

Attop.

At iba pa

autumnwinter2006issue



barrio fiesta/the philippines culture of migration/outlandish/
stairway foundation/aupairs/original pilipino music/
shabu/ninoy movie night/athn



Front cover photo by Katrina Palad

from the editor

welcome to the first issue of atbp - a magazine that would strive to relay relevant information, deliver fresh perspective from talents of all ages, create awareness about what matters most, provide entertainment, atbp..

i would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all the contributors, especially to the ever devoted, and comedically gifted FAD officers. I hope that we continue to inspire each other for years to come.

just sit back, relax, and let the fruit of our labour be your guide to enlightenment and inspiration..

Amihan Valenzuela
Editor, Atbp.

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The Filipino Association of Denmark, (FAD), has in the last 4 years under my presidency been active in serving the community in different ways. Together with my fellow officers, I am proud to say that we have fulfilled every goal we have set our minds to. The FAD Board of Directors consists of seven committed individuals, who each specialise in their field of expertise.

The FAD has spearheaded many activities within the social area; Each year we celebrate the independence of the Philippines with party in one of Copenhagen's finest hotels. For the last four years, we have had a children's Christmas party complete with gifts and candy bags, these are of course given to them by Santa himself. It's a great day for the whole family. The FAD has also hosted a sports weekend complete with a bowling tournament and a 2 day basketball full court event. The chess club was revived for a while but did not proceed due to lack of players, however, quite a few people have inquired for the reopening of this activity.

For the last two years, the FAD has taken the lead in several issues concerning the community. One has been the fact that many of our young people have chosen to leave the school system early and not proceeding in taking on further education or learning a skill or trade. In the current political and economical situation that Denmark is in, it is imperative for our Filipino community to take action in helping guide our youth in furthering their skills and interests. The FAD has taken a step in counteracting this unfortunate fact by establishing the preliminary foundations for an educational award. We as a community association recognise the effort of the individual trying to better their current circumstances through education. It is important to point out that this educational award is not only for our youth but for everyone regardless of age.

On a couple of occasions, we have had workshops for young people to let them know that there are many opportunities out there, and not only along the academic path. During these workshops, the FAD has allied itself to the specialists in the Danish school system so that only correct information and advice would be given. We hope that our future seminars will have a greater attendance; these activities are not reserved for the youth, but for everyone.

For the first time in our community's history, a task force comprised of several other Filipino organisations and groups has been established in order to deal with community issues and emergencies. The task force is an informal organisation that can act on emergencies in accordance to the voting of the respective organisations, and the agreements within the task force itself. We work a little like the United Nations, each group or organisation has its own vote, and the task force cannot make a decision without the majority vote. This cooperation has only been a great and positive experience, since all involved is driven by the same aspiration that the community is to become a success. Despite the generation gap that may exist in such a diverse task force, all opinions and views are respected and discussed, which has been a great asset to the group.

September 2005, organisations all over Scandinavia and the Baltic regions were gathered in Oslo to attend the *Pulong ng Bayan*. This is a forum where hot topics in the Filipino communities all over the world are discussed. The FAD attended the forum along with *Bayanihan* and the *Babaylaan*; We were proud to observe that the cooperation between the Danish based organisations were years ahead of the surrounding areas. Hopefully, we will establish more joint ventures with other groups and organisations in the future, so that we become more aware of the issues concerning our community.

In the last three years there have been more than 2,000 Filipino au pairs in Denmark, and with this new influx of people there will also be concerns to address. Issues of abuse and misinterpretations of the true meaning of an au-pair are the great hurdles that our community has to face. The FAD has taken this predicament very seriously and has taken action on different fronts. The launching of the FAD brochure last October has been a great success, due to the fact that it is being used by several government institutions and contact centres all over the country. These brochures are a way to get in touch with new Filipinos in Denmark, whether you are a seaman or an au pair.

Last year a series of articles concerning au pairs were printed in a national newspaper and a controversial debate started within Denmark. FAD took point lead in trying to

define the correct morale issues at hand along with the journalists. This resulted in a snow ball effect that is still growing in a constructive outcome; several other newspapers, radio shows and TV stations have joined in to make the Danes more aware of the abuse some of our countrymen are exposed to. The coverage of these issues has resulted in a proposal by the Danish Integration Minister to the benefit of all au-pairs. Another way that the FAD has shouldered a responsibility has been through the au-pair hotline, where all inquiries concerning au-pairs are addressed. To service a call can be as short as 2 minutes, or as long as 2 months. Fortunately, the outcome of the whole debate has been on a positive note and our community as a whole has benefited by the coming of the au pairs.

We have had many activities and projects for the last 4 years, some activities have been more successful than others. However it is more important that the eagerness and aspiration to have these projects carried out is present. I am proud to say that the willingness is there and it grows for each time we proceed with an activity. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our sponsors and to all the volunteers that have pitched in during our activities. A special thanks to our advisors, my officers and I know that we are not always the easiest people to work with, but we get the job done.

Salamat sa inyo at mabuhay tayong lahat.

Peter Brian Naidas
 President
 The Filipino Association of Denmark



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January 2006

Since the 1970s, the Philippines — a country of about 7,000 islands peopled by diverse ethno-linguistic groups — has supplied all kinds of skilled and low-skilled workers to the world's more developed regions. As of December 2004, an estimated 8.1 million Filipinos — nearly 10 percent of the country's 85 million people — were working and/or residing in close to 200 countries and territories.

Although the Philippines is largely a country of emigration, it also attracts some foreigners to its shores. Traditionally, the foreign population in the Philippines consists of people of Chinese origin (some 80 percent of overseas Chinese are in Southeast Asia) and some people of Indian origin who came to settle in the country years ago.

Presently, there are 36,150 foreign nationals working and residing in the Philippines. The inflows of foreigners to the country, as well as concerns for unauthorized migration and the use of the Philippines as a transit point for other destinations, point to a reality in this age of migration: that countries can no longer be neatly and exclusively classified as countries of origin, transit, or destination.

Much of the country's attention and policies, though, are focused on emigration. A film released in June 2005, *La Visa Loca*, captures an ordinary Filipino's feverish quest for a US visa, the perceived ticket to a better life. In reality, the quest for a visa is not limited to the United States. Other promised lands in different regions — the Middle East, Asia, Europe, Africa, and Oceania — have become the objects of Filipino dreams.

In the last 30 years, a "culture of migration" has emerged, with millions of Filipinos eager to work abroad, despite the risks and vulnerabilities they are likely to face. A nationwide survey of 1,200 adult respondents in 2002 found one in five Filipinos expressing a desire to migrate.

More recent surveys carried out by Pulse Asia in 2005 found an increasing percentage of adult respondents — 26 percent in July and 33 percent in October — agreeing with the statement, "If it were only possible, I would migrate to another country and live there." Interest in leaving the country is not limited to adults. In a nationwide survey in 2003 of children ages 10 to 12, 47 percent reported that they

wished to work abroad someday. Sixty percent of children of overseas foreign workers said they had plans to work abroad.

The development of a culture of migration in the Philippines has been greatly aided by migration's institutionalization. The government facilitates migration, regulates the operations of the recruitment agencies, and looks out for the rights of its migrant workers. More importantly, the remittances workers send home have become a pillar of the country's economy.

Historical Background

After more than three centuries of Spanish colonial rule, the revolution waged by Filipinos in 1896 almost led to the end of Spanish rule. After a year of fighting, the revolutionaries and the Spanish authorities signed a truce in December 1897, and General Emilio Aguinaldo went into exile in Hong Kong.

The Spanish-American War broke out in February 1898, sparked by the United States' support for Cuba's fight against Spain. This spilled over into the Philippines. An American fleet led by Admiral George Dewey arrived in Manila, defeating Spanish forces in the Battle of Manila Bay on May 1, 1898.

Upon the urging of Admiral Dewey to resume the fight against Spain, General Aguinaldo returned to Manila on May 18, 1898. General Aguinaldo's forces liberated several towns south of Manila and declared independence from Spain on June 12, 1898. More American forces arrived, and the Spaniards surrendered Manila to the Americans that August.

On December 10, 1898, the Treaty of Paris was signed between the United States and Spain, formally ending the Spanish-American War. Under the treaty, the United States paid Spain to take control of the Philippines. Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Mariana Islands were ceded to the United States as well.

Filipinos resisted American rule, and the ensuing Philippine-American War, which began in 1899, dragged on even after it "officially" ended with the capture of General Aguinaldo in 1901, followed by the establishment of a civil government throughout the Philippines in 1902. The Philippines became independent in July 1946, after the Japanese invasion and occupation of World War II.

For much of the 20th century, "international migration" for Filipinos meant going to the United States and its Pacific territories. The first batch of Filipino workers arrived in the US territory of Hawaii on December 20, 1906 to work on sugarcane and pineapple plantations.

More workers, mostly single men, followed; others left Hawaii to work in agriculture in California,

The Philippines' Culture of Migration

by Maruja M.B. Asis

The Philippines' Culture of Migration

Washington, and Oregon, or the salmon canneries of Alaska. On the mainland, low-wage service work in the cities — waiters, busboys, or domestic work — provided alternative jobs between agricultural seasons or when other jobs are not available. Some 4,000 Filipinos were employed in the merchant marine, but this employment possibility ceased with the 1937 passage of a law requiring the crew of US flag vessels to be at least 90 percent American citizens.

According to one estimate, approximately 120,000 Filipino workers came to Hawaii between 1906 and 1934. Another estimate puts the number of Filipinos arriving in the United States between 1907 and the 1930 at 150,000, the majority of whom were in Hawaii. A small number of scholars, known as pensionados, also immigrated to the United States before the 1920s. They were either sponsored by the US government or by missionary-related programs. Some were sent by rich families to study and a few were self-supporting students. Those who returned assumed important positions in Filipino society while others remained in the United States.

Because the Philippines was a US colony, the movement of Filipinos to the United States was considered internal migration and Filipino migrants were "nationals" (but not citizens). It was not until the passage of the 1934 Tydings-McDuffie Law (also known as the Philippines Independence Act of 1934), which provided for the granting of Philippine independence in 10 years' time, that the Philippines became subject to immigration quotas. The 1934 law limited the Philippines to 50 visas per year, and migration dropped off dramatically.

But even so, there was an exception clause: in case of a labor shortage, the governor of Hawaii was authorized to hire Filipino workers. As nationals, Filipinos were entitled to American passports and could enter and leave the country freely. World War II intervened and further migration to the United States stalled. Between 1946 and the mid 1960s, about 10,000 to 12,000 Filipinos came to Hawaii as workers, military personnel, and war brides.

It was not until the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act, when nationality-based restrictions were struck down, that Filipino immigration grew and diversified.

Other countries of settlement also dismantled their pro-European immigration policies in the 1960s and 1970s, paving the way for Filipinos to enter Canada, Australia, and New Zealand under family or skills-based provisions. The Philippines eventually became one of the top 10 sending countries in these traditional immigration countries.

Filipinos also settled in countries that are not traditional countries of immigration, such as Germany and Japan, through marriage or work-related migration. This permanent migration, however, was overshadowed by the larger and thornier temporary labor migration that started in the 1970s.

Becoming a Labor Exporter

The Philippines' ascent as a major labor exporter in Asia and worldwide is based on various factors. When large-scale labor migration from the Philippines started in the 1970s, the "push" factors were very strong but made

worse by the oil crisis in 1973. Among others, economic growth could not keep up with population growth. The country was hard pressed to provide jobs and decent wages and had severe balance of payment problems.

At the same time, the oil-rich Gulf countries needed workers to realize their ambitious infrastructure projects. With supply and demand factors converging, the Philippines was ripe for large-scale labor migration, an opportunity the Marcos government recognized. The framework for what became the government's overseas employment program was established with the passage of the Labor Code of the Philippines in 1974.

The Philippines' foray into organized international labor migration was supposed to be temporary, lasting only until the country recovered from its economic problems. However, the continuing demand for workers in the Gulf countries and the opening of new labor markets in other regions, especially in East and Southeast Asia, fueled further migration.

On the supply side, the push factors have not abated. The absence of sustained economic development, political instability, a growing population, double-digit unemployment levels, and low wages continue to compel people to look abroad.

The flow of overseas foreign workers (OFWs), numbering a few thousand per year in the early 1970s, has grown to hundreds of thousands. In 2004 alone, 933,588 OFWs left the country. Based on trends, it is expected that the number of deployed OFWs will hit the one million mark in 2005.

The data on deployed workers include seafarers, who account for some 20 percent of all OFWs leaving the country every year. Filipinos dominate the industry: 25 percent of the world's seafarers are from the Philippines.

As of December 2004, the stock of overseas Filipinos include some 3.2 million permanent settlers (the majority of whom are in the United States), about 3.6 million temporary labor migrants (called OFWs), with Saudi Arabia hosting close to a million, and an estimated 1.3 million migrants in an unauthorized situation. The latter tend to be mostly in the United States and Malaysia.

Women are very visible in international migration from the Philippines. They not only compose the majority of permanent settlers, i.e., as part of family migration, but they are as prominent as men in labor migration. In fact, since 1992, female migrants outnumbered men among the newly hired land-based workers who are legally deployed every year.

The majority of female OFWs are in domestic work and entertainment. Since these are unprotected sectors, female migration has raised many concerns about the safety and well-being of women migrants. Female OFWs can also be found in factory work, sales, and nursing.

Among the top 10 destinations of OFWs, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Singapore, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Japan, and Taiwan are dominated by women OFWs. In Hong Kong, for example, more than 90 percent of OFWs are women.

How Labor Export Works

With its low rate of foreign investment and a steady reduction in development assistance, the government, not

just its people, has come to rely on overseas employment as a strategy for survival. After years of pushing the official line that it does not promote overseas employment, the government set a target in 2001 of deploying a million workers overseas every year, a goal it is likely to meet in 2005.

Since the 1970s, the government and the private sector each have played a role in the labor export process. The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) grew out of the Overseas Employment Development Board and the National Seamen Board in the then Ministry of Labor and Employment. POEA became the government agency responsible for processing workers' contracts and predeployment checks, as well as for licensing, regulating, and monitoring private recruitment agencies.

When the overseas program started, the government participated in recruiting and matching workers and employers. Due to demand for workers and the large numbers involved, the government relinquished the placement of workers to private recruitment agencies in 1976. There is a placement branch within the POEA, but it only accounts for a small number of all OFWs placed with foreign employers.

On the private-sector side, there are more than 1,000 government-licensed recruitment and manning agencies in the Philippines (and an unknown number of unlicensed ones) that match workers with foreign employers. In the Philippines, recruitment agencies refer to those that find jobs for aspiring land-based migrant workers; manning agencies refer to those that engage in recruiting and finding jobs for seafarers.

Recruitment agencies charge migrant workers "placement fees" for the service that they provide. Manning agencies are not supposed to charge placement fees as these fees are assumed by the principal or employer, but there are cases of known violations. Although there is a standard placement fee for most destinations (except for special markets such as Taiwan) which is equivalent to one month's salary plus 5,000 Philippine pesos (about US \$94) for documentation, this is routinely violated. The excessive fees are a burden to migrants and put them in a vulnerable situation because they are already in debt before they leave. When they are abroad, they go without any salary for a period of time, and they are forced to bear harsh working and living conditions in order to repay their loans.

Another government agency, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), provides support and assistance to migrants and their families. All processes and requirements up until the point of departure are handled by the POEA, while the OWWA assumes responsibility for the workers' welfare while they are employed abroad. POEA and OWWA are under the Department of Labor and Employment.

A separate agency, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), provides programs and services to permanent emigrants. CFO was transferred from the Department of Foreign Affairs to the Office of the President in 2004.

Among the countries of origin in Asia, the Philippines offers a fairly comprehensive package of programs and services covering all phases of migration, from predeparture to on-site services to return and reintegration. Although the government could improve its implementation of these programs, the programs demonstrate the government's efforts to balance the marketing of workers with protection.

Some of these initiatives, such as the predeparture orientation seminars for departing workers and the deployment of labor attachés and welfare officers to countries with large OFW populations, are good practices that other countries of origin have also implemented.

Protecting Workers Abroad

The irregular operations of recruitment agencies in the Philippines and their counterparts in the countries of destination are one of the sources of vulnerabilities for migrant workers. Excessive placement fees, contract substitution, nonpayment or delayed wages, and difficult working and living conditions are common problems encountered by migrant workers, including legal ones.

Migrant women face particular vulnerabilities. Aside from the usual problems that plague migrants, their jobs in domestic work and entertainment usually mean long working hours, surveillance and control by employers, and abusive conditions, including violence and sexual harassment. Given the "private" context in which they work, the problems encountered by migrant women in these sectors go unnoticed.

In general, compared to other national groups, Filipino workers are relatively better protected because they are more educated, more likely to speak English, and they are better organized. NGOs for migrants in the Philippines and their networks abroad not only provide services and support to migrants, but, more importantly, they advocate for migrants' rights.

The development of a legal and institutional framework to promote migrant workers' protection is also an important factor. The Philippines was the first among the countries of origin in Asia to craft a law that aims "to establish a higher standard of protection and promotion of the welfare of migrant workers, their families and overseas Filipinos in distress." Although there had been discussions about a Magna Charta for migrant workers for some time, it was not until 1995 that the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act (also known as Republic Act or RA8042) was finally passed.

The tipping point was the national furor in 1995 over the execution of Flor Contemplación, a domestic worker in Singapore, who many Filipinos believed was innocent despite her conviction for the deaths of her Singaporean ward and another Filipino domestic worker. This was a factor in fast-tracking the passage of RA8042.

Briefly, the law's provisions include:

- the deployment of workers in countries that ensure protection, including the banning of deployment if necessary;
- providing support and assistance to overseas Filipinos, whether legal or in an unauthorized situation;
- imposing stiff penalties for illegal recruiters;
- free legal assistance and witness protection program for victims of illegal recruitment;
- the institution of advisory/information, repatriation, and reintegration services;
- the stipulation that the "protection of Filipino migrant workers and the promotion of their welfare, in particular, and the protection of the dignity and fundamental rights

(Continued on page 26)

a look back at the 2005

BARRIO FIESTA

The 35th anniversary of the Filipino Association of Denmark was celebrated by having a good old fashioned Barrio Fiesta. The slogan of the event was; "Just like home."

The event featured certain different activities that made a huge impact to the ambiance, the feeling of the event taking place at a local basketball court in any Philippine barrio, whether it is in the northern or the southern territories of the Philippines.

The Barrio Fiesta can boast according to the manager of the venue, an attendance of more than 1,000 people. This number is taken by the amount of chairs times 1.5. Fortunately they did not all come at once. The venue itself was decorated by more than 278 meters of *banderitas*, and more than 20 colourful posters provided by the department of tourism in London. There were posters of local talents, and there were also 2 banners specially hand made in the Philippines for this one event. The award winning placard created by Mr. Wilfredo Bautista was the pinnacle of the décor.

The Pinoy Idols dance featured 3 different dance groups, The Abundo Girls which consisted of 5 dancers, solo artist Aaron Navarro, and finally the Aztecs an all boy group. Split second place consisted of the Abundo girls and solo artist Aaron Navarro, the undisputed first place winner was the Aztecs. They won the coveted prize of a JVC state of the art boom-box with cd/mp3 capabilities.

The song portion of the Pinoy Idols was won by Suzi over many other renowned community performers. His prize was 500kr. and a diploma stating him as the winner. There were more than 8 participants for this event.

The Miss *GaySiya* event was the first gay show held in the last 14 years, so it was a great success and

the audience enjoyed themselves bravely. The show featured dress costume, long dress and swim suit portion. This event was spearheaded by community leader Ben Adriatico.

Another blockbuster happening was the comeback performance of the Chiwawa song group, which consists of the old timers of the community, not in age but in experience. They were the first "boy band" of the community. The Raffle draw was also one of the highlights of the day, there were more than 25 consolation prizes given, the prizes varied from electronic home appliances to monetary prizes to advanced mp3 players with external speakers. A huge thanks to all our sponsors. The 2000kr prize was won by Cristina Comia, the 3000kr prize by Adelaine Solas, and the grand prize of 5000kr was won by Estrella Frandsen.

There were 7 food stalls and 3 stalls vending specialist items varying from Christmas goods to native outfits and jewellery. The winner of the most artistic stall was the CFC food stall created in the manner of a *Bahay Kubo*. They received a diploma and the amount of their stall payment.

The whole day event ended at 22:00 in the evening, after having a disco complete with lights and smoke machine. Thank you to all the sponsors of the event, and to all the volunteers that stayed to help clean up. A special thank you to Mr. Marc Dicay for providing pictures of past events from the early 80's to the present time, these pictures were scanned and projected onto a screen that ran the whole time. The community enjoyed these memories of the past and greatly appreciated that they were still remembered. Without the help of the community, the FAD would not have such a great success.

The Filipino Association of Denmark



Stairway foundation



Hvad er et gadebarn?

Gadebørn er børn og unge, der hutler sig gennem en hverdag fyldt med stoffer, prostitution og kriminalitet for at overleve. Nogle børn er helt alene uden familie og må forsørge sig selv. Andre skal også forsørge forældre og søskende. Nød og fattigdom gør desværre, at forældre er parate til at lade deres børn misbruge.

I Manila lever omkring 100.000 børn på gaden og endnu flere i slumbyer langs jernbanesporene gennem byen. De får ingen uddannelse, ingen hjælp, ingen barndom.

Gadebørn til glade børn

Stairways kerne er center for rehabilitering af gadebørn i Filippinerne. Det ligger på øen Mindoro, syd for Manila. Men for at stoppe den stadige store mængde af misbrugte og udnyttede børn, er det en naturlig udløber af vores arbejde, at vi taler børnenes sag i samfundet. Fortalervirksomheden strækker vi også ud over Filippinerne grænser, for alverdens børn har ret til et trygt liv.

Kamp mod sexmisbrug af børn

Så længe børn bliver betragtet som de voksnes ejendom er de i fare for at blive udnyttet og udsat for overgreb. Børn behøver beskyttelse. Det er ikke kun lovændringer der skal til, men også grundlæggende

holdningsændringer. Både hos politikere, forældre og måske mest vigtigt, hos de unge selv.

Årelang erfaring med gadebørn på Filippinerne har vist os, at seksuelle overgreb er et overvældende stort problem, for drenge såvel som piger. Det er et emne, der er belagt med mange tabuer og børnene vil helst ikke tale om deres voldsomme oplevelser. Så meget des nemmere er det for samfundet at lade som ingenting. Tavshed får dog ikke problemet til at forsvinde og kommer blot til at virke som en stiltiende accept af en fuldstændig uacceptabel adfærd.

Vi arbejder derfor med

- Støtteprogrammer... rehabilitering, heling, genoptræning med terapiforløb og

uddannelse til gadebørn og andre børn med alvorlige helbredsproblemer, som f.eks. tuberkulose.

- Netværk.... vi udvikler, udgiver og distribuerer uddannelses og oplysningsmaterialer, laver workshops og uddanner personale
- Forebyggelse og behandling.. vi rådgiver og tilbyder terapi til både behandlere og ofre
- Fortalervirksomhed... vi udgiver internationale nyhedsbreve, holder foredrag, optræder og tilbyder centerophold til studerende fra hele verden

Tuberkulosebørn

Børn med tuberkulose har en særlig plads på Stairway. Sygdommen kan kun kureres hvis man passer sin medicinbehandling som skal falde på klokkeslet, hvilket de færreste gadebørn kan overholde. Så får de ophold på Stairway til de er raske. Alle vores aktiviteter sker i samarbejde med de Filippinske myndigheder

Ind under huden

Når et barn kommer til Stairway lægger det en barsk hverdag bag sig og får en mulighed for at komme videre med et nyt liv. På Stairway får børnene en hverdag der er lagt i faste rammer, med pligter og ansvar, som i enhver anden familie.

De skal tjene deres egne lommepenge og de skal både vaske op, vaske tøj og vaske sig selv. Det er svært, når man har været vant til at sove i rendestenen, tigge om mad, stjæle, lyve og være skæv af stoffer.

På centret har vi veluddannede socialarbejdere, pædagoger og lærere, som alle er rustet til at hjælpe børnene. Med forskellige aktiviteter arbejder vi os ind på vores børn og unge. Vores indsats er målrettet mod at skabe tillid til voksne, tryghed ved sig selv og mod på et nyt liv. Vi underviser i børns rettigheder, skaber faste rammer, holder ord og giver kram.

Mens de er på Stairway går børnene også i skole og derudover forsøger vi at give dem basale færdigheder

indenfor forskellige håndværk, så de har et grundlag, at bygge en lovlydig tilværelse op om. Det kan være at tegne T-shirts til turister, lave perlesmykker eller at svejse cykelstel.

Hen over landet

I lokalområdet arbejder vi tæt sammen med skole- og socialmyndigheder. Vi uddanner lærerne til at opdage tegn på overgreb og støtter lokale initiativer for bedring af børns vilkår. Derfor har vi udarbejdet en mængde skolemateriale, som allerede bliver flittigt brugt. På det nationale plan samarbejder vi med myndighederne i Manila og flere kommuner.

Ud i verden

Kampen for børns rettigheder er global. Vores aktiviteter strækker sig derfor også ud i flere lande. Blandt andet med vores tegnefilm og vores foredragsvirksomhed.

Kreative aktiviteter der helbreder

Udtryk og kreativitet er effektive måder at få børnene til at tale om ubehagelige oplevelser og dermed starte helingen af krop og sjæl. Vi bruger mange forskellige metoder.

Musik og teater

Ved at synge og skrive sange får børnene mulighed for at fortælle deres egen historie og sige den højt på en, for dem selv, legal måde. I 1999 rejste Stairway i Europa med "Goldtooth - en gadebørnsmusical", der var en udløber af dette arbejde.

Digte

At skrive sin smerte ud. Sådan har mennesket gjort fra de tidligste kærlighedsdigte og frem til i dag. Børnene skriver mange digte og flere af dem kan læses i vores webside.

Foto og hjemmebesøg

Børnene tager hjem på besøg hos egen familie (eller bande) udstyret med et kamera. Når vi senere kigger billederne igennem sammen, opnår børnene ofte en langt større forståelse af deres egen situation.

Workshops og seminarer

Studerende fra Manila og andre lande besøger også Stairway. En gang årligt kommer Manillas rige børn på besøg i en uge. De er de kommende magthavere og når de har set behovet med egne øjne, tror vi på at ændringerne vil ske hurtigere. Det giver håb og optimisme, når vi ser, hvor meget de unge har at give hinanden på tværs af sociale skel og landegrænser.%

Photos by Casper Dalhof

Stairway i Danmark

Stairway Foundation har dybe rødder i Danmark. Stifter og projektleder Lasse Jørgensen er fra Vejle og mange danske turister besøger centret derude hvert år. Derfor er det naturligt, at vi har en stærk støtteorganisation i Danmark.

Det er Stairway Danmarks opgave, at udbrede kendskabet til Stairway Foundations arbejde og at samle penge ind til den fortsatte drift af centret i Filippinerne.

Stairway Danmark administrerer personlige medlemskaber og øvrige aktiviteter, som økonomisk og ressourcemæssigt kan komme Stairway til gavn. Det er for eksempel salg af armbånd, tilknytning af volontører, indsamling af hospitalsudstyr, nyhedsbreve, foredrag, distribution af undervisningsmaterialer, fundraising og indsamlinger.

Alle midler går ubeskåret til Stairway Foundations arbejde.



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AuPairAuPair ProblemPride AuPairAuPair PrideProblem AuPairAuPair ProblemPride AuPairAuPair PrideProblem AuPairAuPair ProblemPride AuPairAuPair PrideProblem AuPairAuPair

Lately it has been hard to pick up a newspaper or turn on the tv without there being a mention of au-pairs. Typically, the story in the media is about abusive hosts who take advantage of au-pairs or about cynical agents who charge horrendous placement fees from the unsuspecting au-pairs. The most recent development is a legislative proposal by the Minister of Integration, which will enable au-pairs to inform the Danish authorities about abusive host families without risking immediate deportation.

På lige vilkår

Au-pair means on "equal terms" and the concept of the arrangement has never been to provide cheap labour to Danish families. On the contrary. The European Council passed rules in the area in 1969, and these rules still apply. Quite simply the rules are as following:

- An au-pair can only work between 3-5 hours a day
- An au-pair should have at least one day off a week
- An au-pair should be able to learn the Danish language
- The host family must provide room and board

New legislation

The Minister of Integration, Rikke Hvilshøj's legislative proposal will enable au-pairs to inform of abuse from hosts, but still ensure that they are not sent home immediately. The law has yet to be passed, and it will be interesting how the practical implementation of this law will take place. However, irregardless of how the Ministry seeks to enforce this law, it gives Filipino organisations more tools to help au-pairs in need of help. Our responsibility as a community does not stop with the passing of this new law. We still

have a responsibility to ensure, either as individuals or as organisations, that problems such as abuse or agencies are brought to the attention of the proper authorities. But equally important, it is also our responsibility to ensure, that the abuse is stopped even before it happens. It is likely that a newly arrived au-pair who lives with a host, intent on taking advantage of the situation will not inform the girls about her rights, and we must therefore do our best to inform au-pairs of the rights and the organisations which seek to help them.

FAD and other Filipino organisations

For more than a 1½ years FAD has had a hotline for au-pairs. We started the hotline because we had identified a need for the Filipino community to ensure that these girls, who could potentially be in a vulnerable situation, had somebody to turn to if problems or questions arose. Most often, the approaches we got were questions about residency, visas etc. However we also found that some au-pairs were being taken advantage of either by hosts or agents, and over the last eighteen months, several front page stories regarding abusive hosts and cynical agents have been published in the Danish media. FAD has cooperated with the media because we have felt a need for these issues to be brought to light, and if any change was ever to be made, media attention was required. In many ways, the recent media attention can be described as a success because the authorities are now aware of some of the harsh conditions which some au-pairs are subjected to. Many other Filipino organisations have similar programs,

and the Filipino organisations all work with each other.

A "problem" we can be proud of

It has been voiced out that au-pairs will give Filipinos an ill reputation since it portrays us as people that make a living looking after other people's children, and that the problems with hosts and agents give Filipinos bad publicity. This might be the opinion of some people. However, I choose to look at this "problem" as something we can be proud of. I am proud to call myself a Filipino because I belong to a community which have genuinely tried to help other Filipinos needing their help. I am proud to call myself Filipino when I watch tv-segments in the news telling stories of Filipina women sacrificing years away from their children and husbands to help support their family. Although it can be viewed as a problem, to me, the "problem" of au-pairs has shown what a hard-working people we are, and the way individuals and organisations have all worked together in an earnest, unselfish attempt to help these girls, has brought out the best in the Filipinos in Denmark.



snapshots from home

by Bernadette Marcelo



Since the beginning of this year, I've been traveling from island to island with my boyfriend and 3 other Danish guys with our traveling bible, the Lonely Planet. Here are some snapshots I'd like to share with you... so sit back, enjoy and be inspired!

1st Snapshot: BORACAY

In January, we went to Boracay for a week, our first destination from the line of places we planned to explore around the Philippines. I've always loved Boracay, no doubt about that. It's the glorious place for sun-worshippers, *manileños*, and of course, for the tourists, may it be from Europe, America or Asia. It's the perfect island getaway, with its warm blue waters, powder fine white sand and ohh so beautiful shimmering water in the morning. The white beach is still above sea level and it's so nice to walk around barefooted and just feel the warmth of the sand against your skin.

At night, the island transforms into one exciting hub for music, dancing and party for people out to relax and have some fun. Dress code in Boracay is strictly informal. The lively discos have the beach for a floor, giving dance a new sandy twist. From dusk to dawn, the island turns into one big party place where everyone is welcome to join in.

Boracay also offers great restaurants with different kinds of cuisine, great bars, and nice shops for souvenirs, henna tattoos and different kinds of stuff for everyone. Our favorite hangout there is a place called *Café del Mar*. For the whole week we were there, that's the place we go to from the time we wake up till sundown because it's a bar/restaurant in front of the beach, where they have very big rattan comfy chairs that you can just sit around on to kill time, sun bathe and relax. At night time, it turns into a bar and is always packed with people. It's a great place for bummers.

Another must try in Boracay is the famous *Jonis* for their mouth-watering and thirst quencher fruit shakes. At times when the sun is so hot, it is best to have your fruit shakes. It's not expensive but tastes like a classy drink. When you get tired of swimming and humming around, you can always go island hopping, do some water sports or have a heavenly massage - this is a must try because they have very good masseuses which just adds more flavor to the relaxing aura of Boracay.

For many certified sun worshippers the world over, paradise goes by one name - Boracay. For a beach bum like me, I would certainly agree. I had so much fun relaxing and enjoying the paradise that I want to call it my second home.



2nd Snapshot: BOHOL

Next stop was Bohol. We went to Panglao last March, and as true as I've heard about the place, Bohol is one of the best tourist destinations for the many things it has to offer for visitors. It's not only good for vacationers who want to relax and see the place, it is also the great for diving. According to my diving friends, Bohol has one of the best diving sites in Asia. They have beautiful coral reefs and good marine life that they preserve and take pride on. It's a quiet island compared to Boracay, not many bars, restaurants, and parties lasting 'til dawn, but it definitely has other things to offer.

Bohol is beautiful for its great sunsets, amazing food, and rich cultural heritage. Bohol is also famous for the smallest primate in the world called the Tarsier, a nice little fragile creature that is a must see, not to be found elsewhere. It's so cute and tiny that it's only as big as the palm of your hand and it won't jump around or bite you. My friends and I must have stayed there for an hour just looking and enjoying the Tarsier.

And let's not forget what has put Bohol on the map - the Chocolate Hills. Yes, what you may have already heard is absolutely true. The chocolate hills are so breathtakingly awesome. Going to the chocolate hills, my friends and I rented motorbikes instead of hiring a van because we want to enjoy the view and experience a little adventure for ourselves. It was just wonderful driving around the city and seeing the lakes, old churches and the trees all over.

The first time I saw the chocolate hills was from afar while on the motorcycle. The first thing I said was 'Oh my God, this is heaven'. The hills look like giant mole hills and they were all over the place. They consist of more or less 1,268 hills in total. It was a gorgeous sight indeed with so many hills surrounding us. Some were turning brown, hence chocolate hills, but some were still green covered in grass. And to think that this is not a man-made work of art makes it even more unbelievable. For me, the best part in going to Bohol is to see the chocolate hills that I just used to see in books and magazines. It is with no exaggeration, a jaw dropping view.

Apart from Bohol's most famous site, the place also offers much more - dolphin and whale watching, old Spanish churches, markets, the islands and of course, the warm hospitality of the nice and gracious *boholanos*. It is not a party place compared to Boracay, but I love it just the same.



3rd Snapshot: PALAWAN

I have always dreamt of going to Palawan. If you hear someone say that they have been there you can't help but feel jealous because of what has been said and heard from friends, newspapers and television. They were saying it's the last frontier and the best place in the Philippines. Last April, my boyfriend and I went to Palawan, what I saw and experienced is the best vacation I have ever had. I was not prepared on what I will see.

Our first stop was Puerto Princessa, there were a lot of places to go around the area but since our stay was just limited we just went to see the Underground River in Sabang. We took the monkey trail through the beautiful jungle of the national park that takes two hours to trek. After 2 bottles of mineral water and plenty of stop over, it was worth it because in the end of the trail you will find the underground river.

Afterwards, we went to El Nido, the most famous island in Palawan. They have 45 enchanting islets and each island has its own unique features whether soaring cliffs, hidden lagoons, pocket white sand beaches or ancient caves. With the many islands in El Nido, it is impossible to see all of it. Some cafes offer tours where you can go to 3-4 islands in one day.

The most popular tourist destination is the Miniloc Island for its big and small lagoons. The water has crystal clear saltwater swimming holes that are good for snorkeling. You can either go by boat or kayaking but either or for sure everyone will find the lagoons breathtaking. Another famous island in El Nido is the secret beach, its hidden from the outside of the island and you have to swim under the cliff to see it and believe me its worth the effort.

As for the accommodation it is very safe and economical and as what we always perceive El Nido is not very much expensive compared to other island thou power officially cuts out at midnight till 1 pm. They don't have banks or ATMs, but some restaurants accept credit cards also. At some point it can be a hassle but afterwards it's not a big deal anymore. The most memorable place we discovered while being there is the bar/restaurant called Balay Tubay. It's a native, homey and lively place to end the night. They have live acoustic bands where everyone jams with wonderful artist that plays and talks to you. Undeniably El Nido is one of the most spectacular places I have been to.

Pictures by Bernadette Marcelo and Hanni Gharib





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JOYful Noise

Living and learning in Croatia

by Joy Filipovich

After living in Croatia for a year, I came home to the Philippines for a brief vacation. A Filipina approached me at the NAIA airport and asked what country I came from. "Croatia," I proudly replied.

"Saan yon (Where's that)?" was her instant question. I didn't know whether to smile or smirk. Perhaps she was absent from geography class when her teacher discussed Yugoslavia. I smiled nonchalantly and walked away. Then on the way out to pick up my luggage, a guy approached me and asked the same question. Once more I replied, "Croatia." He followed up, "Aren't they still at war with Serbia?" Exhausted from a long flight, I explained tersely but politely that war in Croatia ended in 1995.

Some Filipinos may know little about the Republic of Croatia, but some may have heard the news of its candidacy for European membership in 2007. On CNN, we often see a promotional short film titled "Croatia, the Mediterranean that once was." Lonely Planet and National Geographic have named it the number one tourist destination in Europe. Without a doubt, Croatia lives up to its name as a "hidden gem" of beauty and splendor in the Mediterranean.

But what about living in it? Well, that's a different story. My family and friends ask me, "Is it hard?" The answer is yes and no. Croatia has an entirely different culture than the Philippines, with a total of 32 Filipinos in the entire country. I live without family, among people for whom English is a 3rd language – a big challenge indeed.

I had to go through a lot of hurdles before I finally immersed in the culture. One of the biggest hurdles has been the steep language barrier. As an ESL teacher in a private school in Zagreb, I'm constantly jittery when I speak to parents in school meetings – not all of them speak English. With my broken Croatian, I try my best to convey my impressions about their kids. But there are times when they just have to adjust to me and are forced to speak English, resulting in more trouble than help.

I almost shrank in embarrassment when one mother apologized to me for her son's two-day absence. In broken English she said, "Teacher, I am sorry that my son was absent," adding that she couldn't take him to school because she had problems with her "tits." Shocked, I gaped and replied, "Why, what's wrong with your tits?" I looked directly at her chest, but she pointed to her teeth. Blushing and embarrassed, I said, "Oh, you mean your teeth!"

On the other hand, many Croatians, especially the young generation, speak impeccable English with soft British accents. Still, from time to time, you encounter funny lines like "Come back the cards" instead of "Return the cards." Once, after I had my hair trimmed, someone remarked that I had "cut my head." That made me touch my head to check if it was still there.

Croatian is not an easy language to learn. Hard language structures, but flexible is how they describe it. With strong pronunciation of consonants, it has similarities with Czech, Polish, Russian and Bulgarian, all in the Slavic family of languages.

Being my 24/7 tutor, my Croatian boyfriend has really worked hard to make me learn the language the easier way. But in the first stage, I've caused him some embarrassing moments. I cannot forget how his eyes almost popped once when we met a friend. Confidently, I asked how his sick mother in law was. The word



mother-in-law in Croatian is "Svekrva". And I asked, "kako je tvoja Kurva?"

I obviously forgot the correct word because I saw my boyfriend's face red and laughing. Later he told me that I just asked, "How is your whore?" That may have been funny to him, but I did not find it amusing. I resolved to take formal Croatian language lessons to save myself from future embarrassments. Life began to be a little easier after that.

Rituals at the pub

Frequent visits to coffee shops and pubs is a favorite Croatian pastime. Coffee shops and pubs are a flourishing business here. Wherever you go, there is always a pub to cater to their coffee (and smoking) addiction.

Drinking slightly warm strong espresso is something I needed to adjust to. They drink two kinds of coffee – Turkish, which needs to be cooked and is very strong, and espresso with or without milk, but still with a strong coffee flavor. Perhaps this explains why most of the people here are highly excitable, loud and jumpy. I often misconstrue people to be in heated argument, when they're just excitedly exchanging stories and laughing afterwards.

I also found unusual how people drop by pubs before and after work. They rush in for their early morning coffee fix then go back to the same pub in the afternoon for a beer or two before heading home. On weekends and at special soccer events, they gather again with their friends to watch the game together before going home. Pubs and coffee shops seem to be a sanctuary to relax and interact with friends freely.

Nature lovers and sports adventurers

Sunny weather in Croatia means going out for fun. I did not realize the importance of beautiful sunny days until I started to live here. In the Philippines, I took our hot tropical sunny weather for granted. But short, dark and gloomy days, especially in winter, make me wish to go back home.

Croatians are sport adventurers and nature lovers. At Jarun Lake, the popular lake in Zagreb, people of all ages – 60 year olds included – bike, roller skate, swim, windsurf and kayak as long as the sun is out. There's no such thing as "I'm too old to roller skate" or to bike. Apart from that, bus terminals are full of 50, 60 and 70 year olds on Sundays, all waiting for buses to take them to numerous hiking paths in surrounding mountains, something I find absolutely incredible.

One of the most interesting parts of the lake is the nudist camp in a secluded area. When we were sunbathing on the lake, I didn't realize that we were close to the nudist camp. Out of curiosity, I "accidentally" stared at those bravely displaying themselves in birthday suit – shocking to me but widely acceptable in their culture.

I guess everything depends when you're in a foreign land. What may be acceptable to them may not be acceptable to you and vice versa. Comparing two different cultures in a positive light is what I recommend. On my third year of living in Croatia, I have learned to appreciate the land and culture, especially the warm hospitality of a friendly people, not to mention my enjoyment in my advancing proficiency in their language. Still a day hardly passes when I do not miss the Philippines. There's no place like home, my heart always says. ☺

PINOY MOVIE NIGHT

by Winze Lloren

FAD launched the first ever Pinoy Movie Night last May 2006 showcasing two popular movies in the Philippines. And yes, it was definitely a night to remember...watching of course, the very handsome Piolo Pascual and the talented Juday Santos.

"A night to remember talaga!" sabi ng mga viewers na nagpunta. And ika pa ng isang viewer na babae, "...akala ko sa Pinas lang kami makakapanood ng sine pati pala sa Denmark may sinehan!" Pinoy movie pa! At eto pa, ha, isa sa mga Titas na kinikilig sa kapapanood, eto an hirit, "Ang pogi ni Piolo, sana antayin niya ako pag-uwi ko sa Pinas."

We got so many good feedbacks from the viewers. Enjoy na enjoy talaga sila lalo na sa pagkain, which only cost them 40kr - with free popcorn pa! Imagine this, two good Filipino movies, one full dinner, and a bucket of popcorn in one night for only 40kr...Definitely, a night to remember!

We then did a follow-up in September, dubbed "Take 2: Pinoy Movie Night." Again, we showed 2 Tagalog movies. One of the movies was entitled "All About Love". It starred the super pogi Lucky Manzano with the very beautiful young actress Anne Curtis. It is a romantic comedy movie, kaya naman maraming na-in love at kinilig sa ganda ng movie.

FAD would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people na sumuporta sa Pinoy movie night. And keep yourself posted about the coming FAD events. Who knows, there might be a take 3!

FILIPINO ASSOCIATION
OF DENMARK
★ PINOY ★
★ MOVIE ★
★ NIGHT



photos by Katrina Palad

Top 10 OPM Album Countdown



1. Kami NApo Muna
Various Artists



2. Cafe Bossa
Sitti Navarro



3. Transit
Spongecola



4. Becoming
Sarah Geronimo



5. Awit Ng Puso
Martin Nievera



6. Back To Me
Cueshe



7. Bituin Walang Ningning OST
Various Artists



8. Nina
Nina



9. Live @ 19 East
Freestyle



10. Destination XYZ
Callalily

as of September 15, 2006, source: www.titikpilipino.com



A local band, Cloudedwire was formed in 2004, by four multinational artists. The guitarist and the bassist originated from the Philippines, the rhythm guitarist is half-Japanese and the drummer is from Denmark. As colleagues and friends, with different musical backgrounds and a distinctive chemistry, they developed a unique music synergy.

Their alternative rock style can be defined as rock mainstream, raw yet melodic with some heart-felted poetical lyrics. They have been performing at different events in Copenhagen, working on their album, and promoting their music continuously. One promising band, it definitely is.

An upcoming concert is to be held on Indre By Medborgerhus, Hal 3, Ahlefeldtsgade 33, 1359 Copenhagen Nov. 4th 2006 from 19:00 hours, entrance is Dkk 30,00.



HALE RELEASES "TWILIGHT ALBUM!"
by May Carlos

2005, HALE composed of Champ LuiPio (vocals, guitarist), Sheldon Gellada (bass, vocals) Roll Martines (guitars and vocals) and Omnie Saroca (drums and percussions), released their self-titled album HALE with their single Broken Sonnet, The Day You Said Good-night, Kahit Pa and Kung Wala Ka bagged them a huge amount of fans for their melancholic, emotional and insightful lyrics quickly earned them as The Best Selling New Artist in 2005 gaining triple platinum award and MTV Pilipinas Best New Artist in 2005 and a lot more..

And now Hale is back once again one of the most dynamic band today known for their music emanates a very sad undertone or melodrama released their sophomore album "TWILIGHT" with their single WALTZ is premiered simultaneously in different FM radio station and music channel! It contains 14 originals; Last Song, Fire In The Sky, Empty Tears Empty Heart, The Ballad Of, Waltz, Hide And Seek, Eyes Wide Shut, Liham, Shooting Star, 7,8, Elegy, Dahil Sa'yo, Sa Himig Ng Aking Gitara, Starting Over, and the instrumental track Brother.

Twilight is now available in stores and released by EMI Philippines.



Outlandish af Melissa Valenzuela

Outlandish består af Isam Bachiri (Vokalist og sangskriver. Synger og rapper på engelsk.) Isam har en Marokkansk baggrund og han blev født i 1977 i Danmark København. Waqas Qadri (Vokalist og sangskriver. Rapper på engelsk og urdu) Waqas har en Pakistansk baggrund og han blev født i 1976 i Danmark København. Og Lenny Martinez (Vokalist og sangskriver. Rapper på spansk.) Lenny har en Cubansk/Honduransk baggrund. Han blev født 1974 i Honduras, og er altså den ældste i gruppen.

Før de begyndte med musikken, brugte de meget tid på fodbold. Lenny og Waqas gik på samme skole og Isam mødte dem på Ungdomsklubben Søholt på Brøndby Strand som 14-årig. De gik hvert til sit da de skulle på Gymnasiet. Da de bestod i 1997 genfandt de hinanden og startede hiphop-gruppen "Young, Black and Gifted". De optrådte til forårskoncerter, fester og andre arrangementer.

En dag da Lenny sad på sit værelse og bladrede i en ordbog, fandt han ordet "Outlandish" der betød: udlandsk, underlig, eksotisk, nysgerrige, osv. Han tænkte "det er jo os, sådan er vi", så han ringede straks til Isam og Waqas og fortalte om ordet "Outlandish". Isam og Waqas var selvfølgelig enige, så de hedder derfor i dag **Outlandish**.

De har udgivet 3 albums, *Outland's Official*, *Bread and Barrels of Water* og *Closer Than Veins*. Men *Outland's Official* blev ikke rigtig kendt, den blev nærmest til en "demo-cd". Men der var 2 sange i *Outland's Official* der vakte opsigt, det var "Walou" og "Fatima's Hand". De to numre kom derfor med på deres andet album "Bread and Barrels Of Water". Og den blev derimod meget kendt. Det var især "Guantanamo" og "Aicha" der spillede på radioen og tv'et.

Efter to år udgav de *Closer Than Veins*. En af deres sange fra albummet er Look Into My Eyes (de fleste kender den nok). Sangen fortæller meget om, hvad der sker i verdenen. *Closer Than Veins* er ikke som de to forrige albums, den er meget mere alvorlig, albummet handler meget mere om livet og hvad der sker i nuet.

Jeg er kan lide Outlandish, fordi de er ikke som andre hiphop grupper. Deres sange fortæller om meget mere. Det hele handler nemlig ikke kun om bling blings og hvordan man ser ud, men også om livet. Jeg synes at de unge skal lytte til nogle af Outlandish's sange, for mange unge i dag er kun interesseret i deres udseende og penge og er ikke klar over, hvad der sker i verdenen. Men medierne er også skyld i masser af ting og det er især børn og unge der bliver påvirket. ☼

Pamana ng Lahi

ni Pat Valenzuela

Ipinanganak ang inyong lingkod noong May 11, 1947 ng mag-asawang Miguel at Eufemia sa Samal, Bataan. Ang aking magulang ay nagmula sa isang maralitang magsasaka, pang-apat ako sa magkakapatid na may bilang na anim.

Noong unti-unting nagkamalay, napansin ko na ang mga anak ng may kaya sa bahay ay nabubuhay ng sagana at ang anak ng mahihirap ay may namamatay dala ng kahirapan.

Inabot ng inyong lingkod noon nas a elementarya ay walang bayad, nakatapos at natigil ng apat na taon bago magapag-high school, dahil may bayad sa high school at mamamasahe pa. Nagkataong an gaming Pare Paroko na si Fr. Conrado Quiambao ay nagtayo ng St. Catherine of Sienna Academy sa aming bayan sa Samal, Bataan kaya nagkaroon ng pagkakataon na makapag-aral muli, kaalinsabay na para maka-ipon ng dagdag na gastusin sa pag-aaral at nagtatanim sa bukid ng palay, magtinda ng pandesal sa umaga, naranasan ding magtinda ng balot, ice drop, bitso-bitso, at ang isa sa mahirap na naranasan ay maggapas at mag-tricycle na di-padyak.

Pagkatapos ng high school noong 1967, nagkataong nagkukuhanan ng apprentice sa US Naval Base at isa ang inyong lingcod na nakapasa sa pagsusulit, nagsimulang magtrabaho at mag-aral bilang apprentice sa Boilermaker at nakatapos ng apat na taong kombinasyon ng teorya at praktika bilang Boilermaker sa barko.

1968 nagsimulang mag-aral at nakatapos ng 1972, sa panahon ding ito ay sumapi ang inyong lingkod sa union ng manggagawa at lumahok sa pag-oorganize ng maggagawa at may kahilingan ng dagdag na sweldo at karapatan ng mga mangagawang Pilipino.

May napipintong welga ang mga manggagawa sa US Naval Base sa Olongapo, Zambales noong unang kwarto ng 1976. Noong 16 Enero 1976, hinuli ang inyong lingcod sa loob ng US Naval Base, sa Ship Repair Facility at ipinasa ang inyong lingcod sa Camp Maquinaya sa Subic – dito ay nakaranas ng torture.

Anim na katao ang bumugbog sa akin, nagkanda-dumi at nagkanda-ihing ang inyong lingkod sa tindi ng hirap na naranasan. Nakatali ang kamay, isinubo ang medias sa bibig parang bolang pinagpasapasahan sa katatadyak, pinupuruhan pa naman ang tadyang ko,

iniuuntog ang ulo sa pader, binuhusan ng tubig sa ilong habang may basahan na nakatakip sa ilong, binuhusan ng mainit na tubig ang maselang bahagi ng katawan. Tinatanong nila kung sino-sino ang kasamahan kong nag-oorganize ng manggagawa. Ang sagot ko lang, ako lang at wala nang iba kaya lalong nagalit at ikinulong ako ng 2 taon at pitong buwan ng walang naikaso, sa Camp Crame at sa Camp Bicutan.

Nakalaya noong June 1967, bumalik sa trabaho, ayaw nang tanggapin. Noon daw ay kailangan ng manpower at wala ako, alam naman ng supervisor ko na nasa kulungan ako, kaya di ako makapasok.

September 1978, nag-asawa at muling mag-organize ng manggagawa sa Bataan Export Processing Zone, sa bottling, manggagawa sa Azucarera, at sa mga magsasaka.

Oktobre 1989, muling nakaranas ng torture at ikinulong ng 6 na buwan. Habang nagpapagaling sa tama ng baril sa magkabilang paa sa hospital ng Bataan at inilipat sa Bataan Jail.

Habang nasa Bataan Jail, nagkaroon ng hearing sa kasong gawagawa ng militar ng *illegal possession of fire arms*, nanalo kami at abswelto ang kaso at nakalaya ang inyong lingkod. Noong panahon ding nasa Bataan Jail, nadalaw ang inyong lingkod ng *Task Force Detainee of the Philippines* na may isang kasamang German from *Bread of the World* na naka-base sa Stuttgart. Isa ako sa naimbitahan na magbahagi ng Human Rights Violation pa na nangyayari sa panahon ni President Cory Aquino.

Naka-15 days kami sa Germany, 4 day sa Denmark, 7 days sa Sweden, 9 days sa Finland, at 9 days sa Norway bago balik sa host country Germany at muling bumalik sa Pilipinas.

Pagdating sa Pilipinas, hindi muna bumalik sa Bataan dahil mainit pa ang inyong lingcod sa mata ng military, pulis at CAFGU. Palihim na dumadalaw sa pamilya at hindi naglalabas ng bahay dahil panay may tumitigil na mnga CAFGU sa harapan ng bahay. May pagtaya na nanganganib ang buhay ng inyong lingkod.

Nagkaroon ng pagkakataong makabalik ng Denmark noong December 1991 at nag-apply ng Political Asylum noong Enero 1992.

Dalawang beses ni-reject ng pulis at nag-apela ang inyong lingcod sa korte. Sa korte na may 10

bilang na katao ang nag-suri at inaral ang kaso ko at nabigyan ng pagkakataong makapanirahan at makapamuhay dito sa Denmark na kapiling ang mahal na pamilya.

1993 naaprubahan ang pagiging Political Asylum at nakapiling ang pamilya noong 1994.

1992 sa tulong ng International Forum, nai-ugnay kami sa local radio ng Københavnerkanalen at nangahas na makapagsahimpapawid ng Radyo Pinoy sa pangunguna ni Cezar, Dennis, Gina, at inyong lingkod.

Nagsimula kamin g kalahating oras taping, hanggang sa mag-live, umabot ng apat na oras tuwing Byernes mula 19:00 hanggang 23:00. Nahahati ang aming programa sa Tinig ng Kababaihan, Tinig ng Kabataan, Samut-sari, mga balita, at iba pa.

Hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay patuloy na nagsasahimpapawid ang Radyo Pinoy sa pamamagitan ng mga paggampan ng mga boluntaryong indibidwal mula sa ating Filipino community.

Sa pananaw at karanasan ng inyong lingkod, wala akong personal na galit sa tumorture sa akin, sa bumail sa akin, sa aking dalawang beses na pagkakulong, dahil anin ko mang isipin, wala akong maling ginagawa.

Katanungan sa akin na lalong tumitibay ang paninindigan na may iyayos sa kalakaran ng ating gobyerno, at lalong namulat sa katotohanan ng nakapanirahan sa ating pangalawang bansa na may iyaayos nga sa kalakaran sa Pilipinas.

Ang nasa puso ko at damdamin ay matugunan ang Basic needs ng mga Filipino, kaya patuloy na nakikibaka batay sa aking kasaysayan.

Ang sisikapin ng inyong lingkod na maisulat sa susunod na paglabas ng Atbp. Ay ang integrasyon sa buhay ng mga Filipino dito sa Copenhagen at sa pangkabuuan sa mga Filipinong naninirahan sa Denmark, at ambisyong magkaisa ang mga Filipino para sa pakikimuhay sa mga Danish.

Mabuhay at more power sa FAD at Atbp.

Mabuhay at more power sa lahat ng mga samahan at grupo, at sa mga taong-simbahan.

Ingatan ang mga kalusugan at mabuhay tayong lahat!!%#

Sådan blev det!

af Christina C. Espeleta

Jeg vil gerne fortælle min historie til alle unge filippinere i Danmark. Jeg håber virkelig at I får et indtryk af det jeg har skrevet.

At flytte til Danmark var ikke lige min plan. Men min eks kæreste "ROMEO" rejste tilfældigt tilbage, efter mange år i Danmark. Han ville nok bare besøge sin familie, og måske mig efter 10 år uden kontakt, eller noget. Jeg kunne tydelig huske det. Da han kom på besøg, og det sagde BANG med det samme under vores møde. Mit hjerte sagde "YES" endelig.

Dengang, arbejdede jeg hos Hongkong and Shanghai Bank i Makati, en af de bedste internationale banker på Filippinerne. Hvem ville tænke på, at flytte, når man har det så godt.

I hvert fald, var det d. 9 oktober 1988 da jeg endelig kom til Danmark. Jeg vil ikke sige at det var 100 pct. lykke. På en måde ja, at skulle jeg være sammen med min mand, men nej at skulle jeg være væk fra det hele, familien, venner, og alt det jeg er vokset op med. Jeg skulle starte igen fra nul – altså fra begyndelsen.

Efter en måned, fik jeg en plads på Studieskolen. Det danske sprog er ikke lige nemt. Det er meget anderledes, svært at forstå samt at udtale. Jeg gik på Studieskolen i 2 år. Indenfor de 2 år, fik jeg også tid til at få en sund og velskabt søn. "RJ" hedder han.

Efter trin 12 i danskundervisning, valgte jeg at snakke med min rådgiver. Alle de år med skole, så var det nok tid til at begynde at tjene penge. Men rådgiveren mente, at jeg havde gode muligheder pga. Min uddannelse. Hun sendte mig videre til Niels Brock (tidl. Købmandsskole), hvor jeg gik på HMX (handels medhjælpe exam). Det varede et år.

Heldigvis, da jeg var færdig med min uddannelse, fik jeg et job hos Select Service Partner (tidl. SAS Service Partner). Først arbejdede jeg som oprykker, efter et par måneder fik jeg lov til at stå ved kassen, senere blev jeg assistent, og så Supervisor.

En dag sagde en af min kollegaer, om jeg ikke skulle søge job i regnskabs afdelingen. Da jeg kom hjem, havde jeg så overvejet det. Hvorfor ikke! Det skader ikke noget at prøve.

Næste dag, snakkede jeg med økonomichefen, som sagde at jeg skulle sende en intern ansøgning, samt mine beviser. Jeg nåede ikke at sende den, han ringede efter 5 dage, og sagde at jeg kunne starte så hurtigt som muligt.

Nu er det 5 år siden at jeg startede som regnskabsassistent. Snart 15 år i samme firma, hvem skulle have troet, at en lille dame som jeg, skulle komme til at arbejde sammen med så mange dejlige danske kolleger.

Så her er jeg i dag lykkelig og glad. Jeg synes ikke man skal betænke sig, når man får chancen, skal man tage den. %#

The Philippines' Culture of Migration

(Continued from page 9)

and freedoms of the Filipino abroad, in general, shall be the his/her priority concerns of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Foreign Service Posts;"

- the establishment of the Migrant Workers and Other Overseas Filipinos Resource Centers in countries where there are large numbers of Filipinos; and the creation of the Legal Assistant for Migrant Workers Affairs (now the Office of the Undersecretary of Migrant Workers Affairs) and the Legal Assistance Fund.

The haste with which RA8042 was passed has resulted in some problematic provisions, leading to calls for amendments. For example, in the Declaration of Policies, it is mentioned that "the State does not promote overseas employment as a means to sustain economic growth and achieve national development." Some sectors, such as the NGO community, believe the state does promote labor migration.

One controversial provision is Section 29, which deals with the deregulation of recruitment activities. If this were implemented, the regulatory functions of the POEA would have been phased out in 2001, that is, within five years of the law becoming effective. NGOs are against the deregulation plan because the playing field already is highly uneven. The recruitment agencies, on the other hand, are pushing for deregulation.

Overall, RA8042 has not been a complete failure. Some provisions have been implemented well (e.g., there are various information programs in place); some need to be fine-tuned, notably programs dealing with returning migrants and their reintegration in the local economy. There are also moves to amend certain sections of the law.

The Office of the Undersecretary of Migrant Workers Affairs, under the Department of Foreign Affairs, provides assistance to migrant workers who encounter legal problems abroad, while the National Labor Relations Council handles employment-related problems such as money claims.

In addition to government initiatives, the efforts of NGOs, church-based organizations, and migrants' organizations, as well as transnational and international efforts directed at promoting and protecting migrants' rights, help provide an "antidote" to the dangers of migration.

Among the countries of origin in Asia, the Philippines is also a leader in introducing several migration-related laws. These include:

- the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003, which establishes policies and institutional mechanisms to provide support to trafficked persons;
- the Overseas Absentee Voting Act of 2003, which gives qualified overseas Filipinos the right to vote in national elections; and
- the Citizenship Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003, which allows for dual citizenship.

In terms of commitments to international norms and standards concerning migrants, the Philippines is one of 34 countries (as of October 27, 2005) that has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families. It is also one of 95 countries (as of November 6, 2005) that has ratified the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

Remittances

Aside from easing unemployment, Filipinos who choose to work abroad send home remittances that have become an important pillar of the Philippine economy. In 2004, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, remittances sent through formal channels amounted to US\$8.5 billion. In 2005, remittances are expected to reach US\$10 billion.

For the families of migrant workers, remittances are generally spent on fulfilling the basic needs of the family, better housing, educational opportunities for children, and starting or investing in small businesses. According to a 2005 World Bank report, the Philippines is the fifth-largest recipient of remittance flows after India, China, Mexico, and France.

The government encourages migrant workers to send remittances through banks. A study by the Asian Development Bank found that 80 percent of Filipino respondents regularly remit through banks or other regulated sectors. Among other reasons, lower remittance costs help explain the greater use of regulated channels than was the case in the past.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is also working on enforcing minimum standards for banks and other players in the remittance business to protect OFWs and their families from fly-by-night operators, excessive fees, unfair foreign currency conversion, and delivery problems.

Looking Ahead

Within the Philippines, there has been much speculation about the costs of migration: the problems borne by migrants, anxieties about the

destabilizing impacts of migration on families, apprehensions about materialism, and so forth. Although it is acknowledged that migrants and their families have benefited from labor migration, mostly because of remittances, the economic impacts beyond the family level are less tangible.

And while it is acknowledged that remittances have buoyed the country's economy, the development impacts have not been clearly felt. Some question what the country has to show for more than three decades of overseas employment.

In a strange twist, the Philippines has become so successful as a labor exporter that it has failed to develop and strengthen development processes. The target to send a million workers every year is a telling indicator that migration will be an important part of the country's future development plans and prospects.

Even without government involvement, labor migration from the Philippines likely will persist thanks to social networks, social capital, and social remittances that have flourished. Filipino society has become migration-savvy, having developed the ability to respond and to adjust to the changing demands of the global labor market.

Anticipation of future demand for nurses, for example, has resulted in the proliferation of nursing schools and a remarkable increase in student enrollment in nursing programs in recent years. Even doctors are studying to be nurses to have better chances of working abroad. This is a concrete example of how perceptions of the international labor market have also woven their way into the educational and work aspirations of Filipinos.

Individuals make decisions based on perceptions of what would be beneficial for them. But those decisions can have a cumulative effect on communities and the country. In the nursing example, the proliferation of nursing programs (which puts into question the quality of training), the specter of an oversupply of nurses, and the potential mismatch between skills needed and available human resources are some societal-wide concerns that must be considered and must be weighed vis-à-vis individual aspirations.

While the Philippines cannot stop people from leaving, the country will need to explore how migration can be an instrument for development. In this regard, the Philippines can learn much from international discussions and reflections on migration and development taking place in other countries. ☼

SHABU

Shabu (Methamphetamine Hydrochloride)



Artwork by anonymous

Methamphetamine Hydrochloride or commonly known as "Shabu", "Ice", "Meth", or by its any other name - refers to the drug having such chemical composition, including any of its isomers or derivatives in any form.

EFFECTS :

Possible effects to our body.

Short-term Effects:

- Anxiety, irritability, talkativeness and loss of self control
- Loss of appetite
- Inability to sleep
- Chest pains, irregular heart beat, hypertension
- Convulsions
- Death from cardiac arrest

Long-term Effects:

- Psychosis, similar to schizophrenia, characterized by
 - Paranoid delusions
 - Auditory and visual hallucinations
- Severe nasal irritation, frequent nose-bleeding
- Renal damage, heart disease and stroke
- Infections (like AIDS) due to sharing contaminated needles

source:

Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
<http://www.pdea.gov.ph/>

Kung Pinoy si Noah....

(a forwarded email)

Ganito ang mangyayari sa barko. Read along..

Taong 2005 at isang ordinaryong middle class pinoy si Noah. Nagpakita sa kanya ang Diyos at sinabing "Pagkatapos ng isang taon ay bubuhos ang ulan at babahain ang buong kapuluan ng Pilipinas. Gusto kong gumawa ka ng isang malaking arko at isakay mo rito ang pares-pares na mga hayop at mga mag-asawang pilipino sa iba't ibang kapuluan."

Ibinigay kay Noah ang specs ng Arko at taos puso nitong tinanggap ang responsibilidad na sagipin ang sambayanang Pilipino sa napipintong pagbaha.

Lumipas ang taon, muling nagpakita ang Diyos kay Noah. Walang arkong nagawa si Noah at galit na galit siyang tinanong ng Diyos, "Nasaan ang arko na ipinagawa ko sa iyo?" Tumugon si Noah, "Patawarin po ninyo ako kung di po natupad ang utos ninyo! Nagkaroon po ng malaking problema sa plano po ninyo."

At inilahad ni Noah ang mga sagabal na nakaharap niya sa pag-gawa ng arko.

Humingi siya ng Mayor's permit pero papayag lang daw si Mayor kung ang gagawa ng arko ay ang construction firm ng kanyang pamangkin. Tumungo siya sa Congressman pero papayag lang daw si Congressman kung may matatanggap siyang 30% commission. Nagtayo ng unyon ang mga kinuha niyang manggagawa at nag-strike.

Natunugan ng mga left-leaning groups ang kanyang balak at ang mga ito ay nag-rally dahil daw sa hindi makatarungang pagpili ng mga taong sasakay sa arko (mga taong naniniwala lang sa Diyos ang pwedeng sumakay). Nakisali sa rally ang mga bakla at tomboy dahil bias daw na normal na mag-asawa lang ang pwedeng sumakay.

Ang civil society group ay nakisali na rin sa gulo dahil napag-alaman daw nila na ang pondong gagamitin sa paggawa ng arko ay galing sa donasyon ng mga gambling lords at katas ng weteng.

Sa kaguluhang ito ay napilitang magpatawag ng hearing ang senado "in aid of legislation". Sinubukan ni Noah na gamitin ang EO 464 para makaiwas sa hearing pero dahil hindi sya executive official, napilitan siyang tumistigo.

Nang malaman ng senado na utos ng Diyos ang pagpapagawa ng arko, dineklara nila itong unconstitutional dahil hindi raw nito iginalang ang separation ng church at state.

Nakialam na rin ang NBI at PNP at sinabi nilang meron silang impormasyon na ang barko raw na ito ay gagamitin ni Erap sa kanyang pagtakas. Sinabi naman ng ISAFP at DOJ na ito raw ay gagamitin ng grupong Magdalo sa binabalak nilang coup laban kay Arroyo. Nilapitan ni Noah si Mike Defensor para makipag-usap kay GMA. Payag daw si GMA na ituloy ang arko kung ipapaskil daw sa arko ang malaking mukha ni Arroyo na may slogan "Towards a Strong Republic".

"Hindi po ako pumayag kaya hanggang ngayon po ay may TRO ang pag-gawa ng arko. Sa palagay ko po kailangan ko pa ng 10 taon para matapos ang inyong proyekto." Ang huling wika ni Noah. Napa-iling ang Diyos at sinabing, "Di ko na kailangang wasakin pa ang bansang ito. Hayaan ko na lang kayong sumira nito."

PINOY BUREAUCRACY!!!



Filipinos enjoying one specific Danish tradition

by Katrina Palad

Have you noticed, how your fellow Filipinos go "Oh, wala ka sa Lyngby noong isang linggo, ah!" "Oo, pare absent pang-umaga kasi ako..." "Pero ngayong linggo, kita-kita tayol!" – Well, what is that all about??

Summer in Denmark, and a lot of other places in Europe brings some of the greatest opportunities for outdoor shopping. Both for the adventurous, the creative, the "matitipid", the collectors, and simply for the curious people.

Every summer, almost every weekend, there's the phenomenon called "kræmmermarked". Most of us from Copenhagen are familiar with "Ullerup", "Kaninmarkedet", Bellahøj etc., all consisting of large open spaces, with a fair for the young ones, the biggest hot dogs for the hungry and lots of cheap buys that can be bought even cheaper, with the right smile and the right tone of voice. Old and new, you can find almost anything and everything!

The "loppemarked" – flea market is the smaller size and the cozier version of this same phenomenon, though traditionally everything is old, nothing new is to be sold.

Our fellow Filipinos have made one flea market particularly popular within the community – Lyngby Loppetorv. Yearly, starting from mid-May until end of Sept., almost every Sunday, from 8-14 o'clock. You will find the bunch of people on both rainy and sunny Sundays by the parking lot of Lyngby Storcenter. From the start you can enjoy a hot cup of coffee and a home made Danish bun with butter; later on they serve cake, juice, water and more coffee.

Lyngby Loppetorv is organized by Virum Håndboldklub, and for further information and details you can click into their website <http://www.lyngbyloppetorv.dk>.

"Lyngby loppetorv is considered by many, as one of the best flea markets in Denmark, because the spirit of the traditional flea market is still being kept by critically considering what is being sold on the market. It is not a "kræmmermarked", meaning they try to maintain the tradition of not selling new goods. The market is exiting for all, from families with children to the bold flea market-wanderer and the collector." (translated from www.Markedskalenderen.dk - 02-08-2006)



Wanna B

One local chef, Abe "Alex" Cuevas from our own little community, works in one of the cafés nominated as 'best new café 2006' by AOK (Alt Om København)!

Café Wanna B is a popular and trendy café in the heart of Copenhagen, and nominated as one of the city's best... with a Filipino head-chef behind the scenes!

Bravo Alex and congratulations!

Would you like to know more about AOK's review, click on to: www.aok.dk/profile/29511

Wanna B
Kompagnistræde 4, 1208 København
Tlf: 33 13 33 11

Fresh Lumpia

ni Ate Zeny

For the filling:

- 3 cups cabbage, shredded
- 2 cups green beans, julienne strips
- 2 cups carrots, julienne strips
- ½ cup garbanzos (chick peas)
- ¼ cup parsley (optional)

- 1 cup shrimps, shelled & de-veined
- 1 cup chicken breast, cut in small strips

- garlic
- onion
- salt to taste
- fish sauce to taste
- cooking oil
- a little oyster sauce to taste

1. Sauté garlic in oil until light brown, then add onion.
2. Add chicken. Season with fish sauce. Remove from pan.
3. Repeat the process with the shrimp, but stir-frying quickly and remove from pan immediately.
4. Return the chicken-mixture to the pan. Add in sequence green beans, carrots, cabbage, and garbanzos.
5. Add a little stock and allow simmering until the desired tenderness is reached. Season with salt, oyster sauce, and fish sauce to taste.
6. Add parsley.

To assemble lumpia, you will need:

1. lumpia wrapper – commercially available
2. romaine or lettuce

Lumpia sauce:

- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 2 tbs. cornstarch
- 2 garlic cloves, minced

Combine the sugar, soy sauce and stock. Cook for 2 minutes. Dissolve the cornstarch in the water, and add to the pan. Cook stirring constantly over high heat until sauce thickens. Add minced garlic.

Bon appetite!



SA INYONG PAG-ALIS

ni Boyet Sison

Sa inyong pag-alis, nawa ay dalhin
ang mga alaalang pinagsaluhan natin.
Ako ma'y mahiyain, minsan ay matatakutin,
dinala ninyo ako sa liwanag, sa liwanag ng hiwaga

Unti-unting nahubog, aking pag-iisip,
mga dating gawi, tila nais nang pawiin
Sa tuwing darating, ang sasalubong sa akin,
Ngiting kay tamis, pagbating abot langit

Ako ay tinanggap, buong pusong pinalapit
hindi pinangimiang kausapi't kaibiganin.
Kalayaan ng damdamin, ipinadama sa inyong piling
Pagtawa at pag-unawa, and isinukli ninyo sa akin

Lumipas ang mga araw, at ako'y naging ganap
Tunay kong pinagbuti, ang isip at sarili
Maramot na pagkatao, akin nang tinalikdan
Sapagkat sa inyo'y nakita, tunay na diwa ng pagkakaibigan

Sa inyong pag-alis, nawa ay taglayin
Hiling ko sa Maykapal na kayo ay pagpalain
Ako na sana ang mahuli at kayo ang mauna
Sapagkat sa inyong anino, ako ay maligaya na

Paalam mga kaibigan, hanggang sa muli
Magkikita pa ba tayo, malamang ay hindi
Gayunpama'y nais ko sa inyo'y iparating
Inilibig ko kayo hanggang sa wakas ay dumating.

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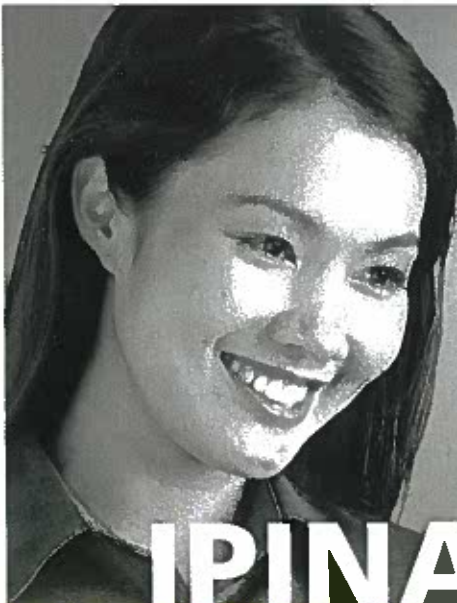
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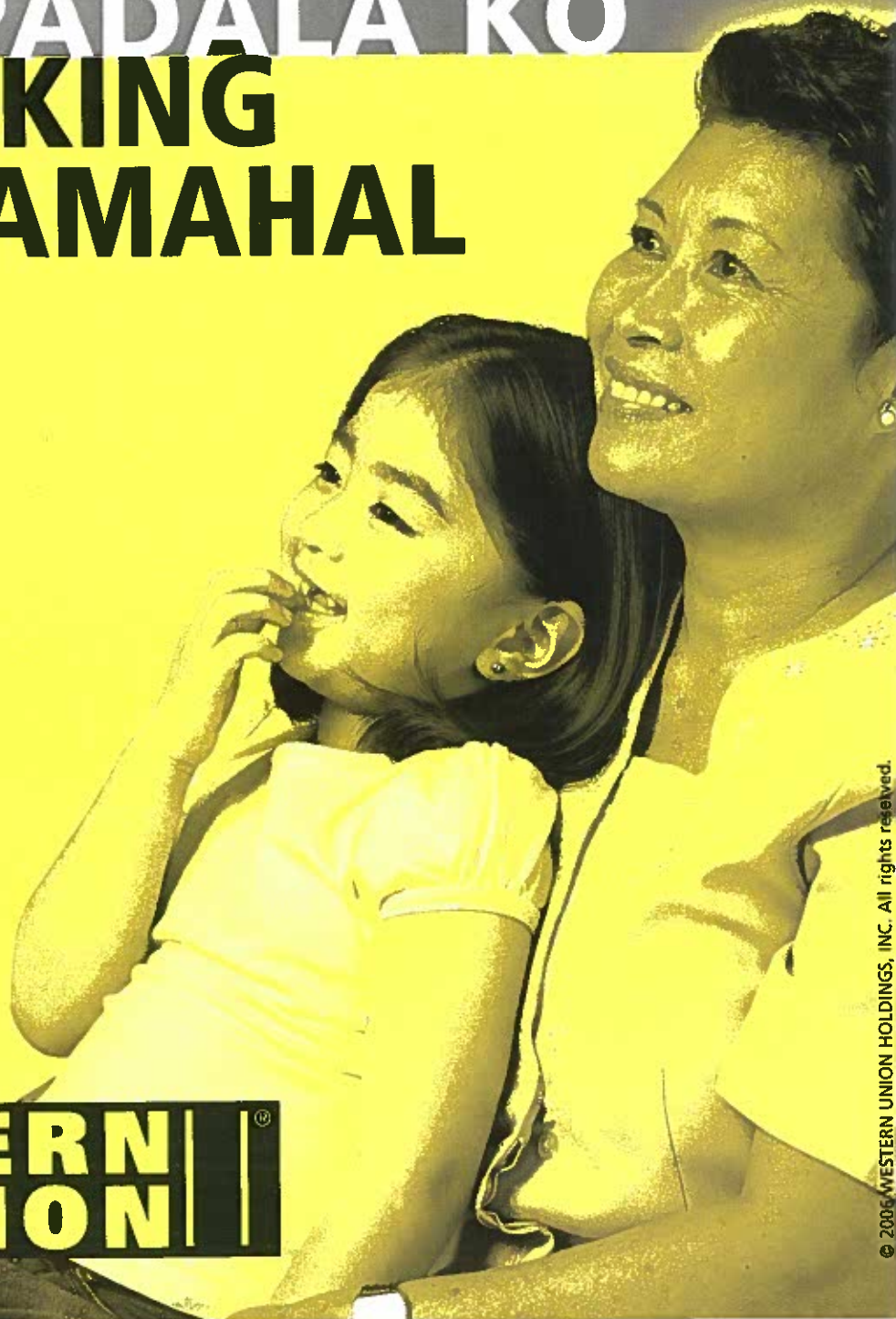
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