



LET'S UNITE THE COMMUNITY
AND GO FORWARD

filipino mirror

The Migrants' Newspaper

Vol. 4 No. 1

The official quarterly organ of the
Bayanihan Center for Filipino Migrants-Denmark®

March 2000

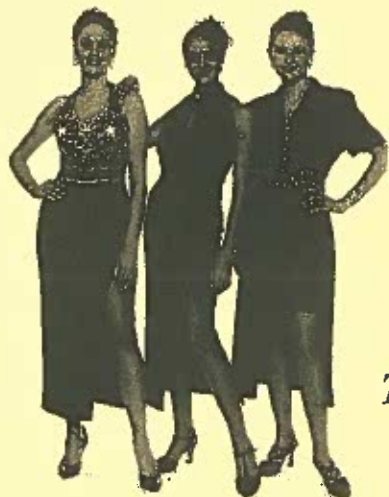
Understanding the Fear of the Jubilee



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL 4 **21 HEALTH & HOME**

From the Editor *The fastest way to relieve tension*
Understanding *by Alexandra Campbell*
the Year of the Jubilee
by Deng A. Valera

INS AND OUTS 5 **22 FIL-O-FUN**

Community News *You have two cows*
Political Philosophy
as it relates to agriculture!

From the President's Desk *Anagram*
Guidelines on *Contributed by Cezar B. Palad*
Passport Application
by Marc. R. Dicap
Bayanihan Center moves
towards the Vision
Bilateral policy under study
CFC conducts CLP seminar
Presidential Awards open

UN-TONGUE-TIED 9 **23 A PEEK INTO THE PAST**

Just Wondering... *Magellan's Death*
Our Future *LOOKING BACK*
by Oscar B. Navarro *by Ambeth R. Ocampo*

The Observer **24 DIWA AT PANITIK**
by Matthew Sutherland *Samu't Sari ni Diko*
From Down Under *ni Pat D. Valenzuela*
Rewards Money Can't Buy
by Dr. Arlene Torres-D'Mello

PHILIPPINE ROUND-UP 12 *Tayo ay Tagapagpahayag*
Images from the year that was *ni Ma. Ceres-P. Doyo*
Bits & Pieces **PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

FEATURES 16 *Ang Manggagawang Pilipino...*
Inventions that *World Class*
shape the century **TESDA**
Adapted from the Manila Bulletin *Technical Education and*
Skills Development Authority

FOOD FOR THOUGHT 19 *An angel whispers*
Three Trees *by purple*

TRIVIA 20 **27 DANISH SECTION**

Did you know *Foreningen til integration af*
The truth about Year 2000? *nydaskere på arbejdsmarkedet*
A Vitamin Bible

for the 21st Century **28 SPORTS**

by Earl Mindell *Eagle Tourney set on 17 June*
RP'S Sports Great *Eagle Bowling Club's*
in the past 100 years *20th Anniversary Tournament*

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The Filipino Mirror, registered and authorized a second class mail by Copenhagen Post Office, is distributed four times a year by the Bayanihan Center for Filipino Migrants-Denmark. Opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the writers and persons interviewed and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Bayanihan Center.

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BAYANIHAN CENTER MOVES TOWARDS THE VISION

The Bayanihan Center is in the process of launching an outreach program which will benefit our less fortunate and displaced sectors in the Philippines.

Dubbed *Balik-Buhay*, the proposed outreach program will integrate the ideals and principles of Denmark's *Kofoeds Skole* with some existing governmental, NGO (non-governmental) and church agencies in our country. It aims for social transformation of our people.

"The Philippines is a country whose society has bequeathed poverty. *Balik-Buhay* aspires to restore (and even to develop to some extent) the capacity of our less fortunate countrymen, particularly our street children, to resume their lives as 'normally' as they could. Through some forms of vocational and/or therapeutic training, we hope to bring them to a useful place in our society," say *Balik-Buhay* Coordinators Nora R. Dicay and Deng A. Valera, BCFM's Secretary and Public Relations Officer respectively.

Per advice of BCFM Counsel Einer Lydich, initial survey has been undertaken by the *Balik-Buhay* Coordinators with BCFM Pres. Marc. R. Dicay two months ago. The survey conducted in the Philippines reveals four possible venues of implementation.

Arrangements have been made, as of this writing, in Limay and Balanga, Bataan.

TESDA (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority), through the cooperation of Bataan Governor Leonardo Roman, Limay (Bataan) Mayor Gerry Roxas and Senior TESDA Specialist

Grace Castillo, has already agreed to the integration of the *Kofoeds Skole's* principles.

Balik-Buhay was also presented to the Office of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo through its Executive Director and former Mayor of Sampaloc, Quezon, Ms. Agnes Delavanera. Convinced of its merit, Ms. Delavanera arranged for a meeting with Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, OCD, of Quezon Province who unreluctantly showed interest on the program.

The two other sites in consideration are Don Bosco in Makati City and St. Paul College in the City of Manila.

Here is an excerpt of the letter sent by Gov. Roman to the Bayanihan Center:

This is in reference to the features of the programs being offered by Kofoeds Skole in that country. It is of best interest for the Province of Bataan that such learning modalities for the socially disadvantaged sector be given the opportunities for a more productive life and economic security.

The province can be the perfect haven for an institution like the Kofoeds Skole due to our combined natural, historical dioramas and agro-industrial achievements. The scenic mountains and sea-shores can provide peace and tranquility for its clients and our historical riches will sustain interest of the clients.

On the other, the industrial estates in the province will provide the necessary support for industry exposure and possible job placement, a very vital preparation for the clients to re-enter the society after their stay at the school.

In lieu of these, the prov-



TOP PHOTO. BCFM Pres. Marc. R. Dicay, Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman and Limay Mayor Gerry Roxas are flanked by *Balik-Buhay* Coordinators Nora Dicay (L) and Deng Valera (R). The photo was taken at the Office of the Governor in Balanga, Bataan.

LOWER PHOTO. Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen and Former Sampaloc Mayor Agnes Delavanera pose for a souvenir photo after the substantial meeting with the *Balik-Buhay* officials.

ince will be very happy and honored to be a recipient of such noble undertaking. This would complement other areas in people empowerment which are now being provided by the two training centers of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the other technical-vocational institutions in the province. We look forward to a further negotiation with you. ❀

Bilateral policy under review

In a letter addressed to Messrs. Daniel Malveda, Jr., John Blix and Tom Meyer of the Danish Filipino Association (DFA), Ambassador Erlinda F. Basilio of the Embassy of the Philippines in Stockholm quoted the response of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark concerning the Bilateral Social Agreement between the Kingdom of Denmark and the Republic of the Philippines:

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark has consulted the Ministry of Social Affairs. The Ministry of Social Affairs is currently undertaking a general policy review regarding the conclusion of bilateral agreements on Social Security.



Ambassador Erlinda F. Basilio

CFC conducts CLP seminar

Everyone (singles, widowed or single parents, married couples) was invited to a Christian Life Program seminar conducted by the Couples For Christ-Copenhagen on the weekends of 18-19 and 25-26 March.

All four days of the seminar were held at St. Anne Chapel, Hans Bogbinders Alle 3, 2300 Copenhagen S from 12.00-18.00 hours.

"Couples For Christ, being a global ministry, opened its seminar to non-Filipinos and even to Christians of other denominations," writes Willard Peralta, CFC Copenhagen Coordinator, in his invitation letter to the community.

Officially recognized by the Pontifical Council of the Laity, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and the Diocese of Copenhagen, CFC is currently active in 72 countries.

It has a total membership population of close to a million, that carries out its work with focus on:

1. Individual Renewal: CFC fosters deep spiritual renewal which involves personal conversion, developing a per-

Hence, the Ministry of Social Affairs does not enter into negotiations on new agreements at present."

The Ambassador, who had been in Copenhagen for the Christian Life Program (CLP) seminar of the Couples For Christ as guest speaker, further said:

"The Philippine draft is with the Danish government and will be considered at a time when the Danish side is ready to discuss it." ❀

for the building of God's kingdom on earth. ❀

Presidential Awards open

The Commission on Filipino Overseas (CFO) is accepting nominations for the Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas for the Year 2000.

Nominations may be submitted through the Philippine Embassy in Stockholm, P.O. Box 2219, 103 15 Stockholm, Sweden; or to the Commission for Filipino Overseas (CFO), 1-7/F Citigold Center, 1345 President Quirino Avenue corner South Superhighway, Paco, Manila.

The documents may also be submitted through the CFO

Continue on next page



Willard Peralta

sonal relationship with God and living in the power of the Spirit;

2. Family Renewal: CFC focuses on the husband and wife, strengthening them in their Christian lives and enabling them to make for a strong family; and,

3. Church Renewal: CFC participates in the strategic evangelization of parishioners

THANKS

Mange tak to the following members of the community who, in one way and the other, contributed in the carolling fund of the BCFM in 1999:

Edith Andreasen, Ed & Connie Benjamin, Billy & Tessie Bravo, Ma. Paz Bringas, Frank & Naty Cabildo, Luis & Teofila Carlos, Roger Concepcion, Kit Constancio, Ante & Ronalisa Cuevas, Abe & Bubot Cuevas, Manuel & Brenda Damasco, Ed & Fely de Guzman, Jaime & Clarita del Castillo, Bobby & Linda Demetillo, Mark & Jo Dicay, Aurora Eres, Claus & Linda Frørup, Tony & Petra Garcia, Frederick & Nonie Hørk, Trinie Jensen, Cesar & Brenda Jaro, Gunnar & Edith Jensen, Dennis Lloren, Tante & Rose Magno, Matthew & Mercy Medina, Boy & Tita Medina, Albert & Edith Miralles, Manny & Lita Nuñez, Nap & Loida Perez, Sime & Precy Poblete, Rod & Vicky Revita, Brian & Helen Roth, Bo & Jennifer Romerdal, Ernesto & Naty Saballo, Oscar & Dita Silao, Erlinda Soliman, Rosita Torres, Lyn Varias, Ven & Lisa Velasques and Carla Wrisberg.

FEUDALISM. You have two cows. Your lord takes the larger share of the milk, leaving you with barely enough for yourself.

PURE SOCIALISM. You have two cows. The government takes them and puts them in a barn with everyone else's cows. You have to take care of all the cows. The government gives you as much milk as you need.

BUREAUCRATIC SOCIALISM. You have two cows. The government takes them and puts them in a barn with everyone else's cows. They are cared for by ex-chicken farmers. You have to take care of the chickens the government took from the chicken farmers. The government gives you as much milk and as many eggs as the regulations say you should need.

FASCISM. You have two cows. The government takes both, hires you to take care of them, and sells you the milk.

PURE COMMUNISM. You have two cows. Your neighbors help you take care of them, and you all share the milk.

RUSSIAN COMMUNISM. You have two cows. You have to take care of them, but the government takes all the milk.

PURE DEMOCRACY. You have two cows. Your neighbors decide who gets the milk.

REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY. You have two cows. Your neighbors pick someone to tell you who gets the milk.

SINGAPOREAN DEMOCRACY. You have two cows. The government fines you for keeping two unlicensed farm animals in an apartment.

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY. The government promises to give you two cows if you vote for it. After the election, the president is impeached for speculating in cow futures. The press dubs the affair "Cowgate".

BRITISH DEMOCRACY. You have two cows. You feed them sheeps' brains and they go mad. The government doesn't do anything.

DICTATORSHIP. You have two cows. The government takes both and shoots you.

MILITARISM. You have two cows. The government takes both and drafts you.

You have two cows

Political Philosophy as it relates to agriculture



ANARCHY. You have two cows. Either you sell the milk at a fair price or your neighbors try to kill you and take the cows.

CAPITALISM. You have two cows. You sell one and buy a bull.

HONG KONG CAPITALISM. You have two cows. You sell three of them to your publicly listed company, using letters of credit opened by your brother-in-law at the bank, then execute a debt/equity swap with associated general offer so that you get all four cows back with the tax deduction for keeping five cows. The milk rights of six cows are transferred via a Panamanian intermediary to a Cayman Islands company secretly owned by the majority shareholder, who sells the right to all seven cows' milk back to the listed company. The annual report says that the company owns eight cows with an option on one more. Meanwhile, you kill the two cows because the *feng shui* is bad.

BUREAUCRACY. You have two cows. At first the government regulates what you can feed them and when you can milk them. Then it pays you not to milk them. After that it takes both, shoots one, milks the other and pours the milk down the drain. Then it requires you to fill out forms accounting for the missing cows.

PHILIPPINE BUREAUCRAT CAPITALISM. You have two cows. You let a poor relative living on your land in the province take care of them, but some powerful government official says your land, which you haven't stepped on for the last 20 years, is due for land reforms. He ends up owning it, turning it into a subdivision. The cows die of malnutrition together with your poor relative, and you continue working in Makati as a manager in some American-owned company.

ENVIRONMENTALISM. You have two cows. The government bans you from milking or killing them.

FEMINISM. You have two cows. They get married and adopt a veal calf.

TOTALITARIANISM. You have two cows. The government takes them and denies they ever existed. Milk is banned.

COUNTER CULTURE. Wow, dude, there's like... these two cows, man. You got to have some of this milk.

SURREALISM. You have two giraffes. The government requires you harmonica lessons.

ANAGRAM

An anagram is a word or phrase formed by transposing or rearranging the letters of another word or phrase.

- Dormitory: Dirty room
- Animosity: Is no amity
- Evangelist: Evil's agent
- Desperation: Woman Hitler
- Mother-in-law: A rope ends it
- The Morse Code: Here come dots
- Slot Machine: Cash lost in 'em
- Snooze alarms: Alas! No more Z's
- Alec Guinness: Genuine Class
- Semolina: Is no meal
- A decimal point: I'm a dot in place
- The earthquakes: That queer shake
- Eleven plus two: Twelve plus one
- Contradiction: Accord not in it

The Public Art Galleries:
Large picture halls, I bet

President Clinton of the USA:
To copulate he finds interns

From the fun collections of CEZAR B. PALAD



Magellan's Death

by Ambeth R. Ocampo

The slaying of Ferdinand Magellan has been etched in my memory by a movie I saw as a child, but the problem was that I thought Lapu-lapu was the *contravida*.

My Catholic upbringing made me wonder why this European spreading Christianity would be killed by a bunch of half-naked heathens. For that was how I saw Magellan - as another of the Church's martyrs. Later exposure to Westerns showing Indians raiding coaches, raping women and scalping old men gave me a negative view of the *indios*, both American and Filipino.

Today, schoolchildren are taught that Lapu-lapu was one of the first Filipinos to resist foreign rule, aside from the fact that his memory is kept alive by a specie of fish that bears his name.

It is important to read Antonio Pigafetta's eyewitness (but somewhat exaggerated) account of the Magellan expedition to understand that Magellan was a guest who had abused his welcome.

Magellan's condescension is reflected by the fact that when he left Spain in 1519, he took along little caps, bells, bracelets, colored crystals and mirrors to trade with and "impress" the barbarians he would encounter during his trip. We may not have been westernized if these were the criteria for "civilization" at the time, but Magellan was surprised to

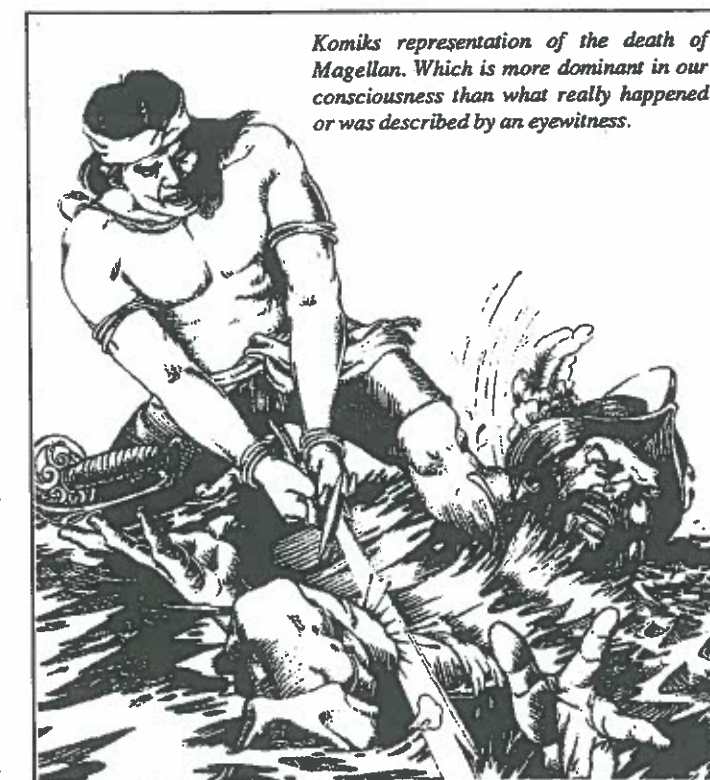
find that the Filipinos kept rice and other foodstuffs in Chinese porcelain jars.

Pigafetta writes: "...all dishes of that king are of gold and also some portion of his house, ...according to customs he was very grandly decked out and the finest-looking man we saw of these people. His hair was exceedingly black, and hung to his shoulders. He has a covering of silk on his head, and wore two large gold earrings fastened in his ears. He wore a cotton cloth all embroidered with silk, which covered him from the waist to the knees. At his side hung a dagger, the haft of which was somewhat long and of gold, and its scabbard of carved wood. He has three spots of gold on every tooth, and his teeth appeared as if bound with gold. He was perfumed... he was tawny and painted all over... the island was called Butuan and Caraga... the name of the first king was Rajah Colambu and the second Raha Siaui."

From this description of the Rajah, one notices the emphasis on gold. As the visitors moved on through the islands, they were treated with utmost hospitality. But greed overcame them. They started to "convert" the heathens through mass baptisms, and Magellan expected the Filipinos to discard their old religion and burn their *anitos* immediately.

Today before one is certified as converted and ready for

baptism, one must be taught theology and catechism. Without this, the Filipinos thought the Mass was a rite of friendship. They went along, not realizing its importance in the



Komiks representation of the death of Magellan. Which is more dominant in our consciousness than what really happened or was described by an eyewitness.

eyes of their Western guests. In short, *hindi nagka-intindihan*.

To cut a long story short, in Cebu, Magellan really overstepped his welcome when he asked the Filipinos to recognize and obey the Spanish king by paying tribute. When Lapu-lapu of Mactan refused, the Spaniards went over to "discipline" him, knowing his arms and armor were superior to Lapu-lapu's. This was his tragic mistake. He had under-

estimated the bravery of the Filipinos and lost, just as he miscalculated their riches by bringing trinkets.

Pigafetta writes that in the battle, Magellan was hit on the right leg with a poisoned arrow because the Filipinos aimed at their legs, knowing it was the only part of their bodies without armor. When he ordered a slow retreat, his men, save a handful, panicked and ran off. The Filipinos in pursuit recognized Magellan and ganged up on him.

Magellan, fighting with a lance, could not even draw out his sword. He was hit on the arm by a bamboo spear. Later hit on the left leg with a bolo, he fell face forward and the Filipinos hacked him with their bolos and pierced him with their spears.

Lapu-lapu killing Magellan in a one-on-one fight is a myth, but the hero of Mactan takes full credit as the man who defied Magellan and led his men to victory.