

## Cannery Workers Union

# ABELLA CONFIRMED, DESPITE OPPOSITION

### VIEWPOINT:

## Criticism Shakes Fil-Am Council Program

# RAYMUNDO, VER . . . YOU'RE IN THE WRONG LINE OF BUSINESS

In the last issue of the AK, we reported that the Filipino-American Employment and Training Center (FAETC), administered by the Filipino-American Council of San Francisco (FACSF), was under criticism from its own program trainees.

This \$233,000 a year CETA (Comprehensive Education and Training Act) program is supposed to help the economically disadvantaged break the artificial barriers in employment. However, insufficient training, improper placement, insensitivity from some culturally-chauvinist staff members, and abuse by companies contracted to give on-the-site-experience characterized the program.

About three weeks ago, over 20 "Cycle P" trainees submitted a petition to the Fil-Am Council Board of Directors demanding reforms. Since then, some changes have been implemented, but the controversy is still being covered up.

In view of this, the correspondent who first broke the issue would like to comment on these developments. — Editor

By WILLY BRIONES  
AK Correspondent

Despite efforts to discourage investigation and organizing, the Filipino CETA trainees finally registered their protests against the abuses and anomalies in their program. While they were making their demands at that Board meeting, Saturday, Sept. 9, I could not help but ask: Why was

president of the sponsoring organization, Lucio Raymundo, Sr. While he may not be held culpable on a technical basis, he certainly has accountability politically.

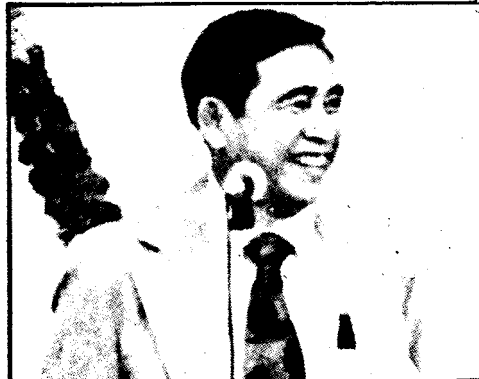
First of all, despite his claims to the opposite, Raymundo's actions are no different from that of his predecessors. Like them, he makes a lot of attributes to himself claiming that it was much of his "hard work, blood, sweat and tears" that has been sustaining FACSF. At the last Board meeting, in fact, Raymundo cited his own "handy work" as responsible for obtaining funds from the Mayor's office.

On the other hand, Raymundo disclaimed ultimate responsibility, putting all the blame on others. ("I inherited these problems from the previous administration.")

Yes, there is some accountability on Polly Arzaga as past president, but Raymundo campaigned on a "reform slate," fully aware of the anomalies in the Training Center. Since he won and took office, Raymundo was responsible for leading the Council to correct these problems.

Instead, the trainees felt intimidated when told not to expose these problems of the Council, that they should feel indebted (although it is their right to be given access to the program) for their training in FAETC. Raymundo apparently wanted to cover it up, making no real moves to reform the program until the trainees bravely spoke out in public.

Once this happened, Raymundo had to



Raymundo, Ver — who is responsible?



(AK photos)

the program run so improperly? Why did it go on for so long without being corrected? Who is responsible for this in the first place?

### Responsibility and Accountability

Last Friday, Sept. 21, I listened to the speeches of the program's leaders during the graduation ceremonies of cycle "P" trainees.

Neither Training Center Director, Carlos Ver, nor Fil-Am Council President, Lucio Raymundo, Sr., spoke directly to the issue. There was no mention of how the complacency and negligence in the program came about, nor an acknowledgement of their responsibility for the problems in the first place.

Of course, they gave token recognition to the students' militance. . . as if a final act to pacify them. But, a week before that, weren't the trainees told to keep their mouths shut? Even a member of the FACSF Board of Directors, Nonie Espiritu (also a known KDP member), was prevented from being given access to the FAETC files!

### A Politician's Typical Double-Talk

Who's responsible? Let's examine the

change his position, or be exposed himself.

### What About the Director?

Yes, Carlos Ver, the Training Center's director, is also largely responsible. He cannot escape this.

From his actions, he was obviously more concerned about his handsome paycheck than carrying out his functions more responsibly. He cannot blame Raymundo nor Arzaga and use them as a shield for the gross mismanagement of the program.

For the last four years, he has been at the Training Center with the staff and trainees. He was fully aware of the daily occurrences and had full authority, as director, to correct any problems as they occurred. Instead, he blamed the trainees (who first of all were not informed of their rights to a grievance process) for not complaining; nor did he attempt to seek out any criticisms of the program from the trainees.

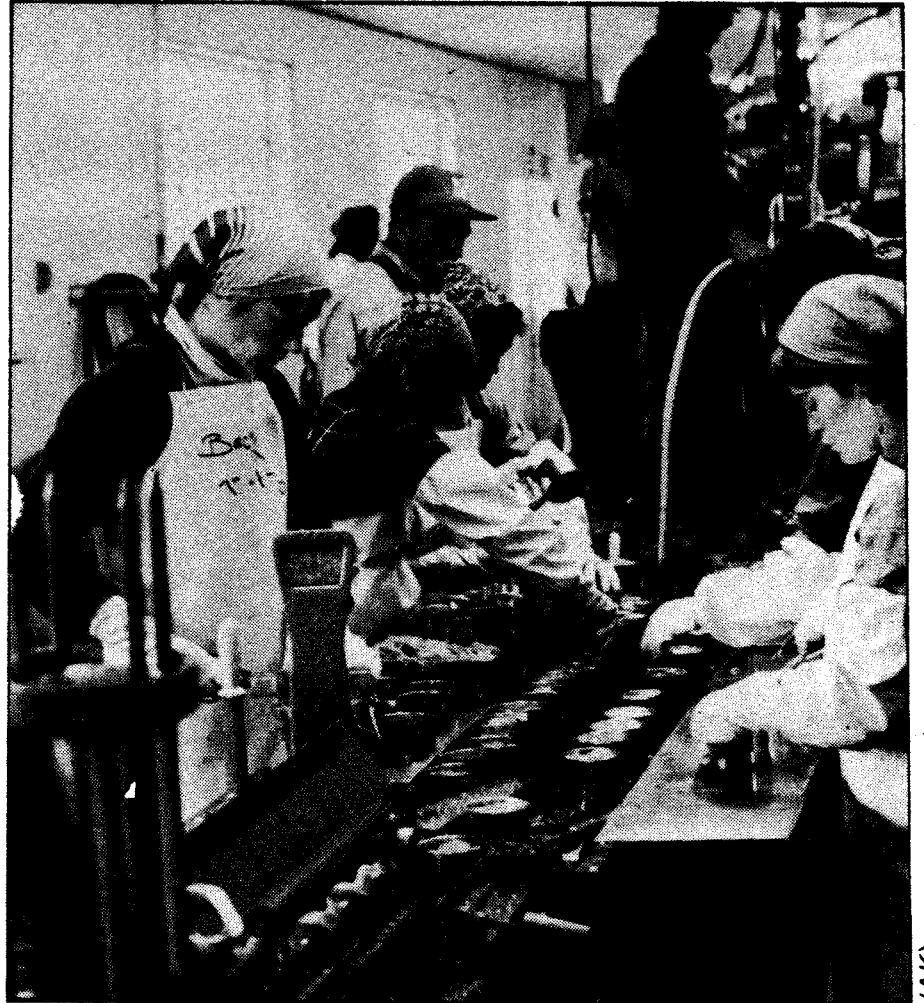
Ver, isn't he the epitome of a bureaucrat living on an easy job, sitting back and not lifting a finger to work. . . sinking deeper into his own maladministration?

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SEATTLE — Amidst outspoken controversy and opposition, former union dispatcher Rudy (Amin) Abella was narrowly confirmed to fill the vacant office of Secretary-Treasurer in Cannery Workers Union Local 37 left since the Ponce Torres recall.

Abella was confirmed on September 19 by a narrow 7-6 and one abstention vote in the union's Executive Council.

Hatten said that after serving as a trustee of the Union and having direct contact with the financial records of the union, he was convinced that the union needed a drastic and immediate change in filling the vacancy. Hatten concluded, "In my estimation, Rudy Abella does not meet the needs of the Union." Hatten further voiced his commitment to oppose Abella's confirmation.



Alaskeros — they will not settle for incompetent and unacceptable leaders.

Abella's confirmation became official following a union membership meeting held on the afternoon of September 19.

Immediately following the Executive Council's vote, EC members were openly expressing their disappointment in Abella's confirmation. Especially vocal in voicing their disappointment were EC member Silme Domingo and Trustee John Hatten, who led an effort to stop Abella's confirmation. Domingo and Hatten, both members of the Rank and File Committee, a reform caucus in Local 37, had called upon the EC to reject the appointment of Abella by President and Business Agent Tony Baruso in favor of a more suitable replacement.

Citing the present trends in the union and the industry in a statement to the EC, Domingo said: "Given the past problems in the union in regards to lack of administrative efficiency and the need to organize the union's membership to fight increasing anti-union attacks by the industry, we do not feel that Abella is the best candidate to fill the vacancy." Domingo, a consistent critic of the union leadership, openly stated, "I will vote against the confirmation of Abella and I urge the EC to follow suit in the best interest of the union."

Hatten, who is instrumental in an investigation to determine the financial status of the union, was similarly critical of the Abella appointment.

Similar concerns were related at the subsequent membership meeting. Executive member Henry Ceridon, a veteran member of the union and David Della, Chairman of the 1978 Election Committee, openly voiced their opposition.

The chain of events occurred exactly one week after the Secretary-Treasurer position was declared vacant after a referendum vote to recall Ponce Torres was upheld by the EC and the membership. Coinciding with the recall and subsequent vacancy of the office, President Tony Baruso moved to appoint Abella as Torres successor pending confirmation by the EC and membership.

According to spokesperson of the RFC, Baruso's move was seen as an effort to stop the growing demand for accountability of officers in the union. They further pointed out that it was evident that Baruso was consciously trying to stop the conspicuous rise of influence of the RFC which led the recall effort.

Ironically the confirmation of Abella came as a bitter end to the otherwise successful recall campaign. Domingo explained, "In a way it was a setback. However, the good outweighs the bad. For the first time in over 20 years, the membership has given notice to the leadership that they will not settle for incompetent and unacceptable leaders. The writing is on the wall. 'Do your job or face what Torres faced.'" □

INTERVIEW With Aquino Lawyer

**"S.F. POLICE DECOY PROGRAM VICTIMIZES POOR AND INNOCENT"**

The following is an interview with Alex Riesman, lawyer of Hermie Aquino. In the past he has defended many clients who were victims of the Decoy Program. According to Riesman, this is not the first time there has been protest against this practice. Due to community uproar, police hearings on the program were held in 1977, but these ended with no substantial changes in the program.

By DAVID POLAND  
AK Correspondent

AK: For a start, tell us something about your client, Hermie Aquino, and the situation he is in.

ALEX: Hermie Aquino is completely innocent of the charges against him. But he is placed in an unfair position of having to persuade a jury in San Francisco that he is innocent against the word of 2 to 3 police officers. This is not the first time that innocent people find themselves arrested and charged with crimes.

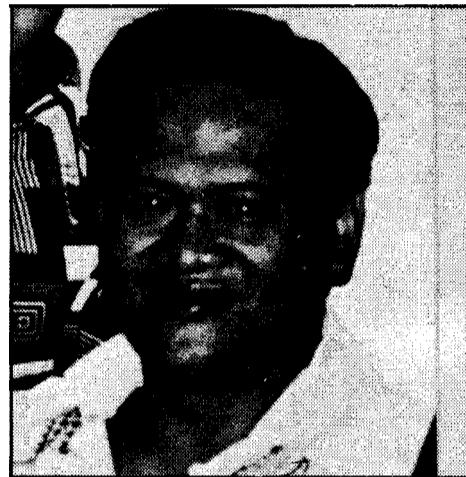
In addition, it raises a number of political and moral questions about this type of police practice.

What is wrong with the Decoy program?

First of all, the police say the reason they are doing this is to protect older people from muggers and violent crimes. It sounds good. . . but the situations they are creating don't relate to violent crimes.

There is no reason to think that when you lay a trap — lay a little bit of money in front of someone who might need it — that this will catch people who would otherwise be muggers. A mugger is someone who is willing to use some force to take money from another person.

It's not as if the decoy policeman lies there without showing money, and a person was to come along, hit him over the head and take the money. Then, that would be presenting an opportunity for a violent crime.



Hermie Aquino — placed in an unfair position. (AK)

Do you think the Decoy Program is in any way discriminatory?

Yes it is discriminating. It's holding poorer people to a higher standard. It's completely backward.

What it does is literally wave money, an unknown small amount of money, in front of people in areas of town where they are likely to need it or be tempted by it. When people fall for the bait, when people are attracted enough so that they take it, then they are arrested.

It creates a situation where people in

**D.A.'S OFFER REFUSED; "NO CONCESSIONS," SAYS HERMIE**

SAN FRANCISCO — When the District Attorney's office offered to settle the controversial Aquino case by proposing a 20-hour "diversionary" penalty, Hermie Aquino staunchly refused the plea bargaining attempt.

"No concessions," asserted Hermie. "I'm innocent."

The surprising move by the DA's office came during the pre-trial hearing of Aquino. The diversion penalty would mandate some form of public service, rather than a fine or jail sentence, in return for a guilty plea. However Aquino says he's not guilty of any crime and will fight the charges. The pre-trial hearing will be continued on October 16.

Aquino, charged with stealing \$4 from someone who turned out to be a police officer posing as a drunken street bum, gathered support from his fellow South of Market residents. A few days after Aquino's arrest, a defense committee was formed and a house-to-house petition and education campaign followed.

As reported in the recent issues of the *Ang Katipunan*, Aquino picked up \$4 off the street. He was subsequently arrested and charged with grand theft misdemeanor on the allegation that the money was taken from the said "bum." (See interview with lawyer,

this issue.)

Cora Aquino, wife of Hermie, told the AK how shocked the residents were upon learning of Hermie's frame-up. Over 500 residents signed a petition demanding that the charges against Aquino be dropped and that the police decoy program be stopped.

This is the first time in the last few years that a local issue has united this predominantly Filipino immigrant neighborhood. Though the area is a run-down ghetto with some of the worst housing conditions in the city, the residents have not yet adopted a ghetto mentality, and instead are fighting against the oppressive conditions, such as the police decoy program. The Aquino case has become a household word, with whole families, in some cases, signing the petition.

A 6:30 p.m. community meeting has been planned for Saturday, October 6, at 150-8th Street to map out the next move for Hermie's defense. Most supporters feel that accepting the diversion penalty would constitute an admission of guilt, an unacceptable concession. In view of this, the Defense Committee is preparing a letter-writing campaign and selecting a representative delegate to visit Asst. DA Charles Bryer to pressure that the charges be dropped. □

**BUMANGON**

**AK OPENS SACRAMENTO NEWS BUREAU**



Maxi Villones: The Filipino community is beginning to work together. (AK)

By MAXI VILLONES  
KDP Sacramento Chapter

Hello out there to all our *Ang Katipunan* readers, especially those from the Sacramento area. *Bumangon* (Arise), is a new addition to the AK, has been created specifically to address key issues in the Sacramento area, and I hope you will become one of our regular readers.

As you may know, the Filipino community here has been undergoing a very noticeable change over the last few years. In the past, Filipinos were only involved in social affairs. Now the community is also addressing many of the urgent problems and issues facing our people.

The recently held Filipino People's Far West Convention hosted here is a good example of this. This West Coast-wide event involved a large number of us in a year of preparations. We learned to make collective decisions and to organize and imple-

certain parts of town are held to a higher standard of conduct. The police don't go to places like Pacific Heights, Sunset, or the Richmond district, and tempt the people there with whatever might induce them to criminal conduct. Right?

It's not enough to be walking down the street and have nothing criminal in your mind. You also have to escape the lures that the police put in your way.

Are there guidelines for the Decoy Program?

Yes there are, but the police are not following them. For instance, the money is not supposed to be visible, like it should not be sticking out of a pocket. But they are even leaving money right on the ground next to the decoy instead of in a wallet on the person.

ment a wide range of challenging tasks and responsibilities.

Now the impact of the FWC is showing its effects. We have been broken out of our political isolation and linked up with the movement of progressive Filipinos up and down the West Coast. For example, a local Committee to Defend Dr. Alona has been formed, petitions are circulating and some of us plan to go to Oxnard on the first day of the trial.

Yes, a growing spirit of optimism, cooperation and activism is shaping our outlook towards the future of our community. Even the familiar saying, "Bahala na" is being replaced with a new one, "Magkaisa tayo."

**BUMANGON — A VOICE FOR SACRAMENTO FILIPINOS**

But now that the Filipino community is beginning to work together, new problems and questions have arisen: How do we continue? What is the path forward?

*Bumangon* hopes to play a contributing role in this new stage of our community's development. Our column will be an active forum for discussing the various issues in the community, posing key questions and, at times, airing KDP's opinion on the situation. Within the immediate future, the KDP also plans to establish an AK correspondent in the area and expand our news coverage.

Historically, the AK has been the only Filipino community newspaper consistently reporting on the progressive activities, issues and controversies in the Sacramento Filipino

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They have clear written policies against this practice, but they are continually violating them. Anything to make the individual take the money.

And it's easy for the police to get away with it. Once they have these people in their clutches, the victims are easily convicted.

Most people can't afford a lawyer. If they could, they wouldn't be bending down picking up two or three dollars off the street. And because they are up against the testimony of the police and they have no witnesses, most of them plead guilty.

All this makes good statistics for the police — big numbers of "arrests for violent crimes." This numbers game is all a justification for maintaining big "anti-crime" police budgets while other programs are being cut. □



Minna Street on South of Market — the residents become easy target of the decoy program. (AK)

## SEATTLE REGION

## PROFITS ABOVE HUMAN NEEDS

## LANDLORDS PROFIT FROM HOUSING CRISIS

Seattle — The three-year long effort to purchase and rehabilitate the old Milwaukee Hotel is coming to a close. The International District Housing Alliance (IDHA) has informed the co-owners, Don Louie and Jordan Wong, that management by the IDHA will end as of Sept. 30, 1979.

What precipitated this decision by the IDHA was the refusal of an offer to buy the hotel by the Pacific Corporation, a non-profit organization in the International District. This offer was made as a final effort to secure ownership for a long-term lease on the building in order to secure public funds. The Milwaukee, built in 1909, was the home for over 30 low-income persons.

## INTERVENED TO STOP EVICTION

Back in October 1976, the owners were cited with 11 major code violations by the Fire Department, and a notice that the Hotel would be closed if the repairs were not made. The IDHA, Interim and scores of district residents and volunteers cleared out 20 tons of trash, maintained a human fire watch for 14 months, did major and minor code repairs and installed a new fire alarm system — in short, tremendous efforts were invested in the Hotel to keep it from closing.

A series of negotiations and offers were then made by the IDHA and INTERIM. The first offer was made for a long-term lease, the second was a fair purchase,

priced in accordance with a real estate appraisal. The final offer involved substantial "tax breaks" and financial advantages to the owners if they sold the building. They refused.

## WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CLOSURE?

Both landlords refused to cooperate in order to bring the Milwaukee up to standard for much-needed low income housing. There is less than a one percent vacancy rate in Seattle and a zero vacancy rate in the district. The owners stood to get a reasonable profit, but they refused to budge.

This underscores the clash between private property rights and social needs. It is useless to idly speculate why the owners refuse to sell this building in spite of the fact that they were offered a fair price and reasonable profits. But we can only conclude that reasonable profit is not enough, given that they are a part of a society that allows for big speculation (buying and quickly selling land for inflated prices).

Speculation is happening in the District and these landlords know it. Landlords are but part of a chaotic system which doesn't ensure that there is adequate, affordable housing for all its citizens. Instead, landlords will seek to do what is most profitable; i.e. building parking lots, high rise skyscrapers and least of all, affordable housing. It is much quicker and more

profitable to build or convert their building into a high priced condominium. All this is now within the realm of possibilities for the Milwaukee Hotel.

This kind of private property rights have far reaching effects, and the clearest effect is the displacing of low income residents. One Chinese family still hasn't found a place within the entire city which is affordable for a family of five. In the Queen City of Seattle where there is "home for all, air and unclogged freeways," there are now tenants being forced out into the streets. Right now, the Milwaukee Hotel is feeling the brunt of this right to ignore housing needs by the landlords.

## LANDLORD'S PROFITS BIG

It's just as important to understand that it is not only the landlord's right to do whatever he or she pleases to do with the building, but that there are also "built-in" guarantees for landlords to make profits by doing NOTHING but collecting rent. How is this so?

We need only look at how landlords make profits. Tenants, through paying rent, actually pay the owners' mortgage owed in the bank. Over many years, it is safe to say that tenants in the building have paid off the mortgage of the building for the landlord, all for the benefit of that one person — the landlord.

Landlords also use tenants' rent to pay

off their property taxes, and pay for operating expenses. In return, tenants only get their "right" to live in the building. They rarely see their rent being returned back into the property, in the forms of improvement or code repairs. This is basically what happened at the Milwaukee.

The second way landlords make profit is by tax deductions. Included in their tax deductions are operating expenses (maintenance, property taxes, interest payments and depreciation. The latter item, depreciation, is a false deduction, especially in highly speculative areas such as the I.D. In reality, the value of buildings increase, not depreciate, so while the value increases as years go on, the landlord can deduct depreciation costs as a form of tax break.

Refinancing is another way landlords get profits because when they get a new loan (using their old loan), they can deduct the higher interest amount from their taxes too. And to top it all, the landlord can make a gigantic profit by selling the property, doubling or tripling the original price when first bought.

This complex system of guaranteeing profits for landlords, whether big or small, all work against the interest of tenants. Tenants pay their rents and in return only receive the "right" to live or not to live, in the building. And even this "right" is superseded by the landlord's right to evict. □

## Criticism Shakes Fil-Am Council . . .

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FAETC trainees on their graduation day — The pressure they created will start the reform in the program, let no one claim otherwise. (AK)

## FACSF Scandal

## RED-BAITING USED AS DIVERSION FROM "REAL" ISSUES

In what appears to be a futile attempt to discredit the expose on the mismanagement at the Fil-Am Council's FAETC — an officer and a member of the Council's Board of Directors have allegedly started a smear campaign against KDP and its newspaper, the Ang Katipunan. They are shouting — "Communist infiltration" — to divert the community's attention away from the real issues.

To this, all we have to say is — let's face the issue squarely and put the

interest of the community at heart. KDP was not responsible for the mismanagement. But it took the "communists to place the interests of the community first and expose it so that it could be corrected. (See commentary on this page.)

On the other hand, what respect can we give to those who are too immature to face political differences and would rather resort to backstabbing; along the process, the community suffers.

## Incorrect Perspective

In my opinion, the root of the problem goes back to the basically incorrect perspective that Raymundo, Ver, and others like them have towards community programs.

First of all, community programs are neither a privilege nor a dole from the Look at the program for evidence — basic operational guidelines on running the program are supposedly available, but remain to be implemented. Given the routine of making copies of the Mayor's memo on the "Rights of the Trainees," the first step in proper program orientation, was neglected. In fact, it is shocking going through the demands of the students — this is how the program should be run in the first place.

If there are any reforms that get implemented now, it will largely be due to the trainees and concerned individuals who dared to "rock the boat" and chose to side with the interests of the community. Neither Raymundo, Ver or their like can hide that fact.

Mayor's office as a result of our "good politicking," (as Raymundo thinks). It is a right of the Filipino community, as any other constituent group that has been discriminated against in this country. Funds exist because the government has been forced by public opinion to recognize that racism and national chauvinism has been one of the major sources of economic disadvantage.

Discrimination has created artificial barriers to equal opportunity and gainful employment of minorities, including Filipinos. It was the Civil Rights Movement of the 60's that challenged the second class status of minorities; out of these struggles came community programs and government accountability.

They were not given, like gifts, but were concessions forced out by the progressive movement.

Freedom and equality cannot be begged for; they must be fought for.

## Community Needs First

Raymundo and Ver need only to have thought of the Filipino community's needs first and understood the objectives of the program to have developed it properly.

It is unfortunate that funds intended to benefit the community have been needlessly wasted. Running a program like the Training Center requires a lot of hard work, honesty, sincerity, and most of all, correct orientation on who the program should really serve.

The anomalies and the misadministration is not a small matter. Since 1974, the Fil-Am Council has had hundreds of thousands of dollars in this program; this year alone, it is almost one-quarter of a million dollars. Over a thousand young Filipinos have been affected by this program, too.

## Lesson for the Community

The Filipino community, however, should learn from this experience. We cannot let bungling bureaucrats, aspiring politicians and lazy bones use community services anymore as their "private preserve" to serve their self-interests.

This orientation is what determines the difference between real community leaders or community opportunists. We have no room for "poverty pimps." □

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

L.A.'s Consul General Fernandez

# WOULD YOU BUY A USED DICTATORSHIP FROM THIS MAN?

As our story opens, we find out ever-typical Filipino-American couple, Juan and Juana de la Cruz, about their everyday favorite pasttime — watching the boob tube. But alas and alack, today is not just like any other day. Today among the pantyhose and deodorant commercials they will come face to face with "Honest" Manding (alias Consul General) — that hard sellin', big smilin', hand shakin', fast talkin' diplomat of the Philippines.

Consul: How do you do, my Kababayan out there in TV land. Have I, "Honest" Manding-Manding-Banana of Tuta Imports got a deal for you! Why you just cannot afford to pass this buy up! It's the deal of a lifetime! It's the bargain of the century! And it's at a price you can afford to pay!

Juan: What's he talking about?

Consul: I'm talking about "Unity" in the community. Yes, folks. You heard me right. "Unity in the community. And at a price you can afford to pay! Just look at the features you get with our special package this month! . . . Why you get ME to speak at any of your functions; you get ME to shake the hands of city officials; you get ME to represent your community; And, for no extra cost, I'll even kiss your baby! . . . And we don't stop there folks. Why heck no. We've got more in store for you. Our "Unity" model doesn't depreciate in value. In fact, given time, it increases in value!



Manding Fernandez — pricing unity.

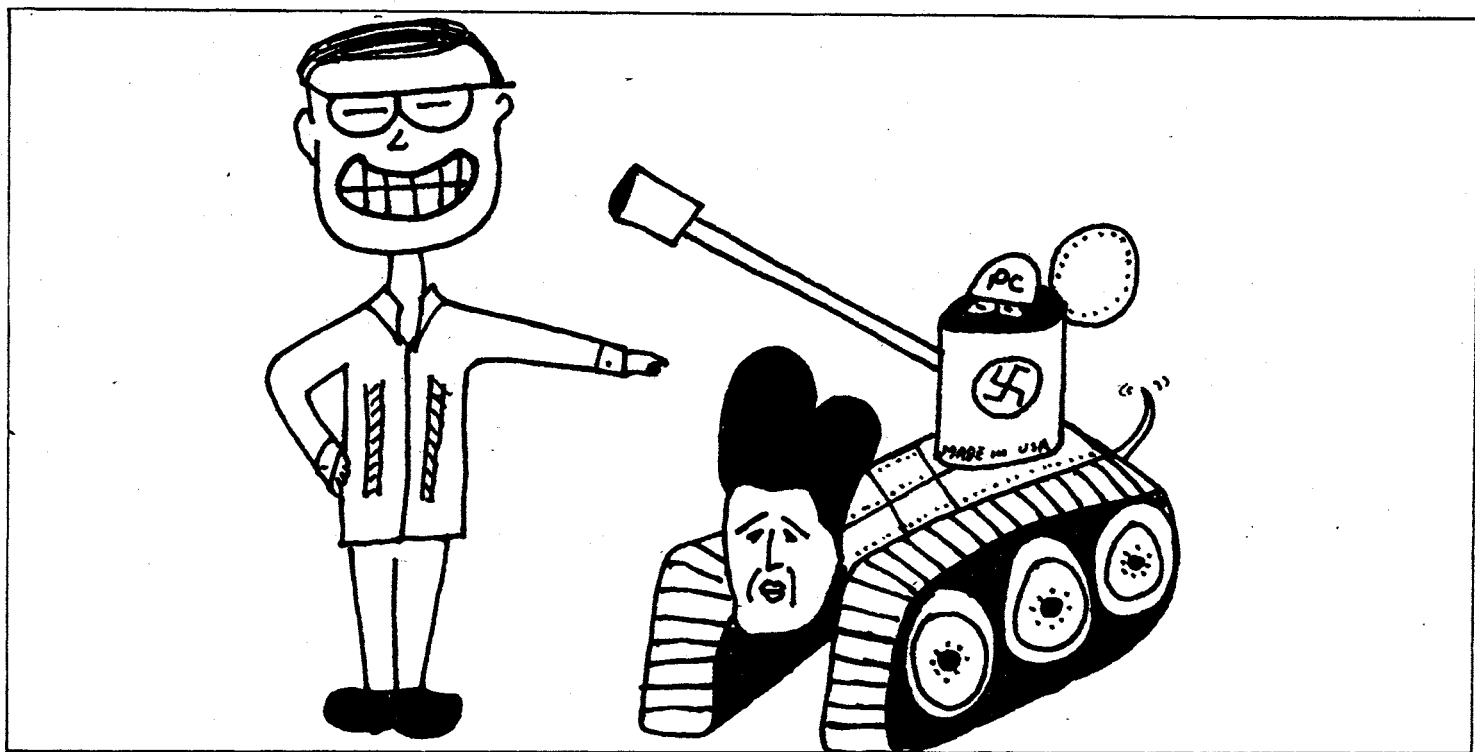
Our "Unity" will put up a trade center which will house my offices. Our "Unity" will bring in cultural extravaganzas from the Philippines. Think of it, movie stars, singers, the classiest, sexiest starlets you can ever feast your eyes on; the swivel-hipped male singers my company has to offer! There's never a dull moment with my type of "Unity" folks. And at our low prices, folks, this "Unity" won't last long, believe you me!

Juan: I wonder what kind of down payment there is?

Consul: You're probably wondering what all this is gonna cost ya — ain't ya! Why there's hardly nothin' to it folks. Why anybody out there in the community can afford my kind of "Unity." The collateral is easy. You can trade in your existing community organizations; maybe we can strike a deal and even throw some functions together. Maybe you can even work off your debt by doing some public relations with my company and bringing in more business. The price is right. The interest is low. Come on, whaadya say?

Juan: I wonder what their overhead is?

Consul: Overhead you say? Why there's nobody over my head except my boss! And let me tell you right now, "Dirty Ferdie" can drive a hard



bargain. Just look at the bargain he's sold every year for the last seven years to the U.S. Why, he's sold a dictatorship with such standard features as inflation, unemployment, starvation, and the political prisoners, torture, murder, rape, and pillage, comes with no extra cost. He even threw in an unsafe nuclear reactor with low terms. So you gotta know that if he can sell this package deal to the U.S. of A. for only \$500 million in military aid, we can sell you our product at cost and still make a profit . . . So, come on down to Tuta Imports. Take a test drive with one of our new society "Unity" models today! Be the first one on your block to get in the back seat with "Dirty Ferdie." Tell 'em "Honest" Manding set you up! Bye!

Juana: Ay, Diyos ko!  
Juan: Honey, maybe we'd better go. This looks too good to pass up. We may not get another chance.

Juana: Johnny, don't assume too much from this man. His interest is too high. His overhead is in question. And his "Unity" seems to run on double talk. Remember, don't assume too much or you'll find out what the word means. He might make and "ASS" out of "U" and "ME"!

### WHAT IS THE PRICE OF UNITY?

In L.A. there are thousands of Juan de la Cruzes. Honest, unsuspecting people who can become consumers of fraud and deceit by a high pressure sales pitch — especially when the goods to be delivered are as elusive as "unity in the community." If "unity" can be bought and sold that easily, I'll take six and pay for the delivery myself. Of course, experience tells me that unity is not a product that anyone has a patent on and therefore, no one is going to hand it over on a silver platter. Unity is something that is worked for and earned. It may take years to build but if unity is built on a solid foundation of principles, democratic participation and represents the efforts of every sector of the community — unity can be achieved. If we face the reality that it will take hard work, sacrifice, and struggle, we can settle in for a long tedious chore. If we can achieve unity our reward is that it can become an asset in moving our community forward.

Ideal, you say? What about the notion that unity can come about by a few months of organizing or that the "right" leader will come along and liberate our community from the

depths of disorganization? It's good to have an ideal — but not good to be gullible.

And just who is peddling a "cheapened" version of "unity" these days? All around the country, the Consul Generals appear to be sticking their fingers into community affairs. And just what do they expect to gain from such activities? Let us flashback to L.A.'s history for the past three years: Marcos money buying votes in FACLA; a proposal to build a Trade Center to house the Consulate on community property; an expensive extravaganza with innuendos for the community to court the New Society; the question of consulate backing in the new FACLA elections. Add it up. Think what a trophy the L.A. Filipino community would be on the Marcos mantle. The largest Filipino-American community supporting Marcos' New Society whether real, imagined, or in this case contrived, gives the dictator more leverage in his propaganda drive to neutralize international criticism of his regime.

For that reason alone, Marcos would have to pay a pretty penny. We have already seen his handiwork here in L.A. and more recently visibility is increasing from his first line salesman, the Consul General. As "head

honcho" for Marcos' propaganda in the U.S. it is a consulate's job to sell the dictatorship. Thus like most diplomats worldwide, L.A.'s is amiable and a gentleman. But then Marcos is not stupid enough to sell his dictatorship with a representative wearing a METROCOM uniform.

Although the Consulate General may wear a different uniform that a PC General, their mission is in essence the same — to uphold martial law. Juan de la Cruz, don't be fooled into thinking that shaking hands and smiling is that much different from the pulling of a trigger of an M-16 rifle on a patriot fighting for democracy. A different battle zone requires different weapons. In this case, a courteous charade of bringing "unity" is a propaganda weapon aimed at Marcos critics. Finally, does the Consulate "avoid politics" as he says he does? Hardly, his political career is based on the success of the dictatorship to which he is a servant. His public "silence" in regards to martial law is not meant to appease a sensitive and controversial issue — but more to let the real issue slip in on the shoulders of his so-called unity.

What is the price of unity? Honest hard work and cooperation cannot have a price put on it. □

## AK Bureau in Sacramento

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community. Up until recently, the AK's coverage has been very limited, so expanded coverage will greatly assist in spreading the influence of the progressive movement here.

This expansion is also a political necessity for our community. The local Filipino newspaper, the *Bataan News*, is not only a rabid pro-Marcos mouthpiece, but a reactionary propaganda machine, red-baiting the KDP and other progressive forces active in the community. Just last June, the highly successful PND attended by some 1,500 was reported as an event that divided the community! And again, last month after one of the most well organized FWC was held here — Sacramento, the *Bataan News* completely blacked it out of the news and made no mention of it. It fails to report on any of the important issues, so very few people even bother to read it. It is distributed widely only because it is mailed — free — to everyone's house, and you don't even have to request it!

(Of course, all this requires a lot of money, and the source for that is likely to be President Marcos himself. The owner-publisher of the *Bataan News*, Dr. Malabed, is a well-known Marcos crony from San Francisco.

Now the AK will struggle to fill that need to become the voice of the Filipino community in Sacramento. That is also why the chapter chose the name *Bumangon*, for the column. It is a derivative of the FWC's theme, "Rise to the Call for Action" (*Bumangon at Magkaisang Kumilos*), and appropriately captures the new trend of growing unity and action.

We in the KDP chapter think there are no easy answers to building lasting unity in the Filipino community. It will take time, effort and struggle. But we are dedicating ourselves, pledging our newspaper and our organizing efforts, to help accomplish this goal.

We welcome your feedback, criticisms or suggestions. Call (916) 392-7950. □  
(Next issue: "The Filipino Community Needs a Center.")