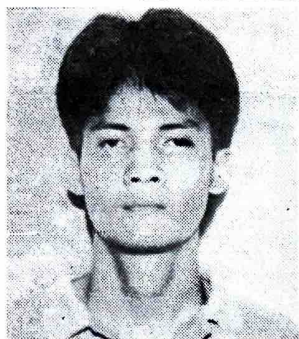


Fall 1992
Number 16

**P.O. Box 53172
Washington, D.C. 20009**

Through PCAFPD, returned volunteers, staff and friends maintain a bond with the Philippines by providing scholarships for exceptional Filipino students to attend college in their country. You can join us by sending a contribution in the envelope provided.

PCAFPD SCHOLARS REPORT



Joey R. Equia
The National Teachers College
Manila

I'm studying in NTC taking up Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.... In our leadership training in Tanay Rizal, I was the team leader. I learned how to save my life during the time of war in fighting. I

learned how to climb the mountain by using the rope when to rescue a person. I joined also in our HELE and Social Studies Field trip. We went to U.P. Los Banos and I saw how beautiful the field plantation in U.P. We have learned also how to take milk from the cow, to take care of plants and animals....

I learned how to budget my money. In teaching here in Manila I have to force myself to speak English inside the classroom while in our province we just don't mind to speak our own dialect.... I once more thank your benevolent foundation for granting me a scholarship.



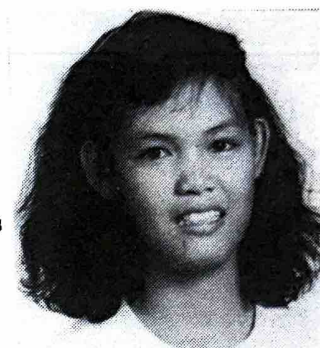
Jenifer Mercado
Paolo B. Institute of
Technology (Engineering)
Batangas

I assist my mother raising our family. Now that we have no source of income, I have to work for my studies as well as for my family. I provide the part that my family should share for my studies. Everyday, after my class in the morning, I go to Caltex refinery and serve as a laundry girl to one family there.

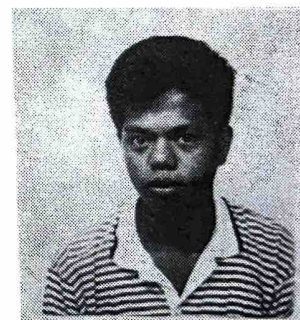
But it didn't last longer, after six months of washing their clothes, they asked me to stop since they found it hard to budget their income. So I stopped and then I sell banana cue.

Sometimes if there are baby dresses to sew, I helped my mother to earn money for prime commodities. But its not often. Usually baby dresses came every two or three months which are really cheap that we cannot even have a kilo of rice and a pack of milk for my youngest brother everyday. My mother and I have no permanent job. I can say that it is one of my achievements even my grades suffer since at my age, I can study and at the same time help my family..... Thank you for giving me the chance to have a better future. Someday I'll share it also to others. Regards and more power to the Foundation!

Maria Desiree T. Jayectin
Ateneo de Davao
(Commerce)
Davao City



I was one of the students of my accounting teacher who were offered apprenticeship in her accounting office, as an apprentice. I was introduced to auditing jobs although minor ones and tasked to do working papers and to type necessary reports because it was then the filing of income tax returns when I had the apprentice at first. I was ignorant how to handle my work and was very nervous typing big figures in actual world. But as the days went on, it all came out easy because of the proper guidance we received and the good working environment we had.



Joselito C. Palacol
Mapua Institute of
Technology
Manila

Plates, model making, researches and lots of exams gave me the hardtimes since I was also employed in an architectural firm trying to study more on actual as well as helping me financially while away from my family. Half of my salary goes to my extra expenses like when we are having our researches out of town and group performances in reporting which require us to have an expensive but nice presentation....

Group studies in urban planning gave us the hardest times of all. This subject matter requires us to investigate the whole site problem which is at least 3 kilometers in radius. Eventhough we were in groups, each group really got those problems in dealing with the people at the site....

Once and for all, I would like to thank the foundation personally for all the supports you've given to me. Without you, I could not be able to receive my diploma in Bachelor of Science in Architecture.

Frankie Jose and His Writer Friends

page 2

by Walter R. Turner (1966-67)

From RPCVoice

National Council of Returned PCVs, Summer 1986

My perspective of writing and literature while in college was an uninspired one. That perspective changed when I joined the Peace Corps and went to the Philippines- but only because of circumstance and luck. The circumstance was that the country's significant writing was in English. The luck was that a friendship developed with a writer-editor who also owned Manila's most influential bookshop.

My Peace Corps group trained as community development workers. Naturally, I expected to be sent to the provinces. But to my surprise and initial chagrin, I was assigned to Manila, the cosmopolitan capital of the country. The government and the University of the Philippines were starting the Barrio Magsaysay Urban Community Development Project in a large squatter community in Tondo, the most notorious slum in Manila. I joined the Barrio Magsaysay Project staff, and moved into a small apartment in Tondo with two Filipino coworkers.

As I moved around Manila getting to know the city, I began to look for a bookstore. One day I discovered La Solidaridad Bookshop, only a few blocks from the Manila Bay in a neighborhood called Ermita.

Books were everywhere, but what caught my eye was the collection of international magazines. I bought a copy of the first issue of **Solidarity** magazine, and that's how I first learned about F. Sionil Jose. It was a literary magazine which he edited, and the issue included his column, "The Progressive View". Reading the magazine was like attending a seminar on Philippine culture.

When I returned to the bookshop a few days later for extra copies of **Solidarity**, I met Frankie Jose. My first impression was that he was the quintessential Filipino- friendly and hospitable, short in height, and talking all at once with a mixture of English, Spanish, and Tagalog. "Come by one day and have merienda with me," he said.

Merienda is both a leisurely snack and a social occasion. Frankie and I would walk to a nearby restaurant for coffee and pastries. Our talks concerned nationalism, Marcos' presidency, U.S. influence, **Solidarity** articles, etc. But like most writers, Frankie's strongest feelings were revealed in his writings.

Solidarity magazine was published quarterly. In one of his columns, Frankie wrote that "the Philippine past has often been glibly described as three hundred years in a convent and forty years in Hollywood". He was referring to the country being governed by Spain and then the United States. Frankie often wrote about nationalism and was critical of those in positions of power.

Frankie seemed to be everywhere at once writing fiction, editing **Solidarity**, running La Solidaridad Bookshop and an art gallery. But he also visited several times in Tondo,

took an interest in the Barrio Magsaysay Project, and provided a part-time job to a student from the area.

Frankie invited me to booksigning parties at the bookshop. Two drinks would be served - a native drink (too strong for me), or a Western drink such as scotch. Each party honored the publication of a particular book and its author. Those present could buy a copy of the author's book, meet him, and have the book autographed. That's how I met other writers and started my Philippine book collection.

My most prized book is Frankie's autographed first novel, **The Pretenders**. The protagonist is Tony Samson, an intellectual from the provinces who attends a prestigious U.S. university, and then returns to Manila in order to pursue an academic career. But Tony gets sidetracked. He marries into a wealthy Manila family and then his life begins to come apart.

Across the city from La Solidaridad Bookshop was another influential center of activity, the office of the Philippines Free Press. This was a weekly news

magazine which also included short stories and poetry.

Dominating the magazine was the country's best known writer, Nick Joaquin. He sometimes used the penname Quijano de Manila.

Sometimes I'd go out to drink San Miguel beer with Joaquin and another Philippines Free Press writer. Joaquin was a big man who dominated conversation. He could be gruff one minute and warmhearted the next. Joaquin was serving on the Board of Film Censors, and at times he was upset about being outvoted on a movie that he liked. When he autographed his **Prose and Poem** book for me, he teased me by writing, "To dear Walt the White Man: Who's more peace than corps."

Gradually, I collected additional autographed books. Aprodicio Laquan of the University of the Philippines wrote a book about

our Barrio Magsaysay Project, **Slums are for People**. **Manila Times** columnist Carmen Guerrero Nakpil compiled a book of essays, **Women Enough and Other Essays**. A respected Senator, Raul Manglapus, wrote **Land of Bondage, Land of the Free**.

When my two years were completed, Frankie Jose and wife, Teresita, gave me a going away party at their home. Among those attending were Pete Lacaba of the **Philippine Free Press**, and Bill Wong a PCV who was editor of a fine Peace Corps/Philippines magazine, **Ang Boluntaryo**, and is now with the **Oakland Tribune**. From my perspective it was a memorable gathering of writers as well as friends.

Since my 1966-67 Peace Corps days, Frankie and I have exchanged four or five letters, and visited briefly in Manila and in Washington, D.C. Because of Frankie's modesty and the fact that only two of his books can

con't. page 3



CONTRIBUTORS:

We thank the following who have supported the Scholarship Fund since last issue

page 4

MA Ginny Allen
VA Jeff Amundsen
MA Michael Arnott
MA Marjorie Bakken
Philippines Stephen Banta
MD David Barnstable
IN Constance & Dietz Bauer
GA Robert Bauer
DC Robert G. Beckel
TN David & Bobbie Beckler
TX Linda Cover Bigelow
CA Mike & Colleen Blaylock
VA Tom Boo
VA Gladys Bowie
NJ Tony Brancato
MI Gus Breyman
CO Elizabeth Brown
CA Christine Bunn
MI Jill Baldwin Canono
VT Robert & Rosemary Carter
SD Bruce Casey
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HI Thomas & Rose Churma
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DE Gloria Cooke
DC Helen Cooper
TX Jonathan & Evelyn Curtis
WV Owen Davis
Sweden Lisa Donnan
NY William Donohue
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NJ Carmelo Sita
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MD Claire Horan Smith
DC M. Ann Snuggs
WY Timothy Swanson
ME Ralph Thurston
CA Matt Tomich
NC Walter Turner
NY Chris Ullrich
MN Mary Vanderford
NH Donna Thomas Verschueren
IN Ann Lee Walter
GA Helen Wanning
NY Joan Waymon-Brown
MI William B. Weaver
MA Maureen Waters-White
AZ Eleanor Whitlatch
MN David Winick
IN Margie Wyson
NJ Dr. Donald Yates
VA Dick Redmond

PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR MAKES NEWS

Peace Corps Director Elaine Chao attended the inauguration of President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines as President Bush's representative. She also visited Peace Corps Volunteers. Eighteen volunteers have been in the Philippines since March 27, 1992 after an absence of 20 months, since all Volunteers were evacuated for alleged security concerns. The recently arrived volunteers are working in agriculture, fisheries and water sanitation, adding to the more than 6,500 Volunteers who have served in the Philippines since 1961. Meanwhile, Director Chao announced that she is leaving the Peace Corps to head United Way.

SPECIAL THANKS to the following people for participating in our individual sponsorship program: Martha Allhouse-Hull, Lynn Gorton, Lane and Jill Johnson, Chris and Glenda Newhall, Allen Rothenberg, Dr. and Mrs. Jay Slosberg, and our latest sponsor, the BIMAK group (Benguet, Ifuago, Mt. Province, Apayo, Kalinga). If you are interested in sponsoring a student write to us at our P.O. Box.

Book Review

THREE FILIPINO WOMEN: Novellas by F. Sionil Jose, \$22.00, Random House, 320 pp.
According to the Publisher, Random House (May 1992)

Three Filipino Women introduces this important author to American readers for the first time. In these compelling, fiercely imagined novellas, Jose examines the Philippine experience through the lives of three unforgettable female characters. In "Obsession," a high-class prostitute belatedly discovers that the ultimate status symbol - a rich American husband - cannot confer happiness. In "Platinum," a young student activist falls victim to the savage vagaries of Filipino politics. And in "Cadena de Amor," a talented girl from the provinces seduces her way to a seat in the Senate - and is in turn seduced by the perquisites of power. Suffused with anger, passion, humor, and sensuality, these novellas brilliantly capture the complex realities of Filipino politics and culture.

Publisher Weekly (May 11, 1992) adds:

More vivid than the women, however, are the men who tell their stories, hard-edged characters who take for granted the tangles of personality and sexuality permeating modern-day Manila's politics and business-as-usual. Nonetheless, each hopes for a transcendent experience with the woman who fascinates him - but cannot escape the sense of his own corruption, "the onslaught of the malaise that had battered most of us, the dishonesty, the deceit that pervaded public life." Unable to connect except sexually, the men regard the women like children before a candy store, alternately tantalized and frustrated. Readers, in turn, will be tantalized by these glimpses of lives led on the margins of the elite. Jose's elegiac tone complements his narratives of the loneliness and loss that accompany disillusionment.

Frankie Jose can't.

even be ordered in the U.S., keeping my book collection current is a challenge. It is exciting to realize that the author of *The Pretenders* has published four more novels in recent years.

The Philippines has been in the news this year because of events which led to Corazon Aquino replacing Ferdinand Marcos as president. With all the euphoria in the U.S. press about these events, it was refreshing to see an Associated Press story from Manila quoting Frankie as saying, "I'll give her six months, then I'll be her critic."

My affection for the Philippines is reassured.

Governments will come and go. But as long as the lights burn brightly in Frankie's Manila bookshop, there is hope for the creative spirit.

Chris Yatooma (1987-88) reports that he and Richard Ragan (1987-89) are still on the government dole, as they have traded barangay life for jobs on Capitol Hill; Chris works for Congresswoman Horne, a Democrat from Missouri, and Richard for Congressman Aspin, a Wisconsin Democrat.

Donald C. Yates (1962-64) who served in Bilaan, Talipaw, Jolo, Sulu, is now a high school principal in Leonia, NJ. He hopes that members of Philippines VII will write to him at: 5 Columbus Ave, Glen Ridge, NJ 07028.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO.....

Joan Aragone (1961-63) has corrected us --- she was a writer at the University of San Francisco, not director of public relations, as stated in the spring 1992 newsletter. Currently she is Acting Deputy Managing Editor of *Eye*, a monthly magazine in Hong Kong.

Sylvia Bongers Batong (1978-80), who worked in Health Education in Mt. Province, completed her service to the US Army in June and has gone into private practice as a Family Physician in Calvert County, MD, where she lives with her husband, Narding, and daughter Hannah (2yrs. old)

Connie and Dietz Bauer (1963-65) who served in Los Banos, now commute on weekends between her job as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in Terre Haute, Indiana, and his position on the Agronomy faculty at Ohio State University.

Linda Cover Bigelow (1961-63) lives in Vientiane, Laos, with her husband, Lee, who is with Hunt Oil Company. They live in the oldest house in Vientiane and have travelled throughout Laos. Linda reports that the government is beginning to allow free trade and free enterprise.

Parker Borg (1961-63) was nominated by President Bush as ambassador to Myanmar (formerly Burma). He is still awaiting confirmation.

Dave Deppner (1972-76) directs a non-profit organization, "Trees for the Future", that assists communities in developing countries in reforestation. Write him at 11306 Estona Drive, PO Box 1786, Silver Spring, MD 20915 for more information.

Jerry Finin (1978-80), who worked in Health Education in Manabo, Abra, lives in Honolulu, HI with wife Ines, and sons Francis and Jason. Jerry received his Ph.D. from Cornell University and is currently working at the East-West Center.

Ann La Barre O'Connor (1961-63) lives in Carlton, Texas, with her husband Rod, who recently retired from the oil business. They met and married in the Philippines where they lived until 1982; they recently celebrated their 29th anniversary and have a 27-year-old son in graduate school.

Marilyn Nessari-Brown (1962-64) who served in Lanao del Norte, Mindanao, now works in the area of Learning Disabilities for the Kansas City, Missouri, School District.

Harvey (Tsvi) November (1961-63) is a career advisor, and lives in Jerusalem, in a flat with a great view, with his wife (a librarian at the Hebrew University) and two teen-age children. He would welcome visits from fellow Group 2 RPCV's.

Richard Passo (1979-80) who served in Tandag, Surigao del Sur, is a litigation attorney with Ford, Walke, Haggerty & Behar in Long Beach, California. He would welcome news of his group, LDA #14.

Denny Robertson (1977-79) recently got a new assignment with USAID. He will be posted in Bangkok, Thailand. He was last posted in South Africa and prior to that Ivory Coast.

REFLECTIONS ON THE ELECTION

Billy O. Wireman, president of Queens College in Charlotte, N.C., made the following observations in the Charlotte Observer of June 5, 1992, about the election of General Fidel Ramos as President of the Philippines:

... Ramos' victory confirms that Filipinos see him as heir to Aquino's fledgling democratic legacy. Santiago's strong showing reveals that Filipinos are tired of corruption. And Salonga's disappointing fourth-place finish suggests that most Filipinos wanted to keep the U.S. bases....

- Despite claims of fraud, by most accounts this was the cleanest and safest election in Philippine history. Remember that nationwide, 17,000 offices were filled from 88,000 candidates. The ballot was 18 inches long, and each name had to be written in by hand and counted individually. Reporting results from the 7,100 Philippine islands explains why the vote count took so long.

- President-elect Ramos, 64, is pro-American, popular with the military and inherits Cory Aquino's followers who are committed to democracy....

- Machine politics, big money and the Catholic Church fared badly. Combined, Ramos, Santiago and Salonga received 56% of the vote. Each spent less than Eduardo Cojuangco, a multi-millionaire Marcos crony who finished with 17%. Ramon Mitra, candidate of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and the Philippines strongest political machine, ran a humiliating fifth. Imelda Marcos was considered a tragic joke....

Staggering challenges remain: \$29 billion in foreign debt, which consumes 40% of the annual budget; a strong communist insurgency; the highest birth rate in Asia; a per capita income of \$700, with 50% of the population living in poverty; massive unemployment; and what author James Fallows calls "a damaged culture" resulting from 400 years of foreign occupation.

During a half-dozen interviews and conversations with Ramos, I discovered an able, clear-headed, thoughtful West Point graduate with a deep respect for due process. His administration will come from the country's best talent, irrespective of political party.... I asked Ramos why so many Filipinos want to go to the United States. "Because" he replied "we have great respect for America and especially Douglas MacArthur. But, our future will be determined here, and not in America. You can help, but we must make ourselves strong and free".

Health and the RPCV

by Milly Sewald (1980-85)

An evaluation by the General Accounting Office (GAO) in July of 1991 cited deficiencies in the health-care programs of the Peace Corps. The investigation began in May 1990 and heading the list of long-needed improvements was a lack of quality control for any type of care according to the spokesperson for the GAO.

The government guarantees that it will pay for treatment of any malady contracted during service. Treatment is authorized by an arm of the Department of Labor but many volunteers claim that red tape has delayed payment for months. Many do not know that they have coverage.

A White Paper response to the investigation was issued by the Office of Medical Services claiming these improvements:

- * A new handbook describing how to file claims for health benefits under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) has been issued. This booklet, which is now given to all volunteers at the time of close-of-service, can be ordered by former volunteers.
- * In February of 1992, a video was produced describing how to file claims under FECA designed to inform RPCVs about entitlement to health benefits, which is available for outreach services. Contact the medical desk for information.
- * A special claims unit has been installed at the Department of Labor to work with Peace Corps claims under FECA. This should result in faster service.

Peace Corps Washington has set up a medical desk, handled by Susan Gambino, to field questions about unresolved medical problems. She recommends that volunteers call her office first. "We have revamped our systems and initiatives so that returnees can be assured of immediate and complete health-care assistance" She can be reached at (202) 606-3894.

The Economist weighed in with the following comments, on July 4, 1992:

Mr. Ramos has begun well, appointing the diplomatically astute Emmanuel Pelaez, who was Mrs. Aquino's ambassador in Washington, to take charge of the Philippines' perennial debt negotiations. He has also kept Jose Cuisia as governor to the Central Bank.

and on August 1, 1992:

...On July 27th Mr. Ramos, a former defense minister and chief of the armed forces, called on a joint session of the country's Congress to lift a 35-year-old ban on the Communist Party of the Philippines as a step towards ending South-East Asia's longest-running Marxist rebellion... Official figures (which can be self-serving) put the NPA's strength in late June at 13,000 down from 24,400 in 1986. Some of this can be attributed to the demise of communism around the world, and the corresponding decline of the left on Philippine campuses, which had traditionally provided many of the NPA's recruits.

The bigger reason, however, probably lies with the NPA itself. Formed in 1969, in the Marcos era, it tried to expand too fast in the dictator's final years. The only way to feed the growing number of guerrillas was to exact "progressive taxes" of food and money from the desperately poor peasantry. Not surprisingly, the guerrillas lost much of their rural support. Meanwhile, the Aquino administration managed to improve- although some human-rights organizations dispute this- the behavior of the police, soldiers and local officials that had often turned peasants into communists....

For their part, the Communists have so far rejected Mr. Ramos's stipulation that they must renounce armed struggle, though they say they are "prepared to sit down and conduct negotiations leading to a comprehensive political settlement." If all this leads to a deal, and if Mr. Ramos gets the amnesties he wants for the Muslim separatists in the south and for the right-wing soldiers who plotted against Mrs. Aquino, then perhaps the Philippines may yet get the political stability it needs to make economic progress.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL PCAFPD MEMBERS:

As 1993 marks the first decade of the existence of PCAFPD, it is time to assess our current situation by not only looking at the past but also by trying to chart a course for the future. For it is now that we have reached a challenging point in our development, one that will require much serious thought to overcome.

In the past PCAFPD has been a modest yet successful organization. Founded through the vision of a small group of recently returned Peace Corps volunteers and staff, PCAFPD has become the vehicle for many RPCV's to continue their commitment to assist a country that they have grown to love. This core group of dedicated people worked diligently to establish an education foundation that in its first three years in existence helped send 14 students to college. Our students have always been chosen on the basis of need and scholastic ability but also on their proven desire to work for the betterment of the lives of their fellow country men and women.

Over the years PCAFPD has continued to grow, reaching at its peak in 1990 with an operational budget of over \$10,000 which was used to fund the education of 37 students. To date 29 students have graduated as PCAFPD scholars, while we continue to support 25 others. These are accomplishments that we are all proud of. We are most fortunate in having Modesto de Jesus as our V.P. of Philippine Operations, who watches over each student providing emotional, financial and spiritual support.

But now, nearly ten years later, many of the PCAFPD Board Members are beginning to feel that the climate in which our organization exists has changed. As a reflection of the current state of our national economy, it has been increasingly difficult to find new sources of money, while many of our past supporters have failed to renew. Furthermore, fundraising efforts have begun to require more and more time from people who are finding that they have less and less to give. Lastly, we have had to deal with the decline of interest in the Philippines by our government removing the country from our collective consciousness. In essence, the PCAFPD has found itself at a crossroads and so we are turning to all of our past members to re-evaluate their participation to see if they can help.

The most immediate need of the Foundation is to find someone to help produce the Newsletter. This job requires someone with the basic knowledge of desktop publishing, most of the 16 issues have been done on a Macintosh using Ready, Set, Go. However, anyone with ability on an IBM or clone and publishing software could do the job. We publish only twice a year and takes probably 10-15 hours to put each together. You need not live in DC area to do it, since the era of the fax (or even mail).

If anyone is interested in serving a position as Treasurer, Secretary, or Student Affairs just let us know.

We close by making a request for some serious consideration. If you have any time to donate to this worthy cause, no matter how little, or know of someone who does, PLEASE contact us. We also would appreciate any constructive suggestions. Please help us keep the commitment alive. We look forward to hearing from everyone.

Sincerely,

The PCAFPD Board of Directors

THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTED TO THIS NEWSLETTER:

Patricia Kasdan - Editor

Pam Moguet

Margaret Frericks

Chad Walter

Milly Sewald

*Please continue to send us names and addresses of your groupmates
or friends who served in the Philippines.*

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