

Philippine Fiesta™

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Photo by Dave San Pedro

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Is she qualified to be president? Eminently!
To me, it was the first bit of good news I read throughout the whole of last week.

I refer to the survey report that Senator Grace Poe is now only five points behind frontrunner Vice President Jejomar Binay as the people's preference to be the next president of the Republic.

The second bit of good news was the report that Grace said she is not considering running for vice president. I agree entirely with the reason she gave for her decision, i.e., that 2016 is the best time for her to run as president.

I will not be so presumptuous as to think that my views count on the matter of Grace running for president. However, as a voter, I am as entitled as the next fellow to express them.

But first, I must clarify that I have never met or talked with the good senator. What I say below is merely based on what I have seen in her photographs, articles I have read about her and, more importantly, the few instances I have watched and listened to her on TV and radio, particularly during the Senate hearings on the Mamasapano Massacre.

To me and I'm sure to many others, she is beautiful. Important? Of course! In more cases than one, the physical appearance of a leader, male or female, is an added asset, not that it could spell the difference between winning and losing a political contest, but an asset nevertheless.

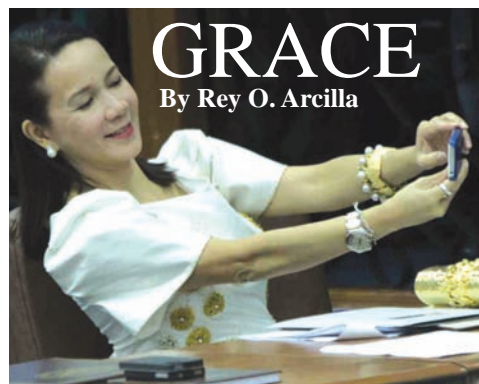
However, what makes me think she will be a good leader is that she exudes grace under pressure, sincerity, confidence, courage of her conviction, all amply demonstrated in her speech and demeanor.

And, above all, her eyes!

I will never forget the time when her mother, Susan Roces Poe, said after the "I am sorry" speech of Ms. Gloria Arroyo regarding the "Hello Garci" election scandal that allegedly cheated Grace's father, Fernando Poe, Jr., out of the presidency.

Susan said something like: "It's in the eyes. The eyes are the mirror of the soul", referring to Arroyo's obviously contrived manner with which she delivered her "I am sorry" speech.

Is Grace qualified to be president? Eminently!
She certainly is well prepared academically



Grace-Poe.

having finished high school at Assumption-Makati where she excelled in oratorical competitions and became the Captain of the school's debating team.

She then pursued her college education at the University of the Philippines and Boston College in Massachusetts, USA, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science.

Her website has the following entry on her brief career as a public official:

"As the chairperson of the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media, she championed the passage of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act, which was approved on third reading by the Senate on March 10. She believes that the attainment of a just, progressive and lasting peace in the country greatly depends upon the free flow of information to the public. (Note: The FOI is one of the campaign promises that President Noynoy Aquino has reneged on.)

"Sen. Poe is also the first lady senator to serve as chair of the committee on public order and dangerous drugs.

"Over the years, she has spent her career standing for the rights of Filipino people. Making sure everyone especially children has access to quality education and proper nutrition is her major legislative priority that's why one of the first bills she filed in the Senate was the Free Lunch Program which seeks to provide free lunch to malnourished children in all public schools nationwide.

"And true to her 'showbiz' roots, Poe has also filed a bill promoting Film Tourism that aims to make the Philippines into a major shooting destination for international films.

"As chair of the Movie and Television Regulatory and Classification Board (MTRCB), she advocated "intelligent media viewership" instead of "censorship" and

formulated a new, age-appropriate ratings system designed to empower parents to exercise caution and vigilance with the viewing habits of their children.

There is one thing that caught my eye when I came across an interview of Grace with Ms. Bianca Gonzalez of Philippine Star in January last year.

Asked "what kind of Philippines she is looking forward to for her children and the next generations, Grace said:

"I would like for them to have a country that they can really be patriotic and proud of. (Note: This is what struck me most, specifically the 'patriotic and proud' part, which I will explain in a future column.)

"What I want to have for them is a country that thrives environmentally, cleaner air for the kids, that there would be enough food, and basically opportunities for all would be available. I want them to really believe that they are proud to be Filipinos. And you can have that if you restore trust in our institutions. I think that change in government has already started but we still have to work hard to be able to achieve a certain form of transparency. That's why it's important, and magplupug na ako, na may FOI tayo. So we

can head towards that. Hopefully, we have six years. Yeah, we can do something."

Is Grace winnable? Definitely!

...Unless she is cheated like her father was. But that's another story. In any case, I believe that the Filipino people will no longer allow such a dastardly act to thwart their will again.

Also, I do not think it was a mere coincidence that Vice President Jejomar Binay made the statement that a "newbie" should not be president after the survey results came out. I think it was a manifestation of his concern that Grace is a winner who could beat him in the presidential race come May 2016.

Other presidential contenders also feel the same way that is why they are tripping over each other trying to convince Grace to be their running mate.

Binay said local government executives, like he was, are better able to handle national positions because of their experience and competence in governance, citing the case of the US some of whose past presidents were state governors.

He may be right, but I suppose it depends on the kind of "experience" or "compe-

Continued on page 3



Editor's Note

Thoughts in mind include the following which recount instances that affect us, both happily and sadly:

We say "Pray for Nepal," as the most heartbreaking tragedy had caused so many lost lives from the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that happened just this past weekend.

Congratulations to the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity for hosting a successful fashion show extravaganza. Joined by active members of the Fi-Am community, it was an entertaining get-together and fashion show of their best Filipiniana gowns.

The Sacramento's most-awaited Filipino Fiesta, formerly known as the Philippine National Day is fast approaching. The planning committee promises another exciting celebration full of entertainment with performances by guest and our local talents. Each year, the occasion of Filipino Fiesta commemorates the anniversary of the Philippine Fiesta News, and this year begins our 14th year in our community.

The most exciting fight of the century is finally happening between Manny Pacquiao and Mayweather. I can foresee big family gatherings during this fight on May 2. Whatever is the outcome, we will stay proud of our champ.

Lastly, please check the Philippine Fiesta's newly designed website. Tell you friends about it and everyone can also follow us on Facebook.

Dinnah San Pedro



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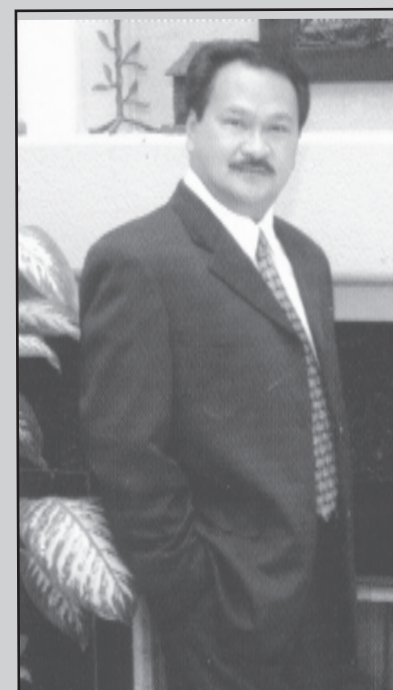
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Noy to certify BBL as urgent

By Paolo Romero

Manila, Philippines - President Aquino is expected to certify as urgent the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) once the House of Representatives approves the measure, which seeks to create a new autonomous region in Mindanao, by next month, a lawmaker said yesterday.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, who chairs the 75-member special panel deliberating on the measure, said committee hearings on the BBL enter the homestretch this week with members of the Malacañang-backed "citizens' peace council" as among the last resource persons.

"The President has promised that once we've already approved the BBL, the draft of the committee will be certified by him as urgent," Rodriguez told radio station dzBB.

The panel intends to wrap up its hearings this week and schedule the voting on the BBL - section by section - on May 11 and 12.

The working deadline for both the House and Senate to pass their versions of the BBL is on June 11, or before Congress adjourns, Rodriguez said.



He added that Aquino is also ready to formally ask Congress to hold a special session in case lawmakers would be unable to meet the deadline.

Headlines (Article MRec), pagematch: 1, section-match: 1

"So it should be 'pass your papers' on June 11, so that by June 30, the agreement of both Houses will be fulfilled and the President will be able to sign (BBL into law)," he said.

Rodriguez said members of the citizens' peace council - Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, business tycoon Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, former ambassador Howard Dee, retired Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and youth leader Bai Rohaniza Sumndad-USman - were invited to today's hearing.

He said while recommendations from the council are welcome, it does not follow that the committee would accept them.

Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Mar-

tin Romualdez, leader of the independent bloc in the House, said he hopes the council can "help polish the controversies behind the BBL." MNLF leader won't attend BBL hearing

A ranking leader of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) declined an invitation from the Senate to attend the ongoing BBL deliberations.

Absalum Cerveza, head of the MNLF panel which forged the 1996 peace agreement with the government, told The STAR that Sen. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. called him last week through an emissary to extend an invitation for him to attend the Senate hearings on behalf of MNLF founding chairman Nur Misuari.

"I politely declined the invitation of Senator Marcos. The MNLF does not want to participate and become part of the drafting of the BBL," Cerveza said. - With Perseus Echeminada

Happiest nations: Phl ranks 90th

By Cherry Salazar

MANILA, Philippines - Switzerland is the happiest country in the world, while the Philippines placed 90th, according to a global ranking of happiness unveiled in New York on Thursday.

Switzerland was followed closely by Iceland, Denmark, Norway and Canada.

The 2015 World Happiness Report is the third annual report seeking to quantify happiness as a means of influencing government policy. The United Nations published the first study in 2012.

Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden, New Zealand and Australia round out the top 10, making small or medium-sized countries in Western Europe seven of the top 10 happiest countries.

Variables identified in the happiness index were real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita, healthy life expectancy, having someone to count on, perceived freedom to make

life choices, freedom from corruption and generosity.

Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and one of the report's editors, said the top 13 countries were the same a second year running, although their order had shifted.

They combined affluence with strong social support and relatively honest and accountable governments, he told a news conference.

"Countries below that top group fall short, either in income or in social support or in both," Sachs explained.

The United States trails in 15th place, behind Israel and Mexico, with Britain at 21st spot, pipped by Belgium and the United Arab Emirates.

Afghanistan and war-torn Syria joined eight sub-Saharan countries in Africa - Togo, Burundi, Benin, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea and Chad - as the least happy of 158 countries.

Among the Southeast Asian



nations, Singapore is most happy at 24th place, followed by Thailand and Taiwan at 34th and 38th spots, respectively. China placed 84th.

"One of our very strong recommendations is that we should be using measurements of happiness... to help guide the world during this period of the new sustainable development goals," Sachs said.

The report would be distributed widely at the UN and closely read by governments around the world, he said.

Besides money, the report emphasized fairness, honesty, trust and good health as determinants, saying that economic crisis or natural disaster themselves did not necessarily crush happiness.

Iceland and Ireland were the best examples, the report found, of how to maintain happiness through resilient social support despite the severity of banking collapses during the financial crisis.

GRACE

From page 2

"In governance the local government executive has.

We had a former local government official as president once. Look what happened.

Incidentally, I heard someone paint the following scenario: Jejomar as President, Nancy as Senate President, Abigail as House Speaker, Jojo as chairman of the country's Mayors' League and Elenita as Secretary of Health! Diyos ko po!!!

Have I already decided to support and vote for Grace if she decides to run for president next year?

Not yet.

There are at least two more things, at this point, that matter to me.

The first is her citizenship. Is she an American citizen or a green card holder? If she is either one, I believe she should renounce it forthwith. As a senator of the Republic she should not have either one. And definitely if she ever becomes president. She cannot have double loyalty.

The second is closely related to the first... her foreign policy platform. What is it? Is she determined to pursue an independent foreign policy as mandated by the Constitution, especially as it pertains to our relations

with the US?

None of our previous presidents, including the incumbent who is also rumored to be a US green card holder, has been able to cut our umbilical cord to the US. As long as we keep relying on the US or any other foreign power for our political, security, economic and financial needs, we will never progress as a nation as rapidly as we would like to.

We are a rich country with a highly skilled and knowledgeable human resource. All that we need is a competent, dedicated and incorruptible leader who would assemble a team comprised of members with the same qualities.



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Islamic State threatens Mindanao, Philippines tells Asean

By Aurea Calica

KUALA LUMPUR – Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario bared yesterday before the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) reports of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) threat to the Philippines through the Black Flag Movement in Mindanao.

Speaking before ASEAN foreign ministers, Del Rosario said the ISIS threat to Philippine security is real rather than imagined because of the Black Flag Movement's pledge of allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

"We will contribute in the fight against extremism, terrorism and crimes against humanity by engaging or cooperating with other countries in the areas of information sharing, joint investigations, educational campaigns, humanitarian assistance to victims, restricting flow of funds intended to finance terrorism, supporting resolutions aimed at curbing terrorism and enhancing local legislation to address terrorism," he said.

ISIS has followers among the Abu Sayyaf, Rajah Solaiman Islamic Movement, Bangsamoro Islamic Free-



ISIS

dom Fighters and the Khilafah Islamiyah Mindanao or the Black Flag Movement, according to the presentation of Rommel Banlaoi, Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research (PIPVTR) chairman of the board, and director of the Center for Intelligence and National Security Studies (CINSS).

The ASEAN is expected to come up with a Declaration on Global Movement of Moderates to curb extremism and terrorism in the region.

Del Rosario said he would like to stress that the Philippines remains steadfast in cooperating with ASEAN, the United Nations and all other countries in confronting extremism and radical violence.

"The Philippines condemns

war crimes and crimes against humanity being perpetrated by ISIS," he said. "We have co-sponsored UN (United Nations) Security Council Resolution 2178 on Foreign Terrorist Fighters and supported the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the Violence and Brutality Committed By Extremist Organizations in Iraq and Syria."

Banlaoi said ISIS has been posing a serious threat to global security following the killing in a US operation of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Pakistan in 2011.

"Otherwise known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), now recently called by its followers as Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham," he said.

Magdalo survey: The fewer candidates, the better for Poe vs Binay

By Ellen Tordesillas

The Magdalo Para sa Pagbabago, which has evolved from an organization of young officers and soldiers who made a stand against corruption in the government in 2003 to a socio-civic, non-stock, non-profit, nationalist, do surveys to feel the pulse of the people and guide them in their decision on issues and chart the direction of the organization.

They did their first survey when the LtSG Antonio Trillanes IV wanted to run for senator while in detention way back in 2007.

With Trillanes on his second term in the Senate and two of the former military officers, former Marine Capt. Gary Alejano and former Air Force Lieutenant Ashley Acedillo in the House of Representatives as Magdalo partylist, they have continued the practice

of conducting surveys.

The latest they did was on April 14 to 16 on 2016 elections presidential and vice-presidential scenarios.

It was done nationwide with 2,937 respondents. Bigger than the usual number of respondents by more established survey forms.

It's a different kind of survey that the Magdalo did because they presented the respondents two scenarios. The first had 10 candidates and the second had six candidates.

The result: Sen. Grace Poe has good chances of beating Vice President Binay if there are fewer candidates.

The first scenario in the survey had 10 candidates and here's the result.

1. Binay, Jejun (27.6 percent); 2. Poe, Grace (21.6); 3. Duterte, Rodrigo (14.5); 4. Estrada, Reap (9.9); 5. Escudero, Chiz (5.8); 6. Roxas, Mar (5.4); 7. Marcos, Bongbong (5.2);

8. Defense-Santiago, Miriam (5.0); 9. Cayetano, Alan Peter (3.0)

10. Lacson, Panfilo (1.7)

In the National Capital Region, Binay and Poe both have 27 percent of the voters. In the Cordillera Region, Poe, preferred by 28.6 of the respondents is ahead of Binay with only 10.7 percent.

The rest of the regions has Binay leading with his biggest support coming from Region 2 (42.1 percent). Scenario 2 with only six candidates has this result:

1. Poe (31.0); 2. Binay (30.6); 3. Duterte (16.2); 4. Roxas (9.2); 5. Defensor-Santiago (8.56); 6. Lacson (3.0)

In the vice-presidential race, there was only one scenario: Escudero is a runaway winner with 51.0 percent. Trillanes is second with 26 percent, followed by Lacson with 10.8 percent and Cayetano with 9.9 percent.

End of the line for Veloso

By Pia Lee-Brago

MANILA, Philippines - Filipina death convict Mary Jane Veloso has lost her last legal recourse to stay the hand of the executioner with the Indonesian court's rejection of her second appeal for a judicial review of her case.

The court's decision yesterday came hours after President Aquino reported getting a "sympathetic" ear from Indonesian President Joko Widodo on his plea for mercy for the 30-year-old single mother of two whose execution by firing squad for drug smuggling is expected to be carried out today.

Nine other drug convicts - mostly foreigners - are expected to face execution today on Nusakambangan island.

Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. earlier quoted Aquino as saying Widodo "was sympathetic and was consulting with the Indonesian Attorney General on the legal issues" when the two leaders met yesterday on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Kuala Lumpur.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Charles Jose said the Philippine embassy in Jakarta confirmed Indonesia's Sleman District Court's rejection of the Philippine government's second appeal for judicial review.

Jose said the Sleman District Court based its decision on an Indonesian Supreme Court ruling that only one appeal is allowed. Headlines (Article MRec), pagematch: 1, section-match: 1

He said the embassy has asked lawyers to determine whether Aquino's meeting with Widodo may "open another window."

Jose said that in their appeal for judicial review filed last Friday, they presented new arguments to prove that Veloso was a victim of human trafficking.

Government lawyers said she was unaware that she was carrying 2.6 kg of heroin when stopped at the Adisucipto International Airport in Yogyakarta in April 2010 upon arrival from Malaysia.

Jose also said Edre Olalia of the National Union of People's Lawyers (NUPL) was barred by prosecutors from joining the visit yes-



Activists picket in front of the Indonesian embassy in Makati yesterday calling for a reprieve for Mary Jane Veloso.

terday to Veloso's cell because of his press interviews at the prison.

"He would not leave the family alone and would insist to be with them all the time, saying he is a member of the family," he added.

The DFA said during a press briefing yesterday morning that the execution of Veloso should not be carried out because of the second appeal for judicial review.

Not neglected

Jose debunked criticism that the government had been remiss in its duty to assist Veloso.

He said the Philippine embassy in Jakarta was only informed of her plight three months after her arrest. On learning of her situation, embassy representatives immediately visited her.

"We could tell from this timeline that it took three months for the embassy to be informed of Mary Jane's arrest, so that was the only time that we were able to visit her," Jose said.

On Aug. 4, 2010, embassy representatives attended the hearing of the case at the Sleman District Court and coordinated with the public prosecutor handling the case. Veloso was represented by a pro bono lawyer.

Embassy representatives also traveled to Yogyakarta on Aug. 12, 2010 to meet with the lawyer and public prosecutor.

The embassy was informed on Aug. 17 by the prosecutor that the recommendation of District Attorney of Yogyakarta was life imprisonment.

On Oct. 11 in the same year, the District Court sentenced Veloso to death. On the same day her lawyers submitted a letter of intent to appeal the sentence. The letter was submitted to the District Court.

He also said the DFA authorized on Oct. 27, 2010 the hiring of a private lawyer

for Veloso along with necessary expenditures.

When the Court of Appeals upheld the death sentence on Feb. 10, 2011, the private lawyer immediately filed a memo of appeal with the Supreme Court on behalf of Veloso.

The DFA also reported that President Aquino signed on Aug. 23, 2011 a letter asking for

clemency from then Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Jose also reported that the Philippine ambassador personally hand-carried in March 2012 a letter from Veloso's family requesting for clemency to the Indonesian Foreign Ministry and another copy was given to District Court and District Attorney's Office in Sleman District.

On Dec. 30 last year, Widodo issued presidential decision rejecting clemency.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed for a stay in the execution of Veloso and the nine others.

Appeals

Families of overseas Filipino workers have joined calls for the Indonesian government to stop the execution of Veloso.

"Most of the OFWs who chose to risk their lives abroad are women. Mary Jane Veloso is not just another victim of human trafficking but a victim of government's neglect of obligation to secure the life of our OFWs," Flor Chan, regional coordinator of Migrante Southern Tagalog, said.

Chan blamed the Aquino government for Veloso's fate. She said the government had failed to provide protection, services and immediate response to Veloso and other OFWs facing threats, persecution and different forms of harassment in other countries.

More than 30,000 individuals from 127 countries, meanwhile, have signed an online petition to save Veloso.

Christine Roque, campaigner for Change.org in the Philippines, said citizens around the world have united to support a petition (<http://change.org/savemaryjane>) calling on Widodo to spare the life of the convicted Filipina.

Nepal quake rescue effort ramps up, toll hits 3,200

By Paavan Mathema

Tens of thousands of residents spend the night sleeping out on the streets, in makeshift tents fashioned from plastic sheeting that did little to protect them from heavy overnight rains



KATHMANDU, Nepal – International rescue teams and relief supplies began arriving in Nepal’s devastated capital Monday, April 27, to help terrified and homeless survivors of a quake that has killed more than 3,200 people in the impoverished nation.

Equipped with heavy cutting gear and accompanied by sniffer dogs, rescue teams were landing round-the-clock at the country’s only international airport on the outskirts of Kathmandu, the normally vibrant capital which has been devastated by Saturday’s (April 25) 7.8 magnitude quake.

Officials say more than 3,300 people are now known to have died, including 3,218 in Nepal – making it the quake-prone Himalayan nation’s deadliest disaster in more than 80 years.

Around 90 people have been killed in neighboring countries, including at least 67 in India and 20 in China.

The earthquake also triggered an avalanche on Mount Everest which buried part of base camp and killed at least 18 people.

Aftershocks triggered fresh avalanches there on Sunday, April 26, even as helicopters evacuated some of those worst injured the day before.

Hundreds of foreign mountaineers had gathered at the world’s highest mountain at the start of the annual climb-

RUSH TO SAFETY. A handout photo provided by the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) on April 26, 2015 of IFRC Rescue workers carrying an injured person in Kathmandu, Nepal.

ing season, and the real scale of the disaster there has been impossible to evaluate with communications all but cut off.

‘Why do we suffer?’

With much of Kathmandu lying in ruins, tens of thousands of residents spent the night slept out on the streets, in makeshift tents fashioned from plastic sheeting that did little to protect them from heavy overnight rains.

With the ground still regular shaking from nerve-shredding aftershocks, many endured a sleepless and miserable night.

“We don’t have a choice, our house is shaky. The rain is seeping in but what can we do?,” said 34-year-old shopkeeper Rabi Shrestha as he camped out on the roadside.

“I don’t know why the gods want us to suffer like this.”

The situation has been exacerbated by power cuts and the country’s cell phone network is at breaking point.

The Nepalese government said it was stepping up efforts to help remote areas closer to the epicenter of the quake.

“Our focus is on rescue,” home ministry spokesman Laxmi Prasad Dhakal told Agence France-Presse. “In far-flung areas, a larger he-

licopter will be stationed in the regional headquarters and smaller ones will shuttle with survivors.”

Announcing the latest death toll in Nepal, a top disaster official said that emergency crews would also step up their efforts to rescue those trapped in high-rise buildings which pancaked on Saturday.

“Our efforts today will also be focused on finding survivors in areas where big buildings have collapsed,” Rameshwor Dangal, who heads the home ministry’s national disaster management division, told Agence France-Presse.

The historic 9-storey Dhara-hara tower, a major tourist attraction, was among the buildings brought down in Kathmandu Saturday.

Police said around 150 people were thought to have been in the tower at the time of the disaster, based on ticket sales.

“At least 30 dead bodies have been pulled out. We don’t have a number on the rescued but over 20 injured were helped out,” local police official Bishwa Raj Pokharel told Agence France-Presse.

“We haven’t finished our work there, rescue work is still continuing. Right now, we are not in a position to estimate how many might be trapped.”



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MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 25, 2015

ONE MOMENT TO REMEMBER

By Glenn D. Carrasca
United State Air Force Retired

We are a nation so free that we sometimes take this privilege quite for granted. The hard edge of gratitude has given ways to soft, single-minded pursuits of happiness. We gleefully pick the fruits of freedom, often without pausing to tend or pay tribute to the roots which bare them. We should be able to say, "I know why I am free and know who sacrificed their lives for me."

During this Memorial Day we direct all attention in one great moment to those fallen in service to this country - giving the ultimate sacrifice to establish and preserve our freedom and privileges.



Bill to Uncover Education and Health Disparities in the API Community Passes First Committee

AB 176 Requires Disaggregated Data for API Ethnic Subgroups

(Sacramento, CA) – Today Assemblymember Rob Bonta (D-Oakland) is proud to announce that the Assembly Higher Education Committee passed his bill, AB 176, to uncover many of the social, economic, and educational disparities in the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community.



Assemblymember Rob Bonta

"The population of California is uniquely diverse, especially within the API community. There's no place on the planet like it." Bonta went on to name a few of the subgroups in the API population. "Hmong, Vietnamese, Korean, Filipino, Tongan....There are more than 23 distinct communities within the Asian American population and 19 within the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population."

Bonta explained that each of these API communities has different health and educational outcomes and needs. "With

respect to education and public health, the outcomes of some of the largest groups within the API population raise the average outcome of the greater API population as a whole. So by relying on the aggregated data of the API community, California misses the needs of growing ethnic subpopulations. For example, although data related to the average API student demonstrates high academic achievements, disaggregated data sheds light on the harsh reality that Southeast Asian subgroups suffer from much lower achievement rates than other API groups."

AB 176 would require the State Department of Public Health and the administration of the California Community Colleges, California State University, and the University of California to use specified categories for each major Asian and Pacific Islander group when they collect certain categories of demographic data. For example, the bill would require the collection of disaggregated data for graduation rates, completion, enrollment and admission for higher education. Bonta says the state will be better able to determine what the needs of each of the subgroups are based on the information to be collected.

Bonta concluded, "It's critical that our policy leaders understand this diversity and are sensitive to the fact that APIs are not all the same. While we share some of the same challenges, such as language access issues, racial discrimination, and obstacles born of immigration, each of our diverse communities has different social, economic and educational outcomes that need to be addressed appropriately."

Assemblymember Bonta represents the 18th Assembly District, which includes the cities of Oakland, Alameda, and San Leandro. Bonta Chairs the Assembly Health Committee; the Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security Committee; and the Select Committee on the Status of Boys and Men of Color. He is also a member of the following committees: Appropriations, Budget, Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services, Joint Legislative Budget, and Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management.



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2016: A vote for the future or a return to the past?

'Actions have consequences. History has taught us that Marcos' election in 1964 had dire consequences that we still wallow in to this day.'

By Bertrand Rodriguez Jr

When you look up the meaning of nostalgia, you will learn that it has something to do with the past. When you are nostalgic, you reminisce happy memories of a place or time when you think things were better.

For most of us Filipino Gen X and millennials, we are reminded every now and then that our Inang Bayan had its share of the lime-light back in the 1950s and 1960s. Back then, the Philippines boasted of having the second fastest economic growth and the second most progressive economy in Asia after Japan. At that time, we even had the most modern airport in Southeast Asia, which now sadly ranks as one of the worst airports in the world. (At least no longer the worst, according to the latest survey.)

We were second to Japan back then, but decades-long corruption under the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos plunged the Philippine economy into an abyss. Its social, political, and economic repercussions still haunt us to this day. Disappointingly, many Filipinos seem to forget this or simply turn a blind eye on how the Marcoses bled this country dry, as the Marcoses still hold important elected positions in this country.

Never Again Marcos

The Marcoses should be forever held accountable for ingraining corruption in all levels of Philippine society and instilling political apathy in the minds of millions of Filipinos. The word or name Marcos should be forever etched in the annals of history and immortalized in dictionaries as anything pertaining to a dynastic form of corruption characterized by political dictatorship, excessive cronyism, economic mismanage-



CROWNED. Former Philippine first lady and current Congress Representative Imelda Marcos (C) is crowned with flowers during her 85th birthday celebration in the town of Batac, Ilocos Norte province, northern Philippines, July 2, 2014. Francis R. Malasig/EPA

ment, and social injustice – just as Imelda Marcos' ostentatious lifestyle ended up as "imeldific" in the English dictionary.

The Philippines suffered so much under the Marcoses, and every Filipino for generations to come must not forget this. We must never again suffer under a Marcos regime.

Back to second, roaring like a tiger

Twenty-nine years after the EDSA People Power Revolution that toppled the Marcos dictatorship, the Philippines is back to being second in Asia but this time behind a different shadow – China's.

Every now and then, the Internet is abuzz with how the Philippines has shed its infamous title as the perennial "Sick Man of Asia" to become the next Asian tiger. Aside from having an annual growth rate one and a half times higher than the world average and a declining foreign debt-to-GDP ratio, other macro-economic indicators point to a strong and stable economy.

In fact, for the first time in its history, the Philippines was given investment grade status by the Big Three credit rating agencies. The IMF now even classifies it as

a creditor. True enough, the BSP has loaned \$1 billion to the failing Eurozone.

Some of us are already looking too far ahead. Based on similar projections by Goldman-Sachs, HSBC, and the IMF, the Philippines will belong to the top 20 largest economies in the world by 2050, with a per capita income of more than \$10,000 – more than twice as now. But will these predictions ever come to fruition and benefit the entire nation in the future? In 2016, we shall know.

2016, the turning point

The same way that 1964 proved to be a pivotal year for the economic and political history of the country, next year will be another turning point. We, as a nation, will decide whether to rise up from being second in Asia or to go back to being one of the poorest in the world. The road to the future is going to depend on who the next leader will be.

One reason why the Philippines could not progress is because our nation is still ingrained in a political cycle centered on personal vengeance. One belligerent political family replaces another and takes the reins of government to

undermine the achievements of its political foes.

Instead of building on any political or economic gains of his predecessor, the new leader of the land would, without any hesitation, scrap any proven policies and programs instituted by his predecessor because he believes continuing them could compromise his own political mandate and personal economic agenda. In effect, every change in leadership becomes not a step up but more of a step back to zero.

Our political history has been nothing more than a vast collection of political agendas and personal crusades of vindictive political families interrupted by countless revolts and revolutions that fail time and time again to change the status quo.

We pride ourselves with toppling a dictator through a bloodless revolution in 1986. We gave each other a pat on the back once more after EDSA II in 2001 overthrew a corrupt and incompetent leader. Every time we launch a massive demonstration attacking our government on the streets, we feel empowered and believe that the world is looking at us with admiration. Sadly, we are left fooling ourselves. For in the eyes of the world, the democracy that we cherish and fight for is nothing but a flawed concept. Our flawed democracy is nothing more than a government ruled by powerful oligarchs that use us as pawns in their political games.

Throughout the archipelago, political families and dynasties extend their clout to all aspects of Philippine society, from public administration to private enterprises. They even strive to earn the blessing of the still influential Catholic Church to give the masses an illusion that their political aspirations rest on a solid moral and spiritual bedrock.

The 5Gs: The pillars of Philippine politics

In these modern times, using the

name of God and aiming for Glory has been universally proven to be a potent combination that could lead to disastrous results in the hands of unscrupulous and corrupt political forces. Add Gold to the equation and you will surely have a fool-proof recipe for a major economic catastrophe. And if the politician wants to rule indefinitely by repressing the rights of the citizenry and gagging his political dissenters, it does not need a lot of intellect to realize that he will definitely use Guns and Goons as well. Unfortunately, "Gold, God, Glory, Guns and Goons" still remain as the 5 pillars of Philippine politics.

Actions have consequences. History has taught us that Marcos' election in 1964 had dire consequences that we still wallow in to this day.

When we vote next year :

We must NOT ALLOW any form of political intimidation (Guns and Goons) to prevent us from safeguarding the future of our children and their children.

We must STAY AWAY from politicians who are obviously running for the sole purpose of clearing up their family names for any blunder they or their predecessors have done in the past. These politicians are not going to shy away from exalting their family name, let alone their dead (Glory).

We must NOT EVEN CONSIDER politicians who use religion and God to sway the votes of millions in their favor.

We must NOT VOTE for politicians who have tarnished the reputation of their public offices for their personal aggrandizement (Gold).

Above all, we must be mindful of the past, so we can vote for a better future.

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PerryScope

Is Napoles' conviction fair to the people?

By Perry Diaz

Reclusion perpetua, or 20 years and one day to 40 years in prison, was the sentence meted to Janet Lim Napoles for the crime of "Serious Illegal Detention" against whistleblower Benhur Luy, not for the more serious charges of graft and plunder she's facing before the graft court Sandiganbayan.



Janet Lim Napoles

Since Napoles is already sentenced to reclusion perpetua -- Latin for "permanent imprisonment" -- it really doesn't matter much if the Sandiganbayan would convict her of plunder. The plunder charge that arose from the P10-billion pork barrel scam has been lingering in the graft court with no conviction in sight.

Now that Napoles is safely "hidden" from public view and scrutiny for at least the next 20 years, the pressure to prosecute her is off. The plunder case can then be put in the back burner, to simmer slowly -- very slowly -- to keep it just warm enough for the wheel of justice to move, albeit at a much slower pace.

But to a lot of people, particularly many members of Congress who allegedly have had illicit deals with Napoles to "steal" from their pork barrel allocations, the conviction of Napoles gave them a sigh of relief. Now they can go about with their normal lives with no "Sword of Damocles" hanging over their heads.

Indeed, except for three of their colleagues, life has been so good to these lawmakers in the past four years of the Aquino administration. With record amounts of pork barrel allocations and the "extra" pork they received through the illegal Disbursement Acceleration

Program (DAP), many lawmakers have a lot to thank Napoles for the use of her bogus non-government organizations (NGOs) to funnel and launder their takes from their pork barrel. The least they can do for her is to let her serve her time in prison peacefully... and silently. Of course "silence" would also benefit these lawmakers. As the late Senator Genaro Magsaysay used to say, "Silence of golden," silence would indeed be the ambrosia for their political survival.

Conviction by convenience

But what I find rather strange is the ease with which Napoles was prosecuted for "Serious Illegal Detention." Was it a case of "conviction by convenience," which Napoles may have agreed to in order to satisfy some powerful people who'd want her "silence" in exchange for her life? And what would be a better choice: life in prison or life in the afterworld?

But how about the lives of the three senators -- ex-Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Senators Jingoy Estrada and Bong Revilla

-- who are now in detention for the plunder charges relating to the Napoles pork barrel scam? Charged with a non-bailable offense, the three could be in detention for the rest of their lives if Napoles refused to cooperate and testify against them. And why should she? She's already incarcerated and won't see the light of day for the next 20 years. To help in the prosecution as a state witness against the three senators wouldn't help her case unless the president would grant her executive clemency during the Christmas season this year.

The question is: Would President Aquino pardon Napoles? While it has been speculated that Napoles



Happier days: Estrada, Revilla and Enrile

was politically connected with Aquino as evidenced by photos taken of Aquino and members of

the Napoles family during political and fund-raising events, an executive clemency for Napoles seems like a political hot potato. But didn't former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo pardon convicted plunderer ex-president Joseph "Erap" Estrada? It would then surprise no one if the next president would grant clemency to Napoles and the three senators, which would makes one wonder: Who would be the president most likely to pardon Napoles and the three senators?

Presidential derby

Today, the presidential front-runner is Vice President Jejomar "Jojo" Binay, who, so far, is the only one who has declared his candidacy. However, close behind him -- and getting closer -- is Sen. Grace Poe, who has yet to declare her candidacy but the bets are on that she will run for president. The latest Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey shows Binay with a popularity rating of 36% last March, down from 37% in December. But Poe's popularity has increased significantly, from 21% in December to 31% last March. With the presidential election still a little over a year away, their ratings could change dramatically in the following months.

Assuming that the two main contenders for the presidency are Binay and Poe, who, between them, would most likely, grant clemency to Napoles and the three senators? To some people, it's a no-brainer -- "Of course, Binay will pardon them, stupid!"

I concede, but how about Poe? Hmm...

Realpolitik

While Poe doesn't seem to have any direct connection to Napoles or any of the three senators, there would be powerful and influential people who would seek clemency for them. But would she be able to resist them, some of whom might be big contributors to her presidential campaign? She might be able to resist at the beginning of her term. But it would be a different situation once realpolitik takes hold. By that time, horse-trading would once again be the norm rather than the exception.

Which makes one wonder if Napoles and the three senators would



Rare encounter: Grace meets Jojo

ever be convicted of plunder? It reminds me of American gangster Alphonse Capone. Unable to gather evidence to prosecute and convict Capone of more serious crimes, the Federal government decided to charge him for a much lesser charge, tax evasion. In 1931, Capone was found guilty and sentenced to 11 years in prison. He was never found guilty of any of the more serious crimes he committed. Is Janet Lim Napoles going to be the Philippines' Alphonse Capone, never to be convicted of more serious crimes?

For now, we have to settle for a conviction to a lesser crime of "Serious Illegal Detention," which begs the question: Is Napoles' conviction fair to the people?

(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

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Bataan Day: A Time of Remembrance and Recognition

By Jon Melegrito

Washington, D.C. U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba (Ret) today called on the American people to remember the sacrifices and suffering of the men and women who fought valiantly in Bataan and endured the Bataan "Death March" 73 years ago.

"It was a historic moment, one that will always serve as an inspiration for all Americans and Filipinos," Taguba said. "We owe these brave heroes our deepest debt of gratitude for their perseverance and faithful service to the cause of freedom."

"This is also a time of honor and remembrance for their families who have entrusted their loved ones to this nation's military, waited for their safe return, welcomed those who returned home and grieved for the sons and daughters who gave their lives."

In recalling the contributions of Filipino World War II veterans to the war effort, Taguba also points out that America has yet to say 'thank you' and give them their well-deserved recognition. "There has never been a formal declaration to recognize their wartime service," he says. "Before we close this dark chapter in American history, we must honor them for their exemplary record of selfless sacrifice and love of country."

NATIONWIDE CAMPAIGN. Towards this end, Taguba is leading the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project (FilVetREP). Formed last year, its mission is to raise awareness through academic research and public education and obtain national recognition of the Filipino American WWII Soldiers for their wartime service to the United States and Philippines from July 1941 to December 1946. This nationwide campaign also aims to seek an Act of US Congress to award a congressional gold medal to the

Filipino American WWII soldiers, the highest civilian award in the U.S. Taguba estimates there are over 200,000 Filipino soldiers who fought in WWII. Only 16,000 to 17,000 soldiers remain in the US and the Philippines and their death toll is growing.

"Unlike previous legislative efforts with the Filipino veterans which focused on benefits, this is primarily about recognition which is long overdue," says Marie Blanco, FilVetREP vice chair and former Chief of Staff to the late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, a champion of veterans rights during his more than 50 years in the Senate. "We are confident that Congress will once and for all recognize the valuable contributions of these brave soldiers to the cause of freedom."

"Filipino American World War II soldiers are equally deserving of this award because they fought valiantly under the American flag," adds Maj. Gen. Delfin Lorenzana (Ret), Director of Washington DC's Philippine Veterans Affairs Office and a member of the FilVetREP Board. "But the Rescission Acts of 1946 deprived them of all non-service-connected veterans' benefits and changed the status of Filipino Veterans almost immediately upon conclusion of the War," he said.

"Having worked closely with Filipino veterans in their struggle for justice over the years, I know this campaign to secure a Congressional Gold Medal to recognize their great sacrifices would be very meaningful for them and their families," points out Luisa Antonio, also a FilVetREP board member and executive director of the Veterans Equity Center in San Francisco, CA. "We are calling on the American and Filipino people to support this undertaking and make it happen not only for those who are still alive but to honor those who have died."



STILL STANDING World War II veterans pose against the background of the shrine to Filipino heroism in Pilar, Bataan province.

'BATTLING BASTARDS.'

Bataan Day, or "Day of Valor," commemorates the heroism of more than 200,000 Filipino and American soldiers during World War II. Despite out-dated weap-



ons, low ammunition, inadequate supplies and virtually no support from the U.S. military high command, these "Battling Bastards" (as they called themselves later on) gave their last full measure and fought the

enemy fiercely to the end.

No less than Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Field Marshall of the Philippine Army, praised the Bataan force for fighting in a battle they were never expected to

they were ordered to walk for 90 miles to a prison camp in Tarlac. Thousands of prisoners died during the Bataan Death March due to starvation, dehydration and disease.

Their heroic stand in Bataan and Corregidor slowed down the advances of the Japanese troops, giving allied forces valuable time to prepare for other battles in the Pacific theater. As US Army historian Jennifer Bailey puts it, "It delayed the Japanese timetable for the conquest of South Asia, [and] became a symbol of hope for the United States in the early, bleak days of the war."

Taguba adds: "It was with honor when these veterans served the country of their birth, and defended the nation who called them to serve. They would be honored if this nation would now grant them the recognition they highly deserve."

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The Pangasinan Association of Northern California, Inc.

Celebrates their 65th Anniversary Dinner and Dance & the 2015 Scholarship

By Carle and Sarah Enloe

The Pangasinan Association of Northern California, Inc. presented an evening of sophistication and elegance on Saturday, March 28, 2015, as they presented its 65th Anniversary Dinner and Dance along with their 2015 Pangasinan Scholarships at the Jose Rizal Community Center, Sacramento, CA.

Mercy Guerrero, Mistress of Ceremony (MC) for the evening's event, opened the program and welcomed everyone. Apollross Reyes sang the National Anthems. MC Mercy introduced President Ray Oineza, who gave a brief welcome address. Father Ruel Mesa, Pastor of St. Peter and All Hollows Parish, gave the invocation. After the invocation, the guests were served a delicious dinner. During dinner, the guests were entertained by President Ray and First Lady Julie, who performed a beautiful and elegant ballroom dance. Ruben Albasa - Black Fish was the DJ for the event.

Following dinner, MC Mercy introduced and acknowledged the dignitaries present. Then she introduced Aurora Ramos, who introduced the Guest Speaker of the Evening - Dave Tamayo, SMUD Board of Director, Ward 6. Director Dave Tamayo gave a short and thoughtful presentation. After his speech, Dr. Fred Aquino presented Director Dave with an appreciation award. Then MC Mercy introduced the Kapitbahay Dancers led by Lilia Rivera. The Kapitbahay Dancers performed an entertaining routine for the guests' entertainment.

Afterwards, MC Mercy announced that it was time for the presentation of the 2015 Pangasinan Scholars. President Ray assisted by Director Dave Tamayo presented the 2015 Pangasinan Scholarship Awards to two very deserving Filipino youths. The first awardee was Kalina Ramos San-



Photos by Dave San Pedro

geo, River City High School, West Sacramento, CA and the daughter of Darlene and Waldeep Singh. The second awardee was Alexander Raymond Oineza, Consumnes Oaks High School, Elk Grove, CA and the son of Ronald and Laurie Oineza.

Then the main event of the evening, the Presentation and Coronation of the "Pangasinan 65th Anniversary Queen 2015" - First Lady Julie Oineza. Queen Julie was presented her sash by President Ray, which

was donated by Ray and Julie Oineza. Julie Vergara and Tom Amaba crowned Queen Julie and the crown was donated by Julie Vergara. After the coronation, Queen Julie was presented a beautiful bouquet by Mercy Guerrero and Nick Cautudan, which was donated by Mercy Guerrero. Congratulation to Queen Julie.

Following the Presentation and Coronation of the "Pangasinan 65th Anniversary Queen 2015" -First Lady Julie Oineza, MC Mercy introduced Aida Azurin, President, Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, who gave the closing remarks.

We would like to give a special acknowledgement and thanks to Dave San Pedro, Five D's Arts. Inc. and Philippine Fiesta

Newspaper, for providing the photographs for this article.

Congratulations to the Pangasinan Association on reaching their 65th Anniversary. We wish the organization all the success possible in the coming years. This was a truly memorable evening for all. Also, we would like to acknowledge and thank The Pangasinan Association, its officers, and the members of the event committees for their hard work and dedication in making this 65th Anniversary Celebration so successful. Happy 65th Anniversary!



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Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity Spring Fashion Extravaganza

By Faina E. Abaya

One Saturday evening in April when Paris or even New York, the two cities reputedly to be the centers of world high fashion were relegated into oblivion as perceived by the almost 200 diversified fashion conscious audience of the Filipino American community in Sacramento, California.

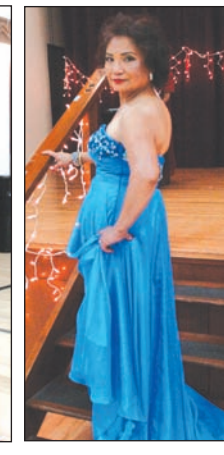
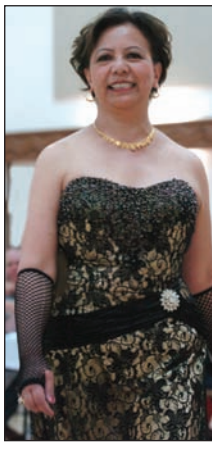
Indeed, who would think of Parisian models or New York live mannequins in such a moment, when the admiring discriminating audience will be awed and mesmerized of the beauty, grace and elegance of the Filipinas modeling their own version of dresses in the fashion world. The models, none of them are professionals who simply defied age and physical attributes were to showcase the variety of dresses to make the Filipino women equal in dress sophistication to the most modern women on the planet. The models will also showcase the richness and elegance of our regional traditional dresses.

The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity in cooperation and collaboration with other organizations as well as fashion conscious volunteers brought out the idea as one of the series of events to raise funds for the long time dream of everyone in our city to build our own Filipino Cultural Center.

On April 18, 2015 at the Jose Rizal Community Center, Florin Mall Drive, Sacramento, the fashion creativity of the organizers was put into action and reality which was dubbed as Spring Fashion Extravaganza.

The auditorium was fittingly decorated to accentuate the taste of fashion aficionados. The tables and chairs were covered with white linen cloth and well arranged jade flowers in a pot as table center piece while the stage was lighted with hundreds of miniature illuminating decorative yellowish bulbs. Newly cut white flowers in bunches were put on the stage to bring out the aura of freshness of the place as the models will show their couture or personal designed attire.

As usual, Dr. Fred Aquino the iconic com-



Photos by Dave San Pedro

Continued on page 12

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Spring Fashion Extravaganza

From page 11

munity leader known for his sartorial elegance who was impeccably wearing a black intricately embroidered Barong Tagalog emceed the program as he promptly started by calling Maria Bahoric to sing both the American and Filipino National Anthems. Sister Josie Tanudtanud RVM led the opening prayer invoking the guidance of the Divine Providence for the success of the evening's event mission.

Immediately thereafter, the amiable and energetic Aida Azurin well dressed in her striking blue Filipino formal terno, the President of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity was called for her welcome address. She said that the purpose of the evening's Fashion Extravaganza is to raise needed funds for the Filipino Cultural Center building to become the repository of our great heritage, culture and tradition. Likewise, she also expressed her profound gratitude to everyone for graciously accepting their invitations to enjoy the night and contribute for the betterment of our community.

President Azurin also added, "I sincerely thank and appreciate the following friends who organized and assisted in the choreography of the participants. They are Janet Tavora, Mercy Guererro, Nellie Umali, Sarah Enloe, Dr. Fred Aquino, Mina Guerra and Joe Gonzales". Furthermore, she said "I also thank the committee members who worked hard to put this event tonight".

Filipino and Chinese catered cuisines were served and while everyone was busy with their food, entertainment was performed by community diva Remy Solomon and songstress Estela Rabara who regaled their admiring audience with their professional like performances.

Another active community leader Rick Rafanan takes the honor to acknowledge the presence of our prominent community personalities such as former Ambassador George Aducaen, Atty. Beatrice Alo, Dr. Fred Aquino, Dr. Tony Solomon, Henry Bambao, Ling Avera, Nellie Umali, Sarah Enloe, Mercy Guererro, Dave and Dinnah San Pedro, Mimie Weitzenberg, Dolores Diaz, and Letty O'Quin.

While waiting for the models to come out from the stage, a "cowboy like" dance was performed by Anabel Gibbs and company which was well applauded. Remy Solomon made an encore of a love song entitled "Ikaw" that nostalgically spellbound her audience especially at the end of the song when she lovingly pointed to her better half as the "Ikaw" being referred to in her song.

Mercy Guererro, the vice president of FCSV who exudes elegance in her red evening gown took the podium to introduce the models for the formal evening gown



Photos by Faina Abaya

outfits. One after the other of the 14 participants was called from the stage as each was helped by Joe Gonzales and Melchor Munar to go down from the same.

Indeed, the evening gowns worn by the models were made from expensive fabric and of the finest material accentuating the discriminating taste of the models. The evening gowns were of varied colors from plain white to blue or from black to yellow and the mixed combination of colors were perfect blending of the formal dresses to add the elegance and luster of the models. Each of the models walked around the middle isle of the auditorium to show the gracefulness and delicate designed of their respective gowns. All the models were stunningly awesome for their grace and elegance. Everyone received thunderous applause from their admiring audience.

Formal evening gown models were: Bella Nidoy, Anna Lizette Umali, Carol Munar, Luz Duclan, Sylvia Fortis, Linda Gibson, Esperanza Agbayani, Lena Kuhue, Nori Brooks, Vickie Debord, Anabel Gibbs, Chazz Balance, Lovi Prieto, Estela Rabara and Bembet Borromeo.

Another prominent Filipino American community leader, Sarah Enloe, the President of the Maharlika Lions Club who could be a model herself is wearing a typical beautiful red Maria Clara influenced design complementing her tanned flawless complexion takes the privilege to bring out the Filipiniana models. And as each of the models descent from the stage and went around the center isle of the auditorium, Sarah Enloe briefly described the model's Filipino traditional dress in the following manner;

"*Arlene Bautista, is wearing an Alampay or Panuelo a type of shawl worn over the camisa".

"*Karen Lookingbill is wearing Baro at saya which evolved into many variations and colorful combinations. The Baro became a gauzy outer shirt with fine embroidery and wide sleeves, more popularly known as the kimona. The saya she models is flowing skirt with flower designed appliques".

"*Carina Gonzales is wearing a light green traditional one piece Filipino long dress. It is known for its butterfly sleeves and is usually worn in formal occasions. The name of the dress means to match in Spanish,

described the time when the top and bottom pieces of the dress were made of matching materials sewn at the centre, creating one-piece flowing gown".

*Janice Shiu is wearing a traditional Kalinga outfit and the fabric is created by the women weavers in Kalinga province part of the Cordillera Administrative Region in a time-honored practice of back strap weaving. Men and women of old used native cotton threads dyed into black, red and yellow colors with herbs and plants. This unique evening gown uses the same hand woven fabric accessorized with delicate shells and finished with patterns of mountains and rivers hand embroidered in the fabric".

*Susan Castillo- her attire declares a light fusion of urban chic the easy and carefree spirit of campus life. The outfit is highlighted by the "UP Sablay", the official academic symbol of the University of the Philippines. The baybayin characters in the center stand for the letters U and P".

*Maria Bahoric, Olive Jackson and Linda Gibson were wearing one of the most regal Filipiniana gowns that one can offer. The gown is a traditional Maria Clara dress worn by women in the Philippines. This Filipino dress is from pina or pineapple which is made to a very delicate fabric with graceful designs and sleeves.

"*Beep Alo is wearing a Maranao Royal Dress- It is usually worn during the Singkil dance, which mimics the trials and gracefulness of the legendary Maranao princess as she avoided entangling her feet in the cursed forest while the Maranao prince attempts to rescue her. Basically done in golden silk, it has ornate floral embroideries and golden beads".

Other Filipiniana Models who were equally applauded for their traditional Filipino costumes were: Erlinda Aglubat, Vicky Johnson, Cindy Ortega, Aida Antanuccio, Mercury Acosta, Julie Oineza, Santi Galinato, Karen Lookingbill, Olive Jackson, Emilia Coagas-Dones and Mely Babon.

Just like the previous models, the magnificent presentation of the Filipiniana portion has embodied the splendor and richness of the past and present of our traditional costumes with the innate grace and elegance of the models likewise, received thunderous applause from their fascinated audience. Mina Guerra in her closing remarks reiterated their heartfelt gratitude to all concerned who worked feverishly for the success of the fashion show and she also thanks those who volunteered to model in the fashion show.

The Kabit bahay and Pangasinan dancers performed their much applauded dance numbers as the public followed to dance until the closing hours of the night.

Sac State Fraternity Restores Cultural Landmark

By Dale Esperante

Last week, the Filipino-American-based fraternity Chi Rho Omicron from the California State University of Sacramento, completed its month long restoration project of American Legion Post #604 Magellan Hall, a Filipino-American Veterans Memorial Hall constructed in the 1950s. The college fraternity, also known as XPO, volunteered at a veterans' luncheon at the location last December and noticed the run down condition of the building.

"The paint was peeling on every side of the building and you could even see where the bare wood was starting to rot. We come here every year to help out at the luncheon and it looked like it was getting worse over time." - XPO Community Chair Her Hang.

It was then that the Sac State students decided that they wanted to dedicate their time and plan a restoration project to repaint Magellan Hall.

"We've never done a project this big before," said XPO Vice President Michael Ednave, "I mean we've done canned food drives and hosted awareness events, but repainting an entire building that's something really great."

Being a student-led organization, the fraternity needed to fundraise 100% of the expenses for such a feat to be a possibility. They drafted a GoFundMe page and sourced through social media and local networks to get the word out about their project over the course of two months. After a slow start, they were able to reach their fundraising goal of over \$1,200 just in time to start their project on schedule.

On April 9th, the fraternity began their restoration project by pressure washing and cleaning the entire premises. They pulled out all of the weeds and took down all of the signage around the building.

"We didn't even pick up a paint brush until the third day. We wanted to make sure everything was prepped right before we got to work on the actual painting. Scraping off the old paint, sanding everything down, and taping up all of the windows and wall fixtures, the preparation is just as important as the painting itself." - XPO Treasurer Arthur Ruvalcaba

By the third day the group had over twenty members working around the clock on the main walls of the structure. There were groups dedicated to painting and groups aimed at filling cracks and holes in the building and groups following to clean and touch up as they went around the building. These college students spent over 10 hour days on the weekends to volunteer at the site.

The restoration project was officially completed last Wednesday, April 15th after all of the final touch ups were made.

"It's crazy you know, seeing these guys dedicate so much time and hard work into this. Coming everyday for an entire week, in between and after classes and work, all



American Legion Post #604 Magellan Hall

Photos by Dale Esperante



The Chi Rho Omicron of California State University of Sacramento



Fraternity Pres. B.K. Evangelista accepted the award on behalf of the Fil-Am Veterans community

working towards a common goal. When you think of college fraternities, you think about partying and drinking and not really putting much out for the community. But these guys are the real deal. It is times like this that remind me why I joined such a respectable brotherhood." -XPO & Sac State Alumni Randall Rabadam

The fraternity attended the American Legion general meeting at Magellan Hall that weekend to accept an award of appreciation on behalf of the Filipino-American "Veterano" community.

The award was accepted by their President B.K. Evangelista.

"It's a great honor to accept this award for our project on behalf of my organization. But it was an even greater honor to see the happiness and gratitude in the veteranos faces as they applauded us for our efforts. This was something that we have never done before, and we are thankful and blessed to be able to have this opportunity to express our personal gratitude for these heroes."

Chi Rho Omicron is a Filipino-American based Fraternity at California State University Sacramento that strives to promote the understanding, enrichment, and appreciation of the Filipino culture, history, and heritage. Their philanthropy revolves around serving the Filipino Veterano community, especially those who did not receive military benefits after the Rescission Act of 1946.

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 Teens - 12 years old to 17 years old
 Adults - 18years and up

There will be First and Second Winners for each catagories.
 Winners will win cash and gift prizes.
 Qualifying singers will be selected on April 25th at Sari Sari Buffet from 2pm to 4pm.
 Semi Finalist will be selected on Saturday, May 16th at Sari Sari Buffet. Contest will start at 2pm.
 Two semi finalist will move on to the finals on June 7th.
 1st and 2nd for each catagories will be selected on June 7th at the Filipino Fiesta.
 For more information and to sign up call:
 Rene Abeleda at 916-719-8100

Birthdays



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APRIL 20



NATHANIEL NGO
MAY 30



FAINA ABAYA
MAY 18



FELY ESPLANA
MAY 11



TESS SANTOS with Dinnah and Levy
APRIL 27



TESS ARCA
MAY 27



ARDEN ABELEDA and wife Neda
MAY 11



DANE SAN PEDRO
APRIL 17

Anniversary



NANCY and FRANK BAUTISTA
46h Wedding Anniversary, April 6



SUSAN and REY DE JESUS
35th Wedding Anniversary, May 3



FRED and LITA CALINDAS
Wedding Anniversary, April 27

Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2015,
GRANDMASTER ESKRIMA
SEMINAR 10am - 1pm
Felix "Tenciong" Gutang, ODL
Yaw-Yan ArDigma Sacramento Gym
10473 Folsom Blvd. Rancho Cordova
\$30 - Contact Mike Rubi
916.905.2201



Saturday, May 23, 2015
FFF MAY FESTIVAL DINNER & DANCE
6:00 p.m. - 10:30
Semi Formal Donation \$20.00
St. Peters Roman Catholic Church Hall
6210 McMahon Drive, Sacramento, CA
Santa Cruzan
Sunday, May 24, 2015
12:00 noon - 5:00 pm
Dr. Nellie Umali (916) 215-4716
Rose Basos (916) 837-5434
Mercy Guerrero (916) 266-1923



JUNE 7, 2015, SUNDAY
FILIPINO FIESTA OF SACRAMENTO
10AM - 5PM
Jose Rizal Community Center
7230 Florin Mall Dr. Sacramento, Ca
Dick Mason for Interactive/
Activities, (916) 868-7801;
Joe Gonzales for Vendors
and Logistics (916) 396-
7863; Dr. Tony Solomon
for Food-Vendors, (916)
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By Jose P. Abaya, Jr.

The old timer residents of Sacramento who are familiar with the life of Rosalinda "Rose" Meris will tell you that her appearance of being physically frail and soft spoken belied her strong character, a trait she had been known since she arrived in the United States in 1948 for the first time.

She carried such trait since she was young in Naguilian, La Union, where she was born and Baguio City where she grew up to a business minded parents, the late Patricio and Guillerma Estioco. The parents were known to have engaged in various business ventures such as real estate, rice dealership and sawmill from their lumber concession in the province of Cagayan. Rosalinda and the other elder siblings also helped their parents to manage their five storey Estioco apartment building along T. Alonzo street built in 1949 (now under renovation) just a stone throw away from the Saint Louis University campus.

Baguio City is also the place where she spent the happy and best years of her young life with her parents and siblings of five brothers, Genaro (deceased), Esmeraldo, Felimon(deceased), Rufino and Mario together with five sisters Consuelo, Felicisima(deceased), Mary(deceased), Eufemia (deceased) and Faina. It is also the place where she was married to the late (IBP) Atty. Jose Meris, Sr. on July 29, 1945 at the Baguio City Cathedral. Later on, the Meris family moved to Quezon City where they established their permanent residence and the marriage was blessed with five children namely Jovilinda (deceased), Oscar, Aurora, Joaquin and Rosalinda (Bambi).

It was also in Baguio City where she had her early formal education from Elementary to secondary levels. However, she took her Bachelor of Science in Education degree at the Philippine Normal College in Manila and she had a brief stint as a teacher at Lukban Elementary School, Baguio City.

Her inherent entrepreneurial spirit to follow the path of her parents to have her own business venture constrained her to leave her teaching job and looked beyond the ocean for possible business investment. She took a job with Trans World Travel Agency to facilitate her travel and her friends who were also interested to engage business abroad.

Rosalinda's travel to the United States in 1948 was purely business in nature, she was with a group of men and women who engaged in woodcarving business in Baguio City. The popular mood of transportation during those early years was through giant ocean passenger ships like the USS President Wilson and Cleveland which usually took twenty one (21) days to sail from Manila to San Francisco.



July 29, 1945 - Wedding date



Rose with siblings and son Oscar.

The group took the USS President Wilson for their voyage to the United States.

The Baguio City business group which she headed was to observe the feasibility of exporting woodcarving to the United States, especially, during State exposition or any event that engages in business matter.

After attending the California State Fair and other business events in the western coast of the United States, the group was able to conclude that their products were salable on such occasions. She was the first Filipino to be certified exhibitor of Filipino Arts and Crafts and became an official representative of the Philippines to many State Fairs in the United States until the market was saturated with other competitors and countries making the same products.

That first trip was repeated several times bringing with her other friends whom she assisted pro bono for the legal way to enter the United States. Likewise, she also took the opportunity to bring relatives and siblings like Genaro and Esmeraldo who enrolled at the Taloa Flying School at Oakland, California where they get their licenses to fly small recreational plane which they later bought one treating relatives and friends to enjoy flying to Reno or just around California.

Both brothers stayed in Sacramento, California with Esmeraldo entering the United States Military Service and saw action during the Korean War while Genaro married an American citizen. In the



Farewell to Rosalinda Estioco Meris

October 30, 1922 - April 5, 2015



The family of Rose Meris



Lagasca-Estioco and Meris families.

early 1950's she brought with her Felimon and Rufino, who likewise joined the Navy and Army respectively of the United States Military Service who both saw action during the Vietnam War. Mario and Faina also followed to the United States in the late 50's. Mario joined the US Army, while Faina continued her studies at the Bishop Armstrong High School (now Christian Brothers High School) in Sacramento, California where she graduated in 1961.

In 1968, The Meris family decided to immigrate to the United States with their first preference application quota. Rosalinda briefly put up Filipino stores in Stockton and Sacramento but after few years she closed the same for lacked of personnel to manage. Just like new Filipino immigrants, the members of the family of working age looked for jobs. Husband Jose worked with Pacific Bell where he retired while Rosalinda was employed with the Sacramento County where she also retired. Oscar joined the Marine Corps of the United States Military Service where he saw action during the Vietnam War (he received a Purple Heart Medal for being wounded in action during that War). Joaquin later on also joined the United States Military Service where he also retired. Aurora found employment with the Sacramento County where she retired while Rosalinda (Bambi) is now working with the government of the State of California.

Since the time Rosalinda Meris arrived permanently in Sacramen-

to she became active in both social and civic activities of the Filipino American community and became member of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Filipino Women's Club, Pangasinan Association, The Ilocanos of America and the American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604 which she headed as President in years 2004 and 2005.

The great tradition of giving Memorial Services to a fallen member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 604 was held on April 15, 2015 for Rosalinda E. Meris to bid her farewell, to honor and pay their last respect for the services she had rendered with the Auxiliary for our soldiers and veterans.

The simple yet solemn ceremony was led by Leticia O'quinn, the president of the Auxiliary and commander Tom Amaba of the American Legion Magellan Post 604. Both the American and Philippine flags were brought in and placed at both ends of the casket while the Auxiliary banner was displayed just in front of the same. Prayers were rendered by the Auxiliary President Leticia O'quinn and Chaplain Trinidad Cabalfin. Then all the members present wearing their blue and white uniform marched toward the casket to offer their respective poppy flowers into the remains of Rose Meris. "The purpose (of the red poppy) is to remind our members the reason why we are The American Legion, and to honor those who have served, those who are currently serving and most importantly, those who have lost their lives in the line of

service to our nation."

After the funeral services at St. Mary's Cemetery in Sacramento, a reception was held at American Legion Magellan Hall, Gerber Road, to once more remember the life of Rosalinda Meris, who was fondly called manang Rose during her lifetime. The reception was attended by her closest friends, members of the organizations where she belonged during her life time, relatives and the immediate members of the Meris family. The members of the Auxiliary volunteered to serve during the reception and for such kindness the Meris family expressed their heartfelt thanks.

Rosalinda E. Meris is no longer with us and we deeply mourned her passing but we are consoled by the thought that she is now in the Kingdom of her Creator with her loving husband, parents and some of her siblings where there are no pains and sufferings but only eternal peace and tranquility.

The immediate members of the Meris family are deeply touched and would like to express their profound gratitude to all those who extended their condolences in so many ways which we will always treasure as we remember the memories of our beloved mother and grandmother. The Meris family are; Willie and Aurora Maulit, Oscar and Jacqueline Meris, Joaquin and Cathy Meris; grandchildren Will, Jonathan, Justin, Mark, Amy, Jason, Reyna and Merilyn and four great grandchildren.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

“An Untold Triumph”

The Story of the 1st & 2nd Filipino Infantry Regiments, U.S. Army.”

By Jay Paular

This past April 18th, 2015, the Magellan Hall Post 604 was an appropriate venue for the showing of “An Untold Triumph”, the award winning documentary that included many of Sacramento’s pioneer Filipino-American veterans.

This was the the hidden history of the 7,000 Filipino Americans who volunteered for the US Army during WWII, to liberate the Philippines from the Japanese occupation. Among the past commanders and members of the American Legion Post 604, some of the attendees included their children, with names such as Aquitania, Ano, Modelas, Payawal, Visayas, Mazon, Lopez, Labonog, and Bautista. Veterans from all eras met each other, including Bob and Vince Ulep and Ted Tabarango. Vince and Ted met for the first time this day, but in conversation, they discovered they were both at the same base camp in Vietnam in 1968.

After the screening, Atty. Derek Ledda, who’s father was featured in film, shared how hidden history like this must be viewed by the younger generation, who may not learn this in most classrooms. It was the expectation from one of the co-sponsors of the event, the Filipino-American Historical Society of Sacramento-Delta Chapter, that these historical events may attract only 75-100 viewers, but through on going events, we can spread the history of our people as part of the American history that it is.

The other co sponsor was the American Legion Post 604, who’s current commander, Mr. Tom Amaba told the crowd of the history of the Post 604

building and how many of the original farmers in the area, also became part of the 1st and 2nd Filipino Regiments, and helped build the hall where they were meeting. In closing

,the oldest regiment veteran in attendance, 93 year old Mr. Alex Aguinda thanked the people for attending this rare historical film, by producer/writer Noel Dizon.



UNLUCAI (United Naguilian, La Union, Circle of America, Inc.) quarterly meeting on April 18, 2015 at the residence of Henry and Tina Bambao

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Manny Pacquiao's rise to the top

By Gareth A Davies

He starts life in poverty, as a street urchin, makes his way to Manila, and starts to box. He boxes for \$2 dollars a time and sends half of it each time to his mother to help raise his five siblings.

Over the course of the next 20 years, Manny Pacquiao, through his boxing, humility and honesty becomes a symbol of hope for the people of The Philippines. He becomes known as the National Fist. He also earns millions of dollars and becomes a renowned figure in the United States. Pacquiao renounces the gambling and trysts of the past and becomes a born again Christian.

He earns \$80 million for fighting Floyd Mayweather. Much of his money he gives away to good works.

Pacquiao's flashing fists,



From street urchin to Congressman, Gareth A Davies looks through the life of Manny Pacquiao, "the sports story of this era"

bulbous calves and climb as a world champion through eight weight divisions make him so well known, he becomes a Congressman for Sarangani Province.

Many will say that Floyd Mayweather is the boxer of this era; but Pacquiao is the sports story of this era, comparable with any figure in any sport.

How to Score a Boxing Fight

By Gabriel Ortigoza

The much awaited fight between the world's only eight-division boxing champ Manny Pacquiao and the undefeated Floyd Mayweather is finally set on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Tickets for the Fight of the Century were out to the public two weeks before the fight and within 60 seconds all the tickets were sold out.

Original ticket prices ranges from \$1,000 to \$10,000 are now sold in the black market at \$10,000 up to \$150,000. This is the best example behind the principle of the Law of Supply and Demand. Manny Pacquiao has to shell out \$5M for the tickets of his family and friends.

On May 2nd let us join the world and participate by scoring the fight. It's easy. For fans who don't know the 10-point must system scoring in boxing are ask-



ing how this sport is being judged and scored.

Here are some important things to remember on how to score this fight. There are three boxing judges and a third man in the ring - the referee.

If a judge is convinced that boxer X won the round then he gives Boxer X 10 points and Boxer Y 9 points.

If Boxer Y is knocked down, a judge gives 10 points to Boxer X and 8 points to Boxer Y.

If Boxer Y is knocked down twice in a round, a judge gives Boxer X 10 points and Boxer Y 7 points.

If Boxer Y is knocked down thrice, a judge gives Boxer X 10 points and Boxer Y 6 points.

If the fight is even or if there is no winner in a certain round, a judge gives both boxer 10 points each.

Factors that affect the result of the fight are based on boxer's performance in the ring and these are agree-

siveness, offense, defense, the one who controls and dictate the tempo of the fight and effective punching.

After every round, the referee collects the scorecards from three judges and brings them to the commissioner who will sum the total points earned by a boxer and reach a decision.

If a boxer wins in three judges then it is called unanimous decision. If all three judges score it draw then it is called a draw by majority decision. If a boxer gets draw from two judges and wins in another judge then it is called majority draw. If a boxer wins in two judges and get a draw in another judge then it is called majority decision. If a boxer wins in two judges and loss in another judge then it is called split decision for the winner.

Let's get ready to rumble.

A DOZEN THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT FLOYD MAYWEATHER AND MANNY PACQUIAO

Top Fighters Of This Generation Prepare To Square Off On Saturday, May 2 At The MGM Grand Garden Arena

There is just over one week until Floyd "Money" Mayweather and Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao square off for their epic welterweight championship showdown taking place Saturday, May 2 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena that will be co-produced and co-distributed by HBO Pay-Per-View® and SHOWTIME PPV® beginning at 9 p.m. ET/ 6 p.m. PT.

While fans have gotten glimpses into the lives of these fighters through preview shows and social media postings, there are still many aspects of their lives that the public knows nothing about. Before training camp ends and the fighters lace up for fight night, take a look at some interesting things that you might not know about Mayweather and Pacquiao.

FLOYD MAYWEATHER

1. Twizzlers are one of his go-to favorite snacks
2. Ramen noodle soup is one of his favorite meals and he doesn't like 5 star restaurants
3. Averages over 1000 sit-ups a day during training camp
4. He doesn't use ketchup or mustard on hotdogs but uses BBQ sauce
5. A guilty pleasure is playing Mega Touch and holding the highest scores in every game on there- his favorites are Spades, Dominos and word scrambles.
6. The movie Troy with Brad Pitt is one he likes to watch over and over again.
7. Every juice he drinks during training camp is made from scratch
8. When out to eat, He always orders a glass of hot water to let his silverware soak in the glass before using them.
9. The tree trunks he has been using to chop wood are brought in from Big Bear and weigh nearly 700 pounds each.
10. He gets a manicure and pedicure at home once a week during training camp
11. He doesn't use a microwave, only eats food



Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao

cooked and heated up on a stove and in an oven.

12. His morning routine includes brushing teeth for 10 straight minutes.

MANNY PACQUIAO

- 1 He eats steamed white rice and chicken or beef broth at almost every meal
2. Manny will only drink hot or room temperature water. Never cold water because he feels it is not healthy
3. Manny averages over 2,500 sit-ups daily during training camp
4. Manny eats five meals and consumes 8,000 calories daily to keep his weight and energy up
5. Manny regularly has 500 fans follow him on his morning runs in Los Angeles
6. He starts every morning with a Bible reading
7. He loves his Butterfinger

Peanut Butter Cups


8. Over the past 12 months Manny has met with President Obama, President Clinton and Prince Harry

9. Pacman, Manny's nine-year-old Jack Russell terrier and beloved companion, accompanies Manny on all his morning runs and to his workouts at Wild Card. He even has his own frequent flier account

10. Manny is a Lt. Colonel in the reserve force of Philippine Army

11. Floyd Mayweather will be the third consecutive undefeated world champion Manny has faced in the past 13 months

12. Manny is a big photography buff. This week he purchased two Canon flagship cameras - the 1DX -- complete with lenses and accessories.



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The National Archaeological Museum of Athens

By Dale Esperante

A monumental portal in Greece opened freely for a Philippine Fiesta staff writer. Free entrance into one of the world's greatest archaeological museums is granted to journalists (must show journalist card). I read this information online, so my wife Melita encouraged a visit to the museum on the morning of our last day in Athens.

We approached the museum receptionist to ask if I could enjoy the privilege of free access. At first the receptionist said "No" because of a slight communication problem. So I presented her my business card along with a copy of the latest issue of the "Fiesta" and my California driver's license. She examined the documents and after a few seconds, with a smile, she printed out my free ticket.

Thanks to my wife Melita for encouraging me to use my newspaper credentials, we were enriched by the ancient arts and relics exhibited by the renowned national museum. My wife and I are grateful to Dave and Dinnah San Pedro, Pro-



Dale at the National Archaeological Museum of Athens.



A bronze statue of Zeus or Poseidon. Most probably Zeus's.



The golden death-mask of Agamemnon. Discovered in Mycenae, a powerful empire that existed 1600 BC. –



Statue of a fighting Gaul. Parian marble. Found in the Agora of the Italians on Delos island in Greece. The warrior, wounded in the thigh, has fallen to the ground on his right knee, and will have been attempting to defend himself against his enemy with his left arm. On the ground next to him rests a Galatian helmet. Was probably made by the sculptor Agasias, about 100 BC."

prietors of the Philippine Fiesta, for giving this humble writer an opportunity to serve our community.

Serving as a positive representative of our com-

munity when traveling beyond our boundaries is also a pleasant and honorable responsibility.

Filipino food has finally arrived – Washington Post

'If there was a great chef executing Filipino food at a high level, everyone else would line up behind them,' says popular TV show host and chef Andrew Zimmern.

Manila, Philippines – The day when Filipino food is mentioned in the same breath as Italian, Spanish, or other ethnic culinary favorites has come, according to the Washington Post.

"What took it so long?" They ask.

The article, written by Tim Carman, explains: "Nearly 3 years ago, before most Americans could pronounce sinigang, let alone find a place to enjoy the sour soup, Andrew Zimmern predicted Filipino cuisine would soon become the darling of diners who collect restaurant experiences like seashells on the beach."

Zimmern, a TV show host, chef, and food writer, had featured the Philippines in his popular TV food travel show, "Bizarre Food." He ate delicacies such as balut (fertilized duck egg), crickets, stuffed frogs, and even raw tamilok (woodworm); as well as regular Filipino fare. He described banana cue as similar to bananas Foster, but without the snooty waiter.

"I had said to some people, 'If there was a great chef executing Filipino food at a high level, everyone else would line up behind them,'" Zimmern told the Washington Post.

This is what many Filipino chefs did.

Top Chef winner Paul Qui at Qui in Austin, Cristina Quackenbush at Milkfish in New Or-



Bloody dinuguan



Fried crickets



Balut (fertilized duck egg)



Stuffed frogs



Sinigang

"Some Filipino immigrants in America have felt a sense of hiya around their food, with its duck embryos, pig's blood, shrimp paste and other potentially hard-to-swallow ingredients," the article said.

Dorotan at the Purple Yam in Brooklyn, and Nicole Ponseca of Maharlika and Jeepney – were named as trailblazers among young Filipino American restaurateurs.

The article said an obstacle to the development of Filipino food abroad is hiya – or shame.

Check out the full article on the Washington Post. – Rappler.com

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Kris Aquino backs out of 'mistress' movie

Kris says she had to back out due to a clause in one of her endorsements

Manila, Philippines – Actress Kris Aquino has backed out of the “mistress” movie that would have been directed by Feng Shui 2 director Chito Roño.



NO MISTRESS ROLE. Kris Aquino says she had to back out of a movie due to a clause in one of her contracts.

In an interview with ABS-CBN, Kris said she had to turn down the role because of a clause in one of her endorsements.

“Star Cinema offered it to me and I was really excited to do it. But unfortunately, I have one contract with a multinational company, na buti nabasa ko (I was fortunate to read),” Kris said.

“Hindi namin na realize ni Boy (Abunda) na may clause there about portrayal of characters in movies, teleseryes and all, that would run contrary to the

image you are projecting as a family woman, as a mother. It was a concession that the lawyers worked out in such a way, because that was the time nag-papaannul ako. So they have final say or at least I need their consent to do roles that will run contrary to Filipino values,” Kris added.

(Boy and I did not realize there was a clause about portrayal of characters in movies, teleseryes and all that would run contrary to the image you are projecting

as a family woman, as a mother.)

Kris also shared that she talked with Star Cinema’s head Malou Santos of Star Cinema and Direk Chito, but in the end decided to bow out of the movie.

Kris said she would have really wanted to do to the movie as it would serve as a reunion with some of dear friends she did not name. Although she did not say who she was talking about, it was reported the movie would have reunited her with actress Claudine Barretto, with whom she starred in Sukob.

A few months back, actress Gretchen Barretto was originally announced to star in the movie based on the the book Etiquette for Mistresses and What Wives Can Learn From Them. The book was written by Julie Yap Daza. –

Wency Cornejo live in Sacramento with Belle Paragas and Kristina Garcia

On April 18, Wency Cornejo, former vocalist and primary songwriter of a Filipino rock band “After Image,” and with his popular song “Hanggang” performs live at a sold-out concert at Sari-Sari Buffet in Sacramento, CA. Other guest singers include Belle Paragas (9) and Kristina Garcia (13), both from Elk Grove, CA.



Wency Cornejo with his song Hanggang’

Local artist Belle’s rendition of the popular song by Bruno Mars’ Uptown Funk and Kristina’s “Ikaw” and “Bituing Walang Ningning” by Sharon Cuneta during their performance at the concert, with the crowd singing along at almost Wency Cornejo’s every song.



Belle Paragas



Kristina Garcia

Pacquiao may star on Expendables 4


Boxing champ Manny Pacquiao is still tight-lipped on Sylvester Stallone’s business offer. The American actor offered Pacquiao a role in the American action film series, The Expendables 4.



Stallone and Manny Pacquiao

Pacquiao said, they “haven’t agreed on anything yet” and wanted to talk about it after his fight with Mayweather on May 2.

The Expendables role for Pacquiao was first offered to him in November when Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger visited him before his fight with Chris Algieri in Macau.



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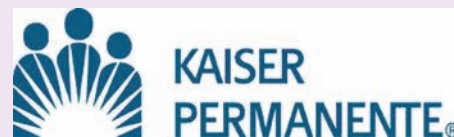
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