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Scientifically Speaking, by Lee

Review Author: Gabriel Lamug-Nanawa, S.J.

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main achievement. Given the contribution that low-income women are making to the development of the Philippine economy, a comprehensive understanding of the conditions under which they must work is of the highest priority, since it is through such an understanding that the most progressive forms of social change may be instituted, and the equality to which women laborers are entitled secured.

Sally A. Ness
University of California at Riverside

Scientifically Speaking. By Queena N. Lee. Makati City: Belgosa Publications, 1996.

Queena Lee's new book, *Scientifically Speaking*, is a collection of her columns articles published in *Parents* magazine. She answers questions from readers using a scientific perspective, she nevertheless uses a language that is fun to read and accessible to the common reader.

Based on the actual questions which were sent to Ms. Lee, one gathers that her audience is really broad and varied. The questions come from grade-school, high-school, and college students, as well as from math or science teachers, other professionals, housewives and even boxers. Queena N. Lee, who teaches Mathematics and Psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University, tackles them with rigor and bravado. Her answers are neither too elementary nor too technical. Hence, she appeals to both young and old, to learned scientists of other fields and even to grade-school students. It is also important to note that the questions which trigger Ms. Lee's answers are real questions. They are not theoretical or laboratory-bred, which give Ms. Lee the opportunity to speak her own scientific mind.

Taken as a whole, the book seems to say that scientists do not have a monopoly of the study of and appreciation for science, and that science is an important perspective which all people should have when looking at our world, our environment, and ourselves. The book also allows the reader to know more about the cutting-edge technology which is more and more impinging in our daily lives.

In this book, Ms. Lee succeeds in bridging the gap between the concepts of science and the activities of everyday life. "Popular science," which is a term she uses to describe the genre of her work, brings to a wider spectrum of people basic knowledge about the world we live in.

But if Ms. Lee has an intended target audience, it would be the young Filipinos. Most of our problems, especially with regard to our environment today, are either due to lack of information or misinformation about our world. Educating the young seems to be her mission, which she accomplishes very well, as shown in this book.

Finally, the book also conveys the message that knowledge is important, and that as much as possible, we should not be ignorant of the world in which we live. Although science is indeed important, knowledge demands that we also see the world using the other perspectives of art, history, the transcendental, etc.

Perhaps Queena Lee's book needs a more scientific revision. There are no page numbers in the table of contents; the typographical errors are many and noticeable, and there were a couple of times when the text said "refer to diagram," but there was no diagram to refer to.

Gabriel Lamug-Nañaawa, S.J.

Literature and Politics: The Colonial Experience in Nine Philippine Novels. By Jaime An Lim. Quezon City: New Day Publishers, 1993. 183 pages.

The Philippines had been under colonial rule for almost four hundred years: over three hundred years under the Spanish regime, forty years with the Americans, and about four years under the Japanese occupation. Throughout the four hundred years of foreign bondage, various forms of reactions and protests emerged and one of the most powerful medium used by the colonized people was literature. In the introduction of his study, Jaime An Lim states that "The confluence of literature and politics is nothing new in the Philippine literary scene." The author examines the reactions of nine selected Filipino novelists to the colonial experience during these three periods of colonization.

Obviously, Lim's intent is not to present a comprehensive study, but "simply to offer a manageable sampling that, at the same time, could define the general contours of the bigger picture." For each colonial period, the author analyzes three novels and draws out their sociopolitical themes. The readers may find it quite puzzling that in the same colonial period, for example, the Spanish regime, the novels are almost a century apart. Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere* is ninety-six years from F. Sionil Jose's *Po-on*. The two novels are reactions to the same Spanish rule. Lim points out that "In spirit, however, they could not have been more contemporaneous."

The book is divided according to the chronological divisions of the colonial periods. The first part deals with the longest foreign domination of the Philippines, the Spanish regime, the second part touches on the American period, and the third part dwells on the briefest, the Japanese occupation.

In the first part, the author examines the reactions to the Spanish colonization in Jose Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere*, Linda Ty-Casper's *The Three-Cornered Sun*, and F. Sionil Jose's *Po-on*, Rizal's novel exposed the ills afflicting the