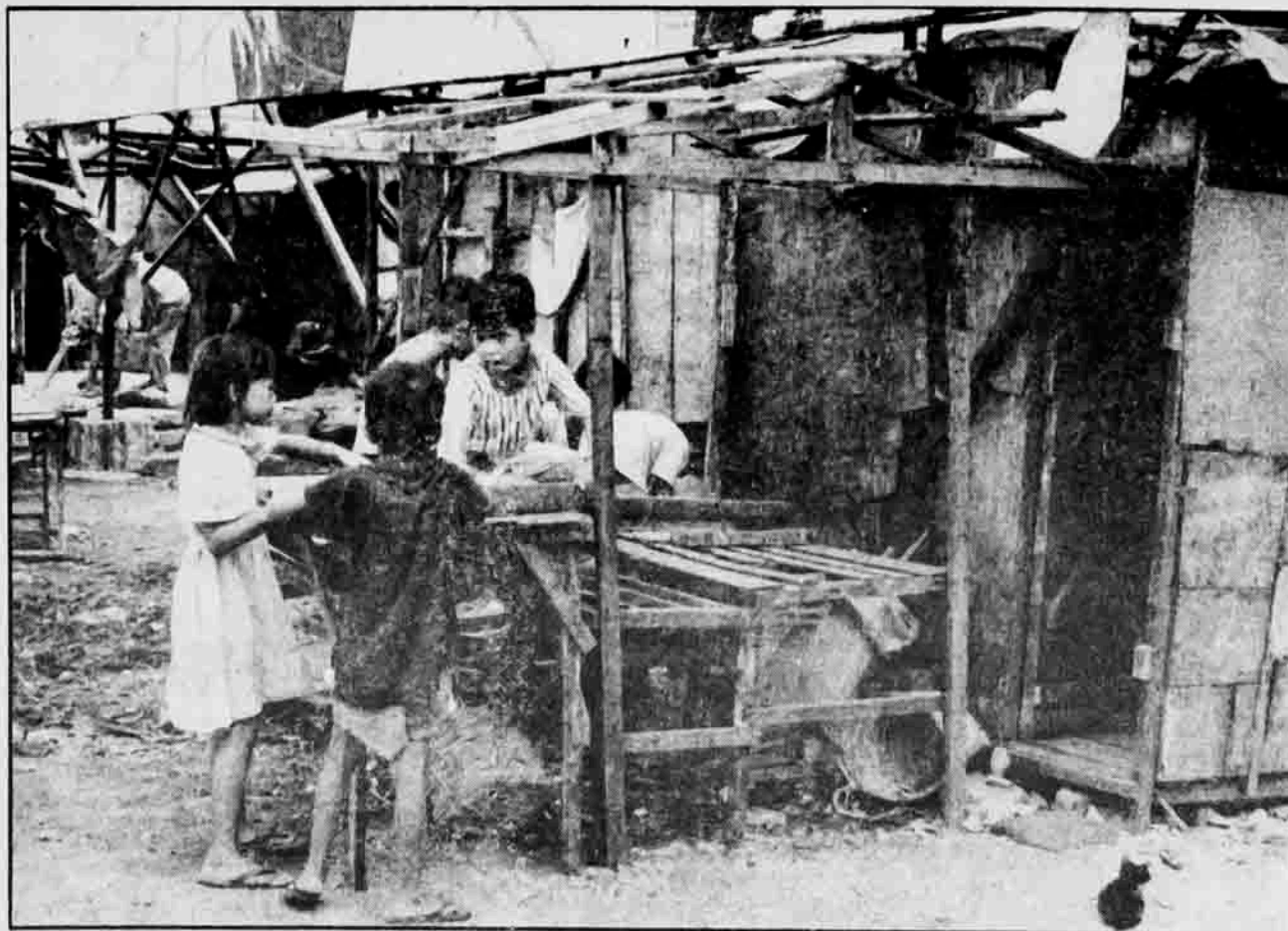
**Salonga fears
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HOPELESS HOMELESS

**Bulacan
official,
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new love
interest?**

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MAKESHIFT SHANTIES: Home to these children is a patched-up mixture of cardboard and discarded outlumber amid a construction boom of mansions and condominiums (Roly Embile).



**A 3-ARTICLE
SPECIAL EDITION
ON BREASTFEEDING
Pages 11, 12, 13**

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Laurel urges Cory to dialog with Misuari

Radio owner under custody of NPA rebels?

A MILITARY source has confirmed that millionaire-businessman and "Radyo Bombo" owner Rogelio Florete had been kidnapped by communist guerillas as he was going home in Jaro, Iloilo last Sept. 4, a Manila radio station said yesterday.

The source, who requested anonymity, said that it is possible that Florete is still alive despite threats of the New People's Army (NPA) that he would be tried by an NPA kangaroo court and subsequently executed.

Military sources also said that Florete may have been brought to Negros Occidental where he had been taken by pump boat from Iloilo City.

An alleged NPA rebel, Jose Domingo Lobaton, who was captured earlier by

Negros Occidental policemen, admitted that he and his comrades picked up from the shores of Oton and Tigbawan, Iloilo City, a decent-looking man called Roger last Sept. 5.

When showed a picture of Florete, he said it was, indeed, the man they had picked up. Retrieved from the boat were a pair of black Italian-made shoes and an expensive light-blue, long-sleeved shirt, which were confirmed to belong to Florete, owner and president of the Consolidated Broadcasting System, New Sounds Broadcasting Network (which operates the "Bombo Radyo, Phils."), Quezon City Development Bank, Florete Trading, and a chain of pawnshops in Iloilo City.

Ramos orders bombing probe

DEFENSE Secretary Fidel Ramos yesterday said he has ordered Capcom chief Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre to investigate the sudden rash of bombings in Metro Manila.

Ramos said that even though the bombings were not

of serious gravity, still, the incidents need to be looked into to find out who or what groups are behind them. (See related story on page 16).

Ramos further said that the bombings might be connected to the forthcoming plebiscite on the Organic Act for Muslim Mindanao.

Children's Day camp to dramatize rights

SOME 300 children are expected to participate and call for the protection of children's rights in the Children's Day Camp to be held on September 23, 1989 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Luneta (Concert at the Park). Children's artworks such as tapestries of drawings, songs, poems and demands produced by children participants of community workshops held since June shall also be exhibited.

Sponsored by the GABRIELA Commission on Children and Family, the Children's Day Camp aims to generate public opinion to burning issues related to children such as the plight of children internal refugees; working and street children; child prostitution and other forms of sexual prostitution; and, poor health, nutrition and education afflicting many Filipino children.



IN SUPPORT OF THE GENERICS LAW. Gerry Cruz, president of the Chamber of Filipino Drug Manufacturers and Distribution Inc. (seated second from right) announces his group's support for the implementation of the Generics Act. Cruz allayed the public's concern of a short supply of medicine in the country should multi-national drug firms make good their threat of pulling out of the local market saying that the present technology at the hands of Filipino manufacturers can cope with the demand in medicines. Also in photo are Health Sec. Alran Bengzon, DOH Undersec. Quintin Kintanar and other DOH and Chamber officials. (Roly Embile)

Cory hits foreign drug firms

PRESIDENT Aquino yesterday assailed multinational drug companies in the country for prodding some sectors of the medical profession and the drug industry to stop the implementation of the Generic Drugs Act.

In her speech at the 45th Regional Committee of the World Health Organization, Mrs. Aquino appealed to the drug companies not to be influenced by the desire to earn profits.

The President also said that the Philippines, like any other Third World country, faces many health problems.

"The full implementation of the national drug policy is hampered by the resistance of some sectors of the drug industry and the medical profession, through the prodding of some multinational drug companies. I appeal to these companies not to allow themselves to be unduly influenced," the President said.

Earlier, the President had vowed to implement the Generics Law, saying she would not yield to the pressures of multinational drug companies.

Meanwhile, US Ambassador to the Philippines Nicholas Platt denied reports that the US is pressuring the government to prevent the implementation of the drugs law. Platt said the report was utterly baseless.

Martial law scenario here?

By OMER ALMENARIO

THE breakdown of peace and order, proliferation of loose firearms and widespread graft and corruption obtaining in the country today could lead to a martial law situation which enemies of the government could take advantage of.

This grim scenario was painted yesterday by Senate President Jovito Salonga who warned that what is "happening today is similar to that of 1972 when martial law was declared."

Speaking before the Association of Accredited Agencies at a Makati hotel, Salonga said the wave of public indignation following the aborted smuggling of 314 guns involving Nueva Ecija Rep. Nicanor de Guzman, Jr. "may provoke the question that there's danger that democracy might be imperilled in the near future."

Expressing fears over the situation, the Senate President also cited the double standard of justice -- one for the mighty, and the other for the weak -- coupled with massive poverty and worsening unemployment conditions, as probable reasons for the public's disenchantment against the present form of government.

Although he admitted that there's a difference between 1972 and 1989, Salonga stressed

that the "breakdown of law and order could weaken and delegitimize the new democratic government and lead to the emergence of a well-organized and disciplined group that would impose authoritarian rule under the guise of a new order."

"I hope this does not happen. But our people have short memories and are easily taken in by the glowing promises of would-be saviours and messiahs," Salonga said.

Rally dispersed

FIVE Manila policemen, including two officers, were injured yesterday in a series of pillbox explosions near the US Embassy during a dispersal operation against some 100 militant demonstrators who staged a lightning rally in front of the embassy on Roxas Boulevard.

A number of demonstrators were also hurt in the ensuing melee with the police. Some of those injured were hit by truncheons by the lawmen.

VICE PRESIDENT Salvador H. Laurel yesterday urged President Aquino to hold a new dialog with MNLF rebel chief Nur Misuari to prevent any further violent confrontation in Mindanao.

Laurel, who spoke before a group of credit management officials yesterday, also proposed the suspension of the forthcoming plebiscite on the Muslim Mindanao Organic Act which, he said, will only "divide both Muslims and Christians in the South."

Instead, the Vice President pressed for the adoption of a federal system in the entire island of Mindanao and "give all the 22 provinces the autonomy they all want without any discrimination."

"If the objective is peace and prosperity, it is the federal system, not the Autonomy Act, that will make them happen," Laurel pointed out.

He expressed optimism that Misuari "will be receptive to the federalization idea the details of which could be a subject of more dialogs between the Aquino administration and the secessionist movement."

Laurel observed that the Aquino administration "does not want to talk to the MNLF because of false pride and intellectual sloth."

Laurel also urged Misuari to "temper his obduracy with love of country and his contumacy with realism, lest he share with the Aquino government the onus of a cruel and unnecessary war."

Taken to the Ospital ng Maynila were Capt. Jojo de Guzman of the WPD Station 5; Lt. Manolo Martinez, commander of the Rizal Park Police Detachment; and three others whose identities were not immediately available.

The victims, according to WPD Superintendent Alfredo Lim, were hit by shrapnel and stones hurled by the demonstrators when the police dispersed them.

Lim said the rallyists reportedly belonging to the League of Filipino Students tried to storm the US Embassy gates when the police broke their ranks.

Gov't defaults in giving shelter to the homeless



SHATTERED DREAMS AND SHELTER: A slum dweller tries to salvage what used to be her home in one of the slum colonies in Metro Manila in the wake of a devastating typhoon (Roly Embile).

By ABE P. BELENA

RIGHT under the noses of the country's over 200 Congressmen, a colony of squatters has mushroomed on lots inside the envisioned National Government Center. According to Gia Maria Fortuno,

In the government center, as in other open spaces within the city, more squatters are putting up their shanties, beating Mayor Simon's demolition teams of 50 men. There are more of the new squatters who escape the demolition ax than those whose shanties are torn down, says Fortuno matter-of-factly.

By latest count, City Hall's Urban Poor Affairs Office has counted 93,157 squatter families who have built 69,900 shacks in four of the city's squatter districts.

The census is far from complete. Mayor Simon's "gut feel estimate" on the total number of squatters is 120,000 families, or half of Quezon City's total population.

It is more by accident of having wide tracts of unoccupied land than by design that Quezon City has eclipsed neighboring cities in 'welcoming' the country's poor, tired and hungry.

EMBARRASSING

The national picture is

more embarrassing to the government. At the public information office of the National Housing Authority (NHA), just a stone's throw away from City Hall, a small poster summarizes the acute need for housing in the Philippines and what government is doing about it.

It catches the visitor's eye with the title: **HOPELESS HOMELESS**. The main text reads:

o NEDA estimates that the country needs 3.37 million new housing units be-

supervising urban settlement officer under Quezon City Mayor Brigido Simon, City Hall counted 18,000 shanties in the area surrounding the legislative building in 1987. The figure doubled a year later.

tween 1987-1992.

o Under the National Housing Program, only 626,860 units will be built in the same period.

o There are 3.5 million squatters in Metro Manila.

Whoever wrote that piece delivers the message loud and clear. The homeless are indeed hopeless. It is not a new problem. It has grown through the years. By default, the government has failed in providing one of the most basic of human necessities -- shelter.

By the same force of necessity, the urban poor have helped themselves out, meeting that need by putting whatever available roof they can find over their heads on any available space. In that simple act of survival, they have broken the law. They have taken the law into their hands.

Again, by the same law of survival, the starving and the battle-weary and -scarred from the countryside seek refuge in the Metropolis among their relatives in the

slums. At the rate they are coming in, Metro Manila's population is expected to double to 11.1 million people by the year 2000.

In-migration is also true in regional cities. Slum problem has therefore spread to the regional centers.

TOO FEW HOUSES FOR TOO MANY

Monico Jacob, the man who inherited Ray Dizon's swivel chair at the National

(Next page, please)

Cory cites gov't housing thrusts

PRESIDENT Aquino Friday disputed criticisms hurled by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin on the lack of significant efforts by government at providing housing for the poor in Metro Manila.

In a statement, the President said the government was hitting 80 percent of its targets in its housing programs.

"We feel this performance will be improved as our community mortgage program gets off the ground," she said.

The community

mortgage program is aimed at helping squatter families buy the land they occupy from private landowners. Urban families living below the poverty line are the primary targets of government housing programs, Mrs. Aquino said.

Sin had earlier deplored the lack of housing provisions for the poor, saying the problem has only intensified with the drawing up of development projects for the rich in such places as Alabang.

While admitting that funds for housing are limited, Mrs.

Aquino said the government has secured major long-term commitments for housing through loans from the Social Security System, Government Service Insurance System, and the Pag-IBIG.

A total amount of P4 billion a year will be made available for the housing program. "We expect to supplement these funds as more housing programs are developed in collaboration with the private sector, including representatives of the urban poor, with Congress and with local government

units," she said.

In solving the acute housing shortage, Mrs. Aquino said the government plans

to tackle the problem of land tenure first. This will be followed by provision of essential services and then

of housing assistance. This method was recommended by the urban poor themselves, she said.



PRES. AQUINO WITH HOUSING AUTHORITY OFFICIALS: Mass housing thrust.

Housing Authority, is still trying to make some sense out of the messy housing situation in a "rich country pretending to be poor."

Before him is quite a job. Eighteen million of the poorest Filipinos live in the cities and immediately need 2.5 million dwelling units. Some 240,000 more homes should be added each year. Even if he ignores the 2.5 million, he still needs P14 billion to build 240,000 cheap houses.

His predecessor's record is no consolation. Last year, NHA built 21,230 homes, accomplishing two thirds of its target. That, however, scratched only the surface of the problem by answering a measly 3.58 percent of the national housing needs.

NHA's operational budget this year is P1.8 billion, less than one eighth of the amount needed for the housing backlog last year. He has to pay NHA's 2,600 employees and continue ongoing projects.

Morale is apparently high in an organization over which he took command only last June. NHA has rebounded from the demoralizing effects of a festering labor unrest, a car purchase scandal and a boss who had an uncanny knack for saying quotable quotes.

But he and his men have to squarely face the brutal fact that NHA has, so far, built so few homes for a people who need many. And he needs

large sums of money, not loose change.

What Mr. Jacob lacks in logistics, he compensates for with a set of principles. He has laid down seven guiding principles on which operations of the NHA shall proceed under him.

Four of the principles boil down to just one thing. The NHA has to stop acting as if it can really build enough

the country's burgeoning housing and squatting problem by building a few houses.

SQUATTERS' PARADISE

Quezon City stands unique in comparison to neighboring cities in the sense that it attracts squatters the way a giant magnet pulls in iron dusts in some sort of organ-



ESTERO HOVELS: Sprouting like mushrooms.

houses for all those millions of homeless. Instead, it has to court local governments, investors and real estate developers. It has to encourage them to go into the business of building cheap houses.

Stripped of fancy rhetoric, NHA's guiding principle could be understood as a sincere admission by a key man in government that his office could not possibly solve

ized chaos. That was how it grew and grew without following a set of plans in the past few years.

"It is the metropolitan area's last frontier," is how Fortuno of the city's urban poor affairs office explains the phenomenon. The three other cities nearby could only grow upwards to the sky while Quezon City still has 2,000 hectares of unoccupied land.

She classifies the seedier half of Quezon City into three: 1) the old squatters, who, out of necessity, occupied government lots as individuals or as a group, 2) the semi-legal settlers who first secured residential use permits from the Bureau of Forest Development until the practice was stopped in 1984, and 3) those who fell prey to squatter protection syndicates, some

newly built shanties. After a few months of playing a hide-and-seek game with new settlers, Simon appeared to have cooled off on the idea.

Besides, the urban affairs office was supposed to help the poor, not kick them. So the demolition team was put under another office. Today, its manpower has been trimmed down to 50 people—monitoring new squatters in over 15.3 square kilometers.

Any political leader whose staying power depends on votes has to play ball with vote-rich blocs if he hopes to last long. Although the mayor belongs to the post-EDSA breed of politicians, he must have learned his lessons fast. The squatters are a voting bloc to reckon with, united by the common knowledge that they do not own the land on which their shanties stand.

Instead of kicking them around, the mayor rode on the national government's declared urban land reform and social housing policies. His social housing and urban land reform programs only started last year. Its flag carrier project is the Payatas estate between City Hall and Fairview. He has raffled off 4,500 lots to homeless residents and squatters. Another project has begun for city employees. There are 19 community mortgage housing projects in three locations; Payatas, Manressa and Bahay Turo.

To build housing units worth from P80,000 to P150,000, the city government has secured a P400 million credit line from the Home Mortgage Finance Corporation's unified lending program.

This writer discovered that the finance corporation whose job is to provide funds for cheap housing projects, has as much as P4 billion sleeping in the banks, unused.

Quezon City's experiment could not be rated a success yet. But it is one city with good prospects of solving its housing problem. It has the land on which to build homes and new industries that will provide jobs to residents. It has found a source of funds for use in building new communities and industrial centers. It needs builders and investors.

Above all, the city has a track record of coming out with the most extensive socialized housing program ever attempted in the country. President Quezon envisioned the city as the future capital of the Philippines. But it was President Quirino who made that a living reality with his Project 2 to Project 8 housing projects carved out of the city's cogon lands. Those housing projects started just after the last war and are now the city's pillars on which a modern megapolis could be built.

The point is, it could be done.

Brutal realities facing the Filipino children

A press
statement
of GABRIELA

ALL CHILDREN ARE SPECIAL --Our own and those of others. . . All children are entitled to expect respect, protection, support, and love.

In view of, however, the pathetic reality that the state of the Philippine economy is worsening, where roughly 70% of population presently live below the poverty line and where the young have become helpless victims, receiving not the least provisions for a decent life and plunged into the exploitative scenario of labor and dehumanizing trade in order to have a claim to survival, GABRIELA National Women's Coalition - thru its Commission on Children and Family - has launched a national campaign to call for the recognition of the special needs and the protection of the rights of Filipino children.

We believe that there is an urgent need to give special attention to the fulfillment of children's rights in consideration of children's vulnerability and the brutal realities which so many of them continue to face.

The situation of Filipino children is expected to fall to a more dismal level with the impending implementation of the onerous conditions set forth in the Letter of Intent submitted by the Aquino government to the International Monetary Fund as a pre-requisite for additional loans.

We would like to cite a few of these harsh realities which continue to confront thousands of Filipino children:

1. The Child Health and Nutrition Situation. Around 100,000 Filipino infants continue to die annually from causes that are mostly preventable such as pneumonia, diarrhea, avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiencies, etc.

Studies undertaken by the National Nutrition Council and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute

revealed an increasing trend towards more severe types of malnutrition and higher rate of incidence. Undernutrition also takes its toll among the survivors. Moderate and severe undernutrition stunts the child physically and mentally, and at the very crucial age when much of the development of the brain occurs.

The heaviest impact of morbidity, mortality and undernutrition fall on the poor, as poverty has barred families from having access to resources and requisite facilities and environment for the enjoyment of good health.

Among the drawbacks responsible for the prevalence of poor health among impoverished children (who make up the majority of the youth population) is a faulty health care delivery system. There is a maldistribution of health resources. These health resources have also tended to be concentrated in the urban and town centers leaving the greater youth population in the rural areas medically unattended.

In terms of primary health care, there exist 8,000 primary health stations for 42,000 barangays and not all of these units are functioning due to lack of funds and facilities.

We believe that the faulty health care delivery system can be traced to a policy of deliberate misprioritization in favor of much greater state budget resources for militarization and servicing of foreign debts which have never redounded to the betterment of the lives of the masses.

2. The Education System. The first six years of life is the most critical stage in human growth and development. The sad reality, however, is that the public school system does not offer enough development programs for the early childhood years. There is a great scarcity in nursery and kindergarten programs,



FILIPINO CHILDREN: Mired in poverty.

with only 2% of the total children population aged 1-4 having access to pre-school programs.

Most Filipino children, as a consequence, initially get formal education at Grade I. However, out of the 100 children who enter the first grade, only 60 will be able to reach Grade 6. Fourteen will be able to finish high school and only five can finish college and vocational in technical schools.

Again, we think that the culprit to this inadequate public education system is the misprioritization of government funds. From an average of 28.5% of the national budget in the 1960's, the budget for education has dropped to 13% and plunged further to 9% in the 1980's. This lack of state attention to the education system is concretely reflected in the fact that 33% of the country's public elementary schools are "disadvantaged, depressed and underserved."

The luckier children who manage to go to school at different levels are ultimately not any better. The system has been achieving minimal literacy levels that it altogether blurs a developmental function for soci-

etual and emotional scars on the children besides physical injuries inflicted from both "regular" and "irregular" sex.

4. Children as Victims of War. As of December 1988, it had been estimated that since 1972, no less than 5 million children have been victims of the de facto civil war in the country. The change in government did not result to an improvement of the human rights situation.

Children are the most vulnerable casualties of the state policy of militarization. Women and children make up the bulk of evacuating villagers during flushing out operations by the military in the countryside. In evacuation centers, they languish in hunger, malnutrition and sickness which oftentimes lead to deaths. Mass evacuations in several villages in Negros Occidental occurring this year have claimed around one hundred ten children who died from an epidemic of various diseases in cramped evacuation centers. Children are also direct witnesses to violent abuses perpetrated by the military on their parents, relatives and communities.

These experiences in human rights abuse and military violence not only wreck physical suffering on children but also create far-reaching traumas.

5. And finally, we take special note of the plight of children abandoned by US servicemen as well as the related negative social costs brought about by the presence of the US military bases in the country.

In the light of the above situation, GABRIELA recognizes with alarm the fate of the countless children in especially difficult circumstances who are deprived of their rights.

Through the campaign, we wish to affirm that children have rights, like older human beings, to be respected with regard to their integrity, dignity, interest and opinions. We affirm the right of every child to a childhood; the right of children to the provision of food, health care, shelter, education, recreation and play; the right of children to protection from physical and mental exploitation and abuse; and the right of children, as they become capable of forming their own views, to participate in all matters affecting their own lives.

We wish to focus attention as well on the special need for protection of children in periods of armed conflicts.

We underline the impor-

tance of the role of the media in promoting and protecting children's rights, and in providing children with access to information and means for self-expression.

GABRIELA welcomes the expected adoption by the 1989 General Assembly of the United Nations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as a recognition of the special needs of children everywhere. While we recognize that the forthcoming Convention may contain certain insufficiencies and flaws, it reflects at the same time both the maximum level of consensus that governments are currently able to achieve and the minimum standards of care and protection that children have the right to expect. We are convinced that its genuine implementation will necessitate a profound transformation of minds, attitudes and priorities throughout the international community and at all levels in society.

In our campaign, we call upon the Philippine government to fulfill and attain the rights of Filipino children - by adopting and ratifying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, without reservations; by bringing children's rights and concerns into focus when issues such as the debt crisis and the armed social conflicts are being addressed because the children will inherit the consequences; by adopting a national children's policy and using this to review, enforce and enact legislation in the light of the UN convention on the Rights of the Child; by making child protection and child development programmes essential in budgetary priorities; and by acting immediately for the greater provision of services and programmes for the millions of poor, deprived and oppressed Filipino children; by resisting the unjust, onerous criteria or conditions being imposed by the IMF-WB adjustment program which has resulted in millions of children malnourished, sick, exploited and traumatized; by developing a political will to effect necessary changes in the Aquino government's policies, among others, thru limiting debt servicing or declaring a moratorium on debt payments; ending the policy of 'total' war or full-scale militarization in the country; instituting genuine land reform; terminating the military bases agreement with the United States; and

(Next page, please)

CE-BOOM A MYTH?

By MARIVIR MONTEBON

CEBU CITY - Despite media projections of an economic boom here, 25 percent (at least 1.3 million) of the five million Cebuanos wallow in poverty.

Records of the National Statistics Office (NSO) show that Central Visayas ranks fourth among the poorest regions of the country with a 54.6 poverty percentage.

The rise of investments (at present, there are 16,000 business firms here), for instance, has not promised workers a better pay. The Department of Labor and Employment-Region 7 (DOLE 7) noted that 78 percent of the firms do not comply with the P89 daily minimum wage law. Contrary to Gov. Emilio Osmena's claim of a three percent underemployment rate, 224,000 (or 29 percent) of the 765,000 labor force are receiving meager salaries, labor statistics show.

A study by the Visayas Human Development Agency (VIHDA) showed that workers in the service sector receive an average daily income of P15 to P25. In the rattan, buri and shellcraft industries, workers receive P8 to P20 a day while those in the manufacturing and industrial sector, P35 to P40.

These salaries obviously do not meet the basic needs of the average Cebuano. An International Monetary Fund-World Bank (IMF-WB) study noted that in order to meet the basic needs, a family of six in urban areas like Cebu and Manila should earn P147 a day.

The Philippine Peasant Institute, a Manila-based research group said that despite the government's legislated 30 percent salary increase in 1988-1989, consumers are not able to meet their basic needs due to the 70 percent average rise in the prices of commodities in a span of four months this year.

For instance, the price of rice at present ranges from P10 to P11 per kilo, when it was only about P7 in April. The Peace Formation Pro-

gram, Inc. (PFPI), an ecumenical nongovernment office engaged in research and development projects assistance noted that the monthly food requirement for a family of six in this city is P2,545.41. The non-compliance of most firms to the wage law would result to poor health among Cebuanos, PFPI said.

Leading causes of infant death here are pneumonia, prematurity and diarrhea. The region has the lowest usage of hospital facilities during childbirth in the entire country, according to TEACH, a nongovernment organization for health centers.

PFPI regional director Bibiano Rivera said that Cebu's economic trend is biased in favor of the upper and middle classes who have the buying capacity to absorb market products. Rivera said although the increase in Cebu's exportation due to the increase in the number of export-oriented businesses contributed much to economic growth, development did not occur with it. Rivera emphasized that development is achieved when there is an equitable distribution of wealth. "This is not happening to Cebu," he said.

Ibon Facts and Figures, a nongovernment databank, on the other hand, found that 20 percent of the elite in Region 7 corner 53.3 percent of the regional income while the poor get only 4.8 percent.

Last year, Central Visayas' gross regional domestic product (GRDP) was P7.422 million. The service sector contributed 26.58 percent to it, followed by the agriculture sector's 37.50% and manufacturing sector's 20.94 percent. In 1987, Region 7's GRDP rose to 6.61 percent and 7.48 percent in 1988 from the 1.49% in 1986, Ibon Facts and Figures say.

Trading is Cebu's dominant economic activity due to her central location in the archipelago. Despite her rugged terrain and denuded forests, its location as a transit point in the south is in itself an economic advantage. Cebu is home to business tycoons like the Gos of Sulpicio Lines, Gothong Lines and Ludo and Luym Corp., the largest oil refinery in Asia; the Chiongblans of William Lines and Virginia Farms; the Gaisanos of the Gaisano chain of stores and Isetann, among others.

On the other hand, the province breeds some 1.3 million poverty-stricken



SEIZED BANCA - Environment department undersecretary Victor Ramos (kneeling) and DENR Region 6 executive director Manuel Lagunilla (left) inspect a banca made from solid Lauan wood confiscated from an illegal logger in Kalinog, Iloilo. Provincial DENR officer Norberto Bernas (in striped shirt) said the banca will be donated to the provincial government for its offshore patrol service.

Cebuanos (approximately 5 percent of the 2.5 million population) with 37.30 percent comprising the rural population mostly engaged in subsistence farming. One farmer cultivates an average of 1.09 hectares. Corn is the staple food but rice, mongo, and mangoes are also grown here. Mineral deposits like limestone, copper, gold, and cement raw materials are abundant. Both Bohol and Tanon straits provide Cebu with rich fishing grounds.

Despite these resources, problems like landlessness, high cost of production, inadequate housing, unemployment,

and low income continue to plague the majority of the people in the urban and rural communities. Rural migration has become rampant due to less job opportunities in the countryside and the promise of better jobs in the city.

Every year, the Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) estimates an additional 1,000 squatters in the city. At present, 40 percent of the population in Metro Cebu are squatters.

"Just the sign of a child begging in the streets is proof that Cebu's boom is a myth," Rivera said. (PNF)



Republic of the Philippines
CITY COUNCIL
Manila

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF P1,073,600.00 TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE ASPHALTING OF MADRID STREET AND CAMBA STREET, FROM MORIONES TO LAKANDULA STREETS, TONDO, DISTRICT 1, MANILA.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Manila, that:

SECTION 1. The amount of P1,073,600.00, or so much thereof as maybe necessary, is hereby appropriated out of the unappropriated fund or funds existing in the City Treasury to be made available for the asphaltting of Madrid Street and Camba Street, from Moriones to Lakandula Streets, Tondo, District 1, Manila.

SEC. 2. This ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

Enacted by the City Council of Manila at its regular session today.

Approved by His Honor, the Mayor on

APPROVED:

GEMILIANO C. LOPEZ, JR.
Mayor
City of Manila

DANILO B. LACUNA
Vice Mayor and
Presiding Officer
City Council, Manila

Attested:

ALBERTO A. BERNARDO
Secretary to the Mayor

MA. NYMPHA H. BELLO
Secretary, City Council

Jointly sponsored by Hon. Ernesto G. Dionisio, Hon. Reynaldo B. Jose, Hon. Abraham Cabochan, Hon. Alberto A. Domingo, Hon. Pedro P. Alfonso and Hon. Ernesto A. Niewa.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the foregoing measure has been ordered published by the City Council of Manila at its regular session held on September 7, 1989 pursuant to the provisions of Section 17, Article III of R.A. 409, as amended, otherwise known as the revised Charter of the City of Manila.

(SGD.) MA. NYMPHA H. BELLO
Secretary

WE FORUM
September 20, 1989

Brutal

(From page 5)

generating adequate employment and good-paying jobs for the majority of the population so that Filipinos need not go abroad for work and children need not labor in hazardous and exploitative conditions if their parents have jobs and enough income.

We call as well on the public, non-governmental groups

and professionals to join in the concerted effort to realize or attain children's rights

- by educating themselves thoroughly about the specific needs and rights of children,

- by introducing the concept of children's rights into any forum and into any issue in which children's well being is at stake,

- by sustaining the campaign to promote and protect children's rights and for the implementation and monitoring of the forthcoming Convention,

- And, by ensuring children's participation in realizing the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Towards this end, we invite the media and the public to attend the Children's Rights Day Camp to be held on September 23 and the National Congress on Children's Rights on November 3, 4 and 5 which is being spearheaded by the GABRIELA Commission on Children and Family and co-sponsored by SALINLAHI and other participating organizations.

Alarming developments

THE grenade explosions in two places in Metro Manila last Sunday may not be as tragic as that of Plaza Miranda almost 20 years ago, but they could presage something more significant than the imposition of martial law and its justification. The lesser implication is that these terroristic acts one after the other may mean the total breakdown in peace and order. The other-- and the more sinister-- is that the beginning of the end for the Aquino administration has actually started a countdown and presently waiting only for that lucky break to topple the ineffective and incompetent government. After all, even the so-called "best laid plans of mice and men" need that fortuitous accident called serendipity to be able to attain success.

Not that we would advocate the dismantling of the Aquino government through a method of violence. As an alternative press, we take issue with every policy if the administration policy tends to negate the public welfare and well-being, like Mrs. Aquino's wishy-washy stand on graft and corruption, the inept and cretinous Cabinet, the gunrunning Congress, the forest plunderers, the myopic standards in labor and education, the parochial foreign policy thrust, the subservience to foreign banks and lenders. And most certainly, we maintain our perception of her hold on the Presidency as merely de facto, a stand that the best constitutionalists in the country have bolstered with their learned support. We believe that Mrs. Aquino is not capable for the position she presently holds, that she has become, to belabor a popular cliché, a square peg in a round hole, and totally unworthy of the people's trust and confidence. But to have her and her government at the business end of a gun barrel is not exactly our idea of fun. All we are hoping is for her to resign any one of these beautiful days, preferably tomorrow at the very latest.

Still, it remains a forlorn hope, despite the stirrings in the hearts of many millions of Filipinos now grovelling in the dust under the impact of high prices and corruption in high places. But what to make of the three instances of grenade attacks in the last four days that have killed two and seriously injured more than a score of others? Are these isolated incidents inspired by violent men made mad by hunger? Are these the handiwork of the New People's Army or the Moro National Liberation Front? Have they set a timetable for their agenda of crushing the government and replacing it with another, more responsive to the people's interests? Have they actually started their initial plan of action in support of their mission? Certainly, there have been alarming developments in the homefront.

Expectedly, government reaction was exemplified by Mrs. Aquino's "clearances" of the crooks infesting her administration. The National Capital Region Defense Command (NCRDC) was quick to deny initial reports that NPA or MNLF terrorists were responsible for the grenade attacks. Even as it was hinting that the terroristic acts were purely police matters, the government's violation of the Tripoli Agreement in 1978 may have already been dramatized in correlation with the Mindanao Organic Act prepared and approved by both Houses of Congress and signed into law by the President recently.

As it pursued its investigation, the police had been placed on general alert perhaps to abort such future attacks and try to avert the onset of panic among the populace. A rash of subsequent explosions that maim and kill will spell in certain terms the impotence of the government to protect the people from perceived enemies. The recent shenanigans in the Congress and the Cabinet have already eroded to a dangerous degree the people's faith in their government; if this perception is aggravated by its inability to protect the people, too, then we all become witness to the spectacle of a government rendered useless by its own monumental incompetence and, therefore, has lost its right to govern.

But we continue to hope for the best and that the culprits will be caught.



Newspapers' boners

THIS one's for Paco Ramos, our hawk-eyed "Oops, my dear" columnist: Did you notice the banner headline of yesterday's *Manila Chronicle*?

The headline, straddling four columns in 72 points type size, read: "15 killed in two grenade blasts." Nothing wrong with this headline really until you read the lead of the story:

"At least 15 people were injured when still unidentified men exploded grenades in a textile store in Tondo and a gasoline station in Mandaluyong Sunday night, police said."

The key words, of course, are killed and injured and between the two, there's a hell of a difference.

While the headline writer's lapse is quite common in the newspaper business, it could cost him his job since the newspaper's accuracy and credibility are at stake.

Many newspaper editors have found themselves in the same rut. Only recently, the *Daily Globe* committed a similar boner in its headline about a land scandal. In its banner headline, the word *Cebu* was printed when the place where the anomalous land sale was unearthed was in *Negros*. In a subsequent erratum, the *Globe* editors expressed the usual apologies for the typographical error but made light of it by saying that the issue in question could be a valuable "collector's item." Neat, huh?

In another newspaper, a Filipino daily, an

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



by JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.

entire column had to be reprinted because the continuation of the opinion piece was inadvertently omitted on the page where it was supposed to have "jumped."

Which reminds me, too, of a grave error made by the defunct *Philippines Herald* where I started my journalistic career as a police reporter. I phoned in shortly after midnight a story about a plane crash in the Manila Bay after our first edition (for the provinces) had been printed. The night editor got my story, changed the bulldog edition's headline with that of the plane crash, thusly: "Plane crashes in Bay."

The next day, I -- and I guess the night editor and the publisher, too -- was aghast to discover that while the headline was splashed through six columns on page one, the story I phoned in was nowhere to be found! It turned out that the deskmen failed to have the story pasted up in the city edition. A case of a head without a body.

Hey, Paco Ramos, can you top this one?

We Forum

MEMBER



PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

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OUR DAYS



by F. T. OCAMPO

The detention prisoners

THE quality of justice in this country had never been a strong point of this administration, what with corrupt and abusive judges and fiscals that infest the judiciary. But they must also be extremely lazy, to cause the detention of nine out of every 10 prisoners in city and town jails.

Unless the judges and fiscals of the land have been recreant in their duty, one can hardly imagine a report by Gen. Arsenio Concepcion, PC-INP chief for jail management and penology, that 12,552 persons are being held in the jails as detention prisoners, while "only 1,693 are actually serving their sentences." Unreeling statistics before the National Peace and Order Council, the PC-INP cited Metro Manila where only 497 convicts are serving prison sentences, while some 4,274 are classified as detention prisoners.

The result of this anomaly is unnecessary congestion in the already outdated jails, triggering subhuman conditions, according to the National Police Commission. One has but to recall to mind the recent tragedy in Davao involving escaped prisoners, where 16 people, including an Australian female missionary, were killed. It has been established in that case that the main reason for the escape was the inhuman condition in the Davao Penal Colony. It was one of the escapees' demands, together with money and transportation, that the prison conditions be improved. Perhaps the government did not believe that prisoners have any rights at all, especially to demand better living conditions.

The P8.50 daily allocation for each prisoner has resulted in malnourishment and under-nourishment for jail denizens. As the Napolcom points out, the amount is not even enough for snacks "for a person with a regular appetite." Thus, poor health among the unfortunate prisoners has become a rule rather than the exception. There must be something fundamentally wrong in a government that would allocate the amount of P8.50 a whole day for its prisoners while its lucky functionaries can earn thousands in double or extra compensation.

The solution to the problem does not lie in the construction of more jails, Napolcom Chief Cleo Campos said, but in speedier trial for the detainees. A faster resolution of the cases could result in lesser congestion and eventual improvement of jail conditions and facilities, it is argued, although other penologists maintain that the country's jails are highly congested, including Muntinlupa and the penal colonies in Davao and

(Page 14, please)

A Negros Occidental widow weeps for her dead

FOR some time now, readers of this column must have noticed that I have been publishing every now and then reports that have been sent to me regarding atrocities being committed by certain elements of the military and the CAFGU in my home province, Negros Occidental.

Naturally, I have been disturbed and saddened by these reports. I love my *comprovincianos* and any time they are in distress I have tried my best to help rescue them from their difficulties. Many will remember the role I played in the Moises Padilla case in 1951. How I helped bring a vest pocket Hitler to his knees. (Then Gov. Rafael A. Lacson was defanged and sentenced to a stiff prison term.) A little over four years ago, I chaired the Movement to Aid Negros and I handed over to then Bacolod Bishop Antonio Y. Fortich a check for P200,000, intended for the malnourished children of the sugar province.

I have sworn eternal hostility against all forms of oppression. Every violation of human rights is a chilling experience for me. Regardless of who is responsible for it.

The other day I received an LBC Airvelop-enclosed letter from Negros, which I am aware has been previously published in many a "letters to the editor" page of Metro Manila dailies. The sender of this letter must feel that whatever happens in Negros must interest me. And because I have been playing up reports about military atrocities in that neck of the woods, I should also, in fairness, or to sort of balance things up, write about the NPAs and their crimes against humanity.

And so, I am publishing hereunder the aforementioned letter, without comment. I am not responsible for the truth or untruth of the sender's allegations. But I am in full accord with her plea: "How long will these senseless killings go on? Why can't we brother Filipinos live in peace and harmony?"

THE way the Generics Act is going, it is faithfully dogging the footsteps of the Aquino administration. EDSA is indeed the highway of broken dreams and promises, of failed hopes and expectations. In medical parlance, the operation was successful, but the patient is suffering a relapse due to the high cost of medication. What's the use now of pursuing the implementation of the Generics Law when the prices of medicines are steadily rising anyway at the caprice of the multinational drug companies?

We applauded Mrs. Aquino when she vowed to lower the price of *galunggong*. We got instead a decree on import liberalization. Price controls were lifted, we were left unprotected to the rapacious greed of the business giants. We were not only shortchanged. In still controversial Filipino: *Hindi lang naisahan. Pusoy na pusoy talaga!* We are really a nation betrayed by our leaders. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. . . ?

How many more widows and orphans must be victims of these atrocities? How much more tears do we still have to shed before we come to realize the senselessness of these killings and put a stop to it?"

Those are pertinent questions that the Aquino Administration will have to answer. It has the means and the opportunity. How long indeed will these senseless killings go on? We must turn away from the path of violence and return to the ways of peace. Well has Pope Paul VI and his successors said that "violence is evil, that violence is unacceptable as a solution to problems, that violence is unworthy of man."

Here is the unedited letter in full:

Saturnina H. Barrientos
Fronting Espinos Village
Puentebella Subdivision
Bacolod City
Tel. Nos. 8-1139/2-41-70
September 13, 1989

MR. ERNESTO RODRIGUEZ

We Forum

Project 6, Quezon City

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

I am a widow of a murdered victim of NPA atrocities.

I am writing you with the hope that you can help me seek justice for the death of my husband in the hands of those rebels. I am enclosing the true story pertaining to the killing of my husband, and all these despite the grave threats on my life and my family for exposing the truth. (There was nothing enclosed with the letter.-ERR)

My husband, Herberto Barrientos, Sr. was a sugarcane planter in Murcia, a small planter of a small farm I inherited from my late father, Benigno G. Honalan, former vice-mayor of Murcia, Negros Occidental.

There were letters sent to my husband by the NPAs, asking Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) monthly as "taxes". There were three letters plus threats. My husband refused to give believing it was unfair for him who

POLITICS & POLITICOS



by ERNESTO R. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

was sweating it out in the farm, not to mention the economic difficulties we are undergoing.

Last July 15, 1989, on a Saturday morning, my husband left our home in Bacolod for the farm. He was the last among the few planters visiting their farms in that area because of Communist threats. He was a religious man and very active as a church leader in our community. He was very helpful with the people there and was confident that he had no enemy.

But just because he refused to pay the "taxes" he was abducted by thirteen armed men at 11:00 in the morning (broad daylight), a few meters from our house in Hda. Monico, Barangay Sta. Rosa, Murcia, Negros Occidental. A man of sixty years, alone and unarmed he was forced to alight from his jeep. Two days later, Monday morning, July 17, his body was found dead, dumped in a sugarcane field. According to the findings of the Medico Legal he was brutally tortured before killing him.

I am writing you articulating the feelings of a widow of NPA victim with the hope that you may understand the sentiments of all of us widows of victims of all these atrocities, and so let our people know about these.

How long will these senseless killings go on? Why can't we brother Filipinos live in peace and harmony? How many more widows and orphans must be victims of these atrocities?

How much more tears do we still have to shed before we come to realize the senselessness of these killings and put a stop to it?

Opinion makers like you can be a great help.

My best regards to you and more power to your column.

Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) Saturnina H. Barrientos
(Mrs.) SATURNINA H. BARRIENTOS

The Generics gap

Back to generics. What's in a name? Genus? Gender? The issue now is not identifying, codifying, labelling, and how to prescribe the medicines. Our concern is the pricing, and there we have altogether a lost cause. *Awat na lang*, Dr. Bengzon. We are no match to Philamlife Assurance Corporation, the underwriter of our economy and future undertaker. Let's channel our energies and resources, whatever is left, to other areas like harnessing full support for the local drug industry. There, at least, we still have a fighting chance.

Secondly, there must be a way to scale down the cost of medical education. If only millionaires can become doctors, how can we expect them to practice the hippocratic oath for charity without first trying at least to recoup their investment? Even our nurses now need a fortune to get their diploma. No wonder that long before graduation they already have their eyes set on foreign assignments, particularly the States.

BEYOND HYPOCRISY



by PLACIDO P. DIAZ

Finally, why is it that our Department of Health is not providing full protection for the Filipino doctors being persecuted by the military for treating suspected insurgents? Even granting that the Medical Action Group, for instance, is a communist front, there are no reasonable grounds whatsoever for the Department of National Defense to curtail their activities, for as long as they are practicing their profession. Or are physicians now charged only with saving lives of the ruling class and their supporters and not of the opposition? This suggestion is definitely not good for the national health. Herein lies the generics gap.

Salonga, Ordoñez should be faulted

AMBASSADOR Luis Ascalon, my **kababayan**, just testified before the Chavez Committee looking into "Operation Big Bird" and his revelations confirm the charges aired by General Jose Almonte and banker De Guzman that the PCGG and its lawyers, and then Solicitor General Sedfrey Ordoñez bungled the job to the prejudice of the Philippines. Ascalon is a career diplomat with no political inclinations and we can assume the veracity of his allegations, made under oath in Congress. With this revelation, the more Senate President Salonga and Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez get tainted by the mess.

This much is clear to my mind, — that Salonga and Ordoñez should be faulted for the failure of our country to recover more than \$200 million from the Marcos loot in Swiss banks; that the PCGG lawyers being paid by the millions of dollars to represent us are either mediocre who do not deserve their pay or are actually working against our interests. Also, that the explanations given by Sedfrey for aborting the operation because he "doubted" the loyalty of De Guzman and Almonte is untenable. Considering that the money was already there and, therefore, within the grasp of the Philippine government, even assuming his doubts on the loyalties of De Guzman and Almonte, Ordoñez who is said to be an experienced lawyer, should have known that his doubt was not reason enough to "kill" the project because it was the Philippine government which stood to lose and lose it did as shown by what happened afterwards as had been

admitted by Ambassador Ascalon. What Sedfrey Ordoñez should have done was to just closely monitor the activities of both Almonte and De Guzman to assure himself whether they can deliver or not. So what if De Guzman was a Marcos "money bag" before? So many of them are now around Cory today, anyway? What was important, to my mind, is that the amount being handled by De Guzman was turned over to the Philippine government no matter who gets the credit for it.

Look at what happened to the proceeds of the sales of the New York properties of the Marcoses? How much did the Philippines get but a few thousand dollars because the bulk of the proceeds just went to attorney's fees. We were fried in our own lard and it means stupidity on the part of the officials of this country who handled the transactions.

Imagine a PC captain getting caught during a motel raid and found having shabu? Ito ang talagang "scalawag" and he deserves to be booted out, pronto.

There was a treasure hunt right inside the Burnham Park in Baguio recently but was stopped on orders of Secretary Garrucho. I am just wondering if a certain Noel Soriano was again part of it? That Soriano is quite a guy. He was National Security Adviser of Cory, **yon pala** he was just trying to secure his future through gold diggings. . .

This is a true story. A police station commander in Zambales went to a

barangay and gathered people for his so called CIVAC program. In the barangay he appealed to the people to stop illegal logging and illegal cutting of trees for charcoal making, and to stop gathering forest products without permit. The people naturally obeyed. Then last week, the people in the barangay, together with the barangay captain came to me to complain. "Why is it," they said "that we are being prevented from cutting trees and gathering forest products while the relative of this station commander is engaged in illegal logging, with a sawmill right behind his house?" I said I will look into the matter.

 Still talking about illegal logging, one of my former security personnel who was manning a checkpoint in Bgy. Malomboy tried to stop illegally cut logs from passing through his detachment. He was assisted by two CHDF men. Know what happened? He and his two CHDF companions were almost killed when they were suddenly surrounded by a group of men identified with the illegal logger, all armed with M-14s and other high-powered guns. When the two CHDF members came to me last Sunday, September 10, they were still in a state of shock. I hope the PC Provincial command will look into this.

There is an exodus, by the thousands, of East Germans to the West in an apparent dash for freedom long denied them. In just a few days, 16,000

Gold and Mayor Lacson's dreams-XXIII

AT this point, it must be emphasized that Marcos must be given credit for the fact that he had the courage and the wisdom to adopt a program for the retrieval of the hidden treasures. He knew perfectly well that the operation cannot be done successfully without martial law for necessarily the military must cooperate wholeheartedly. His will to live despite his health is a convincing indication that he intended to finish this program. It is also understandable why the US government supported his regime - Camp John Hay, Clark Field and Subic have been mentioned as some of the places where the hidden treasures are. This must also be one of the reasons why the US government does not want to give up the military bases. Considering that as of 1985, the US government has printed US dollars amounting to \$700 billion without gold support, can one blame the US government if it has a greedy eye on this gold bonanza? In a sense, Marcos has the ace - the only trouble is that up to now, we do not know yet if this gold bonanza will benefit the Filipino people since our politicians have their own hidden agendas.

There may be some secret Presidential Decrees and Executive Orders regarding the sharing of the hidden treasures but we may never know correctly since they have not been published. However, the **Philippine News** carried a story about it as contained

in the letter of Norman Kirst to Robert Curtis, both members of the LEBER group that had a plan of action for the retrieval of the hidden treasures in 172 locations which operation they call "Balik Huguis" or "Restoration." The letter says in part: "No. 1 gets 50 percent of the net and the government gets 30 percent taxes, thus, this leaves a share at something like 2 percent to 3 percent, more or less, on the LEBER side (it could even be 4 percent)." However, in the LEBER agreement as reported in the **Philippine News** story, the sharing was to be divided equally among the 11 members of the LEBER group for the sake of secrecy. LEBER stands for Legitimate, Ethical Business Enterprises Related, a funny name indeed for a firm engaged in the retrieval of the hidden treasures yet Jack Anderson, a very famous American columnist, wrote about this in his column with the heading, "Buried Treasures?" on Tuesday, April 4, 1978. It says in part:

"We have established beyond doubt that the LEBER combine not only exists but has been trying to recover World War II booty. From sworn statements and confidential documents, we have also linked Marcos to the group. One of his secret associates in Manila, former Ambassador to the United States Amelito Mutuc, admitted under close questioning that he was part of the Leber group. He admitted his involvement but not

the dictator's. Mutuc told associates that more than \$14 billion has already been removed from the secret underground and undersea locations. He said the gold has been stored in a special warehouse near the Malacanang palace and in a basement vault inside Marcos' summer palace. Our sources heard Mutuc's statement and one source was shown the vault in the presidential basement. To disguise the origin of the precious metals, Marcos allegedly arranged in 1975 for the construction of a "laundering" facility near Malacanang. Apparently, precious metals have telltale "fingerprints" and an expert can determine in what part of the world the metals were mined. The secret maps reportedly mark underground treasure troves ranging from an ancient church to the former US Nelsen Air Base. The maps allegedly indicate an inventory that, at today's values, would surpass \$100 billion."

The **Philippine News** story carried pictures of the whole Leber group which was taken at the home of Amelito Mutuc in front of the swimming pool with the exception of the three secret partners and Robert Curtis who took the picture; some members of the LEBER group inspecting the excavation progress at Teresa II site; Gen. Ver meeting the three American members of the LEBER group in Malacanang; four members of the LEBER group inspecting the treasure trove

IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

East Germans - by car, by buses, on bicycle and on foot rushed to the West German border from Hungary and Austria, best proof that to seek freedom is still man's greatest goal. Thus, the Berlin wall notwithstanding, East Germans have risked lives and limbs just to flee to the West and denounce communism and all its repressions. Of course the golden spring at Tiananmen Square in Beijing is one other proof of the people's longing to be free and, for all its faults, the democratic way of life still offers the best hope for humanity.

 Last Sunday, September 10, we visited Bgy. Balaganon in Masinloc. My wife distributed piglets for her livelihood project and dialogued with purok leaders. We had lunch in the humble residence of the Bgy. Captain and hundreds of barangay folk came out and greeted us because according to an old lady, that was the very first time in their lives that their representative in Congress visited them. "**Hindi pa nangyari kahit kailan,**" she said with pride and glee. Well, that is out style of leadership in Zambales, to meet the folks in the flesh, talk to them, listen to their needs, let them feel they belong.

TEA W/ JULIE



by JULIE AMARGO

sites at Fort Santiago; Gen. Ver escorting the three Americans to Malacanang and introducing them to Marcos on March 9, 1975, Marcos entertaining Curtis during a fishing and skiing trip to Mariveles, Bataan where the guests were taken on board the Presidential Yacht No. 777 on March 11, 1975; the three American partners canvassing the Summer Palace as a possible site for the installation of the "laundering" facility being escorted by Gen. Ver; the actual excavated hole at Teresa II site; master map of treasure trove locations and many more convincing pictures.

It is very interesting to note that the trail of the gold has now involved many actors and their hidden agendas. For sure, we are not nearing any correct accounting of our gold but it may interest us to know, for instance, that in the year 1987 alone, Hongkong import statistics showed that 10,555,973 grams of Gold Bullion (Gold Bars) were imported from the Philippines at a value of HK\$1,069,235,225.00. (To be continued).

Preparation for and conduct of trial-(54)

10.5 Objection for Lack of Foundation

ALL exhibits must have the necessary foundation completely established before they can properly be admitted in evidence.

"Objection, your Honor. There is no proper foundation for the exhibits."

"We object. There was no showing that the photograph accurately portrays the intersection as it existed on the date of the accident."

A difficult decision involving exhibits is whether or not to object on foundation grounds. If the foundation problem can easily be solved, an objection may only force the other party to establish the missing element, at the same time enhancing the credibility and impact of the exhibit. Sometimes the better approach in these situations is not to object at all, then mention the missing element in closing arguments, (e.g., "Of course it's a picture of the intersection, but is it worth anything? No one ever said that's the way the intersection looked on the date of the accident.")

Where counsel definitely wants to keep the exhibit from being admitted and there is a substantial likelihood that a proper foundation cannot be established, a timely objection is essential.

The common objection "No basis" simply means lack of foundation for the admissibility of either oral testimony or documentary exhibit.

10.6 Objection for Lack of Authentication

Writings and conversations must be au-

LAW AND (DIS)ORDER



by ANTONIO P. CORONEL

thenticated to be admissible at trial. This is true even if the signed writing can be qualified as a business record, since the business records exception solves only the hearsay problem but not the authentication requirement (e.g., Cruz signs a promissory note to the XYZ Company. The original is retained in the company's files. In a lawsuit on the unpaid note, the note can be qualified as a business record. However, the signature of Cruz on the note must be proved before the note can be admissible against Cruz.)

Where conversations are involved, the identity of the parties to the conversation must be demonstrated.

The manner of authentication and proof of documents depends on whether the documents are public or private - Public documents are:

(a) The written official acts, or records of the official acts of the sovereign authority, official bodies and tribunals, and public officers, whether of the Philippines or of a foreign country;

(b) Documents acknowledged before a notary public except last wills and testa-

ments; and

(c) Public records, kept in the Philippines, of private documents required by law to be entered therein (Sec. 19, Rev. Rule 132).

Public documents do not require authentication. They should however be proven in the manner specified by the rules. Once a public document is admitted in evidence and consists of entries in public records made in the performance of a duty by a public officer, it constitutes *prima facie* evidence of the facts therein states. All other public documents are evidence, even against a third person, but only of the fact which gave rise to their execution and of the date of the latter (Sec. 23, Rev. Rule 132).

Public documents consisting of the written official acts or records of the official acts of the sovereign authority and of other public bodies and/or offices may be proven by an official publication thereof, or by a copy attested by the officer having the legal custody of the record, or by his deputy and accompanied, if the record is not kept in the Philippines, with a certificate that such officer has the custody. If the office in which the record is kept is in a foreign country, the certificate may be made by a secretary of the embassy or legation, consul general, consul, vice-consul or consular agent or by any officer in the foreign service of the Philippines stationed in the foreign country in which the record is kept and authenticated by the seal of his office (Sec. 24, Rev. Rule 120).

In the case of notarial documents, as long as they are duly acknowledged or proved and

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YOUTH VOICE



by DAVE TABANIAG

Colonial mentality

THIS is the fourth and last segment of our series on the "bases of our insecurity" and also my fifth column for We Forum.

The US bases contribute to our continuing colonial mentality so that, as Lolo Ernie Rodriguez said, many of our children prefer to be Americans than Filipinos (*We Forum*, Sept. 1-3). Since early childhood, we were exposed to Western films which glorified the heroes who fought for justice and the American way of life, films which star Sylvester Stallone and the late John Wayne.

The history books that we used in high school were mostly about how "benevolent" Uncle Sam was to us Filipinos. (How many Filipino civilians were killed by the Americans during the Phil.-American War?)

As to the moral decay spawned by the bases' presence, the PEC-NCSJHR paper on the bases tells us: "According to PREDA and BUKLOD, there are somewhere between 15,000 to 17,000 prostitutes and streetwalkers in Olongapo City and in nearby Barrio Barretto and Subic City... records at DSSD show that there are 4,534 hospitality girls in Angeles (but) there are easily twice more than that number in that red light district."

Time and again, the issue of anti-communism has been raised against anti-bases people. Can we call the leaders of the Phil. Episcopal Church commies because of their opposition to these bases? Can we call Claro Recto, Ninoy Aquino and Ka Pepe Diokno commies for saying that we should not involve ourselves in the war of the superpowers?

The anti-communist bogey cannot also be raised against this writer who is a member (albeit inactive) of the Ninoy Aquino Foundation and the Catholic Charismatic Movement. Last year, I was also a Rotaractor.

We thought that with the advent of a supposedly liberal regime, the McCarthyist witch-hunting of the past dictatorship would end.

Aping Lakan-Daldal Mitira

NARITO kami ngayon sa "House of Guns" and "Chamber of Fools" upang interbyuhin ang speaker o Lakan-Daldal Balbas Mitira na napabalitang nagresign bilang pangulo ng Lapiang mga Doberman at Puppy (LDP). Opening statement Lakan Mitira?

MITIRA: "Ang kapal ng kanilang mga baba, este ng kanilang mukha. Garapal ang kanilang ginawa. Sa lahat ng doberman, sila ang hindi marunong mangagat."

Ano po ang masasabi ninyo sa parusang suspensiyon lamang kay Lakan Deg Uziman?

MITIRA: "Wala akong masabi dahil ako'y nasusuka."

Alam po ba ninyo na galit na galit ang ating mga mamamayan dito sa kaharian ng Pilipit-na dahil pinipilit ng 9+ mga lakan ang katarungan?

MITIRA: "Ako man ay galit din kaya nagresign ako bilang pinuno ng Lapiang mga Doberman at Puppy o LDP."

Pero Lakan-Daldal Mitira, kailangan ninyo ang partido para sa inyong ambisyong maging sultan.

MITIRA: "Bakit? Nasisiguro mo bang hindi tatakbo ng reeleksiyon si Sultana Pusong Biyuda?"

Iyon ang kanyang pangako, hindi na siya tatakbo.

MITIRA: "Kaso nga, iba ang kanyang ginagawa sa kanyang sinasabi. Ang sabi niya noon mahal daw ang galunggong ni Ali Macoy e mas mahal ang galunggong niya ngayon. Ang pangako niya noon ay ibababa ang halaga ng mga bilihin, pero ang kanyang ibinaba ay ang purchasing power ng peso. Ang piso ngayon ni hindi p'wedeng pambili ng lason."

Aanhin naman ninyo ang lason Lakan-Daldal Mitira?

MITIRA: "Gagamitin ko sana sa 91 na mga pusong buwaya at katad rhinoceros na mga mukha ng aking mga kasama rito sa House of Guns at Chamber of Fools dahil walang moral value ang ending ng istorya ng lakan na nagpuslit ng 314 na sibat, kampilan, kris at iba pang armas sa Paliparang Sansinukob ng Hindi ka Nag-iisa."

Lakan Mitira, ano po ba yong paliparang sansinukob ng hindi ka nag-iisa?

MITIRA: "Tinagalog ko lang 'yong Ninoy Aquino International Airport."

Ngayong umalis na kayo sa LDP, kayo ba ay may balak na umanib sa partido ng Lawang Pera o LP? O lilipat

PUNNY LINES



by FUNDADOR SORIANO

kayo sa Panay Dada P'wera Laban o PDP-Laban o kaya ay sa Kami'y Binayaran Lamang o KBL. Anong party ang plano n'yong samahan?"

MITIRA: "Mas mabuti siguro kung sasama na lang ako sa birthday party, meron pang cake at lobo."

Ano ang inyong masasabi sa sultana daughter na si Kiris na atat na atat sa showbiz at ngayon ay TV star na?

MITIRA: "Wala silang originality. Hindi pa man isinisilang 'yan si Kiris ay singer-announcer na ang aking kaputol na si Aurorita na naging asawa ni Rudy Angus ng Four Nuts, este, Four Notes."

Hinihimok ngayon ng LDP na umanib sa kanila ang buslo-bola bituin na si Big J o Jaworskarate, any reaction Lakan-Daldal Mitira?

MITIRA: "Tamang-tama sa kanilang gang, este, grupo si Big J.

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Breastfeeding Special Report

High cost of bottlefeeding

By JUAN V. SARMIENTO, JR.

A WORLD Health Organization (WHO) report last week that breastfeeding rates especially among urban and working women have declined in Western Pacific countries including the Philippines show that more families are spending a considerable amount of their family incomes on breastmilk substitutes.

WHO said breastfeeding rates have declined in Australia, Brunei Darussalam, China, Hong Kong, Kirabati, Republic of Korea, Lau People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vietnam.

WHO attributed the decline to maternal employment and aggressive marketing of breastmilk substitutes.

In Metro Manila, for instance, 39 percent of mothers who began breastfeeding after delivery shifted to bottlefeeding three months later, said WHO.

A non-government health coalition in the Philippines estimates that bottlefeeding an infant eats up more than a third of the monthly incomes of poor families in Metro Manila.

BUNSO (Balikatan at Ugnayang Naglalayong Sumagipsa Sanggol or Partnership and Coalition to Save the Infant) computed that a low-income family would have to spend about P727.40 a month as of August this year just to bottlefeed a two-month old baby.

This accounts for almost 40 percent of the monthly income of a Metro Manila industrial worker earning a daily minimum wage of P89 or about P1,958 a month (P89 x 22 working days).

Ines Fernandez of BUNSO said P413.60 or 56 percent of the cost of bottlefeeding an infant was accounted for by a 400-gram **Alacta**, one of the cheapest infant formulas marketed in

Manila.

Water for diluting the breastmilk substitute and cleaning bottles, cap and nipple cost about P25 a month. Kerosene for boiling the water amounts to P28 while the detergent soap for cleaning bottlefeeding paraphernalia takes P10.80.

Bottles, nipples, cap and brush for washing cost about P30. This amount represents only a portion of the total costs of these items since their usage extends to a few months.

Doctor's fees, medicines and transportation when the baby gets sick account for P50, P150 and P30 respectively. (Bottlefed babies are more sickly than those who are breastfed.)

UNICEF said during the first six months, the risk of morbidity and death from diarrhea is respectively 15 and 25 times higher for children receiving infant formula compared to those who have the immunological protection of an exclusively breastmilk diet.

Jean Pierre Allain, consultant to the Malaysia-based International Organization of Consumer Unions (IOCU) said the monthly cost of feeding a three-month old baby in Pakistan is about 40 percent of the monthly real earnings of about half of the population in 1989.

Allain said breastmilk is not only a better food for the baby but also cheaper than processed milk. In Indonesia, it costs only about \$0.05 per day or about \$1.62 per month to produce human milk to feed an infant. In contrast, the cost of suffi-



INFANT FORMULA: Substitutes?

cient infant formula in 1988 for four days ranged from \$2.25 to \$7.50 depending on the brand chosen.

In addition, Allain said the health costs of bottlefeeding are considerable. If 25 percent of mothers in Indonesia stopped breastfeeding, the cost of treating the resulting increase in diarrhea cases is more than \$40 million or 20 percent of the annual budget

for health.

Meanwhile, the declining breastfeeding rates in the Philippines have led to increased sales of breastmilk substitutes.

Five milk companies produce and market ten brands of infant formula and four brands of follow-up milk. These are Nestlé Philippines, Inc. (**Lactogen**, **Pelargon**, **Nestogen** and **Neslac**); Wyeth-Suaco

(Philippines), Inc. (**S-26**, **Bonna** and **Promil**); Mead Johnson (**Enfamil**, **Enfalac** and **Alacta**); Abbot Ross (**Similac** and **Gain**) and Consolidated Food Corp. (**Neulac** and **Milna**).

All the five companies landed in the top 1,000 corporations of the Philippines in 1988. Nestlé (Philippines), Inc. ranked 11th in gross revenue with P6.2 billion and a net profit of P370

‘WHO cites decline of breastfeeding rates in many countries,’

million. Wyeth-Suaco (Philippines) Inc. ranked 66 in gross revenue with P1.16 billion and P184 million in net profits.

The aggressive marketing of breastmilk substitutes WHO cited for the decline in breastfeeding rates in Western Pacific countries could be seen in the staggering advertising and promotion budgets of milk companies.

During the 75th anniversary of Nestlé in 1986 for instance, it spent about P240 million for advertisements alone in the Philippines. This amount is equivalent to the two-year budget of the government-run Philippine General Hospital (PGH).

The declining breastfeeding rates in the Philippines is also depleting the country's dollar reserve. In 1988, the country imported 133 million kilograms of dairy products worth \$171 million.

BUNSO estimated that the country could produce 291.6 million liters of milk should 90 percent of mothers breastfeed for one year. This would help close the country's perennial balance of payments (BOP) deficits, and most importantly feed healthy Filipinos. (PNF)

Why infant formulas 'click' in the Visayas

By LILETTE SANTOS

CEBU CITY — Even if breastmilk is the only perfect food for the newborn, many Filipino working mothers still choose bottlefeeding because they think it is more convenient and time-saving. "Infant formulas will always click because it is an option for working mothers," said Giselle Valmorita, a resident pediatrician at the Metro Cebu Hospital, and her... If a working mother.

Mothers have increasingly had to find work outside the home to augment the insufficient family income. Many workers today

receive take home pays way below the required daily P147 (US\$7) to feed a family of six. In Cebu province, at least 90,000 women work as full-time employees, according to the National Statistics Office.

Aside from having jobs outside the home, mothers also fail to breastfeed today because they know very little about breastfeeding and are not properly motivated. Not a few mothers, for example, claim that they have not been able to breastfeed because they "did not have milk." Experts

would have told them that mother's milk would surely be produced if the mother just kept on nursing.

Surprisingly, lower as well as higher-income mothers share the same ignorance and lack of motivation in breastfeeding, according to Dr. Perla Yray, head of the maternal and child health program of the Department of Health in this region.

Central Visayas had a relatively high breastfeeding rate of 77 percent in 1988, and even higher at 81 percent the year before.

President Aquino signed

the Philippine Milk Code in 1986, aimed at protecting and promoting breastfeeding. The Code bans, among others, milk companies from giving samples and supplies to the public, to medical practitioners and to health centers.

"In the last monitor we had in June, we found out that some rural health centers were not following the Milk Code," Yray said. "Infant formula samples and other gimmicks from the milk companies were

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Breastfeeding
Special Report

Many doctors still know little about breastfeeding

By MARICRIS V. RODRIGUEZ

IF you're a mother who has tried breastfeeding your babies for some time, you must surely have been told some truths and some myths about breastfeeding. You may have believed some, disregarded some, all the time wishing you could find someone to tell you if you really did the right thing.

It is an irony in this country that most health workers from doctors down to the village worker fully know the technology of artificial feeding for babies, but these same people know next to nothing about breastfeeding, the best and the most natural way of feeding man's young.

Nest to nothing may be strong words, but these have basis, according to BUNSO (Balikatan at Ugnayang Naglalayong Sumagip sa Sanggol) a group of non-government experts and advocates in breastfeeding.

The common feeding practice in most Philippine hospitals has become bottlefeeding. Newborn babies are automatically kept in nurseries away from their mothers and are given formula milk in bottles, until they and their mothers leave the hospital.

"People who work in hospitals know more about bottlefeeding than breastfeeding, most especially those in private hospitals. Even in government hospitals where breastfeeding is ostensibly implemented, the medical personnel lack training and skills in helping mothers to breastfeed," explained Dr. Juan Perez III, BUNSO consultant who has studied the effects of bottlefeeding on children in several of Metro Manila's poor communities.

Certain hospitals, though, have recently made important changes in their policies giving breastfeeding a helpful push. Mothers who want to breastfeed or are already breastfeeding now have some experts who can tell them what to do.

At the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City, a lactation center for mothers -- a relative rarity in Philippine hospitals -- has been set up since May with BUNSO's help.

"Hospital authorities have become convinced of the need to promote breastfeeding and this year, decided to adopt stronger policies for it," explains Marilou Villanueva, nurse supervisor at the hospital's nursery.



Strategically located at the hospital's outpatient building and manned by BUNSO-trained mother-counselors, the center has been making regular ward visitations and mother-counseling, giving lectures, providing free advice to outpatient mothers, and even doing home-visits to help in special cases.

"I've always personally believed in breastfeeding, but it has been different when the hospital itself took it up," Villanueva said. "More mothers are now deciding to breastfeed after giving birth here," she said. "A few years ago, only over 15 percent of the mothers we handle decided to breastfeed. Today, the figure is closer to 65 percent," she said.

"We see all kinds," said Normita Gentes, BUNSO breastfeeding counselor at the hospital. "But we become even more determined when we find mothers who intend to bottlefeed."

"Some refuse even to listen and pretend to be asleep when we do our afternoon visits. Others immediately become interested, and when their doubts are clarified, are very grateful that they've come across us," she said. "I've not found one mother who was determined to breastfeed, and failed," said Normita, herself a mother of five breastfed children.

Normita said that the most common problem they encounter is "mis-information." Many doctors and hospital personnel and parents themselves have many wrong ideas about breastfeeding, she said.

The most common misconception they have to correct, Normita says, is the idea that it doesn't matter health-wise

whether a mother chooses to breastfeed or bottlefeed. "This is completely false," Normita said. "Mothers must know that breastfeeding is number one, and that bottlefeeding is a dangerous option."

"People think that bottlefeeding is *ok lang*," she said. "It's not *ok lang*. Mothers must know that they are risking their children's future health in choosing bottlefeeding."

Some doctors are in fact known to have ordered mothers to stop breastfeeding at the least indication of trouble, Normita said, telling them that the baby could be allergic to mother's milk (*hindi hiyang ang bata sa gatas ng ina*). "It would be the last thing I'd consider as the source of trouble," she said.

The baby's first few days are critical and new mothers are easily daunted with the initial problems, another BUNSO expert says.

"Wala, o kakaunti ang gatas ko (I have little or no milk)," is the most common new mother's worry. When the few-days old baby starts to demand for more milk, the subsequent crying spells scare young parents, Lita Nery relates. They are worried that the baby is not getting enough.

This is usually when even mothers who want to breastfeed become discouraged. "They come to us for recommendations of the best formula milk, when the best milk is there inside the mother's breast, just needing to be pumped out," Nery says.

The BUNSO breastfeeding counselors at the hospital have counseled mothers for all sorts of other problems and myths: "My breasts are painful." "I am a working mother, so how can I do it?" "How long can I preserve my milk at room temperature?" "Is another woman's milk all right for my baby?" "I have asthma (or a heart problem, or cancer, or even TB)" "I don't like my baby to suck when I'm hot (or tired, or angry)."

The BUNSO experts also have some things to say to the fathers. "I've found most fathers supportive of breastfeeding. But I've also found some who were awkward about their feelings. Some don't want their wives' breasts displayed!" Lita said.

Lita and Normita -- two of BUNSO's 14 extremely well-trained breastfeeding experts today -- even claim success with women who have lost their milk but wanted to gain it back. "In our experience, mothers who have lost their milk can gain it back in a few weeks, provided she kept to what we call our **relactation** program," Normita said.

Never ones to give up hope, the mother-counselors also tell of experiences with determined women who have never breastfed but who produced milk in a few weeks. "You may be a grandmother, or you may never have married, or you may be an adoptive parent. If you decide to breastfeed a baby, we can help you," is their confident claim.

BUNSO's telephone hotline for mothers with breastfeeding problems is, understandably, never idle. But the lactation center volunteers at the East Avenue Medical Center claim they always have room for another mother with a breastfeeding problem. (PNF)

Why infant

(From page 11)

still found in the far-flung areas."

Yray also criticized some milk companies' practice of sponsoring side-shows and symposiums, and donating equipment to health associations because these are

perceived to carry "strings attached."

Private agencies usually come to the Department of Health to request sponsorship of some activities. The DOH, in turn, asks drug and milk companies to sponsor these activities. DOH receives an average of three to four requests a month, each sometimes costing the sponsor up to P10,000 (US\$476).

Aggressive advertising by milk companies has made it very difficult to promote breastfeeding, said Eloisa Suarez, president of the Cebu chapter of the Integrated Midwives' Association of the Philippines. Midwives, attending to 50 percent of all births in Central Visayas, have widely supported breastfeeding campaigns.

Indeed, milk companies do not seem unduly worried about the Milk Code. "The Milk Code has not made any differences to our sales," said Eduardo Cantos, Nestle operations manager for Central and Eastern Visayas (Leyte and Samar). Nestle has eight infant formulas in the market today. "We are, in fact, still trying to meet the demand," he said. (PNF)

Our children's friends

WEEKS before her birthday, my 6-year-old girl was full of plans about how to celebrate. One time, it would be a party at home with **pabitins**; the next time it would be in a restaurant where she could have her fill of French fries; then the next, it would be in her school so all her classmates could celebrate with her. She incessantly talked about the tokens she was going to make (she did make paper bags, balls and boxes), the games they would play, and the food she would prepare (even at four she already could cook simple dishes like hotcake, fruit salad, gelatin all by herself).

A day before D-day however, it was finally decided that she was going to celebrate in school and of course, aside from that, have her treat to hamburger and French fries.

Her school, Victoria School Foundation, the same school where her sister and brothers all went to from pre-school through high school, had as part of their curriculum, a monthly party for birthday celebrators.

Those whose birthdays fell on that particular month were the honorees.

A program was held where all the pre-schoolers participated in. Then food was served in their classrooms. Obviously, the objective was to teach the pupils social graces. It was fun hearing the kids say "please pass the juice" or "no, thank you" as they served themselves.

The occasion also served as an opportunity for parents to interact with the teachers and the parents and their children's classmates.

And so as parents of one of the honorees, we were invited to help host the party. And as usual we were glad to go.

The moment our children starts to go to school, the time has come when we can only supervise their company with greatest difficulty.

We can only depend on what and how much they tell us about what happens to them in school. We are dependent on their

trusting us. We have to wait for them to come to us on their own accord. But of course naturally, we must take steps to be familiar with the world our children is going into.

When the child is a girl the job becomes easier because by nature they are 'story tellers'. My girl in particular comes home from school with stories about how this classmate pulled her classmate's ponytail, or how this classmate cried because he forgot to bring flowers for their science lesson. Even details about the teacher's outfit, the new pencil of a seatmate are 'news' which must be shared with her brothers and sister. When a child babbles with stories, we must encourage her so that it gets to be a habit to talk about her world outside the home... which would of course include the company she is keeping.

Part of the responsibility of parents is not only to avoid unsuitable friendships but also to encourage suitable ones. Many children learn bad habits because they fall into bad company. And often they fall into bad company because they don't know how to make the right contacts.

HEART & HEARTH



by EDITA T. BURGOS

In an urban area like Metro Manila, it is difficult to find out about families of our children's friends because although they go to the same school, they live in different communities. The best opportunity therefore is to meet the parents in such activities as school parties.

When our children reach the teen years, their school parties would be "exclusively" for them. No one would want to be seen with her mother "chaperoning" her in school.

So we should take advantage of making friends with our children's friends' families when they are still very young.

Breastmilk advocates gaining ground in RP

By GLORIA MELENCIO

THE campaign to promote breastmilk in favour of milk substitutes is gaining ground in the Philippines.

To counter the aggressive sales campaigns of milk companies, a group of breastfeeding advocates have put up a lactation center to counsel new mothers on breastfeeding, and to win back to breastfeeding those who have put their babies on infant formula.

The center, established in May 1989 at the busy East Avenue Medical Center in suburban Quezon City, is the first of its kind in the country.

The group responsible for its being is BUNSO (an acronym meaning infant or youngest child) which grew from the breastfeeding desk of the Citizens' Alliance for Consumer Protection in 1982.

Ms. Marlo Canicula, BUNSO lactation program coordinator, said the centre has 14 trained breastfeeding mother counsellors (BMCs) to attend to mothers in the hospital.

Only a month after its inauguration, the centre has branched out into four lactation satellites in urban poor communities in Makati, Quezon City and Caloocan City (all in Metro Manila).

It is mothers in these areas who fall easy prey to the enticements of milk companies as projected in advertisements and broadcast commercials, said Ms. Canicula. Thus BUNSO's "counter offensive" is to go house-to-house to see to it that mothers are informed on why breastmilk is best.

The lactation satellites are primarily based in government health centres so that the BMCs would be readily available to visiting mothers. The doctors and nurses assigned at the centres also refer mothers with breastfeeding problems to the BMCs, who are from the locality themselves. Thus, they are able to be in constant touch with the mothers.

"We believe it is this personal touch which has made all the difference," said Ms. Canicula.

Breastfeeding is given further boost by government policy as embodied in the Milk Code of the Philippines. In the past, sales representatives openly promoted infant formula by giving free samples to women coming for maternity or pediatric checkup or who have just given birth in a hospital or clinic.

This is now prohibited by the Milk Code, and BMCs -- who can freely hop from pediatric clinic to maternity ward -- have the edge at least in this respect.

The BMCs opting for hospital work get a modest allowance. Not just anyone, however, can step into the BMC uniform -- a skyblue outfit with matching apron and cap. According to Ms. Inez Fernandez, a BUNSO founder, volunteers have to undergo two-step training, the first lasting from three to six months during which they are screened for communication skills and leadership. The second phase consists of advanced lectures

and discussions as well as practical instruction. It can take a year before a BMC is finally fielded.

To enhance the communication skills of BMCs, said Fernandez, they are involved as speakers in mobile lectures to mothers in various communities.

According to Ms. Canicula, BMCs have talked to mothers with ages ranging from 16 to 35. Majority of these are factory workers living in Metro Manila's poor communities.

The mothers are taught to express their milk manually into a sterilised bottle for the baby's feedings while they are away at work. They are told not to use a breast pump.

Among the usual problems asked of BMCs are: "I have no milk, how can I breastfeed?" "I have no more milk and my baby is still hungry." "I'm so tired from working that I am afraid my baby would get sick if I breastfeed him immediately."

To underfed mothers who are afraid that their milk is not nourishing enough, the BMCs have this answer: Their milk is still better than the canned sweetened milk which poor mothers usually serve their babies instead of the much more expensive infant formula.

Also, if a mother has money at all for infant formula, she would be better off spending this on nutritious inexpensive food which will go to her nourishment and her baby's.

Women giving birth at the East Avenue Medical Center are naturally guided towards breastfeeding because of the hospital's rooming-in policy which requires newly born babies to be brought to their mothers for breastfeeding. A bill pending in Congress, filed by Senator Edgardo Angara, also seeks the strict enforcement of a rooming-in practice in all Philippine hospitals.

Ms. Canicula observed that ever since the hospital welcomed the presence of the lactation center and gave the breastfeeding campaign official support, the promotional activities of milk companies have been minimized at least in the area.

What BUNSO is now working for is to have breastfeeding become part of the hospital's counselling. The group also hopes to expand by putting up more lactation centers and satellites, specifically at the government Ospital ng Maynila (Hospital of Manila) with which negotiations are ongoing. (Depthnews Women's)

Fundador SORIANO

(From page 10)

Kapag siya'y sumama ay buo na ang kanilang barkada, sina Maykel 'Big Bird,' Lakan Deg Uziman alyas 'Big Gun' at si Jawo na 'Big J.' Big deal!"

Palagay ko'y gagamitin lang nilang pang-hatak ng tao si Jawo sa darating na halalan, paano ninyo kokontrahin ito?

MITIRA: "Sa kanila na si gurang Jawo, tatal plano ko namang kunin sina Gatrimonio, Gastimosa, Gat-idic, Foul Alferes, Cosinera at Kisaytono, sigurado na ang panalo namin."

May pag-asa kaya kayong manalo bilang punong sultan ng kahariang Pilipit-na?

MITIRA: "Kung ang halalan ay gagwin ngayon, landslide ang ating panalo. Dahil ang sigaw ng mga naghihirap na mga mamamayan ay 'sobra na, tama na, palitan na.'"

Pero iyan ang campaign battlecry ni Puso'ng Biyuda noong kanyang patalsikin sa palasyo ng Maylakandayan si Ali Macoy and his more than 40 thieves, hindi po ba?

MITIRA: "Yan din ang aking campaign battlecry dahil more than 400 thieves na ngayon ang nangungurakot sa kaharian. Kung ihahambing ang graft and corruption noon sa ngayon ay sasabihin nating Manilyn Reynes."

Ano hong Manilyn Reynes, Lakan-Daldal Mitira?

MITIRA: "Mani o peanuts."

Kaya raw malakas ang loob ninyong kumandidato bilang punong sultan dahil tutulungan kayo ng salapi ng sultana cousin na si Gangding Cohaco, totoo po ba?

MITIRA: "Bakit? Wala ba akong sariling bread? Kaibigan ko lang si Gangding. Ang akin ay akin. Ang kanya ay sa akin din siguro kung hihingi ako ng tulong."

Kung sakaling kakandidato kayo sa pinakamataas na puwesto sa ating kaharian, sino ang binabalak ninyong bise-sultan?

MITIRA: "Pawang magagaling ang aking pinamimilian. Nariyan sina Ate Vi, Ate Guy, ang Sha ng Pasay na anak ni Kapitan Ambo at puwede rin si Dolby kung papayag si Alma, este si Sza Zsa."

Ang napili nga palang kapalit ninyo bilang bossman ng LDP ay si Raha Netali Gotzales at ang sabi niya nang kanyang tanggapin ang puwesto ay 'we pledge support not subservience. cooperation not subordination.'

MITIRA: "Siya ba ang nagsabi 'non? Akala ko'y si Raha Ubito Salongat."

Ano po ang inyong valedictory statement sa inyong pag-alis bilang bossing ng LDP?

MITIRA: "Mitira ang matibay. So I leave its presidency full of hope -- no rancor, no bitterness, no regret. Hu-Hu-Hu-Hu!"

Bakit po kayo umiyyak Lakan-Daldal Mitira? MITIRA: "Hu-hu-hu! Kanina mo pa ako inaapi. Tinatapan mo ang kalyo ko sa paa."

Snooky's love a Bulacan official?

WHO really owns Snooky Serna's heart? This is the question everybody seems to be asking. Many names have been linked to her but the actress won't admit anything. Now, it is said that at least two politicians are after her. One is said to be a Metro Manila mayor but many people doubt the veracity of the reports because the mayor is very much married and besides there is another actress being linked to him.

There seems to be a tinge of truth to the reports, however, about the other politician. He is said to be the youthful vice-governor of Bulacan. Some people in the know say there is more than friendship between Snooky and



VICE GOV. VILLARAMA: Friendship?

vice-governor Ramon Villarama.

I had the opportunity of meeting Ramon (let me call him by his first name because he is a bagets) a few days ago during the celebration of Bulacan Week. It is really not surprising if Snooky falls for Ramon because, aside from his being only 32 years old, he even looks younger than his age. What more, he is very good-looking that he could pass for an actor, having a striking resemblance to William Martinez.

Ramon comes from the popular Villarama clan of Bulacan. His father was former Bulacan governor Jose Villarama while Willie Villarama, the vice governor whom he succeeded is his first cousin. Judging from the way people treat him, he will not find it hard to win a higher government post if ever he decides to seek for it but he has "no plans of seeking a higher office yet".

How about his rumored romance with Snooky? What's the real score? "Snooky is a very good friend of mine. I am a friend of their family. Yes, we see each other often and

we go out with friends, take note, with friends, ha? The last time I saw her was last week. She was supposed to participate in this affair, during the Sports day, but because of bad weather, we were forced to cancel the whole thing. *Sayang nga*, she was prepared to come *talaga*," Ramon said.

Since the yarn linking Snooky to Ramon broke out, many people have waited for fresh developments. Is there a possibility for the actress to be the second lady of Bulacan? "Ewan lang, hindi natin masasabi. *Mahirap pang sagutin 'yan*," said Ramon. "But one thing is sure. Snooky is very lovable. She is a very nice person."

Many observers say it might not be long before Snooky bares the real score between her and Ramon. "Bagay sila. Ramon will be a prize catch for Snooky and Snooky will be a prize catch for Ramon," a colleague avers.

It was purely a gimmick after all. I am talking about the reported romance between Robin Padilla and Dawn Zulueta. After their movie was shown, nothing has been heard about them. It's now an accepted fact that the actress is on with taekwondo expert-turned-actor Monsour Del Rosario.

Meanwhile, Robin is often seen going out with Supermodel runner-up Melissa Perez Rubio. We're sure this is no gimmick since the two are not doing any project together. Robin, however, denies there is something between him and Melissa.

"*Kaibigan ko lang si Melissa eh. Best friend, ganu'n. Wala, wala pa sa puso ko 'yang mga pag-ibig na 'yan. Nagtatawagan kami araw-araw at nagkikita rin kami. Tina-tanong ko siya kung ano na ang nangyayari o kung may trouble ba*," he said.

FIZZ BIZZ



by LHAR SANTIAGO

The actor admits he is attracted to Melissa but something prevents him from courting her. "*Maganda si Melissa kahit saan mo tingnan kaso nahihiya ako eh. Alam mo naman, mahiyain ako, torpe nga*," Robin said scratching his head.

Superstar's last telecast

FOR 22 years, Nora Aunor's "Superstar" dominated Channel 9, entertaining millions of TV audiences every Sunday night.

This Sunday, Sept. 24, "Superstar" will have its last telecast according to a memorandum issued the other day by the TV management. How Nora Aunor reacted to the cancellation of the musical-variety show was described yesterday by a movie columnist of an afternoon tabloid: Nora Aunor is hurt, bitter and frustrated.

And how about Guy's fans? Well, they are acting out their own frustration by launching a campaign to convince Channel 9 to reconsider its decision axing the supershow.

Dubbed "Isang milyong lagda para kay Nora", the actress' fans will stage a mammoth show on Sunday, Sept. 17, in the Araneta Center complex not only for the retention of the show on Channel 9 but also as a gesture of adulation for Guy.



SNOOKY: Love?

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Forum Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Theater area
- 6 Interim, for short
- 10 Bird of prey
- 11 Stolen goods dealer
- 12 Go in
- 13 European flower
- 14 Peruvian Indian
- 16 Agricultural land
- 19 Exact likenesses
- 22 Diamonds
- 23 Ironically humorous
- 24 Corn spike
- 25 Venerate
- 27 Italian commune
- 28 Eat away slowly
- 30 French revolutionary
- 32 Look fixedly
- 36 Command to a knight
- 37 Singing voice
- 38 Family —
- 39 Sea eagles

DOWN

- 1 Bishopric
- 2 Evergreen tree
- 3 Pismire
- 4 Representative (abbr.)
- 5 Uncanny
- 6 — alba
- 7 Makes very angry
- 8 1102, to Julius Caesar
- 9 Footlike part
- 11 Frothy
- 15 Stuck in mud
- 16 Evergreen tree
- 17 High card
- 18 Daydream
- 20 Have a repast
- 21 Hindu title of respect
- 23 Authored
- 26 Rub off
- 27 Fall flower
- 29 Spanish direction
- 30 Wrestling pad
- 31 Airport abbr.
- 33 Ms. Landers
- 34 Fish eggs
- 35 Hesitant sounds

Fabie OCAMPO

(From page 8)

Iwahig in Palawan. However, there is no doubt that as an immediate solution, the speedier trial of pending cases should significantly relieve the problem caused by prison congestion.

But more than the sub-human conditions and the additional expense, are the human rights violations being committed on detention prisoners, which should make the Commission on Human Rights sit up and take notice. In a gesture one hardly expects of the police agency, the Napolcom laments the numerous cases of persons who have been held in jail for years while awaiting sentence. And some of this are only for simple and minor crimes which carry short prison sentences, if proven.

The PCHR should take time out and look into these unfortunate cases. Certainly, the victims of rampaging soldiers and CAFGUs all over the land are more deserving of immediate attention, if only to impress upon some abusive sectors of the military that their atavistic tendencies will be met with proper and civilized action. But whatever are their faults, prisoners are human, too, and entitled to protection of whatever rights they still have. Even a little bit of action and interest of the PCHR may spell a big difference for the detention prisoners. Not to mention the cause of justice that will be fully served.

TV GUIDE

AFTERNOON

- 12:00
 (2) **Eat...Bulagal**
 (4) **Start of Something Big**
 (7) **Lunch Date**
 (13) **Showcase 1**
 1:00
 (4) **Balita Ala-Una**
 (9) **Afternoon Movies**
 (2) **Agila**
 (4) **Damayan**
 1:50
 (13) **Movieeye**
 2:00
 (7) **Santa Barbara**
 American soap opera.
 (9) **Tagalog Movie**
 (13) **Showcase 2**
 2:30
 (2) **Sine sa Dos**
 (4) **Tele Aralan**
 (7) **Gideon 300**

- 3:00
 (4) **Batibot**
 (7) **The 700 Club**
 4:00
 (4) **Nickelodeon**
 (7) **Dennis the Menace**
 (9) **Global Window**
 (13) **Mother of Perpetual Help**
 4:30
 (2) **Movie Parade/Video Sneak Preview**
 (7) **The Coral Island**
 (13) **Carebears**
 5:00
 (2) **Marvel Super Heroes**
 (4) **Starwatch**
 (7) **That's Entertainment**
 (9) **Global Window**
 (13) **Balita sa IBC**
 5:30
 (2) **Visionaries**
 (9) **Mirasol del Cielo**

EVENING

- 6:00
 (2) **TV Patrol**
 The day's sensational news in TV-magazine format.

- (4) **Pangunahing Balita**
 (7) **Eye to Eye/Balita**
 (9) **NewsWatch Evening Edition**
 (13) **Woody Woodpecker (Animation)**
 6:30
 (4) **Who's Afraid of Opera**
 Hosted by Joan Sutherland
 (9) **Face the Music (Gameshow)**
 (13) **El Corazon de Oro**
 7:00
 (2) **Regal Drama Hour**
 Featuring Alice Dixon
 (4) **The A-Team**
 (7) **Miami Vice**
 Sonny Crockett deals with crime in the streets of Miami.
 (9) **Young Love Sweet Love**
 Light drama series focusing on teenage romances.
 Featuring today's budding young talents.
 (13) **Loveliness**
 Alma Moreno and her special guests do elaborate

- rate song-and-dance numbers.
 8:00
 (4) **Munster Today**
 (7) **Spenser for Hire**
 (9) **Correctional**
 Stories from behind the prison bars.
 (13) **Okay Ka 'Tol**
 8:30
 (2) **Tonight With Dick and Carmi**
 (4) **The President's Hour**
 9:00
 (7) **GMA Gems "Elvis and Me"**
 The king of rock 'n' roll as you've never seen him before.
 Based on the memoirs of the woman who knew him best--Priscilla Presley.
 (13) **Regal Drama Presents Aiko**
 9:30
 (4) **Womanwatch**
 Nikki Coseteng tackles women's issues and problems.
 (9) **Lifestyles of the Rich**

- and Famous
 10:00
 (2) **The World Tonight**
 (7) **GMA Headline News**
 (13) **Lost Islands**
 10:30
 (2) **Oh No! It's Johnny!**
 Talkshow hosted by Johnny Litton. With Maurice Arcache.
 (4) **Coast to Coast**
 (7) **Straight From the Shoulder**
 Talkshow hosted by Louie Beltran.
 (9) **Sports Inside Out**
 (13) **All-Star Wrestling**
 11:00
 (4) **Stand Up for Jesus**
 11:30
 (2) **International Report**
 (4) **News on 4**
 (9) **NewsWatch Final Edition**
 (13) **Balita Huling Ulat**
 12:00
 (7) **700 Club International**
 12:30
 (4) **Stand Up for Jesus**
 (7) **Something Beautiful**



NIGHT'S FEATURE: Carmi in "Dick and Carmi."

MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

- AVENUE - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 CAPITOL - Lock Up
 DART - Kokak
 DILSON - Kokak
 DYNASTY-A - Dear Diary
 DYNASTY-B - Amazons
 EASTERN - Fatal Attraction
 EVER - Lock Up
 GALAXY - Calida
 GLOBE - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 GOTESCO - Kokak
 GOTESCO-A - Calida
 GOTESCO-B - Young Lady Chatterley II
 JENNET - Kokak
 LORDS - Calida
 LUNETTA - Lock Up
 MANILA CINEMA-1 - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 MANILA CINEMA-2 - Lock Up
 MAJOR - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 MAXIM - Lock Up
 MIRAMAR - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 NEW LOVE-1 - Kokak
 NEW LOVE-3 - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 NEW PACO - Calida
 ODEON - Lock Up
 ODEON-2 - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 PODMON - Babayaran Mo Ng Dugo
 ROBEN - Lock Up
 ROXAN - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 STATE - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 TANDEM-1 - Lock Up
 TANDEM-2 - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 UNIVERSAL - Lock Up
 Vista-1 - Kokak

QUEZON CITY

- ACT-1 - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 ACT-2 - Lock Up
 ACT-3 - Kokak
 ACT-4 - Calida
 ACT-5 - Babayaran Mo Ng Dugo
 ALI MALL-1 - Indiana Jones & The Last Crusade
 ALI MALL-2 - Kokak
 ALI MALL-3 - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 ALI MALL-4 - Karate Kid-III
 CINEMA 21 - Kokak
 CORONET-1 - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 CORONET-2 - Kokak
 DELTA - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 DIAMOND - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 FARMERS-1 - Kokak
 FARMERS-2 - Fatal Attraction
 NEW FRONTIER - Lock Up
 OCEAN - Calida
 OCEAN-A - Kokak



Hilda Koronel: Babangon Ako't Dudurugin kita.

- OCEAN-B - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 REMAR - Lock Up
 SAMPAGUITA - Kokak
 SM CINEMA-1 - Kokak
 SM CINEMA-2 - Fatal Attraction
 SM CINEMA-3 - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 SM CINEMA-4 - Indiana Jones & The Last Crusade
 SM CINEMA-5 - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 SM CINEMA-6 - Lock Up

- WEST AVENUE-EDSA
 SM CINEMA-7 - Karate Kid-III
 SM CINEMA-8 - Kokak
 SM CINEMA-9 - Calida
 SM CINEMA-10 - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 SM CINEMA-11 - Forever Friends
 SM CINEMA-12 - Lock Up

MAKATI

- ABC CINEMA
 A - Kokak
 B - Calida
 C - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 D - Babayaran Mo Ng Dugo
 E - Amazons
 GREENBELT-1 - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 GREENBELT-2 - Kokak
 GREENBELT-3 - Lock Up
 GREENBELT-4 - Fatal Attraction
 MAKATI SQ-1 - Lock Up
 MAKATI SQ-2 - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita
 MAKATI SQ-3 - Kokak
 MAKATI SQ-4 - Forever Friends
 QUAD-Q - Kokak
 QUAD-U - Karate Kid-III
 QUAD-A - Lock Up
 QUAD-D - Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita

NEWSBREAKS

US bases workers nix pullout

SOME 22,000 Filipino workers at the US military facilities in Clark and Subic yesterday reiterated their strong objection to the planned pullout of the foreign bases after Sept. 16, 1991.

Roberto Flores, president of the Federation of Filipino-civilian associations in US bases in the Philippines, told the Senate committees on foreign relations, national defense and security that the government up to now

has not presented any concrete alternative for the base workers.

Although he admitted that the US bases are very much needed for the security of the Asia-Pacific region, Flores pointed out that the government should consider in the meantime the economic rights of the base workers before their final pullout from the country.

Flores asked the joint committee chaired by Sens.

Leticia Ramos-Shahani and Ernesto Maceda to allow a representative from the federation to sit in the legislative-executive council which is currently undertaking studies on the alternative conversion for the US bases.

The Filipino workers in Clark and Subic include electronics technicians, welders, machinists, boat makers, computer programmers and analysts, among others. (Omer Almenario)

Antonio CORONEL

(From page 10)

certified as provided by law, they may be presented in evidence without further proof, the certificate of acknowledgment being prima facie evidence of the execution of the instrument or document (Sec. 30 Rev. Rule 132). In other words, notarial documents (with the exception of last wills and testaments) do not require authentication, and this includes even conveyances of real property. (Ibid).

In the case of authorized public records of a private document, the same may be proved by the original record itself or by a copy thereof attested by the legal custodian of the record with an appropriate certificate that such officer has the custody (Sec. 22, Rev. Rule 132). Such record is proof only of the fact that the private document is of record, but not necessarily of its genuineness and due execution.

On the other hand, in the case of private documents (any and all other writings which are not public documents are private) the Rules require authentication as well as proof. Thus, under Sec. 20 of Revised Rule 132, before any private document offered as authentic is received in evi-

dence, its due execution and authenticity must be proved either by:

(a) Anyone who saw the document executed or written; or

(b) Evidence of the genuineness of the signature or handwriting of the maker.

Any other private document need only be identified as that which it is claimed to be.

However, when a private document is more than thirty (30) years old, it is produced from a custody in which it would naturally be found if genuine, and it is unblemished by any alteration or suspicion, no other evidence of its authenticity need be given (Sec. 21, Rev. Rule 132). This is often referred to as the "Ancient document rule".

How may genuineness of the signature or handwriting of a person be proved? (1) By any witness who believes it to be the handwriting of such person because he has seen the person write or has seen writing purporting to be his upon which the witness has acted or been charged and has thus acquired knowledge of the handwriting of such person, (2) By a comparison made by the witness or the court with writings admitted or treated as genuine by the party against whom the evidence is offered or proved to be genuine to the satisfaction of the judge (Sec. 22, Rev. Rule 132); or (3) by expert evidence.

Newsbreaks

• Miriam's colorful rejection of LDP

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Miriam Defensor Santiago has come out with a colorful mouthful in rejecting the Lapiang ng Demokratikong Pilipino's invitation for her to join the ruling party. Said acerbic Miriam:

"I am willing to jump from a five-floor building if ordered by President Aquino but I won't join the LDP."

Santiago stressed that she has no ambitions to enter politics. Neither is she interested in running for President or Vice President. She added she doesn't want to prolong her pain in dealing with some Cabinet members by joining any political party.

Another public figure, basketball star Robert Jaworski, has likewise rejected the LDP's offer of membership. "No politics for me," he pointed out.



SEC. SANTIAGO

• Irrigation woes solution proposed

SEVERAL representatives of farmers groups have proposed to end the controversy spawned by irrigation payments: For them to take over the management of irrigation systems in the countryside.

The proposal was aired in a hearing of the Senate committee on agriculture chaired by Sen. Agapito "Butz" Aquino.

Other peasants' organizations had earlier urged the abolition of irrigation fees to alleviate the worsening plight of farmers.

A nationwide farmers' strike has been set by more militant farmers' organization next month to press for the increase of the government's rice subsidy price, lower irrigation fees and the control of the price of fertilizers and other farm inputs.

• NTC Alcuaz's 'Operation Ragnet'

THE National Telecommunications Commission will launch "Operation Ragnet" to help in crime prevention in Metro Manila, according to NTC Commissioner Jose Luis Alcuaz.



COM. ALCUAZ

According to him, the NTC will conscript radio users to report crime incidents and leads to the solution of these crimes. He said that there are about 40,000 radio users in Metro Manila who could augment the communications network of police and military agencies.

"Ragnet" stands for Radio Assistance to Government Network, Alcuaz said.

We Forum

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p 2 only

IN METRO MANILA

Guns case plot vs Cory gov't?



DEFECTIVE SCALES: Asst. City Treasurer and License Division Chief Vic Endriga (left) inspects a weighing scale used by a meat vendor in Trabajo Market Friday. Acting on orders of Mayor Mel Lopez, the team led by Endriga seized 238 defective and fraudulent weighing scales in raids at the Quinta and Trabajo Markets.

P5,000 reward offered for every hand grenade

MANILA Mayor Gemilano Lopez, Jr. yesterday offered a P5,000 reward to anyone who could point to a person or persons in possession of a hand grenade or homemade bomb in his person or residence.

The Mayor's action was prompted by a rash of gre-

nade blasts in several areas in Metro Manila.

At the same time, Lopez directed strict police security around government buildings in the city, including the city hall building.

"There is no reason for panic, but there is every reason for care and precaution,"

Lopez said.

The mayor wrote Brig. Gen. Alexander Aguirre, CAPCOM commander; Brig. Gen. Alfredo Lim, Western Police District (WPD) superintendent; and NBI director Jose Antonio Carpio, requesting them to provide tighter security in the premises of government buildings which could be likely targets of terrorists.

The mayor said information on grenade owners will be treated with extreme confidentiality to protect the informant.

Informants may contact him directly, Lopez said, at Telephone Numbers 488846 or 485277 or the city hall COMPAC with Tel. No. 402011.

MEMBERS of the Senate yesterday expressed fears that the current attempts to link President Aquino to the gun smuggling case involving Rep. Nicanor de Guzman could be a sinister plot to discredit her administration.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. said he suspects that "there are deeper reasons for these unwarranted allegations against the Presidency." He did not elaborate, however, what these reasons are as he deplored the "malicious" dragging of the Presidential Office into the aborted smuggling of assorted firearms two weeks ago at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

He added, however, that it could be some people are laying the "groundwork for the ascendancy of armed elements to take over this country by what appears to be a systematic and coordinated effort to degrade not only Congress but now, also the Executive."

US Ambassador to the Philippines Nicholas Platt yesterday said that the US government had no intention of implicating President Aquino in the gun smuggling issue.

Meanwhile, the Senate will file a resolution protesting the implication of President Aquino in the issue of gun smuggling.

This was disclosed yesterday by Sen. Neptali Gonzales at the "Talakayan sa Makati" forum. He said that he would author the said resolution and he believes that this will be supported by the Lower House.

Gonzales said that the implication of the President's name in the gun smuggling case is most probably part of a concerted effort to downgrade the President's credibility and weaken the people's trust in the administration.

Wastong timbangan

In line with the intensified campaign by the Treasurer's Office of the City of Manila to weed public markets of unscrupulous vendors using defective or underweight scales, We Forum starts this regular section to keep tab of the on-going drive to protect Manila's consumers.

(As of Sept. 19, 1989)

Confiscated defective scales

197

Where confiscated
Blumentritt and
Bustillos (Sampaloc)
Markets

(A public service of the Treasurer's Office, City of Manila and We Forum)