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We Forum

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## We Forum, vol xvii No. 20 - Sep. 13-19, 1993

Jose Burgos, Jr.

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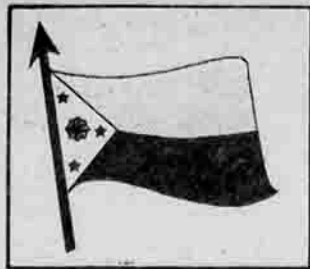
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# We Forum

To seek and live the truth and share a vision



Rally  
for peace

₱3.00

VOL. 17 ♦ NO. 20

SEPTEMBER 13-19, 1993

IN METRO MANILA

# BRUNEI SCANDAL: EVIDENCE WANTED

## BITCHY ISSUE



RUFFA GUTIERREZ



ALICE DIXSON



VIVIAN VELEZ

PAGE 3



ALAY LAKAD: President Ramos acknowledges the cheers and greetings of the crowd during the "Alay Lakad at Takbo '93" held last September 5). Among those with him on the way to the Rizal Park are (from left) Presidential Military Adviser Carlos Tanega, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, Presidential Assistant for Social Development Benjamin de Leon, Public Works and Highways Secretary Gregorio Vigilar and Press Undersecretary Honesto Isleta. (Malacañang Photo)

## An Exposé on PAGCOR

### How It Was Then.

### How It Is Now.

#### Monthly Income

Before the February revolution, the average monthly income was ₱29 million. The highest monthly income declared was ₱55 million.

Under the new PAGCOR, the average monthly income went up to ₱169 million in 1987, ₱212.5 million in 1988, ₱290 million in 1989, ₱341 million in 1990, ₱428 million in 1991, ₱501 million in 1992 and ₱578 million in the first semester of 1993.

#### Remittance to Government

In ten years, from 1976 to June 1986, the total remittance of the old PAGCOR to the government was ₱2.1 billion.

In almost seven years of operation, from July 1986 to June 30, 1993, the new PAGCOR has already remitted a total of ₱19.90 billion to the government.

#### Tax Privileges

PAGCOR, then, was exempted from all kinds of taxes, except the 5% franchise tax.

Since March 1987, all the tax exemption privileges have been withdrawn. Now, PAGCOR is paying the 5% franchise tax, corporate income tax, customs duties for imported equipment and employees' withholding taxes.

#### Audit Procedure

PAGCOR, then, was exempted from audit.

Today, all PAGCOR transactions are dutifully recorded, accounted for and audited by the Commission on Audit.

#### Secrecy vs. Transparency

PAGCOR operations then were veiled in secrecy.

Today, PAGCOR operations are carried out on an open-book policy in keeping with the President's directive of transparency in the government. Pursuant to this, PAGCOR publishes its financial statement quarterly, perhaps the only casino operator in the world who does so.

The difference in the way the casinos are run today has led to a sizeable increase in PAGCOR's income, out of which approximately 75% goes to the government through remittances to the National Treasury, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Social Fund of the President, cities hosting the casinos, the Philippine Sports Commission, and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Nothing is left with PAGCOR except what it needs for operations. With the substantial amount it remits to the government, PAGCOR has become the third biggest revenue-generating arm of the government. PAGCOR today is considerably different from what it was in the past.



*Responding Through Responsible Gaming*

**Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation**

PAGCOR House • 1330 ROXAS BOULEVARD, MANILA

# Parliamentary immunity abused in Brunei scandal

By ERIC S. GIRON

**WHAT IS** at issue is the bitchy manner in which Sen. Ernesto Maceda dropped a bomb naming six attractive movie actresses among the entertainers "engaged in a bigtime flesh trade catering to wealthy male clientele in Brunei in the guise of promoting tourism, modelling and other legitimate activities."

"They are Ruffa Gutierrez, Alice Dixson, Vivian Velez, Cristina Gonzalez, Melissa Mendez and Leah Orosa," *The Manila Times* (August 5) reported. "Maceda said the alleged prostitutes return from the oil-rich sultanate loaded with cash sometimes in excess of \$50,000."

When the irate actresses challenged Maceda to produce evidence that they went to Brunei to sell their bodies, the senator hid behind the skirt of parliamentary immunity from prosecution as a member of Congress.

Of the group, only Vivian Velez admitted she worked in Brunei for about a year and a half, "but definitely not as a prostitute." She said "there are several legitimate things to do there."

"I will only reveal what I was doing there if the senator will meet me outside of the Senate," Vivian said. "I hope he still has an inch of manliness in him to accept this challenge. If his only purpose is to hug the front pages, no matter who gets hurt, he has succeeded."

"If Senator Maceda's expose is to protect the dignity of the Filipino women, fine. But not at our expense. If the senator's purpose is to stop giving work to more than 10,000 Filipinos in Brunei, then he has succeeded. If I can prove that his statement is not true (which is based only on gossip and hearsay), *mapapahiya siya*," Vivian said.

Vivian recently wed high-leaping basketball star Paul (Bong) Alvarez, who was asked how he felt about the Maceda blast. Coolly he re-

plied that if he and Maceda were in each other's shoes, and Bong called his wife a prostitute either in Hong Kong or Japan, "I wonder what he would feel?" The couple Bong and Vivian left for a ten-day second honeymoon to the South.

#### PROBE MACEDA?

Melissa Mendez asked ethics committee chairman Rodolfo Biazon to conduct a probe on Maceda's allegations so that she could disprove that she went to Brunei. Biazon said she had to follow certain procedures like submitting a sworn affidavit and asking one senator to sponsor it.

Rudy Fernandez, head of the Philippine Actors' Guild, sent a letter of Alice Dixson to Senate President Edgardo Angara asking that the ethics committee investigate Maceda for his "libelous remarks against those he named as high-class prostitutes. Maceda should be probed for possible unethical conduct and conduct unbecoming of a senator for making a speech on write-ups in tabloids and gossip magazines which were not supported by concrete evidence."

Angara endorsed the letter to Biazon who said he had to abide by the Senate President's bidding.

Maceda himself admitted in the TV show *Firing Line* that Alice Dixson "seems to be the least involved in terms of evidence we have gathered." Then why in heaven's name did he smear her along with the others? Is it now the rule to shoot first and ask questions afterwards?

What father like actor

Eddie Gutierrez, whose daughter is unjustly slurred, would not challenge Ernie Maceda to a fistfight or resort to something more violent? How can a spitfire mother like Annabelle Rama, who has been over-protective of her first-born only daughter restrain herself from tongue-lashing him?

Annabelle, who made one bold film, then vanished from the scene, challenged Maceda at the hearing why, with so many national problems like brownouts and unsolved crimes, did he have to zero in on the "Brunei beauties"? (This is a misnomer because the beauties are Filipinas who supposedly went to Brunei.)

"As mother of Ruffa, *napakahirap gumawa ng pangalan*," she said. "*Pinaghirapan kong palakihin si Ruffa, bigla niya'ng bababuyin ang pangalan ng anak ko? Hindi puwede sa akin 'yan*." ("As Ruffa's mother, it's so difficult to build up a name. I strived hard to bring up Ruffa, then suddenly he (Maceda) smears her name? I won't take that.")

Sen. Nikki Coseteng inadvertently allowed Maceda to use her committee on women's rights and family relations to give a stamp of legitimacy to scandal sheet gossip and turn the Senate into a circus. Was the spectacle of a 19-year-old beauty Ruffa Gutierrez sobbing before the committee "I'm not a prostitute, I never have been and I never will be" worth gloating over?

#### WHAT IT'S ABOUT

That is the crux of all the hullabaloo: not Maceda's diversionary claim, that he



SEN. MACEDA, RUFFA GUTIERREZ: Key figures.



was concerned with the exploitation of Filipino women abroad by sex recruiters (the Labor Department is looking into that) but his calling six actresses prostitutes without presenting any shred of evidence to prove his claim.

The way Maceda puts it, Brunei males are rolling in wealth so that they can offer actress Rina Reyes P2 million for a one-shot deal. He said Rina asked herself what she had to do to earn the P2 million and rejected the offer. Maceda cited others like Nanette Medved, Jackie Aquino, Jennifer Mendoza, Mutya Crisostomo, Amelia de la Cruz, Carmi Martin, Jean Garcia, Sharmaine Arnaiz, Vernie Varga, and Janica who "turned down lots of money to go to Brunei."

Maceda insisted a thriving lucrative flesh trade existed and that he had enough evidence like plane tickets and visas that several actresses did go to Brunei but

denied it. Perhaps it was because Maceda had made a trip to Brunei synonymous with prostitution.

When the Senate committee's vice chairman Raul Roco suggested that the inquiry be limited to the issue of illegal recruitment, Maceda threatened to deliver a privilege speech on the Senate floor about the "Brunei beauties."

Roco said the personalities linked to the sex scandal cannot be deprived by the legislature of "their right to due process and right to be secure in one's home. There are limitations to an inquiry which is recognized by the Senate rules; there is a clear definition on the limitation in private affairs."

Roco dared Maceda to file charges against movie actresses in court if he had solid evidence that they engaged in prostitution in Brunei. "The Senate should not be converted into a trial court.

It should be a shield of people's rights. Up to now there is no known material evidence acceptable in a court of law, which has been submitted against Ruffa," Roco stressed.

The Senate must rectify an injustice inflicted on her and other actresses who have been "wrongly accused" of accepting \$50,000 to \$700,000 for selling their bodies to Brunei male clientele including royalty, Roco said.

He advised Ruffa to fight for her rights and not be deterred from joining the Miss World contest in South Africa this November as the reigning Binibining Pilipinas entry. But Ruffa is still waiting for Senate clearance on the scandal. She may have to face embarrassing questions from the foreign press after CNN (Cable News Network) has interviewed her with regard to Brunei.

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(Next page, please)

**RAMOS CAUTIONS**

President Fidel V. Ramos asked the Senate to tone down the probe because the Foreign Affairs Department reported the sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, in which 10,000 Filipinos are employed, was "upset" over the sex scandal.

"Of course the senators are responsible enough and understand the delicate nature of this incident, concerning as it does one of the country's closest allies. The Senate investigation should not be used as a forum to shop for votes or to push for personal causes," a *Times* editorial of Sept. 2 said.

But Ms. Coseteng's feathers were ruffled. Apparently,

she did not comprehend the President's call for diplomacy and propriety in handling the inquiry. She accused Mr. Ramos of siding with the Sultan of Brunei "when what is at stake here is the dignity of our women." The foreign office warned that the open discussions on alleged involvement of "prominent individuals" in Brunei to the prostitution of Filipinas could strain relations with the sultanate.

Were Coseteng and Maceda doing Filipino womanhood a service in turning the Senate hall into a circus for media? They were doing a disservice to the movie actresses unjustly besmirched by Maceda and the rest of

the Filipino women who have gone to Brunei on legitimate business.

Coseteng finally saw the light when she decided to hold the second and last hearing on Sept. 21 behind closed doors without inviting any of the actresses named by Maceda. Rather, representatives of the DOLE, Philippine Overseas Employment Association, Bureau of Immigration and Deportation would be present. The Tourism Department may also be represented because of reports that the DOT may have been used as a front for trafficking of women.

Maceda, petulant over Roco's criticisms, decided to turn over whatever docu-

ments he had on the matter to the National Bureau of Investigation, which should have been done in the first place. Roco said Maceda wanted to probe and probe even not in aid of legislation. He should stick to lawmaking instead.

This case focused how a coarse senator can abuse parliamentary immunity by calling people names and getting away with it. Roco stressed the Senate should guard people's rights and not be the prosecutor; that it should "protect the ordinary citizen from the intrusion of big government, big business and those who have more privileges and influences in life."



SEN. COSETENG: FEATHERS ruffled.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
BRANCH XVIII  
TAGAYTAY CITY

Land Reg. Case No. TG-454

LRA Record No. N-63373

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati, Metro Manila; the Regional Executive Director, Region IV, L & S Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, both in Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, P.T.A. Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman, the Director, Forest Management Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, both in Quezon City, Metro Manila; the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Fiscal, the Provincial Treasurer, the Provincial Engineer, the Public Works and Highways District Engineer; Trece Martires City; the CENR Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, Rotonda, Bacoor, Cavite; the City Mayor; the City Council, the City Fiscal, the City Treasurer, the City Engineer, Tagaytay City; Aurelio P. Rojas, Leynes, Talisay, Batangas; Nieves de la Rosa, Caloocan, Talisay, Batangas; Crisolago Domingo, 34 Dao St., Project 3, Quezon City; AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

An application having been filed in the above entitled case by Rodolfo A. Manlapit, (single) represented by Rosemarie Manlapit Zamora, No. 3 Kingsville, White Plains, Quezon City, Metro Manila; thru Atty. Ireneo A. Anarna, Alejandro and Anarna Law Office, 11 Madlansacay St., Poblacion, Silang, Cavite; praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described lands:

1. A parcel of land (Lot 7510 of the cadastral survey, Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre, as shown on plan As-04-002474, LRC Record No. ), situated in the Barrio of Tolentino, City of Tagaytay. Bounded on the N., along line 1-2 by Lot 7509; on the NE., along 2-3 by Lot 7500; on the SW., along line 3-4 by Lot 7511; and on the NW., along line 4-1 by Lot-7512, all of Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being S. 45 deg. 20'E., 1872.03 m. from BLLM No. 1, Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre.

thence S. 82 deg. 39'E., 33.72 m. to point 2;  
thence S. 04 deg. 33'E., 96.60 m. to point 3;  
thence N. 63 deg. 44'W., 118.60 m. to point 4;  
thence N. 53 deg. 36'E., 81.06 m. to point of beginning;

containing an area of FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR (5,864) SQUARE METERS. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and marked on the ground by BL cyl. conc. mons. 15 x 60 cm.; bearings true; date of survey, September 24, 1963-February 13, 1964. This lot was prepared under As-04-002474 and was approved on December 12, 1990.

2. A parcel of land (Lot 7511 of the Cadastral survey, Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre as shown on plan As-04-002474, LRC Record No. ), situated in the Barrio of Tolentino, City of Tagaytay. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 7510; on the SE., along line 2-3 by Lot 7499; on the SW., & NW., along lines 3-4-1 by Lot 7519, all of Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being S. 42 deg. 52'E., 1861.16 m. from BLLM No. 1, Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre.

thence S. 63 deg. 44'E., 118.60 m. to point 2;  
thence S. 29 deg. 32'W., 95.33 m. to point 3;  
thence N. 34 deg. 20'W., 132.65 m. to point 4;  
thence N. 30 deg. 49'E., 30.16 m. to point of beginning;

containing an area of SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY NINE (7,459) SQUARE METERS. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and marked on the ground by BL cyl. conc. mons. 15 x 60 cm.; bearings true; date of survey, September 24, 1963-February 13, 1964. This lot was prepared under As-04-002474 and was approved on December 12, 1990.

3. A parcel of land (Lot 7512 of the cadastral survey Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre as shown on plan As-04-002474, L.R.C. Record No. ), situated in the Barrio of Tolentino, City of Tagaytay. Bounded on the SE., along line 1-2 by Lot 7510; on the SW., & W., along lines 2-3-4 by Lot 7519; and on the NE., along line 4-1 by Lot 7513, all of Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being S. 45 deg. 20'E., 1872.03 m. from BLLM No. 1, Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre.

thence S. 53 deg. 36'W., 81.06 m. to point 2;  
thence N. 24 deg. 50'W., 29.69 m. to point 3;  
thence N. 01 deg. 23'E., 45.39 m. to point 4;  
thence S. 72 deg. 28'E., 80.34 m. to point of beginning;

containing an area of TWO THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THIRTY (2,630) SQUARE METERS. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and marked on the ground by BL cyl. conc. mons. 15 x 60 cm.; bearings true; date of survey, September 24, 1963-February 13, 1964. This lot was prepared under As-04-002474 and was approved on December 12, 1990.

4. A parcel of land (Lot 7519 of the cadastral survey, Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre as shown on plan As-04-002474, LRC Record No. ), situated in the Barrio of Tolentino, City of Tagaytay. Bounded on the E., along line 1-2 by Lot 7518; on the NE., along lines 2-3-4 by Lot-7517; on the N., along line 4-5 by Lot 7516; on the E., & NE., along lines 5-6-7 by Lot 7512; on the SE & NE., along lines 7-8-9 by Lot 7511; on the NE., along line 9-10 by Lot 7499; along line 10-11 by Lot 7498; along line 11-12 by Lot 7490, all of Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre; on the SE., along line 12-13 by A-101. Mun. of Talisay, Province of Batangas; on the SW., along lines 13-14-15-16 by Lot 7477, Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre; and on the N., NW., & NE., along lines 16-17-18-19-20-1 by Provincial Road, (20.00 m. wide). Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being S. 43 deg. 34'E., 1569.90 m. from BLLM No. 1, Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre.

thence S. 04 deg. 50'W., 51.21 m. to point 2;  
thence S. 08 deg. 21'E., 50.80 m. to point 3;  
thence S. 17 deg. 22'E., 67.05 m. to point 4;  
thence N. 85 deg. 44'E., 150.35 m. to point 5;  
thence S. 01 deg. 23'W., 45.39 m. to point 6;  
thence S. 24 deg. 50'E., 29.69 m. to point 7;  
thence S. 30 deg. 49'W., 30.16 m. to point 8;  
thence S. 34 deg. 20'E., 132.65 m. to point 9;  
thence N. 85 deg. 29'E., 53.79 m. to point 10;  
thence S. 85 deg. 52'E., 34.79 m. to point 11;  
thence N. 76 deg. 38'E., 118.91 m. to point 12;  
thence S. 61 deg. 07'W., 378.12 m. to point 13;  
thence N. 35 deg. 17'W., 152.51 m. to point 14;  
thence N. 13 deg. 34'W., 222.65 m. to point 15;  
thence N. 35 deg. 16'W., 172.52 m. to point 16;  
thence S. 86 deg. 06'E., 60.34 m. to point 17;  
thence N. 64 deg. 57'E., 32.93 m. to point 18;  
thence N. 20 deg. 13'E., 35.53 m. to point 19;  
thence S. 66 deg. 09'E., 22.90 m. to point 29;  
thence S. 06 deg. 20'E., 0.45 m. to point of beginning;

containing an area of EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY FIVE (81,745) SQUARE METERS. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and marked on the ground by BL cyl. conc. mons. 15 x 60 cm.; bearings true; date of survey September 24, 1963-February 13, 1964. This lot was prepared under As-04-002474 and was approved on December 12, 1990.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at Branch XVIII, Tagaytay City, Philippines, on the 29th day of October, 1993, at 8:30 o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to present such claims as you may have to said lands or any portion thereof, and to submit evidence in support of such claims and unless you appear at said Court at the time and place aforesaid, your default will be recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the Court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness: the Hon. ELEUTERIO F. GUERRERO, Judge of said Court, the 23rd day of July, in the year 1993.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 13th day of August, 1993.

A T T E S T :

By:

REYNALDO Y. MAULIT  
Administrator  
Land Registration Authority

(Sgd.) SALVADOR L. ORIEL  
Chief, Docket Division

WE FORUM  
September 13, 1993

THE CONDOM WARS:

# Biomedical and moral issues

By MICHAEL L. TAN

Health Alert (Health Action Information Network)

**"I** AM being condomned without benefit of a trial." That was just one of the many plays on words by Health Secretary Juan Flavier since he came under fire for promoting condoms as part of preventing HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) disease and AIDS.

The attacks on condom use are not new; but never have the attacks been as heated as they have been since December 1992. The start of the condom war was, in a sense, launched officially when Senator Francisco Tatad delivered a speech in the Senate calling for the resignation of Secretary Flavier. Tatad, a member of the ultra-conservative Catholic sect Opus Dei, accused Flavier of having acted improperly by distributing condoms to Filipino journalists heading out for Thailand to cover President Ramos' state visit.

Flavier held his ground, explaining that he was promoting condoms as a public health measure. His line of reasoning was that he was still in favor of abstinence and monogamy as measures to prevent HIV/AIDS, with some buts: "If you can't be good, be careful. If you can't be careful, use condoms." As to charges that he was promoting "lasciviousness" and "promiscuity," he quipped on a television interview: "I can't even spell those words." In more serious moments, he explains that promiscuity came before condoms, rather than the other way around.

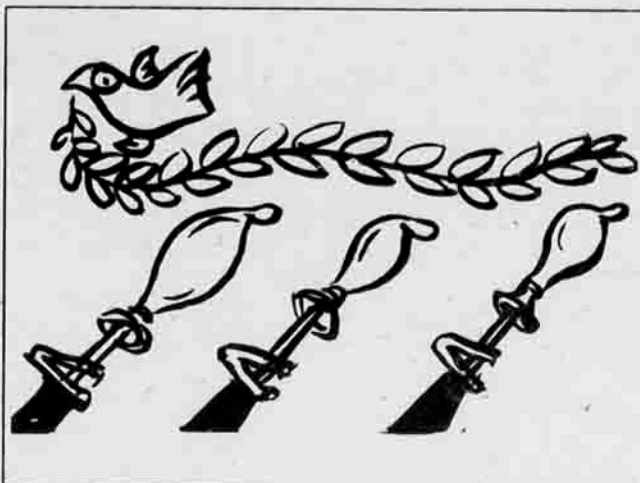
The condom war spilled into the media, as the religious conservatives, mainly so-called pro-life groups, sent in letters and articles attacking the government's HIV prevention program. The condom war has given condoms, and the HIV/AIDS prevention program, high visibility. Print, radio and television have jumped on the bandwagon to feature HIV/AIDS at an unprecedented scale. This has prompted Flavier to thank the conservatives for helping to raise public awareness about the HIV/AIDS problem.

Amid all the discussions, much misinformation continues to float around. This article will focus on condoms, mainly to clarify the medical facts but without skirting moral and ethical issues. A disturbing turn in the condom war has been the feeding of distorted information about condoms from religious conservatives. These groups claim that condoms do not work against HIV and that the campaign to promote condoms is a "front" for promoting contraceptives and promiscuity. Our position is that there are very real ethical and moral dimensions that should be discussed in relation to condoms and the whole HIV prevention program. At the same time, it is unethical, if not immoral, for people to distort established facts about condoms and HIV. We have received materials that show a shocking ignorance of basic facts about HIV/AIDS and of "research" that quote journal articles out of context or misinterpret the reported findings. We would like to think all this is due to inexperience with medicine and science, rather than deliberately malicious intent.

Let us look at some of the claims that have been made against condoms and condom use.

**MYTH 1** Condoms do not prevent the passage of HIV.

HIV is the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, which causes HIV disease and eventually, AIDS or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. HIV levels are high in an infected man's blood and



semen. In an infected woman, HIV is found in blood and in vaginal and cervical secretions. The concentration of HIV in vaginal and cervical secretions is generally considered to be much lower than in semen.

HIV is a tiny microorganism, measuring between 0.09 and 0.13 microns (1 micron is 1 millionth of a meter). This is certainly smaller than sperm cells which is about 3 microns. The conservatives argue that the condom cannot block sperm cells and so it cannot block HIV. Medical research shows otherwise. Latex condoms that pass international quality control standards do not allow sperm cells or HIV to go through.

Note the emphasis on latex. So-called natural condoms, made from sheep gut (also sometimes referred to as lambskin), cannot block HIV. Most condoms sold today in the Philippines are latex and for our purposes, our references to condoms blocking HIV refer to the latex materials.

It has been argued that even if sperm cells cannot pass through condoms, leakage occurs through tiny pores in condoms and that this leakage allows HIV to pass through. In other words, HIV on its own would pass through and cause infection. This is gross misinterpretation of medical facts. First, the pores in condoms are tiny enough to block HIV. Second, even if (and this is highly doubtful) HIV can pass through, the virus cannot survive "alone." The virus needs human cells to live and to reproduce. The levels

of cell-free HIV in body fluids are relatively low, which is why it has been so difficult to find a cure for HIV disease. Since HIV lives within infected cells (mainly CD4 lymphocytes, a kind of white blood cell), drugs that kill HIV would also kill the host human cell.

Returning to condoms, the "leakage" argument is itself full of holes. Condoms from the bigger manufacturers go through rigorous tests. Usually, this involves sampling of batches of condoms and subjecting the samples to tests of strength. What is strength? The standard test involves introduction of 300 ml of fluid, suspending them for one to three minutes, and testing for leaks. The average ejaculate (semen) is only 3 ml so 300 ml goes a long way in assuring that the condoms are strong enough. Other standard tests include electronic searching for tiny holes and non-uniformity of latex thickness; and inflating the condoms with one to eight liters of air.

It is also important to note a recent study showing that even with the worst leakage in a sample of condoms tested, the amount involved was equivalent to less than 0.01 percent of a typical 3 ml ejaculate, not enough for an infection. Moreover, the tests involved a simulation of sexual intercourse, including the use of artificial penises and artificial vaginas to mimic the most extreme of possible situations.

The conservatives muddle the issue by pointing to this leakage as "proof" that condoms fail. What they fail to point out is that:

- the leakage occurred as a worst-case scenario;
- leakage does not necessarily mean infection, especially with such small amounts and
- leakage does not occur in most condoms.

It could be argued that even with the almost gross simulations of the condom tests, all these are done under laboratory conditions. What happens in the "real" world? Out there, even the best of condoms will gradually deteriorate. There are expiry dates (if the date is missing, then you estimate it to be two to three years from manufacturing date, which is usually stamped on the package). As with medicines, condoms may deteriorate more rapidly under exposure to high heat and humidity. Even 10 hours of exposure to ultraviolet radiation, present in sunlight and in fluorescent lights, can begin to destroy the condoms. One very common source of condom deterioration is storage, not just in warehouses and drugstores but on the user: men often carry condoms in their back pocket wallets. This is the worst place to keep a condom because of the heat and humidity. These are problems that must be con-

(Next page, please)

## Brief history of condoms

IT WAS an Italian, Gabriello Fallopio, who first advocated the use of a linen sheath fitted around the glands of the penis as a protection against syphilis. This was in the 16th century when Fallopio already saw the importance of conducting a trial with 1100 men to prove the effectiveness of the linen sheath. (We have no information on the effectiveness rate.)

Later, other doctors began to experiment with sheep caecum and thin rubber. The name "condom" is said to have come from Condon, the surname of an English doctor in the 18th century who developed these sheaths. Their main use was for prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases. The term "prophylactic," often used to refer to condoms, refers to the disease prevention aspect. Unfortunately, the association between STDs and "illicit" sex (e.g., sex with prostitutes) tended to give the con-

doms a bad name, a problem which remains to this day.

The use of condoms in family planning never became popular, partly because the condoms were too closely associated with "illicit" sex. Another reason, though, was the shift of emphasis in contraception to the woman. Contraceptive methods such as the pill transferred the responsibility in family planning away from the man to the woman.

In the 1980s, as HIV/AIDS spread throughout the world, there was a frantic search for preventive measures. Hopes for a vaccine fizzled as scientists realized that the virus mutated too rapidly. (The continued use of the word 'vaccine' is confusing and misleading. Current research for an "AIDS vaccine" is not oriented toward the prevention of HIV infection but to slow down the virus after it has infected an individual.)

Scientists discovered early

enough that one important mode of HIV transmission was sex. Next to blood, semen from infected individuals had the highest concentration of HIV. HIV was a "smart" virus, choosing one of the basic human activities for transmission. Abstinence was clearly one way of breaking the transmission, but it would have been impossible to ask five (going on six) billion human beings to stop having sex. "Mutual monogamy" became another buzzword, a dangerous one because many people thought they were in monogamous relationships...

"Safe sex" was introduced as another measure. This meant preventing infected semen or vaginal fluids/cervical secretions from being passed on. One way would be to have non-penetrative sex. Another would be using a barrier during penetrative (penile-vaginal and penile-anal) sex. Condoms made a comeback.

As with the other "safe sex"

measures, condoms are not fool-proof; thus, health educators now speak of "safer" (rather than absolute "safe") sex.

Today, condoms are actively promoted both for family planning and for prevention of HIV infection. They are known by different names: rubbers, prophylactics, or by specific brands.

Most condoms now on the market are made from latex, which is derived from rubber. They now come in standard and extra-strength styles, lubricated and non-lubricated, with and without spermicides. Condoms made from other materials may eventually be produced as scientists look for other effective barriers to HIV.

An important reminder: among the different contraceptive methods, only condoms have the other function of preventing HIV transmission. Do not confuse contraception and HIV prevention.



FLAVIER, TATAD: Protagonists.

fronted and minimized, but to condemn condoms because they deteriorate with time is like telling people not to take any kind of medicine because medicines eventually expire.

**MYTH 2** Condoms cannot prevent HIV because they often burst or slip off.

No doubt, condoms sometimes burst or slip off either because of poor quality or because of improper use. Using condoms is not easy. The most common reasons for condom breakage fall into four general categories: (a) incorrect methods of putting on condoms; (b) use of oil-based lubricants; (c) reuse of condoms, and (d) long duration or rough intensity of sexual intercourse. The sidebar accompanying this article gives basic instructions on correct condom use. We emphasize basic because learning to use a condom does not just involve reading about it.

Condoms will continue to burst or slip off unless correct usage is taught. This will not happen given the way the moralists block any efforts to rationally discuss condoms and other HIV prevention measures.

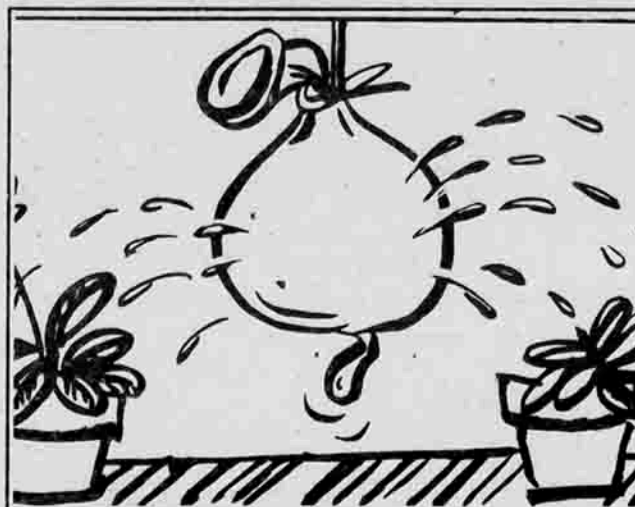
**MYTH 3** Condoms can reduce the risk of HIV only by a certain percentage.

All kinds of figures have been cited for the percentage of HIV risk reduction. None show 100 percent reduction and we will probably never have studies claiming that. (If anyone makes that claim, we would be the first to ask them for more proof.)

As explained earlier, there are many reasons for "condom failure." This is perhaps a good time to explain that condom failure does not necessarily automatically mean transmission of HIV. There are two main factors necessary for HIV transmission:

- the passage of an infectious load of HIV in the blood, semen or vaginal secretions of a human being;
- a portal of entry for that infectious load of HIV to get into the blood of another person.

If we understand the two factors, we can see that it is very difficult to assess risk reduction. First, the risk would not be present at all if your sexual partner does not have HIV. But then, there is no foolproof way for "knowing" this, which is why messages urging people to "know" your sex partner are really useless. HIV's danger lies in the fact that it takes from 3 to 12 years after infection before AIDS develops. During this period, a person remains without signs or symptoms: he/she looks and feels healthy even if that person has the virus and can transmit the virus to others. Looking



for signs and symptoms is therefore useless. So-called AIDS tests are also unreliable since they only detect antibodies, which may take up to six months after infection to appear in the blood.

Some physicians take the view that there is no such thing as safe sex if one partner is infected. This is an over-simplistic view. Circumstances vary for each case of infection...and non-infection. The level of HIV in an infected person varies according to his or her stage of HIV disease. Blood tends to have more HIV than semen, and semen more than vaginal secretions. Finally, there is the portal of entry. It is generally accepted that anal intercourse is of higher risk than vaginal intercourse but a woman with reproductive tract infections would probably carry even higher risk with vaginal intercourse than with anal intercourse because the infection leaves her reproductive tract inflamed, highly vascularized (many blood vessels) and with injury to the mucous membranes.

Returning then to HIV risk reduction, the studies that have been conducted are retrospective in nature. This may involve a monitoring of "discordant" couples. This means couples where one party is HIV positive and the other is not. Researchers check on the history of condom use and follow the rates of infections. One US study found that among 10 couples who routinely used condoms, only one partner became infected with HIV. In another 14 couples who did not use condoms, 12 partners became infected. In another US study, this time involving prostitutes, investigators found that 11 percent of 546 prostitutes who reported unprotected vaginal intercourse were positive for HIV. Among 22 prostitutes who used condoms for every episode of vaginal intercourse, none were seropositive. Similar findings have been reported in studies conducted in other parts of the world.

Condoms do offer a level of protection against HIV as well as gonorrhea, syphilis, trichomoniasis, or chlamydial infection. The protection against syphilis is significant because syphilis is one of the genital ulcer diseases that can increase risks for HIV infection. (Genital ulcer diseases include syphilis and herpes. They leave wounds in the reproductive organs and thus provide another possible portal of entry for HIV.)

We often forget that there is no method that is 100 percent effective in preventing diseases, whether HIV disease or the common cold. Condoms do not offer 100 percent protection against STDs and HIV disease, but they do substantially reduce the risks. To argue that they are useless because they do not offer 100 percent protection is absurd because by the same token, one could argue that "natural" family planning should be completely discarded because it is not 100 percent effective. In fact, the conservatives play the statistical game for their own benefit, citing high "effective-

ness" rates for so-called natural family planning without pointing out that these rates work only when, as with condoms, they are used correctly.

People like to play with numbers, sometimes twisting them to suit their own needs. It is in fact shocking to see the conservatives falling into this trap, even comparing "effectiveness rates" for preventing pregnancy and preventing HIV as if pregnancy were a disease like HIV.

**MYTH 4** Widespread condom use in Thailand and the US resulted in HIV/AIDS.

This is perhaps one of the most illogical statements coming from the moralists. The fact is that condom use in Thailand and the US never became popular. It is true that in Thailand, a family planning promotor named Mechai Viravaidya received widespread publicity for his unorthodox ways of promoting condoms among Thais (e.g., blowing up condoms like balloons). Mechai's high visibility even resulted in the Thais calling condoms "mechais." But the campaign was never that successful or sustained and condom use in Thailand is on about the same level as in many other developing countries (including the Philippines): less than 1 percent of married couples. In the US, the rate is only 6 to 10 percent. There are many reasons for this low use, such as the stronger promotions of other forms of contraception.

The conservatives argue that in Thailand and the US, condoms encouraged "promiscuity" and thus, HIV/AIDS. This reasoning is flawed for many reasons. First, and most important of all, HIV/AIDS is not due to "promiscuity," a term that is itself vague. Even the risk from "multiple sex partners" is misleading: it is not how many people you have sex with, but the type of activities (sexual and non-sexual) exposing you to HIV, that determines your risk for HIV.

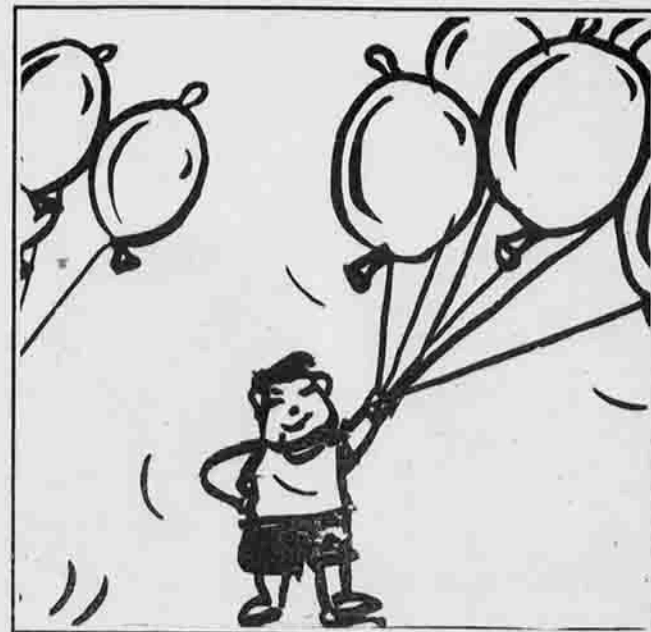
Many of the early HIV infections occurred through blood transfusions, mainly involving hemophiliacs, people who lack an element in their blood to allow for clotting. Without proper blood clotting, hemophiliacs would bleed to death from minor wounds. Many hemophiliacs had to get transfusions of blood with the clotting factor. Unfortunately, blood supplies were not screened for HIV antibodies until about 1985. Today, most developed countries have strict screening policies: In countries like the Philippines, only a small percentage of the donated blood supplies goes through screening for HIV antibodies.

In Thailand, the start of the HIV epidemic has been associated with intravenous drug use. Intravenous drug users with the infection pass on HIV to others by sharing their unsterilized needles and syringes, and through unprotected sex. Later, HIV spread through sexual transmission. Prostitution has been blamed, without acknowledging that sex workers often could not use condoms to protect themselves. If condoms had been more popular in Thailand, the infection would probably not have spread out as quickly. The Philippines is in a situation similar to Thailand before HIV exploded: low condom use amid continuing denial among most Filipinos of the threat of HIV/AIDS.

There is considerable evidence that condom use is associated with decreases in HIV infection rates. In the US, the first years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic hit hardest among male homosexuals, again because condoms were hardly used in this population. Through the years, campaigns for condom use and other safer sex measures have dramatically brought a decline in the infection rates among homosexuals... even as the rates rise among heterosexuals.

Linking promiscuity with HIV disease is dangerous. It makes people think that because they are "not promiscuous" (and how many people think of themselves promiscuous?), they are "safe."

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Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION  
Makati, Metro Manila

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
& EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK, INC.,  
Mortgagee,

- versus -

SPS. NEMESIO P. VICENTE ET ALS.,  
Mortgagors,

X-----X

EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL  
ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, as  
amended by ACT 4118.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Pursuant to the terms of the Deed of Real Estate Mortgage dated Feb. 5, 1991 executed by mortgagors Spouses NEMESIO P. VICENTE and JUANITA A. VICENTE, in favor of mortgagee BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK, INC., to satisfy the mortgage debt of P151,190.88, PLUS all lawful fees and expenses of foreclosure sale, the Ex-Officio Sheriff of RTC Makati, MM, hereby announces that on September 30, 1993 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, in front of the Main Entrance of the Mun. Bldg. of Parañaque, MM, he or his lawful sheriffs, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder and for cash, in Philippine currency the following described real property, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 117254

"A PARCEL OF LAND (Lot 16, Blk. 2 of the subd. plan (LRC) Psd-32662, being a portion of Lot 4395-B-2, described on plan (LRC) Psd-15016 (LRC) LRC (GLRO) Rec. No. N-18889), situated in the Sitio of Matatdo, Barrio of San Dionisio, Mun. of Parañaque, Prov. of Rizal, Is. of Luzon. x x x x x Containing an area of TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY FIVE (285) SQUARE METERS, more or less."

Interested parties are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to said real property and encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Makati, Metro Manila, August 16, 1993

(Sgd.) ENGRACIO M. ESCASINAS, JR.  
Clerk of Court VII & Ex-Officio Sheriff

(Sgd.) PABLO L. SY  
Sheriff Incharge

WE FORUM  
Aug. 30, Sept. 6 & 13, 1993



## Notes on body's return

**T**HE GOOD, ole United States of America is truly a kind and benevolent nation. It did not arrest Junior Marcos upon his arrival in Honolulu to fetch a dead body. It is also possessed of great common sense. Not one of its high officials were present for the mega-crook's body transfer, thus making it a non-event to the extreme disappointment of the extant Marcoses.

President Ramos was impeccably proper and correct in dealing with the matter. He resisted all foolish attempts by the Marcoses and cohorts for him to attend the body's arrival and the burial, saying he has done enough. Despite Marcos's histrionics, he stood fast on his decision, to prove to both friends and enemies that this nation's leader will not compromise with his convictions when he is in the right.

The *hakot* system perfected by the dictatorship is back. Buses have reportedly been readied at some strategic places in Metro Manila and outlying provinces to ferry the loyalists and kibitzers who cannot afford the fare to Ilocos Norte. If they are expecting to be paid, as in the old practice, they will be disappointed; the Marcoses are accepting *abuloy* to show they are destitute. Unlike the moneyed cronies and cohorts who went by planes and air-conditioned cars, the bulk of the loyalists, mostly poor but just as deluded, may have to go hungry.

It was a surprise to read that Santanina Rasul was there, one would think she was so busy defending her beleaguered husband to do anything else. The woman's first name rhymes with stamina, which should provide a clue to her health.

The first-day sympathizers were a menagerie of politicians, government officials, businessmen, all looking — believe it or not — respectable. It should give us all an idea on how stolen money can alter the personality of even a gangster or a bum.

## Graft at DPWH

**A**CTUALLY, THERE are five government agencies where graft has become a way of life, according to the Ombudsman. But the public has thought all along that the notorious internal revenue bureau leads the pack. It now turns out it comes only a poor second to the Department of Public Works and Highways, with the customs bureau coming in third place, followed by the department of education, and the department of interior and local government.

Nobody gainsays the fact that Filipinos are truly exceptionally smart in the graft and corruption department. Ever since mega-crook Marcos made it a way of life among us, the whole world had witnessed the uncanny ability of the local scums and opportunists to wring blood even from a turnip. But rampant graft and corruption at the DPWH assumes a monumental significance; it is actually wringing blood from the almost bloodless victims of Mt. Pinatubo's eruption. Thousands of them are suffering from government neglect and yet these DPWH vultures and their favorite or ghost contractors are currently living a life-style reserved only for the oil-rich kingdoms and sultanates. According to a Commission on Audit study, billions and billions of pesos have been lost to over-pricing in project estimates and materials, non-existent contractors and misappropriation of funds. A few have benefitted astronomically from the misery of so many.

The beauty of the whole thing, from the grafters' viewpoint, of course, is that no contractor or DPWH official has been charged for the crime. Last year, the department was very much in the news for identifying real or spurious contractors who submitted — and were paid — padded or non-existent claims for projects involving dike building, lahar-clearing and resettlement. It seems that after the publicity blitz everything is back to "normal" and the contractors and their backers at the DPWH are also back on their merry ways and laughing all the way to the banks while the volcano's victims face daily dangers from lahar and hunger in and out of resettlement areas.

What a great racket being a public works contractor.

## PACC-DOJ rift

**I**T IS not definitely helping the ends of justice, this apparent rift between the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission and the justice department. The refusal of the latter to accept Lavadia and Centeno for its Witness Protection Program and subsequent statements by the DOJ and NBI that not "an iota of evidence" exists against the young Alqueza has stolen the thunder from the PACC's investigation. So if there's not a shred of evidence against the accused, what is there to connect him with the Allan Gomez murder? Just a mere presumption of guilt powered by rumors that he was getting the monthly *jueteng* "tong" due his noble sire and that he moves around with bodyguards and a driver to protect his important person?

What happens now to the previous testimonies of Lavadia and Centeno, given freely before the presence of PACC and state prosecutors? Are they of no court value simply because they have retracted? If they can't be presented for the cause of the prosecution, there are still the laws on perjury. Why was the DOJ in such a hurry to absolve Alqueza based on a retraction of admitted eye-witnesses?

The Criminal Investigation Service Command's findings on the case would be submitted to the DOJ anytime, or may have been submitted already. It throws new light on and supports the love triangle theory of the PACC which also names the young Alqueza as the mastermind in the killing. It should make the DOJ rethink its position, though its face be red.

With the CISC's report, the PACC's case against Allan Gomez' friend may still prosper, to the consternation of some devoted parents. Stupid police and military officers are under the delusion that they are special and therefore their children are special too and are entitled to the most special privileges, including murder. Antonio Sanchez' father was a former police chief of Calauan and at 18, His Piousness has had a case for homicide. He was acquitted, naturally. From then on, the rest was easy.

Some abusive uniformed officers want their kids to start early too.



## Reminder to Angara

I JUST can't resist the temptation of quoting from this item entitled "Angara reminds lawyers of duty" (*Bull.*, September 4):

"Senate President Edgardo J. Angara reminded Filipino lawyers the other day of their sacred duty to serve their countrymen as he lamented the ebbing public respect and regard for the legal profession... Lawyers are engaged in the practice of a profession, not a trade. It has therefore, become their sworn responsibility and sacred duty to serve their countrymen and to protect their God-given rights."

This item is obviously the work of a PR man, and from the way Angara has been conducting himself, the man is not-so-secretly already harboring a presidential ambition. A long-range plan, he's got.

Nothing wrong. Bum or genius, pro-American or pro-Filipino, any Filipino citizen can aspire for the presidency.

What's wrong is Angara's reminder. I mean, that the reminder should come from him, of all people.

It's he, and his law firm ACCRA, which should be reminded of his reminder. Also other big-name law firms in Makati.

I worked once in a big-name law firm in Makati, so I know. I left in less than a year's time because I couldn't stomach its operations. A year earlier, another lawyer I know had left ACCRA for the same reason. Angara wasn't yet a senator then, but a Marcos boy. In case you've forgotten, Marcos appointed

### ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOBLE

Angara U.P. president.

Like other Marcos boys, Angara emerged as one of those fair-haired Cory boys in 1986. How he did it is a mystery to me. He's just like my former boss in that Makati law firm.

In a nation known for *balimbings*, Angara's case isn't a bit surprising. Today, he sounds like a priest delivering a sermon on the pulpit.

In the same issue of the *Bull* was a full-page paid ad supposedly from the "Task Force Ang Pangulo" concerning the return of the late dictator.

By this time, Marcos must have been laid to rest — at last!

Thank heaven it's all over, but the Cory Aquino's and the Ramos's administrations bungling of the efforts to recover the billions allegedly stolen from Juan Filipino by the "World's Biggest Thief" (according to Guinness).

Who says it doesn't pay to steal big?

### We Forum



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JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.  
PUBLISHER-EDITOR

## What a wonderful day

AUGUST 31 was quite an unusual day. Perhaps, the angels in heaven were singing and rejoicing. Waking up at two o'clock in the morning, I was through with my morning prayers, nine rosaries, exercise, breakfast and other habits of regularities by six o'clock. I still had time to recite this poem of Constance-Parker Graham entitled, "Thank You, Lord, for All Good Things;" which is really music to the ears with its rhyme and rhythm and therefore gives me a lift at the beginning of each new day:

*Thank You, Lord, for all good things that make our lives so bright...*

*For blue skies in the morning and evening's golden light,*

*For the majesty of mountains and the beauty of the seas,*

*For animals and soaring birds and shining green-leaved trees,*

*For flowers of a thousand hues and gardens where they grow,*

*For homes where happy hours pass and the love those hours know,*

*And thank you, Lord, for all the things we might forget to name,*

*For you who know our hearts, will know we're grateful just the same.*

*We ask for just one blessing more as bright as moon or star,*

*Give us the wisdom, Lord, to know how fortunate we are.*

At quarter to seven, I was already at the St. Anthony's (VOT) church in Sampaloc for the seven o'clock Mass and daily Communion, for I never want to be late for Mass. This kind of

life gives me the strength and the wisdom to fight the evils in the marketplace and the powerful "Mafias" who dominate our lives. Back home at 8:30, I received a call from Charing Lopez saying that we must be at Jaime Cardinal Sin's residence, for it was his birthday, not later



(Left to right): Siony Pioreschi, SEC Chairman Charing Lopez, Julie Amargo, Sister Lut, and Susan Reyes, with the cake of Cardinal Sin (gift of Sen. Shahani) during his birthday.

than 10 o'clock so off I went to pass for Charing at Greenhills.

WOW, what a crowd at the Cardinal's house! I was particularly attracted to a birthday cake sent by FVR and another one by Senator Shahani, who sent word that there should be no quarrel between the Cardinal and the President. His Eminence was full of humor and after he blessed

us, he said jokingly: "Why don't you look at those lighted cakes and see if there are some contraceptives!" More jokes followed for the Cardinal was in his best mood. Later, lunch was served and there was Cory Aquino in yellow and many others from government, business and the religious community, who all came to greet His Eminence a very happy birthday.

When parting time came, the Cardinal told Siony Pioreschi, PNB director: "Please tell the President not to go to the main entrance of San Carlos Seminary, but to the gym. I will be there to receive him myself with open arms. I want to be the first one to welcome him."

True enough, His Eminence waited for more than half an hour standing at the entrance of the gym, eager to meet FVR. The respect of the two leaders for each other was obvious. The jokes of Cardinal Sin made the President laugh to his heart's content, especially when somebody commented that the Cardinal was admiring the huge cake FVR sent, to which the Cardinal quipped: "I hope it is not full of contraceptives." Not to be outdone, FVR was quick to say: "That is

TEA W/ JULIE



by JULIE AMARGO

why I sent my three angels in advance — Siony, Julie and Charito, to make sure that there are no contraceptives." Laughter and meaningful exchanges followed between the two leaders and FVR remarked that "My door is always open to the Cardinal, the bishops and the priests for after all, we are all working for the attainment of the same goals."

Crowned by hundreds and hundreds of seminarians and priests, Cardinal Sin in his barong Tagalog, looked very serene and joyful. Food for the guests were donated by Speaker and Mrs. Joe de Venecia and the Good Shepherd Foundation. What attracted most of the guests was the open book on top of the lighted cake on the left side of which were inscribed: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures, He gives me repose; Beside restful waters He leads me; He refreshes my soul."

At dinnertime, I had as guests Charing Lopez, Susan Reyes, Robert James Siao of Cagayan de Oro and Vic Suazo Jr., Assistant General Manager of the Philippine Port Authority. What a wonderful day indeed in the service of the Lord!

## TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

TOKYO MADE an official statement recently that its yen was now on par with the US dollar. The statement caused some quiet stirring in our financial world in the Far East and Southeast Asia. To the ordinary layman like myself, who goes along without techno-

logical understanding of the implications of the Tokyo announcement, the yen and the US dollar, to which our peso is tied, is simply just that, one peso equals one yen, no more, no less.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces, conquered Japan in 1945, his first step was to cripple the Empire's economy by declaring its money on par with the US dollar.

No one could guess how much the Japanese yen in exchange value with the US dollar at that point in time. But the SCAP thought it harmed the yen well enough at that level. Well, let it be that way as the best of minds figured

it out.

But the Japanese could manage their currency well and flexibly. MacArthur never calculated the ability of the Japanese mind to adjust their yen currency to the US dollar.

Currency is a very tricky matter to handle. The public is just an innocent layman in the face of the intricate problems and complications that currency poses. It is a passing of, a continual passing of paper money from hand to hand, the money in circulation.

When MacArthur declared the Japanese money in circulation at the surrender of Japan in 1945, Japan accepted it at its face value. Nobody at that point in time knew how much

was the value of the yen versus the US dollar. But the Japanese yen was so flexible it could take the US dollar then at par. In due course, in diplomacy's appointed time, the Japanese simply said the yen was at par with the US dollar.

Now the Japanese have shown they can take anything the Americans can dish out. The future is not for us to say whether the two rulers of the Japanese Empire who are married to commoners will continue to keep the par value of the yen as a gesture of goodwill to the Americans, depends on the two ruling princess of the Empire to pursue and preserve the Imperial goodwill.

## Ang pagbabalik

NABALIK NA ang dating pangulong Ferdinand E. Marcos sa kanyang lalawigan sinilangan sa Batac, Ilocos Norte, na isang bangkay. Gayunman, prang buhay pa rin siya sa ipinakitang pagsalubong ng mga Ilokano

## Biomedical . . .

(From page 6)

Everyone is at risk, not because of "promiscuity" but because of many social and economic factors: a bankrupt health care system that cannot afford to monitor blood supplies; an economic crisis that forces hundreds and thousands of Filipinos into situations of risk: the lack of information and the excess of misinformation about HIV.

**MYTH 5** Condom promotions is part of contraceptive imperialism, part of the US' effort to control Third World populations.

It is surprising how right-wing religious groups (Page 8, please)

mula sa iba't ibang lugar kasama na ang Maynila. Malawak ang nakuhang tagasunod ni G. Marcos sa dalawampung taong pananatili niya sa kapangyarihan sa ating bansa.

Maraming mga opisyal at maging si Erap na bise-presidente natin ay naroroon. May mga artista, mang-aawit at karaniwang mamamayan. Subalit kahit marami ang mga taong nagpakita sa pagsalubong na ito ay hindi pa rin nila magagawang "makapag-alsa" para lamang masunod ang unang kahilingang mailibing si G. Marcos bilang isang dating pangulo, bayani ng digmaan, Senador, at Kongresista. Kayat ang salitang "pansamantala" lamang ang pagkakalibing sa isang *refrigerated crypt* ay isang hakbang, ayon sa mga tagamasid, para mailunsad muli ang katanyagan ng pamilyang Marcos. May nagpahayag din na ito ay taktika para mapilit pa rin ang pamahalaang Ramos na ilibing si G. Marcos sa mga libingan ng bayani. Sa madaling salita, ang pagbabalik ay isang pagpapakita ng pwersa at kapangyarihan.

Subalit sa isang banda, hayaan na lamang

nating maihimlay ang bangkay ng dating pangulo upang mabigyan na rin siya ng katahimikan. Huwag nang gamitin ninuman ang kanyang namayapang katawan sa anumang "gimik" pampulitika. Sawa na ang Pilipino sa dalawampung taong "pagpapaikot" sa kanila ng mga naging "kabig" ni G. Marcos noong kanyang panahon.

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Mukhang sunod-sunod ang publisidad at pagdalo ni Ruffa Gutierrez sa mga *talk shows* para iladlad pa lalo ang naganap na bangga nila ni Senador Maceda, kahit sa Senado'y maraming kapwa senador ang bumabatikos sa ginawa ni Maceda. Kailangan sigurong ilabas ni Maceda ang lahat ng matitindi niyang ebidensya para sa mga "Brunei Beauties" para matahimik na ang lahat. Kung hindi, nanganganib ang reputasyon ni Maceda bilang Mr. Expose. Siya ang malalantad na walang alam kundi *media exposure* lamang ang hanap.

\*\*\*\*\*

Optimistiko ang mga abogado ng mga

## KILATISIN NATIN



ni JOEY PAPA

biktima ng karapatang pantao noong panahon ng Martial Law na mababayaran na ang mga nabiktima ng pang-aabuso noong panahong 'yon. Nabayaran na diumano ang nasalbeyds na si G. Viernes na nagtanong noon kay Imee na hindi nagustuhan diumano ng mga sundalong *aide* ni Imee at pagkaraan ay nawala na lamang si Viernes. Nagdimanda ang pamilya nito at matagal-tagal ding nabimbim ang panalo ngunit nanalo rin. Matagal ding nabimbim ang pagbabayad ngunit nabayaran na rin. Kung nabayaran na rin si Viernes, natural na susunod nang mabayaran ang may sampung libong biktima ng Martial Law.

## How many live below poverty line?

**BELIEVE IT** or not, apolitical Cory Aquino may soon assume the presidency of the LDP as latest reports seem to indicate. Then my estimate that Mrs. Aquino has some hidden political agendas for 1995 is accurate. I think Cory longs back to those days when she lorded it over the nation with her so-called 50 "palpak advisers." Why not? Cory can run for senator in 1995 and we can find out if she still has the "yellow fever" following which filled EDSA in 1986 which catapulted her to the presidency.

\*\*\*\*\*

By the way the Sandiganbayan issued a writ of sequestration against Mayor Sanchez's properties. Since these properties are presumed to be conjugal, *papaano si* Mrs. Sanchez? Isn't she entitled to be heard? Sometimes, in the hysteria surrounding the Calauan cases, the authorities may have forgotten that there are certain rights which must be protected. Just thinking aloud. . .

\*\*\*\*\*

According to the latest issuance by the National Statistical Coordination Board, the poverty level of a family of six is P3,675.00 a month income. I find this dubious because in the urban centers where one has to pay for everything. I doubt very much that a family of six can live with a little ease on P3,675.00 a month. Perhaps in the rural areas where one

can gather root crops and fish in the streams and gather vegetables in the meadows. Anyway assuming this finding to be correct, it is a glaring fact that our lowly teachers in the government schools who receive P3,100 per month are way below poverty level. This becomes worse when you deduct the GSIS and other fees of government employees. *Kaya* to the loan sharks they go to keep ends meet month after month. *Talagang* starvation pay *ang ating* teachers and yet we expect too much responsibilities for them since teachers in the grade schools mould the hearts and minds of our youth. *Kaya* what do many teachers do during elections? They sell their souls to corrupt politicians.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Laguna RTC Judge who refused to give up the Sanchez trial notwithstanding the petition from Franklin Drilon is correct and I salute him for standing his ground. Judge Sto. Domingo had courage to keep the case and defend his court's honor and dignity. Had he succumbed to the pressures from Drilon, he would have had no business being called "Your Honor." When Drilon kept announcing that he wants the case transferred to Metro-Manila, he was insulting the courts in Laguna and if I were the judge in Laguna I would have cited him in contempt of court.

\*\*\*\*\*

The drive against so-called "private armies," especially among local executives reminds me of the early months after Martial Law was declared. Then Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile boasted that with all the loose firearms surrendered to the government, he could easily arm one whole division of troops. Now we see in the pages of newspapers day after day about piles of firearms having been surrendered as a result of "Operation Paglalansag." Anyway a few months after martial law, firearms again proliferated in the hands of political big shots and warlords. I bet you, with our *ningas cogon* attitude, a few months from now, private armies will once again resurface especially as we come close to the elections in 1995.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Incidental intelligence.* I have been told that the impeachment case filed by lawyer Eugene Tan, former President of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines against 8 justices of the Supreme Court is gathering steam after six congressmen indorsed the case. As of this writing, I was told that some 40 solons have indicated support for the impeachment case which, if true, will jolt the justices from their ivory tower. *Tingnan natin.* I was also told that Eugene Tan is also preparing another case against former Chief Justice Marcelo Fernan.

### IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

\*\*\*\*\*

Brownouts are returning with a vengeance again. A few weeks back there were hopes that brownouts may finally disappear when we started experiencing just two hours of power outages each day. *Pero ngayon*, we are back to six hours. These brownouts have become the Achilles heel of President Ramos and yet we know that the causes of power outages are really traceable to the incompetence and the corruption during the Cory regime but poor FVR is suffering the blame.

\*\*\*\*\*

Another innocent man was acquitted in Marinduque after languishing in jail for — hold your breath, 15 years! Last month I denounced the acquittal of three innocent farmers in Lobo, Batangas. Human rights? They make me laugh and until now the Supreme Court has not reacted to my demand that the judges involved in these be investigated.

## Biomedical . . .

(From page 8)

now talk about imperialism while they kept their silence during the "US-Marcos dictatorship." Count in Senator Tatad, who was the dictator Marcos' "Information" Minister — the chief propagandist — during the first years of martial law. As for the Opus Dei, this group is certainly not

known for anti-imperialist sentiments; on the contrary, they have been the most active in promoting the International Monetary Fund's oppressive economic prescriptions (i.e. "structural adjustment") in the Philippines.

US government policies on family planning actually moved back to the Dark Ages in the last decade, under the conservative administrations of Reagan and Bush. The local conservatives conveniently fail to point out that US government

policies on foreign assistance during that decade became extremely restrictive, denying population assistance to countries and to the United Nations Population Fund for not toeing the official US conservative line on contraception and abortion. In the US, despite (or perhaps because of) a decade of moralism, social problems such as teenage pregnancy and drug dependency have increased at an unprecedented scale. Again because of moralistic arguments, the religious right blocked

attempts to conduct surveys on sexuality in the US during the Reagan and Bush era, thus limiting the chances to obtain much-needed information to guide sex education and HIV prevention programs. The imperialism we face today is the imperialism of these US-based rightwing religious groups, who even as they lose ground in the United States, now seek gullible converts in countries like the Philippines.

(To be continued)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
BRANCH XVIII  
TAGAYTAY CITY

Land Reg. Case No. TG-449

LRA Record No. N-63339

NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati, Metro Manila; the Regional Executive Director, Region IV, L & S Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area; the Director, Bureau of Mines, Pedro Gil St., Malate; the Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, P.O. Box 623, all in Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, PTA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman; the Director, Forest Management Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, both in Quezon City, Metro Manila; the Provincial Governor, the Provincial Fiscal, the Provincial Treasurer, the Provincial Engineer, the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, Trece Martires City; the CENR Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, Rotonda, Bacoor, Cavite; the City Mayor; the City Council; the City Fiscal; the City Treasurer; the City Engineer, Tagaytay City; Gregorio Bayot, Tamacan, Amadeo, Cavite; Maria Anacay Vda. de Baybay, Amadeo, Cavite AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

An application having been filed in the above entitled case by Rosemarie Manlapit Zamora, married to Ronaldo Zamora, No. 22 Van Buren St., North Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, thru Atty. Irineo A. Anarna, Alejandro and Anarna Law Office, 11 Madlansacay St., Poblacion, Silang, Cavite praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described land.

A parcel of land (Lot 9136 of the cadastral survey, Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre as shown on plan As-04-002506, LRC Record No. ), situated in the Barrio of San Jose, City of Tagaytay, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the SE., along lines 1-2-3-4-5-6 by Lot 9127 (Gregorio Bayot), Psu-31066; on the SW., along line 6-7 by Lot 9138; on the NW., along lines 7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25 by Provincial Road (20.00 m. wide) and beyond is Lot 9132, along line 25-26 by Lot 9129, all of Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre; and on the N., along line 26-1 by Naalas River (10-15 m. wide). Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being S. 78 deg. 06'E., 947.97 m. from BLLM No. 1, Cad-355, Tagaytay Cadastre.

thence S. 39 deg. 25'W., 282.82 m. to point 2;  
thence S. 73 deg. 41'W., 318.86 m. to point 3;  
thence S. 80 deg. 41'W., 213.63 m. to point 4;  
thence S. 83 deg. 11'W., 250.80 m. to point 5;  
thence S. 55 deg. 12'W., 30.00 m. to point 6;  
thence N. 01 deg. 55'E., 142.70 m. to point 7;  
thence N. 80 deg. 16'E., 24.60 m. to point 8;  
thence N. 61 deg. 37'E., 9.89 m. to point 9;  
thence N. 35 deg. 02'E., 24.24 m. to point 10;

thence S. 84 deg. 36'E., 67.45 m. to point 11;  
thence S. 77 deg. 52'E., 60.09 m. to point 12;  
thence N. 84 deg. 42'E., 33.39 m. to point 13;  
thence N. 64 deg. 27'E., 36.17 m. to point 14;  
thence N. 39 deg. 48'E., 38.20 m. to point 15;  
thence N. 09 deg. 20'E., 45.30 m. to point 16;  
thence N. 58 deg. 25'E., 10.21 m. to point 17;  
thence S. 75 deg. 02'E., 33.69 m. to point 18;  
thence S. 89 deg. 14'E., 59.71 m. to point 19;  
thence N. 64 deg. 01'E., 22.94 m. to point 20;  
thence S. 85 deg. 47'E., 48.31 m. to point 21;  
thence N. 74 deg. 24'E., 119.35 m. to point 22;  
thence N. 37 deg. 55'E., 28.27 m. to point 23;  
thence N. 02 deg. 27'E., 13.61 m. to point 24;  
thence N. 43 deg. 35'W., 51.28 m. to point 25;  
thence N. 53 deg. 03'W., 101.23 m. to point 26;  
thence S. 86 deg. 04'E., 347.47 m. to the point of

beginning, containing an area of ONE HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY (168,830) SQUARE METERS. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and marked on the ground by BL cyl. conc. mons. 15 x 60 cm.; bearings true; date of survey, May 25, 1962. This lot was prepared under As-04-002506 and was approved on February 4, 1991.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at Branch XVIII, Tagaytay City, Philippines, on the 28th day of October 1993 at 8:30 o'clock in the forenoon, then and there to present such claim as you may have to said land or any portion thereof and to submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear at said Court at the time and place aforesaid, your default will be recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the Court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness: the HON. ELEUTERIO F. GUERRERO, Judge of said Court, the 23rd day of July, 1993.  
Issued at Quezon City, Philippines, this 18th day of August, 1993.

A T T E S T :

REYNALDO Y. MAULIT  
Administrator  
Land Registration Authority

By:

(Sgd.) SALVADOR L. ORIEL  
Chief, Docket Division

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# Marginal jobbers on the rise in 3rd World

By BERNABE B. PAGUIO

MANILA — It may look like a blot in the urban industrial scene — city folks hawking their wares on crowded sidewalks and busy streets and even vehicular traffic.

They constitute the so-called informal sector. They are young men and women who could not find stable jobs in business and industry, or the formal sector.

In the Third World, policymakers would prefer to "sweep this sector under the carpet in the hope that it would gradually disappear as the modern sector grew and absorbed more labor," says the International Labor Organization (ILO) in a report to a recent session of the International Labor Conference in Geneva.

But it is the informal sector, not the formal one, that keeps growing steadily in the developing world. The ILO report

indicates an increasing number of people in this sector in the Third World, especially in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. In these regions, the informal sector absorbed more entrants to the labor force than the modern industrial sector in recent years.

The Philippines has some 200,000 of these marginal jobbers.

The trend is expected to continue as sub-contracting gains ground in industries. The marginal jobbers, or "home-workers" will do more of the production of goods on sub-contract basis.

"For all these reasons, there is no longer any cause to believe that the informal sector is a transient phenomenon that will spontaneously fade away in the

foreseeable future, as jobs are created in the modern, regulated, formal sector," says the report. "On the contrary, there is every reason to believe that a large and probably increasing segment of the labor force in most developing countries will be engaged in the informal sector for many years to come."

No amount of official indifference or interference can wipe the informal sector off the urban areas for a long time. "To suppress a shanty-town in one area is to invite its reappearance elsewhere — at great human cost to those involved," says the report.

The realities speak loud and clear:

— Creation of a "job" in the informal sector requires only a small fraction of the investment

required in the modern sector.

— The informal sector is also a major source of low-cost goods and services to urban dwellers.

— Its productive potential is financed out of its resources.

— Being unorganized and working at a very low levels of productivity and income, producers and workers in the informal sector live and work in highly precarious and often dangerous and unhealthy conditions.

With the informal sector firmly entrenched on the urban map of the Third World, ILO says policy planners should focus their efforts to improve the incomes and living and working conditions of those engaged in this sector, rather than pretend that it does not exist. This means diversion of more resources to develop the employment generating capacity of the informal



STREET HAWKING: Unstable job.

sector, as well as the welfare and social protection of those engaged in it.

Adds the report: "Well-targeted programs of support to the informal sector can be far more

cost-effective in terms of employment promotion, poverty alleviation and output than certain large-scale programs of investment in and support to the modern sector." (DEPTHnews)



## Virgin forests face extinction

By HENRYLITO D. TACIO

BANSALAN, DAVAO DEL SUR — The country's remaining virgin forests referred to as old growth forests, are on the brink of extinction. But these could still be rescued if the government showed more political will to preserve them — now.

A study released recently by the Center for Environmental Concerns (CEC) revealed that the remaining forest cover stands at four million hectares, with only 800,000 hectares left of its virgin forests.

Blamed for the rapid disap-

pearance of the country's old growth forests are uncontrolled logging and shifting cultivation.

"As a consequence, the loss of our virgin forests had increased the severity of floods, drought, erosion, siltation, and other calamities the country is now experiencing," says Dr. Warlito A. Laquihon, associate director of the Davao-based Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center (MBRLC).

Because of this, the Natural Resources Management Program (NRMP) has included the preservation of the remaining virgin forests and their biodiversity as one of the policy reforms being undertaken by the government.

NRMP is one of the major foreign-assisted programs under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). It is the first major program towards implementing the Philippine Strategy for Sustainable Development (PSSD) and the Master Plan for the Forestry Sector.

A report submitted by the NRMP Policy Monitoring and Assessment (PMA) team says the Philippine government is on the right track in terms of implementing the various programs and activities for the protection of virgin forests.

The team had found several government programs which have direct virgin forest protection values or which enhance the protection of virgin forests.

For one, there's the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS), which is primarily responsible for the demarcation of virgin forests boundaries on the ground. "This is necessary for the control and prevention of further logging activities in virgin forests, thereby preserv-

ing the biodiversity contained therein," the report said.

Then, there's the Environment and Natural Resources Sectoral Adjustment Loan (ENR-SECAL), an efficient system of forest revenue collection.

The ENR-SECAL monitoring and enforcement component is currently developing a system which monitors logging activities in Cagayan Valley, Northern Mindanao and Samar.

Another is the Debt-for-Nature swap program, which is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the Foundation for the Philippine Environment (FPE).

The country's forests, or what is left of them, shelter thousands of flora and fauna. Former Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Fulgencio Factoran reported in 1991 that of the country's 1,075 bird and animal species, at least 18 wildlife types have been rendered rare and endangered.

Dr. Seymour Sohmer, a scientist of the Bishop Museum of Honolulu, Hawaii, said the Philippines has already lost 40 percent of its endemic flora.

The CEC study bared that in 1992, the annual rate of deforestation in the country stood at 210,000 hectares, compared with only 30,000 hectares in 1960.

If forest destruction continues, total deforested area could reach 4.2 million hectares by the year 2000, the study said.

"When forests are cut extensively and not reforested, these would mean the extinction of wild life, medicinal plants and loss of our future source of food," laments Dr. Laquihon. (DEPTHnews)

Republic of the Philippines  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
Branch XVIII  
Tagaytay City

Land Reg. Case No. TG-446 LRA Record No. N-63336

### NOTICE OF INITIAL HEARING

To the Hon. Solicitor General, Office of the Solicitor General, 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati, Metro Manila; the Regional Executive Director, Region IV, L & S Bldg., 1515 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Public Works and Highways, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila; the Hon. Secretary, Department of Agrarian Reform, PTA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Diliman; the Director, Forest Management Bureau, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, both in Quezon City, Metro Manila; the Provincial Governor; the Provincial Fiscal; the Provincial Treasurer; the Provincial Engineer; the Public Works and Highways District Engineer, all in Trece Martires City; the CENRO Officer, CENRO, Land Management Sector, Rotonda, Bacoor, Cavite; the Municipal Mayor, the Municipal Council, Silang, Cavite; Hrs. of Catalino Bataclan, Poblacion, Silang, Cavite; Lydia Leynes Lalaan 2nd, Silang, Cavite; Juan Baon, Barrio Balubad, Silang, Cavite; AND TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

An application having been filed in the above entitled case by Arsenio G. Santiago married to Lourdes M. Santiago, Irene Santiago Allanigue married to Benedicto Allanigue and Teresita Santiago (single) all inn 0589 Quirino Avenue, San Dionisio, Parañaque, Metro Manila, praying for the registration and confirmation of the title to the following described land with the improvements thereon.

A parcel of land (Lot 1269-A of the subdivision plan Csd-042118-011469-D, being a portion of Lot 1269, Cad. 452-D, Silang Cadastre, LRC Record No. ), situated in the Barangay of Balubad, Municipality of Silang, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the S. & W. along lines 1-2-3-4 by Lot 1269-C (Existing Road) of the subdivision plan; on the W., along line 4-5 by Existing Road (3.00 m. wide) and beyond Lot 1264; on the N., along line 5-6 by Lot 1268, both of Cad. 452-D, Silang Cadastre; on the E., along line 6-7 by Lot 1269-B of the subdivision plan and on the S., along line 7-1 by Barangay

Road (10.00 m. wide). Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan, being S. 31 deg. 25'W., 3690.56 m. from BLLM 1, Cad. 452-D, Silang Cadastre.

thence S. 84 deg. 26'W., 60.38 m. to point 2;  
thence N. 0 deg. 55'W., 29.67 m. to point 3;  
thence S. 89 deg. 05'W., 3.00 m. to point 4;  
thence N. 0 deg. 55'W., 116.54 m. to point 5;  
thence N. 82 deg. 57'E., 98.89 m. to point 6;  
thence S. 0 deg. 55'E., 146.92 m. to point 7;  
thence S. 81 deg. 02'W., 35.50 m. to the point of

beginning, containing an area of FOURTEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED (14,400) SQUARE METERS. All points referred to are indicated on the plan and marked on the ground by P.S. cyl. conc. mons. 15x60 cm., bearings grid; date of original survey, Dec. 7, 1973 - Dec. 4, 1975 and that of the subdivision survey Oct. 24, 1992 which was approved on November 11, 1992.

Note: Lot 1269-B equal to Lot 16435, Cad. 452-D, Silang Cadastre.

You are hereby served this notice to appear before this Court at its session to be held at Branch XVIII, Tagaytay City, Philippines, on the 25th day of August, 1993; at 8:30 o'clock in the forenoon, then and thereafter, and to submit evidence in support of such claim and unless you appear at said Court at the time and place aforesaid, your default will be recorded and the title to the land will be adjudicated and determined in accordance with law and the evidence before the Court and thereafter you will forever be barred from contesting said application (or petition) or any decree entered thereon.

Witness: HON. ELEUTERIO F. GUERRERO, Judge of said Court, the 17th day of May, 1993.

Issued at Quezon City, Philippines this 26th day of May, 1993.

ATTEST:

REYNALDO Y. MAULIT  
Administrator  
Land Registration Authority

By:

(Sgd.) SALVADOR L. ORIEL  
Chief, Docket Division

WE FORUM  
September 13, 1993

# We Forum

12

SEPTEMBER 13-19, 1993

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IN METRO MANILA

*Guns and bullets alone can't win insurgency war.*

## Public service can win Marag war

By ROBERT L. DOMOGUEN

MARAG VALLEY — It takes more than guns and bullets to win an insurgency war. The presence of government workers doing an honest job also can restore peace and

stability in the rural areas.

This old and hardly followed advice for government workers was tried by Mrs. Angelita Oliviano in this rebel-infested valley with so-

bering results.

While the military combatants were still engaged in their war, Ms. Oliviano and another agriculture technician were assigned to Marag to wage

another war — to ensure adequate food supply for residents by helping them grow abundant food.

According to Ms. Oliviano, they are the only government technicians who have stayed in the valley since 1992.

Other representatives of government come here only during media-covered occasions and campaigns.

Ms. Oliviano, who left a more comfortable job in nearby Luna town to be reassigned here, said that urbanites and other government workers can hardly endure life in Marag valley for the following reasons:

1. The NPAs still exert their influence in Calabigan, Cacandungan and Bucao, three of seven villages making up the valley.

2. Although the military has opened up a dirt road, the valley remains inaccessible to ordinary cars. During the rainy days, workers and residents have to hike 12.6 kms of muddy, slippery and leech-infested road or trails from Luna town to Marag.

3. Obviously, the malaria-infested valley has no health services.

4. Malnourishment and disease incidence is very high.

Ms. Oliviano was able to endure and actually enjoy a sense of accomplishment in Marag because first of all, she loves community development work. She also credits the Philippine military for providing them initial security services during their field work activities. Slowly though, they won the hearts of the people which is the most important step in bringing alienated people closer to the mainstream of social life. "We will need less of the military as we win our own war," she mused.

Being single and with no commitment to family is also

## Cheap way to control destructive coco beetles

QUEZON CITY — The fight against rhinoceros beetle, the bane of coconut and palm oil farms in Southeast Asia, need not be costly.

Farmers can use this insect pest to control its own population and thus minimize losses on coconut yields.

A study conducted by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) in Albay showed that the simple method of infecting rhinoceros beetle with baculovirus effectively suppressed beetle populations.

During planting, this overstay pest breeds in trunks of felled palms while adult beetles attack and frequently kill the young palms.

The PCA study won first prize in the crop category of the National Research Symposium awards organized recently by the Bureau of Agricultural Research.

Use of baculovirus disease was first discovered in 1963 in Malaysia. It was adopted in the South Pacific islands and other countries where the virus has become established and occurs naturally.

Conducted by A.R. Alfiler, B. Zelasny and A.M. Crawford, the study also sought to establish the disease in coconut areas and determine whether it will be more promising to use the virus as a control measure against the rhinoceros pest.

In the study, workers collected beetles from the field and infected them by placing a small drop of infectious cell culture fluid on the beetle's mouth, using a medicine dropper. The cell culture is produced and supplied by PCA.

Rhinoceros and virus inoculum from cell cultures were also mass-reared and supplied to extension workers. After use, the inoculum can be stored in sealed, sterile vials which can be stocked in the refrigerator for ready use.

Test results showed that sterilizing the cell culture increases its infectious potency. The culture can also be stored for 20 weeks or up to two weeks when stored at room temperature under tropical conditions.

Placing the inoculum in sealed vials enables widespread use of this method by coconut farmers and extension workers. Transport to remote areas poses no problem. Nevertheless, direct exposure to sunlight or excessive heat must be avoided, cautioned the researchers. They assured that technology "requires no special training: a brief explanation and demonstration will do."

To increase infection rate, a second drop of inoculum on a beetle's mouth is necessary. The beetles are then released by letting them fly out of a plastic basin after dark.

The researchers found that released infected rhinoceros beetles no longer attack coconut palms or lay eggs. More than this, the beetles become the agents for the effective spread of baculovirus to other beetles, the researchers observed. This will lead to the dramatic control of beetle populations in the Philippines, they said.

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a plus factor in community development work, she adds, explaining that she "easily moves about and adopt the people in my service area as my own alternative family."

In her agenda of service in Marag, Ms. Oliviano pointed out that government agencies and even the left can help Marag residents and win their hearts by rendering their services freely irrespective of beliefs or political persuasions.

While in Marag, Ms. Oliviano with support from the Luna Research and Outreach Station of the Department of Agriculture (DA-ROS), facilitated the delivery of about P100,000 worth of agricultural inputs to Marag residents. These consisted of 47 bags of certified rice seeds, three hand tractors with complete accessories, five dispersal carabaos, four working female carabaos, five goats, over 500 citrus seedlings, 200 assorted fruit seedlings, 100 kilos of corn and mongo seeds, and two bags of assorted vegetable seeds.

Ms. Oliviano said this assistance package was not much, but with their presence and help, it had done a lot.

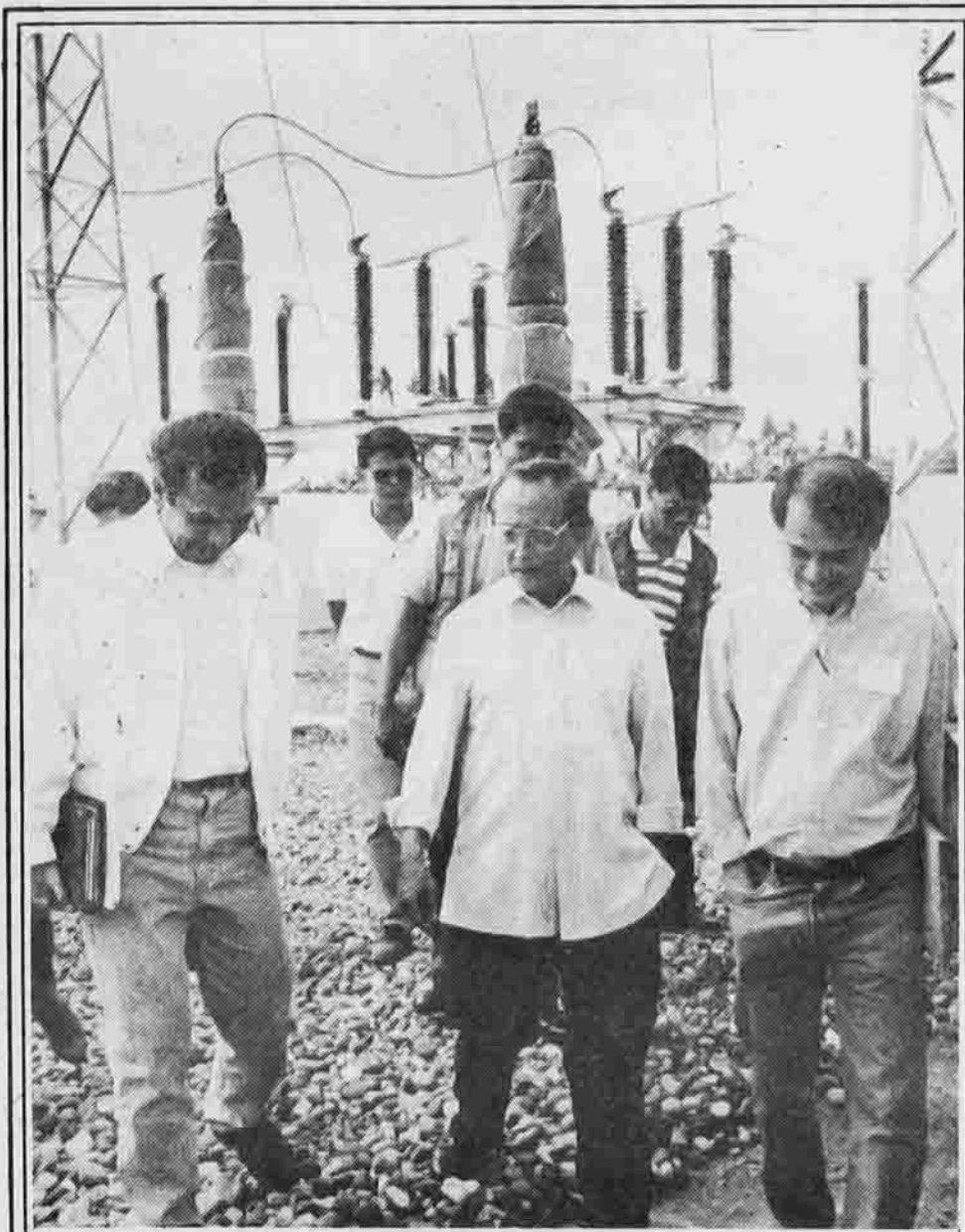
Marag Valley has 51 farm-families. These farmers culti-

vate about 36.5 hectares of rice land and 2.5 hectares of corn and old fruit trees. In the near future and with assistance from the agriculture department, we will introduce ginger, bananas and gabi. We will encourage the farmers to diversify to other crops, she said.

In her letter to DA Regional Director Faustino Maslan, Ms. Oliviano appealed for sustained assistance for their activities in Marag Valley. "We have done much here and other presence must be sustained and strengthened through quarterly agricultural missions through which livelihood skills trainings could be conducted.

The lady farm technician said the government's campaign for "a return to Marag" is not enough. The valley should be made conducive to life and worth returning or migrating to. People must first learn to live peaceably together before they can resurrect an impoverished but rich and beautiful valley, she concluded.

Director Maslan said that he would nominate Ms. Oliviano for any government award to reward her commitment and efforts to bring the government closer to the countryside. (DEPTHnews)



NAPOCOR PROJECT: President Ramos and National Power Corporation President Francisco Viray inspect the facilities of the newly-inaugurated Negros-Cebu Interconnection Project of the Napocor recently in Amlan, Negros Oriental. The project involved the installation of a submarine cable for the supply electricity to Cebu from Negros. (Malacañang Photo)