THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
News
Thursday, March 29, 2007 5

# QC drive on prostitution up

At least 12 women and 20 men allegedly engaged in prostitution were rounded up by the police during an operation which ended before dawn in Diliman, Project 7, and Del Monte, Quezon City yesterday.

QCPD station 2 commander Supt. Carlito Feliciano said the operation is in response to the anti-vice campaign of the QC government.

The operation started 11 p.m. Tuesday at the perimeter of Barangays West and South Triangles on Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. The 12 women were picked up from there allegedly while waiting for clients under two footbridges near food chains.

Of the 20 men, one is a homosexual. It was learned that the women charge ₱700 plus from their clients. They said poverty drove them to the flesh trade.

At around 1 a.m., Medina and his team rounded up the men around the Quezon Memorial Circle (QMC) along Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Feliciano was assisted by QCPD station 2 chief investigator Insp. Rey Medina and QCPD station 2, Quezon Avenue Police Community Precinct commander Insp. Homer Natividad.

Also helping them out were QCPD station 10 and QCPD headquarters Women's Desk operatives as well as representatives from Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Feliciano said the women were turned over to Sagip Kababaihan Center in Barangay South Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City. (Joel C. Atencio)

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LOCAL HISTORY

Manila Standard TODAY

A4 | SATURDAY January 14, 2006

METRO

# QC: Remove VIP rooms in clubs

REMOVE VIP rooms in all nightclubs.

This was the marching order of Quezon City Business Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO) chief Facifico Maghacot to his men after confirming reports that almost all nightclubs in the city did not comply with a city ordinance prohibiting locks installed in VIP rooms.

"VIP rooms were allowed for purposes of meetings. But the practice today is different. It's now being used as a motel. So, it is better we knock down these rooms," Maghacot told **Standard Today.**

Last Tuesday, Councilor Franz Pumaren said that Ordinance 1257, which prohibits the installation of locks in VIP rooms in nightclubs, is openly being disregard by club owners and operators.

Pumaren also urged the BPLO and police authorities to strictly implement the provisions of Ordinance 1257.

Maghacot admitted that his office has failed to monitor and enforce the ordinance because he has a limited number of officers. Only 21 inspectors are under his unit, while there are more than 300 nightclubs in the city, majority of which are located along Quezon Avenue.

"We only have 21 inspectors. Right now we are busy with the issuance of permits. However, we make it a point to inspect first the nightclubs before giving them the permits," he said.

Among the nightclubs having VIP rooms with locks are Classmates, Pegasus, Mystique, Catwalk, Stardust, Paradise, Hearbeat, Aquarius, Bartolina, Tirit, Metro, Lanai, Flirt, Limehouse and Takusa.

Maghacot added that he was not worried if nightclub owners eventually relocated to other cities once his orders are strictly implemented.

**Jaime Pilapil**

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LOCAL HISTORY

QC - Night clubs QC Mus

MANILA BULLETIN

## Metro Bulletin

# Women's groups rally against prostitution, lewd shows in QC

4 Wednesday, August 31, 2005

A group of women representing religious organizations, socio-civic clubs and residents of Quezon City urged officials of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) yesterday to mount an all-out war against prostitution and lewd shows in beerhouses, sauna parlors and other entertainment spots in the city.

During a rally held in front of the QCPD headquarters at Camp Karingal in Sikatuna Village, the women's groups urged Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan, QCPD director, and all police station commanders to launch the campaign in the wake of reports that the problem of prostitution and nudity in fun spots remained unabated and continued to destroy the moral fiber of society.

"Despite the law that prohibit lewd shows and prostitution, the problems remained uncon-tained," the group said.

The police seem to be reluctant and have forgetten their sworn duties to uphold and enforce the law and protect people against immorality, the women added.

The women's group said reports reaching them claim most beerhouses and some sauna bath parlors in Quezon City are engaged in lewd shows and prostitution and that policemen were the one giving protection to these entertainment spots.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development and Quezon City Health Department were also urged by the group to conduct an investigation following reports that most of the women working in beerhouses were minors and didn't have necessary permits required by the city government.

The religious groups in the city urged the PNP administration to start weeding out the scalawags in uniform in the local police force to end the problems of prostitution and lewd shows in the city. (Rico C. Navarro)

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LOCAL HISTORY

Prostitution

METRO MANILA BULLETIN

Metro 3
Monday, 11 April 2005

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# QC measure against prostitution backed

*By SEL A. BAYSA*

The Quezon City Council over the weekend cited Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes' strong determination to rid prostitution as evident in his latest directive to the Philippine National Police (PNP) to find ways and means to curb sex trade in the country.

In a radio interview, human rights lawyer and QC Council majority floor leader Ariel Inton Jr. said the council has approved on third and final reading a proposed ordinance which adds teeth to the local government's drive against prostitution, dubbed the "oldest profession" in the history of mankind.

Inton said "the proposed measure is the council's contribution to the national government's effort to combat prostitution."

"The council is optimistic that Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. will sign into an ordinance the proposed measure," he told "Ang Patrol ng Bayan" over DZRB.

Inton's proposed ordinance imposes a six-month mandatory human rights education on the plight of the victims of prostitution and a fine of ₱4,000 for the first offender including patrons found guilty of engaging in the illegal trade.

Under the measure, the QC government shall exercise its power to curb prostitution by ensuring that no licenses or permits shall be issued to any establishment that is intended for any prostitution-related activity.

Any license or permit issued prior to the effectivity of the ordinance shall be deemed automatically revoked or cancelled.

It further reads "in addition, the establishment shall be immediately closed and an "off limits" sign shall be displayed outside by the city government."

It also provides for the formation of a local antiprostitution task force composed of the city's social services development department, health, the Philippine National Police, non-government organizations (NGOs) and representative of persons exploited prostitution to oversee the formulation of programs that would addressed the needs of persons exploited in prostitution.

A counterpart task force in barangays where prostitution is rampant will also be formed.

Prostitution, according to Reyes, "remains a major problem in many countries, which behooves the government and all sector of society to undertake a concerted effort to solve it."

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

Prostitution

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
Metro 2
Saturday, 9 April 2005

METRO MANILA BULLETIN

# QC joins fight vs prostitution

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

The Quezon City government has joined the national government in its war against prostitution in the country.

This after, Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. signed into law an ordinance addressing the system of prostitution in the city, that would cover among others, the imposition of penalties on its perpetrators and patrons and providing protective measures and support services for victims of the sex trade.

Under the approved measure, the city government shall exercise its power to curb prostitution within the city by ensuring that no licenses or permits shall be issued to any establishment that it intended for any prostitution activity. Any license or permit already issued prior to the effectivity of the ordinance shall be deemed automatically revoked or canceled.

In addition, the establishment shall be immediately closed and an "off limits" sign shall be displayed outside by the city government.

A local anti-prostitution task force constituting the city's social services development department, health department, the Philippine National Police, non-governmental organizations and representatives of persons exploited in prostitution will also be formed to oversee the formulation of programs that would address the needs of persons exploited in prostitution.

The program shall include public information and education campaign, crisis intervention service, education assistance, socio-economic assistance and integration and complete after-care programs.

A counterpart task force in barangays where prostitution is reportedly rampant will also be formed.

The measure, authored by Councilor Ariel Inton, the Majority Floorleader of the QC Council, is imposing a six-month mandatory human rights education on the plight of the victims of prostitution and a fine of ₱4,000 for the first time offender guilty of engaging in the illegal sex trade.

However, when the person exploited is a child, a year imprisonment and a fine of ₱4,000 shall be imposed by the city government. Subsequent offenses would mean an imprisonment of one year and a fine of ₱5,000.

When the offender is a person who is also exploited in prostitution, he/she shall be forced to undergo a three-month mandatory counseling and rehabilitation program from the Department of Social Welfare Development, on the first offense.

But if the victim makes subsequent offenses, he/she would be jailed for one year and undergo a mandatory counseling and rehabilitation program with the DSWD from six months to one year.

Earlier, Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes directed the office for special concerns of the DILG to coordinate with the Philippine National Police and local government units to find ways that would effectively curb prostitution..

The Philippine STAR

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2005 13

# Anti-prostitution ordinance passed by QC Council

The Quezon City Council approved on third and final reading the other night an ordinance, which seeks to impose penalties on any person who solicits or patronizes the services of a prostitute.

The proposed measure, principally authored by Councilor Ariel Inton, is pursuant to Republic Act 9208, or the law against the trafficking of persons by any means for the purpose of prostitution, pornography and sexual exploitation.

Under the proposed measure, the City Council will create a local anti-prostitution task force composed of the city's social and health agencies, the Philippine National Police and non-government organizations, which will oversee the implementation of the anti-prostitution ordinance.

Inton said prostitution has always been viewed as a problem about women and children, "however its is also a problem about business establishments and customers themselves who are often shielded from law."

Punishable acts, which carry maximum imprisonment of one year and fine of P5,000 under the proposed measure, are the following:

- delivering money or any consideration in exchange for any sexual act;
- transporting, kidnapping and recruiting for prostitution-related activities; and
- organizing travel tours and tourism-related activities that involve sexual escort services.

"With the passage of this ordinance, the worsening prostitution problem, if not fully eliminated would at least be lessened in our country," Inton said.

– Perseus Echeminada

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LOCAL HISTORY

prostitution

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
Metro 3
Thursday, 17 March 2005

# QC seeks stiffer penalties vs parties linked to prostitution

By SEL A. BAYSA

The Quezon City Council has passed on second reading a proposed ordinance against prostitution, which imposes stiffer penalties on the guilty parties and provides protection to victims.

Introduced by Majority Floor Leader and 4th District Councilor Antonio Enrile-Inton Jr., the proposed measure seeks to give more teeth to Republic Act 9208, or the "Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003."

The bill is supported by Councilors Alma Montilla, Resty Malangen, Eric Medina, Jorge Banal Jr., Joseph Juico, Franciscon Calalay, Allen Butch Francisco, Dante de Guzman, Voltaire Liban, Winston Castelo and Ramon Medalla.

The bill defines prostitution as any act, transaction, scheme or design involving the use of a person – whether woman, man or child – for the sexual gratification of another in exchange for crash, profit or other consideration.

It also targets pimps or persons who organize travel tours or other related activities that involve sexual exploitation.

It provides for the formation of the Quezon City Anti-Prostitution Task Force to assist prostitution victims.

The Quezon City Social Welfare and Development Office will be the lead agency in the task force, which will also tap the services of the Quezon City Health Office, the Philippine National Police and three non-government organizations.

Inton said the Philippines is mandated by international law to provide mechanisms to eliminate various forms of sexual exploitation since it is a party to the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of Prostitution.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Prostitution

THE EXPONENT OF PHILIPPINE PROGRESS SINCE 1900
MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
Metro 3
Friday, 4 March 2005

*Special Report*

# Barangays, BSDOs join drive to fight Metro prostitution

*By ELENA L. ABEN*
*(Third of a series)*

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LOCAL HISTORY

At least 219 persons engaged in sexual trade were rounded up and interviewed during the nightly operation of the SAGIP-K.

Of these, 181 persons or 82.65 percent fell under the classification of prostituted women (PWs), 27 or (12.33 percent) are pimps (P), and 11 or 5.02 per cent are homosexuals (H).

Those interviewed were classified depending on the age brackets, with eight or 3.65 percent belonging to the age group 14 to 17 years old; 99 or 45.21 percent, 18 to 22 years old; 70 or 31.96 percent, 23 to 27 years old; 30 or 13.70 percent, 28 to 32 years old; seven or 3.2 percent, 33 to 37 years old; two or 0.91 percent, 38 to 42 years old; and three or 1.37 percent, 43 years old and above.

Data showed that the biggest number of PWs are in the prime ages of 18 to 22.

It reflected that the prime time of offering sexual service in between the ages of 18 to 32.

It also showed the presence of minors who begin to engage in the trade of prostitution at the age of 14.

The age group for pimps did not show significant polarization as they are distributed in all age groups, beginning at 18 to above 43 years old.

Out of the 27 pimps rounded up and interviewed, 16 or 59.2 percent are between 18 to 27 years old, while the rest are distributed in the age group 29 years old and above.

Homosexuals who provide sexual services were limited to the age group 18 to 32.

On their educational background, the interview conducted revealed that majority of those who were rounded up while offering their sexual services, or 81.74 percent of them, have only reached high school, either as graduates or undergraduates; 14.16 percent managed to finish only up to the elementary level; and 4.11 percent made it to the college level.

Ironically, there were two who are college graduates, one holding a degree on Criminology and the other, Nursing.

On their income, the study showed that majority of the PWs, or 54.17percent, earn about ₱500 to ₱1,000; 20.83 percent earn ₱1,100 to ₱1,500; and 9.52 percent earn from ₱1,600 to ₱2,000. Also, 9.52 percent earn from ₱2,100 to ₱3,000, while there are also some, 4.76 percent who earn above ₱3,000.

The PWs said they do not ply their trade every night, adding that their job is dependent on their financial needs — rental fees, food, milk for their children and school tuition.

Pimps and homosexuals earn between ₱500 to ₱1,000. But some of those interviewed did not reveal their earnings.

The largest bulk of prostituted women, pimps and homosexuals based on the interview are from Quezon City, Manila, Caloocan City and Pasay City.

Other places outside Metro Manila include San Mateo, Montalban and Antipolo in Rizal, and Bulacan.

Their region of origin are divided into four classifications — Visayas and Mindanao which include Leyte, Masbate, Cebu, Bacolod, Negros Oriental and Occidental, Davao, Misamis Oriental and Occidental, and Surigao with 44.75 percent; Northern and Central Luzon which include Nueva Vizcaya, Isabela, Cagayan Valley, Nueva Ecija, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, Tarlac and Pampanga — 20.55 percent; Southern Luzon, to include Bicol, Laguna, and Batangas — with 14.16 percent; and Metro Manila, with 18.26 percent.

Despite hospitable treatment from Barangay South Triangle and SAGIP-K, women, pimps and homosexuals continued to ply their trade on Quezon Avenue.

The biggest group of rounded up persons fell on the "3rd timers" category, with 41.55 percent of them; followed by "4th timers" or more, 23 percent; "2nd timers," 20.55 percent, and first timers, 14.61percent.

The first four days of operation brought in more "persons" for interview.

This is because the nightly operation was still new and unknown to most of those in the flesh trade on Quezon Avenue.

But as they started to learn the operations in the succeeding nights, the sex trade workers being rounded up lessened.

Apparently, the persons rounded up hid from the SAGIP-K and the BSDOs doing the rounds. Others transferred to another venue.

Authorities also believe that those who ply their trade have decided to stay home and waited for the text messages of their pimps or customers.

Data also showed that Barangay South Triangle Barangay Security Development Office (BSDO) rounded up the most number of "interviewees" from November 12 to December 11, 2004. But there were nights when police operatives would conduct their operations and turn over to the barangay the arrested "persons," with most of the clearing operations were done by the BSDOs.

It simply means one thing: If the BSDOs of other barangays will only take the same path, then Quezon Avenue will be cleared of prostitution.

The Manila Times-
NEWS A2
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2004

# HIV-infected sex workers on the prowl in Quezon City

EFREN L. DANAO
**Senior Reporter**

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

## HOT-blooded men, beware!

Five sex workers infected with HIV continue to ply their trade in Quezon City, believed to be a hub for cheap sex.

Maria Paz Ugalde, the city's health officer, told the Senate Committee on Labor on Friday that the five women who tested positive for the AIDS-causing virus have not reported back to her office since they were found out.

She warned that the women might already have infected unprotected customers.

However, Ugalde declined to identify the women because the law provides for confidentiality until the patients themselves come out in the open.

She also told the committee that there has been a 10-percent increase in sexually transmitted disease among sex workers in Quezon City in the last two years.

Ugalde said the nonappearance of the five women at her office is a cause of worry, although she underscored that the women were thoroughly briefed on their health condition.

She acknowledged that the women could infect their customers even when the number of men procuring the services of fun girls is on the decline.

But while Ugalde painted a stark picture of Quezon City after dark, owners of bars in the area are insisting that sex is not being peddled in their establishments. They also denied that their bars feature nude shows and other forms entertainment that some may deem indecent.

However, Ugalde said that the increase in sexually transmitted diseases (STD) in Quezon City cannot be blamed wholly on the girlie clubs. "[Men can get them] from massage parlors and the freelance sex workers plying Quezon Avenue and even Quezon Memorial Circle," she explained, noting that a number of women afflicted with STD are minors.

At the same hearing, a tabloid editor, Erny Baluyot of *Saksi*, submitted to the committee photographs of lesbianism allegedly taken inside the Metamorphosis nightclub on Timog Avenue.

The club owner, Anna Liza Magno, denied that the photographs were taken inside Metamorphosis. She said that the one who took the photographs, Alex Mendoza, was a former floor manager whom she fired.

Magno underscored the inconsistencies in the evidence presented against Metamorphosis; for instance, she said, *Saksi* claimed that a spy camera took the photograph, but Mendoza told the committee that he used a regular camera.

None of the nightclub owners from Quezon City and Parañaque, including two owners of gay bars, admitted presenting indecent shows or employing minors.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who heads the committee, said the hearing was the last in the series that investigated how female escorts ply their trade.

"I see the need to amend the law on the employment of minors," he said, dismissing claims of nightclub owners that they are not employing minors.

Estrada said that many of the guest relations officers fake their birth certificates to indicate that they are at least 18 years old.

Prostitution

ManilaStandard A2 Saturday October 16, 2004

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

# 5 QC sex workers have HIV

Horny guys out there, beware! Five sex workers have tested positive for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), in Quezon City.

Two of them are female, two male and one gay, and they are aged 20 to 40 years, says the Quezon City health office of the Department of Health.

At the last public hearing of the Senate labor committee on the sex escort service controversy yesterday, Dr. Maria Paz Ugalde, the Quezon City health officer, revealed that five new HIV cases were recorded among sex workers in the city.

The workers were cited in the findings of the country's health workers who did surveillance on them from 1993 to 2004.

The victims were among 365 cases monitored so far in at least 10 areas under the health workers' surveillance, Ugalde said.

The health officer also admitted a 5 percent to 10 percent surge in the number of syphilis-inflicted individuals this year.

Syphilis is one of three most common sexually transmitted diseases (STD), along with chlamydia and gonorrhea, formerly the most common disease among commercial sex workers.

Ugalde admitted there was no information on the whereabouts of the HIV victims.

"It's voluntary on the part of the individual concerned to come out and seek treatment," she said, adding that the laws provide anonymity for those found to be afflicted with such diseases.

Senator Juan Ponce Enrile lambasted the health officer for failing to monitor the AIDS victims. "It's your responsibility if the person is infected. Do you allow the public to be exposed to the danger?"

While her office is mandated to conduct a regular examination of sex workers, Ugalde said the results were only known to the victims.

She also explained that even before sex workers undergo checkup, they were provided with counseling and if needed, assistance from the city health office in getting necessary treatment.

"We would not know whether their case had turned into full-blown AIDS because they had not contacted us (since the time they received official findings on their health status)," she said.

"If they do not submit themselves to the health department, we can't do anything about it because everything about AIDS, including those helping the patients, are clothed with a confidentiality clause. This is provided for in the laws," she added.

Ugalde said the city mayor and all agencies concerned were alarmed over the findings and continue to assist in surveillance operations.

No freelance sex workers, or those offering services at street corners, were found to be afflicted with AIDS or HIV.

When Enrile inquired about the possibility of sex escorts acquiring venereal diseases, Ugalde said it was possible. **Rey E. Requejo**

prostitution

MANILA BULLETIN
Metro 4
Wednesday, 8 September 2004

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

## Lewd shows, prostitution in QC

Various civic groups and religious organizations yesterday urged Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte and newly designated Philippine National Police chief Edgardo Aglipay to create a comprehensive strategy to contain the swelling problems of prostitution and lewd shows in the city.

They also urged the new PNP chief to show his sincerity, after vowing to rid the country of crime, to launch an all-out war against beer joints engaged in prostitutions and lewd shows.

"Pick-up girls along Quezon Ave., Timog, Cubao, Novaliches, and parts of Quezon City are seems like selling hot cake in the street without fear of being arrested," the civic group and religious leaders said in an interview. (Rico C. Navarro)

Prostitution

METRO MANILA BULLETIN

Sunday
29 August 2004

METRO 1

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

# QC mayor to crack down on young male prostis near City Hall bldg

*By SEL A. BAYSA*

QUEZON CITY — Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has vowed to crackdown on the alleged presence of young male prostitutes around the Elliptical Circle near the Quezon City Hall building.

While saying, "This is indeed new to me, rest assured that I will ask the Central Police District (CPD) authorities to look and act into this," he told the officers and members of various clubs affiliated with the Soroptimist International of the Philippine Region (SIPR).

Belmonte was the guest of honor and speaker at the kick-off ceremony marking the week-long celebration on August 25-31 of the founding of the SIPR, led by Governor Dulce Gozun, a business and civic leader.

The presence of these male prostitutes who are mostly good-looking and in their early 20s was brought to the attention of the Quezon City mayor by a top Soroptimist official during an open forum following Belmonte's speech.

She said her curiosity on the presence of these youth arose when one night, allegedly on her way, she saw a woman onboard a car "pick up" one of the youth whom she engaged into a conversation inside her car.

The youth are seen sitting along the pavement or simply standing in front of government buildings notably the National Housing Authority (NHA), Philcoa and nearby buildings, and inside the Elliptical Circle, from 9 p.m. and beyond.

"For curiosity's sake, I pulled over my car and stopped at the spot where the woman took her 'doll,' and asked one of the youth what was going on. But, to my surprise, the young man I was talking with relunctantly declared 'hindi ka naman pala suki dito eh, punta ka na lang sa iba' (Look in other areas. You are not a regular customer here)."

She found out after several nights of snooping that these young male prostitutes' regulars are "matrona" (elder women) and homosexuals.

Belmonte assured the Soroptimists of his action even as he announced that an intensified campaign was waged by the City Hall Police and the CPD authorities against prostitution notably along Quezon Ave. and Epifanio de los Santos Ave. (EDSA).

Governor Gozun, pledged her association's all-out support to the city government's anti-vice effort to ensure Belmonte's efforts to make Quezon City a peaceful and quality city to live in.

prostitution

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
Metro 4
Wednesday, 9 June 2004

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

# QC gov't wages war against prostitution and vagrancy

Sex workers ought to end plying their illicit flesh trade in Quezon City as the local government embarked on a non-stop and no-nonsense saturation drive against prostitution and vagrancy.

This has been announced yesterday by Acting Mayor Herbert M. Bautista, who said the move has been mounted in a bid to lessen the danger of being infected with sex-related diseases as well as put a stop to the wearing down of public morals.

According to Bautista, the action calls for, among others, the conduct of routine and relentless patrolling of the city's major thoroughfares where the so-called sex workers are said to be rampant.

It has been widely reported that a large number of prostitutes, whether male or female, continues to ply their illegal trade along major thoroughfares of the city such as Quezon Avenue, Aurora Boulevard, and Elliptical Road.

It was learned that in Quezon Avenue and Aurora Boulevard, a male "client" seeking sexual favors from a hooker has to dole out an average of ₱500 to ₱700 in exchange of a one to three hours of "seventh heaven."

On the other hand, in Elliptical Road, particularly in Quezon Memorial Circle, a female or gay customer has to dish out ₱300 to ₱500 to avail the services of a "bakal boy."

Their presence, according to Bautista, poses grave threats to public health and increases the risk of contracting sexually transmissible diseases (STDs), the erosion of public morals and violation of existing laws, ordinances and regulations against prostitution and vagrancy.

Akin to this, Bautista instructed the Central Police District Command under P/Ssupt. Oscar T. Mariñas and the Quezon City Hall Detachment under P/Ssupt. Elmo G. San Diego, to make the rounds along suspected "pick-up points" of the sex workers, take them into custody and file appropriate charges.

He has also enjoined Mariñas and San Diego to submit regular progress and status report on the matter. (Chester Martin P. Salazar)

Prostitution

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

# 5 QC teenagers saved

■ By IRIS CECILIA GONZALES
*Correspondent*

FOUR women behind a white slavery syndicate in Quezon City were arrested by the Central Police District operatives early morning on Saturday.

After two weeks of surveillance, the CPD team led by P/Supt. Jolly Dizon busted the four women who were responsible for selling their fellow women to white slavery.

The victims were rescued by Dizon and his team at a prostitution cum videoke house on Consejo St., Poblacion, Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

The five female teenagers, whose ages range from 13 to 16 and coming from Mindanao and Iloilo provinces, who had been staying in a depressed area in Quezon City said they were promised decent jobs by the suspects, only to find out later on that they were sold as prostitutes.

CPD Director Romulo Sales identified the suspects as Shirley Borromeo-Realisan, owner of the CHE Videoke in Urdaneta, Pangasinan; Sol Antonio del Rosario, Geraldine Catalon-Mayo, and Jenny Mangongo-Padilla, all of Bago Bantay, Quezon City.

In an interview with THE MANILA TIMES, 16-year-old "Jane," one of the victims, said she was looking for a job when she met Padilla last Nov. 7 who promised her a job as a waitress in a certain restaurant in Quezon City.

She was surprised, however, when she, along with four other minors, were brought to Pangasinan, where they were brought to CHE Videoke house which was allegedly fronting for a *casa* in Urdaneta, Pangasinan.

Jane also told THE TIMES that they were also shot on video while totally nude with their customers.

white slavery

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

# Metro Manila & National News Bulletin

MANILA BULLETIN
Sun., Nov. 14, 1999
12



**QC PROSTITUTION RING. Senior Supt. Romulo Sales, Central Police District director, questions alleged members of a white slavery syndicate after a raid in their sex den where they force teeners to work for prostitution. The suspects (left) are shown being confronted by their victims during investigation at the CPD headquarters in Quezon City. (Art Torres)**

white slavery

Prostitution

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

22 MANILA BULLETIN, Mon., Oct. 18, 1999



**CRACKDOWN IN QC. Supt. Jonas Garcia (right), Central Police District Office station 7 chief, questions 13 alleged women prostitutes nabbed by elements of CPDO policemen at the vicinity of Cubao in Quezon City. The drive to apprehend young hookers is a project of Quezon City Mayor Ismael A. Mathay Jr. (Art Torres)**

Prostitutes - Cubao

MANILA BULLETIN, Fri., Sept. 17, 1999 13

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

# Sales warns erring QC nightclub owners

Police Sr. Supt. Romulo D. Sales, Central Police District (CPD) director, yesterday batted for the imposition of a stiffer penalty against unscrupulous nightclub, videoke and other funhouse owners who forced their female employes into prostitution and other indecent acts.

Interviewed on "Police Aksiyon Ngayon" over Radyo ng Bayan, Sales urged victims of these opportunities to come into the open and denounced them "so we (the police) could do something against them."

At the same time, he warned erring club owners that they could not hide their nefarious trade from the police for long.

Sales said he has been responsible for the closure of many erring night spots, videoke, beerhouses and other establishments after they were found engaged in lewd and pornographic show.

"Some of these establishments were used as front of these prostitution," he added.

The problem, according to him, is that owners of these close establishments were able to secure a business permit for putting up a similar business. (Sel Baysa)

night club owners - QC
prostitution

Metro
Editor: SAMMY SANTOS
THE PHILIPPINE STAR
12 / SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1999

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

# QC cop protection racket probed by Ombudsman

By ROMEL BAGARES

The Office of the Ombudsman is now conducting its own investigation of allegations that top Central Police District officials are in cahoots with operators of seedy nightclubs in the city who are paying them protection money.

Sources at the Quezon City Mayor's Office told **The STAR** that Deputy Ombudsman for the military, retired general Armando Casaclang, is coordinating with Quezon City Mayor Mel Mathay Jr. to gather evidence on allegations made by Perry Mariano, leader of the Quezon City nightclub owners' association, that he had been giving CPD chief, Senior Superintendent Romulo Sales, P200,000 monthly in protection money.

The city mayor has convened his own fact-finding body headed by Lourdes Santos, secretary to the mayor, to investigate the allegations. The controversy broke out when the CPD launched a month ago a renewed drive against night spots in the city allegedly used as prostitution fronts.

Mariano denounced Sales for allegedly raiding establishments which refused to pay increases in monthly protection rates.

Sales denied the allegations and charged Mariano with violation of the city's anti-prostitution ordinances.

Mariano has since denied making the accusations against the CPD chief, giving the lame excuse that he had been misquoted by media.

According to sources, the Ombudsman has written Mathay, requesting his office to furnish investigators with documents and other needed evidence.

Meanwhile, the Ombudsman has filed graft charges against an Air Force officer before the Quezon City Regional Trial Court for alleged involvement in a "ghost" project that cost the government close to P280,000 two years ago.

The officer, Lt. Col. Edwin Reyes, is now facing four counts of violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, according to Avelino Macamus Jr., an Ombudsman investigator.

According to the Ombudsman, sometime in 1997, Lt. Col. Reyes, then assigned with the Armed Forces of the Philippines Joint Operations Center in Camp Aguinaldo, allegedly simulated a memorandum of agreement between the Philippine Air Force and the Bureau of Export Trade and Promotion of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

cop protection racket - nightclub operators

police

Metro
Editor: SAMMY SANTOS
THE PHILIPPINE STAR
6 MONDAY, JULY 5, 1999

# Probe of QC girlie shows on

The city government summoned anew yesterday Central Police District director Senior Superintendent Romulo Sales and club owner Perry Mariano to appear before a panel investigating the alleged protection racket involving the police and club owners in Quezon City.

Lawyer Lourdes Santos, who heads the panel, directed Sales and Mariano to bring necessary evidence to prove the charges and counter-charges each have hurled against the other in the media.

Santos threatened to recommend to Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. punitive action against Sales and Mariano if they fail to attend tomorrow's hearing.

Members of the panel were upset when Sales and Mariano, failed to attend the first hearing last Thursday afternoon.

Mathay created the fact-finding committee last month, to investigate the charges and counter-charges hurled against each other by some ranking policemen and certain members of the Association of Club, Karaoke and Disco Owners (ACKDO) in Quezon City.

He gave the panel 15 days to submit its report and recommendations. Their task is to look into reports that some police officials receive protection money and that some establishments are used as fronts for prostitution.

The panel will also establish the real identities of club owners who allegedly use fictitious names in their business permits, and recommend disciplinary or punitive action against any police official or club owner found in violation of the law, said Santos, who is currently the secretary to the Mayor.

Mathay also urged the panel to submit recommendations which could be adopted by the city government to cover night entertainment centers found engaged in lewd shows and prostitution.

— **Christina Mendez**

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

club owner
(investigation
protection
racket

TODAY
METRO TODAY
2 SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1999

# QC cops renew drive vs gay bars

THE Central Police District's (CPD) campaign against lewd shows is again in full swing, this time training its guns on gay bars.

Senior Supt. Romulo Sales, CPD director, said the police will launch a series of lightning raids on fun houses which cater to homosexual men. He said there had been reports and complaints from concerned citizens that gay bars are making male dancers dance naked and even commit sexual acts with customers.

Sales said such nightclubs not only encourage sacrilegious relationships but would also increase the number of HIV victims in the city. He said it may even cause the spread of sexually transmitted diseases among its gay customers and male entertainers.

CPD officials disclosed that the operation against gay bars would be a continuing move of the police's campaign against indecent and obscene performances at the city's nightclubs.

Reports reaching CPD headquarters revealed customers could have their way with a male dancer inside VIP rooms if they would pay additional fees.

Sales said the no let-up campaign against lustful and immoral acts will be enforced by the CPD to finally cleanse the city of establishments allowing lewd shows.

On June 10, Sales ordered the closure of the Thunderdome Disco on Timog Avenue after one of his agents had sex with a guest relations officer during a stakeout inside the club's VIP room. *J. Vicente*

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

Gay bars (club)

METRO JOURNAL
8 Tuesday, June 22, 1999

# 5 more nightclubs padlocked

**By Cory Martinez**

FIVE more Quezon City nightclubs have been ordered closed as the Quezon City government and the Central Police District intensified their campaign against lewd shows and prostitution.

The closure order was issued by Mayor Ismael Mathay, Jr. following the recommendation of CPD director Senior Superintendent Romulo Sales.

Mathay has formally created a committee to look into the complaints of club owners that policemen have been extorting money from them.

Mathay said the committee, to be chaired by Lourdes Santos, Secretary to the mayor, was created to settle the dispute between club owners and the police.

"Although the club owners have not yet lodged their formal complaints, I already created the committee, para malaman natin kung totoo ang ibinibintang mga club owners na ito. And at the same time, I also ordered the committee to verify the real owners of these nightspots for them make recommendations," Mathay stressed, who earlier dared club owners to file their formal complaints against the erring policemen.

The five nightclubs were the Slums, Adonis gay bar, the Grill and Restaurant also known as KOSA, all located along Timog Avenue, Kampo located along West Avenue and Iwahig II Disco Pub located along Quirino Hi-way in Novaliches.

In his report to the mayor, Sales disclosed that the establishments, allegedly owned and maintained by Perry Mariano, have been operating under a bogus owner or business name.

Based on the CPD's report, the SLUMS was registered under one Ricardo Bautista while KOSA was registered under the name of Pedro Borromeo.

Sales disclosed that the registered owners were verified from the Business Permits and Licensing Office who discovered that these establishments have used fictitious names and different business names from what were actually registered.

The controversy on the successive raids conducted by the police heightened when Mariano accused CPD personnel of receiving P200,000 monthly "grease money" from club owners as well as "free accommodations" at the city's premier night spots.

Police raided the Thunderdome Disco club owned by Mariano two weeks ago on reports that female entertainers were dancing nude. A 19-year-old woman was also caught having sex with a customer inside one the club's VIP rooms.

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

night clubs closed

**Metro**
Editor: SAMMY SANTOS
6 TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1999
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

POLICE CHIEF SALES GETTING 'PERSONAL'?

# 5 QC nightspots ordered closed

By CHRISTINA MENDEZ

The Central Police District's (CPD) campaign against lewd shows in Quezon City appears to be slowly turning into a personal crusade for its chief.

Recently, CPD director Senior Superintendent Romulo Sales ordered the closure of five night clubs in the city which he labeled as operating under questionable permits. The move, however, was deemed by club owners as biased since the five night clubs Sales ordered padlocked were owned by only one person — Perry Mariano — with whom the police chief has a raging feud.

It was Mariano, a spokesman of the Association of Club, Karaoke and Disco Owners in Quezon City, who first spilled the beans on the Quezon City police when he accused top CPD officials of extorting money from them.

He said CPD bosses receive at least P200,000 protection money from club operators. He tagged Sales as a regular in the city's premier night spots, Pegasus and Mystique, where he usually gets "free accommodation."

Sales had denied all these. He said he welcomes an investigation on Mariano's charges.

Mariano's clubs — Adonis, Slums and The Grill, all in Timog Avenue, as well as Kampo in West Avenue, and Iwahig II Disco in Quirino highway — were all ordered closed by Sales, saying he found them to have spurious or incomplete permits.

He noted that after checking with the city's business permits and licensing office, he found the five night clubs to be operating under questionable circumstances.

Sales said club owners found doing the same would face serious criminal charges. "There are already many instances that club owners would present business permits with fictitious names. They do this to avoid prosecution," he explained.

Sales cited Mariano's clubs as example. He said the Slums' in Timog was registered under a certain Ricardo Bautista while the Grills, operating as Kosa, was under one Pedro Borromeo.

He added that Iwahig II was found to be registered under a certain Ricardo Natavio and not under Mariano.

"He (Mariano) has been acknowledging that he owns these places," Sales said as he denied that his issuance of closure orders against the five clubs had a personal motive.

"We reiterate that these are part of our no-let-up campaign against lewd shows in the city. It is only Mariano who is very vocal in accusing us. Maybe he thinks that he can get away with it," he said.

To date, the city's police have closed at least four girlie bars, namely, Thunderdome, Amazon, Guapings and Virtuality.

Thunderdome, which is owned also by Mariano, was closed last June 10 after raiders caught a guest relations officer having sex with an undercover agent.

Sales stressed that he would not stop until all lewd shows in the city are eradicated. "They would not prosper here. They have no place here," he said.

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

nightspots closed

Metro
Editor: SAMMY SANTOS
8 SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 1999
THE PHILIPPINE STAR

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

Drug havens - nightclubs

# Nightclubs also drug havens, says QC cop chief

Central Police District (CPD) director Senior Superintendent Romulo Sales vowed to continue his offensive against girlie bars in Quezon City yesterday, saying these nightspots are not only venues for prostitution but for illegal drug dealing as well.

Speaking before a breakfast news forum, Sales also announced that charges of violating the country's anti-prostitution law were filed against controversial bar owner Perry Mariano, who earlier claimed that the CPD chief was receiving grease money of up to P200,000 monthly from his group, the United Entertainment Congress of the Philippines (UECP).

"These places not only serve as places of prostitution, they are also convenient venues for drug deals," Sales said.

"The poor exploited women in these girlie bars need drugs so they can stomach the abuse they suffer in their shameful work," Sales said.

He said he will prove his detractors wrong by strictly monitoring the activities in every nightspot in the city, adding that he has already formed teams to "carefully monitor" the drug situation in these establishments.

Last Friday afternoon, CPD investigators filed before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office a complaint against Mariano, accusing him of operating the Thunderdome nightspot in Quezon Avenue as a front of prostitution in violation of Presidential Decree 689.

According to Sales, Mariano is the real owner of the nightspot, which had been registered under the allegedly fictitious name of Jerry Lee. "Fortunately, Mariano himself has been caught on television as admitting that he is the owner of the place," said Sales, who vowed to put the heat on the bar owner, the one-time head of the Association of Karaoke and Disco Operators (AKDO) in the city.

"Now we hear he is also spokesman for this UECP, which really does not exist," Sales said.

The association, which used to take up the cudgels for nightclubs that get into trouble with the police, was disbanded allegedly because of internal quarrels over how the "protection money" for police officials was to be distributed.

— Romel Bagares

METRO JOURNAL
8 SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 1999

# CPD 'fair' in probing nightspots

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

**By Zelda Soriano**

THE CENTRAL Police District has denied being selective at implementing the Quezon City government drive agains prostitution. It says that big-time nightclubs such as Pegasus, Lexus and Rolex along Quezon Boulevard are not exempted from its investigation.

Senior Supt. Romulo Sales, CPD district director, disclosed yesterday at the weekly Kapihan sa Cypress held at Recio's Restaurant in Quezon City that he has received reports of prostitution in the said clubs. He admitted difficulties, however, in gathering evidence of the crime because "sex for sale needs to be established as a habitual activity." Also, the prostituted victims refused to stand as witnesses for fear of losing employment.

The police officer said club owners disengage in prostitution upon hearing rumors of raid or during the period the local government conducts a campaign. Some clubs closed down in one area, open up in other places using the same business license, Sales revealed.

Since January, some eight big and small nightclubs in Quezon City showing nude women dancing and engaging in sex for sale have been closed down by the city government.

Perry Mariano, whom the CPD believes to be the "Gerry Lee", owner of Thunderdome, a karaoke bar on Timog Avenue and is recently facing charge of illegal sex trade, hit Sales as "protector" of prostitution. He earlier accused the CPD district director of causing the closure of his night bar becasue he refused to grant the police request of increasing his bar's "monthly protection pay."

Sales denied knowledge of the "payola" but if there is any, he said he'll have it investigated. He added that he hopes an executive order will come out soon to "tighten requirements and permit procedures for a night club business."

The CPD also announced that aside from night clubs, gay bars can also be target of investigation of prostitution activities involving male victims.

Police operations against prostitution, however, should be appreciated as only first move in solving a century-old problem, said Emmie de Jesus, deputy secretary general of women's group Gabriela.

In the same media forum, de Jesus said that prostitution is a socio-economic problem. The government, she said, "plays an important role in the proliferation of prostitution" for not solving massive poverty which in turn drives women and minors to "easy money" by selling flesh."

"The labor flexibility of the government takes away job security from women as well as men. The government decision to freeze wages while it allows prices of oil and basic commodities continue to hike... all these make life very costly and difficult. All these forced women into prostitution, an open alternative provided by some greedy businessmen," de Jesus said.

There are about 400,000 prostitutes, mostly women, and an additional 100,000 minors who are engaged in the "flesh" trade nationwide, according to Gabriela. The illegal trade has persisted for a century in the country despite repeated government attempts to eradicate it.

De Jesus also assailed police forces for using the media in exposing women, sometimes almost naked when caught in the act of being prostituted, during anti-prostitution raids. Such scenes, according to the Gabriela activist, put women in the defensive position and appears to be the criminals while they are only the victims.

Gabriela insists that prostitution traces its roots to the cultural viewpoint that women are sex objects and to the profit-greedy business that thrives in this historical bias against women. The group asserts that only a systematic approach to the problem will solve prostitution.

nightspots - prostitution

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO
24 FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1999

# 'Martial law' raid panics QC clubs

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

**NIGHTCLUB operators in Quezon City yesterday denounced the gestapo-like raids conducted by the Central Police District on eight establishments to search for firearms amid a raging word war between police and club owners.**

Perry Mariano, spokesperson of the 36-member Association of Club, Karaoke and Disco Owners (Ackdo) in Quezon City, said the eight clubs were raided simultaneously "as though it was martial law again" on Wednesday night.

The gun checks were ordered by Senior Supt. Romulo Sales, CPD director, who had been at odds with Mariano's group after the latter accused the police of receiving protection money.

Sales said he recommended the closure of the disco joints after it was discovered that a big number of these establishments are registered under fictitious owners.

Sales said he welcomed orders to conduct investigation into the alleged extortion activities hurled against him and his men. He called Mariano's allegations mere "black propaganda" to pressure him to stop his district's tough stance against indecent shows in Quezon City.

The embattled Quezon City police chief then turned the tables on Mariano, whom he said was the one "collecting" *tongs* from his colleagues in the business by dropping the names of top PNP officials and media people who are close to him.

Mariano, owner of the Thunderdome disco which was raided and padlocked by police last week, said the gun checks were done "gestapo-style as if it was martial law."

Snapped Mariano: "We're not surprised because Sales is a martial law boy."

Mariano said members of the raiding team were all in full battle gear and armed with M16 firearms.

Gil Tepang, an official of Ackdo whose clubs were also raided, said operatives even blocked Stanford Street in Cubao when they raided Takusa, Daily Planet, Bartolina, Lanai and Bangbangali.

Commuters and residents in the area panicked when they saw several police vehicles block their parking areas around 9 p.m.

Mariano said Exner and Iwahig nightclubs on Timog Avenue and Rolex KTV on Quezon Avenue were also raided during the gun check.

"This is clearly harassment because no customers in the eight nightclubs were even arrested or invited for questioning," Mariano said.

"We are expecting that CPD officials will harass us these coming days," he added.

Sales had dismissed the club owners' accusations of police extortion as "black propaganda" supposedly to discredit the CPD's anti-prostitution drive.

Mariano accused high-ranking CPD officers the other day of accepting P200,000 a month from their members as protection money.

The rift between Mariano and Sales worsened when Mariano revealed that the police director was frequently seen inside a VIP room of Pegasus in Quezon Avenue.

The club owners also claimed that Sales and his men, including some of their relatives, were "regular customers" at Mystique also on Quezon Avenue even before he became deputy director of CPD.

Mariano noted that the CPD raiding team "bypassed" Pegasus and Mystique during their gun inspection operation. "Sales' men are selective in raiding nightclubs," Mariano said.

Sales has issued a stern warning on CPD officers to refrain from receiving all forms of "gifts" whether financial or material contributions from club owners so as not to compromise the anti-indecency campaign.

Sources said CPD officers were often seen in Giorgio, Heartbeat, Stardust, Lexus, Metro, Slums, Georgetown, Bangbangali 1 and 2, Iwahig and Rolex.

Aside from money and free food and drinks, sources said policemen also receive gifts and contributions from club owners on occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, and holidays.

***With a report from Dave Veridiano***

nightspots - raid

22 THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1999
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

QC SEX DRIVE

# Cops, club owners swap charges

BY GERALD LACUARTA

GET out of our way and we won't hold lewd shows.

A group of nightclub owners in Quezon City made this call yesterday to officers and men of the Central Police District who have been waging an anti-prostitution campaign.

Senior Supt. Romulo Sales, CPD director, denied allegations that he and his men have been receiving at least P200,000 monthly and other "kingly perks" from members of the Association Club, Karaoke and Disco Owners to spare their clubs from police raids.

These allegations, Sales said, were pure "black propaganda" but they won't stop the police from pursuing their drive.

Perry Mariano, the group's spokesperson, said the police officers "must set a good example by respecting guest relations officers, instead of being their partners for free until the wee hours."

He owns Thunderdome, which was raided and padlocked by the Quezon City policemen last Friday.

On Tuesday, Mariano said some of the groups might have been staging bold shows only because they were compelled to raise "protection money" for the police.

Some of Mariano's collegues in the group revealed that Sales himself was frequently seen inside a VIP room of Pegasus, one of the clubs located on Quezon Avenue.

They said Sales and his men, including some of their relatives, were "regular customers" at Mystique also on Quezon Avenue even before Sales became the second ranking CPD officer.

Other clubs allegedly frequented by CPD officers are Giorgio, Heartbeat, Stardust, Lexus, Metro, Slums, Georgetown, Bangbangali 1 and 2, Iwahig and Rolex.

These clubs continue to stage bold shows allegedly with the protection of station commanders, said one of the sources who refused to be identified.

Mariano also alleged that high-ranking CPD members have been getting freebies such as food and drinks, and even women, from the nightspots.

Aside from money and freebies, Mariano said policemen also receive gifts and contributions from club owners on various occasions such as policemen's birthdays and wedding anniversaries, and legal holidays.

He said policemen visit clubs almost daily and get the free accommodations inside expensive VIP rooms.

Sales had downplayed allegations of police extortion as "black propaganda" by influential club owners whose establishments, he stressed, suffered dwindling patronage as result of the police crackdown on these joints.

"Mariano's allegations are mere black propaganda to discredit us after we renewed our drive against clubs which feature nude model dancers," he said.

Aside from Thunderdome, the CPD has closed down 11 other clubs in the last four weeks after they were found violating city ordinances.

Chief Insp. Bartolome Bustamante said three more disco houses were raided over the weekend. He identified them as Iwahig, Marlon and Pepe's. ***With a report from Andrea Trinidad***

anti-prostitution campaign

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

THE JOURNAL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1999

lewd show - campaign drive

# CPD intensifies drive vs lewd shows, prostitution

By Bong Padua

CENTRAL Police District Director Senior Superintendent Romeo Sales has ordered all station commanders and heads of operating units to raid disco houses featuring lewd shows or operating as prostitution dens.

Sales' order was issued following a raid conducted on a disco joint where a model was caught dancing in the nude.

Quezon City policemen raided Legazy cocktail lounge two weeks ago after an informant tipped them of the illegal activities going on inside the club.

Police believe the establishment is also operating as a prostitution den since an apartelle was found housed in the same building.

In a report submitted to Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr., Sales recommended the permanent closure of the establishment as well as others found to be featuring lewd shows.

"I am waiting for the mayor's approval. As soon as we receive the closure order, we'll immediately padlock the disco club," Sales said.

Sales has also ordered the District Intelligence and Investigation Division, District Police Intelligence Unit, Criminal Investigation Unit and the 11 police commanders to raid disco joints featuring bold shows.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
Metro
Editor: SAMMY SANTOS
6 SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 1999

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

# 27 GROs nabbed in Grand Inihaw

By NON ALQUITRAN

Twenty-seven young girls, including bold starlet Aleli Abadilla, were rounded up during a police raid Friday on an "untouchable" beerhouse located at the Welcome Rotunda in Quezon City.

However, the owner of the Grand Inihaw Disco Pub identified as Roger Cruz, and two others known only as Masiong and Menchie eluded arrest by fleeing through the backdoor during the raid.

Metro Manila police chief Director Reynaldo Wycoco ordered the raid on the nightspot, which belongs to the Trinidad chain of beerhouses, following persistent reports that the establishment was offering lewd shows to its customers.

Police sources said Cruz was often heard boasting that his beerhouses were "untouchables" because of his alleged "strong connections" in the offices of Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay and Senior Superintendent Romulo Sales, director of the Central Police District (CPD).

The Grand Inihaw Disco Pub is also located some 10 meters away from a Quezon City police Kababayan Center in Welcome Rotunda.

After receiving Wycoco's order, Superintendent Melito Mabilin, head of the NCRPO-Regional Intelligence and Special Operations Office (RISOO), dispatched a team composed of SPO3 Teodulo Barcelo, SPO2 Romeo Miscreola, SPO1 Joemari Guisinga, PO3 Romerico Loverez and PO2 Brando Bautista to conduct the raid.

Mabilin said his team disguised themselves as customers, occupied a table fronting the stage and casually ordered drinks at about 11:50 p.m. Minutes later, a scantily clad ago-go dancer later identified as Cielo Romano, 25, appeared on stage. While gyrating to the sound of disco music, Romano began to undress to the delight of the predominantly male crowd of customers.

At this juncture, SPO1 Guisinga took out a concealed camera and took pictures of Romano while dancing in the nude. The raiding team then rose from their seats and rounded up Romano, Abadilla and 25 other young girls and brought them to the PNP-NCRPO headquarters at Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig.

Wycoco ordered the release of Abadilla and seven others after the establishment's management presented proper working permits from the Quezon City license division.

Criminal charges were filed against Romano before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office. Assistant city prosecutor Luis Zenon Maceren recommended a P24,000 bail for Romano's temporary liberty. Those found working without permits were fined P1,000 each.

NEWS
Manila Standard
Sunday, June 6, 1999

# QC girlie bars pack 'em in

By Arlene Bongon-Burgos

While several attempts have been made to ban "aquariums" and VIP rooms in Quezon City, the city government has failed to stop clubs from showcasing striptease performances where naked women dance onstage, on tabletops and male clients' laps.

The girlie bars on Quezon Avenue continue to rake in the money despite several raids conducted by city officials and lawmen led by Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr.

Last Friday, on the last weekend before classes reopen, Quezon Avenue clubs did brisk business.

*Turn to page 2*




Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

# QC girlie bars...

*From page 1*

They were jampacked and most of the people cramming into these bars were young, male and moneyed.

Customers ordered round after round of alcoholic beverages and finger-food while oglihg strippers onstage or enjoying lap-dances.

Before the strip shows begin, most clubs present "models" — usually the strippers before they bare all — who walk down a catwalk garbed in see-through gowns mimicking beauty pageant candidates.

Between dance numbers, the strippers work the crowd. They descend from the stage to dance suggestively, or quite sexually, near their clients.

Should clients wish to take a girl out of these bars, they must pay a bar fine which varies from club to club.

In a strip joint visited by **Manila Standard**, five women did striptease acts between 9 and 11 p.m.

Earlier this year, the Quezon City government tried to ban aquariums — rooms where guest relations officers sit or mill about like colorful tropical fish from which clients pick the girl they want.

Quezon City hall also tried to ban VIP rooms and enclosures in videoke bars that are rented out at exorbitant rates so that clients can enjoy their singing and GROs in private.

These rooms and enclosures, the city government said, may be where "illicit" sexual activities between clients and GROs take place.

The local government raided these establishments time and again, but they resume operations after a few days' silence. It is not known if their business permits were revoked after the raids.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO
ELVIS Z. SADIA, Editor
24 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1996

# 'Untouchable' QC club raided

AGENTS of the Public Assistance and Reaction Against Crime (Parac) raided on Wednesday night a popular and expensive nightclub in Quezon City amid mounting complaints that lewd shows were being performed in its VIP rooms.

It was the first time authorities raided the Lexus Club, a popular nightclub frequented by wealthy Chinese businessmen, congressmen and other government officials. It had acquired a reputation as "untouchable."

Supt. Juanito de Guzman, Parac deputy chief, said the raid was conducted based on reports that many of the club's guest relations officers (GROs) had no working permits.

De Guzman said a total of 106 GROs and 30 other club personnel were arrested by his agents and brought to their headquarters at the Department of Interior and Local Government building along Edsa, Quezon City.

Parac investigators, however, filed charges against only 25 GROs, two managers and two waiters who failed to show their working permits issued by the Quezon City government.

De Guzman said his agents failed to arrest female models dancing in the nude inside the VIP rooms because their undercover agent got "burned-out" during the stake-out.

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

Balita

LINGGO, DISYEMBRE 3, 1995

# Bold shows, di magalaw!

Protektado umano ng matataas o kilalang tao sa lipunan ang pagtatanghal ng matinding 'boldshows' sa iba't ibang lugar sa Quezon City kaya hindi ito magalaw ng mga kagawad ng Central Police District Command.

Ang pagtatanghal ng mga malalaswang panoorin sa mga nightspots sa Quezon City, ayon sa source, ay ordinaryo nang napapanood umano sa Pegasus, Bigwig, Metallica, Caferinos, Haype, Iwahig, Kulasisi, Flirtation, Midnight Lynx, 19th Hole, Black Hole, Black Panther, Giorgio, Slums, Laser Boat at maraming iba pa na nasa Quezon Boulevard, Aurora Boulevard, East and West Avenues, sa kahabaan ng Edsa at sa iba pang bulgar at tagong lugar.

Ordinaryo na rin ang bukas-sara sa mga beerhouses, fun-house at nightspots na sinasalakay ng mga awtoridad.

Ang pagtatanghal ng mga boldshows ay maigting na tinutuligsa ng Simbahang Katoliko, gayundin ng Iglesia ni Cristo at iba pang sekta dahil sa imoralidad na idinudulot nito.

Si Quezon City Mayor Ismael A. Mathay, Jr. at si CPDC Chief Dick de Leon ay seryoso ang isinasagawang kampanya laban sa pagtatanghal ng mga malalaswang panoorin subali't nakapagtatakang patuloy pa rin ang lewdshows sa iba't ibang lugar sa siyudad.

May nagsasabing kaya hindi mabuwag ang sindikato sa boldshows ay sa dahilang malalaking tao o kilalang mga personalidad ang nagsisilbing protektor nito at tinatangkang suhulan maging ang mga miyembro ng media na nagsisiwalat ukol sa malaganap na boldshows.

—Erick Balane

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

22 THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1995

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO

RECAH TRINIDAD, Editor ■ ELVIS Z. SADIA, Assistant Editor

# 'Mafia' has upperhand

THE investigation into a Mafia-style syndicate engaged in the protection of lewd shows and illegal vices in Quezon City faced a blank wall yesterday following the failure of the city legislators to make any recommendation for action.

A source privy to the operation of the syndicate told the INQUIRER that the syndicate has "flexed its muscle" to ensure that the investigation will end up nowhere.

*"Ganyan din ang nangyari noong panahon ni* Vice Mayor Charito Planas," the source said.

A scheduled hearing last Friday did not push through for still unknown reasons.

Planas earlier said her campaign against lewd shows and prostitution in the city was thwarted by five councilors who used their influence to prevent any substantive probe.

*"Ang katakataka pa ay laging hindi handa ang konseho sa kanilang imbestigasyon at ang aking mga testigo laban sa sindikato ay ayaw nang magsalita,"* Planas said.

Planas also blamed the syndicate for her defeat in the hands of former councilor Herbert "Bistek" Bautista, an actor-comedian, during the last elections. She said the syndicate pooled its resources in support of her political opponents.

***Nelson F. Flores***

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LOCAL HISTORY

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 1995

THE PHILIPPINE JOURNAL
OPINION

# On Quezon City nightclubs

THE proliferation of nightclubs in Quezon City started during the term of former Mayor Jun Simon, an *Atenista* supported by former President Cory Aquino in the mayoralty election.

As a resident of Quezon City, Mrs. Aquino can rectify the error of helping install Mayor Simon to power by leading the citizens of this city in a movement to crush erring nightclubs in Quezon City.

When Mayor Mathay was elected, Quezon City residents were fortunate that Vice Mayor-elect Charito Planas led the crusade against erring nightclubs and similar establishments.

After the May 8 election, the nightclub lobby had succeeded in putting down Charito Planas thus putting Mayor Mathay in the frontline position of defining his stand before the citizens on the issue of nightclubs and similar establishments.

By the example set by Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, we know that a mayor who wants a wholesome city can make it happen. It is a question of belief and determination.

At this early stage, the prognosis does not seem to be encouraging. Nightclub operators are heard to be buying properties for their future expansions in residential areas at bargains compared to commercial properties.

If they succeed, Quezon City will be in an even worse situation than Manila. Prior to Mayor Lim's crackdown, Manila had only two streets, Mabini and Del Pilar, as honky-tonk while Quezon City will have establishments almost everywhere in the city.

Desperate citizens in Quezon City are trying to reach out to City Hall hoping that the city government will not allow this problem to get out of control. Nightclubs and prostitution attracts drugs and gangsters. It is like a plague that is creeping into peaceful middle-class residential communities.

The residents and communities of Quezon City have to start taking concerted action to nip this growing menace in the bud.

It will be a formidable task because some big-time financiers from Australia and some wealthy segments of the Chinese community have identified nightclubs as a very profitable business. This becomes so specially as they succeed in increasing their scale and chain of operations to a point that the cost of police protection and political support can become insignificant relative to the high volume of business they are generating.

Fortunately, the residents of Quezon City seem to be aware of the alarming plague that is creeping in the various communities.

Parish organizations are starting to talk about the problem. Schools located in areas becoming dominated by nighclubs are becoming concerned. Citizens are taking note that "pachinko," gambling in the guise of a game, has been licensed and allowed to operate in malls and other legitimate shopping areas.

A recent circular addressed to the Quezon City Hall officials which has come to my attention reads:

"We trust you. We look forward to your continued leadership in the crusade against erring nightclubs in our city. We hereby pledge our individual and organized support for your further initiatives on this issue. Should you decide to call a meeting or through any appropriate medium, to mobilize the collective voice of the heretofore silent, but concerned citizenry, you may count on us to stand shoulder to shoulder behind you.

Many of these nocturnal establishments, purveying so-called clean and wholesome entertainment, are operating in contravention of zoning regulations and the existing ordinance on public nuisances..

In fact, they have been blatantly disturbing the tranquility and quiet of the neighboring community through their invasive customer parking and electronic sound systems, which they shamelessly blast to full volume until the wee hours, totally oblivious of the suffering of the nearby residents.

These uncivil and inconsiderate conduct are, of course, merely the aggravating components of a more serious problem reflected in the vicious and obscene nature of these hospitality businesses.

They harm the decency of our youth, induce marital infidelity and through their owners' unholy lobby, foment corruption among the government functionaries, who are precisely expected to protect our society from disintegrative influences which are alien to our tradition and culture.

We are praying that elected Quezon City officials and even those who lost like Ms. Planas, will join hands in making Quezon City as inhospitable as Manila to these kind of establishment. And we pray for the future of the city and our country.

In these trying and difficult times, we sorely need peace. We want peace and we must have that peace, founded on decency and all things wholesome and beautiful.

Rest assured, that we shall rally behind every politician who will make the sincere effort to protect our youth from the dark forces of evil and consequently to preserve and strengthen the moral and social fabric of our hopefully ascendant nation."

A recent news article under the byline of El U. Macaspac cites erring and defiant nightclubs which seem to be around the zone area of St. Mary's College.

St. Mary's had already been at Mother Ignacia St. way ahead of the nightclubs. The question is why were permits issued to these establishments.

Is the intention of the government to allow the situation to deteriorate to a point where the citizens are goaded into militancy? In this case, shall we wait for the students to go to the streets and picket before something is done?

While public service programs in media are already loaded with issues that are publicly ventilated to force official action, maybe ABS-CBN, whose business is located in this area of Quezon City, should take the lead and support concerned citizen's group in preventing the further mushrooming of these establishments in the city.

It is also one time when many church-going citizens will want to see the relevance of the church to the community by taking up issues of these nature during the Sunday sermons.

If every church cries out every Sunday against these nocturnal establishments, somehow some government officials will hear the message and do their job. Like the drug cartel in Colombia: The longer we wait, the stronger the "unholy" lobby will become.

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LOCAL HISTORY

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO

# House to probe QC 'Mafia'

BY NELSON F. FLORES

THE House of Representatives will investigate reports about the existence of a syndicate allegedly protecting lewd shows and prostitution in Quezon City.

This was disclosed yesterday by Rep. Robert Barbers, chairman of the congressional committee on effective law enforcement, at the start of a congressional probe about the possible involvement of an international prostitution ring in the recruitment of Russian prostitutes to work in the country.

Barbers said the alleged mafia-style organization in Quezon City must also be investigated for their possible tieup with the international sex ring which brought here Russian nationals Olga Kupaeba, 27, Tatiana Nadeena, 19, Kolbina Oksana, 19, and Filipova Nina, 21.

The Russians told Barbers that they were brought to the country by Carmencita Gorodzci last Dec. 28. They said they were forced to dance nude in night clubs and have sex with male customers. Gorodzci and her henchman beat them up when they tried to protest their situation, they said.

Nadeena and Nina were apprehended by Criminal Investigation Command operatives at the Hype Disco in Quezon City while Oksana was arrested by immigration personnel. Kupaeba surrendered after learning that Nadeena and Nina were in police custody.

Sources privy to the operation of the Quezon City Mafia claimed that the Hype Disco bar is among the nightspots which enjoys its protection.

But Chief Supt. Ramsey Ocampo, CIC director, in an interview with newsmen after attending the congressional hearing, vehemently denied the existence of the syndicate. He said reports about the mafia are "just a figment of the imagination."

*"Hindi totoo 'yun. Gawa-gawa lamang iyon,"* Ocampo, who was visibly irritated, said.

The INQUIRER earlier ran a series of stories exposing the existence of a syndicate of bar owners and sauna bath operators engaged in the showing of lewd numbers and the proliferation of other illegal activities, including white slavery, in Quezon City. The syndicate has 30 active members.

The syndicate, which is mostly composed of members of the Quezon City Association of Club and Disco Owners (Acdo), has the protection of corrupt mediamen, scalawag, policemen, erring court personnel and unscrupulous politicians.

The Acdo denied any involvement in the syndicate but pointed to a group of foreigners as responsible for the proliferation of lewd shows and illegal vices in the city. They also said that members of this group are popularly known as "guerrillas."

The existence of the mafia was confirmed by Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista and his predecessor Charito Planas. Their confirmation prompted city Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. to order an investigation.

The members of the city council under Councilors Moises Samson and Franz Pumaren have also started their own investigation after five reelected city councilors were accused by Planas as supporters of the syndicate.

Dubbed as the "Boldest Five," Planas said the councilors were responsible for the failure of her campaign against prostitution.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

# QC still 'dirty'

BY NELSON F. FLORES

THE dirty sex shows go on at nightspots in Quezon City. This despite the intense police campaign and the mounting public complaints.

A round made by this reporter Wednesday night of several entertainment establishments in Cubao revealed that a majority of nightclubs were showing lewd numbers. Among these establishments were Kulasisi, Takuza, Hawaii Five-O and Flirtation.

Police have apprehended some 133 suspected prostitutes, bold dancers and nightclub owners who have no working permits two weeks ago following an exposé by the INQUIRER about the proliferation of lewd shows in the city.

A source told this reporter that several nightclubs in the commercial district of Cubao were already under the protection of the Mafia-like syndicate which was organized by bar owners shortly after the 1986 People's Power revolution to protect their "interests." He clarified that, contrary to earlier published reports, the syndicate, which has the support of corrupt lawmen, mediamen and court personnel, has already established its presence in Cubao.

"*Nagkaroon na nga ng mga* takeover *dito simula pa noong buwan ng Enero,*" the source said.

The informant also disclosed that it is a standard operating procedure for the syndicate to force every member to "toe the line." He added that those who refused found themselves raided and closed by the authorities.

"*Siyempre malulugi yung mayari. Pagkatapos naman ay bibilhin na ng isang miyembro din ng sindikato. Kaya walang makapalag sa kanila,*" the source said.

A ranking police officer from the Central Police District Command earlier bared that the syndicate has met with bar owners in Cubao and discussed with them the possibility of joining the syndicate, which is reportedly composed mainly by members of the Quezon City-based Association of Club and Disco Owners (Acdo).

The Acdo denied any involvement in the syndicate but identified a foreign group as responsible for the proliferation of lewd shows and prostitution in the city. The Acdo also claimed that their existence has the blessing of the city government.

Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista and his predecessor Ms Charito Planas have also confirmed the existence of the syndicate and called for an investigation.

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 1995

THE PHILIPPINE JOURNAL
NATIONAL

# Politicos, cops back int'l white slavery ring

BY FERNANDO CARIASO

A CONGRESSMAN yesterday said some Metro Manila politicians and ranking officials of the Philippine National Police have been giving protection to a syndicate providing Russian women to nightspots in Quezon City.

In a related development, the PNP Criminal Investigation Command yesterday filed before the Rizal Provincial Prosecutors Office charges of three counts of robbery and white slavery against a Filipina accused of illegally

Pls. turn to page 7

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LOCAL HISTORY

# Politicos, cops back white slavery ring

From Page 1

recruiting three Russian women arrested for alleged prostitution.

Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Barbers said the recruitment and introduction of Russian prostitutes in the country was the handiwork of this syndicate.

He declined to name names preferring to wait for the formal inquiry.

The House of Representatives earlier endorsed his resolution (House Resolution No. 107) convening the Special Committee on Effective Law Enforcement he chaired for a congressional inquiry on the activities of the syndicate.

Barbers said the syndicate has international connections which explains why foreign prostitutes were available to spice up shows of a number of Quezon City nightclubs.

He said these women also served as "gifts" for politicians, police and military officials. In the event they refused, Barbers said the Russian sex slaves were beaten up by syndicate members.

Immigration officials rounded up the Russian women last week and booked them for lack of required documents for foreigners. The PNP-Criminal Investigation Service Command likewise detained their companions arrested in later raids.

"These Russian women claim that they were recruited by a Filipino syndicate maintaining high class prostitutes and that they were forced to engage in prostitution," Barbers said.

He said most of the women were recruited in Ukraine, one of the Republics of the former Soviet Union.



**PROSTITUTES -- The three suspected Russian prostitutes arrested by police will be turned over to immigration authorities. They are (from left) Olga Koupeena, Inna Filippova and Tatyana Madeena.**

Barbers said the women were headed to Thailand and Japan until their presence here was exposed.

Barbers said the presence of foreign prostitutes in the country might make the Philippines a center for international prostitution and trafficking of women and children.

"The plight of these exploited women who are victims of organized crime syndicates with international connections shocks the sensibilities of our citizenry," Barbers said.

Meanwhile, CIC spokesman Felix Vargas said criminal charges were file against Carmencita Gorondinski who were accused by three Russian women of stealing their passports and other valuables and forcing them to work as nightclub entertainers in Manila.

CIC director, Chief Superintendent Ramsey Ocampo also ordered the three Russians, Olga Kupaeba, 27; Tatiana Nadeena, 21 and Inna Filippova, 19, turned over to the Bureau of Immigration for immediate deportation.

The three are also set to be tested for possible AIDS contamination.

Ocampo said he has ordered a hunt for Mrs. Gorodinski, the Filipina married to a Russian national suspected of recruiting the three to work as prostitutes in Manila.

# QC 'Mafia' rocked by feuds, boycotts

BY NELSON FLORES

THE "Mafia"-like organization protecting lewd shows and other illegal activities in Quezon City has started to crack under the pressure of a series of stories about it by the INQUIRER.

A source privy to the operation of the syndicate said several members have started to dissociate themselves from the organization by not attending its meetings. At least three members have also quit to save their skins in case of a possible crackdown.

One source of friction in the organization is the "unilateral decision" of an influential leader to raise P120,000 as "goodwill money" for reporters covering the Quezon City beat.

Many organization members protested when they were asked to contribute P4,000 each for the goodwill money, saying there was no prior consultation. They also questioned the wisdom of having such a fund when the organization is vulnerable.

*"Napatunayan kasi nila na hindi hawak nung mga sangga nilang* reporters *ang* INQUIRER *at iba pang umaatake sa kanila,"* the source said.

Another source, however, noted that the real reason behind the syndicate's apparent disintegration is due to its leader's failure to prevent its exposure to the media.

The syndicate, which is reportedly composed of several members of the Association of Club and Disco Owners, has at least 30 active bigtime members. It has the protection of scalawag policemen, corrupt mediamen, wayward court personnel and unscrupulous politicians.

The ACDO denied any involvement in the syndicate but pointed to a foreign group who are reportedly using Filipino dummies as responsible for the showing of lewd numbers in several nightspots in Quezon City.

A police officer, who asked not to be named, said the INQUIRER exposé dashed the organization's hopes of expanding in areas like Cubao, Fairview and Novaliches, which are considered "rich pickings."

The officer said they have received reports that the syndicate has sent emissaries to the bar owners in the three areas to discuss possible cooperation prior to its public exposure.

"But with the media attention they are getting I doubt whether they can expand and operate there," the source said.

The source also explained that bar owners in Cubao, Fairview and Novaliches have already banded together to form an informal organization of their own to protect their interests, which also include lewd shows.

"Right now we don't have any exact information about this shadowy group but from what we have heard they are also well connected," the source said.



A YOUNG girl who was among those rounded up by NBI agents in a crackdown on prostitution fights with all her might as she was about to be taken to a rehabilitation

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LOCAL HISTORY

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

24 MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 1995

METRO

# 'Mafia' out to gag media

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

## Huge sums raised to 'fix' critics

BY NELSON F. FLORES

**A MAFIA-style organization protecting prostitution and other criminal activities in Quezon City has raised a large amount of money to be used in buying the silence of critics from the media.**

Sources close to the organization said an initial amount of P40,000 in "goodwill money" was to be offered to this reporter in a bid to stop an ongoing INQUIRER exposé on the activities of the gang.

The money is part of an initial fund of P120,000 which had been given by Mafia "runners" to the editor of a tabloid, who allegedly promised to "fix things up."

The runner turned over the money to the tabloid editor early last week in a burger joint on West Avenue, Quezon City.

The remaining P80,000 will reportedly be distributed this week, this reporter learned.

The organization came under pressure after the INQUIRER exposed its existence in a series of stories last week. The gang is composed of bar and sauna bath operators and corrupt members of the police, media and the courts.

The Association of Club and Disco Owners (ACDO) denied the involvement of any of its members in the Mafia and charged that foreigners who own bars in Quezon City are the ones engaged in illegal activities and media corruption. It said the foreigners, who use Filipinos as dummies for their businesses, are behind the proliferation of lewd shows in the city.

The source also said that aside from the goodwill money, the syndicate members have agreed to create a weekly payroll for reporters covering the Quezon City beat by regularly contributing respective cash donations amounting to P2,000. The syndicate has at least 30 active members.

This reporter was also informed that the money will be distributed to its beneficiaries through a network of runners every Saturday. In fact, a list of syndicate beneficiaries was shown to this reporter. The list contains the names of several prominent individuals and newspaper columnists.

*"Para matahimik na lahat,"* the source stressed to this reporter.

Earlier, former Vice Mayor Charito Planas told the INQUIRER that her campaign against lewd shows, prostitution and other vices in the city was thwarted by the efforts of five city councilors and several prominent national lawmakers. She also charged several members of the media with being partial in their reports in favor of a very influential sauna bath operator.

Planas also said that bar and sauna bath owners had pooled their resources to ensure her defeat in the May elections.

Planas, a veteran street parliamentarian, suffered a stunning setback at the hands of former councilor Herbert Bautista, an actor-comedian.

Chief Supt. Ricardo De Leon, director of the Central Police District Command, ordered the investigation of Chief Insp. Cesar Kabiling, CPDC Station 2 commander, following reports linking him to the Mafia-like organization.

Newspaper reports, not the INQUIRER's, disclosed that Kabiling is collecting P15,000 weekly as protection money from his block commanders, who have operational control over some nightspots having lewd shows.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Kabiling but a male personnel in his office said he was out on routine consultation and dialogue with barangay officials under his jurisdiction.

De Leon, at the same time, warned all police commanders under his jurisdiction from participating in the activities of criminal syndicates. He said he was under orders from Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. to intensify the campaign against criminality.

But the INQUIRER learned that, despite the campaign mounted by the police and the investigation being conducted by the city government, lewd shows continue in several nightspots.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO
RECAH TRINIDAD, Editor ■ ELVIS Z. SADIA, Assistant Editor
24 FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 1995

# Beaten up if they refused to have sex

BY RAYMOND BURGOS

**RUSSIAN call girls were beaten up if they refused to have sex with their wealthy Filipino clients. A fee of P10,000 was charged for each session, but the foreign beauties, who entered country on tourist visas, were paid a flat rate P30,000 a month.**

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

These details surfaced when a third Russian woman, allegedly engaged in prostitution activities in Boracay, Aklan, turned herself in to police authorities yesterday. The surrender came two days after her two Russian companions were arrested for dancing in the nude in a nightclub in Quezon City.

The three foreigners have vowed to cooperate fully with the law enforcers to unmask the persons behind the syndicate which recruited them.

Olga Kupaeba, 27, went to the headquarters of the PNP Criminal Investigation Command in Camp Crame where she joined her fellow Russians, Tatiana Nadeena, 19, and Filipova Nina, 21.

Nadeena and Nina were apprehended by CIC agents while dancing in the nude at Hype Disco in Quezon City, according to Chief Insp. Dave Ombao, CIC National Capital Region office.

In a talk with reporters, the three foreigners said they were invited by a Filipino recruiter, who is married to a Russian national, to work as entertainers in Brunei.

The three claimed they were later forced by their manager to have sex with their clients for P10,000.

"If we refuse, they beat us," Nina said in halting English.

Ombao, however, refused to disclose the name of the Filipina recruiter as follow-up operations are being conducted to identify the syndicate members.

The three Russian women said they arrived in the country with tourist visas and were told that they would only stay in the country for a short while before they could leave for Brunei.

While in the country, they worked as sexy dancers in different nightclubs in Quezon City.



**IDENTIFIED as Russian call girls, Tatiana and Filipova are joined by their compatriot, Olga, (center) at the police headquarters.**

Earlier, the Bureau of Immigration announced it was tracking down 50 women from the former Soviet republics who may have gone into prostitution.

The announcement came after the arrest of Kolbina Oksana, a 19-year-old Ukrainian believed to be part of a group of foreign women who were into prostitution. Oksana had a black eye and bruises on her arms when nabbed. Sources said she might have been mauled by the wife of her Filipino-Chinese boyfriend, a wealthy wine merchant from Pasay City.

An immigration bureau agent claimed he was able to talk to Oksana's boyfriend, who admitted paying her P10,000 on the first night he took her out from the syndicate maintaining high class prostitutes.

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# 'Boldest Five' behind QC Mafia, Planas insists

BY NELSON F. FLORES

FIVE reelected councilors who are allegedly involved in a syndicate protecting lewd shows, prostitution and other vices in Quezon City must be re-investigated, former Vice Mayor Charito Planas insisted yesterday.

Planas' call came a day after the Quezon City council announced it would probe the existence of a Mafia-like organization in the city.

Planas told the INQUIRER the councilors whom she tagged as the "Boldest Five" were responsible for the failure of the city government to close down nightspots showing lewd numbers and sauna bath parlors, particularly the Maalikaya Health Club, which violated several city ordinances. She said the investigation of the "Boldest Five" which she had initiated came to a halt when witnesses suddenly refused to talk.

*"Naayos lahat at ang ipinagtataka ko pa ay palaging hindi handa ang kunseho sa kanilang imbestigasyon. Hindi nila alam ang mga dapat itanong,"* Planas rued.

Planas also cited an instance when several influential people, including a prominent legislator, urged her over the telephone to stop her campaign against lewd shows and let Maalikaya "off the hook." She added she has realized and confirmed that a strong and very influential force was behind the operation of these establishments (sauna baths and night spots).

A source from the city council also disclosed that a similar investigation being conducted by the authorities against a sauna bath parlor on E. Rodriguez Avenue for its possible involvement in a white slavery ring was also halted under mysterious circumstances.

*"Ganyan sila kalakas"* the source said.

Meanwhile, an informant privy to the operation of the nightspot syndicate said that, aside from deciding to lie low, leaders of the Mafia-like group also discussed the possibilities of merging their resources with the sauna bath operators.

The source said the meeting, held in a secret room at the second floor of a well-known sauna parlor on Quezon Avenue, was probably motivated by the fact that sauna bath operators are more financially secure and well connected than the syndicate members.

The secret room is where prominent people are whisked and made to relax by the sauna managers whenever they engage the services of the said establishment, the source added.

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO
18 THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1995

# QC 'Mafia' lies low

## Probe of reelected councilors asked

BY NELSON FLORES

MEMBERS of a Mafia-like organization protecting prostitution, lewd shows and other illegal activities in Quezon City met in a secret room at the second floor of a posh sauna bath establishment on Quezon Avenue recently to map out their moves in the face of a hostile campaign by authorities.

The group, allegedly consisting of at least 30 bar owners and their protectors in the police, media and the courts, reportedly agreed to "lie low" for the time being to avoid being smashed by the authorities.

Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. ordered an investigation into the activities of the Mafia-style group after Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista and the latter's predecessor, Charito Planas, confirmed its existence.

Planas said the organization spent at least P2 million during the last election campaign to sabotage her candidacy.

Bautista denied allegations that he did nothing to stop the activities of the group. He said only Mathay had the authority to declare war on the group.

The Association of Club and Disco Owners (Acdo) also admitted the existence of the group but said it is composed of foreigners using Filipino dummies.

The Acdo said it is this group of foreigners who has the resources to bribe police officials, members of the media and court personnel to ensure that they remain untouchable.

Last week, Central Police District Command operatives arrested 133 suspected bold dancers, prostitutes and workers from different nightspots in the city for allegedly working without permits.



MATHAY

In a resolution, Councilor Franz Pumaran, of the third district, called for the formation of a joint executive-legislative committee to probe the existence and operation of the syndicate.

Several observers, however, noted that the council should also investigate the five councilors who were tagged by Planas as protectors of the sex trade. The five councilors have been reelected.

Tagged as the "Boldest Five," the five councilors reportedly lobbied hard to prevent the closure of Maalikaya Sauna Bath, which was then being investigated by Planas for alleged violations of several city ordinances.

Planas, in an earlier interview, told the INQUIRER that, aside from the Boldest Five, several ranking government officials, including a senator, called her office and tried to convince her to lay off Maalikaya.

Maalikaya Sauna Bath was closed for several days but was able to resume operation after securing a favorable court order.

Bautista, meanwhile, also called for the investigation of Acdo members to determine their activities.

In a press statement, Bautista said he has urged the city council to "deeply look" into how the Acdo regulates its members.

He also called for an investigation into the alleged presence of male prostitutes at the Quezon Memorial Circle, which is being supervised by Planas.

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

# METRO

RECAH TRINIDAD, Editor ■ ELVIS Z. SADIA, Assistant Editc

# Foreigners behind QC 'Mafia', bar owners say

BY NELSON FLORES

THIRTY-EIGHT bar girls have been arrested by operatives of the Central Police District Command in raids prompted by an INQUIRER exposé on a Mafia-style organization protecting the city's growing sex industry.

However, not one bar owner was arrested and CPDC officials would not identify the raided establishments.

Senior Insp. Bartolome Bustamante, CPDC spokesman, said the bar girls were found to be working "without the necessary documentation."

He said the raids were carried out on orders of Chief Supt. Ricardo de Leon, CPDC director.

Meanwhile, the city's Association of Club and Disco Owners (Acdo) denied involvement in the Mafia-style group and of being behind the proliferation of lewd shows in the city's fun districts.

Cesar Papa, Acdo president, admitted that lewd shows have become rampant in the city but said these are perpetrated by foreigners who own many of the offending establishments.

He said these foreigners are using Filipino dummies to make their operation legal.

"The media has been barking up the wrong tree," Papa said.

Papa said the 50-strong Acdo are legitimate entrepreneurs who know how to police their own ranks.

He said they are not so rich as to be able to raise P200,000 a week to buy the silence of police, media and court personnel.

Perry Mariano, Acdo spokesman, said that it is the foreign owners of nightspots who are responsible for the illegal activities in the city's entertainment business.

He said these "big-time" businessmen are the ones who have the financial clout to set up the Mafia-style group.

"*Maliliit lang kami kaya paano naming mabibili ang koneksyon na iyan*," Mariano said.

Papa said Acdo's existence has the blessing of the city government because it is the more practical way to monitor the existence of illegal activities.

Papa also clarified that their organization has nothing to do with the defeat of former Vice Mayor Charito Planas. He said that in fact they pooled their meager resources to help Planas during the campaign period.

Earlier, Planas and his successor, Herbert Bautista, confirmed the existence of the Mafia-style group.

This prompted Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. to order an investigation.

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LOCAL HISTORY

THE MANILA CHRONICLE

THE NATION

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 1995 3

# Planas a victim of QC night club protectors

By Rosetan Tugaff
*Correspondent*

FORMER Quezon City Vice Mayor Charito Planas yesterday said her defeat in the last elections was partly "engineered" by a mafia-type organization composed of club owners, scalawag policemen, unscrupulous media practitioners and some corrupt government officials.

Planas, in an interview with newsmen, said the group worked extra hard against her candidacy and that, as a sign of desperation, syndicate members even raised at least P2 million as logistical support to fund her rivals' political bid.

Planas, a well known street parliamentarian and human-rights lawyer, was beaten by councilor Herbert "Bistek" Bautista during the May polls.

The group, according to Planas, was organized to protect the illegal activities of its members, specifically those who hold lewd shows and engages in local flesh trade in Quezon City.

"Maraming ganyan na organisasyon lalo na sa mga lugar na laganap ang illegal vices," stated Planas, who added that the group is so influential that they have some government and police officials and some mediamen as its protectors.

Planas further disclosed that prior to the elections, the syndicate members attempted to bribe their way by offering her an initial of P300,000 as goodwill money. "Lalo silang nagalit sa akin ang mabalitaan nila na idinidenounce ko iyong agenda nila," she said.

"The group is so influential that even small establishments not affiliated with it are being raided, which only bolsters the suspicion that some officials of the Central Police District Command (CPDC) are connected with syndicates," she said.

At the height of her campaign against illegal vices in the city, Planas said there was always an information leakage prior to their raids and operations on suspected prostitution dens that allowed their targets to escape or avoid being caught in the act.

"Alam n'yo may mga bantay sa labas ng club at may mga tao iyan sa iba't-ibang mga opisina kaya nauutimbrehan sila 'pag may raids kami," she said.

Planas also recalled that during her intensified campaign, police would always have excuses to defy her order to raid certain clubs, adding that if the police ever complied with her orders, compliance was usually half-hearted.

"Wala sanang anomalya kung walang mga ganitong alagad ng batas na nasasangkot," she said.

Earlier, Bautista also confirmed the existence of the syndicate claiming that his alleged inaction on the issue was premised on his functions, which are only confined to legislative matters.

Meanwhile, CPDC director Chief Supt. Ricardo de Leon in an interview with the Chronicle said that an intensified campaign is being conducted by his men to monitor the illegal activities of some club owners.

He added that an agreement was formulated between him and the members of the Quezon City-based Association of Club and Disco Owners at a meeting last week. De Leon said he asked ACDO leaders to "police" their members.

On the other hand, a policeman who asked not to be identified said some of the members of the media are moonlighting as protectors of certain joints showing lewd shows and engaging in the local sex trade.

The source added that at least two "popular" columnists and veteran reporters are included in the payroll of the syndicate.

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LOCAL HISTORY

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# QC 'Mafia' backed by politicians

BY NELSON F. FLORES

**BIG politicians are behind a mafia-like organization bent on protecting lewd shows and other illegal activities of nightclub owners in Quezon City, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.**

The nightclub owners bankrolled these politicians during the May 8 elections and are now collecting "debts," which apparently accounts for the failure of city authorities to deal with the growing problem of prostitution there.

"*Sila* (nightclub) *ang nagbigay ng* logistical support *sa mga ito para matalo 'yung mga politiko na hindi* sympathetic *sa kanilang organisasyon,*" a source privy to the city's sex industry bared.

The biggest casualty of this "unholy alliance," noted the informant, is former Vice Mayor Charito Planas, whose relentless campaigns against purveyors of sex and drugs hurt the nightclub owners.

They apparently waged an all-out war against Planas during the campaign, leading to her stunning defeat at the hands of Councilor Herbert "Bistek" Bautista.

The organization is composed of nightclub owners, scalawag policemen and corrupt members of the media.

Yesterday, Bautista confirmed the existence of the Mafia-like group, as reported by the INQUIRER.

In a statement, Bautista said this organization "has long been there" and that he was calling for an "immediate investigation by the proper agency to fully expose its existence."



PLANAS

Bautista said his office has long been receiving and investigating reports that some clubs are being protected by media and police officials to shield their illegal activities. He also denied that his office has failed to conduct any operation against these establishments, saying his office has no jurisdiction over vices.

"It's unfair. My function as vice mayor is purely recommendatory and limited to legislative matters," Bautista stressed.

An aide of Bautista, who identified himself only as Nonong, said actual operations against vices in the city rest in the office of Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr.

But a check by the INQUIRER showed that since Bautista took over the office of the vice mayor last July 1, he has not made any recommendation or initiated any legislative actions against the erring club owners or establishments.

Chief Supt. Ricardo de Leon, director of the Central Police District Command, told the INQUIRER that he warned the members of the Association of Club and Disco Owners to stop staging lewd shows in Quezon City.

De Leon said he met with Acdo members last Thursday night following the INQUIRER exposé that a mafia-like organization was formed by erring club owners, scalawag policemen and unscrupulous mediamen to perpetuate the holding of lewd shows and to protect the local sex trade. He said the club owners were given final warning that their failure to follow the law will be dealt with more severely in the future.

"We will see to it that they'd be closed for good, *hindi na sila magbubukas*, if they again violated the law," De Leon said.

De Leon also said that Mayor Mathay has given his full support on the campaign against illegal vices in the city. He said the campaign will be closely coordinated with and monitored by the Office of the City Mayor.

De Leon also confirmed reports that the foreign prostitutes working in the city's most prominent nightspots have disappeared. He said they were apparently ordered by their managers to lie low in the face of continuing police operations against them.

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LOCAL HISTORY

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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## QC CRACKDOWN

# 95 women arrested

BY NELSON F. FLORES

SUDDENLY, there is an intensified campaign against lewd shows in Quezon City.

Central Police District Command authorities announced yesterday the apprehension of 95 suspected lewd dancers and prostitutes from different nightspots in Quezon City.

This developed a day after the INQUIRER printed reports about the existence of a mafia-like organization composed of scalawag lawmen, corrupt mediamen and court personnel bent on protecting the club owners' illegal practices.

As this developed, several observers noted that the renewed campaign of the CPDC against lewd shows and suspected prostitutes could be the handiwork of the syndicate to preempt any serious operation against them.

*"Puro* small time *naman yung mga huli nila,"* one observer noted.

Senior Insp. Bartolome Bustamante, CPDC Public Information Officer, said the operations, which were conducted by men from CPDC Stations 2 and 10, also resulted in the arrest of two nude dancers. He said among those raided by operatives from CPDC Baler and Kamuning Stations were the Metallica Club, Megalink Disco, and the John Louie Club.

Bustamante also disclosed that 19 suspected pick-up girls along Quezon Avenue were among those brought to the CPDC police stations. He said the campaign against prostitution and lewd shows will be sustained until the persons behind their continued operations are placed behind bars.

Meanwhile, Senior Supt. Romulo Sales, CPDC Investigation Division chief, said a "discreet investigation" they have conducted regarding the presence of foreign prostitutes in Quezon City yielded negative results. He said his men failed to produce any evidence to prove the existence of foreign sex traders.

CPDC sources, however, said the international prostitutes had been whisked to safehouses in Quezon City and were ordered to lie low by their managers. They added that the moles at the CPDC were responsible for the failure of lawmen to find any of the foreign prostitutes.

*"Nakatimbre kaya walang mahuli,"* the source said. Bustamante earlier confirmed the existence of syndicate spies at the CPDC. He said this prompted CPDC director Chief Supt. Ricardo De Leon to tighten security, particularly in the command's communication system.

*"Kapag may* operation *ay nagkakaroon ng* leak *kaya naghihigpit si* General," Bustamante said.

LOTTO
23, 7, 2, 30, 16, 19

METRO
RECAH TRINIDAD, Editor ■ ELVIS Z. SADIA, Assistant Editor

# 'Mafia' to protect QC

BY NELSON FLORES

**OWNERS of Quezon City nightspots showing lewd shows have teamed up with lawmen, some mediamen and several corrupt court personnel to form a "Mafia-like" organization bent on protecting their illegal practices.**

This was learned yesterday by the INQUIRER from a Filipino-Chinese bar owner who refused to join the syndicate. The informant said an overwhelming number of members of the Quezon City-based Association of Club and Disco Owners (ACDO) have agreed to raise funds for corrupt members of the Central Police District Command, the Criminal Investigation Command and the National Capital Region Command.

"The protection money is intended to make these law enforcers look the other way," the source, who asked not to be named for fear of retaliation, said.

The source explained that, if by chance an ACDO member establishment was raided, a contact from the local court will see to it that no criminal charges will be filed against the club owners. The association will also see to it that no story will be published in the newspapers.

*"Kaya pati yung ilang mga* reporters *ay inaayos din,"* he said.

## Mediamen, cops, court officials in payroll

The source, who is also an inactive member of the ACDO, said a round of nightspots along Quezon and Timog Avenues will bare these nightclubs regularly hold lewd shows. He added that some of these clubs have tied up with foreign syndicates engaged in international flesh trade.

*"Yung ngang hinahanap na* Ukrainian prostitutes *ay makikita sa dalawang malaking* clubs *sa* Quezon Avenue," the source said.

Senior Insp. Bartolome Bustamante, Central Police District Command Public Information Officer, told the INQUIRER that CPDC director Chief Supt. Ricardo De Leon had already ordered an investigation of the alleged tieup of several lawmen to unscrupulous club owners.

# clubs

Bustamante said De Leon has already formed a team to look into the reports. He confirmed that security was a problem in conducting operations against lewd showing nightspot because of underworld leaks.

*"Kapag may* operation *ay nagkakaroon ng leak kaya naghigpit si* General," Bustamante said.

The INQUIRER also noted that the office of Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista has failed to conduct any operation against illegal vices in the city despite the mounting public concern.

Bautista, sources said, is preoccupied with other matters. In fact, the council sessions were reduced from eight to only six meetings every month because of his lobbying.

*"Marami kasing ibang pinagkakaabalahan,"* the source said.

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LOCAL HISTORY

MONDAY, JULY 31, 1995

TODAY

SHOW TODAY

# Russian girls ply trade in QC clubs

■ By FERNAN MARASIGAN and GEMMA CASAS
Reporters

LAW enforcement authorities are closely monitoring two Quezon City nightclubs that allegedly offer the "services" of Russian women.

At least four Russian women, believed to have illegally entered the country, are reportedly working as dancers in one of the nightclubs.

A highly placed source said the Russian women were working without permits from the city government and the Bureau of Immigration.

Reports of Russian women working in entertainment places or as prostitutes started mounting following the arrest last week of Ukrainian Kolbina Oksana. She is believed to be among the 50 Ukrainian women who entered the country and are allegedly working as prostitutes.

The four Russians were spotted dancing in the nude in a nightclub near Timog Avenue in Quezon City.

Other Russian "entertainers" are said to be working in a nightclub on Quezon Avenue, also in Quezon City.

Both nightclubs are frequented by police and local government officials.

The source said the police and the local government have not taken any steps to investigate whether the Russians were also working as prostitutes in the nightclubs.

"Who knows, these women may also be going out with their customers for a fee," the source said.

The Bureau of Immigration is considering having Oksana undergo tests for the human immunodeficiency virus, sources at the bureau said.

The sources, who refused to be identified, said Immigration Commissioner Leandro Verceles was amenable to the idea but had not yet made a final decision.

Oksana said she came to the country on January 7 with a temporary visitor's visa, which lapsed on May 28. She denied being a prostitute and instead said she came here to study. She did not say what course she was taking.

Oksana was arrested on Monday at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital in San Juan while still recuperating from the bruises she got from a mauling.

Sources said she was beaten by men who could have been hired by the wife of her live-in partner, Andrew Co, a Filipino-Chinese businessman.

The idea of testing Oksana for the virus that leads to AIDS came about after the bureau discovered that a 25-year-old Brazilian woman afflicted with AIDS was once housed in the bureau's main detention cell in Intramuros.

The Brazilian is scheduled to be deported.

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# Big city clubs warned on int'l call girl ring

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

BY BOBBY TIMONERA

**A RANKING immigration official yesterday said at least three popular nightclubs are harboring prostitutes from the former Soviet republics.**

Ross Manlangit, technical assistant for intelligence, said that two of these clubs are in Quezon City while the other is in Pasay.

He warned owners of these nightclubs will face criminal charges if they continue with their activities. If foreigners are behind these clubs, Manlangit warned, the Bureau of Immigration will initiate deportation proceedings and declare them "undesirable aliens."

Manlangit said that they have been receiving calls from the public reporting sightings of the alien women in some of Metro Manila's night spots.

"We are warning these night club owners because we will not hesitate to run after them to flush out these prostitutes," Manlangit said.

Earlier, BI officials who requested anonymity implicated a Metro Manila city mayor in a sex ring using women from the former Soviet republics.

The mayor was reportedly seen in the company of two Ukrainian women recently. The mayor is allegedly a close friend of at least two millionaire contractors who are known coddlers of prostitution rings.

Another suspected Ukrainian prostitute was nabbed by immigration agents last Monday after failing to produce travel papers. Olbina Oksana, the 19-year-old woman, reportedly had a relationship with a Filipino-Chinese millionaire engaged in the liquor business.

A Bureau of Immigration report said about 50 women from the former Soviet republics have arrived in the country lately and engaged in prostitution. Oksana reportedly belonged to a group of seven women from Ukraine, considered one of the poorest countries of the former Soviet Union.

Intelligence officials of the BI also bared they are having difficulty tracing Oksana's colleagues and their pimps because they operate discreetly, using cellphones and beepers in contacting clients.

Sources at the BI said they would divulge the name of the mayor suspected in the international sex ring once they have collected solid evidence against him. The same sources also refused to bare the names of the three Metro Manila clubs suspected of harboring foreign prostitutes pending further investigation.

TODAY

THURSDAY, JULY 27, 1995

# Metro official tied to alien call girl ring

■ By GEMMA CASAS
Reporter

A METRO Manila official often seen in the company of suspected prostitutes is believed to be the coddler "and regular customer" of an international call-girl syndicate trafficking women from the Ukraine and former states of the Soviet Union.

Bureau of Immigration intelligence sources said the official, described as "either an incumbent or a past mayor," was last seen in July in an unnamed watering hole "of the nouveau riche" in the company of two suspected prostitutes.

The sources, however, would not give a clue to the identity of the mayor, except to say that he was being watched.

In related developments:

• Ukrainian Kolbina Oksana held for questioning by immigration agents on Tuesday told investigators yesterday she was first taken to a safe house in a province near Metro Manila as soon as she arrived on [illegible]ry 7 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Immigration officials are set to deport a Brazilian prostitute found to have contracted AIDS. Investigators were checking if she was part of a group of Brazilian women who have been using Manila as a transit point to other Asian countries where prostitution is flourishing.

Oksana, speaking through Russian Vice Consul Mikhail Khoklov—who helped her express herself out of humanitarian reasons, because the Ukraine has no embassy in Manila—said a certain Ram Lopez introduced her to Andrew Co, a Chinese-Filipino trader who became her boyfriend.

She described Lopez as her "Filipino father."

Khoklov said interviewing Oksana was a problem, because she seemed to be "mentally unbalanced" at the moment, and shifted from stony silence to full cooperation.

She told investigators she used to live in with Co in a condominium in Greenhills. Agents surmised she was mauled by men hired by Co's wife. She was being treated at the Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital when she was traced by immigration officials.

For humanitarian reasons, the bureau declined to name the Brazilian prostitute with AIDS. Records showed she had been on the immigration blacklist since December 1988, but had somehow managed to return.

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LOCAL HISTORY

THE MANILA TIMES
METRO
July 10, 1995

# QC club owners defy ban on lewd shows

BY NELSON BADILLA
*Correspondent*

DESPITE the supposed campaign against them, illegal lewd shows continue to be staged in Quezon City's night clubs, and the authorities seem to be unable to do anything about it.

Some city hall officials and policemen say this is partly because of the "protection" extended to the night club owners by local officials and policemen in exchange for huge sums of money.

This charge is, of course, denied when officials speak on the record.

But some are candid enough to admit, at least, that it happens on a limited scale. Sr. Insp. Bartolome Bustamante, spokesman for the Central Police District, says bribery of policemen does occur, but claims ranking police officers are not involved.

"Ang nalalaman ko ay may mga pulis na nagproprotekta sa mga clubs na ito ngunit mabababa lamang ang mga ranggo at katungkulan," he says. "Ang problema ay walang nagrereklamo o nagsasampa ng kaso laban sa mga ito upang malapatan ng kaukulang kaso."

**Freeloading cops**

This was confirmed by some club operators, who say policemen often drink at their clubs and enjoy their girls' "hospitality" without paying a cent. "Halos palagi naman silang (policemen) umiinon nang libre dito at may ka-table pa," says one. "Wala tayong magagawa dahil sa kailangan nating makisama sa mga iyan dahil sa baka ipa-raid tayo."

But sources in the Quezon City Hall insist that the bribery goes up to the highest levels of the local government and police. They say owners or operators of night clubs pay between P30,000 to P70,000 monthly to officials who ensure their establishments are not shut down.

Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. was unavailable for comment, but members of his staff denied the allegation outright.

When pressed, all Bustamante said was "Basta ang tinitiyak ko sa iyo ay hindi kasama si Chief Superintendent (Ricardo) De Leon (the CPD director) sakaling totoo ang impormasyon na iyan."

**Failed campaign**

What the authorities cannot deny is that the campaign has fallen far short of its goals. Some admit it is an outright failure.

Former Vice Mayor Charito Planas says the city government and the CPD "have obviously failed as explicitly shown by the ongoing and seemingly unstoppable operation of these night clubs. Umikot kayo ngayong gabi at malalaman ninyo kung totoo nga ang mismong nagaganap."



**STAGE FRIGHT ISN'T A PROBLEM.** A dancer gets ready for her turn under the lights.

Some police officials are honest enough to admit the failure of the campaign. Bustamante said the campaign has failed to stop dancers in night clubs from taking off all their clothes. By law, the dancers or "models" of a night club can wear suggestive clothing under the pretense of conducting a fashion show. (This explains the names of many of these groups, which invariably include the words "fashion" or "models.") They are not allowed, under any circumstances, to strip naked.

While policemen occasionally raid night clubs suspected of violating the law, the raids do little damage to the operator's business. The most damage is done to the dancers and models, who are humiliated as they are dragged to police precincts while wearing their scanty "stage costumes," or even while still naked.

The clubs, meanwhile, shut down for a few days, then resume operations as if nothing happened. Owners of clubs that are shut down permanently merely move their girls to another club.

**Closed, opened**

Bustamante says the CPD raided eight night clubs this year, asserting that the raided establishments have already stopped their "activities."

But THE TIMES visited some of the very establishments raided, and it was evident the raids did little to discourage them from staging lewd shows.

Confronted with this information, Bustamante asserts the policemen had already done their jobs. "Baka nakakuha ulit ng permit ang mga may-ari o operators nito sa City Hall."

"Nariyan talaga ang problema, ang sasabihin lamang nila ay 'ailangang magbukas ulit ang kani-kan...ang negosyo dahil sa maraming nagtratrabaho sa kanila ang mawawalan ng trabaho kung tuluyan silang magsasara. So in short economic ang reason kung kaya siguro pinapayagan ulit ng mga opisyal sa city hall."

Mathay had last year began a project aimed at curbing the proliferation of the offensive shows. He formed a composite team composed of local officials, including De Leon and even Tomas Vargas, who represented the Association of the Clubs, Karaoke, and Disco Operators (ACKDO).

The team was supposed to monitor night clubs and ensure their compliance with the law, as well as to conduct inspections and raids. The renewal of permits of night clubs depended on the team, which could recommend the closure of an establishment.

De Leon also formed the Anti-Vice Task Force headed by Supt. Romulo Sales, chief of the CPD's Criminal Investigation Unit.

But the night club operators continue to violate the country's laws and Quezon City's ordinances.

**Whose fault is it?**

"The problem with these ordinances or executive orders are the lack of political will to really implement them," says Planas.

She points out that the Business Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO) continues to give permits to night clubs owners.

But Patricio Dumlao, chief of the BPLO, says his office does not authorize the staging of lewd shows. He clarifies that the permits given allow the establishments to operate "only as restaurants."

"Beyond that ay hindi namin kasalanan kundi ng pulis," he adds. "Kaya huwag kaming sisihin kung bakit nananatili pa rin ang ganyang klaseng negosyo."

Maria Pas Ogalde, assistant head of the QC Health department and officer-in-charge of the Sanitation Department, points out that they give health certificates, known as "yellow cards" to receptionists, entertainers and other employees of night clubs purely for health purposes.

"Our work is based on the law," she says. Just because they are given health permits, in other words, does not mean these entertainers can dance in the nude.

**Talking back**

Meanwhile, Cesar Papa, ACKDO president, insists that "total nudity in the city is already banned as agreed upon by ACKDO members."

He says all club members are instructed to abide by the organization's resolution to, in effect, obey the law. Even non-members, he claims, are pressured into prohibiting their dancers from completely undressing.

But workers of non-governmental organizations and city hall officials insist the resolution, while noble, has failed to put a complete stop to the sight of naked women cavorting on the stages of Quezon City's night clubs.

In some clubs, they say, it is not unheard of entertainers to get carried away and actually involve a customer in sexual acts.

The Vice Mayor's office already has a list of clubs which continue to defy the law. At least 36 clubs in Quezon City are in the list. None have been shut down.

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LOCAL HISTORY



# Night spots, hot spots in Quezon City

## *Continue to defy law against staging of lewd shows*

Quezon City Vice Mayor Charito L. Planas has asked the Central Police District Command to crack down on five local night spots which continue to defy law against the staging of lewd shows.

Planas called the attention of Chief Supt. Ricardo de Leon, Central Police director, to the continued staging of bold shows at the Metallica, Paisano, Bageta, Groovy, and Banca Night Clubs, all in Quezon City.

In a letter to De Leon, Planas said these night clubs persist in staging bold shows despite the repeated complaints from Quezon City residents and members of the media.

At the same time, she asked De Leon to take "immediate steps as warranted by your official findings and to report on the matter."

The Vice Mayor also commended De Leon and his men for their "speedy action" on the killing last Feb. 28 of Masbate Rep. Tito Espinosa outside the Batasang Pambansa building.

"However, as we hotly pursue criminals who take the life of innocent people let us not neglect those who through their deeds, corrupt and destroy the moral fabric that holds our society together", Planas told De Leon.



PLANAS

The vice mayor said that sometime earlier when she was acting mayor, many Quezon City night clubs that staged lewd shows were close down. This was during the absence of Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr.

Several establishments were closed on the basis of the provisions of Ordinance No. 123-93 authored by Councilor Joseph Peter Sison after they were identified with the help of the Citizens Nightwatch monitoring group.

The ordinance also penalizes the employes and owners of establishments found staging such shows.

# Intensified drive vs pick-up girls in QC

An intensified, sustained and concerted action to rid Quezon Blvd. of pick-up girls will begin tomorrow night.

This was announced by Quezon City Vice Mayor Charito Planas who said that the action will involve not only the police but also the cooperation of the different establishments lining the avenue, particularly the strip from Delta to EDSA. This area has become notorious as a pick-up point for these nightwalkers.

At a meeting called by Planas to discuss the program, representatives of the various establishments lining the boulevard pledged to cooperate by instructing their security guards not to harbor the girls who might seek refuge inside their establishments during the police round-ups.

It was learned that with the connivance of these security guards, the pick-up girls are able to elude arrest by hiding inside their establishments.

City Legal Officer Atty. Mario Laqui who was present during the meeting said that the city's drive will have two phases.

The first phase will be the round-up followed by the rehabilitation of these women through skills training and livelihood program.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Mon., Nov. 28, 1994 S-13

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Health & Science

# Kabalikat drop-in center opens in QC

It is 15 minutes before midnight. Along a dark stretch of Quezon Ave., a tinted late model car slows down to stop at a group of heavily made-up females. The lone male in the group, the pimp, approaches as the car's window slides open and the lone occupant stretches towards the glass in an inquiring gesture. Amid the dim and hum of late evening traffic, voices of haggling are heard as the man in the car points at Susan, one of the girls in the group. Nineteen-year-old Susan boards the car; five crisp 100 peso bills are handed over to the pimp; another transaction has been made for the flesh trade.

At about the same time and along the same stretch of highway, Rhea, another sex worker belonging to a different group, is approached by an individual, this time a female. The usual banter ensues — it was one of those "lean" nights when customers were a little difficult to come by.

Tess slips a pamphlet to Rhea's hand as if to while the time away as she entices Rhea to accompnay her to visit a "friend" living in nearby Zamboanga Street in West Avenue.

The two enter a big apartment, sparsely furnished but very clean and presentable. They both join the others listening to a lecture in progress. Another flesh worker has been enlightened on the pitfalls of the trade.

That apartment is the Quezon City Kabalikat Drop-In Center (KDIC), a physical base of operation established by the Kabalikat ng Pamilyang Pilipino for its community-wide efforts to educate mainly the sex workers on the dangers of HIV-AIDS.

Opened only last Nov. 7, the QC KDIC has already gathered a number of adherents to its fold. "The number of people attending our nightly sessions vary from three to five individuals daily since we started, although this is still very low compared to the participants at our Manila KDIC, the numbers are very promising," according to Lyn Palo, one of the Kabalikat social workers manning the center.

The QC-KDIC was put up by Kabalikat in response to the exodus of sex workers from the Manila area to the Quezon City redlight districts.

"There is an estimated 300 sex workers plying such areas as Quezon Avenue, the Q.C. Circle and Cubao and some of these sex workers were the same ones who were displaced when the sex and entertainment establishments in Manila were ordered closed by the Mayor's Office," she says.



PICK-UP GIRLS pick a potential customer along Quezon Blvd.

Areas such as these are definitely high-risk territories for contracting the highly infectious Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus infestation that eventually leads to the incurable Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Kabalikat aims to lower the risk of HIV specially in this high-risk areas by making its services available to women, men, homeless youth, and streetchildren who are sexually abused, exploited or are in the sex trade in the locale.

Lyn says that some former sex workers such as Tess who regularly attended sit-ins and have reformed are given training in peer counselling and health education on HIV/AIDS protection through condom, as one of the viable means of protection against sexually transmitted diseases. The program aims to reach other sex workers who are still unaware that their occupation exposes them to HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Teach-ins are usually done at the KDIC premises specially for the freelancers such as pick-up girls, but lecturers are also given to "establishment workers," such as those who can be found inside Karaoke bars, night clubs and massage parlors and other "watering holes." The center has 10 peer counsellors presently to conduct these lectures.

Aside from providing information on the dangers of AIDS/STD, the lecturers also give them pointers on how to avoid the disease by practising "safe sex" and promoting the proper and consistent use of condoms.

The KDIC encourages sustained behavioral changes for the sex workers by providing supplementary literacy education and referrals to other NGOs that offer training on alternative livelihood. Kabalikat's ultimate goal is to encourage sex workers to pursue a more decent and less risky occupation.

"Based on the sex workers we had encountered, most of them are either stow-aways from the provinces or products of broken homes or just simply in the trade for economic reasons," Lyn said.

"Very few are doing it because they like their job and most of them are either drug dependents or drug users which greatly increases the risk of contracting HIV/STDs," she adds.

Referrals to free AIDS testing is also facilitated by the center for those who are willing to be tested and for those who are diagnosed HIV positive, KDIC provides them with counselling and residential care.

A lot if not all of the sex workers cannot afford medical services and those needing health care are given referrals by KDIC to hospitals such as the San Lazaro Hospital.

The center also offers temporary shelter and short-term feeding for individuals in the process of behavioral change.

Like an oasis in the middle of a desert where the danger of catching deadly diseases lurks at every corner, the KDIC offers hope to a number of souls by offering them services that will make their profession safer it not eventually weaning them away from it.

And for Rhea, her turn to be initiated to the KDIC will come before it's too late.

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LOCAL HISTORY

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1994

Q.C. PUBLIC LIBRARY
LOCAL HISTORY

# Planas pushes for closure of all QC massage parlors

By SEAN REYES

Quezon City Vice Mayor Charito Planas sought yesterday the immediate closure of all massage and sauna bath parlors in the city to stop the proliferation of prostitution.

Planas' recommendation came in reaction to an expose' by the Alex Boncayao Brigade last Jan. 16 which identified several business establishments in the city as fronts for prostitution.

"As the guardian of public morals and civil law, it is inevitable for us to intercede and give due course to their allegations," Planas said in a letter addressed to Mayor Ismael Mathay on her recommendation for closure of all sauna bath parlors in the city.

Her recommendation particularly called for Patricio Dumlao, head of the city's Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) to suspend the issuances of new permits to all massage and sauna bath parlors in Quezon City and effect their immediate closure pending investigation of the ABB report.



Planas

Among those included in the list were the Maalikaya Health Studio, Cubao Sauna Bath, Mabuhay Health Studio, Ginza Steam and Sauna Bath, Acoustic Health Studio, Macho Men's Salon, Emerald Health Studio, D' Castle Health Studio, Happy Sauna and Crown Steam and Sauna Bath, all located in Quezon City.

The vice mayor said the investigation will be conducted by her office together with the City Health Department and the Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO).

She said results of the investigation will be known within a week from today.

Planas reiterated the need to temporarily stop the operation of all sauna bath and massage parlors, particularly those mentioned in the ABB report, "considering the moral and health implications of the expose."

Last year, Planas had recommended for the closure of the sauna bath parlors mentioned by the ABB after conducting a surprise inspection of the establishments.

She inspected the establishments as acting QC mayor last year while in the absence of Mayor Ismael Mathay who had vacation in the US.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Standard Tuesday, January 18, 1994

# Saunas' closure ordered

Quezon City Vice Mayor Charito Planas yesterday asked the city's Business Permits and Licensing Office (BPLO) head to temporarily suspend the business licenses of 10 sauna establishments which are allegedly fronts of prostitution.

Planas was reacting to an expose by the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) naming several sauna parlors as mere fronts of prostitution.

In a letter to BPLO head Patricio Dumlao, Planas said "as guardian of public moral and civil law, it is inevitable for us to intercede and give due course to their allegations."

Rolando de Asis, owner of Maalikaya Health Studio, and 25 others topped the list of persons suspected of operating prostitution fronts. Most of these establishments are located in Quezon City.

Planas said "considering the moral and health implication of their expose, I hereby recommend that the business licenses of these establishments be held in abeyance until further investigations and findings conducted by your office (BPLO), together with the representatives of the city health department and the office of the vice mayor."

Planas identified the establishments listed by the ABB as Maalikaya Health Studio, Cubao Sauna Bath, Mabuhay Health Studio, Ginza Steam and Sauna Bath, Acoustic Health Studio, Macho Men's Salon, Emerald Health Studio, D'Castle Health Studio, Happy Sauna and Crown Steam and Sauna Bath.

Meanwhile, Planas recommended to the BPLO the non-renewal or the recovation of license of Cafferinos located along Timog ave., Quezon City.

Planas earlier ordered the closure of the Cafferinos, which replaced Thunderdome, a nightspot closed by the vice-mayor.

"In view of a closure order issued last August, I hereby recommend for the non-renewal or the revocation of license of Cafferinos if the same is found to have the same owner as that of Thunderdome, for circumventing the closure order and making a mockery of the law and misleading the city government," Planas said. **(Luis Luna)**

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LOCAL HISTORY

The Manila Chronicle
4 Tuesday, January 18, 1994

# Planas starts anti-vice drive, orders closure of 10 saunas

QUEZON City Vice Mayor Charito Planas yesterday ordered the suspension of the licenses of 10 massage parlors in the city following threats against their owners by the Alex Boncayao Brigade, the death squad of the communist New People's Army.

In her directive to the office's chief, Patricio Dumlao, Planas said the owners of the 10 establishments had been accused by the ABB of involvement in criminal activities.

Moreover, she said, the 10 massage parlors were among 25 establishments which have been identified by the ABB as fronts for prostitution.

Planas said an investigation will be launched to determine the veracity of these allegations.

The ten establishments whose business licenses were ordered suspended were the Maalikaya Health Complex, owned by businessman Rolly de Asis; Cubao Sauna Bath; Mabuhay Health Studio; Ginza Steam and Sauna Bath; Acoustic Health Studio; Macho Men's Salon; Emerald Health Studio; D' Castle Health Studio, Happy Sauna, and Crown Steam and Sauna Bath.

**Luisa Macabuhay**

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MANILA BULLETIN, Fri., Oct. 29, 1993

# QC sauna veto lauded

*By BEN ROSARIO*

Various persons and groups yesterday lauded Quezon City Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. for vetoing the ordinance which seeks to regulate the operations of massage and sauna parlors in the city.

Mathay rejected the measure upon the recommendation of a six-man panel which he had created to study it. Critics described it as the "prostitution ordinance."

However, despite the veto, the panel, led by lawyer Benhur Balboa, said the law on the operations of massage establishments is a letter of instructions (LOI) issued by the late President Marcos. The LOI placed the supervision of massage parlors under the Department of Tourism and allows the setting up of private rooms in such establishments.

Various religious groups assailed the proposed ordinance for containing provisions that permit operators to set up private rooms.

Councilor Victor Ferrer Jr., principal proponent of the ordinance, said the city council supporters of his proposal will respect the decision of Mathay.

Ferrer said there will be no move to override the veto although the city council can muster enough votes to overturn Mathay's decision.

In his letter to the council, Mathay said the decision to veto the ordinance "in its present form" was made after due consultation with various QC groups.

He said he favors sauna baths and massage parlors "as long as they are not used to promote or tolerate sexual exploitation and activities."

"In any case, the proposed ordinance does not provide for strict monitoring of the establishments to ensure that the alleged fears of the various sectors of our society are properly addressed," Mathay said.

THE MANILA TIMES, OCTOBER 12, 1993



*Protecting a city from prostitution*

# Can it be done?

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LOCAL HISTORY



THE height of the dictatorship government of the late President Ferdinand Marcos was also the height of the *bomba* flicks in the movie industry. This was during the turbulent years of the '70s and the philosophers among the Filipinos harbored the idea that this was an effective way to divert the attention of the people from the worsening condition of the country, politically and economically.

The question was: Can watching bold movies, were performers display their unclad bodies really distract one from as big a problem as national stability?

And the general opinion was that the masses, men mostly, would rather spend their time at the theaters watching *bomba* films rather than group together at the *"pondahan"* or sit with their wives and children to contemplate on the alarming rate of killings, the dilating national debt, and the rapidly increasing prices of basic commodities.

So the bold movies in the '70s rose to a popularity unparalleled in the history until the middle of the '80s when it slowly died a natural death. It turned out to be just like any other novelty: a short-lived trend.



Some say the cause of death was plain and simple: the masses got tired and lost interest. Others think that because of the growing outcry from organized groups against those kind of films, they just did not stand the chance of surviving any further.

**The trade**

About the same time when bold films were having their heydays, the sex trade was silently proliferating in some areas of Metro Manila. The Malate area, particularly Mabini and Ermita, was the metropolis' infamous red-light district popular among foreigners until Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim cracked his whip. Ayala and Makati Avenues, and more recently, Quezon Avenue which the younger pack prefer, are now fast becoming breeding grounds for the "world's oldest profession".

The controversial issues touching the trade were given focus when some organized groups of women and concerned citizens started rallying aggressively against the trade.

The government was urged by these groups to make a move to protect the Filipino women against the growing cases of prostitution and abuse of women.

So factions in the government were formed to look into the cases of women caught in the trade whether willingly or otherwise. Projects were suggested to provide alternative means of livelihood to these women. In Manila for example, where most night spots were ordered closed by Mayor Lim, women are offered work in the government as clerks and janitress instead. But "decent money" is almost always never enough. So the trade has become a vicious cycle. The women who were given the chance to live a decent life would, most often than not, always come back to the web of the trade.

And since most of the bars and prostitution houses in Manila have been closed, these women fled to other places. And the lively strip of Quezon Avenue in Quezon City was a most likely spot.

**'The Ordinance'**

On September 24, 1993, an ordinance sponsored by Councilor Victor Ferrer, Jr. which seeks to regulate sauna bath parlors and similar establishments was passed on the third and final reading.

The ordinance was met by divided reactions from the citizens of Quezon City.

As expected, members of moral groups of women were dismayed by the passing of the said ordinance. Even the Councilors aired different opinions regarding the controversial ordinance.

Ferrer, the main proponent of the ordinance, said it will, once and for all, clear the bad impressions people have on sauna baths and massage parlors.

The opposition on the other hand, led by City Vice-Mayor Charito Planas, believe that the passing of the Ferrer ordinace will only allow the proliferation of prostitution in the city.

Under the ordinace, all massage parlors in Quezon City will be allowed to maintain private rooms (with doors) and display rooms where clients can view (and choose) the attendants (or girls) they like.

**'Extra work'**

*"Sana po mawala na ang mga pinto, kasi po hindi naman lahat ng* customers *mababait, may iba sinasaktan kami at s'yempre kung nasa loob kami ng kuwarto wala kaming magagawa kundi pumayag sa* "extra work" *na pinagagawa sa amin."*

This was related by a young girl to Vice-Mayor Charito Planas during the later's course of interviews with some women who are working as massage attendants in sauna parlors in Q.C.

Planas acuse these sauna parlors of using the establishments as fronts for prostitution.

"We are not against sauna parlors per se. *Kailangan natin 'yan* to relieve us of stress and tension. *Marangal na hanapbuhay ang pagmamasahe.* But these massage parlors are getting the wrong impression from the people. In fact, if you ask someone from the streets what he thinks of a sauna bath, he will give you the answer of something like sauna parlors are only for the men and that dirty things are done within its confines. And we want to clear that impression and at the same time protect QC from the spread of communicable diseases caused by prostitution."

Planas and her group are objecting the Ferrer ordinance because it allows doors and private rooms in the sauna parlors.

*"Noon may* Genito ordinance *na nagbabawal sa mga kuwarto,* cubicle *at pinto* but it was repealed by an executive order saying that massage parlors are under the Department of Tourism and that tourists would want private rooms for privacy while getting a massage service."

But Planas argued that prostitution can very conveniently start from these private rooms.

Planas added, "as a matter of fact, in one of our surprise visits in these massage parlors, we discovered used condoms lying around the area."

"Now, do we need condoms if we want a massage service supposedly to relieve us of stress and tension?"

**Other reactions**

The newspapers reported that hundreds of sauna bath workers assailed the critics of the Ferrer ordinance. The workers trooped to the Quezon City Hall to present their side to Mayor Mathay and press for the approval of the said ordinance.

They aired their sentiments that critics of the ordinance are diverting the attention of the people from the true meaning of their work.

A famous writer who has lived in Quezon City for the past 20 years, shared his own point of view: "How can you call this as "protection of women's rights" when the massage attendants themselves do not want anybody changing their lives. Prostitution is the oldest trade in the book, and between two consenting adults, this is hardly illegal."

**The Mayor's side**

The biggest fear now is if Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. passes the Ferrer ordinance to become a law, then there will be no turning back.

The Mayor for his part is not about to take the matter lightly. He will form a five-man panel of advisers to study and make recommendations regarding the controversial ordinance. The ordinance will be reviewed, its economic, social, moral and legal implications will be thoroughly studied. All sides will be heard. Representatives of the sauna-bath businesses and women's rights advocates will be invited to ensure a fair decision.

At the moment, sauna workers are rallying for the success of the Ferrer ordinace while Planas and her group are keeping their fin
Mayor Mathay will

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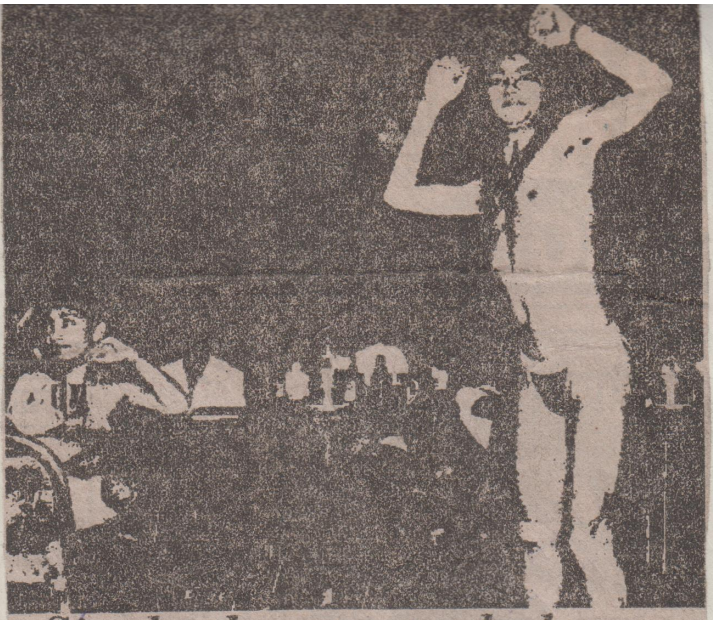
**SAUNA** *bath attendants rounded up during one of the lightning raids conducted in*

**CHILDREN** *of the night. Mostly runaways, they either end up roaming the streets or worse, trading their young bodies. Will there ever be an end to these?*



# Single, brown, male but...

By IVY LISA F. MENDOZA

He admitted "John" was just a code name.

He didn't have to tell us. After all, no one in his decent mind would reveal his true identity if he were engaged in a profession like his. John — young, single, good-looking, male — is a call boy.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Meeting somebody like John was supposed to be a "thrill of a lifetime" for us. A birthday of a girl friend last Tuesday was thus a perfect excuse to hie off to a gaybar in QC and witness the goings on in the flesh trade.

We were not disappointed. Paying an entrance fee of P30 as we were greeted by a long line of guys garbed long sleeved shirts with ties was the first step. We were guided to a table near the dancefloor where we could get a good vista of a hearty buffet of men on the dancefloor. Four guys, wearing skimpy boxer shorts, sweated and gyrated as if there was no tomorrow. The rest, about 30 or so, were fully clothed strutting their stuff onstage, hoping against hope that someone in the audience would itch for their services that night.

Amid the young male bodies showcasing their assets on the dancefloor, one bemoustached, medium-built guy stood out. He was the only one who had a pager hanging from his belt. But a bald man in his sixties had a sharper vision. The oldie got to him first. And so we were left with John, our second choice.

*"Kailangan kasi. Malapit na 'kong matapos sa pag-aaral, isang sem na lang,"* John justified his job.

A senior student in a maritime school, 21-year old John said he was doing all these to be able to finish his studies. His family hails from a fishing village in Iloilo where his whole brood still resides. He stays in Malabon with an aunt who still thinks that John toils night and day as a waiter. He was, until four months ago when he decided to stop waiting at tables in a panciteria and wait for gays and matrons instead who would want to shell out money for a stud's services.

*"May kaibigan ako na nagtrabaho dito. Sabi niya, mas madali raw kumita dito. So nag-apply ako. Dito, kailangang may permit ka para pumawesto. Hihingan ka ng NBI at police clearance bago ka*

"Nahihiya pa rin ako hanggang ngayon. Ayaw ko ngang tumayo sa dancefloor, para kasing nag sho-shopping ang mga tao para sa tao. Pero hindi naman pwede, pagagalitan ka ng floor manager."

But dance he must. That's one trick of the trade. The other, he revealed, is having a steady clientele. *"May mga suki na tatawag para ipa-reserve ka na sa gabing 'yon."*

For P200 , a call boy can be "entered," meaning he could be engaged in sex in the small cubicles up on the second floor. For P500., he could be dated and be brought out of the bar. At least half of this goes to the bar, the rest goes to the guy. If a customer would just want to talk to a guy, he would have to pay a P100.-an-hour table charge. Macho dancers earn less. John said for two sets of shows, their sensuous hip-gyration would only merit them a mere P80.

A common denominator among the call boys in that bar was that all of them were young, the youngest being 16.

*"Karamihan rin estudyante, mga galing sa probinsiya tapos kinakapos. Susubukan nilang minsan tapos pag nangailangan na naman, babalik rito para kumita ng konting pera,"* narrated John.

How long will he be in the business, we asked.

"Siguro pag nakatapos na ako. Hindi mo naman kasi maipagmamalaki ang trabahong 'to," John said as he added that he is doing his best to trek that long path to a comfortable life.

In the meantime, John had to excuse himself from us. It was already 1 a.m. and he just got a phone call. "From a regular," he explained. We told him to go as we were just about to leave too. And besides, he would earn nothing from talking with us, only a meager P100. for the table charge. He asked for our phone number and my companion suddenly became tense. We told him we were both phone-less. Anyway, he said, we will be seeing more of one another. John hurried out as he stepped into a dark night of sex with a fat matron in tow.

Three hours after we entered the gaybar, the coterie of young men at the entrance was still there to bid us

PHILIPPINE TIMES JOURNAL
TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1993

# Life on the fast lane for teenage hookers

By Liza M. Velazquez

(Conclusion)

Prostitution is arguably the surest, and most dangerous, means of survival for young runaways who come to Manila as high school dropouts with no money and no place to go.

A few good nights can mean food and rent for a month. A bad night can mean injury or worse. Rumors of violence continue to be whispered against a background of rock music at Luneta Park's skating rink, where teenage prostitutes wait for customers.

"Sometimes freelancers just disappear," says Oscar. "There are rumors that they just went home to the provinces but we never really find out what happened."

Unlike women who work in massage parlors and bars, teenage prostitutes who work in the streets don't have an establishment standing behind them to insure they get paid and are provided basic services.

There was no one to help Queenie deal with her recent pregnancy, or her decision to have an abortion after five months. There is no drug rehabilitation plan nor free medical advice on sexually transmitted diseases.

Despite the glaring evidence of teen prostitution in Luneta, "there are still no centers or programs dealing specifically with the unique needs of teen prostitutes," says ECPAT (End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism) campaign coordinator Dolores Alforte.

Pls. turn to page 7

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# Fast-lane life for young hookers

From Page 1

"We even have a new Child Protection Code [signed in June 1992 under former President Corazon Aquino] but no implementing guidelines," she says. "We don't need new laws, we need enforcement so that these teens have a realistic chance at a better life."

Non-government organizations say that the government's attempts to deal with teen prostitutes by lumping them with adults during vice raids, or with street children in juvenile detention institutions, is ineffective.

"We cannot rely on the government, we have to work on our own," says Jojo Trono, program assistant for the Gabriela Commission on Violence Against Women.

In the last 10 years, NGOs have attempted to fill the void. Outreach work conducted by NGOs provide a vital link for the teens to the world outside prostitution. NGOs offer the teens access to medical examinations, STD prevention information, birth control counseling, and, most importantly, someone to talk to.

"The teens just escape from government institutions like the MYRC (Manila Youth Reception Center)," says Mary Elizabeth Foundation social worker Fe Anez. The MYRC is a city-run detention center for street youths and juvenile offenders.

NGOs say that although live-in institutions provide food, shelter and schooling, these institutions have so-far been unable to address the unique needs of teens accustomed to earning up to ₱1,000 a night and the freedom of the streets.

"It's hard to rehabilitate the children who are used to earning big money," says MYRC social worker Sally Hernandez. "They don't realize the danger they're going into by going back to the streets."

Teenage freelancers are generally loose, they go with anyone and do things that are quite dangerous in order to earn money," says Kathleen Maltzahn, a documentor for Dayang Women's Center. "They aren't choosy about which cars they get into."

Dayang considers the everyday violence encountered by teenage prostitutes as an issue that has been consistently overlooked.

"Work contracted on the street seems even more outside conventional morality standards than what goes on in the bars," says Maltzahn. "There are many stories of customer violence."

And, because the teens distrust the police, they are largely on their own.

"These teens realize that their lifestyles are illegal," says Maltzahn, "so they do not feel comfortable going to the authorities for help."

"Most teenage prostitutes say they are leading a life they would like to escape, but don't know how," says Fellizar. "They need to be reminded that there are people they can trust."

Teenage prostitutes usually work the streets for a maximum of three years before moving on to massage parlors, bars, promotion work or crime rings. Some teens never make it to adulthood, falling prey to customer violence or drugs.

But, even if police, government agencies and NGOs fail them, freelancers continue to hope and plan for life after Luneta, seeking comfort in dreams of joining mainstream society as responsible adults.

"Teens who rejoin the mainstream can find themselves better persons because of what they have overcome," says Fellizar.

Oscar has worked hard to remain in high school. He dreams of becoming a pilot. Frances wants to go into tourism. Queenie and Delia want to become nurses. They all hope to get married someday.

"I hope somebody can accept us for what we are," explains Queenie. She tried to return home last Christmas but was rejected by her family because she was pregnant.

Remembering how difficult it was for them at home, most teens seldom regret their decision to live on their own.

"They are free in Luneta," explains Anez. "They can leave bad family situations behind."

"When you have food, you're happy," says Frances. "You don't think about the other problems."

And for only ₱15, the teens can get high on solvent. Drug addiction is an inevitable side-effect of their lifestyle — a sort of coping mechanism. Some teens use shabu but most depend on cheaper substances like solvent and cough syrup.

"When the trip is over, that's when you remember your hunger and your problems," says Oscar.

The teens cant' seem to deal with issues of drug dependency, birth control and STD's. They resign themselves to each other's care and leave the rest to fate.

"If you get pregnant, what are you going to do anyway?" says Delia. "You just have to be careful."

"I can't afford to have a baby now," says Queenie about her recent abortion. "But if it had lived — bahala na — I would take care of it."

When asked if he worries about AIDS, Oscar replies, "Of course." But he has nothing further to say about the subject.