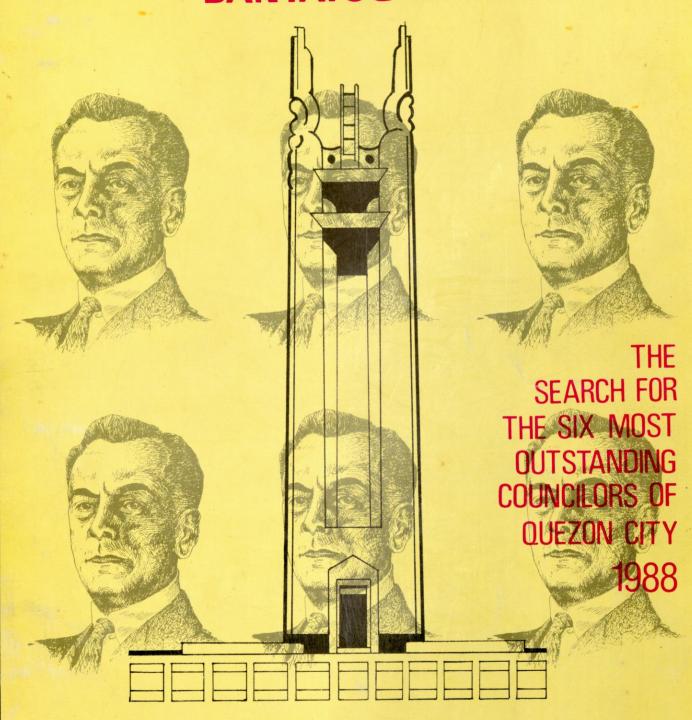
1ST PRES. MANUEL LUIS QUEZON BANTAYOG AWARDS

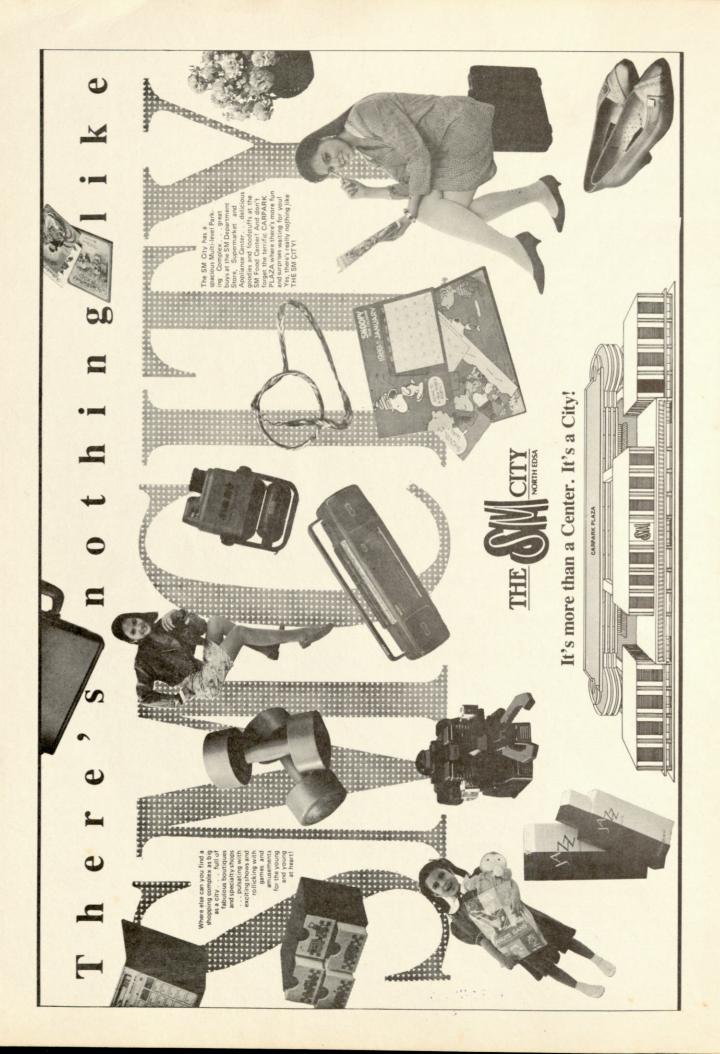


A PROJECT OF THE



QUEZON CITY PRESS ASSOCIATION

2nd Floor, Quezon City Hall, Elliptical Road/East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.



SEARCH FOR THE SIX MOST OUTSTANDING COUNCILORS OF QUEZON CITY

The return to democracy under the aegis of President Corazon C. Aquino marked the revival of the "council type" of government for the different local government units in Metro Manila. The revival also restored the trust, confidence and expectations of the people in the local leadership.

In Quezon City, the comeback of the city council meant the return of legislation anchored, presumably, in the popular will. Naturally, expectations of the council's performance were very high and rigid since, understandably, this is the first time the people had a council after two decades. The performance of the city councilors are after all, the gauge of the level of political maturity of the people as they are the direct representatives of the people in the government.

For the press, the "fourth estate" as it is reveredly referred to by those holding public office, the revival of the Quezon City council meant the opportune moment for rebuilding its sagging prestige brought about by the former regime's "developmental journalism." The Quezon City Press Association sees the revival of the city council as the right moment for "chipping-in" its part in strengthening our newly restored democracy. This can only be done with a free press that is not afraid to call the attention of those holding public office of his or her faults,, bungles and mistakes. The press takes this as an opportunity to expose shenanigans and their skullduggery at the expense of the public welfare, but at the same time reporting to the people whatever good actuations and accomplishments their representatives in the local council have.3.

In a parallel move, the QCPA decided to hold a "Search for the Six Most Outstanding Councilors in Quezon City" geared towards giving due recognition to the outstanding achievements of the city councilors in an effort to encourage them to excel further in the enactment of legislations aimed at bringing forth the best programs of government for the interest of the majority of Quezon City constituents.

The QCPA decided that the criteria to be used should be: quality of ordinances and resolutions filed and approved, actual delivery of social services and assistance to city constituents, participation in council deliberations and committee hearings, attendance and punctuality, and community and media relations.

As the city council moves on to greater challenges and objectives aimed at alleviating the socio-economic conditions and ultimately the development of Quezon City, the media will always be there as a partner soberly reminding government of its purpose of existence and it is easy to perceive that the first ever "Search for the Six Most Outstanding Councilors of Quezon City" will become an annual event to be anticipated with baited breath.

□

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THE BANTAYOG AWARDS SOUVENIR MAGAZINE

A publication of the Quezon City Press Association 2nd Floor, Quezon City Hall Elliptical Road/East Avenue, Diliman Tel. 98-34-88/97-44-47

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MESSA-GE



MESSA-GE



I am pleased to greet and congratulate the officers and members of the Quezon City Press Association (Q.C.P.A.).

Your initial project which is to honor six (6) outstanding councilors of Quezon City for their remarkable performance is commendable and worthy of support and encouragement. Indeed, while it is necessary to expose and penalize erring public servants, it is equally important that those who perform with responsibility, integrity, competence, loyalty, and efficiency be recognized and honored by the community. I am glad that the Q.C.P.A. has taken the lead in this matter.

Congratulations and best wishes.

ramp

JOVITO R. SALONGA Senate President

I extend my warmest greetings to the Quezon City Press Association and my sincerest congratulations to the Six Outstanding Councilors.

Public service is a very trying job for any person or organization to undertake. I am sure that all of the six awardees who have been chosen, feel that there is no greater reward for honest and distinguished service than to have their efforts appreciated by the public that they serve. Moreover, this particular honor awarded them has become more meaningful since the project has been launched by people from the press.

I commend the Quezon City Press Association for coming up with this project. I hope that first six councilors you have chosen to honor this year may serve as models which other government officials may emulate.

I sincerely wish you utmost success in this project as well as in all your future endeavors.

More power to you all.

(Sgd.) RAMON MITRA Speaker of the House

MESSA-GE



I am pleased to commend the Quezon City Press Association for its initial project of honoring the Councilors whom it has selected as the "Six Outstanding Councilors of Quezon City."

While there may be some disagreement to their selection — after all, there can never be total unanimity on any matter — I am sure there can be no disagreement to their honesty and competence in making such a selection.

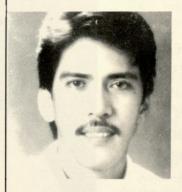
As newspapermen covering the Quezon City government, they are in a position to observe closely and assess the performance of its officials, including the councilors. Neither can anyone question their noble motive in giving credit where credit is due and giving honor where honor is due.

The selection, however, should not be taken as a reflection against the councilors not included therein, because, I, for one, can vouch for the fact that all councilors have performed very competently.

May I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Quezon City Press Association for their fair and just reporting on the doings in City Hall in the best tradition of responsible and respectable journalism.

BRIGIDO R. SIMON, JR.
City Mayor

MESSA-GE



I extend my most fervent congratulations to the Quezon City Press Association for conducting as its initial project the "Search for the Six Most Outstanding Councilors of Quezon City."

The search which aims to commend Councilors who have exerted extraordinary diligence in the performance of their mandated duty as determined by the Technical Committee composed of members from the Press Association and by the members of the City Council themselves through their participation in the committee hearings as chairman and member thereof.

This undertaking will open the avenue for the city aldermen to be more active and productive in introducing appropriate measures that will give a lasting solution to the problems and needs of our constituents.

It is my firm belief and conviction that the Search for the Six Most Outstanding Councilors of Quezon City will not create an atmosphere of animosity nor be utilized as a political machinery for personal ambitions and aggrandizement. Instead, it should strengthen the unity and sense of camaraderie that exist and binds the members of the Quezon City Council towards public service for the benefit and welfare of the citizenry.

May the grace of the Lord be with us in all our endeavor and more power to the Quezon City Press Association!

CENTE C. SOTTO III

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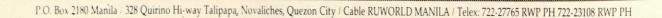
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FROM THE CITY SECRETARY

As the City Secretary of Quezon City, I feel I am more privileged than anyone to be able to watch at closer range the Quezon City council at work.

The composition of the Quezon City council is a palatable salad of varying personalities, a multi-colored balanced conglomeration of responsible citizens with divergent talents, experiences, training, expertise, and personal persuasions.

Of the twenty four elected members of the Quezon City council, less one who was murdered in cold blood at the hands of assassins, there are four lawyers, one renowned musical composer, movie actors and TV personalities, a youthful student leader, professor, architect, a former barangay captain, private corporate managers, and successful businessmen. Four ladies grace the Council.

The handsome towering figure of the presiding officer, Honorable Vicente C. Sotto III, standing tall at the rostrum at every session, perso-



Alvarez: the council development stalwart.

nifies the formal august dignity of the Quezon City council.

Upon their assumption of duties on February 2, 1988, a year ago, the members of the Quezon City council like eager beavers were immediately up to a good start. They honed in first on the rudiments of parliamentary

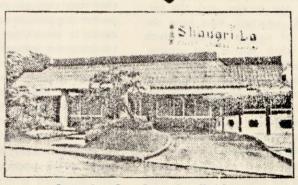
procedures, their tool in the business of legal legislation, elected their officers, chairmen and members of the regular committees, and provided for their internal house rules.

For a long time spanning through the years of the martial law regime, there was no council in Quezon City. Like any new born, the newly elected members of the city council have to go through the birth fangs of infancy, initially groping in the dark for a sense of, direction on how best they may perform their role as the new found partner of the city mayor in the serious business of attending to the problems of Quezon City.

In due course of time, the city council plunged head long, speeding in high gear, towards consideration of local measures which would support the programs and projects set by the city mayor. The council responds in kind to the almost dizzying pace of the city mayor who appears to be running a race against time in the prose-

(next page please)





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FROM THE

CITY SECRETARY

cution of the development programs of the city.

Aside from providing the regular annual and supplemental budgets which would cover for the expenditures of running the city government, the city council was quick to respond to the problems on peace and order where it appropriated funds for the acquisition of 30 units fully equipped mobile patrol cars for the use of the Quezon City police.

In the field of education, the city council provided funds for the construction, repair and improvement of many school buildings and other school facilities throughout the city.

The delivery of health services were further enhanced with the pilot program of providing 24-hour services in various strategically located health centers, even as proposed measures are under study for the establishment of more hospitals for the city.

The wide tract of land known as the Payatas Estate was declared urban poor socialized housing area in response to the chronic housing problem of the city, with a provision for the establishment of an "industrial zone" thereat.

Funds, as the resources of the city would permit, have been provided for various infrastructure projects, repair, maintenance, and improvement of city streets, parks and playgrounds, and lighting facilities.

A continuing reorganization of the city government is being undertaken, with the end view to make the government more responsive to the needs of the service, and the personnel of city hall have been the recipient of various benefits which increased their salaries and income.

The generation of a healthy business climate in Quezon City was deemed necessary to propel the economy so that an Economic Development Board was established which will study the strategies to attract investments to Quezon City.

The protection of public morals have been the subject of various legislative measures against bold and indecent shows in entertainment establishments to snatch Quezon City from becoming a "sin city".

Even death and the present high cost of dying had been provided for by the Quezon City council when it enacted an ordinance providing for funeral services assistance to the poor in each of the four districts of Quezon

Barely one year had gone since the

members of the Quezon City council took their oaths of office and assumed the duties of their positions, but so much have already been done for the good of the people of Quezon City.

Varied as the individual backgrounds, trainings, talents, experiences, and expertise of the city councilors are, there is one common tread that runs through all of them - an unrelenting passion and common dedication to serve their constituents and promote the general welfare of the people.

With the present partnership of the city mayor, vice mayor and the members of the Quezon City council, the people of Quezon City have good reasons to expect that Quezon City will be moving faster ahead to the realization of the dream city that its founder envisioned it in his own time the capital of the Republic, a pleasant human habitation, self-reliant community where men can live in peace and dignity.

In paying tribute to the Quezon City council, it may be said with all modesty that the personnel of the Office of the City Secretary have contributed in their own little way to the accomplishments of the council.

More power to the Quezon City Council!

TWENTY-THREE OUTSTANDING IMAGES

(Editor's Note: If newsmen's collective description of a councilor's performance and character were a mirror, it would appear that the 23 QC aldermen should emerge winners in the search for the most outstanding officials among them. Below are the images of the city's legislative leaders from the viewpoint of the QCPA)

FIRST DISTRICT

- GEORGE CANSECO A multiawarded musical composer before diving into politics, George topped the six-man council slate in the first district. As president pro-tempore, George holds the controversial blue ribbon committee as its chairman. He still write songs which is financially rewarding but he enjoys self-satisfaction in serving his constituents.
- 2. WILMA A. SARINO Daughter of Quezon City's longest-serving mayor, the late Norberto Amoranto, Wilma has also gained vast political experience from husband, former Vice Mayor Stephen Sarino. She heads the price regulation and consumer protection committee which is apt to her background as a champion of the rights of consumers especially to housewives who had found difficulty in budgetting the family income. Wilma is vice-chairperson of the committees on youth and sports development and the environmental sanitation, beautification, parks and playground.
- 3. ALBERTO M. GALARPE His life is a success story. Having rose from the ranks to efficiently serve as the chief of business license office before being elected as councilor. As assistant majority floorleader, Bert has gained the respect of his fellow city legislators for his efforts in steering the council as among the biggest achievers of all Sangguniang Lungsod not only in Metro Manila, but throughout the country. Bert has been targetting projects to boost the city



SARINO

CANSECO SAR

75)



GALARPE RAMOS





TAMAYO

CALALAY

government's revenues and was instrumental in the establishment of trade relations with Salt Lake City, USA.

4. TEODORO N. RAMOS - Being a lawyer has given Teddy an edge over his colleagues for his eloquence and keen knowledge of the legal system. As chairman of the justice and human rights committee and vice chairman of the blue ribbon committee, Teddy was able to ward off a squatter syndicate in barangay Manresa from interfering with the city government's low cost housing project in the area. He was a big factor in convincing squatter residents of Manresa to follow the city government in implementing its project, thereby, paving the way for a peaceful negotiations with them, especially those who violently resisted the housing program.

- 5. EMILIO G. TAMAYO An architectural wizard, Emil has led the committee on public works and infrastructure in the expeditious implementation of vital city projects. This Pangasinense dreams of a city where one's car can speed through city streets with its driver cursing the vehicle and not the road for not running smoothly. Not contented with his job of ensuring public works and infrastructure development in the city, Emil dips into medical practice by sponsoring monthly free medical clinics in the city's depressed area by using his physician-wife's exper-
- 6. REYNALDO A. CALALAY Rising from humble beginnings, Rey has deemed it necessary to look back from where he started - by actively initiating socioeconomic programs for the urban poor. The ordinances he has submitted for approval. elicited for him the respect and goodwill, not only of his coofficials in the city government, but also of media members. Among the more popular ordinances he has sought to be enacted are his call for respect for the third sex by making it unlawful to ridicule and embarass them in public and the transfer of Malacañang Palace to Quezon City. If you are wondering why Pilipino is being used as the medium of communication at the city council, blame it on Rev who consider the national language as the best way of maintaining the Filipino identity and nationalism.

(page 9 please)



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QUEZON CITY

NEWSMEN'S MIRROR (from page 7)

 ALICIA A. HERRERA — She was called Ms. Graftbuster for her relentless campaign against corrupt and erring public officials. Her vigilant stance has earned her the ire of her colleagues. She heads the Lady Councilor's League, a nation-



HERRERA

wide organization of women councilors, and was the topnotcher in the city council race during the local polls. Ironically, she does not head any committee. Her insistence in investigating the controversial ghost employee anomaly has given her the admiration of the media, which exposed the alleged irregularity.

 MELENCIO CASTELO — A veteran councilor, "Tata Miling," is the prime mover of ordinances for socialized housing and areas for priority development in the city. He also initiated the turnover to the city of open spaces



CASTELO

in private subdivisions,, which under the law should be converted into parks or playgrounds. Tata Miling still practices the law profession, but this time for free. He gives free legal advice to the indigent. He ably chairs the committee on subdivision housing, real estate.

SECOND DISTRICT

3. VICENTE D. BIGLANG-AWA -Playing father to Novaliches residents, Ka Enteng is apparently the oldest among city councilors whose wisdom and vast experience in life is always sought not only by his constituents, but also by his colleagues. He has led the committee on peace and order, public welfare and safety in gaining concessions for the benefit of the police force. Ka Enteng is a staunch supporter of an independent police force which will ensure an ideal peace and order situation for the city.



BIGLANG-AWA



LIBAN

4. DANTE V. LIBAN - A stalwart of the Liberal Party, he missed the congressional elections but this proved to be a blessing in disguise to city residents. As member of the opposition block in the city council, Liban is becoming popular among media members for his keen analysis of various burning issues. As he is sometimes tagged "Dante Laban" or "Kumander," Dante heads the committee on cultural affairs and tourism as he plays a major part in fiscalizing the city council.

 ISIDRO R. SALUDES – Judge, chairman of the committee on games and amusements, authored the ordinance penalizing patrons of lewd and indecent shows in nightclubs and bars. As the nemesis of immorality, Judge worked hard to have his



SALUDES

ordinance approved despite the odds. He has become a controversial figure among vice lords and owners of funhouses in the city. Another controversy which he plunged himself into was his ordinance which gave city voters preference in landing in jobs available in all private firms.

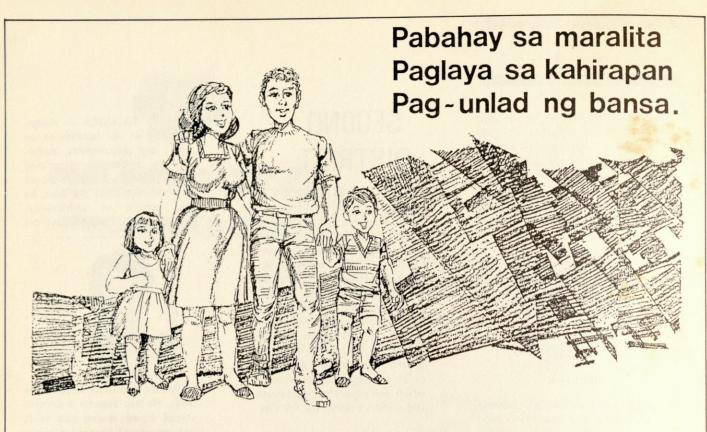
6. EDGARDO S. SERRANO — Ka
Eddie is another prominent
figure in Novaliches. His humility has brought him closer to
the hearts of his constituents.
He regularly conducts medical
outreach projects in depressed
areas in Novaliches while he
works round the clock to respond to their other basic needs.
Ka Eddie is among the city

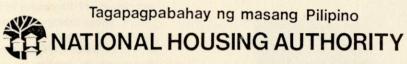


SERRANO

councilors whose courage marked an impression among his colleagues that they voted him to head the committee on markets, slaughterhouses and other franchises, which he inherited from slain Councilor Tomas Castro.

(page 12 please)



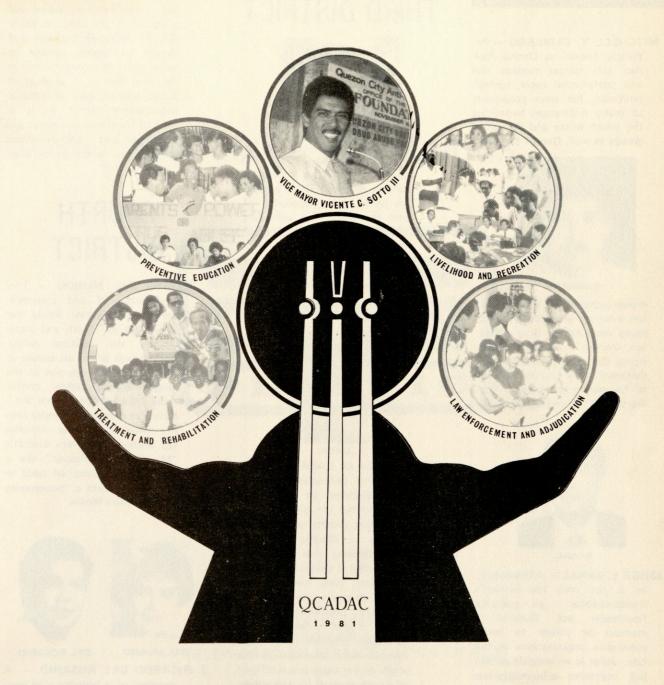


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NEWSMEN'S MIRROR (from page 9)

MITCHELL Y. GUMABAO – Popularly known as Dennis Roldan, this former matinee idol and professional cager, turned-politician, has been proponent to many ordinances benefiting the youth sector and the sports groups as well. One of the natty



GUMABAO

dressers among the city councilors who gained popularity for being vocal against drug addiction. Dennis is one factor in infusing camaraderie among male members of the city council that he fits well in a television commercial of "San Miguel beer."



BANAL

- 2. JORGE L. BANAL A busybody. he is not only the council's troubleshooter as majority floorleader but likewise a member or officer to many socio-civic organizations in the city. Jorge is an amiable person but maintains a boundary line when it comes to serious issues affecting the council. He prides himself of being a good family man despite his busy schedule in serving his constituents. A prolific ordinance proponent, Jorge can best be described as the council's "workaholic,"
- JOSE PACULDO Another member of the opposition bloc, Joe could be regarded as the "Little Abe" of the council. What with his size, and long hair but bright

THIRD DISTRICT



PACULDO

dissenting opinions. Despite scathing attacks levelled against him lately, Joe's popularity remain uneroded. This alderman from barangay Marilag started serving his constituents in 1971 and is said to be an ardent believer in the policies of the former regime. As minority floorleader, Joe is vice-chairman to all council committees.



GABA

- 5. ELIZABETH O. GABA "Baby" to all her colleagues, is somewhat destined to serve the people all her life. She had been the tearing mother of barangay Socorro in Murphy for three years. Sensing that she could serve better if she joins the city's lawmakers, Baby has been proponent to many resolutions and ordinances beneficial to unfortunate and underprivilege barangay citizens. She also showed extra attention to the plight of barangay peace officers when she pressed for the approval of an ordinance granting allowances to them.
- EDUARDO F. DAVID Another silent type but effective opera-



DAVID

tor, Ed, as his colleagues call him, is the chairman of the committee on environmental sanitation, beautification, parks and playgrounds. Ed chose to abandon his lucrative business and plunge to public service to better serve his constituents in the third district. A product of public schools who emerged as management expert, he is an asset of the trade, commerce and industry and appropriations committees, where in he is an active member.

FOURTH DISTRICT

1. CIELITO DEL MUNDO - This service-oriented and civic-minded lady councilor heads the committee on health and social services. Her political obligation though is not an excuse to turn her back from one of the longest-running public service show "Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko." Mahal as everybody fondly calls her (wonder if that includes. QC smokers), and 4th district's "Ms. Prim and Proper", she is determined against all odds to turn the city into a "non-smoking zone" of Metro Manila.



DEL MUNDO

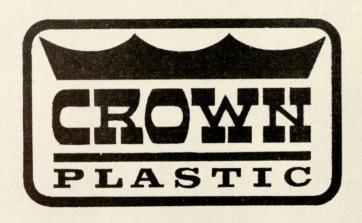


DEL HUSAHIU

2. RICARDO DEL ROSARIO - A member of a popular clan associated in the music, movie and other entertainment outlets, Ricky is one of the younger members of the council. He is "media shy" but a serious lawmaker. Ricky holds the distinction as one of the well-to-do councilors who manages the financial affairs of the council. He is responsible for the meticulous screening of the supplemental and annual budgets of the city. A reliable "watchdog" of city funds, indeed.

(page 14 please)

FOLDERS & NOTEBOOKS...



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3. ALFREDO FRANCISCO - "Bond-



ying" has come a long way to rise as among the city's builder. Better known as Fred Mon-

tilla, he had been named as the country's best actor before making it twice to the city council. Among the biggest achievement he has made so far in the present council was the establishment of 24-hour health centers in every district of the city. It is expected that Fred will propose more outstanding ordinances as he aims to be the best councilor of the city. Fred is the chairman of the committee on city planning, building and zoning regulations.

4. HERMINIO C. BAUTISTA — Butch, another luminary in the celluloid industry who made good in his first attempt in the city level political arena, is the chairman of the council's public

affairs committee. Tagged by

gallery kibitzers as "Mr. Scarf,"

BAUTISTA

PANGILINAN

he is one lawmaker who cannot be missed at the chamber because of his flair for sartorial elegance. A likeable person, Butch moves around the chamber armed with a ready smile for gallery habitues and media practitioners. To those not in the know, Butch is the father of movielands Herbert, Hero and Harlene.

5. FRANCIS P.N. PANGILINAN -

The Benjamin of the city council belies what his age reflect. Only 24, Kiko is the first student regent of the University of the Philippines. A former chairman of the UP student council, Kiko is also a newspaper columnist. Acting like a veteran political figure, this young bachelor echoes his voice well in the session hall for being sensible and

intelligent. He has called for transparency in civil service, knowing fully well of the public's right to know what is happening in the bureaucracy. Kiko heads the committee on labor and conciliation.

6. GUILLERMO C. ALTUNA - "Ma-



nong Willy" is the council's first majority floorleader who knows his ABC's in both the legislative

and executive branches. He gained respect of his colleagues through his interpelative prowess and mastery in the delivery of privilege speeches, being a barrister. He chairs the trade, commerce and industry committee which he handles efficiently. He, however, elicited controversies over a proposed ordinance regulating the operation of hotels, apartelles, and hometels in the city. One of the well-liked councilor, Manong Willy is another friend of the media for his openness and candidness in council matters.

Greetings to QCPA

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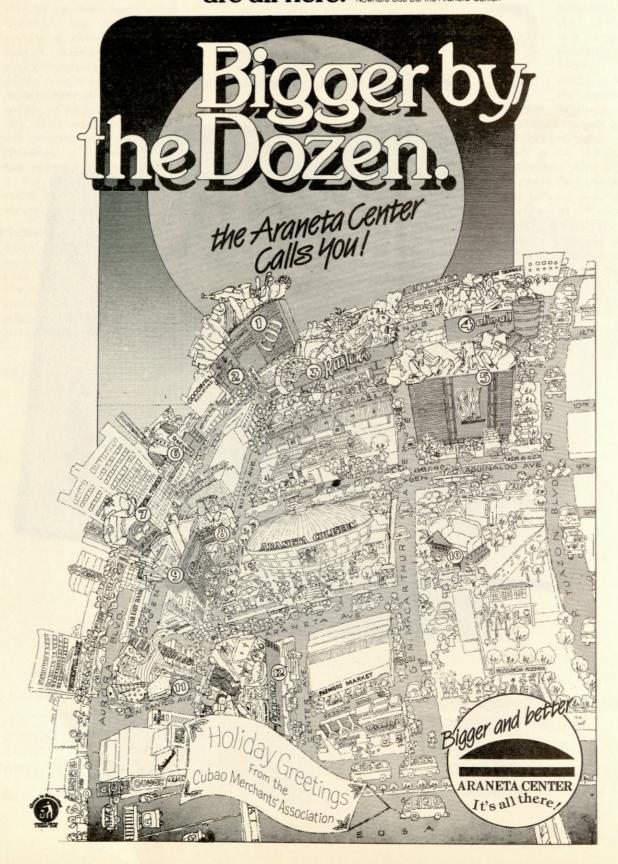




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THE BIGGEST VETO

WHO KILLED TOM CASTRO?

☐ NONOY ACOSTA

To this day, memories of that chilling morning when Councilor Tomas Castro (3rd district) was shot in cold blood by four men, remain a blur to those whose lives were somehow tied with the city dad.

Recollections of that day, September 30, 1988, still bring pain that may never be assuaged by tears nor the memory that was all left of Tomas Castro or Tom, as he was known to friends.

Shortly past 7 a.m., Tom woke up, and clad in shorts and a house shirt, went around the block where their house was.

The block, bordered by J.P. Rizal Street, Highland Drive and Katipunan Avenue Extension, was owned by their family and Tom decided to go around it to check on the tenants,

Tom started his way back to the house after less than 30 minutes, thinking perhaps of having breakfast with his mother and father.

As he got to the family-owned La Milagrosa Bakeshop at the corner of J.P. Rizal Street and Highland Drive, he noticed two men having eggpies and softdrinks at the bakeshop counter.

Inside the store were his parents who were waiting for Tom's arrival from his rounds. It was around 8:50 a.m.

As Tom went up the stairs that led to the counter, he noticed the two men shift listlessly as they appeared to recognize him.

Tom pulled out the stand displaying food and as he made his way in, one of the men at the counter whipped out a .45 cal. pistol and levelled it at Tom.

Before Castro's horrified parents, the unidentified man squeezed out three bullets that hit the young councilor in the body. He died on the spot.

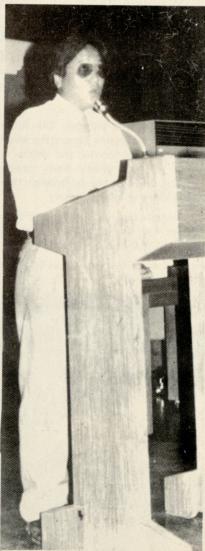
The two men then made their way down and ran along J.P. Rizal Street where they were met by **two others** who were apparently the lookouts.

Castro's killing came a month after his right-hand man, Edgar Limos, was shot dead by three unidentified men.

At the time of his death, Tom was the chairman of the council committee on markets, slaughterhouses and other franchises. The committee, according to city hall sources, was investigating reports of the existence of a syndicate involved in a protection racket.

The same sources had said that the committee was also reviewing contracts entered into by the city government with some slaughterhouse firms.

Speculations arose on the days following Castro's brutal slay. Police investigators had their hands full with the many different angles that had cropped up.



Castro: grim end to a bright career.

One angle was the New People's Army angle. Reporters had a heyday in capitalizing the emergence of this angle.

However, all were dismissed when police investigators nabbed a suspect just over a month after the slay.

Tom, a graduate of Business Management in Ateneo, was co-founder of the Concerned Citizens of Project 4 and was the secretary general of the PDP-Laban chapter in the third district.

To this day, the brutal killing of Castro has not yet been solved. The police claim that they caught one of the suspects, whom they identified as Mario Surbona.

Surbona was caught November 14, 1988, at the third floor of the Quezon City Hall while he was allegedly applying for a job as one of Mayor Brigido R. Simon, Jr.'s men at the Civil Security Unit (CSU).

Around 7 p.m. Saturday, December 31, 1988, authorities said Mario Surbona allegedly tried to escape from the Intelligence and Special Operations Divisions (ISOD) office at the second floor of the city police headquarters along EDSA while he was undergoing interrogation and investigation.

Authorities alleged that Surbona, while being investigated, grabbed the .38 cal. service revolver of Pat. Teodoro Sapitula, then preparing to leave for his home as his shift had ended.

Police investigators said Surbona shot Sapitula once in the stomach and then disarmed at gunpoint desk officer Pat. Reynaldo Montetalcon of his service revolver.

Bearing the two revolvers, police said Surbona then warned those inside the ISOD office not to follow as he proceeded out the hallway.

Out in the hallway, his path was blocked by Sgt. Ciriaco Marcelino, Jr. then proceeding to the ISOD office to report for work, and Surbona allegedly shot at Marcelino but missed him.

Marcelino fired back and hit Surbono three times in the body, killing him on the spot.

Sapitula was rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC) for treatment.

(next page please)



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CASTRO SLAY fr. p.17

Surbona's death only raised more questions and speculations.

One question, why were the police only investigating Surbona that day when he was apprehended more than two months ago.

His death, whether most councilors would admit it or not, has sparked a new consciousness among them. The fear that someone out there may just be after them.

Consider the changes. The Albert Hall has undergone renovation which effectively minimized the ability of those in the gallery from directly coming down to the deliberation floor and talking to the councilors.

Castro's death has affected all those whose lives he has touched, including perhaps, that of the media.

His death has left a gnawing fear in the minds of the councilors, and an emptiness among those he was closest to.

The Quezon City Press Association express their deepest sympathics and feel that words may not be enough to express what they also felt when Tom was killed.

Also, the police had already filed murder charges against Surbona, and and yet they were still investigating him.

The halls of the council may never be the same after the death of Castro.



Search for killers: puzzled or muzzled?

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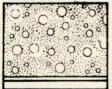
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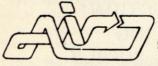
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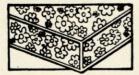
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Evolution is a process of modification in order to adapt to the environment and survive. None is exempt from this rule of nature, not even abstract things, ideals, morals, and laws. All are subject to change with the passing of time.

What may be right today may not be correct tomorrow, or at least non-permissible. What would have been legal 20 years ago may be taboo now or vice-versa. Such is the reality in our existence that nothing is permanent. Each thing needs to be modified for it to survive.

In nature for example, mammals such as whales and dolphins were able to adapt living underwater sensing the scarcity of food on the land they originally lived on a million years ago. Thus, if things as concrete as the physical nature of animals can be modified or some of their organs rendered impotent, what more to the ideas and ideals.

In the field of law, a great number of changes did occur. One particular piece of legislation 20 years ago will highly be obsolete today, but not necessarily on the words and style used.

THE LAW OF CHANGE

□ JOY TALLER GRUTA

As an example, we have culled some of these laws that exemplify our assertion from the volumes of ordinances of Quezon City, numbering more than 10,000 in all.

To assure a clear distinction between the laws acceptable then and are obsolete now, we purposely chose passed ordinances just after the 2nd World War, which would not apply today.

One such ordinance is the 90th ordinance passed which prohibits the use of printed materials for wrapping bread or any food stuff. Well and good! We understand that this law has not yet been repealed nor modified. But now, with the proliferation of more than 30 newspapers and the present economic crisis, store owners, stallholders, and other peddlers use comic books and newspapers to wrap foodstuffs.

Despite the dangers, these printed materials pose to one's health, this ordinance is hardly or never imposed at all.

Another case in point is ordinance No. 29, an act which prohibits the hanging or displaying of clothes or other unsightly objects to public view. Put simply, this acts seeks to punish people hanging their laundry, including panties and brassieres, in front of their houses, to "de-beautify" the city.

But with the continous population growth, buildings being constructed as dwelling places have cramped together that spaces to hang laundrywear cannot be provided. Or if there are such spaces to hang the laundry, the ordinance is usually violated because of many laundrywear of the residents.

(next page please)

Greetings from:

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Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City



If the ordinance is to be imposed today, many could be fined or imprisoned as the penalty for violation. Just imagine the absurdity of a case filed on someone who violates the ordinance and is put in jail just for hanging his clothes to dry.

Ordinance 1105 of Quezon City is one ordinance which has not been repealed but is rather obsolete. The act prohibits the carrying of slingshots or tirador, if you may, and providing penalty thereof.

Just think if you read in the papers "Congressman's bodyguard nabbed for carrying sling shots!" Wouldn't it be funny? At this day and age where legislators import UZI's and Galils, when more than 300,000 firearms are reportedly loose, who would mind someone carrying a slingshot?

There are a hoot of other ordinances in this category like: ordinance No. 8, prohibiting the establishment and maintenance of public dancing schools or cabarets within the Quezon City limits; ordinance 273, an act that requires householders or head of the family to report promptly to the city mayor or city councilor concerned the



QC youth asks: What ordinance will change my life?

"The trouble with our time is that the future is not what is used to be".

- Paul Valery

names, residence and description of any person not residing in the city who may enter his house or receive shelter or accommodate therein; Ordinance 2668 regulating the playing and/or operating any musical instruments during certain hours of the day and providing penalty thereof; Ordinance 2837 an act which imposes a fee of P.10 centavos/day for each pig kept in slaughterhouse or pigpen in Quezon City; Ordinance 2928 which seeks to regulate the playing of mahjong and providing penalty thereof. All point to the fact that laws are, like other attributes of nature, not exempt from evolution.

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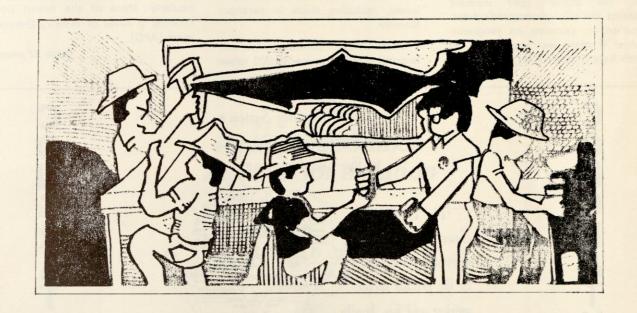


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FROM QUEZON TO SIMON

VISION IN ACTION

☐ RAUL ZAMUCO, EMILY BUGARIN EFREN MONTANO, NICK GUMABAY ☐

WHAT was once a huge block teeming with some 400 squatter families in barangay Manresa was turned into silent remain of ruined homes on a hot Saturday afternoon in March last year.

That Saturday two large bull-dozers mercilessly cleared the way through heaps of rubble to complete the day's demolition operation, costing the life of a squatter resident who tried to ward off members of the city government's demolition team.

Although the image of the city government led by Mayor Brigido Simon, Jr. crumbled along with the rickety shanties it demolished in Manresa, the March 1987 incident reflected the city government's determination in pursuing its programs.

And if there was anything at all which kept Simon's head above water

in the Manresa incident, it was the first batch of concrete structures immediately put up on the site of the demolition.

Barangay Manresa, it turns out, is one of the 66 depressed communities in the city which are the target of a massive on-site development program of the city government.

Early last year, the city government's Urban Poor Affairs Office headed by Celso Canonigo started conducting surveys that would determine the beneficiaries of the city's housing program.

Stubborn non-beneficiaries had to be evicted and their houses demolished, including those in barangay Manresa.

Aside from providing low-cost housing units to some 80,000 urban

poor in the city, Simon also unveiled more projects which he vowed to pursue with the same amount of zeal,

Before the end of this century, two mini-industrial estates are expected to rise in Quezon City. The project is expected to generate jobs for 50,000 of the city's estimated two million population.

Asian countries, particularly Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan agreed to open direct trade ties with Quezon City following a trade mission last August sponsored by the city government and the Quezon City Chamber of Commerce and Industry (QCCCI).

Among the mission's notable gains was the consent of Japan and Taiwan to invest more in Quezon City and to put up mini-industrial estates that would concentrate on small and medium scale industries.

Simon said the establishment of mini-industrial estates would respond to the city's employment needs, particularly those of the lurban poor residing in Areas of Priority Development (APD).

(page 27 please)

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old-age or death. As such, the SSS plays a significant role in the state's efforts to alleviate mass poverty and establish a more humane society."

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THE VISION IN ACTION

(from page 24)

A polytechnic school would also be established, as well as a skills training center for workers of the planned mini-industrial estates.

The additional jobs would mean more revenues for the city, and earnings are expected to increase from the P643 million recorded in 1988. While the city's revenue had increased by 32% within the 1987 to 1988 period, or P446 million to P643 million, the city now expects to have P1 billion in its coffer by 1990. In the minds of Mayor Simon and his officials, things are unfolding as they should, in consonance with the vision of city's founder, the late Commonwealth President Manuel L. Quezon.

Said the late Commonwealth President and founder of the city Manuel L. Quezon while strolling with friends on a grassy Kamuning area, "This is where I would like to build a real Filipino metropolis!"

With this vision, it did not take long for Quezon to buckle down to work. Within a few years, the area-scene of dusty cogon or talahib-would become the country's major commercial and industrial center.



Quezon and Simon daydream: national capital of growth & progress.

In 1938, the Quezon administration purchased a 1,527 hectare of vast undeveloped property in an area now known as Kamuning district. The area was to be used as site for a low-cost housing project for workers called Barrio Obrero. But there was no city

to speak of until October 12, the same year when the National Assembly enacted Commonwealth Act 502 creating the city of Quezon. The city then was only 7,335 hectares,, one-third of which belonged to the government.

(page 29 please)





VISION IN ACTION (from page 27)

Component areas would later be carved out from nearby towns in the Rizal province.

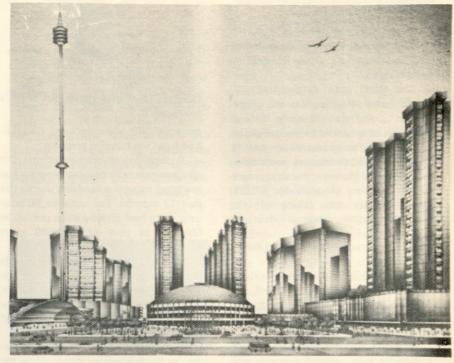
What sparked the marked growth and progress of Quezon City was rather spurious, though it could largely be attributed to the efforts and zeal of the men and women at the city's helm.

For instance, it was during the time of Tomas Morato (2nd city mayor after Quezon), that the issue of social justice came into the picture and later used as basis for leadership.

Under Mayor Ponciano Bernardo (1946-1949) the city was rehabilitated from the ravages of war despite the lack of funds. The city was named as the country's capital during Micanor Roxas' short term (1949-50) and, under Ignacio Santos Diaz, more schools, roads, housing projects: and police stations were built.

The leadership of Norberto Amoranto, which spanned two decades, saw the rapid development of the city, which continued up to the time of his successor, Adelina Rodriguez.

(page 30 please)



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VISION IN ACTION (from page 29)

BRIGHT PROSPECTS IN A CLOUDED CONTEXT

This coming October, Quezon City will celebrate its 50th Foundation anniversary.

The grand event falls within Simon's term, affording him the opportunity to initiate and carry through programs that would likely decide his and the fate of some two million people.

While squatter shanties were being torn down in Manresa, the city government's housing program for 80,000 city residents was taking off the ground in other places all over the city.

It was a tentative beginning for an arduous task.

Some 20,000 squatter residents who were not beneficiaries of the housing program blunted city government efforts to implement it, resulting most of the time in violence.

The city government declared only as beneficiaries, squatter residents who were already in Quezon City on or before the February revolt in 1986. Of the city's estimated 100,000 squatters,



Quezon: the figure stands out as QC's bantayog.''

some 20,000 were declared disqualified from the housing program.

Though beleaguered sometimes, the city government's housing program has managed to gain a headway during the past 12 months. For instance, 90 housing units had already been put up in Manresa as part of the 500 units planned.

Some 1,400 hectares of idle lands also awaited city squatters in the Bagong Silangan areas near Montalban. The site was planned by Simon to be made into the Aurora sub-city, named after Quezon's wife.

Last December, some 1,700 homelots in Payatas were raffled off by the city government, followed by some 1,500 more earlier February. Each of the houses costs an average of P300 to

P1,200 monthly amortization payable in 25 years through the National Home Mortgaging and Finance Corporation (NHMFC).

More roads, the city government reported, will also be constructed as part of the over-all urban redevelopment scheme. The massive on-site housing program is the city's joint project with the Presidential Commission on Urban Poor (PCUP), and private subdivision owners.

To ensure regional security and "industrial peace," the city's police force was beefed up with the purchase of additional patrol cars and guns. However, the considerably small number of policemen (around 2,000) in active service, remains a big problem. But a pending proposal to make Quezon City a separate police district seeks to minimize bureaucratic redtape and to improve crime-fighting capability.

From a vast 1,527 hectare of grasslands, Quezon City has bloomed into a 15,360 hectare premiere city, experiencing, as may modern city does, the pains of growth and transition while it strives to retain its own identity and charm.

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QUEZON CITY

THE SEAT OF TELE POWER

□ IONAS SIÑEL

Whenever you sit before an "idiot box" or what we usually call television, you can be sure that what you are viewing is being transmitted to you via a station from Quezon City.

This is because all the major television stations (Channels 2, 4, 7, 9 and 13) are in the capitol city. ABS-CBN (Channel 2) and the governmentowned PTV-4 are both located in a single broadcast complex bounded by Bohol Ave, and Mother Ignacia street. GMA 7 which has the tallest and most powerful transmission is on EDSA near Timog Avenue, RPN-9 and IBC-13 both stand at Broadcast City complex near Celebrity Sports Plaza in Capitol Hills.

But why so?

For experts, the higher a place and the more accessible it is to both transportation and power sources, the more ideal it will be for telecommunications purposes.

With elevations varying from 60 to 90 meters above sea level, erecting a durable transmission tower would be cheaper. This also makes this city less vulnerable to flooding (more so because of its relatively still verdant environs), unlike Manila which is below sea level and less "green".

Television or electronics media is a cutthroat competition both in audience and advertisers. While regular programming enjoys more or less a captive audience, newsbreaks, captivate general viewership which is not necessarily loyal to a particular channel. This is truer to those who own remote control TV sets who can shift to any channel between commercial breaks or any time they please.

News hunting and presentation therefore becomes a stiff race not only to attract but also to hold on to viewers. Mobility and accessibility largely account for fast delivery of fresh and hot newsbits. And this is where Queen City could boast of a clear edge over any other place in the metropolis. Her major thoroughfares are wider and being traversed by numerous non-busy secondary roads for faster travel. In broadcast media, a late news is no news.

Aside from these ideal factors, Quezon City as a major news haven, fills up a large part of our daily newspapers. Although Manila is the central seat of political power, Quezon City is the center of national government offices and major institutions. To name a few, these are: the Batasan Pambansa Complex, Central Bank Minting Plant, SSS, BIR, NHA, MWSS, DSWD, CSC, COA, Atomic Energy Commission, Philippine Heart Center, Phil. Lung Center, National Children's Hospital, Lungsod ng Kabataan, National Orthopedic Hospital, Quezon Institute, La Mesa Dam and the University of the Philippines famous for

Quezon City could aptly be called the country's "television capital"

having the biggest campus area in the world. The proposed National Government Center which is slowly being realized starting from the Elliptical Road.

During the pre-martial law days, several TV stations lie outside the Queen City, like: Channels 5 and 11 in Makati and Channel 13 in Mandaluyong, and ABS-CBN in Manila.

Today, people who want to see their favorite stars during shows at the studios, will have to go nowhere other than Quezon City where the existing five TV stations are all located.

Since 1951 when television first reached Philippines soil, this medium formerly enjoyed only by the handful rich is now widely ubiquitous specially in urban areas. What was usually a status symbol has become relatively an ordinary house fixture even among slum dwellers. Those who do not have their own sets are not necessarily being deprived of the viewing pleasure as it can be available somewhere in the neighborhood.

At present, there are 14 televisionstations all over the country. However, the five major stations in Quezon City are the mother outfits mainly distributing prime programs either delayed or via domestic sattelite simulcasting in the provincial TV networks.

Before the Second World War, there were only six radio stations operating in the country which grew into 22 just

10 years after. Towards the end of the 50s, there were 20 or so radio stations in Manila alone, and yet heaps of franchise applications awaiting presidential approval kept piling up. By 1966, the radio control office, helpless against political power plays, has virtually opened the floodgates which led to the mushrooming of radio stations which by then reached 202 in total. The rapid expansion almost instantly took its toll, draining the industry of qualified broadcast personnel and pushing it on the verge of collapse because of cutthroat competition for advertisers.

The flooding of television and radio sets in the Philippine market further the feverish broadcast expansion worsening the dog-eat-dog competition. The situation gave rise to the need for a self-regulating body that will govern and enforce discipline and professionalism in the industry. Thus, the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) was born on April 27, 1973 initially gathering 29 member stations. A trade organization, KBP is clothed with quasi-government powers to impose compliance on its regulatory guidelines.

Although the Queen City could aptly be called the country's "television capital", the same could hardly be said when it comes to radio broadcasting. Radio stations in the Philippines totals 309 of which 263 are commercial. It can be noted that the highly commercial nature of our broadcasting industry owes its origin to the American pattern which is basically commercial.

But with Quezon City's sizeable share of the country's radio stations, it can somehow be stated that the capitol city is also a major radio broadcasting center. Channel 4 alone has several FM and AM stations.

While "Broadcast City" refers only to two TV stations, it might as well describe Quezon City as strictly applied only to television or specifically called the electronics media, the most potent and captivating medium of mass communication "which can make a man in all places at one time."

With the capitol city's steady progress towards achieving it's founder's dream of making it "the showcase of the nation," the epithet "television city" would just be a factual description.



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WHERE HAVE ALL THE "OLD" DADS GONE?

SESSION HALL PILLARS

☐ MARVIC CAGURANGAN & CINDY CRUZ

"Like old soldiers, Quezon City councilors never die, they just fade away."

When martial law was declared in 1972, the Quezon City council, along with Congress and other law-making bodies, was abolished. The city councilors suddenly found themselves jobless. But not for long. Many took various jobs, some odious, in government. While the rest simply faded away. At least for the next 14 years.

With the restoration of democracy in the country and the return of the council-type of government in Quezon City following the ratification of the 1986 Constitution, a number of retired and semi-retired councilors came back to the political scene, once more raring to fight. Some won, quite a number lost in their bid to regain their seats in the august council.

Two other members of the 1971-75 city council were likewise re-elected in the last local election. They are: Jose Paculdo and Melencio Castelo.

Here are the whereabouts of other former councilors: Former Councilor Ronald Kookooritchkin (Ronald Remy) never went back to politics as he is now in "full service of God." With his family, he leads a Born-Again Fellowship group called Corpus Christi. A councilor from January 1972 to February 1975, he assumed office as Quezon City Vice Mayor in March 1975.

Estanislao Alinea (1971-75) and Saturnino Bermudez (1964-67) are both immersed in their profession as lawyers. Like Kookooritchkin, Alinea is presently involved in apostolic activities. During the martial years, Alinea was a member of the Interim

Rafael Mison was elected councilor from 1964 to 1971. After that, he devoted his time to law profession. He was also engaged in business. Mison's seven children are all professionals, one of whom is now settled in the US. Mison died at the age of 58 on May 8, 1985.

Nicanor Ramirez was initially appointed as councilor by then President Magsaysay from 1954 to 1959. During the 1959 election, he ran for councilor under the Nacionalista Party but lost. Since then, he had a series of heart attacks until his death in 1961 at the age of 73. Ramirez has 10 surviving children, all of whom are professionals.

Anacleto Madrilejo, at 79, spends his twilight years in comfort. He has several real properties being leased. A councilor from 1953 to 1960, he then assumed office as Secretary to the



Old "Dads" in session: from conference table to a 1,000 seat capacity Albert Hall.

Among the few who succeeded in getting back their old seats is Councilor Alfredo Francisco, better known in the tinsel world as Fred Montilla.

Montilla was first elected councilor of the city's 4th district in 1968. He remained in the council until it was abolished. After the EDSA revolution, politics lured back the screen idol. He decided to run again for councilor in his district, he said, because of his desire to compensate the people for their unstinting support of his political career.

Batasang Pambansa.

Fausto Carlos (1968-71), also a former QC councilor is now settled in Canada with his family.

Jesus Merritt (1951-1953) died of heart attack last December 8. After his term as councilor, he became PHHC (now NHA) manager, a position he held until his retirement. Merritt was also a writer. He helped in publishing the biography of the late President Ramon Magsaysay. His wife and five children are all in the United States.

Mayor under Mayor Amoranto from 1960 to 1975 until he retired.

Honorio David, at 42, was elected councilor under Mayor Amoranto's administration from 1972 to 1975. After his term, he busied himself in his furniture business, LYSIDA Furniture, located across Funeraria Nacional on Araneta Avenue. He died on April 13, 1986 at the age of 55. David's two children are both professionals and are now residing in the US. His wife Dolores Sison David now manages their furniture business.

Ramon Vicencio Sr. survived three administrations (Bernardo, Roxas and Diaz) during his term as councilor from 1948 to 1953. After that, he engrossed himself in business, until he died in 1985 at the age of 76. He is survived by his wife Leonisa Cornes Vicencio, their eight children who are all professionals, their 17 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.



QC government in '50's: commencing the founder's ideals.

Carlos Albert was initially elected as councilor from 1960 to 1963. He then served as Quezon City Vice Mayor which was cut short when he died in 1979. His wife Mila Aquino-Albert ran for Mayor of Quezon City during the local elections in 1988 but lost to Jun Simon.



The city dads: not even street names to remember them by.

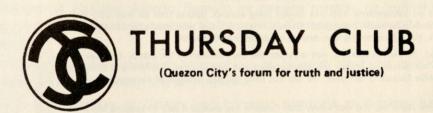
Claro Pinga assumed office as councilor in 1954 under the Santos-Diaz administration. He was responsible for the donation of Cubao Health Center to the Quezon City government. However, the succeeding councilors leased the health center to Radio-TV Federation at P1 per year which was then converted into ACT Theater. After his term, Pinga did not seek a re-election. He died in 1967 at the age of 78.

LIST OF FORMER QUEZON CITY COUNCILORS YEAR OF TERM

EIST OF FORMER GOLLOW OFF O	CONCILORS TEAR OF TERM
Hon. Ramon Vicencio	lan 1051-Dec 1053/ lan Ech 1054
Hon, Leon Malubay	
Hon, Hipolito Lopez	
Hon, Gregorio Roxas	
Hon. Claro Pinga	
Hon. Francisco Batacan	
Hon. Jose Cruz	Jan. 1951-Dec. 1953
Hon. Adolfo Eufemio	Jan. 1951-Dec. 1953
Hon. Delfin Garcia	Jan. 1951-Dec. 1953
Hon. Jesus Meritt	Jan. 1951-Dec. 1953
Hon. Ponciano Reyes	
Hon. Rafael Icasiano	
Hon. Melencio Nadonga	
Hon. Enrique Ramirez	
Hon Feline Cabrera	F-1 1054 A 4054
Hon, Felipe Cabrera	Feb. 1954-Aug. 1954
Hon. Reynaldo Ermita	Feb. 1954-June 1958
Hon. Romulo Lucasan Feb.	1954-Dec. 1959/Jan. 1968-Dec. 1971
Hon. Anacleto Madrilejo	Feb. 1954-Dec. 1959
Hon. Martin Manahan	Feb. 1954-Dec. 1959
Hon, Nicanor Ramirez	Feb. 1954-Dec. 1959
Hon. Benjamin Paguia	Feb. 1954-Dec. 1955
Hon, Lucas Pascual	Mar, 1954-Dec. 1959
Hon, Jesus Ponce	Apr. 1956-Dec. 1959 (vice Paguia)
Hon. Gregorio Veluz	Aug. 1954-Sept. 1959 (vice Cabrera)
Hon. Luciano Dominguez	Sept 1959-Dec 1959 (vice Veluz)
hon. Isabelo Crisostomo	June 1958-Dec 1959 (vice Ermita)
Hon. Proceso Sebastian	lan 1960 Sont 1962
Hon. Vidal Tan	lan 1060 Capt 1063
Hon. Carlos Albert	Jan. 1960-Sept. 1963
Hon, Jose Narcelles	Jan. 1960-Sept. 1963
Hon Victoriano Diamon	Jan. 1960-Sept. 1963
Hon, Victoriano Diamon	Jan. 1960-Sept. 1963
Hon Conrado Registra	Jan. 1960-Sept. 1963
Hon Conrado Benitez	Jan. 1960-Sept. 1963
Hon, Pedro Tuazon	Jan. 1960-June 1961
Hon. Faustino Turla	. May 1962-Dec. 1963 (vice Tuazon)
Hon. Jose Villegas	Dec. 1963-(vice Narcelles)
Hon. Eduardo Paredes	. Jan. 1964-Dec. 1967/Jan. '68-Dec.
	1071 / 1070 14- 1 1075
Hon. Saturnino Bermudez	Jan. 1968-Sept. 1971
non. Rafael Wison	Jan. 1968-Sept 1971
Hon. Romulo Lucasan	Jan. 1968-Dec. 1971
Hon. Luisa Orendain	June 1964-Sept 1967
Hon. Florentino Lapuz	Jan 1964-Dec 1967
Hon. Manuel Pascual	Sept Dec. 1967
Hon. Hermogenes Caluag	lan 1069 Dec. 1907
Hon. Alfredo Francisco Jan.	1969 Dec 1971/len 1972 Dec 1971
Hon. Jesus Perlas	1900-Dec. 1971/Jan. 1972-Dec. 1975
Hon Arsenia Maximo	Jan. 1968-Dec. 1971
Hon, Fausto Carlos	. Sept. 1971-Dec. 1971 (vice Mison)
Hon. Fausto Carlos	OctDec. 1971
Hon. Ronald Kookooritchkin	Jan. 1971-March 1975
Hon, Stephen Sarino	Jan. 1972-Dec. 1975
Hon. Danilo Roces	Jan. 1972-Dec. 1975
Hon. Mario Montenegro	Jan. 1972-Dec. 1975
Hon. Andres Genito	Jan. 1972-Dec. 1975
Hon, Melencio Castelo	Jan. 1972-Dec. 1975
Hon. Eulalio dela Cruz	Jan. 1972-Dec. 1975
Hon. Emeterio Gonzales	Jan. 1972-Dec. 1975
Hon. Jose Paculdo	Jan 1972-Dec 1975
Hon. Estanislao Alinea	Jan. 1972-Dec. 1975
Hon. Precioso Perlas	Jan. 1974-Dec. 1975
Hon, Honorio David	Jan. 1974-Dec. 1975
Hon. Jose Vera Perez	Jan, 1972-Dec. 1975
	Jan, 1972-Dec. 1975

THE SIX OUTSTANDING COUNCILORS OF QUEZON CITY

SEN. AQUILINO "NENE" PIMENTEL, JR.



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JUSTINIANO P. CORTEZ
PORFIRIO V. SISON
JOSE A. ARANAS
DOROTEO T. TOLEDO
ANTONIO B. DE OCAMPO

DICTATOR:
HERMENEGILDO C. DUMLAO

VICE-DICTATOR: OCTAVIO E. SAULO

SECRETARY: SIDRITO V. RAMIRO

TREASURER: HONESTO B. BUENDIA AUDITOR:

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REMIGIO GERARDO
SERAFIN PUA
CRISANTO T. SARUCA
FELIX FLABOR
DIONISIO A. TEJERO
(Ex-Officio)

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FREDDIE'S LEGACY TO THE QCPA

☐ by Teret Medina and Lani Pisig



Alfredo Navarro Salanga, simply known as Freddie to Quezon City Hall working press, was the public relations officer of Mayor Jun Simon when he died on October 15, 1988. A bulk of a man, he was someone to contend with in the midst of burning issues proliferating right under the roofs of the QC government.

As the mayor's spokesman, Freddie always wanted to make sure that the public assistance and information services office (PAISO) has its doors open to members of the Quezon City Press Association (QCPA).

Seated behind his huge mahogany desk with just a few papers and reading materials neatly piled on one side, visiting reporters would easily find their way in and see him ready with his big grin and usual line: "what can I do for you, guys?". And they sit down and talks will begin, It was a relationship borne out of mutual trust and respect: one of the very few things journalists give and take.

Going down to the brasstacks, Freddie regularized press conferences with Mayor Simon every Wednesdays. Here, he gives the opening statement while the reporters browse over the agenda for the day. In this forum, everybody gets the chance to ask questions to the Mayor, who in turn, either sheds light to the real issues behind his desk or gives his official statement. Normally, the press conference does not end without the usual tete-a-tete with the mayor and Freddie.

Of course, this air of camaraderie does not always hang around. Sparks flew all over City Hall when things got nasty and in-between his regular dialysis, it was Freddie who mediated between the mayor and the reporters. His wit never left him despite his deteriorating health.

As the PAISO head, he always worked, not only for the best interest of the mayor, but also for the working press. In his desire to bridge the gap between the two parties, Freddie and a media member an outing at Villa Escudero last year. He did not join the rest because of his condition. But his efforts gained.

Most of the QC Hall reporters did not know that Freddie has always a way of keeping tab with their problems. He's some kind of scout into the unknown and unspoken ways of feelings, thinking and being. Freddie probed politics in government like a detective with a cause. He knows who the real victims are and would undoubtedly find a way to make things right. He was a wise young, not old, man who had figured out the meaning of life way ahead of anyone in his generation.

Freddie's legacy to the QCPA is an undying commitment of the press in the pursuit of truth and justice. Press Freedom is one thing he cherished most,

His brief stay at QC Hall had elicited side comments from his friends who felt that poets and authors like Freddie, "must be allowed to bloom and grow unhampered by mundane concerns like making a living. And Freddie doing PR work for politicians and writing speeches for technocrats instead of pondering his next brilliant literary piece before his typewriter pained them,"

But Freddie was a man of all seasons. He was a critic, poet, essayist, novelist and playwright. He received the Mulry Award for Literary Excellence from Ateneo de Manila for his manifesto 'Down From the Hills' penned together with the late Emman Lacaba and current NTC Commissioner Linggoy Alcuaz. He was also a recipient of the Carlos Palanca Memorial Awards for Literature, voted as one of the Ten Most Outstanding Young Men (TOYM), and a Catholic Mass Media Awardee. He had also been a columnist for Panorama Magazine, Observer/Independent, Manila Times and Asia-Philippines Leader. For a man of great gifts, he had a remarkably small ego. He hardly talked about himself, and never boasted of his achievements.

Freddie was a man of depth and of huge dimensions. His brilliant mind and prodigious literary abilities made him friends among the high and mighty, but his human compassion also drew ordinary decent people who could count on themselves as among Freddie's friends.

Among those whom had counted on during his last few days were the members of the QCPA. In his own simple way, he asked them to work hand in hand with the mayor for the best interest of the QC residents.

Freddie stayed at QC Hall because he was needed. He worked for Mayor Simon not because he simply wanted to make a living. He did it for cause.







WIKANG PILIPINO

MOOG SA KONSEHO

N. Cory Martinez

"Ang isang mahabang paglalakbay ay nagsisimula sa isang hakbang". Ito ay isang matandang kasabihan na nagkaroon ng katuparan sa konseho ng lunsod."

Kapuna-puna subalit maituturing na isang mensahe ang paggamit ng Pilipino o wikang pambansa sa lahat ng talakayan, talastasan o dehate sa silid pulungan ng konseho ng lunsod matapos na iminungkahi ito ni Konsehal Reynaldo Calalay.

Nang unang ihain ni Calalay ang panukala na ito ay ipinagkbit ng balikat ng ilang kasamahan, subalit hindi nasiraan ng loob ang mababang-loob na dating barangay chairman ng San Francisco Del Monte.

Kimkim ang pananalig sa dahilang ang lungsod ay ipinangalan sa yumaong Pangulong Manuel L. Quezon, isa sa pangunahing talakayan sa paggamit ng Pilipino bilang isang pamamaraan ng komunikasyon sa buong kapuluan, sinimulan ni Calalay ang pagpapaliwanag sa kapwa konsehal ng kahalagahan nito.

Nang ipagdiwang ang ika-110 taon ng kapanganakan ni Pangulong Quezon sa pambansang dambana ng lungsod sa pagt taguyod ng Pambansang Surian ng Pangkasaysayan at ng pamahalaang lungsod, namalas at nadama ang kaibhan ng pagpapahalaga sa sariling wika.

Sa inihandang palatuntunan na inilimbag sa sariling wika, ang mga panauhing mga tagapagsalita ay kabilang ang punong lunsod Brigido Simon Jr. at Serafin D. Quiason, tagapangulo ng Pambansang Suriang Pangkasaysayan at Senador Alberto Romulo ay pawang matatas na bumigkas ng kanilang talumpati at nagpupuri sa magagandang nagawa ng Pangulong Quezon, kabilang dito ang pagpapahalaga sa sariling wika.

Kung kaya't bilang pagbibigay galang sa tagapagtatag ng lungsod, sinabi ng mga kagalang-galang na mga guro, marapat lamang na mahalin ang sariling wika.

Mula rito ay muling binuhay ni Calalay ang kanyang panukala at ibinatay ito sa Sec. 6 ng Artikulo bilang XIV ng ating saligang batas taong 1986 na nagsasaad na "ang wikang pambansa ng Pilipinas ay Pilipino." At tulad ng balangkasan ito ay higit pang palalawakin at pagyayamanin sa mga umiiral na salitang Pilipino at iba pang wika: Sa seksyon 7 naman ay natatandaan na sa layunin ng pagtuturo at pagtatalakayan, ang opisyal na wika ng Pilipinas ay Pilipino.

Matapos na maipasa ang resolusyon ni Calalay noong Hulyo 7, 1988, na nagtatakda sa paggamit ng Pilipino sa lahat ng talakayan ay nagkaroon din ng bahaygyang suliranin ang ilan sa pag-gagap ng karampatang salitang tagalog sa ilang salitang ingles.

Kabilang dito ang "principles" na katumbas ay "simulain", "appoint" — hirangin; "endorsement" — paglilipat-liham; "point of order" — punto ng kaayusan.

Ang panimulang resolusyon ni Calalay ay malugod nang tinanggap ng mga kasamahan sa konseho magmula noon. Nagkaroon ng pagsasaliksik naman ang miyembro ng council secretariat para makabuo ng magiging batayan ng mga dayuhang salita na kaangkop-angkop sa Pilipino.

Ngayon ay maipagkakapuri na ng konseho ng lungsod Quezon ang naturang makalawang ulit na talakayin at pagpapalitan ng kuro-kuro sa sesyon bawat buwan, sa dahilang ilang sangguniang bayan hindi lamang sa kalakhang Maynila ang sumusunod sa kanilang pinasimulan kundi maging ang ilang konseho sa Luzon, at maging sa Mindanao.

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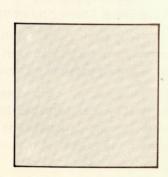
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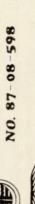
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