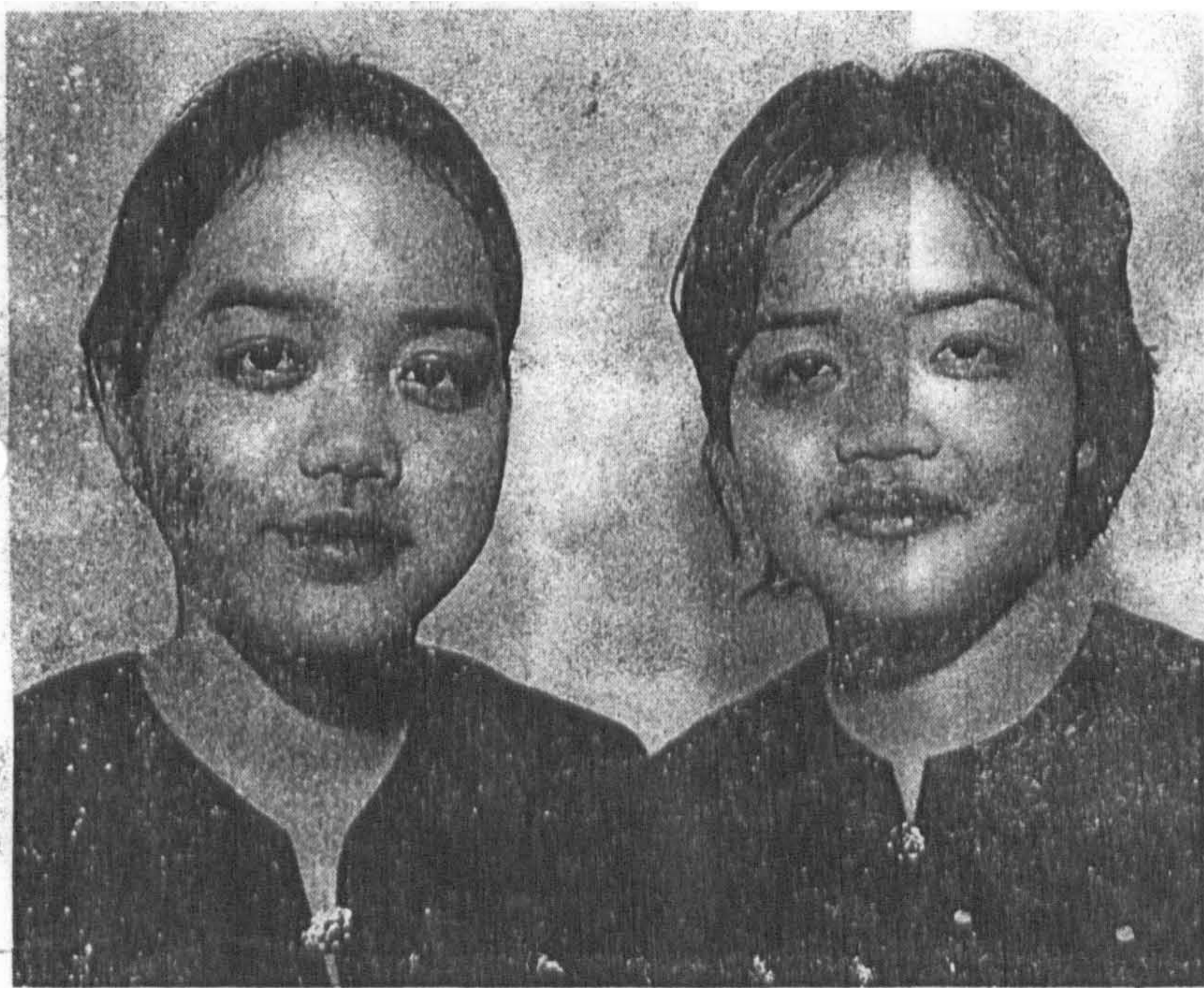




1000240825



IN SARAWAK FOR THE FIRST TIME ... Khairul Fazariah Yusof and Khairul Rodhiah Yusof.



HAPPY TO BE IN UNIMAS... Agnetha (left) and Agnethia Sherrod Ismail.



FROM PANTU, SRI AMAN .. Rida and Leta ak Linggi.

Five pairs of female twins, four married couples among freshies

KOTA SAMARAHAN – Five pairs of female twins and four married couples are among the 1,417 new students at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) this year.

The twins are Marlini Mohd Riza and Marlina Mohd Riza from Kuching, Khairul Fazariah Yusof and Khairul Rodhiah Yusof from Selangor, Hasdayanti Haslan Kulas and Hasdayana Haslan Kulas from Sabah, Rida ak Linggi and Leta ak Linggi from Sri Aman and Agnetha Sherrod Ismail and Agnethia Sherrod Ismail from Mukah.

Three of the married couples are in the Teaching English as the Second Language (TESL) programme in the Centre for Language Studies. They are Amelia Peter and Fred John Sutin, Duches Basan and Frederick Empati ak Ricky and Demendra and Banun ak Gulong, who are in the "Program Kursus

Pensiswazahan Guru" (PKPG), a special programme to train graduate teachers. The fourth couple, Raja Iskandar Raja Halid and Dahlia Tan Abdullah are new students in the music programme in the Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts.

Agnetha and Agnethia Sherrod Ismail, 19, of Melanau parentage were happy to be in Unimas as it was part of their parents' dream to see their children further their studies in an institution of higher learning.

Agnetha enrolled in the Faculty of Resource Science while Agnethia registered at the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology. Agnetha loves reading and listening to music, while Agnethia likes playing badminton. The second and third of four siblings hope they will excel in their studies. Both their siblings are boys. Their eldest brother is currently studying

medicine at one of the medical colleges in the State.

Rida and Leta ak Linggi, 20, fifth and sixth of seven siblings, are Ibans from Pantu, Sri Aman. They are registered at the Faculty of Social Science.

Their father died in 1992 while their mother last year. The orphans are happy that they can further their studies at the university but sad that their parents were not there to share their joy.

"We hope that our other siblings will look at us as models and follow our footsteps to further their studies in the university," said Rida.

Khairul Fazariah Yusof and Khairul Rodhiah Yusof, 20, from Kajang, Selangor registered at the Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology.

The eldest and second of seven siblings chose Unimas because they

wanted to experience life far from their family.

In Sarawak for the first time, they are delighted to find Kuching quieter than their hometown. Both love reading and sports and according to Khairul Rodhiah, who is more talkative, they always do things together.

Husband and wife, Frederick Empati ak Ricky and Duches Basan, both 32, chose to enrol together in Unimas to improve their knowledge and meet the target made by the Ministry of Education that by 2005, all secondary school teachers would be degree holders.

Both were teaching at SK Kem Batu 18, Bintulu. They have three children who are being looked after by Frederick's parents in Lubok Antu.

"We also want to show the students that despite our age, we are still keen on learning," said Frederick.