

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
at the Main Conference

To spice up the atmosphere of the main conference, cultural activities were added into the schedule of speeches, workshops and discussion sessions. These cultural activities were meant to promote and share the various cultural and traditional activities of Filipinos. These activities provided a novel and interesting experience for those who have never before participated in such activities. In some cases, participants left the conference feeling that they had learned something new and fulfilling about their culture. In most cases, participants renewed their appreciation of their Philippine culture and their willingness to cultivate and promote it.

Following are the descriptions of the various cultural activities that were presented in the main conference.

Escrima -- Filipino Martial Art Lessons and Demonstrations

Mr. Raymond Tobosa, the "batikan" or master of the Tobosa School of Kali/Escrima and the members of his school presented a demonstration of escrima techniques. Later, the conference delegates were given first hand lessons on those techniques while Batikan Tobosa gave explanations and helpful hints on when and how to use escrima. Escrima is a defensive martial art sport using rattan or bamboo sticks, or bolo knives as weapons. Members of the school were Mrs. Raymond Tobosa, Lenny Ea, Patrick Delos Santos, Rosemary Delos Santos, Romeo Rebujo and Junior Trias.

Philippine Language Lessons

The instructor for Ilokano was Ms. Precy Espiritu and for Tagalog, Dr. Teresita Ramos. They taught the conference delegates conversational dialogues in two separate class sessions. In both classes, delegates learned to say things like "How are you?," "I am fine," "Where are you going?," and other simple conversational phrases. After the lessons, the delegates learned to sing Ilokano and Tagalog songs.

Philippine Dance Lessons

Ms. Vicky Ramil conducted the dance lessons with the help of members of the Filipino-American Students Association of the University of Hawaii. The delegates learned the basic steps and hand movements of Philippine dancing. They later learned how to dance "Manang Biday" and "Tinikling."

Lechon Luncheon

In the wee hours of the last day of the camp, a pig was slaughtered and roasted over a charcoal pit, similar to a rotisserie. Delegates witnessed the actual roasting of the "lechon" (roast pig) and some even had the unique opportunity to turn it over the charcoals. The "lechon" was ready to eat by lunch time. The vegetable dish was a Filipino favorite, "balatong and marunggay" (mungo beans and a green leaf vegetable). Of course, rice was served with the meal. To top it all off, the participants had to wash or wet their fingers in a basin of water and eat their meal with their fingers, a skill that Filipinos take pride in. As an appetizer as well as a dessert, sliced green mangoes dipped in patis were served. Naimas! (Delicious!)

Philippine Flag

A Philippine flag was presented to the staff of Camp Erdman to add to their collection of flags from other countries. The flag was donated by the Philippine Consulate.

Planting of Coconut Sprout

A coconut sprout, the Sariling Gawa logo, was presented to the delegates and the organization by Mrs. Shirley Matutino of Waialua. The same coconut sprout was planted on the grounds of Camp Erdman as a symbol of the milestone conference that was held there.

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RESULTS OF GROUP CONSULTATIONS

One whole night was devoted to consultation sessions among community delegates and the planners of the conference series. The delegates were asked to review the problems that had been identified during their community conferences and were asked to pick a problem which they will try to solve when they go back. After Sariling Gawa provided advice, each community was asked to report on their project at the closing session the following day.

All the community delegates thought that they would have more credibility and support in solving their problems if they attached themselves to an established group or organization like Sariling Gawa. As a result, they all volunteered to form Sariling Gawa chapters in their own communities.

The Kona delegates said that their first task was to establish a Sariling Gawa chapter and that they will try to produce a play that will dramatize their feelings and thoughts about problems of youths and parents.

For Molokai, the first problem they decided to tackle was to get the local and immigrant youths together. They said that they will have some social activities in the school and have some kind of a party, potluck during school hours hoping that they can get the two groups understand and learn from one another.

Representatives from Lanai reported that they will create a tutorial project for immigrant students (a modified version of Operation Manong program at the University of Hawaii). They said that students from high schools will be hired as paid peer tutors. They viewed this as helping local Lanai students earn some monies while helping immigrant students adjust and also to understand their cultural values and problems better.

The Kauai delegates said that they will form multicultural clubs in the various schools there. Such clubs, as they saw them, would serve as a place for orienting new students in their schools. They would explain to them school rules and regulations and about the community and its people in general.

The group from Hilo was undecided on a specific project to implement. But

Results of Group Consultations

they assured Sariling Gawa that they will form a chapter in Hilo and that they will maintain close contact with Sariling Gawa and will definitely ask Sariling Gawa for technical help or other kinds of assistance. They thought about doing a thorough research of the resources in Hilo that may be able to help in their activity plans.

Delegates from Waialua picked educational problems as their main concern when they go back. They said that they want to do more outreach and counseling activities with other Filipino students to fully inform the community of the benefits of having a good education in Hawaii.

They also viewed that they will ask groups of people who have been in higher education to speak in front of young Filipinos about available financial assistance in college as well as their good and bad experiences while in college.

The Leeward Oahu delegates made it a point that they will try and change the priorities of their clubs from social to a service oriented one so they can help their fellow Filipino schoolmates in performing better academically.

The Honolulu delegates are ahead in their action plans because they already have an ongoing project of constantly keeping in touch with other Filipino student organizations on Oahu. They provide speaker services on topics such as the value of college education, how to survive in college, financial assistance available in college and programs that are recruiting minority participants at the university level. The Filipino-American Students' Association is spearheading the project with the help of the Kalani and Aliamanu delegates.

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EVALUATION OF THE MAIN CONFERENCE

The delegates were asked to evaluate the main conference at the end of the event. A return rate of 56.5% or 35 out of 62 questionnaires was received. Here are the results.

Most of the delegates (87.5%) belong to some kind of organization or association. The two main reasons for attending the conference are 1) to contribute and share ideas about solving issues facing Filipino young adults (88.6%) and 2) to learn new information on Filipino history, culture and language (85.7%). Other equally important reasons for delegates to attend the conference were to meet other people, to learn leadership skills and to learn more about Sariling Gawa.

When they were asked to respond to the question, "Overall, did the conference meet your expectations?" an overwhelming 97.1% said yes.

They were also asked to rate the impact of the sessions and activities on their specific interests. On a scale from 3 to 1, (3) a great deal, (2) some, and (1) not much, the overall rating was 2.6 showing that the delegates were quite satisfied with the activities.

The following is a detailed rating of the question, "How much did the various sessions contribute to your specific interests?"

	<u>RATING</u>
I. Speeches/Presentations	
A. Ethnic Identity, Growing up as a Filipino in Hawaii	2.77
B. Filipino History Slide Show	2.73
C. Social Issues	2.66
D. Aspirations, Community Solidarity	2.65
E. Legislative Process	2.40
II. Workshops	
A. Leadership Skills	2.70
B. Cultural Activities	2.66
III. Barangay Discussion Groups	2.64
IV. Cultural Simulation Game, BaFa BaFa	2.56
V. Community Delegates' Consultation with Sariling Gawa	2.84
VI. Campfire, games, songs, feeling good time	2.79

Generally, the delegates' rating of the sessions and activities was above average. It is indicative that they have strong interest in some serious

Evaluation of the Main Conference

problem solving techniques as reflected by their high score on the consultation session with the conference planners. It is also illustrated in the results that they have strong desires in learning more about ethnic identity, Filipino history in Hawaii and the building of leadership skills. From their written comments, statements like these were common:

"I liked the baranggay discussion sessions because we got down to the nitty gritty to kinda wrap things up after the speeches. It sure was a good way to know the delegates other than those you came with."

"I liked the baranggay discussion groups because the members of my group were really open to each other and we really worked together."

"The leadership skill speech was very straightforward and easy to understand and to the point. I also like the group discussions because our baranggay leader was easy to relate to."

"The problem solving with the baranggay generated a lot of spirit in the group and it was just neat to see that enthusiasm sizzling."

"The baranggay discussion groups allowed me to share my ideas with other people and made new friends."

"I liked the consultations with conference planners and talked about our problems and how to solve them."

"The Ilocano class taught me new things and I know more now to strike a conversation."

These comments point out that the baranggay discussion groups accomplished what is was originally intended for. There is no doubt that new and strong alliances and networks have been formed as a result of such groups. It is also evidenced from the above that the value of unity, working together, sharing ideas and appreciation of other viewpoints have made an impact in the minds of the conference delegates.

As an attempt to find out how well we taught the delegates and how much they learned and absorbed on Filipino culture and history, the conference planners devised a short quiz to accomplish such a task. The quiz measured general knowledge of Filipino history and culture.

Evaluation of the Main Conference

A pre-test was administered during registration to the main conference. A post-test with the same questions as the pre-test was conducted after the lechon luncheon just before leaving the camp. Thirty of the returned quizzes could be matched for analysis. Twenty-five or 83% of the respondents showed marked improvements by scoring higher in the post-test than in the pre-test; therefore, indicating that the conference planners were effective in conveying the knowledge and information to the conference delegates.

At the closing session, emotions were high and exchanging of telephone numbers and addresses and signing of program schedules were common sights. No one wanted the conference to end but we all thought that the ending was a good beginning. A beginning to be more active in the communities and more responsive to the issues that affect our lives.

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*To be a Filipino in Hawaii means being proud to be one.
(Oahu delegate, Age 18)*

Note: See Appendix 4 for samples of evaluation form and pre/post-test questions.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

by the Main Conference Delegates on March 8, 1981

Resolution 1

Sariling Gawa provides an important opportunity for Filipino youths to:

- a. come together, bringing with them an understanding of the particular situation that youth in their local areas face, and share these with other Filipino youths from all over the state;
- b. enhance their knowledge about their Filipino heritage, culture and contributions to Hawaii and the U.S., and thereby;
- c. develop a better appreciation of their ethnic identity and to develop pride in that identity, rather than see it as a negative factor;
- d. broaden their perspective and visions about themselves and their place and responsibility in society, as they begin to look beyond their individual self, family or specific community, and to see that they are an important part of the greater whole;
- e. understand the issues facing the Filipino youth and community and begin to critically analyze these in order to find solutions to them;

For these reasons, let it be resolved that the delegates to the 1981 Sariling Gawa Main Conference propose to make the youth conference an annual event, and to develop the necessary organizational structures to implement this resolution.

Resolution 2

Proposal for Sariling Gawa delegates to support activities and projects during the 75th anniversary celebration of the Filipino community that enhances the understanding of the people in Hawaii about the Filipino history and culture:

Resolutions Passed

- a. One important project that attempts to portray Filipino contributions in Hawaii is a play by "Sining Bayan" (Community or People's Performing Arts) called "Ti Mangyuna: Those Who Led The Way."
- b. The play, which is a musical/dance drama, will be performed by Filipino youths (through auditions in May/June) and will be toured throughout Hawaii from October to November.
- c. There will be 15 performances: University of Hawaii at Manoa, Farrington High School (2 times), Leeward Community College (2 times), Waialua High School, Maui (Lahaina and Kahului), Kauai (Waimea and Kapaa), once in Molokai, once in Lanai, Big Island (Hilo, Naalehu, and Honokaa).
- d. Because the play will tour communities that have large Filipino populations, it is important that the "Sining Bayan" project or "Ti Mangyuna" be supported.
- e. Sponsorship committees will be established for each of these performances to help in publicity and to assist in organizing the performance in their areas.
- f. The play can be used as fund-raising activities for the different community organizations and student clubs; adults will be \$2.00; students (high school and college), \$1.00; and children under 13 will be free; organizations selling more than 10 tickets could get 50¢ for each ticket sold.

Given that the play "Ti Mangyuna" is an important project that could be utilized by Filipino student organizations as an education (as well as fund-raising) activity, be it resolved that delegates to the Sariling Gawa Main Conference endorse having the play as an activity for its different delegates and youth organizations to support.

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