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Jose Burgos, Jr.

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# Nueva Ecija massacre survivor bares ordeal

A survivor in "one of three confirmed massacres" in Nueva Ecija who is now in hiding surfaced briefly June 10 to face journalists and sympathizers and recount the gory incident that took place around 9:30 p.m. last Feb. 25.

The survivor, Restituto Bautista, in his early 20s, was using a crutch. His right leg, which was hit with bullets, was in plaster cast. A fresh scar was conspicuous at

the back of his left hand, which was also hit.

Bautista belonged to a family of seven, but four of the members died in the massacre that took place in their barangay, Bunot, Gapan in Nueva Ecija.

The other survivors are Bautista's younger brother, Jose, who was slightly wounded in a finger, and his mother, Marcela, who was not at the family house at the time.

The mother and Jose were also with Bautista last June 10. But they kept quiet. The mother wiped tears as her son recounted the massacre.

The religious, who have been helping the Bautistas, said the military suspected the killers to be members of the New People's Army. But, added the religious, many of the neighbors of the Bautistas believed the killers to be members of the military.

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## BAR SCANDAL BACKLASH

# Lawyers to file suit vs. Justices

A hard-hitting lawyers' group is pressing the release of the investigation of the 1981 Bar scandal as it poised to file criminal and administrative charges against those involved — including certain Justices of the High Tribunal.



Justice Teehankee

Pursuing its earlier announcement to pinpoint the persons behind the widely-publicized Bar scandal that eventually led to the resignation of Supreme Court Associate Justices Vicente Ericta and Ramon Fernandez, the Philippine Trial Lawyers' Association said that it will "undertake action against whomsoever will be found to be criminally and administratively liable for the 1981 Bar scandal."

The association will use as a basis of the legal actions a copy of the report of the Supreme Court committee which investigated the scandal.

Senior Associate Justice Claudio Teehankee, who was acting Chief Justice at the time the irregularity broke into the open, had promised to make public the Court's investigation.

The other day, the association

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## Freedom Day meaningless—PDP

Copyright, 1982 by Ernesto R. Rodriguez, Jr.

# The Bad Guerrillas of Northern Luzon

By ERNESTO R. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

### Chapter VIII

#### Acosta Appears from Nowhere

My constant companion Pio Verzola, Luciano Directo (who became a lieutenant colonel much later) and I saddled our horses and after several handshakes and embraces with our comrades-in-arms, we whipped our horses to a southerly direction: the road to Banacao.

Two days after our arrival at Banacao, a guerrilla outfit showed up in our encampment. It appeared from nowhere. It was Co. "I" of the 15th Infantry, and was now in operational control of our area. The commander was a young, lanky, not-bad-to-look-at lieutenant, by the name of Julio V. Acosta.

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(The following is an official statement of the Filipino Democratic Party on occasion of the 84th Anniversary of Philippine Independence, June 12, 1982. —ED)

The marking of FREEDOM DAY in this country would continue to be meaningless unless martial rule is truly ended and the following basic freedoms of the Filipino people — lost during the nearly ten years of martial rule — would be FULLY RESTORED:

1. FREEDOM FROM FEAR. Every Filipino must be physically secure personally, in their homes, in the streets, in their places of work and of play, from criminals both in and out of government. They must have access to speedy, inexpensive, and impartial justice. They must be compensated for the violation of their human rights.

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# WE FORUM

TO SEEK AND LIVE THE TRUTH AND SHARE A VISION

VOL. VI NO. 13 \* JUNE 12-15, 1982 \* P1.50 in METRO MANILA

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW -4

# Aquino assails FM's intrigues vs. Muslims

(In our preceding issue, ex-Sen. Benigno S. Aquino, Jr., now in self-exile in the United States, discussed the Mindanao secessionist problem in his interview with WE Forum Publisher-Editor Jose G. Burgos, Jr. in the Aquino home in Boston, Massachusetts recently. The following is a continuation of the transcription of the interview. — ED)

JGB: With your contacts with Misuari, Salamat and Lucman, do you think both are amenable to a continuing dialogue, and if so, can they thresh out their differences?

AQUINO: Yes, but I don't think it's a story that I like it to be because, you know,

Mr. Marcos is also injecting certain divisive forces here. They're being intrigued on both sides. For example, there were rumors floated by the Marcos camp that they gave Salamat \$250,000. Therefore, the Misuari group wanted Salamat to account for the money. But Salamat said, "What should I account? I never received any money." So, I said, "Do not fall for the intrigue of Marcos."

And then, when I was again in the Middle East, there were talks that the children of Lucman have already gone to Malacañang and have already agreed to

talk to their father. And the Misuari group was very, very upset by this. And they said, "Who is Lucman selling out?" And I said, "No. He's not sold out." That's been carried by the propaganda of the enemy and, you know, Marcos is also contributing to the tremendous division of our Moslem brothers. My contention is, rather than disunite them, we should unite them because it is for the good of the entire Filipino people that our Moslem brothers are united. Then, we can talk to one unified group and enter

Page 2, please

## Missing jeepney driver shows up

The acting chairman of the Pagkakaisa ng mga Tsiper at Operators Nationwide (PISTON), reported missing by his family, showed up yesterday afternoon (June 11) at a lawyer's office in Quezon City and confirmed that he has been in hiding (See photo at right).

Medardo Roda told lawyer Antonio P. Coronel, that he went into hiding without the knowledge of his family when he learned that the Metrocom was looking for him for an investigation in connection with an alleged inciting to

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Medardo Roda (left) briefs his lawyer, Antonio P. Coronel, about his situation.

## RP stirring political, military explosion?

By VIC BARRANCO

The Philippine government is stirring a political and military explosion that may involve several states in Southeast Asia and the Far East, by making another Falklands of the Spratly Islands in South China Sea.

The risk of an armed confrontation of the Philippines with any of the six known claimants to this group of islets, was taken last April by Prime Minister Cesar E.A. Virata, who apparently at the behest of President Marcos, went to the Spratleys, otherwise known to the Filipinos as Freedom Land, and declared from the solitary vast-

ness of South China Sea, with the aid of handpicked media men, that the Philippines possessed the far island group and that the Marcos regime was prepared to defend it against any attempt by any foreign power to occupy and annex it.

One of the claimant governments is Taiwan or Nationalist China. The Taipei government had token troops on Itu Aba islet, one of the biggest of this Spratley cluster, which reportedly were withdrawn temporarily.

However, since the Peking government considers all pos-

Page 2, please

## J. Dans gives in on PLDT monopoly

In an apparent reversal of his earlier policy, Transportation and Communications Minister Jose P. Dans, Jr. has said that telecommunications companies (telegram and telex) now have the authority to operate their own joint backbone (transmission) system apart from telephone.

The earlier policy would give the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. the monopoly of a single backbone for telegraph and telephone. This policy was tele-

Page 2, please



## Freedom

From page 1

This freedom may be restored by severe penalties for its violation; by rooting out and severely punishing abusive and corrupt government officials and employees; by ending militarization in many parts of our country; by an honest-to-goodness nationwide anti-crime campaign; by setting up a national police force independent of the military and composed of honest, dedicated, and well-compensated members; by setting up *People's Courts* from the national to the barrio levels, to try erring government officials and employees; by making the judiciary independent and by appointing independent-minded, efficient,

and incorruptible judges.

2. **FREEDOM FROM WANT.** Every Filipino who desires to work must be given the opportunity and encouragement to have decent livelihood to provide themselves and their loved ones with the basic necessities of decent life and with the other necessities for a full life.

This freedom may be restored by a drastic reduction of government expenditures for show-biz projects and other useless and unnecessary projects and activities; by reduction of taxes and of red-tape; by giving sufficient encouragement to private initiative, to hardwork and to creativity, and by penalizing laziness; by channelling funds to public and private education and to low-interest and red-tape free loans to small- and medium-scale enter-

prises.

3. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND OF EXPRESSION.** Every Filipino must have ready access to the TRUTH and must be able to freely express their legitimate views.

This freedom may be restored by severely punishing its violation; by removing curbs on freedom of expression, freedom of association, and freedom of assembly; by providing free public education up to at least the high school level and by providing assistance to non-profit non-sectarian private education; by providing teachers with just compensation and sufficient financial assistance to deserving students.

4. **FREEDOM OF GENUINE PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY.** Every Filipino should have full opportunity to obtain a just share of the economic resources of their country, and — regardless of political or religious persuasion or station in life — have full opportunity to vote in genuine, free, fair, and honest elections, and to be voted for, or to be appointed, to public office.

This freedom may be restored by severely punishing its violation; by making the Commission on Elections truly independent and fair; by encouraging a multi-party system; by the setting up of people's corporations or co-operatives to own and manage strategic industries, public utilities, and natural resources.

5. **FREEDOM FROM DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN DOMINATION.** Our people must cease to be second-class citizens in their own country.

This freedom may be restored by adopting the policy of *Pilipinas Dapag sa Pilipino*; by discouraging multi-national companies and other alien involvement in economic and other activities which should properly be undertaken by Filipinos and which could efficiently be handled by Filipinos; by making naturalization available only to truly deserving aliens and by stripping un-Filipino naturalized citizens of this priceless gift of citizenship.

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We have the human and natural resources to provide the Filipino people with economic freedom. But this economic freedom cannot be achieved without civil and political freedoms.

Finally, the restoration of civil, political, and economic freedoms in this country may be hastened by electing as soon as possible a CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY with proportional representation of all the significant political forces in the country. This CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY shall draft a truly Filipino constitution for a Federal Republic of the Philippines and shall temporarily govern the country until the regular elective officials of the Federal and State governments under the Constitution shall have assumed office.

MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!  
June 12, 1982.

For the PILIPINO DEMOCRATIC PARTY

By:

(Sgd.) Sammy C. Occena  
Secretary-General

## J. Dans

From page 1

cized by leaders of the telegraph industry, saying that the PLDT should not be given the monopoly for both telephone and telegraph because of its already inefficient service.

Dans announced his new policy in a speech recently before the Pacific Telecommunications Council. He said that the need for a separate backbone for telegraph takes into consideration the survival of the telegraph companies.

The same thinking has been voiced out by foreign consultants hired by the government to program an improvement for the telecom-

## Aquino

From page 1

into an agreement.

As it is now, if we want to forge an agreement with Lucman, Misuari may not follow such agreement. If the agreement is with Misuari, Lucman may not follow. So there will always be continuous division.

JGB: But efforts are still being exerted.

AQUINO: Oh, yes. In fact, if I'm not mistaken, there is an MNLF congress that is being called right at this moment while we are talking. I understand that they are going to come up with a resolution which they will present to the Organization of Islamic Conference Meeting to be held in Nigeria in June 26, I think. It's a major meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference and the Philippine Moslem question will once again be taken up and this organization would indicate which group it will support and what course of action it will take.

JGB: The Lucman, Salamat and Misuari groups are working out this resolution.

AQUINO: Yes. Their representatives. I do not have very extensive contacts with the Salamat group. But I understand that the Salamat group is the most reasonable and the most tractable group. In fact, I received word from the Salamat group that if the Lucman-Misuari factions can see their way clear, they will immediately join the agreement.

JGB: When Marcos was in the Middle East only recently, there were reports that he was supposed to meet you, Misuari and all the others. What happened?

AQUINO: Well, I don't know where that report came from because the only contact that I received from Manila is a message from Defense Minister Barbero who asked me to contact the

munications industry. These are the Arthur D. Little, Inc. and Teleconsult.

In the same speech, Dans bared moves that are now being studied to upgrade telecommunications.

1. **The domestic telephone service.** A choice will have to be made between a national monopoly with regional subsidiaries and separate regional (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao) franchises, with a toll network shared among them.

2. **Domestic records services.** A single private sector entity for telegraph and telex, interconnected to a separate government-owned entity, largely in telegraph, to service all towns, would be implemented within next year. This service represents a smaller segment of the total telecommunications market, where consolidation would result in more benefits and with a greater impact to the public at large.

3. **Data services.** Non-regulated competitive entry in data communications to allow innovation to dominate under a free enterprise environment in this new deve-

## RP stirring

From page 1

sessions of Taiwan as its own, including Taiwan itself, the Communist Peking government may have implicitly considered the Spratleys as its own overseas territory, like the Quemoy.

The Spratleys, or Freedom Land as they are called by another claimant, "Admiral" Tomas Cloma, a Bohol businessman and shipping executive, are a strategic, though minuscule, archipelago, for their potential as naval base, as military airfield and refueling station, and as communication and observation post.

Virata, who was quoted by the world press for his surprising, unprovoked outburst against an imagined enemy government, said the Philippine regime considered the Spratleys — or Kalayaan islets, as he rebaptized the group — as the Marcos government's first line of defense against any foreign invader that would endanger the sovereignty, integrity and completeness of the Philippine dispensation.

The Spratley political and military volcano that has been seething as a result of the provocative, daring move by the Philippines, despite its still controversial claim of ownership, which has not yet been "quieted" by an international court or by the UN Security Council, may be on

Moslems and convince them to meet the presidential emissary. And the President indicated that he is willing to send a delegation to meet with the Moslem group anytime, anyplace, anywhere.

I passed on the message to Lucman and the Misuari group. However, they made a counter-proposal that they will meet with the government emissary under the aegis of the OIC under the assurances of the King of Saudi Arabia. And I think these were unacceptable to Marcos.

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lopmental area.

4. **International services.** The government to address the present tendency to expand facilities and branch stations of international record carriers. Full interconnection only from the "sole gateway" of the international carrier to the "international gateway" of the domestic carrier. Any connection from this "sole gateway" to any point or points, within the country, shall be provided only by the national carrier.

5. **Satellite communications.** Domestic satellite communications to use integratively with the public terrestrial system. Segmentation by technology, in this case, is not recommended, where the choice of using such technology is at the discretion of the terrestrial network operator, a competing carrier.

6. **Toll services.** A single integrated toll network for voice, records and data is recommended. Combined usage by owners and carriers. Full interconnection and combined network standards.

the agenda of the reported conference of Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos and the Peking politburo.

Foreign Affairs Minister Carlos P. Romulo has been ignored by President Marcos, Human Settlements Minister Imelda R. Marcos, and Prime Minister Virata on matters like the Spratleys, although they are primarily in the province of diplomacy.

Other foreign governments known to have regarded the Spratleys as their own respective possessions are France, England, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and the former French Indo-China which has now become a sovereign, independent state under the Communist government of Hanoi.

Besides these foreign governments, there is one foreign family, that of Morton F. Meads, that has asserted private ownership of the islands since more than a century back.

The Meads family claimant is represented in the Philippines by a big law organization with offices at Roman Santos building Plaza Goiti, Manila. The J. Sotto Beltran & Associates law organization has questioned the occupation of the islands by the Philippine Armed Forces after perhaps some secret arrangement with "Admiral" Cloma who placed his stake, and virtually established ownership of the islets, in the mid-Fifties.

The unprovoked big words of "demanding" the islands against intrusion and attempt of possession by any foreign power, was therefore a shock to the Filipinos themselves as it was to foreign governments, and to the Meads family, from whom, according to the Meads lawyers in Manila, Tomas Cloma sought to buy the islands, but failed.

Virata's words were all the more shocking in the face of President Marcos' statement in the *Bulletin Today* of July 1, 1971, restating the Philippine position on the Spratleys, to the effect that "the Philippines was not laying any claim on the Spratley islands," anymore.

The *Bulletin* report further said: "The Chief Executive made the statement in the wake of Communist China's charge that the dispatch of Philippine troops to Nansha Island (of the Spratley) was quote an open violation of China's sovereignty by the Philippine government unquote."

But then, in July 1971, the Philippine government was still democratic, and now, at the time Virata made the bold, defiant statement, the Philippines is a dictatorship under martial law. Then, in July 1971, Mr. Marcos was known as Chief Executive, but now, as Virata made the bold, defiant statement, Mr. Marcos is in control of the Batasang Pambansa (legislature), the Parliament and the Parliamentary Cabinet, and the Judicial system and its operation. And in 1971, the newspaper to whom Mr. Marcos made the statement, was a free newspaper; today, the giant Philippine press is subject to "guidelines," set by Malacanang.

## On freedom

By CARMENCITA H. ACOSTA

Once upon history a fierce battle was fought all over the land and thousands upon thousands perished.

Before the bitter fight was over, an era had ended and a new age had begun.

These were the closing years of the nineteenth century when an event occurred whose repercussion would outlast many generations.

June 12, 1898. Kawit, Cavite.

*The Proclamation of Independence is solemnly read.*

*The Philippine flag waves in the air for the first time.*

*The National Anthem rises to a crescendo.*

*Then shouts of "Mabuhay" rend the air.*

*A new nation is born!*

Quite a long journey. From Emilio Aguinaldo to Ferdinand Marcos. Eighty-four years. But history does not count by years but by changes and events within a nation.

June 12, 1898 is not simply a past event, a milestone or a memory; it is history contained in an ongoing story of our country's struggle for freedom.

Freedom from political dictatorship.

Freedom from economic bondage.

Freedom from journalistic captivity.

These are the burning issues of our times.

A nation can enjoy real freedom only in a democracy, not in a political system that rides roughshod over the rights of the people or derives its power from military intimidation.

No nation that is sunk in foreign debt can be truly independent because its economy, which is its lifeblood, becomes fair game for its alien money-lenders.

Captivity of the Press is the natural result of dictatorship. When journalism is shackled, the people's political sensitivity gutters out.

And so, the battle for authentic freedom remains to be fought. But it is one that must be fought in the arena of legislation, of ideology, and of reforms.

The theater of war must be the minds and hearts of men, and not the open fields and mountains.

No violence, please.

No bloodshed, please.

All revolutions, by the fact that indiscriminate killings and wholesale slaughter occur are self-liquidating. Historians and novelists fascinate us by depicting revolution in terms of romance, adventure, heroism and gallantry. But there's a world of difference between the revolution enchantingly described in books and the one grimly fought in real life.

Revolution is chaos and terror and massacre. It's death all around. What's heroic or gallant in the spectacle of Filipinos killing one another? Of dead and wounded bodies strewn all over the land? Of widows and orphans wailing? Of starvation and disease approaching pestilence? Of unrelieved panic and nightmare? Evil cannot be remedied by evil.

Authentic freedom must be won through peaceful means. It must be worked for without hatred in our hearts and without ill will towards anyone. This is not easy. It means overcoming our lower nature. It means plenty of self-control.

Above all, a nation that seeks true freedom must first come to terms with God. Because freedom is a gift from Him. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, Who does not change like shifting shadows" (James 1:17). A nation weighed down by guilt must not expect to be rewarded. A nation where prostitution is flourishing business, where lewd movies and shows abound, where bribery is rampant, where graft and corruption do not abate, where the majority are indifferent — such nation deserves its desserts.

The only alternative is morality and vigilance. When these become our beacon light, then everything else will fall into place.



## Freedom: a yoke and a handcuff

As we celebrate our so-called Freedom Day this 12th of June we cannot but recall the more than 80 years we, the people, have been trying to suit ourselves into what we have been made to conceive as a truly liberated country. We speak of broken chains in terms of countless lives lost, the many dreams shattered and spirits torn — all in the name of love for Mother Country, or nationalism, as we more plainly put it.

Whatever universalists have to say about nationalism — a "primitive attachment to land and therefore divisive," as a noted folksinger-pacifist rationalizes, which in a way holds some truth in it — the consensus is that we cannot try, much more pretend, to be free because as it is now, it's hard to believe we are. If by freedom, in simple terms, is meant unrestrained movement which we also believe should not be mistaken for a license and thus not absolute.

Whether or not we are, in the political context, a truly liberated people doesn't need another 84 years to figure.

At any rate, this time, we focus on the more profound, if philosophical, foundations of freedom, of chains that bind not the body but the spirit.

We take solace from the great philosopher Kahlil Gibran's words in his greatest

achievement, *The Prophet*:

"At the city gate and by your fireside I have seen you prostrate yourself and worship your own freedom,

"Even as slaves humble themselves before a tyrant and praise him though he slays them.

"In the grove of the temple and in the shadow of the citadel I have seen the freest among you wear their freedom as a yoke and a handcuff.

"And my heart bled within

me; for you can only be free when even the desire of seeking freedom becomes a harness to you, and when you cease to speak of freedom as a goal and a fulfillment.

"And what is it but fragments of your own self you would discard that you may become free?

"If it is an unjust law you would abolish, that law was written with your own hand upon your own forehead.

"You cannot erase it by burning your law books nor

by washing the foreheads of your judges, though you pour the sea upon them.

"And if it is a despot you would dethrone, see first that his throne erected within you is destroyed.

"For how can a tyrant rule the free and the proud, but for a tyranny in their own freedom and a shame in their own pride?

"And if it is fear you would dispel, the seat of that fear is in your heart and not in the hand of the feared.

"Verily all things move within your being in constant half embrace, the desired and the dreaded, the repugnant and the cherished, the pursued and that which you would escape.

"These things move within you as lights and shadows in pairs that cling.

"And when the shadow fades and is no more, the light that lingers becomes a shadow to another light.

"And thus your freedom when it loses its fetters becomes itself the fetter of a greater freedom."

Unless we break the walls we ourselves have built within our hearts, freedom will ever be the "strongest of these chains" that will bind us forever. — (LGG)



Below is the imposing Basilica in Naga City where the miraculous image of the Lady of Peñafrancia would have been enshrined had it not been stolen last year by still unidentified persons. The Basilica was nevertheless blessed last month where a replica of the missing image had been installed.

## Humanities

### War of ideologies

The following is an excerpt from a series of reflections by members of the Philippine Hierarchy on the addresses of Pope John Paul II to the Filipino people published in the CBCP (Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines) Monitor.

In view of the unjust situations obtaining in the country, one can say that a war of ideologies is now raging in both urban and rural areas. The objective is the heart and mind of the Filipino: to attract and capture his loyalty and allegiance by presenting before him alternative societies that promise a better future. We realize that even some from the ranks of the clergy and religious can succumb to the temptations of opposing ideologies.

On the one hand is the ideology of Marxist collectivism that aims to establish a classless society through a dictatorship of the proletariat. It intensifies the class struggle with the use of Marxist social analysis and other tools, thus fomenting as a necessary and inevitable consequence the armed revolution of the masses by which societies are violently transformed into a collective solidarity, with ownership of all production in the hands of the state. With its materialistic philosophy, it allows no room for the transcendent and avows militant atheism. Since it believes that economics is the determinant of all reality, it

leads to an idolatrous worship of wealth — in collectivist terms (*Puebla*, 543). Yet though a collectivist state, people-power is a fiction as absolute power resides effectively in the Communist Party.

On the other hand is the ideology of capitalist liberalism that is really a kind of practical atheism. For this ideology views "profit as the chief spur to economic progress, free competition as the supreme law of economics and private ownership of the means of production as an absolute right, having no limits nor concomitant social obligations" (*Populorum Progressio*, 26). It therefore results into an "idolatrous worship of wealth in individualistic terms" (*Puebla*, 542).

The national security state is a phenomenon that flows from either ideology, for as one ideology becomes the dominant ideology of the state, in order to maintain and perpetuate itself in power, national security as the ultimate if not absolute value becomes the measure in the exercise of human rights.

To be continued



## POETRY

### Pilipinas kong mahal

Pilipinas, Pilipinas kong bayan  
Tanglaw ka sa aking pagkatao,  
Kapurihan mo'y aking aalagaan  
Dito sa aking lupang tinubuan,

Ako'y Pilipinong anak mo  
Kaya karangalan kong ako'y napasaiyo,  
Dito sa aking tinubuang bayan  
Karapatan mo'y ipaglalaban ko

Sa tulong ng dasal ko'y,  
Tunay na kalayaan ang ibig mo  
Sa huwad na pagbabalakayo ng dayuhan,  
Ay karapatan nating ilabas ang katotohanan,

Laya ng ating mamamayan  
Lumalaong, nawawalan ng katarungan  
Sa pakopyang batas-dayuhan  
Lipi natin ang pinahihihirapan,

Panahon na! Maari ang KATOTOHANAN  
Para sa KATARUNGAN ng ating bayan,  
KALAYAANG lubos ang kailangan  
Sa isang bansa, isang diwa,  
PILIPINAS KONG MAHAL

Kabataang Demokratiko  
c/o Kayumangging Pilipino  
Uthik Vergara  
Munoz, Nueva Ecija

## The World

### Terror campaign vs. SEA refugees

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Five youths were arrested here in connection with a campaign of terror and harassment against Southeast Asian refugees that included firing rifles and tossing incendiary bombs at a family

home, police said.

The campaign of terror was apparently sparked by jealousy over the quality of public housing allocated to the refugees, said a police officer.

Three juveniles, whose



Vietnam: stalked by hopelessness and hunger. (World Press)

identities were not released, were arrested after they were seen emerging from the Kwong family apartment, which was earlier destroyed by molotov cocktails. One child was lightly injured during the attack.

Two teen-agers, Donald Bruce, 18, and Randolph Jackson, 19, were arrested later under charges of burglary, arson and possession of a molotov cocktail.

### Laos' former king sought

NICE, Southern France (AFP) — Cambodia's former head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk has called for an investigation to determine whether former King of Laos Savang Vatthana and members of his family are still alive after five years as prisoners of Laotian Communist authorities. He called on the United Nations to organize new "truly free" general elections in Cambodia and Laos, under the strictest international control.

### No US visas for Red Japs?

TOKYO (AFP) — Thirty anti-nuclear Japanese campaigners staged a sit-down demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy to demand the immediate issue of entry visas to about 400 fellow members who are planning to attend next month's U.N. special assembly on disarmament.

So far, no U.S. visas have been issued to members of the organization — the Communist-backed Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo).

Although the reason has not been given, observers believe it is because Gensuikyo is affiliated with the opposition Japan Communist Party.

## WORLD NEWS FOLIO

### Drought wracks villages, crops

NEW DELHI (AFP) — More than 20 million people in the Indian desert state of Rajasthan are reeling under a severe drought, according to official reports. Some 23,246 villages out of the state's total 33,305 villages have been declared "famine-affected" by the state government. The drought damaged more than 50 percent of crops, and in several areas, 90 percent, according to estimates.

### Vietnam's Amerasians can leave

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnam will allow all children clearly identified as having an American parent to leave for the United States, authoritative sources said here. However, a Foreign Ministry official said after discussions with a seven-member American veterans' group visiting Hanoi, said the matter would have to be discussed in more concrete terms.

### Cocaine death rate up

ATLANTA, Georgia (AFP) — The rate of cocaine-related deaths quadrupled in the United States between 1976 and 1981, while that of those treated in hospitals for cocaine-related conditions multiplied six-fold in the same period, the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) said here. The rate of cocaine deaths per 10,000 population went from 4.5 to 19.1.

### Transnationals blamed for shortages

LAGOS (APS) — Ghana, Nigeria and other African countries are suffering from serious shortages of medicines due to the manipulations of the transnational pharmaceutical industry. A United Nations information services survey shows that the transnationals are deliberately creating shortages so as to dump products which are either old and stale or else banned on grounds that they are dangerous to human beings.



# Pulse

## Editorial

### Welcome move

The step taken by the Food and Drug Administration to screen rigidly all locally and foreign manufactured drugs to be marketed in the country is a welcome move. We hope the acting administrator, Catalina C. Sanchez, can implement the policy without fear or favor.

This policy has varied implications. One and foremost, of course, is that the health of the people can be safeguarded. Another is that those needing medication won't be spending money on useless medicines.

We foresee, however, that there would be attempts to subvert Madame Sanchez in her initiative because the manufacture and sale of unsafe and ineffective drugs is attractive. It means lesser capital raking more profits. We believe Administrator Sanchez has many well-wishers in her campaign. For one, consumer organizations have long been in the fight against useless and hazardous drugs in order to protect the buying public.

## With a grain of salt



### Pickets were never like these

By ARMANDO J. MALAY

When the trial lawyers sometime ago staged a picket at the Supreme Court building, little did they realize that their hitherto unheard-of action would trigger similar mass actions in other professional sectors of the country.

Thus it came to pass that the doctors in the Philippine General Hospital picketed the office of their director for his failure to remove the cooked-food vendors just outside the gate to the PGH premises. Every day, the doctors would see cooked spaghetti and pancit, in uncovered pots, displayed on the sidewalk. Vendors of boiled corn, siopao, balut, cakes, and other food articles occupy every available space at the gate area. Buses for Laguna and Batangas also park there. It was truly a hell of a place. The doctors, in immaculate white uniforms, carried placards. "Mr. Director: You Have

Lost Credibility!" "PGH Gate - Nakakahiya!" read some of the placards.

The picket fever spread. Colonels and lieutenant colonels, joined by some majors, threw a picket line outside the offices of the Minister of National Defense and the Chief of Staff. Sweating profusely in the hot sun, the colonels brandished placards which said, "Overstaying Generals Should Go," "Generals, Go Fly a Kite," and similar sentiments. One time the picketers sang "The Old Gray Mare Ain't What She Used to Be," "If I Loved You," and other old songs.

Not to be outdone, officials of trans-national corporations (TNCs), leaving their airconditioned offices in Makati, picketed the offices of *WE Forum*, *Who* magazine, the *Philippine Collegian* and other fire-brand publications. The placards they carried said, "Leave Us Alone!" "Only the TNCs Can Save This

Sometimes in a rare, unguarded moment, Metro Manila's daily newspapers, also known as the collective mouthpiece of the Marcos administration, comes out with certain news items that would have been normally labelled as "subversive" propaganda and, therefore, unfit for the reading public's consumption.

I am referring to an almost innocuous news-story published on page 14 (Business section) of the Manila Daily Bulletin, in its June 8, 1982 issue. The story's headline didn't really say much ("Final GNP for 1981 put at low 3.8%") but the story itself was an indictment of the propensity of government authorities to hide the truth and slant the news.

Excerpts of the news-story:

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) yesterday released the final corrected gross national product (GNP) figures for 1981, reflecting a real GNP growth rate of 3.8 percent, compared to 4.4 percent in 1980.

It was the third time

Country," "We Don't Exploit You; You Exploit Us!" As reported later in the newspapers, the TNC's picket action was peaceful, no untoward incident. After 30 minutes, the picketeers went to a plush hotel and had a grand luncheon which they charged to Overhead Expenses.

And the owners of private schools picketed the offices of the student councils and the student papers, decrying what they said were unfair tactics to get them to the bargaining table; architects and engineers picketed the offices of foreign firms engaged in the construction business and demanded that these aliens get out. And, wonder of wonders, the justices of

## Publisher's Notes

### Propensity of gov't to hide the truth

By JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.

the NEDA estimates for GNP in 1981 was revised. In January, the government announced preliminary estimates of a 4.9 percent real GNP growth rate for 1981. This was subsequently scaled down last February to a figure of 4.0 percent.

Last March, the report of the International Monetary Fund questioned even the revised 4.0 percent GNP growth rate in 1981 as revised by the government.

The IMF report said that the estimate proved difficult to reconcile with the data on exports, imports, and industrial layoffs, and with fiscal and monetary developments.

the higher courts picketed the headquarters of the lawyers' associations that had started the picket business in the first place!

But the strangest action was that staged by the policemen. One day they all left their posts and marched around the city, carrying placards which said, "We Demand Respect from You," "We Policemen Are Your Protectors," "Make Love, Not War," etc. The jeepney and bus drivers could only gaze with wonder as the pot-bellied policemen marched to the Luneta and burned an effigy of a jeepney driver.

The picket fever lasted about a week. After that, everything went back to normal.



According to the IMF, the real growth in 1981 must have been substantially lower and the tentative IMF staff estimate was 2.5 percent real GNP growth rate in 1981.

Based on the final corrected GNP figures released by the NEDA yesterday, the construction industry was the one mainly responsible for buoying up the economy last year. This sub-sector registered a growth rate of 9.7 percent compared to a slackened pace of 0.3 percent the previous year.

\*\*\*\*\*  
ERRATUM: The headline of this column in our June 9 (Wednesday) issue was to put it frankly, misleading. The headline which read "Another massacre in Las Navas, Samar," got garbled up somewhere along the production line, making it appear that there was indeed another

"massacre" in that Visayas town when in truth and in fact, only one person was killed. For this mistake, my apologies.

\*\*\*\*\*  
The deteriorating peace and order situation in Bicolandia can be gleaned by any motorist travelling the Pan-Pacific Friendship Highway otherwise known as the "South Road." From the Quezon-Camarines Norte Boundary down south, in the heart of the Bicol region, one encounters ubiquitous military checkpoints manned by serious-looking, armalite-wielding soldiers. Along the way, too, are squads of uniformed military men patrolling the main roads even during daytime. The clear implication is that the New People's Army is very much around, thereby keeping our men in uniform on their toes.

## This is my own

### The true picture



By JOAQUIN R. ROCES

The ruling party must really believe in amnesty. For they gave themselves amnesty in advance. For all their acts, — future, past and present. So long as the act is upon orders of the President. All this thru the law granting themselves immunity.

Obviously, amnesty for them begins at home. Tho amnesty, like justice, should be for all. If it is to bring about unity at all.

Yet instead of granting general amnesty. Cases continue to be cooked up off and on. Against a tested and honorable person. Like Eva Kalaw, Jovito Salonga, or Ernesto Rondon. To make them stand trial like a common criminal. Destroy their political image before the nation. Through this insidious scheme at transfiguration.

Aquino, for instance, is not a criminal. Tho he has been convicted, and remains charged. Most of those who testified against him. Have all been mysteriously liquidated. And their testimony thus perpetuated. But his own trial has been sporadic, orchestrated.

For if Aquino were indeed a criminal. As they would like to make it appear thru the trials. Why did Harvard University honor him with a fellowship? Or is Harvard University now coddling criminals?

Harvard is a training ground for future leaders. Men expected one day to hold a big position. Harvard is not a Correctional Institution.

So Aquino standing on trial is a cartoon. Aquino in Harvard is the true picture. And if we, as a people, want to have a future. We must be able to tell. A cartoon from a picture.

### Kokoy Jokes of the Week:

Kokoy's wife was eating chestnuts. "What do you call castanias in English?" she asked Kokoy.  
His reply: "Castanets!"

\*\*\*\*\*

When Kokoy was wooing his wife, he brought her a box of candy and said, "Sweets for the sweet." Her response, "Nuts to you!"

\*\*\*\*\*

The President saw his brother-in-law looking worried. "Kokoy, you look distressed. What's the matter?"  
Kokoy: "Nothing's the matter with me. I was just thinking..."

\*\*\*\*\*

Kokoy was complaining about an aching tooth. "It's driving me to extraction," he said.  
"You mean distraction," said the friend.  
"No, I mean I want it pulled out, you dumbbell."

\*\*\*\*\*

Kokoy's wife begged his friends. "Please don't tell him any funny story Saturday evenings." But why? they wanted to know. "Because he'll laugh in church the next day."

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## Viewpoints



### A cavorting CFI Judge

By RAUL M. GONZALEZ

A CFI Judge in Cavite has been openly cavorting with a litigant in his sala which has already scandalized well-meaning people in the area of his jurisdiction. A prominent citizen in the locality told me that this gungho judge has probably never heard also of the world "delicadeza" that every day, according to my informants, "His Honor" dines with this litigant, and he even uses the car of this person everywhere he goes. Incidentally, this is the same judge who recently issued two conflicting restraining orders — one for the plaintiff in one case and then for the plaintiff in another case involving the same property and issues. Perhaps this judge never heard of the rule on "lis pendens."

\*\*\*  
Last week I tried to inquire from the MLGCD, specifically the Bureau of Local Governments, then later in the office of

Deputy Minister Socrates, for the address of Benguet Governor Ben Palispis because of the request made by the Governor of the Kochi Prefecture in Japan for a message from Governor Palispis to commemorate the twining of Benguet and Kochi as sister provinces. You see I have communicated with the Benguet Governor twice but never got any reaction from him and I was afraid that, perhaps, my letters which were all sent to the Governor's office in La Trinidad, Benguet, may have been lost. I also thought that I was doing some favor for the Province of Benguet and the Philippine program of Kochi and Benguet.

\*\*\*  
Ms. Edith Coliver, that amiable and helpful lady of the Asia Foundation who is a keen observer on legal aid activities of the various Bar organizations,

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## A matter of opinion



### Will Puno succeed Fernando on July 25?

By ERNESTO R. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

In our last column, we published in full the Postmaster General's letter to us dated 3 June 1982. We made no comments on it at the time because we felt that Mr. J. Roilo S. Golez was entitled to his "day in court," and we didn't want him to think that we were the disputatious kind, the kind who's fond of arguing for the sake of arguing.

The fact of the matter though, is that I have been bellyaching against our postal system for some time now but both Mr. Golez and his assistant, my friend Pete Gambalan, have chosen to ignore my complaints. That is, until I decided to write about it in WE Forum, which, according to reliable sources, is the favorite reading matter of the high and mighty in the government service. More power to WE Forum!

I am glad to note that the PMG agrees with me that "the service in your (our) area indeed needs much improvement" and that "this will be closely

monitored." Just like I said in my column of May 5-7, 1982 ("Our antediluvian postal system"), Mr. Golez would put up the stock argument of shortage in personnel in his defense, and indeed he did, but the question is what is he, or, better still, the government doing about it? The situation can only get worse before it gets better.

Replacing the postmaster alone will not solve the problem of either incompetence or lack of integrity. It may only mean a change of collars for the same dog.

Only last Monday, 7 June, I received a book (Paul F. Boller, Jr.'s "Presidential Anecdotes") parcel from a friend in New York City. The parcel left the "Big Apple" on 19 February. That means it has taken more than three months and a half for this parcel to reach me. There is no question then that our postal system is indeed antediluvian.

Even Noah would have

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## Philippine scene



### Kuro-kuro

### Pasyon at kamatayan ng ating kalayaan



By FRANCISCO 'SOC' RODRIGO

(Ang tulang sumusunod ay natapos sulatin noong Setyembre 30, 1975).

#### Diktadura

126. Ang hantunga't layon ng probisyong ito  
Ay gawing diktador ang dating Pangulo;  
Saka palitawing tayong mga tao  
Ang sadyang nagpukpok ng bato sa ulo.

#### Ayaw ng bayan

127. Alam ng Pangulong yaong diktadura'y  
Di nais ng bayang maka-demokrasya —  
Kaya't ginamitan ng mga taktika  
Upang magtagumpay ang maruming pita.

#### Sumandali lang daw ang Martial Law

128. Pinapaniwala itong sawing bayang  
Ang diktadura daw ay sumandali lang...  
Di raw magtatagal at pasisimulan  
Ang parlamentaryo na pamahalaan.

#### Pain sa mga delegado at mga myembro ng kongreso

129. At tinakam yaong mga delegado,  
Pati mga myembro ng buong Kongreso  
Na sila'y magiging pawang mga myembro  
Ng pansamantalang bagong Parlamento.

130. At katakam-takam ang laki ng sueldo...  
Sang-taong sahod ay animnapung libo;  
At mayroon pa raw mga pribilehyo,  
Saka "allowances" at iba pang premyo.

#### Ang pasubali

131. Nguni't yaon lang daw mga delegado  
Na nangagsipayag bumoto ng "Oo"  
Para sa probisyong kunwa'y transitoryo  
Ang magiging myembro niyaong Parlamento.

132. Gayon din, ang tanging kasama sa lista  
Ay pawang yaon lang mga kongresista  
At mga senador na nangagsipirma  
At nangagdeklarang pumapayag sila.

#### Maraming kumagat sa pain

133. Maliban sa ilan, lahat ay nabihag —  
Sa kislap ng tukso'y pawang nangabulag.  
Kaya't nagsiboto at nangasipayag  
Na baya'y masilo sa umang na bitag.

#### Mga nanindigan sa simulain

- 133-A. Labing-lima yaong mga delegado  
Na naglakas-loob na bumoto nang No,  
Kahit talos nila na ang bunga nito  
Ay di sila myembro niyaong parlamento.  
133-B. Sila'y sina Diaz, Barrera, Ordonez,  
Castro, David, Fernan, Occena, Gonzales;  
Gayon din sina Yap, Pimentel, Rosales,  
At sina Garcia, Piit, Teves, Flores.  
133-C. Yaong naka-presong mga delegado  
Na nabanggit ko na sa tula kong ito  
Ay di tinulutan na mangagsiboto  
Sa mga probisyong aniya'y transitoryo.  
134. Ang mga senador na hindi pumirma  
Ay sina Aquino, Diokno at Salonga  
Sina Eva Kalaw, Roxas at Padilla;  
Pelaez, Doy Laurel at saka si Mitra.

May Karugtong

## Opinion

### Views & Interviews

### Backwardness of science



By Prof. SALVADOR ROXAS GONZALEZ

#### PART VIII

Apart from the application of science, the study of science should be pursued for the sake of science while one is studying, and not for the sake of making money. A scientist is a problem-solver, not a money-maker, although his science will make money for others later. Many of the great discoveries in science started from fundamental and simple problems, so simple that they may often be called silly at the beginning. Quantum theory emerged as a solution to the problem that physicists were engrossed with: "What is the energy inside a hole?" Jeans and Rayleigh at Cambridge, England, solved the problem partly, and so did Wien. It was only when Planck, in 1900, changed the entire concept of energy as given out in terms of quanta (spurts) rather than continuously that a complete solution and theory of "black body" radiation was possible. And quantum theory began our whole mathematical quest into the structure of the atom and the nucleus, although it is not too successful with the latter. It is the theory that gave rise to quantum mechanics, and semiconductors and solid state physics are studied by means of quantum mechanics.

Relativity theory began with the puzzle: "Why is it that Newton's laws of mechanics were invariant under ordinary transformation of coordinate systems whereas Maxwell's laws of electrodynamics were not?" Indeed, either mechanics didn't work, but it did; or the laws of electricity were wrong and dynamos shouldn't run, yet they did; or another form of coordinate transformation was needed, the Lorentz transformation, and this Einstein formulated. Nuclear energy itself was discovered by Hahn and Strassmann accidentally, by doing something else. In fact they stumbled upon nuclear energy in 1939 when they were trying to produce bigger nuclei, i.e., nuclei bigger than those of uranium (hence called trans-uranic), by bombarding uranium-238 with neutrons in accordance with the method of Fermi. One type of uranium present, the isotope uranium-235, broke apart (fissioned) and gave out tremendous amount of energy.

The marvelous thing to note is that the computation is made by utilizing Einstein's mass-energy equivalence formula, the famous  $E = mc^2$  (where E stands for energy, m for mass, and c for the value of the velocity of light in vacuo, equal to 186,000 miles per second). Einstein, in 1905, never dreamt that his theory of relativity would be utilized in nuclear energy; all he was interested in at that time was to solve a scientific riddle. This is to warn those who talk too much of relevance that scientists would always be relevant whether one likes it or not. Sometimes those who mouth "relevance" are the most irrelevant people in the country to tell scientists the meaning of relevance and meddle in the education of scientists by making the students do all kinds of work unrelated to their study, as if studying seriously were not work enough. Science students cannot concentrate on their studies because they have to do all kinds of YCAP.

A scientist is basically a thinker, his mind is his greatest asset. The minds of its scientists are the nation's greatest asset. All advanced nations know that, and poor nations remain poor because they ignore that. A hundred years ago one would have been called a lunatic if one seriously talked of travelling to the moon; now it's done, and the spin-effects of the scientific projects for the moon journeys, such as the production of space satellites and telecommunications and remote-sensing benefit many. The real lunatic was the man who said it couldn't be done, or that going to the moon was irrelevant. It was the first stage in man's attempt to look for other planets even beyond our solar system, before we become overpopulated on earth. Would one dare say that this can't be done too, go to other planets in our galaxy and beyond and find another home for mankind? Relativity theory says it can be done. Ageing slows down as we travel fast. The moral lesson is what Francis Bacon used to tell England: "Knowledge is power." Here in the Philippines it seems that ignorance is power. So many ignorant men have power! I pity our country.

To be continued



# A fresh look at prostitution

By ERIBERTO A. TABAN-UD, JR.

## PART I

Anti-prostitutionism is generally accepted in the Philippines. It is inherent in the anti-hedonistic feature of Christianity, the major religious doctrine in the country. A long colonial history of Church and State collaboration had effectively impeded any attempt to view prostitution at a contrary angle.

Although, at present, the Church and State have already been separated — religion-based morals against prostitution are still dominating the State law. It is not meant, however, that such religion-originating moral basis of the State law be rejected — mere reformation is sufficient. Such moralistic reformation of our State law, particularly in regard to prostitution, may be necessary out of the demands of changing times. And that motive forms the main core of this pro-legalization view on prostitution.

This standpoint is divided into two main approaches, namely, the philosophical and economic. The philosophical

portion is set out to assess the charges against prostitution and, later, to suggest some social policy guidelines. On the other hand, the economics part shall show the relative changes in economic welfare of the directly affected social groups.

### I. The Ericsson Philosophy on Prostitution

Lars O. Ericsson had assessed seven charges against prostitution.

(Two of the charges shall be excluded here.) Later, he made some policy suggestions.

**The Charge from Conventional Morality.** The first charge, which is also the most common, is the charge from conventional morality: prostitution is undesirable (hence ought to be eradicated) because it constitutes a case of sexual immorality. Because of this, society has developed hostile and primi-

tive attitudes about it.

Moralistic condemnation of prostitution can be explained through what seems an anthropological fact that sexual institutions are ranked on the basis of their relation to reproduction. Hence, the monogamous marriage constitutes the sexual institution in society which is ranked the highest and which receives the strongest support from law and mores. On the other hand, the less a sexual practice has to do with the bearing and rearing of children, the less sanctioned it is.

Second, in the Christian doctrine — to indulge in sexual activities is bad enough, but to indulge in them for the sheer fun and pleasure of them is a major feat in the art of sin.

Finally, according to L.O. Ericsson:

"...I, upon reflection, am no more able to see that coition for a fee is intrinsically wrong than I am able to see that drunkenness is. ... If two adults voluntarily consent to an economic arrangement concerning sexual activity and this activity takes place in private, it seems plainly absurd to maintain that there is something intrinsically wrong with it. ... To say that prosti-

tution is intrinsically immoral is in a way to refuse to give any arguments. The moralist simply 'senses' or 'sees' its immorality. And this terminates rational discussion at the point where it should begin." (L.O. Ericsson, "Charges against Prostitution: An Attempt at a Philosophical Assessment," pp. 338-339).

**The Paternalistic Charge.** There are occupational hazards connected with prostitution which constitute a serious problem. The prostitute runs the risk of being hurt, physically as well as mentally. It is, therefore, not uncommon to find it argued that prostitution is undesirable because it is not the best interest of the prostitute to be what she is. It is held that society should, for the prostitutes' own good, try to prevent people from becoming prostitutes and to try to "rehabilitate" those who already are. This type of criticism is referred as "the paternalistic charge."

The paternalistic charge rests on two assumptions, neither of which is valid. First, it rests on the assumption that society's scorn for whoredom is justified. Second, it rests on the assumption that the hooker is not doing a socially valuable job. From these assumptions together with the fact that harlotry is known to be a hazardous profession — the paternalist jumps to the conclusion — that prostitution is undesirable and that society should intervene against it for the prostitutes' own good.

**The Marxist Charge.** The Marxist opposition against prostitution generally forms part and parcel of the Marxist opposition to capitalism and to the property and family relations created by it. Harlotry is regarded as the off-

spring of class society, and, says Engels, it "is based on private property and falls with it." (Friedrich Engels, *Principles of Communism* — the draft for the *Communist Manifesto*.)

The strength of the Marxist analysis is two-fold. First, it resolutely brushes aside the moralistic veil, which lures us to place the prostitute in a category of her own — a category that creates a barrier between her and ordinary, "decent" people. Second, it does not regard prostitution as an isolated phenomenon but places it in its socio-economic context. "To fight prostitution," says Kollontai, "is to fight the foundations of capitalist society." (A. Kollontai, *Marriage and the Family Problem*.) To her, prostitution is a tumor on the unjust and inhuman economic system which is capitalism.

The weakness of the Marxist critique lies partly in the fact that it is so general and unspecific. By saying that the Marxist critique is so general and unspecific, what is meant is that it is not a critique of whoredom per se. In fact, Marxist opposition to prostitution is completely derivative of the Marxist opposition to capitalism.

The truth is that prostitution has proved to be highly insensitive to variety in economic organization. In one form or another whoredom has existed in primitive, feudal, and capitalist as well as socialist societies. And when the amount of prostitution has been heavily reduced for a short period in some society, the reduction has practically never been due to economic measures but to various authoritarian methods of supervision.

**The Feminist Charge.** This charge states: prostitution is held to be undesirable on the ground that it constitutes an extreme instance of the inequality between the sexes.

It could be argued that harlotry is unequal in the sense that some benefit is withheld from or denied women that is not withheld from or denied men. In this case, two things appear to be eminently clear. The first is that prostitution is unequal though in a class serious way, because there is no such legal or formal obstacle which stands in their way. In fact, instead of saying that the sex services of the prostitute are withheld or denied women, it would be more appropriate to say that centuries of cultural and social conditioning makes them desist from asking for them. It is, after all, only recently that women have begun to define their sexuality and require that their sexual needs and desires be recognized. The second point is that if, through prostitution, a benefit is "withheld" the female sex, the best way to deal with this in-

equality would not be an attempt to modify it, but by making the benefit in question available to both sexes.

The crude economic exploitation of the prostitutes is not an argument against prostitution. It rather constitutes an accusation against the laws, regulations, and attitudes which create the preconditions for that exploitation. It is society's hypocritical attitude toward harlotry and harlots which seems to be the major culprit. Then, society cannot both allow harlotry and deprive harlots of reasonable working conditions (as a concession to "common decency") and still expect that all will be well.

As for the version according to which the whore is rectified — turned into an object, a thing — may be interpreted as saying that the whore is nothing but a means, a mere instrument, for the male customer's ends. Its Kantian character does deserve a few words of comment, however. First of all, that the customer treats the harlot as a means to his ends is only partly true. The other part of the truth is that the prostitute treats her customer as a means to her ends. Thus, the complete truth (if it deserves to be called that) is that prostitute and customer treat one another as means rather than as ends.

Both men and women need to be liberated from the harness of their respective sex roles. But in order to be able to do this, we must liberate ourselves from the mental fossils which prevent us from looking upon sex and sexuality with the same naturalness as upon our cravings for food and drink. And, contrary to popular belief, we may have something to learn from prostitution in this respect, namely, that coition resembles nourishment in that it can always be bought. And bought meals are not always the worst.

**The Charge of a Disturbed Emotional Life.** Most of the emotional problems that afflict prostitutes can be traced back to the social stigma attached to their way of life. If people's attitudes to sexuality, promiscuity, and mercenary sex were different — if for example, prostitutes were held in esteem instead of in degradation — they might display very little of the mental disturbances that often haunt them today.

To be continued

## The bad

From page 1

He had once lived in Bangued and was pretty well-known to my cousin-in-law Esper Viste and our dear friend Juanito Bersamira Viado, who had joined us with his family in our mass hegira to Banacao. (Aning, a younger brother of former Forest Development Director Jose Viado, was at the time of his death the president of Universal Telecommunication Service, Inc.)

Was this Julio V. Acosta the "Acosta" that was frequently mentioned in the confidential conversations between Diana and Montante? I wondered. I was not to know until a few hours later, and I was not prepared either for the events that were to follow.

I was introduced to Acosta as a newspaperman-lawyer from Manila. Viado told him I was close to General MacArthur and was one of General Romulo's trusted "boys." Whereupon, he asked me to help him get a promotion in the armed forces "when the war's over." I realized even then that my life depended upon my newsman's I.D. I promised him I'd try my best. For what choice did I have really? Lieutenant Acosta seemed to me like he was one who could get along with people.

But the shock did come.

Less than 24 hours after Acosta's establishment of his temporary headquarters at Banacao, and as I was passing by a big mango tree on the way from the river where I had bathed to the place where I had my quarters, I espied a familiar face.

He was sitting on the ground and his hands were tied behind his back. And the rope encircled the base of the mango tree.

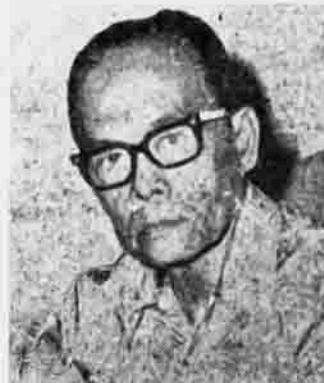
It was Jesus Montante all right. The man who befriended me on the way to La Paz and the one who had cut my hair two days ago. Montante was a swarthy, squat, well-built man, a little on the fat side. But he was a jovial and friendly type. And I had learned to like him. (I was to learn much later that he was the father-in-law of INP Capt. Cesar Dalanon, one of the country's most famous cops.)

Jesus Montante smiled at me. I smiled back and I wanted to talk to him but someone signalled me to keep my mouth shut and stay away from the man. Apparently, it was not safe to greet "condemned" people. Being a newspaperman by instinct and a politician by avocation, and of course a lawyer to boot, I was curious to know what it was all about. But one had to be very careful during those days.

I approached one guerrilla sergeant, the second in command to Acosta. His name was Claudio Bagaoisan (he later became chief of police of Bacarra, Ilocos Norte), and he told me that Montante had been captured in the house of a friend not very far from Banacao, in a barrio by the bank of the Abra River.

What had he done? I asked. Montante was one of Acosta's "wanted" men. According to the gossip, he was the "boy friend" of Acosta's mother and that he had been harsh in his dealings with young Acosta in Bangued. He had, it was said, burned Julio Acosta's hand with a lighted cigaret during the young man's confinement in Bangued's municipal jail. It must be remembered that Montante was a police sergeant in Bangued at the outbreak of the war.

The relations between Acosta and Montante had rankled through the years. And Acosta's golden opportunity to get even with his former tormentor and his mother's paramour



The late Juanito B. Viado, president of the Universal Telecommunication Service, Inc. and younger brother of former Forestry Director Jose Viado, introduced the author to killer Lieut. Julio V. Acosta. He helped save the lives of many of his comprovincianos.



Jose Montante, former superintendent of the Manila office, Bureau of Prisons, is the younger brother of Jesus Montante. He returned to Abra after the war and retrieved the mortal remains of his brother, who died at the hands of Acosta.

had come at last! It was time to settle old grudges. And Acosta was now in power.

I did not have to wait long for developments.

This was my first eye-witness experience of watching an atrocity committed by a bad guerrilla. For the first time in my life I was to be confronted with the evidence of a crime. How was I going to take it? This was to be the acid test of my character.

Lieut. Julio V. Acosta went down his house and proceeded to the mango tree. He was holding a carbine and, at the end of it, he had fixed an ugly-looking bayonet. He looked neither to the right nor to the left. He was intent on doing something



Rubera Vasquez-Montante, the widow of Jesus Montante, now lives in the United States with the family of her daughter Adelaida de Castaneda and her youngest son Florio.



Adelaida Montante-Castaneda, one of the late Jesus's daughters, is married to a U.S. Air Force man, and resides in the U.S. with her mother Rubera V. Montante.

Let's give freedom a chance!

and to getting it done away with immediately.

There was an air of decisiveness about him. And his eyes were sharp and he flushed with apparent anger. There was no mistaking his intentions.

My eyes strayed to the crowd around me. Pio Verzola was in his own quarters, shivering from an attack of malaria, and he probably did not want to see another repetition of what happened at San Antonio. Before Acosta's coming, there must have been more than a dozen men, women, and children grouped around Montante. Many of them must have known their sergeant of police in Bangued; no one however greeted him, much less smile at him. A few just avoided meeting his fearful gaze.

It was the moment of truth for all of us in that small crowd. In situations like that it was every man for himself. No one would claim he knew the "convict," as in this case Montante was convict in the eyes of the authority. The authority, of course, was at the end of the barrel of Acosta's gun, the ugly-looking bayonet.

If you said you knew him, the question becomes "why?" And in the eyes of the bloodthirsty, trigger-happy guerrillas, you will be as guilty as your friend, something like guilt by association actually.

Acosta spat on the face of Jesus Montante. He tore away the rosary from around Montante's neck. Then he gave him a violent kick in the shins. He hit him with the butt of his carbine. Blood flowed freely from the mouth and the legs of Montante. The poor man looked at his tormentor soulfully and begged for forgiveness.

Acosta glowered at him and shouted several obscenities, some of the most picturesque Ilocano obscenities I had ever heard in all my life. Then, he mentioned something about his own mother, and followed it with an explosive oath.

To be continued



## Aquino

From page 2

So, I don't know what happened. But there were attempts. The fact is, they did not meet because somewhere along the line, the counter-proposals of the Moslem group were not acceptable to the government.

**JGB:** There were also reports which gave us quite a stir that sometime last year, you were in Mindanao.

**AQUINO:** No. I was somewhere near Mindanao. I was never inside Mindanao. I feel that it would be imprudent for me to go there because while our Moslem brothers claim that they have certain liberated areas, I felt that I should not go there at the moment because I had no business to be there. All I asked them was that we should study ways and means of reducing this level of violence. After

all, whether soldiers die or Moslems die, they are all Filipinos dying.

I do believe that the Moslem problem transcends Marcos. Even when Marcos is gone, this problem will still be with us. And the sooner we do our homework, the better. The sooner we can work for the welfare of our Moslem brothers, the better. So that whoever replaces Marcos, I feel that I can act as courier for whatever organization.

I do not presume that I will be able to convince anyone but I do claim that I can deliver the message. And that's very important.

Now, as I understand it, the Misuari group especially, has been burned by Marcos. They will never, never again talk to him after what they suffered in 1976. According to Nur, when

## Lawyers

From page 1

tion requested Teehankee to furnish it a copy of the investigation report.

In a letter-request, the association reminded the Associate Justice that a committee formed by the high tribunal to probe the scandal would be published in full in the newspapers. The report has not been published despite the developments that followed the scandal.

Teehankee, according to the association, had said:

"It is expected that the same (investigation) will be terminated after the Chief Justice's return next week and the Supreme Court will then publish the full report."

A couple of days after *WE Forum* exposed the Bar scandal, Chief Justice Enrique Fernando flew to South Korea

they decided to talk to the government, the government agencies merely collected intelligence report and then shortly thereafter, they started arresting their people. And then they said that they will never make the same mistake again because they feel that the concessions have been carried out in bad faith.

To be continued

## Missing

From page 1

sedition case against him.

The case, he told Coronel, could have been prompted by the strike staged by PISTON June 7 and the other week. PISTON was also supposed to stage a strike on or before the start of classes June 14.

Roda said his wife, Tere-sita, received a summons from the Metrocom May 31. He was not at home that time. Metrocom men went back to the Roda residence the next two days, but Roda was not also at his house on both occasions.

The jeepney drivers' leader, who went back into hiding after leaving the lawyer's office, said he had been almost arrested by the Metrocom.

He said he was with another PISTON officer, Deogracias Espiritu, who was arrested by military men in Mandaluyong June 7. Leaders of the various jeepney organizations associated with PISTON were supposed to meet at a labor union's office when Espiritu was arrested.

The arresting officers, led by a lieutenant, did not know Espiritu and Roda by face. But one of the employees at the office pointed to Espiritu when the military men asked for him.

Roda said the soldiers also asked for him, but he evaded arrest when one of his companions addressed him by another name. Then Roda slipped out of the office.

Espiritu, according to Roda, did not assault the arresting officers as re-

ported in the newspapers.

Instead, he added, Espiritu was forcibly dragged outside. The military has filed assault charges against Espiritu.

Espiritu could not be located as of 8 p.m. last night (June 11). His family went to Camp Crame but was told he was not there.

Lawyer Coronel called up the Quezon City police, the Pasig, and Mandaluyong police but was informed that Espiritu was not also there.

The lawyer thought of calling up Pasig and Mandaluyong because the alleged assault case took place in Mandaluyong.

Aside from Espiritu, 22 other jeepney drivers have been arrested by the military. They were picked up in various places in Metro Manila and charged with inciting to sedition.

Those arrested were:

Quezon City. Luisito Villanes, Armando Salamingo, Rodrigo Manipon, Jr. and Ruben Banzuela.

San Juan, Metro Manila. Roberto Sijungtian, Pedro del Rosario, Ernesto Caronan, Medardo Garcia, Gregorio Alingod, Ramon Estrada, Alejandro Aringay, Juan Manaligod, Luciano Baligad and Pascual Logo.

Caloocan City. Antonio Jebres, Jesus Hipolito, Diosdado Hipolito, Diosdado Galaro, George Torralba, Salem Alonzo, Gregorio Labao and Carlito Bendo.

Roda said he has always been somewhere in Metro Manila. He added that he and his wife already met at a rendezvous to assure her that he is still alive.

tion conducted by the Supreme Court headed by Justice Teehankee during the absence of Chief Justice Fernando."

## Nueva Ecija

From page 1

Restituto said there were about 10 men. They knocked at the family house and got in when the door was opened to them. Inside, the armed men ordered everyone in the house to lie face down, and then opened fire indiscriminately.

Three were killed instantly, according to Restituto. They were his father, Benedicto, and two younger brothers, Danilo, 17, and Jaime, 11. His sister, Normilita, 23, was rushed to the provincial hospital in Cabanatuan City but died on arrival.

Restituto himself was first treated at the provincial hospital, but was later transferred to the National Orthopedic Hospital in Quezon City where he was confined for one-and-a-half months.

The massacre has sown fear among residents in Barangay Bunot and neighboring barangays. They fled their homes for several days and returned only when they believed things had cooled off a bit.

The Bautista family massacre was the worst of five massacres so far, according to the religious. But apart from the Bautista case, they added, only two others have been documented.

These, according to them, were the Talugtog (another

Nueva Ecija town) massacre and Lupao (also a town) strafing.

Victims of the Talugtog case were five young men. They were Dominador Ramos, 27; Fernando Sardon, 20; Jaime Beces, 20; Severino Vela, Jr., 20, and Gaudencio Dulay, 27, all of Barangay Culiat.

They were last seen playing at 7 p.m. Jan. 3 this year, according to the documentation. A search by their parents, relatives and friends yielded the bodies of Ramos, Sardon and Beces along a road two kilometers from Barangay Culiat. Their hands were tied and their bodies bore multiple stab wounds.

Vela and Dulay were still missing, according to the religious documentation.

The suspects were a group of military men who were patrolling the area at the time of the killing. However, there was no positive identification.

Killed in the Lupao strafing were Ismael Patiag and a neighbor, Gloria Omotoy, who was pregnant. Two children also were wounded.

A priest was quoted as saying that Patiag, Omotoy and the two children were inside their respective houses when three soldiers from the 33rd Infantry Battalion stationed in Bical, Munoz, Nueva Ecija, fired indiscriminately at the houses.

Patiag died of loss of blood at the San Jose General Hospital.

The religious said that based on their inquiries, the killers were members of the military.

## Viewpoints

From page 5

mentioned to me that she rates the Cebu City IBP chapter as tops in legal aid activities among the various IBP chapters nationwide. I am inclined to agree with Ms. Coliver because the Cebu City chapter especially during the inspired term of Joe Palma, has really done great strides in legal aid work. This appraisal of Ms. Coliver should not, of course, mean that other chapters are not performing well in legal aid work as mandated in the By-Laws. I know of several chapters doing exemplary service to the less fortunate among our people. Manila IV is one; I think the Quezon City chapter is, another.

Everybody is talking about the forthcoming appointments, or reappointments in the judiciary. I was in the Pasig CFI last April 1st. Every lawyer I met talks about the revamp and whether the new appointees will really live up to the sanguine hopes of many for competence, industry, integrity, probity and dedication to the rule of law. Indeed, no amount of seminars can improve the judiciary unless the appointing power will be sincere and patriotic enough in making the appointments, unlike in the past years, since martial law when the judiciary was turned into the haven of appointees whose main

qualification was that they came from the Ilocos region.

I came across an article in the *London Times*, written by David Robinson, a visitor during the Manila International Film Festival. Here is an interesting part of the article:

"In recent weeks responsibility for censorship has passed from the military authority to a civil board among whose members society ladies predominate, and which makes the former military censorship seem, by contrast, positively liberal."

"The particular focus of mistrust is the chairman of the board, a one-time beauty queen, now in her sixties, Maria Kalaw-Katigbak, whose first efforts have revealed capricious despotism, not to mention a touch of pyromania. . . . It seems, therefore, that even the *London Times* writer, shares my observations about the legal short-cuts in the new board. Incidentally, until now, this chairman has not formed committees. I understand that one film recently passed had only 2 members to view it with Msgr. Nebres as an "observer."

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## A matter

From page 5

said nix to Mr. Golez's joining him in the Ark.

Carmencita H. Acosta's recent article in *WE Forum* on Mrs. Imelda Marcos was well-grounded. Mrs. Marcos should step down from the governorship of Metro Manila. She has apparently no taste for the job, let alone the time for it. She is holding so many jobs at the same time, all of them important, and even if she were the "wonder woman" herself, it is doubtful whether she could capably cope with the demands on her time and energy.

I think it would be in the interest of public service for the President to appoint her Minister of Foreign Affairs. She finds more time to be on close terms with foreign heads of state than with the poor and the unfortunate in the hovels of Tondo. If General Romulo does not watch out, one of these days he will find himself out in the cold.

As this column has pointed out in the recent past, there must be something about the food which the Leyteños eat, which make them yearn for the roar of the 747 and the comfort of the Waldorf Astoria. It is probably the nearness of Bohol that has made the Leyteños want to wander the face of the earth. Or, it may be that there is a streak of the Bedouin in them.

My "educated" guess is that Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando will retire from his Supreme Court job on his next birthday, that is on July 25. And the odds are that Justice Minister Ricardo Concepcion Puno will be the next Chief Justice of the Philippines. Because of the Bar test scandal and their resignation *en masse*, not one of the new associate justices of the Supreme Court can be said to have the inside track on Mr. Fernando's job. And there is

every reason available for the President to name an outsider to the vacancy.

If Minister Puno is appointed to take over the top position in the judiciary, he will become the first non-UP graduate to hold it since Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion. The dark horse though is Solicitor General Estelito Mendoza, a dyed-in-the-wool UP man who wields considerable political clout with Malacanang. If he gets it, he will have to give up the governorship of Pampanga.

Minister Puno, however is strong with Mrs. Marcos and that is enough said. There is no disputing the fact that Mr. Puno now calls the shots in the reorganization of the judiciary. He is the Administration's "fair-haired boy." And he deserves to be.

What is happening now in Lebanon can be the last straw in the undeclared war of nations. Israel is a strong-willed belligerent in the Middle East and she knows her strength, that is why it would be plain wishful thinking to say that she would listen to the appeals from the rest of the world for her to desist from further action in Lebanon.

With the South Atlantic conflict coming to a head at the same time, President Reagan has now his hands full and it is very doubtful that the United States will be able to stay a global war from exploding before the year's end.

The USSR is enjoying the show; she is the only one that will profit from the current situation. Well has Jeane Kirkpatrick said that the United States is "inept" in international relations because of its weakening role at the United Nations. "We simply have behaved like a bunch of amateurs," the US ambassador to UN said. "We have been virtually paralyzed in the UN for a long time, for over a decade."



# Move to tax-exempt official's moviehouses in Bataan rapped

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### Proposal to convert P600-M creditors' claims to shares

#### RP lags in kids' welfare

In the Pacific basin, the Philippines lags behind in improving the conditions of its children, according to James P. Grant, executive director of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), who was here on a visit last week to learn about development policies, plans and programs serving the needs of children in the country.

All other countries in the Far East region, he said, has made spectacular progress in improving the conditions of their children. These countries have longer life expectancy and lower mortality rate, he said.

Grant pointed out that there is no better pay-off in investment rates than in elevating the welfare of the children and giving priority in their needs for a primary education.

He predicted that 33 million more children will die in the '80s. Everyday, 40,000 school children die of poverty and malnutrition throughout the world.

As head of the world body, whose concern is the long-term problems of disadvantaged children in developing countries, UNICEF gets its financial support from two major sources.

These are: first, from the seven states of Gulf countries which include Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; and second, from Italy.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) must convene creditors of Philippine Underwriters Finance Corp. (Philfinance) to consider the proposal for the conversion of P600 million claims against the bankrupt company into a mixture of common and preferred shares.

This was the reaction of Philfinance creditors to the proposal of SEC Chairman Manuel G. Abello, following his instruction for the re-evaluation by J. Cunanan & Co. of the five-year rehabilitation plan of Ricardo C. Silverio Sr., Philfinance chairman.

J. Cunanan & Co., which was hired by the SEC to audit Philfinance and evaluate Silverio's proposal, had reported that the objectives of the rehabilitation plan cannot be achieved because the figures do not tally with the projections.

Abello even informed Prime Minister Cesar E. A. Virata who had inquired into the status of the plan that

Silverio failed to submit amendments called for by the SEC on his five-year plan.

The Prime Minister inquired into the status of the plan in the wake of reports that Philfinance creditors are growing restive over the inaction of both the SEC and Philfinance on their claims.

"Up to now nothing has been done about instructions issued by President Marcos over a year ago for the rehabilitation of the company and the payment of our claims."

"Meanwhile, assets of the company continue to be dissipated by unbridled spending sprees and the payment of fat salaries and allowances of over P105,000.00 monthly to recalled top Philfinance officials and new Silverio appointees," the creditors said.

They pointed out that a meeting of the creditors with the SEC would bring about solutions to noted defects in the rehabilitation plan, and would even bring about

BALANGA, Bataan — The provincial government stands to lose about P500,000 annually if the Ministry of Finance approves a Sangguniang Panlalawigan resolution exempting the Recar Cinema I and Cinema II from paying amusement tax.

Normally, the provincial government gets 30 centavos as amusement tax from every ticket sold by a theater. The municipal government where the establishment is situated gets five-centavos.

The twin cinema housed at the Recar Commercial Complex in Balanga downtown is owned by Bataan Vice-Gov. Carolina N. Beltran.

Unanimously approved by the members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, the resolution drew the ire of tax-conscious government officials, more particularly the municipal mayors and municipal treasurers. In fact, some treasurers reportedly thumbed down the idea for its illegality.

In their adopted resolution, SP members and the vice-governor herself explained that the request for exemption from payment of amusement tax "is designed to tide over the new business venture during the ungrateful initial period of operation."

By all indications, some of the officials said, the resolution is sort of a class legislation solely.

Meanwhile, national and provincial government officials are growing gray hair thinking of new ways to improve their tax collections.

ways and means to force recalcitrant debtors of Philfinance to settle their accounts.



A Pantranco bus overturned after crashing at a bridge in South Road between Naga City and Libmanan Wednesday (June 9) morning. All passengers were reportedly injured.

#### Social science center

A three-storey building of the Philippine Social Science Center donated by the Japanese government will soon rise on Don Mariano Marcos Avenue in the campus of the University of the Philippines next to the Asian Institute of Tourism.

The ground-breaking ceremony was held recently with Prime Minister and Madame Cesar E.A. Virata, Japanese Ambassador and Madame Hideo Tanaka and Dr. Bonifacio Sibayan, chairman of the Executive Board of PSSC

attending. Mesdames Virata and Tanaka cut the ceremonial ribbon.

The Center, which will house the offices of the member-societies and the Philippine Social Science Council, will have an auditorium, audiovisual laboratory, library, subscription service unit, among others. It is expected that this will become the center of activities of the various social science societies in the Philippines for research, training, publication and cultivation of

## OUTSIDE Metro Manila

### Medicine overprice

LEGASPI CITY — Overpricing of medical supplies and equipment has been reported in the Bicol Region, prompting the regional health director, Restituto Daguisin, to order an investigation, according to *The Bicol Chronicle*.

A woman, representing an undisclosed number of companies, was pointed to as "dictating to the chiefs of hospitals in the region as to what to purchase," the *Chronicle* said.

She has now earned the monicker "lady general" and reportedly boasted of her connections with the regional health office, the newsweekly said.

### Jueteng goes on

The same newspaper also reported that the operation of "jueteng," a numbers game said to be victimizing mostly the poor, remains unabated in Albay province.

The station commanders of the Integrated National Police themselves have confirmed the continued operations of jueteng during a meeting with Provincial Commander Jovencio Sales, the *Chronicle* said.

### Train accidents

CALASIAO, Pangasinan — Mayor Feliciano E. Ugay has sent out an appeal to the Philippine National Railways to adopt measures to avert more occurrence of accidents involving its trains at the railroad crossings in Barangays San Manuel and Gabon, Dagupan City's *Sunday Punch* said.

His appeal was prompted by a train-jeepney collision May 23 that claimed the lives of two women and injured 19 other persons, according to the *Punch*.

The newsweekly said the would-be victims were on their way home to Rosales, Pangasinan, from an excursion at the Long Beach in Bolinao when the accident occurred.

The jeepney was dragged some 25 kilometers before it was ditched, the *Punch* said.

The paper recalled that the railroad crossings in the barangays have been the scene of several accidents in the past.

### Cemetery welcome sign

SAN PABLO CITY — A welcome sign hangs at the gate of the municipal cemetery here. And, instead of instilling the fear of death to passersby, it actually is welcomed by observant people here.

As one lawyer, Ricardo A. Barcenas of the local Court of First Instance, put it, cemeteries should welcome both the dead and the living.

However, *The Barangay* also took note of Barcenas' commentary that the living should be welcomed in well-kept places. The local cemetery is not, Barcenas said.

The welcome sign, *The Barangay* said, "is an ancillary to the highway boundary sign separating Barangay Del Pilar from the town proper, but it was so constructed that it appears to be integrated to the design of the cemetery gate."

### Syndicate in Region I

SAN FERNANDO, La Union — A big-time syndicate, preying on relatives of overseas workers from Region I, has been unmasked, according to *The North Tribune*.

The *Tribune* learned of this when the wife of a Saudi Arabia worker went to its office and related her experience with a syndicate member.

The wife said she was approached by a woman who introduced herself as the wife of a worker in Saudi, Wife No. 2 said that her husband just arrived and had a package from the husband of Wife No. 1.

Wife No. 2 was supposed to deliver the package to Wife No. 1 but her car bogged down along a highway. The package, No. 2 said, was in the car, needing repair.

Wife No. 2 borrowed money from No. 1 for the repair, but she never came back.

### Fake plates confiscated

TACLOBAN CITY — The Bureau of Land Transportation (BLT) here has uncovered evidence of distribution of fake motor vehicle number plates.

BLT Regional Director Vicente Mate, Jr. said 73 spurious motor vehicle number plates and their corresponding registration receipts were confiscated by a BLT team in Ormoc City.

He said the confiscated fake plates carried numbers meant for release in Metro Manila and Central Visayas.

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