



LET'S UNITE THE COMMUNITY
AND GO FORWARD

filipino mirror


Vol. 1 No. 2

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

June 1997



**BAYANIHAN
REFLECTS
THE CHANGING FACE
OF THE
COMMUNITY**

Come to

ROSTAN'S
The Epitome of Womanliness
 for evening wears
 that compliment your taste
 and merit your trust.



Rosemarie Magno
 Proprietress
 Amagerbrogade 96-E
 2300 Copenhagen S
 Telephone No. 31 59 68 00



We accept Dankort, Diners, Eurocard, Mastercard, Visa, JCB, Acceptcard and Amagerkort.

Eyes
 Lips
 Nails
 Face

Beauty need not be expensive.
 With



you get your money's worth.

Beauty on a budget
 in

INTER HAIR STYLE

Augustagade 2, 2300 København S
 Telephone 31 58 16 90
 Proprietress: Trinie Jensen



Ansigtsbehandling
 Afrensning, hudanalyse, peeling, damp, fjernelse af urenheder og talgkroppen, massage af ansigt, hals, skuldre samt retning af bryn.

Acnebehandling
 Specialbehandling med dybderensende og desinficerende produkter.

Peeling med AHA produkter (Alpha Hydroxy Acid-frugtsyre)
 Består af glycolsyre, æblesyre og mælkesyre. Anvendes på alle hudtype, specielt på rynket og arret hud, på hud med tykt homlag, f.eks. efter megen solbadning samt på pigmentpletter. Frugtsyre kan også anvendes på kroppen.

Collage-Ansigtsbehandling
 Genopbyggende, fugtgivende, udglistende hele ansigtet.

Tatovering: Permanent Bryn og Vipper ■ Øjenbehandling
 Kropspeeling ■ Rygbehandling

filipino mirror

the official organ of the
BAYANIHAN CENTER
FOR FIUPINO MIGRANTS-DENMARK®

Deng A. Valera-Larsen
 Editor-in-Chief

Bobby Demetillo
 Einer Lyduch
 Oscar B. Navarro
 Pat D. Valenzuela
 Columnists

Rosemarie Alonzo-Christensen
 Poulle D. Christiansen ■ Maria Karla Enevoldsen
 Rowena Lyn J. Magpantay ■ Brian Peter Naidas
 Elizabeth P. Olesen ■ Rufina V. Palad
 Fr. Carroll Parker, OMI
 Juliet Sørensen ■ Amihan A. Valenzuela
 Contributors

Marc. R. Dicay
 Managing Editor

Cora T. Magpantay
 Subscriptions Manager

The filipino mirror, registered and authorized as 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 or persons interviewed and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Bayanihan Center.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Marc. R. Dicay
 President

Pat D. Valenzuela
 Vice President

Poulle D. Christiansen
 Secretary

Deng A. Valera-Larsen
 P. R. Officer

Cora T. Magpantay
 Treasurer

Cho T. Baldo ■ Camilo R. Escandor
 Cezar B. Palad
 Project Coordinators

Roger G. Hacinas
 Isabel M. Malacas
 Auditors

Peter Christiansen
 Einer Lyduch
 Advisers

Business Address: Valdemarsgade 69
 DK 1665 Copenhagen V, Denmark
 Phone: +45 31 21 99 26 Fax: +45 33 25 86 26

EDITORIAL 4
From the President's Desk: Leaders and Learners in Community Building
 by Marc. R. Dicay

COMMUNITY NEWS: 5
 INS AND OUTS
Bayanihan to present Musicale '97
New Lady Ambassador to Sweden assumes post
April Boys come to Copenhagen

Appointment with El Shaddai
 by Bobby Demetillo
El Shaddai - Denmark Chapter

Faces in the Crowd

YMCA-YWCA in Denmark in its "Magkamayan" Project for the Philippines
 by Elizabeth P. Olesen

COMMENTARY 9
 UN-TONGUE-TIED
 Just Wondering...
Taking a Step
 by Oscar B. Navarro
 Chairman, FAD Board of Trustees

PHILIPPINE ROUND-UP 10

FOOD FOR THOUGHT 12
Finding God in Copenhagen
 by Deng A. Valera-Larsen

CENTERFOLD
 BAYANIHAN
 CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

13 CALL OF NATURE

14 FLUSH OF YOUTH
The one who does not leave the toilet seat up
 by Amihan A. Valenzuela

What my parents mean to me
 by Rowena Lyn J. Magpantay

I'm proud to be a Filipino. Am I?
 by Brian Peter Naidas

16 LITERARY
Dakilang Ina
 ni Juliet B. Sørensen

To love and be loved
 by Maria Karla Enevoldsen

What is a Mother?
 by Rosemarie Alonzo-Christensen

Ang Pinay
 by Poulle D. Christiansen

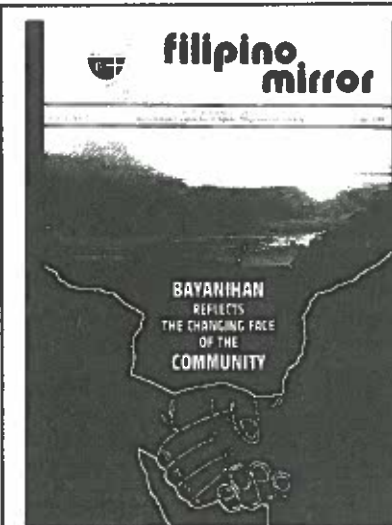
18 TRIVIA
Did you know that...
 by Deng A. Valera-Larsen

19 FOCUS
Social Policy: Pension in Denmark
 by Einer Lyduch

20 FIL-O-FUN
Courtesy of Pinay Palad

21 DIWA AT PANITIK
Samu't Sari ni Diko
 ni Pat D. Valenzuela

Ang Bandilang Pilipino
Mga Karapatan ng Migrante



the why of the cover

Life is but an endless shift of change, that man has to adjust to the movement of progress if he hopes to continue growing with the times. But man is free to choose - to soar to the greatest heights of human fulfillment or to crash to the lowest depths of human despair.

As the dawn colors the horizon, we celebrate the freedom of man to rise and reach out in the spirit of involvement and family affiliation, and together, toil to change the fate that is destined to doom future generations.

The YMCA-YWCA in Denmark, known locally as the KFUM-KFUK in Denmark, formally launched its *Magkamayan* Project for the Philippines during its general assembly at Nyborg Strand Hotel on May 1996. *Magkamayan*, in its blending of both the Cuban and Tagalog connotation of the word, bears the concepts of friendship, mission partnership, resources sharing, common learning and understanding. For the Danes, to get a quick grasp of the meaning of the term, the title of a church song *Ræk Mig Din Hånd* has been adopted as its indirect translation.

The conception of the project was inspired by the fact that majority of the Danish youth volunteers who worked in the seaports of Cebu and Manila, in the slum areas, on the streetchildren, with the Far East Broadcasting Company, and in the Lutheran Theological Seminary in the north of the Philippines as sponsored by the Danish Santal Mission were young people who are active members of the KFUM-KFUK in Denmark. The project therefore was conceived to widen and deepen the participation of the Danish young people in the life and culture of the Filipino people, to be inspired by their own experience in the new situation, and to facilitate and create more areas of sharing and learning which should be made available also to the local KFUM-KFUK in Denmark and in local clubs and organizations in the whole country.

The project defines its concern as exchange of living experiences through sending Danish youth volunteers to specific partner organizations in the Philippines like the YMCA-YWCA, the Lutheran Church, the National Council of Churches and the *Paaralang Bayan ng Maynila*,

founded by Edificio de la Torre, which follows *Grundvig's* philosophy in education. This also includes arranging study tours to the Philippines, in cooperation with *Unitas Rejser*, a kind of tourism which is not only to expose Danish participants to the beauty spots of our country but also to the problem areas in the country, letting them come in touch with those working for the good of the people and the local communities. The project will also work information sharing in Denmark on the Filipino life and culture, religion and the churches' role on mission issues, ecology, prostitution, sex tourism and debt crisis. *Magkamayan* Project, in its attempt to answer project proposals from needy communities in the Philippines, seeks working relationship with organizations working in the third world such as the Danish Santal mission and the Danish Church Aid.

What has been achieved so far is the production of information materials on the Philippines which have been distributed to all KFUM-KFUK local clubs in the country. The material includes Philippine folk and church songs, games, recipes for cooking and some other aspects in historical, social, economic and political life. Danish youth volunteers who have been in the Philippines also take time to share their living experiences with the local clubs. Now and then local meetings include exhibition on particular Philippine items the volunteers have collected.

As part of the exchange program, eight Filipino youth from YMCA-YWCA in the

YMCA-YWCA IN DENMARK in its Magkamayan Project for the Philippines

by Elizabeth Padillo Olesen

Philippines came to participate in the KFUM-KFUK summer camp in Aulum last year. Both parties expressed common enriched learning experiences. Lately, KFUM-KFUK in Denmark received an invitation from the Philippines on the Danish youth participation in the international observance of the Earth Day with the Philippines as the host country.

Summer 1997 will also witness the sending of Danish youth leaders who will help in the creation of YMCA Ten Sing Philippine Task Group. This is in response to the proposal of the YMCA in the Philippines to pattern the Ten Sing Program in Denmark which is using the vehicles of drama and music for sharing the Gospel. There will be 10 Ten Sing Groups in ten local YMCAs in the Philippines in areas like Ilocos Norte, La Union, Dagupan City, Manila, Lucena City, Cebu City, Bacolod City, Dumaguete City, Cotabato City and Tagum in Davao del Norte.

For the second time, the study tour will be arranged. The first study tour was led by Henrik Johansen, a theological student who once worked as volunteer in the Philippines. And the second one will be led by Jens Christian Seeberg and Edith, both of whom were

working with the Far East Broadcasting Company in Venezuela. Now and then, *Magkamayan* Project considers project proposals from the Philippines seeking financial help. From the collected amount of the Danish Church Aid during its public financial support campaign, *Magkamayan* project received a sum that was set aside to support programs for the Filipino children in the slum areas.

Now and then the small committee working for *Magkamayan* Project has made attempts to reach out the Filipino local community in Denmark. Its first attempt was to attend the FAD Christmas Party at Sheraton Hotel. The FAD, during that time, was the only Filipino organization the committee knew about. Now it seems that there is an ongoing challenge for this committee to know and extend friendship with other existing Filipino local organizations in Denmark if they should be made part in doing *Magkamayan* not only for the Filipinos but also for the Danes. Part of the recognized challenge of the committee therefore is to discover resources within these Filipino organizations in Denmark and their willingness to cooperate in doing *Magkamayan*.

To all DAMAYAN Members,

Ako'y taos-pusong nagpapasalamat sa inyong lahat sa pagtulong ninyo sa amin. At ito'y nakatulong nang malaki sa amin. Kaya maraming-maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

Ang inyong kasama sa DAMAYAN, (Sgd.) Imelda G. Rubiano

Just wondering...

by Oscar B. Navarro



Taking a Step

Before I decided to stop working and instead go for an early retirement, I thought I would have much time for myself, leisure time we call it. But to my surprise, I really don't have enough as I anticipated. On the contrary, I am now busier than before and I find my days shorter and the passing of the hours faster. My decision however has been a great help to my present predicament and I am thankful for making it. It is something like a blessing in disguise.

There are instances in our life that when subjected to an expected situation, we tend to freeze and cannot make a right decision. We seem helpless momentarily; but when our sense of reason comes back, then we take the necessary step to move forward. In a number of occasions, it is usually the first step that counts. There are moments that our natural instinct of survival influences our actions, but otherwise, we have to be careful in taking that first step, because subsequent decision will largely depend on it.

We are living in a homogeneous society and we need to be in harmony with the majority of the group. While we have our freedom, our democratic system does not allow us to trample other people's freedom. We should show our concern and regard to our fellowmen, so we can all live peacefully and happily. Because the moment you show

disrespect to others, you create an atmosphere of hatred that results to a nasty situation.

The struggle for freedom and the search for everlasting peace has been a very expensive undertaking to the players of the game, but a very profitable business to those supplying the hardwares. In the Philippines and probably in other parts of the world, the struggle for freedom has produced several dead heroes. Even up to now, the struggle is still on in some sectors of our society and in some remote places. And as long as the rich become richer and the poor become poorer coupled with the lack of sufficient education, there will always be somebody who will suffer the consequences. There is always a situation where power and money are used to dominate the poor and the weak.

One can never imagine what that rectangular piece of paper could do to human beings. That piece of paper called money could buy your freedom or could lead you to hell depending on the situation. Like many other things in life, money could be used for good or bad ends. Wealth obtained lawfully and then used wisely for the benefit of mankind is a tremendous help. But when greed takes over our sense of reason, everything could break loose and before we know it, not only our life but also the life of all around could be exposed to danger.

It is that craving for power and the thirst for wealth that could not be quenched by legal

means but by practically every method with consequences that could turn us to monstrous individuals. Let us therefore cease to be slaves to our wants and desire. If we can show concern and regards to our fellowmen, our very own life could be a success.

The search for an everlasting peace should be the concern of everybody. After the two global wars, peace should be welcome to four corners of the earth. Surprisingly though, people are still not tired of fighting. The Middle East has not concluded a peace treaty yet, and in Farica there is still trouble. Albania has been chaos, while Saddam is lying low after he had been driven

out of Kuwait. Haiti had a short-lived political turmoil, and in Asia, Burma is getting some attention. A common denominator is missing in all of these situations. And that is peace, an everlasting peace.

Let us therefore search into our inner selves and make that necessary step to promote peace within our own family, our friends and the society we live in. Let us contribute our share for the benefit of mankind. Let us put an end to hatred and greed, instead, show more love, understanding and care for one another. I am almost certain that your life and our life in general would be as pleasant and happy as can be expected.

JW FLETSHOP
PHILIPPINSK HÅNDVÆRK

V / NAVARRO & LARSEN
HELLERØDGADE 40, KÆLDEREN
2200 KØBENHAVN N
TLF. : 20310664
FAX : 35835669

Buy something special for a friend
or for yourself
something with a touch of
Filipino Craftmanship
wood carvings, webbed-bamboo
articles and different sizes of jars

Imported directly
from the Philippines

Our Sincerest Appreciation
to all relatives and friends who condoled with us
in our moments of sorrow and deep sense of loss
over the demise of our beloved
Jørgen G. Larsen
who joined his Creator on 22 May 1997.

Asta Joanna, Deng, Manman and Mat

Very special people deserve special spots on our calendars. Last 11 May was the day we honored one of the most important persons we know, one of the two people responsible for our existence, the one who doesn't leave the toilet seat up. Who else, but none other than our beloved mothers!

There are tons of ways on how we, the loving kids, could have celebrated Mothers' Day. A heartfelt greeting, a kiss and a warm hug would have been sweet. A heartfelt greeting, a kiss, a warm hug and a bouquet of flowers would have been sweeter. A heartfelt greeting, a kiss, a warm hug, a bouquet of flowers and a promise to clean our rooms regularly, help out in the kitchen every time she needs it, and take out the trash everyday after school would have been the sweetest and the best!

But let's be realistic for a moment and look at how some kids greeted their moms this Mothers' Day '97:

Two sisters from Amager, a 14 and 11-year-old, greeted their mom and gave her a box of chocolates. They also added that they were supposed to buy flowers for her, but the shops were already closed.

Brothers James, 20 and Roger, 12 also from Amager, greeted their mom and bought her flowers.

Sisters Brigitte, 16 and Katharina, 9 from Frederiksværk bought and gave their mom flowers the day before Mothers' Day. Then they spent the next whole day with their mom at home.

Ten-year-old Peter from Amager was to leave for a school trip on Mothers' Day. His mom went with him to school to say goodbye before the bus left. She then returned to her job. When she got home

the one who does not leave the toilet seat up!

by Amihan A. Valenzuela



from work, she found a gift, a heart-shaped jewelry box, and Peter's note greeting her a happy Mothers' Day.

Sisters Katrina, 16 and Luzviminda, 11 each had special gift for their mom. Katrina bought her mom flowers. Luchie, on the other hand, was also to leave for a school trip but managed to give her mom a gift before leaving.

Christina, 17 gave her mom flowers a week before Mothers' Day. She, and her brother Wesley, 19 also bought a gumamela plant for her mom to replace the one she had.

Twins Roderick and Patrick, 12 went fishing with their dad on Mothers' Day. When they got home, they greeted their mom and gave her a headless garfish (horn-fisk) as a gift.

Rolet, 12 and brother Gabriel, 8 gave their mom flowers and cleaned up their flat as an extra gift.

Melissa, 7 gave her mom a kiss and greeted her "Happy Mothers' Day!"

Michelle, 19 cut out paper hearts and wrote dedications

on them, like "I love you, Mommy!" the day before Mothers' Day. She woke up very early the next day to set the paper hearts in place and to cook a special surprise breakfast for her mom who she thought was still in bed sleeping. She later found out that her mom had waken up earlier than she did and had already gone to church. Michelle then took the paper hearts and placed them at their house' entrance for her mom to see when she got home.

Sisters May, 11, Xandra, 9 and Jackie, 6 each had special gift for their mom. May gave her a doily she made herself. Xandra drew a picture and wrote "I love you, Mommy!" on it. Jackie also gave her mom a drawing of a bear with a ribbon. As an extra gift, all three girls also picked flowers to offer to their mom.

Aren't those just the sweetest? Some are a bit unusual, some didn't go the way planned, but all bear the love for one's mother, which is the best gift a kid can give.

Happy Mothers' Day!

What my parents mean to me...

My parents may be hard on me, but I know that they do it because they love me. From the outside they are like any other parents, but for me they are someone special. They are special because they are there when I need them and I can always count on them.

I do not know what I'm going to do without them. They are my best friends who are always with me through the good and bad times.

I thank God for my parents and I couldn't have asked for better parents named Mario and Corazon Magpantay. I am proud to be a part of the Magpantay and Jacinto Family.

Happy Mothers' Day, Mama! Happy Fathers' Day, Papa!

Rowena Lyn Jacinto Magpantay

I am proud to be a Filipino. Am I?

by Brian Peter Naidas



In the days of the pioneers in Denmark, new friendships and acquaintances were formed. Everyone knew each other and would help anyone in need. Family values, such as respect for the elders and caring for younger siblings, were imprinted on the young. These are the ideologies and behavior that make me proud to be a young second generation Filipino in a country where our priorities are not the same as of our host.

As I grow older and become more attentive, I look upon our community with a more rouseful eye, seeing and analyzing more than our elders. Like a coin which has two faces, the Filipinos have two active personalities battling to possess domination of the being. At our social extravaganzas, the Filipinos are all dressed up in the best suits and in the most beautiful dresses, always wearing the familiar Colgate smile. The outsiders often comment on how lucky we are to have such a strong happy community. What they don't know is that this is only a show of falseness of an Oscar-worth group of actors and actresses. For behind their "good angel looks" lies the dark art of *chismis*, their favorite pastime activity which makes me often wonder if I am proud to be a Filipino.

Growing up with Filipino values in a country where there is honesty and freedom and where people can talk to one another about pressing

problems, I do not understand why we have to talk badly about other people, thus giving them a bad reputation. People who gossip are generally themselves scared of how they are looked upon. They are weak because they hang on and around negative people instead of positive ones.

Because Filipinos have a hack of believing in rumors and in passing them on unconsciously, there are countless situations where unfounded *chismis* has destroyed a bond of trust between two parties, and who is to blame? People who started the rumor or the people who pass it on?

"Everyone was to be blamed except the victims. Why can we not live and think the way children do with no ulterior motives?" was the answer of the youth and the advice given to the elders: "Turn deaf ears to *chismis* and do not pass it on. That simple."

As a second generation Filipino, there are many impulses from the two different worlds we live in that make us just that bit different. We are taught in school to be independent and flexible, to learn from our mistakes, to have faith in God and in ourselves, and to do our best. "If it's to be, it's up to me."

But within our community, we are so dependent on how other people view our personality that it destroys the creativity in us due to fear of being labelled and criticized. Some of us are deterred from showing initiative and responsibility. This stems from prejudice and ignorance of the elders. If the child comes from a family of drunks, criminals or playboys, this does not make him one. When a person makes a

mistake, we put him down instead of offering him a helping hand.

The elders have to set an example for us youth to follow. They should also be more open and flexible. Together, we will get further in life by helping and sharing, by being a teammate. Then gradually the respect of the youth will return which is necessary for the community to survive and to retain the identity of the second generation.

The Filipino needs respect to function, that is why self-esteem needs to be rebuilt. Let's help a weak individual who is having fun at other person's expense and misery by showing him and complementing the other's positive action. We have to stick with each other during hard times and enjoy each other during good, and only then can we call ourselves Filipinos.

The FAD's primary goal

for existing was to create a stronghold of Philippine awareness. Many elders have provided chances for new blood to enter, but because of fear of being exposed and bad-mouthed and of losing privacy, the young blood declined to participate. The leaders of the organizations, new and old, should be able to accept constructive criticism as a part of growing. The ordinary members, on the other hand, must remember that the officers are voted by a majority, therefore they are the people's choice. Let's help them with our ideologies and let's create a new and powerful cooperation within our community. Let's leave the old dark ways... *chismis*, ignorance and prejudice... behind. Remember your children are and will be watching and learning. God gave us life so let us live it to the fullest with honesty. Do this and become a Filipino with pride.

When it comes to the safety of our passengers,

BRITISH AIRWAYS

The world's favourite airline

will never compromise. Our commitment to passenger safety is paramount and takes priority over every other aspect of our service.



For further information, please contact
PREMACELL TRAVEL
Vesterbrogade 86, 1620 Copenhagen V
Tel. (045) 33252811 ■ 33252148
Fax (045) 33252260

CATHAY PACIFIC
FLEXIBILITY

In Asia, flexibility is strength. And, with over 650 flights a week to and from Hong Kong, no one gives you more strength in Asia than Cathay Pacific. The Heart of Asia



For further information, please contact
PREMACELL TRAVEL
Vesterbrogade 86, 1620 Copenhagen V
Tel. (045) 33252811 ■ 33252148
Fax (045) 33252260