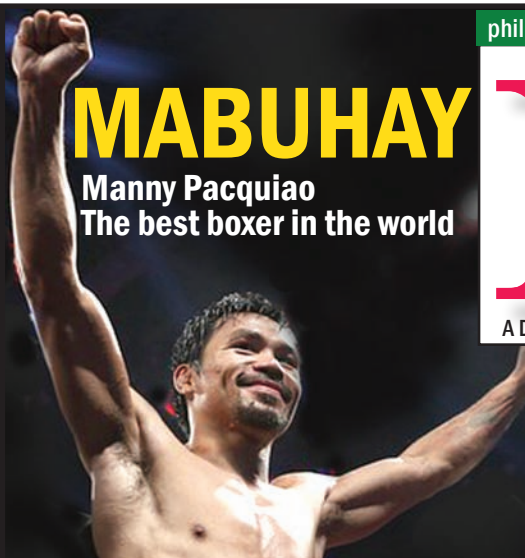


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Photos by Dale Esperante



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### Editor's Note

It's this season of Thanksgiving again and before we know it, Christmas and the New Year will soon be just around the corner. This week, I look forward to the sight of a roasted turkey on our dinner table and a four-day weekend that hopefully would give me a chance to do some black-Friday shopping. First though, let me convey with all sincerity, our gratefulness to all the contributing writers of Philippine Fiesta. We very much appreciate the time that you spend in helping us serve our purpose, in creatively writing about our people's stories of past struggles, celebration of life, and even their smallest accomplishments. We also wish our readers and friends in the community a bountiful and a blessed Thanksgiving holiday celebration.

In this issue of Philippine Fiesta, please read through the pages to see special events in our community that need your support.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Dinnah San Pedro

## A crime most foul

There is something very wrong and shameful in a society that tolerates acts of violence against women and children. In a country proud of its traditional reverence for women and family values, this kind of indifference deserves the harshest condemnation.

According to the PNP's Women and Children Protection Center, reported cases of violence against women went up sharply to 23,865 in 2013 compared to 15,969 in 2012.

More appalling is the finding in the 2013 National Demographic and Health

Survey of the Philippine Statistics Authority that only 30 percent of wives who suffer abuse from their spouses muster the courage to seek help or intervention.

The figure increases significantly when other forms of maltreatment are factored including verbal, psychological and economic abuse in addition to physical and sexual assaults.

With television and the internet making use of footages from broadening networks of business establishments and households using security cameras, the public is just starting to become aware just how prevalent abuse of women and children is in our society.

Ten years after Congress passed RA 9262 or the "Anti-Violence Against Women

and Their Children Act of 2004", the hideous statistics continue to rise and the Philippine Commission on Women admits that it will take the cooperation of the whole country to reverse the trend.

Today is the second day of the 18-Day Campaign To End Violence Against Women. Between now until December 12, 2014, the world is exhorting efforts to raise awareness for the plight of abused women and an end to their suffering.

This nation has survived wars, calamities and corrupt governments but it will be a worthless cluster of rocks and vegetation if we Filipinos lose our respect for our own mothers, wives and daughters.

## PH has slowest justice system in the world

By Neal H. Cruz

The Philippines, I assure, is in the Guinness World Records as the country with the slowest judicial system. Of this, we should not be proud but be ashamed. We just marked the anniversaries of two mass killings in the Philippines, both of which made world records: the Maguindanao massacre where 58 poor souls, including 32 media workers, were murdered; and the Ozone Disco Club fire in Quezon City that claimed the lives of 162 persons, most of them young men and women celebrating their graduation.

In the Ozone Disco fire, the trial of those responsible for the tragedy took almost 19 years, much longer than the sentences imposed on them by the court. In the Maguindanao massacre, the court is still hearing the bail petitions of some of the accused, five years into the trial.

Indeed, this is true not only of these two shocking mass murders but also of almost all cases filed in court. The cases against Imelda Marcos et al., for example, have been pending since 1986 when the Marcos dictatorship was toppled by angry citizens. That's two-and-a-half decades ago. Not only is Imelda still out of prison, she continues to behave as if she is still the first lady. Instead of being in jail, she is in the House of Representatives as congresswoman for Ilocos Norte. Her son Bongbong is a senator salivating to be president, and daughter

Imee is governor of Ilocos Norte.

And that is one reason that crime and corruption are thriving in the Philippines in spite of scores of charges filed against the malefactors. Ironically, the number of grafters and criminals has increased since People Pow-

Ironically, the appellate courts themselves, including the Supreme Court, abet the delays. They are too quick to issue temporary restraining orders (TROs). The high court is the worst of all. While lower courts can issue TROs for limited periods only, the tribunal can



The Maguindanao massacre trial has been delayed so much by this tactic of the defense.

er. Who would be afraid of the law when they know that even if they are caught, they can stay out of prison for decades during which time they can continue doing what they have been doing and prospering from them? Crime and corruption can never be eliminated, or even slowed down, unless there is quick justice.

One reason given for the slow wheels of justice is the "clogged court dockets"—too many cases being tried by too few courts and judges. This gets worse every year, as new cases pile up as fewer and fewer cases get to be decided by the courts.

Two other reasons: the dilatory tactics by the defense and the lackadaisical attitude of the judges. A motion for postponement is almost always granted by the judges who feel no urgency to finish a case quickly. The legal principle that "justice delayed is justice denied" no longer has any meaning for judges and lawyers.

issue, and often does, TROs for indefinite periods.

Also, the appellate courts are quick to accept petitions for certiorari questioning the decisions of lower courts, and then take forever deciding them on the merits.

The puzzle is why the trials of the Ozone Disco fire and the Maguindanao massacre are taking so long (although the defendants in the Ozone Disco fire have been declared guilty by the court, the cases are not yet finished as they can still file motions for reconsideration and appeals) when they are very simple cases. In both cases there are the hundreds of corpus delicti, the suspects have been clearly identified, and the cause or motive is evident. They are not some murky murder mystery cases where the prosecutors have to piece together circumstantial evidence. They are what can be described as open-and-shut cases. The guilt of the accused are very

Continued on page 3

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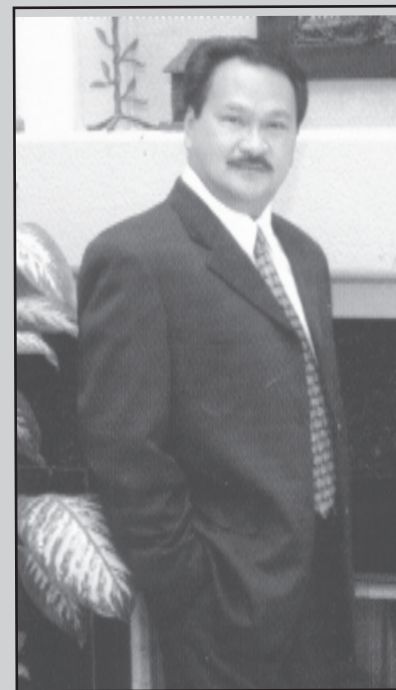
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# Another Look At The Military Base China Is Building On A Disputed Reef

By Scott Mitchell

A tropical coral reef has been transformed by the Chinese military into a base that could host a 3,000-meter long airstrip and naval port, ready to push Beijing's territorial claim over the South China Sea.



A CGI image of the facility released by the China State Shipbuilding Corporation.

Fiery Cross Reef, where China has constructed its new artificial island, lies in the Spratly Islands, a chain of 750 atolls and reefs.

Four other countries also claim territorial rights over the area: Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Brunei

China is the furthest away, but has pushed its claim by transforming the small tropical reef into the perfect staging ground for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in the South China Sea.

In the space of three months China has turned the reef into an island by dredging soil and sand from the seabed and dumping it on top.

Security journal IHS Janes published an analysis of satellite photos of the installation over the weekend and believes the harbor is "large enough to receive tankers and major surface combatants."

The facility is already believed to be the home to a greenhouse, a wharf, a helipad, and coastal artillery. Images released by the Chinese Ministry of National Defense also show PLA marines in residence, coastal artillery, and a DP-65 anti-diver grenade launcher on the wharf.

The project's size and shape bears a striking resemblance to CGI images used by the China State Shipbuilding Corporation in promotional material, that was obtained by IHS Janes earlier this year.

The report says that China has been the only country involved in the dispute over the Spratly Islands that hasn't been able to secure an island with an air strip in the area, and that the development will level the playing field. But it added that

China Sea."

Fanell was reportedly reassigned by the US Navy because of his comments.

Critics have consistently warned that China could be planning to declare a similar ADIZ over the South China Sea, but the Chinese have always rejected those allegations.

"In a general view,

the Chinese side has yet to feel any air security threat from all ASEAN countries," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hong Lei said, referring to the Association of South-East Asia Nations.

China's South East Asian neighbors may be more concerned than relieved about that, as Beijing expands its capabilities on their doorstep.

## China tells US to back off from airstrip issue

Beijing - A high ranking Chinese general fired back at US criticism of an artificial island project in one of the contested reefs in the South China Sea, telling the US to back off from the project which satellite photos show to be an off-shore airstrip.

People's Liberation Army Major General Luo Yuan told the state-run Global Times newspaper that Beijing was building infrastructure on the reef and the US should stay out of the issue.

"The US is obviously biased considering that the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam have already set up military facilities," Luo was quoted as saying.

"China is likely to withstand the international pressure and continue the construction, since it is completely legitimate and justifiable," he added.

A report last week by IHS Jane's Defence revealed new details of a vast land reclamation project China is undertaking on Fiery Cross Reef, known as Yongshu in China.

the move "is likely to cause alarm among the other claimants. China has previously shown it is willing to spend blood and treasure to assert its territorial claims in this region."

With construction still underway, Andrew E. Erickson, Associate Professor at the US Naval War College, and Austin Strange of Harvard University wrote in July that the facility could eventually be twice as big as the US base at Diego Garcia, a British territory in the Indian Ocean. But according to their analysis the bigger concern to China's neighbors is that "it could become a command-and-control center for the Chinese navy and might anchor a Chinese Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) similar to the one it announced over the East China Sea in 2013."

An ADIZ is an area in which a country declares the need to control air traffic for security reasons although it lies outside of its usual airspace.

The declaration of an ADIZ in the East China Sea put the world on tenterhooks in November 2013 as China and Japan entered into a contest of brinkmanship, sending naval vessels and aircraft into the disputed zone and locking weapons systems onto one another.

It was so serious that the director of intelligence and information operations for the US Pacific Fleet, Captain James Fanell, said in February of this year that his office concluded that "the PLA has been given the new task to be able to conduct a short sharp war to destroy Japanese forces in the East

# 'Binay critics now clutching at straws'

By Paolo Romero

MANILA, Philippines - Detractors of Vice President Jejomar Binay are clutching at straws just to sustain a media campaign against him, a lawmaker said yesterday.



Vice Pres. Jejomar Binay

ments pertaining to the lots in Dingalan.

Neither was there any proof of authenticity on the purported documents, he said.

"The owners or VP Binay, for that matter, did not sign the sworn statements of ownership or subscribed to these documents."

Binay's communications director Joey

Valenzuela City Rep. Sherwin Gatchalian said an unidentified source is now accusing Binay of being the administrator of four lots, totaling more than two hectares, in Dingalan town in Aurora province facing the Pacific Ocean.

"This could be another case of 'kuryente' or bum steer peddled to media by anti-Binay elements," he said. Gatchalian, a member of the administration-allied Nationalist People's Coalition, said the purported tax declaration does not bear the signature of Binay, and it could have been easily noticed had media checked on the docu-

Salgado pointed out to media that the Vice President's principal accuser, former Makati vice mayor Ernesto Mercado, actually owns the properties in Dingalan. Headlines ( Article MRec ), page-match: 1, sectionmatch: 1

Gatchalian said Aurora provincial officials confirmed that Mercado owned several lots next to the lots that Binay supposedly owns.

Mercado's lots are being developed as a resort, he added.

Gatchalian said the case was no different from Mercado's claim that the Binays own a condominium unit at The Peak Tower in Makati when the real owner was the accuser himself.

## PH has slowest justice system in the world

From page 2

clear and evident. So why is it taking the courts decades to decide them? Because most of the judges are lazy.

Most judges conduct trials for only half-a-day. The trial of each case lasts for only one hour, after which it is scheduled again at least one month later. Postponements usually last longer, up to 60 days, after which there may be another motion for postponement based on some flimsy excuse. Many judges and government prosecutors absent themselves during scheduled trials, forcing still more postponements of all the cases scheduled for trial that day.

So what can be done? One is to appoint more judges and jus-

tices. Another is for the Supreme Court to crack the whip on lower court judges, and set the example by quickly deciding appeals and petitions elevated to it. A third is to hold continuous trials until the cases are submitted for decision. (There used to be a contest among Metro Manila judges on who is "the fastest judge alive.") It may be a good idea to restore it.) And most important, to crack down on corruption in the judiciary and the prosecution arm of the government (and also in the ranks of private practitioners). A granddaughter once asked me: "Why do trials in the Philippines take many years, but on television they take only one hour?"

Try answering that.

Atty. Michael P. Karr  
Fabiola Vera, Secretary  
Anna Agoncillo, Legal Assistant

Edgar Santos, Student Intern  
Evangeline Nanoo, Legal Assistant  
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## World awaits gov't action on Ampatuan massacre case

By Angela Casauay

MANILA, Philippines – Five years is too long to resolve a crime of this magnitude.

This, according to members of the international media and relatives of victims who visited the memorial site of the worst election-related violence in the country on Friday, November 21 – two days before the 5th anniversary of the Ampatuan massacre.

“The Philippines is ranked as one of the worst for journalists. Ongoing attacks against journalists – it’s a major concern for the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ). We continue coming here to raise awareness. Globally, the whole world is watching and we really call on the government of the Philippines to take some serious action,” said Jane Worthington, deputy director of IFJ Asia-Pacific.

There is frustration on the part of families who are begging for justice and closure. Some relatives of the victims feel that the case has been overtaken by recent events.

“Five years na wala pa rin e. Ewan ko kung may pag-asa ba o wala ba. Hindi namin alam. Umabot na lang sa pork barrel, (Typhoon) Yolanda, ‘yung sa amin wala pa rin. Parang lumala talaga ang sitwasyon,” said Mikko Razon, son of Fernando Razon, one of the massacre victims.

(It’s been 5 years and yet, nothing still. I don’t know if there’s still hope or not. We don’t know. The pork barrel issue, Typhoon Yolanda happened and yet nothing has still happened to our case. It seems the situation has worsened.)

On November 23, 2009, 58 individuals, including 32 journalists, were buried using a backhoe after armed men – allegedly ordered by then Datu Unsay Mayor Andal Ampatuan Jr – massacred them in a bid to stop the wife of his political rival, Esmel Mangudadatu from filing his certificate of



**NEVER FORGET.** Justice remains elusive for the 58 victims of the Ampatuan massacre 5 years since the gruesome crime.

candidacy for Maguindanao governor. Mangudadatu won and is still holding the post.

A delegation of international journalists is in the country to follow up on the status of the case 5 years since the massacre took place.

Mike Dobbie, communications manager of Australia’s Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, said the Philippines is the “epicenter” of the problem of impunity.

The Philippine government must do a better job in protecting witnesses, Dobbie said.

Days before, a possible witness, said to be a former driver of the Ampatuans, was killed in an ambush in the town of Shariff Aguak while on his way to a meeting with government prosecutors. He was with another potential witness, a former bagman of the political clan, who survived the attack.

Dobbie said the incident puts a spotlight on the Philippine government’s inadequacy in solving the crime.

“It’s another sign that the justice system is broken. If the government cannot protect witnesses in a trial as important to this, as so crucial to Filipino history as this, then something is wrong. Again, it’s this culture of impunity. If the government is not doing anything, putting in resources to protect witnesses, then something is wrong,” Dobbie said.

### ‘Case too complex’

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima said Friday observers

of the case must understand how complex the case is.

It takes an average of 10 years for a single case in the Philippines to be resolved. The Maguindanao massacre involves 58 victims, with 197 accused on trial and close to 500 witnesses being presented from both sides.

“They should understand that the wheels of justice is turning, the case is moving. The judge is doing – trying – her best, so are the public prosecutors handling the case,” De Lima told reporters.

She added: “We each have our own opinions, especially those who can’t understand the legal processes. It’s easy to look at the case from the outside and look at the shortcomings of those handling the case. But if you look at the overview of the case, if they only know how many witnesses are being presented, they would know why.”

The prosecution has rested its case against some of the accused – a move opposed by two private lawyers.

To speed up the resolution of the case, the Supreme Court has assigned a third judge to assist Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 221 Justice Jocelyn Solis-Reyes.

The High Court has also released a memorandum providing for procedures designed to remove stumbling blocks that could hamper the case.

These include requiring lawyers to submit judicial affidavits for witnesses in question-and-answer format instead of taking the witness stand, and allowing Reyes to decide on cases that are ripe for resolution.

De Lima is still hopeful of a conviction by 2016. President Benigno Aquino III had earlier said he was also “frustrated” over the slow pace of the trial.

Meanwhile, family members can only wait for closure.

## Filipino pride surges anew

The fire is back, Pacquiao fans say

By Annelle Tayao-Juego

MANILA, Philippines—For nearly an hour, survivors of Super Typhoon “Yolanda” in Tacloban City forgot their problems as Filipino pride surged anew across the nation and the world.

In the Astrodome, a facility that served as their temporary shelter, some 2,000 people broke into cheers when Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao retained his World Boxing Organization welterweight crown on Sunday.



**SEA OF FAN SUPPORT** People explode into cheers as they watch the fight between their idol, Manny Pacquiao, and American Chris Algieri, at San Andres Sports Complex in Malate, Manila.

Pacquiao dropped American Chris Algieri to the canvas six times during the 12-round contest at the Cotai Arena in Macau to win an overwhelming unanimous decision, 119-103, 119-103, 120-102 on the judges’ cards.

“He failed to score a knockout victory against Algieri but it was still a stunning victory for Manny, our boxing champ,” said Augusto Daaño, 45, who still lives in a bunkhouse in Barangay (village) Caibaan.

Daaño, whose house in San Jose District was washed out during the typhoon, said he was a Pacquiao fan who watched all his fights, including last year’s bout with Brandon Rios.

After his fight last year, Pacquiao visited the Astrodome where more than 3,000 people took shelter during the typhoon.

While the center was not filled up to the rafters as in the past, at least 2,000 people cheered for their idol every time his jab hit his American opponent.

Across the country, cinemas, hotels, public parks and even army bases erupted in celebration as Pacquiao, the only boxer to win world titles in eight weight divisions, dominated the inexperienced New York-based former kickboxer.

### Renewed fire

Malacañang took note of the renewed fire in the 35-year-old Pacquiao.

“Strength, grit and courage were written all over his face and demeanor throughout the fight,” Communications Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. said in a statement. “With every punch that scored, millions of Filipinos cheered him to victory from all corners of the country and the world.”

Coloma described Pacquiao as a “worthy role model and wellspring of inspiration to all Filipinos

who are striving to improve their well-being and attain a prosperous future.”

Prayers helped in the Pacquiao victory, according to three senior citizens.

Just like the boxer’s mother, Dionisia, known to most as Mommy D, a 72-year-old woman prayed the rosary while watching the telecast of the match at San Andres Sports Complex in Malate, Manila.

Anita Bacal said she was in the middle of her prayers when Pacquiao knocked down Algieri twice in one round.

“See, prayers really do work!” said Bacal, a resident of San Andres, when the unanimous decision declaring Pacquiao the winner was announced. She was joined in her prayers by another senior citizen and her neighbor, Concordia Virtucio, 79.

They were among the crowd of more than 4,000 who packed the sports complex for over five hours. The heat had a lot of men taking off their shirts, but despite that, spirits were high. Every punch that Pacquiao connected was met with an instant roar of approval.

In Marikina City, another elderly resorted to prayer power. “It’s Filipino pride. He represents our country so we have to support him,” said Visitacion la Vega, 85, who made it a point to watch Pacquiao’s fight and pray for his victory.

She was among the hundreds who watched the free live screening of the match at Freedom Park.

“I asked the Lord that He bless him (Pacquiao). When he lost [to Juan Manuel Marquez], I cried,” La Vega said.

When Algieri fell in Rounds 2 and 6, La Vega threw her hands in the air. And when the bell rang signaling the end of the match, the woman, who said she was supposed to be resting instead of watching the

bout, stood up with a wide smile.

“I’m very happy that the Lord granted my prayers,” she said.

The bout was also shown for free in the Taguig City University Auditorium and other venues.

“In coming together to watch this fight, we are showing our solidarity in supporting the man who gave glory to our country with his every win. We are not just Taguigeños, we are Filipinos as well, and we came to cheer for Pacquiao,” Taguig Mayor Lani Cayetano said.

Boxing fans in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija province, became anxious while watching what turned out to be the undercard fight, when they saw Thai boxer Kwanpichit Onesongchaigym taking a beating from China’s Zou Shiming.

It took some time for them to realize Kwanpichit, who bore a striking resemblance to Pacquiao, was not their idol, and many gave out a hearty laugh.

Like in many parts of the country, the city was at a standstill on Sunday. Market vendors and tricycle drivers paused to watch the delayed television broadcasts on television sets at barber shops or sari-sari stores.

Many lamented that no one sponsored a live broadcast this time. But watching Algieri learn boxing the hard way from the veteran Pacquiao made up for that disappointment, fans said.

“We are happy about his win. He did our country proud,” Rodolfo Herbas, 52, library aide in a university in Muñoz, said.

### Free snacks

In Ilagan City in Isabela province, free snacks made the win sweeter for fans.

“We were happy about Pacquiao’s victory, which was made more satisfactory by the free snacks that came earlier,” said driver Roy

Continued on page 5

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## World-Class Pediatric Heart

More children are born with congenital heart problems than any other type of birth defect, and the number is on the rise, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 25 percent of the 40,000 children born with CHD need surgery during their first year of life. In addition to heart problems that occur during pregnancy, children can acquire heart defects months or years after birth.

### A Team Approach Can Increase Life Expectancies

A long-term team-oriented approach to managing children with CHD can improve patient outcomes using interdisciplinary management to address the problems. National statistics show that with proper treatment, long-term survival rate of babies with non-critical heart defects is approximately 95 percent, according to the CDC.

As a local example, the team approach to treating patients with CHD has been very successful at the Pediatric Cardiovascular Program at Sutter Children's Center in Sacramento. The program has had no postoperative mortalities for the past five years, according to Dr. Teimour Nasirov, medical director of pediatric and adult congenital heart surgery at Sutter. Sutter's program maintains a mortality rate ranked among the lowest in the United States, according to the Society of Thoracic Surgery.

An interdisciplinary team approach to treating patients with CHD brings together specialists from areas such as pediatric cardiothoracic surgery, pediatric cardiology, neonatal intensive care, pediatric anesthesia, pediatric intensive care, pediatric radiology, and pediatric nursing. This team also includes administrative staff members who maintain individual patient histories and databases. At Sutter, many team members are dedicated to the pediatric cardiovascular services program and do not work in other



Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

areas of the hospital. "Many medical facilities strive to build a multidisciplinary pediatric cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery team but not everybody is successful in doing so," said Dr. Nasirov, citing the costs and logistics of creating such a program. The medical staff at Sutter treats a full spectrum of heart conditions using a variety of procedures, with team members working closely together to help provide long-term managed care for our patients. Programs like Sutter's allow patients to stay with their medical provider from infancy through adulthood.

The Sutter's Children Center will relocate in 2015 to the newly built Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center. The new state of the art facility will have private patient rooms, an emergency department exclusively for pediatrics, children's play and schoolrooms and a theater. One of the main features will be a hybrid operating room, which Dr. Nasirov said many medical facilities don't have. A hybrid operating room allows medical staff from different disciplines to work together in the same room during surgeries. Having a variety of imaging machines in one operating room can help interventional cardiologists and surgeons perform less invasive operations.

### Treating Children with CHD

Congenital heart defects occur in fetuses shortly after conception, before a mother even knows she's pregnant, according to the American Heart Association. The process of detecting heart defects can start while the child is still in the womb, using fetal echocar-

diography. Sutter pediatric cardiovascular program also offers a program dedicated to help prepare parents for the possible health scenarios their children might experience. This Special Start Program coordinates the care of all specialists and gives parents the education and support they need to prepare for the birth of their child.

Some children aren't diagnosed until shortly after birth, while others don't show signs of problems until later, in early childhood. Depending on the severity of the problem, early detection and treatment is key for the long-term health of these children. Fortunately, children born with CHD have very high survival rates if they get the treatment they need, according to the CDC. It is essential these children receive individualized care from a team like the one at Sutter throughout their life. Long-term management of a heart condition using this team approach includes preventive cardiology, healthy lifestyle and emotional counseling, nutritional planning, as well as referrals to community agencies and support groups.

### Adult Patients Need Continued Cardiac Management

In addition to its pediatric cardiovascular services, Sutter offers a dedicated long-term care program for adults with congenital heart disease. This is important for teenagers transitioning into adulthood and adults with CHD, said Dr. Nasirov, because not every hospital has the expertise to evaluate and manage adult patients with CHD properly. Sutter's program includes a multidisciplinary evaluation in a single clinic visit as well as access to social workers and a nurse coordinator to assist them in managing their health needs. The adult congenital heart disease clinic is able to provide patients and providers with resources and tools from referral and education to follow-up and continued management.

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## Filipino pride surges anew

From page 4

Gangan.

Gangan and about 3,000 residents watched a live feed of the Pacquiao-Algeri fight at the provincial amphitheater. Noodles and bottled juice were distributed to viewers before the match started. The streets emptied after drivers of tricycles and jeepneys parked their vehicles at the capitol compound to watch.

"This is irritating. As if the world had stopped due to Pacquiao's fight. Almost all drivers probably watched the bout," commuter Jo Lucero said. About 5,000 others watched separate live broadcasts screened at the Iligan Community Center and at the city hall.

Cotabato City and its outskirts virtually stood still with most people

watching the fight.

"As usual no untoward incident happened today as in previous Pacquiao fights," said Senior Supt. Rolan Balquin, city police director. The regional police chief, Supt. Noel de los Reyes, said that "even in the turbulent autonomous region, there's no report of criminal activities."

At an Army camp in Maguindanao, Brig. Gen. Edmund Pangilinan, commander of the 6th Infantry Division, said, "So far, we have not received reports of BIFF (Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters) atrocities while Manny Pacquiao was slugging it out with his American opponent."

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## Synergy

## Why California Nurses go on Strike?

By Gabriel Ortigoza

*"Save one life you are a hero. Save hundred lives and you are a nurse." – CNA*

Before we go to the reasons why California nurses go on strike let me walk you through a brief history of labor union in the United States of America.

In 1800s people were leaving farms to work in the factories. During those times, work at factories were unregulated. Most people work 12 to 16 hours a day 7 days a week. Work environment was hazardous and dangerous.

In mid 1800s workers began to organize which start the beginning of labor unions. Union members would go on strike and refuse to go back to work until a compromise is reached. Sometimes those strikes were peaceful and sometimes those strikes became very violent.

Fast forward to year 2014, California nurses who belong to California Nurses Association, the biggest bargaining unit of registered nurses in the United States, go on strike for health and patient's safety on Tuesday, Nov. 11th, and Wednesday, Nov. 12th 2014.

On November 14, 2014, California Governor Jerry Brown approved via California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal-OSHA) a new mandatory Ebola guidelines.

"The nurses are fighting for the public. They went to the governor demanding action. He departed from the paralysis of government and corporate inaction. He



California nurses go on strike at South Sacramento Kaiser hospital.

listened intently and heard the nurses reports of how deeply unprepared and resistant hospitals were and he moved to protect the public, the nurses, and other health care workers." said NNU and CNA Executive Director Rose Ann DeMoro.

The following are the salient points of the State Ebola Guidelines:

- \*California hospitals are now required to have full-body protective suits, that meet the American Society for Testing and Materials F1670 standard for blood penetration, F1671 standard for viral penetration, that leave no skin exposed or unprotected, and that are available for all hospital staff providing care for a suspected or confirmed Ebola patient, employees cleaning contaminated areas, and staff assisting other employees with the removal of contaminated protective gear.

- \*Hospitals must provide air-purifying respirators (PAPRs) with a full cowl or hood for optimal protection for the head, face and

neck of any RN or other staff who provide care for a suspected or confirmed Ebola patient. Like the suits, this requirement extends to cleaning contaminated areas or assisting staff in removal of protective gear. Both these respirators and the suits have been a key NNU demand.

- \*Infection by the Ebola virus can occur not just through direct contact with droplets of bodily fluids, but even through aerosol transmission of fluids from coughing or other aerosol exposure with a symptomatic Ebola patient.

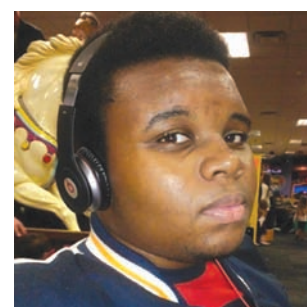
- \*Regular training is required for any staff who are at risk of exposure, including hands on practice in teams with the ability to interact and ask questions. Computer based training does not meet the requirement.

- \*Employees who report hospitals that violate the regulations are protected from retaliation by their employers with whistleblower protection.

## Gunshots, looting after grand jury in Ferguson case does not indict officer in Michael Brown shooting

At least 29 arrested as protests turn violent in Ferguson

Violence erupted in the St. Louis area overnight, leading to more than 80 arrests, as protesters fired more than 100 gunshots and burned and looted as many as 25 buildings and vandalized police cars in Ferguson, Mo., after a grand jury did not indict a white police officer who shot and killed an 18-year-old black man in August, authorities said Tuesday morning.



Michael Brown

St. Louis County police released records early Tuesday showing 61 people were arrested in Ferguson on charges including burglary and trespassing. And St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay said 21 people were arrested in the city.

Heavily armed police fired pepper spray and smoke canisters to disperse the crowds of protesters. Police seized a .45-mm. automatic handgun as well.

"We have no loss of life, but I am disappointed the night turned out this way," St. Louis Police Chief Jon Belmar said.

Belmar said he heard more than 150 shots ring off in the night.

"What I've seen tonight is probably worse than the worst night we had in August," Belmar said.

Gov. Jay Nixon ordered more Missouri National Guardsmen to provide security at the Ferguson Police Department.

St. Louis County prosecuting attorney Bob McCulloch announced the decision not to indict Police Officer Darren Wilson on Monday evening. A grand jury of nine whites and three blacks had been meeting weekly since Aug. 20 to consider evidence in the fatal shooting of Michael Brown, 18. The panel met for 70 hours and heard from 60 witnesses.

McCulloch stressed that the grand jurors were "the only people who heard every witness ... and every piece of evidence." He said many witnesses presented conflicting statements that ultimately were inconsistent with the physical evidence.

"These grand jurors poured their hearts and soul into this process," he said.

Brown's family immediately issued a statement following McCulloch's announcement.

"We are profoundly disappointed that the killer of our child will not face the consequence of his actions," the family said. "While we understand that many others share our pain, we ask that you channel your frustration in ways that will make a positive change. We need to work together to fix the system that allowed this to happen."

Brown's mother, Lesley Mc-

face after a confrontation. Wilson drew his gun in fear that Brown would knock him out. Wilson said Brown nearly dared him to shoot Brown.

Wilson said he managed to pull the trigger, and the gun "clicked" twice without firing before a shot went through the window. Wilson said Brown stepped back and then looked at him with the "most intense, aggressive face."

"The only way I can describe it, it looks like a demon, that's how angry he looked. He comes back towards me again with his hands up."

Brown took off running and Wilson followed him. Wilson said Brown eventually stopped and approached him. Wilson yelled to Brown to get on the ground. Wilson alleges Brown kept coming toward him and put his hand under his waistband of his pants.

Wilson said Brown was looking like he was going to tackle him. Wilson then fired shots toward Brown's head, killing him.

The grand jury testimony includes the accounts of many witnesses whose names are not listed in the transcripts.

One testified that he was working in a nearby building and saw Brown leaning through the police vehicle window and "some sort of confrontation was taking place." He said a shot rang out and Brown fled as the officer chased him with his gun drawn. The witness said Brown stopped and turned but never raised his hands.

He said Brown "ran towards the officer full charge." The officer then fired several shots, but Brown kept rushing toward him, the witness said.

The shooting triggered riots and looting in and around the Ferguson area, and police responded to protesters with armored vehicles and tear gas. Protests continued for weeks -- often peacefully, but sometimes turning violent, with demonstrators throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails and police firing smoke canisters, tear gas and rubber bullets.

At times, the debate surrounding the shooting has focused as much on authorities' response -- which also featured officers equipped with military-style gear, including armored vehicles, body armor and assault rifles -- as the shooting itself.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



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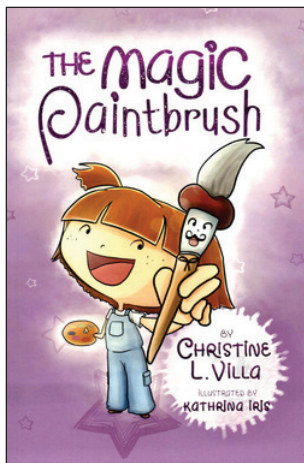
Book Review

By Kathy Uyen Nguyen, Texas, USA

The Magic Paintbrush

By Christine L. Villa

The Magic Paintbrush by Villa is a genuinely heart-warming story for children of all ages. I had the pleasure of reading Villa's story when it was originally published online via knowonder!, which won the People's Choice Award in 2011. Readers will get a chance to meet a magical paintbrush named Picasso who has genie-like powers to grant Alexa, the female protagonist, three wishes per day. Through her lively painting adventures, Alexa discovers the power she has with Picasso by her side and learns the true meaning of goodness and beauty through her artwork.



The Magic Paintbrush is available to purchase online through Createspace and Amazon. If you want a signed copy of the book, you can purchase it on the author's website - <http://christinevilla.weebly.com> On her website, she is also selling The Magic Paintbrush t-shirts, notebooks, and necklaces. These are great ideas as gifts or stocking stuffers for your little ones this Christmas season.

About the Author:

An animated story teller and an artist by nature, Christine L. Villa dabbles in children's writing, short form poetry, and photography. Her first children story is a DVD entitled The Eskalets. The story follows four American robins from birth to first flight, and includes true-to-life photos, video clips, and music background. An award-winning poet, her haiku and haiga (haiku and artwork) have been published in various international journals and e-books. You can read more of her poetry on her blog <http://blossomrain.blogspot.com>. She is the founder and editor of Frameless Sky (<http://framelessky.weebly.com>), collaboration of haiku and tanka poets, visual artists, and musicians. The premier issue will be available this December.



When she isn't writing, one of the things she loves to do is making jewelry. Her unique products are available to purchase on Etsy - <https://www.etsy.com/shop/PurpleCottonCandy>

pretations are endless with this book.

As a yoga teacher who teaches children's yoga, I would say that Villa's book is a great addition to children's literature because I always incorporate and emphasize the values and themes of peace, loving kindness, goodness, adventure, and play, etc. into the games and stories I tell to the kids during yoga classes.

The Magic Paintbrush is written in a clear and concise manner with a simple yet effective storyline for all ages and backgrounds as mentioned earlier. Villa's childlike and vibrant spirit is captured within the pages of this book, and the storyline is enhanced further by the whimsical and adorable (and equally vibrant) illustrations by Kathrina Iris. Both the storyline and illustrations complement each other well.

In this book, Villa captures the essence of childhood joy and innocence, which serves as a simple reminder to all of us who are artists throughout all walks of life (e.g., poets, writers, musicians, etc.). Furthermore, this book taps into our intentions of doing good in the world through the gifts we are given. Not only this, we are oftentimes faced with obstacles or people like Alexa's best friend, Nikki, who can lead us astray. And then again, when things do go awry, this book teaches us that there is always something we can fall back and rely on as therapy, a form of self-healing and self-reflection to find that silver lining, or in this case, "a sun peeking from the clouds," in the darkest moments of our lives. This book can be used as an educational tool for children as it teaches multiple life lessons in which I only mentioned a few here. Really, the inter-

To conclude, if you are a parent looking for a good book for your little bookworm, I highly recommend Villa's book, The Magic Paintbrush.

Philippine Department of Tourism Launches Campaign for the Emerging Asian-American Market

November 5, 2014 – The Philippine Department of Tourism in San Francisco (DOT) launched the Department's first major campaign in the United States targeting the Asian-American and mainstream American travelers who are visiting the Philippines' neighboring countries. This campaign introduces, promotes, and encourages visits to the Philippines' unique and world-famous tourist and travel destinations.



Consul General Henry S. Bensurto, Jr. (4th from left) and Ms. Mariza Bensurto (5th from left) with DOT Director Maria Corazon Jorda-Apo (3rd from left) and the officers and staff of the Philippine Tourism Offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles and representatives from GTT International

A product presentation, in cooperation with GTT International/Majestic Vacations, one of the biggest airline consolidators in the United States, was held for travel agents and tour operators that are based in the San Francisco Bay Area last November 5, 2014. Various Asian Airlines; namely China Airlines, China Eastern, Asiana Airlines, Korean Air, and All-Nippon Airways attended the event and have signified intent to support the DOT in this campaign.

Through this effort, the DOT aims to generate inbound tourist arrivals from North America as the Philippines focuses on becoming the premier travel destination in the region next year with the recent announcement of the "Visit Philippines Year (VPY) 2015".

The campaign, spearheaded by Ms. Maria Corazon Jorda-Apo, Director for Market Development of the Philippine Department of Tourism in the Manila,

features the country's popular destinations like Manila, Palawan, Boracay, Cebu, Bohol among others as well as the archipelago's thrilling activities like Beach Holiday, Scuba Diving, Shopping, and Health and Wellness activities to name a few. These destinations were introduced through a colorful multi-media presentation that encouraged attendees to package the Philippines as a Twin Destination package or Extension Vacation destination of the existing Asian cities that they have been selling to their clients.

"With this product presentation, we are able to reach out to our Asian-American partners in the travel industry so that they can start selling the Philippines one-of-a-kind destinations and exciting activities to their clients", said Director Jorda-Apo. "This presentation is just one of many promotional activities lined up by the DOT to brand the Philippines as a unique and supplemental travel destination among the Asia-Americans and the mainstream Americans who visit our neighboring countries for vacation purposes", she adds.

Philippine Consul General in SF Henry S. Bensurto, Jr. officially invited the attendees of the presentation to visit the Philippines and be actual witnesses to the country's number 1 asset, the hospitable and fun-loving Filipinos who will make their trip a truly unforgettable one. "It is an open secret that the Philippines' best asset is truly the warmth and hospitality of the Filipinos", Consul General Bensurto claimed. "It is your interaction with the locals that will make your trip a truly memorable one", he said.

Ms. Eliza Chung, GTT/Majestic Regional Manager presented the travel agents with optional ways to market, sell, and include the Philippines in their current list travel and tour packages.

A sumptuous Chinese Lauriat-style dinner was served for the 140 Asian-American travel agents, tour operators, and airline partners who attended the Philippine product presentation. The attendees were likewise given exciting prizes and giveaways from the DOT, GTT/Majestic, and partner airlines.

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PerryScope

# Giving Binay a run for his money

By Perry Diaz

Little did Vice President Jejomar “Jojo” Binay realize that Sen. Antonio “Sonny” Trillanes IV would accept his challenge to debate. And when Trillanes accepted it, Binay must have panicked and backed out of the debate.

It’s important to note that Binay challenged Trillanes to a debate to bring his case to the people and answer questions about his alleged corruption activities and ill-gotten wealth when he was mayor of Makati City. Obviously, it was a bluff. Binay, a lawyer, was probably thinking that Trillanes, a former naval officer, didn’t stand a ghost of a chance of defeating him in a debate, which is a lawyer’s forte. But Trillanes had one weapon – truth — that he could use to force Binay to a corner and beat him to a pulp.

When Binay backed out of the debate, Trillanes found an opening for an attack. A few days later, Trillanes went on the offensive hitting Binay where it hurts most – his character. He dropped a bombshell by saying that Binay was part of the 2007 conspiracy to oust then-President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Trillanes was referring to the time when his rebel group, Magdalo, occupied the Peninsula Manila Hotel in Makati City and demanded Gloria to step down.

Trillanes claimed that Binay – who was then mayor of Makati City — reneged on his promise to mobilize his employees, the city’s urban poor, and other supporters to join Trillanes when he walks out of a court hearing that was trying him for the 2003 Oakwood mutiny. But to Trillanes’ surprise, Binay’s supporters did not show up and Binay was nowhere to be



Oakwood mutiny

found. The rebels then barricaded themselves in the hotel but surrendered when the military was called in.

Later on when Trillanes was detained at Camp Crame, Binay showed up and apologized. Well, apology or no apology, the harm was done. But what was instilled in Trillanes’ mind was that Binay’s decision to back out of the debate says a lot about his character. “In a way, we were expecting this to happen because on those instances, we say that Vice President Binay had no word of honor and that he cannot be trusted. I hope that our people could see his true char-



Binay-Poe tandem in 2016?

acter” (translated from Tagalog), Trillanes said.

**A question of character**

Having refused to appear before the Senate Blue Ribbon subcommittee hearings — which he described as a “kangaroo court” — and backed out of the debate, Binay is going around the country, at taxpayers’

expense, telling the people that all these accusations against him were nothing more than “demolition jobs.” But as Abraham Lincoln once said: “You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time,” Binay is desperately

trying — by any means — to shore up his sagging ratings, which had dipped 10% in the last few months.

Indeed, Trillanes hit the nail right on the head when he questioned Binay’s character and trustworthiness. However, I’m sure he’s aware that it’s a dangerous road to take in political campaigns because the outcome could go either way – help or destroy the candidate. But Binay knows it, too, and that’s why he’s trying very hard to gain the people’s sympathy.

A Philippine Inquirer reader, Mario “Yao” Boco from Salcedo, Eastern Samar, wrote a commen-

tary titled “Binay’s only saving grace,” which said: “Ramon Tulfo’s column titled ‘Oplan Nognog just an invention’ (Metro, 10/23/14) confirmed my suspicion that ‘Oplan stop Nognog 2016’ was an idea hatched by Vice President Jejomar Binay’s PR

men and was intended to elicit for Binay sympathy or compassion from the “politically vacuous masses,” and consequently gain votes for him as a candidate in the 2016 presidential election.

“When I first read and heard of ‘Oplan stop Nognog 2016,’ I immediately sensed that the word ‘Nognog,’ a funny, charcoal-

black comics character that stirs up mixed feelings of ridicule and pity, could be a mere ‘gimmick’ to generate sympathy for Binay, he being dark-skinned. In fact, one of the factors that made the ‘Binays ruled Makati one after the other is because they go to great lengths to emphasize their looks.’

“Little did Binay’s PR men know that by using the same kind of



Stop Nognog in 2016?

gimmick, they revealed themselves to have run out of ideas to defend and save the Vice President from the avalanche of corruption charges now swamping him. No amount of denials, allusions to political persecution, demolition job, or whatever, will extricate him from the political maelstrom he is in now. Only his presence in the Senate blue ribbon subcommittee hearing, to answer point by point the corruption charges hurled against him, will be his ‘saving grace.’ ”

**Serendipity or conspiracy**

Binay might have thought what his “saving grace” is going to be? And guess whom did he run into? Grace Poe!

Binay met Grace at a meeting of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) in Tagaytay City last November 13. Grace was a guest of KBP; Binay was an uninvited guest, a “gatecrasher.” Binay claimed that he dropped by the KBP event to formally apologize

for backing out of the debate with Trillanes, which the KBP was supposed to organize. However, it’s debatable whether the Binay-Poe meeting was serendipity or a well-orchestrated “chance” encounter – or conspiracy — between Binay and an unsuspecting Grace. As it turned out it was anything but coincidence. Binay later told the media that it was an “impromptu visit.”

And from that “impromptu visit,” a rare photo worth a thousand words was taken of Grace giving Binay a priceless besobeso. And no sooner had the KBP event ended than rumors started to swirl around a potential Binay-Poe tandem in 2016. When asked about the “coincidence,” Binay tried to downplay it; however, he admitted that he was open to teaming up with Grace in 2016. Indeed, if Grace agreed to join Binay, it would be a powerful team. Recent surveys show that Binay and Poe are the top picks for president and vice president, respectively.

Although Grace had made it clear that she was not running for president in 2016, the United Nationalist Alliance (UNA) and the Liberal Party are wooing her to be



Grace Poe and Trillanes

the running mate of their respective standard bearers.

But many believe that if there was one person who could beat Binay, it’s Grace. And who would be a better running mate of Grace Poe than Sonny Trillanes? Working in tandem, they could give Jojo Binay a run for his money... or should I say, “the people’s money?” (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)



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## Family feud and the disingenuous Bongbong Marcos

By Benjamin Pimentel

**B**ongbong Marcos wants peace between his family and the Aquinos, saying that story is getting old.

He's right. It is getting old.

But the son of the late dictator clearly doesn't understand an important point: the anger of many Filipinos toward the Marcoses, and the courageous struggle they waged to get rid of him was not about the Aquinos.

It wasn't about Ninoy or Cory or Noynoy, and certainly not about Kris.

The Marcoses and the Aquinos may hate each other today, but that has nothing to do with why many of us feel it's important to remember the lessons of dictatorship and why that has nothing to do with one or two families.

That's not how Bongbong sees it.

"We all know that this feud continues up to now. This prevents us from uniting the country. We have to get past it...put it behind us. There are so many things we need to do," he told DWIZ.

It's a disingenuous, cynical pronouncement from someone who does not, or refuses, to understand the way Marcos destroyed Philippine society.

"I mean siguro sa pamilya Marcos, wala na 'yung political fight na yan,'" Bongbong also said. "Hindi naman ito personal. 'Yung talagang naglalaban was my father and Ninoy Aquino, '60s, '70s pa 'yun so dapat lampasan na natin 'yun at hindi na 'yan ang issue ngayon. Wala tayong maku-kuha sa tuluy-tuloy na pagsusumbatan na Aquino-Marcos for no good reason. We'll

get nothing out of that."

I mean siguro Bongbong thinks that if he keeps repeating this fantasy, this lie, most Filipinos will believe it.

It's like his other twisted claim about the Marcos dictatorship — that if his dad had not been overthrown, the Philippines could have turned into another Singapore. That is, the Philippines could have become like a country known to be among the least corrupt in the world had Filipinos not kicked out a president now remembered to be among the most corrupt in world history.

The reason for Bongbong's peace offensive based on a family feud fantasy is clear. It's an opportune time to recast the Marcos legacy of greed and brutality into nothing more than a tale of two bickering families.

An Aquino is in power, and his administration is under fire. PNoy's vaunted crusade to rid government of corruption has been derailed by allegations that his own allies betrayed the public trust.

That has given the Marcos forces an opening, and Bongbong is taking advantage of it.

The focus of his campaign is the Aquino family, but the Marcos forces have also been aiming higher, painting the late tyrant



Bongbong Marcos

as a wise, benevolent ruler. They launched the wacky Twitter campaign calling the dictator the "best president" the country has ever had.

Fortunately, others are pushing back. The Never Again group on Facebook has been one of the most effective. You can find it here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/neveragain-tomarcos/>

Young Filipinos interested in a deeper look at what happened to us when Marcos was in power can find a wealth of information in the Never Again page — from the money the Marcoses stole, to the torture and abuse, to the brazen lies about his medals and war record, to the individuals and groups who fought back during those dark years.

You can start with this 1986 CBS report



The Marcoses

on the home movies Marcoses left behind after they fled during the People Power uprising.

Bongbong is even in it. He's wearing a flashy red bow tie, happy, having fun, singing "We Are the World."

Visit and like the *Kuwento* page on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/boyingpimentel](http://www.facebook.com/boyingpimentel)

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## Pacquiao Entertains Veterans With Six Knockdowns Win Against Algieri

By Faina E. Abaya

Our veterans who are mostly aging but healthy enough to watch a boxing match that enthusiastically entertained them have also deserved what they wanted to see, a dominant performance of Manny Pacquiao against the younger and taller Chris Algieri.

As early as 5:00 PM on November 22, 2014, our veterans have already started to arrive and while waiting for the preliminary fights to start, their usual conversations were focused on their experiences about the many skirmishes in the field of battle they have undergone. Many of our battle tested veterans reminisced the hardship of defending the democratic principle that they believed in.

Our aging veterans nostalgically recalled the places where they put their lives in imminent harms way for others to enjoy a way of life that they are now living. In their conversations, they recalled the malaria infested jungle of Bataan during the second world war to the snowy rugged hills of Korea to the dangerous meandering Mekong river of Vietnam up to the treacherous high mountains of Afghanistan. Such places will always remind them the gallantry of their comrades whose selfless sacrifices will be always embedded in their memories for others to know how much they have fought for them.

The members of the American Legion Magellan Post 604 with their ladies and friends filled up to the capacity the Magellan Hall on November 22, 2014 to watch their fellow soldier reserve officer Lt. Colonel (AFP) Manny Pacquiao his vaunted tactical skill in the Sweet Science of Bruising (Boxing). As expected Manny Pacquiao punished and demolished his opponent in a one sided unanimous decision.

Every punch thrown by Manny Pacquiao, the defending world Welterweight champion whether his left or right was followed with spontaneous eruption of jubilation and thunderous applause by the partisan crowd of mostly Filipino American veterans. From the very beginning of the fight after Algieri felt the impact of the punches of Pacquiao hitting any part of his body, Algieri has no other recourse than to



backpedaled away as he circled around the ring or just covered his face with his gloves.

Chris Algieri fought just to stay for 12 rounds and he had not shown any serious counter punches against the barraged of punches unleashed by Pacquiao.

What was comical in the bout was the so called game plan of Tim Lane, the trainer of Algieri when he was being interviewed by the ring sportscaster that his boxer will put Pacquiao to sleep on the 10 or 11 round but as soon as he said that, Algieri again hit the canvas as he did on the 10

round.

Ironically, when the fight was being built up, actor Sylvester Stallone fondly referred Chris Algieri as the real life "Rocky Balboa" in the movie entitled "Rocky" and as it turned out, Algieri was just short of everything to match the fictional character

of the movie. Perhaps, the movie actor was also laughing inside when the bout was in progress because Algieri will never be in the caliber of the movie fictional character. The movie actor personally witnessed the fight together with Arnold schwarzenegger who were seen smiling when the fight was going on.

In the end, the bravado of Algieri during the build up of the fight turns into humbling experience as Algieri himself admitted that, Pacquiao is "one of the world great fighters. He does everything well. Manny has perfected his style of fighting. I did catch a really bad shot on one of the knockdowns" Undeniably, his six knockdowns, although, he lasted for 12 rounds is an experience that will haunt him in his boxing carrier but he will be consoled by a thought that it was inflicted by an eight world divisions boxing champion Manny Pacquiao, of course, by that belief, Algieri will have nothing to be ashamed of.

The lopsided and sometimes comical bout was immensely enjoyed by our veterans and the evening became one way for them to relax, enjoy the company of their comrades in arm and recall the years of their military services to their country, the memories of their fallen comrades and many other topics that deeply concerned themselves.

Thanks to the initiative of William Howard, Service Officer of the Post 604, FAVA President Dr. Fred Aquino, Dave and Dinnah San Pedro of the Philippine Fiesta Newspaper for their advertisement and Joe Gonzalez, Past Commander of the Post, who painstaking put on the event for the sake of our veterans who need some kind of respite to unwind themselves from their day to day usual activities. Our veterans were treated with Hot Dogs with Chili Cheese Beans, assorted Cookies, tray of assorted Vegetables and Corn Chips as they watch the boxing bout.

Those seen enjoying the boxing bout were ; Joe Rivera, Tom and Cynthia Amaba, Remy Mangosing, Letty O'quinn, Dale Esperante, Mando Ferreira, Fred and Malou Amber, Olive Johnson, Carissa Veridiano and children, Bella Nidoy, Mila Reyes, Rose de la Cruz, Jolly de la Cruz, Ched Discargar, Ben Conquiaz and company, Bill Bostoc, Luz Arcaya, Ken Thompson, Cordero Families from San Francisco, Jun Abaya and partner, Rick Rafanan, Bobby Cheng and many others.

# Remembering the Veterans

By Dale Esperante

On Veterans Day, 11 Nov 2014, former and current military men and women were honored with ceremonies and celebrations, like a parade and a picnic in the city of Elk Grove. One day out of 365 days, veterans are celebrated and remembered. Why just one day? That was the gist of U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel (Lt Col) Gerard Guevara's message to the veterans of American Legion Magellan Post 604. Military men and women are responsible for defending our freedom 24/7. Our country is the land of the free because it has always been the home of the brave members of the United States Armed Forces. To recognize the selfless veterans in the audience, he called out each branch of service and asked veteran members to stand up. Veterans of the Marines, Navy, Army, and Air Force stood up with enough representations. When the Coast Guard was announced, Comrade Joe Rivera was the lone but proud veteran who stood up.

Lt Col Guevara emphasized the past warriors' service by announcing the war eras and then asking the veterans of each era in the audience to stand up again. Two very senior-aged veterans stood up for WWII. For Korea, only Comrade Pat Engkabo was present. The Vietnam veteran group was well represented. When the Lebanon/Grenada/Panama/Persian Gulf/War on Terror were called as one, middle aged veterans sporadically stood up.

As an active reserve officer of the United States Air Force, Lt Col Guevara respectfully recounted the experiences and sacrifices endured by his predecessors. Their perseverance paved the way for their successors, the Lt Col included, to enjoy the wealth of opportunities available in this great nation. Speaking on behalf of my fellow veterans, we are also proud and appreciative of Lt Col Guevara's military service, dedication, and patriotism.

Gerard is the son of retired U.S. Air Force Major Albert L. Guevara, a proud American Legion member of Magellan Post 604. Gerard's familiarity with Magellan Hall stemmed from his growing



Photos by Dale Esperante

years as a child, a teen-ager, a young adult, and now as a returning keynote speaker introduced as Lt Col Gerard Guevara. He is currently the Operations Officer for the 349th Air Mobility Operations Squadron (AMOS), a deployable combat-ready augmentation unit to the global geographic Air and Space Operations Center (AOC).

The Magellan Post 604 veterans appreciate the following for their support: Air Force Lt Col Gerard Guevara and



Family; Command Sergeant Major Jesse Topasna and the Pacific H.S. Honor Detail; UC Davis Vintage Dance Troupe; The community leaders and personalities: Retired U.S. Army General Luciano Prieto of American Legion Post 391, Auxiliary Unit 604 President Letty O'Quinn, FCSV Lilia Rivera, UNLUCAI President Henry Bambang, FAVA President Fred Aquino, Bicolandia President Jesse Velasco, Veterans Day 2014 Ms. Liberty Nanette Nerona. Finally, a salute of thanks to the Post & Aux 604 organizing committee.

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# VETERANO DAY!

By Dale Esperante

Eleven days after Veterans Day, 11 Nov 2014, the Filipino-American veterans (veteranos) became the main focus again. Lt Colonel Gerard P. Guevara of Travis AFB should be very happy to hear of this. On 22 Nov 2014, Sac State's Kappa Psi Epsilon sorority hosted their annual "Veterano" Luncheon at Magellan Post 604. If Veterans Day is for remembering and celebrating veterans, Veterano Day is for entertaining and mingling with the veteranos and their spouses. The operative word uttered by the emcees several times was "mingle." Before dinner and during entertainment breaks, college-age students from Sac State and UC Davis mingled with senior-age ladies and gentlemen to chat, interview, and listen. The ratio of participants was approximately three students per veteran. As to be expected, every gentleman and lady veteran received a generous amount of attention from those students who sat around them.

The event started with most veterans posing for group photos as requested by smart-phone totting students using their camera apps. When the paparazzi moment passed, the mingling ensued. The effusive interest displayed by the students was enough to spoil their elders. Interest alone wasn't enough for the students. Service with a smile was also provided by the students as the veterans were served their lunch. The veterans were treated like VIPs. On this day, for this writer, the students changed the definition of the acronym VIP from Very Important People to "Veteranos are Important People." The generous attention provided by the young folks was absolutely appreciated by the old folks.

One special observation, a veteran was standing on the sideline enjoying the delightful merriment before him when four young gentlemen entered the hall. Each one wore a blue or dark shirt and a tie. One was carrying a guitar.



The leader paused in front of the veteran, shook his hand, and then continued to raise the back of the veteran's hand to complete the traditional "Mano Po" greeting to the elder. The three companions of the leader followed suit. The veteran was so touched by this traditional sign of respect from the quartet.

It turned out that the blue shirted gentlemen were the scheduled singers. They paid homage to the old veteran on the way to prepare for their number. When they performed their medley of songs, their peers gave them a lot of props by cheering them on. The elders also appreciated their performance, es-

pecially the first song which was a standard before they moved on to more modern songs. Thanks to Derek Diep of Sac State for sharing the names of his fellow singers who are all UC Davis students: Danillo Gayaguy, Rojaye Baccay Pobre, Ryan Babida.

Dancing is universal. On this

day, the young invited the elder to dance. The elders who were still able, obliged the students by dancing slow, line, cha-cha, and swing dances with them. When the DJ changed the tune to hip-hop music, an energetic veteran flaunted his moves as well. The students

Continued on next page

Photos by Dale Esperante

# VETERANO DAY!



From page 12

formed a dance circle and veteran Carlos Cordero hip-hopped like nobody was watching in the center of the circle. Way to go Carlos! Then the young breakers took over and did their thing. Freestyle dancing followed until it was time to go.



The interaction between the generations was so heartwarming. The grateful elders were listened to, each one served with a plateful of home-cooked Filipino dish, entertained, serenaded, danced with, gifted, lavished with respect and attention. Every year, a community-minded group of students from Sac State and UC Davis brings Christmas a month earlier to the veterans who gather at Magellan Hall. Santa for the veterans seems to be getting younger as the years roll on.



The American Legion Magellan Post 604 veterans express their gratitude to Kappa Psi Epsilon (KΨE) and Chi Rho Omicron (XPO), especially to the following: KΨE Community Action Chairs Kimmy Santerina and Jade Tamondong; KΨE Julienne Sumodobila, KΨE Alyssa Gotgotao, KΨE Rinna Pera; XPO Arthur Rubalcaba, XPO BK Evangelista, and XPO Kyle Godizano; and all Sac State and UC Davis students who participated. The KΨE and XPO College Advisor is Professor Marya C. Endriga, Ph.D., Professor and Chair, Department of Psychology.

Kappa Psi Epsilon is a Pilipina-based sorority whose purpose is to promote cultural identity and female empowerment. Website: <http://kpsiepsilon.wix.com/kpsie-epsilon>. Chi Rho Omicron is a Pilipino based Brotherhood spreading cultural awareness. Website: <http://www/csus.edu/org/greek/organizations/XPO.htm>.



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After



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### Dr. Octavio "Tabby" Camasura

Died Saturday Sept 27, 2014, he is the 2nd son of Andres and Lourdes Camasura.

He earned his degree from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines. As a physician with his own private practice for more than 30 years he wanted to provide healthcare for the inopportune by caring for inmates in various correctional facilities in California and the underprivileged in the local Filipino community.

He devoted his free time as the Vice President of the Mabuhay Foundation International and was a member of the Lion's Club. He frequently visited the Philippines for medical and dental missions to stay active and contribute to his homeland.

He found joy in finding unique Mickey Mouse memorabilia and collecting antique cars. He frequented local flea markets and loved finding obscure treasures. He enjoyed gardening, tending to his pets / farm animals, rooting for his beloved 49er's and watching Manny Pacquiao fights.

He was predeceased by his brothers Chitong and Mike and has left behind his wife Toni and his sister Carmela as well as two nieces, Sharmila and Reena. He is also survived by his sister in-law Evelyn and his nieces and nephews- Niki, Mishi, Dessa and Maki.

His legacy will be carried on by son Randy, his wife Marivel and as well as his 3 grandchildren, Terise, Ron and Clare.

*Those we love remain with us for love itself lives on, and cherished memories never fade because a loved one's gone. Those we love can never be more than a thought apart, far as long as there is memory, they'll live on in the heart.*

-Mary Alice Ramish

"Yeah... Yeah... Yeah"  
 - Octavio "Tabby" Camasura

■ Birthdays



JULIE VERGARA with Emmy  
NOVEMBER 25



Dale & Melita Esperante's  
grandson JAIE  
DECEMBER 6



MANNIE BUENTIPO with wife Rhuena  
DECEMBER 24



OLYMPIA L. SANTIAGUEL  
DECEMBER 17

**Calendar of Events**

**December 5, 2014 7:30 PM**  
**December 6, 2014 7:30 PM**  
**December 7, 2014 2:30 PM**

**Sinag-tala 2014:**  
**A theatrical Revue**  
Luther Burbank High School Auditorium  
3500 Florin Rd., Sacramento 95823  
www.sinagtala.org



**December 8, 2014**  
**FCSV Christmas Celebration**  
Jose Rizal Community Center  
Sacramento, CA 95823  
230/pm-8/pm / Entrance. Free  
Programme 1. Mass  
2. Dinner / 3. Santa distribution of  
children's gifts  
Aida 916.616.1040  
Mercy 916.266.1923



**December 20, 2014**  
**Mrs. Philippines 2015-16**  
**Coronation & Ball**  
6/pm-11/pm  
Double Tree Hotel by Hilton  
2001 Point West Way, Sacramento  
Mrs. Phillipines, Mercury Acosta  
Mrs. Luzon, Christine Sison-Wiggins  
Mrs. Visaya, Atty Kathleen Gallagher  
Mercy Guerrero 916 266-1923  
Aida Azurin 616-1040  
Nellie Umali 215-4716  
Mina Guerra 905-9976  
Formal attire / Donation \$40.00



**Anniversary**



CARLE & SARAH ENLOE  
18th Wedding Anniversary  
November 21



JENNY & FRANK AYRAN  
4th Wedding Anniversary  
December 11



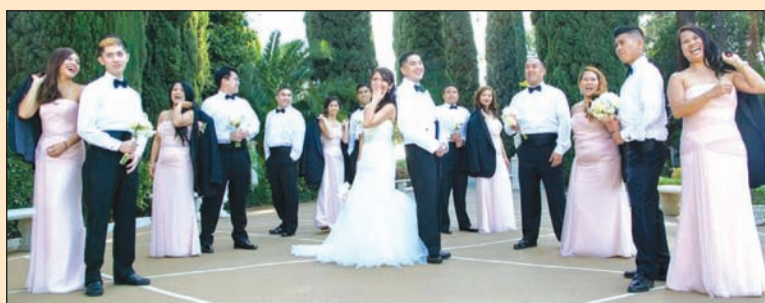
**URSULA (SULAY) COSTALES UCLARAY**  
**100TH BIRTHDAY**

On October 18, 2014 family and friends celebrated Ursula's (Sulay) 100th-century birthday at the Courtyard by Marriott Sacramento, CA. Ursula Costales Uclaray was born on October 19, 1914. Together with her husband, Basilio (deceased) she has 10 children, 31 grandchildren and 24 great grandchildren and 11 great great

grandchildren.

Some family members from countries all over the world such as Germany, Canada, the Philippines and the Middle East came to join the celebration. It was a wonderful evening that was filled with beautiful stories of Sulay's blessed life. Her children talked about how their mother worked so hard so they could all attend college and they were thankful for the opportunities that were given to them. Ursula and her late husband Basilio were hardworking farmers from Panay, Magsingal, Ilocos Sur.

Sulay entertained her family and friends by singing the native Ilocano song "Dundungwen Kanto" (I cherish you). Ursula tearfully said, "All these years I have been so blessed and I cannot ask for anything else. I may not recognize your faces nor remember your names, but in my heart I love you all just the same..."



*Edmond and Sherylynn*

Edmond Nazareno and Sherylynn Madarang's wedding celebration, as they were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Sacramento, November 8, 2014. The celebration continued at the Grand Island Mansion in Walnut Grove, where everyone witnessed the most magical wedding celebration of Edmond and Sherylynn's once-a-fairytale love for each other. They were joined by their families and friends.



# The Joy of Aging

By Nancy Cristi Bautista

“Excuse me, miss”, a young man calls my attention from behind. When I look back, he exclaims, “Oh, I’m sorry, ma’m.” I guess, for a split second, someone thought that I was younger prior to seeing my face. Oh well, aging is so ironic. The more experiences one gets, the less desirable a woman becomes. It is an inevitable inverted ratio of womanhood. Whereas with men, wrinkles and gray hairs are the corroboration statement of their manliness and becoming more distinguished.

How can I explain to everyone who looks at me that every wrinkle on my face and elbows are a repercussion of my labor of love pains from my children. Even Victoria’s deepest secret cannot hide the flopped blobs inside the double hammocks. I do not keep

a skeleton in my closet, just my cute old outfits, hoping and praying that someday I may fit in them again.

Picasso’s work of art is minuscule compared to the manicures, pedicures, and the sloshing of color paints on my hair, which are more abstract than his paintings. Still, they are not enough to produce a smile when I look at myself in the mirror.

Seeing younger-looking ladies of my age, whose faces, many moons ago used to already resemble their mothers’, make me wonder. Although they may have fooled some, do they think they can fool mother nature by visiting facial clinics? A little pull here and a little lift there will eventually lead to running out of skin. Then, they may have to borrow from the bottom of the pit to patch up the top. For me at this time, that is still out of the question. I should never say never, but maybe, someday.

So, here I am, trying to wear more high cowl neck sweaters to hide the real jowls. I brush my hair towards my face to camouflage the wrinkles. I tell people I am ten years older than my real age to hear them say, “Oh, my! You look ten years younger!”

However, right now, I try to convince myself that age is just a state of mind. To console myself, I try to visualize myself as the woman I was, about twenty years

ago, without getting hurt, like when I try to get up from a deep-seated chair. Also, I make sure that when I get interviewed at the senior security office, I pinch myself to remind me of my real age. When I was younger, I always wanted to get a new picture for my driver’s license. Now I am content renewing my license by mail and keeping the old, and I mean old, picture.

On the other hand, the senior citizen discounts that I get from stores and the movies create pride and joy when the younger customers ogle over it. I sing “Na-na-na-na-na” in my brain without endangering myself with excitement.

It gives me a sigh of relief, as I drive by my former place of employment, and say, “Hello, but, no thanks. Bye!”. It is also amazing how, when I need to set my alarm clock, I have to read the instructions again, since I very seldom use it.

Also, they do not hassle for my ID anymore when I go to clubs, meaning less searching and bungling inside my purse. I skip the feminine shelves in the stores now, and just peek into the wet protection department in case of

emergency.

And when it comes to romance, it is comforting to know that the flame is still burning, maybe just an incandescent glow this time.

Oh, the joy of aging! I guess, I should be thankful for all the blessings God has given me all those years. At this point of my life, I should be focusing on good health, and doing good to others. I should be sharing the same beautiful experiences of my youth with the much younger generations, like my children and grandchildren. So that when they reach my age, they will also savor the joy of aging.

\*Note: This is fiction, but, maybe, there is a truth in most of them.



## Simbang Gabi

**S**imbang Gabi (Filipino for “Night Mass”) is a devotional nine-day series of Masses practised by Roman Catholics and Aglipayans in the Philippines in anticipation of Christmas and to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary. The masses are held daily from December 16 to December 24, and occur at different times ranging from as early as 03:00 to 05:00 am. On the last day of the Simbang Gabi, which is Christmas Eve, the service is instead called Misa de Gallo (Spanish for “Rooster’s Mass”).

A well-known belief by Filipinos is that if a devotee completed all nine days of the Simbang Gabi, a request made as part of the novena may be granted. This centuries-old custom is still popular to this day.

Similar to the Spanish tradition of lighting houses with small oil lamps on Christmas Eve, Filipinos adorn their homes with colourful star-shaped lanterns called paról. This is believed to have originally been used by worshippers to light their way to church in the mornings, as well as to symbolise the Star of Bethlehem.

After mass, Filipino families share in various traditional Christmas foods. Bibingka, (rice cake cooked on a clay stove) and puto bumbong (purple-colored rice pastry, seasoned with grated coconut and brown sugar) are two of the most popular of these delicacies while tsokolate (hot chocolate drink made from local cacao beans) and salabat (ginger tea) are sought-after breakfast drinks. The tradition has been adapted in several regions to secondarily honor the infant Queen-Queen and her arrival on.

### History

The Simbang Gabi originated in the early days of Spanish rule over the Philippines as a practical compromise for farmers, who began work before sunrise to avoid the noonday heat out in the fields. Priests began to say Mass in the early mornings instead of the evening novenas more common in the rest of the Hispanic world. This cherished Christmas custom eventually became a distinct feature of Philippine culture and became a symbol of sharing.

### Spanish-Era agricultural practices

The Philippines is an agricultural country known for its rice, coconut and sugarcane plantations. Many tenant farmers (also



known as sacadas, campesinos, and casa-macs) toiled all day with one break during noon when the heat would be at its peak. Losing an hour due to the unbearable temperatures, farmers worked hard and budgeted their time out of fear of the local encargado, who administered land for the Spanish feudal lord or encomendero/hacendero.

In between the planting and harvest seasons is a lull in the work imposed on natives. Those who were old enough to provide manual labour were gathered under the tributo system where men would have to work for free for the Spanish colonial government’s building projects. The women also have their share of work tending to their vegetable gardens or tumana and as household help for the local political elite.

When the Christmas season would begin, it was customary to hold novenas in the evenings, but the priests saw that the people would attend despite the day’s fatigue. As a compromise, the clergy began to hold Mass in the early dawn when the land would still be dark before people went out to till the land.

### Cuisine

During the Spanish Era and early American Period, the parishioners would mostly have nothing to offer during Mass except sacks of rice, fruits and vegetables and fresh eggs. These were graciously accepted by the priests, who besides keeping a portion for themselves, would share the produce in with the rest of the parishioners after the service.

Today, local delicacies are readily available in the church’s premises for the parishioners. The iconic puto bumbóng, bibingka, suman and other rice pastries are cooked on the spot. Latík and yema are sweets sold to children, while biscuits like uraró (arrow-root), barquillos, lengua de gato and otap (ladyfingers) are also available. Kape Barako, a very strong coffee grown in the province of Batangas), hot tsokolate, or salabat (an infusion of ginger) are the main drinks, while soups such as Arróz caldo (rice and chicken porridge) and papait (goat bile stew from the Ilocos region) are also found.

The rice-based foods were traditionally served to fill the stomachs of the farmers, since rice is a cheap and primary staple. The pastries were full of carbohydrates needed by the colonial Filipinos for the back-breaking work in the rice paddies and sugar mills that they were subjected to.

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# Dirty Pleasures

By Gemma Nemenzo

Growing up in the Philippines in the '60s, our version of "fast food" were those peddled by ambulant vendors whose resonant voices became part of the soundtrack of our daily lives.

Our parents warned us sternly against eating those treats – they were believed to be dirty and unhealthy, therefore forbidden. That made them all the more tempting and delectable, not only because they were cheap and convenient (delivered right to your door, no waiting in line), they also allowed us a wee taste of rebellion.

Who can ever forget, for example, how "dirty ice cream" in such flavors as queso (cheese), mais (corn) and langka (jackfruit), scooped high onto tiny sugar cones, would always beat out the more sanitary – and more expensive – Magnolia as our summer cooler of choice, after we had made sure that no adults were around to stop us from peering deep into the vendor's cart to savor the flavors of the day?

Looking back, I realize that ambulant vendors peddling food were so present in our lives then that we were never hungry. They would come like clockwork at their appointed time.

At around six in the morning, we would wake up to the blaring horns of the "potpot," the vendor on bicycle selling freshly baked sweet breads. Inside those two giant aluminum bins on each side of his bike would be an array of ensaymada (buttered brioche),



The ice cream (sorbetes) vendor



The taho (sweetened tofu) vendor

pan de sal (dinner roll), pan de coco (coconut bread), monay (sweet buns), and such horribly named breads as pan de regla (sweet bread with red filling). They would still be warm and fragrant, with enough sugar to jolt us out of our early morning lethargy.

An hour or so later, the puto (rice cake) vendor would come, carrying on his shoulder a long, sturdy bamboo pole with two thick and flat aluminum canisters with conical covers on each end. Inside those canisters were several varieties of still-warm puto and kutsinta (brown rice cake), cut diamond-shaped with a sprinkling of toasted coconut on each one. The white puto was always my favorite because it had a few grains of anise seeds in them and it would melt in my mouth so effortlessly, without the need to slather it with butter. The kutsinta was always dark brown and sticky (not the artificially colored orange ones available now). When we bought a slice or two, the vendor



Balut-Penoy vendor

would make a cone-shaped container from a cut-up banana leaf on which he would put a spoonful or two of freshly grated coconut that we would sprinkle over the rice cakes.

Coming close on the puto vendor's heels would be the palitaw (sugar-coated rice cake) vendor with a giant bilao (flat cane basket) on her head. The bilao would be lined with banana leaves so the palitaw and kalamay (sticky

rice cake) would not stick to the basket. We would eat these native delicacies from cut-up banana leaves and they would be served with grated coconut.

In summer, as the noon sun started searing our skins and we thirsted for something cold, the samalamig (shaved ice drink) vendor would come pushing his cart that held several giant plastic jugs filled with multicolored syrup. I don't remember much of this native slushy because it was a major no-no in our home, after my biologist father lectured us on how mosquito larvae and worms would infest dirty water, which was likely what the ice shaved for the slushy was made of.

But when the bell of the "dirty ice cream" man would ring, the neighborhood kids, who were lucky enough to have a few centavos and no adult to stop them, would come running. It was always a wrenching moment for me because my yaya's (nanny) constantly watchful eyes prevented me from joining them. I would watch longingly as my playmates slurped and licked their cones as quickly as they could so the hot sun wouldn't beat them out of their ice cream treats. When the Magnolia vendor would come much later, I would get my twin popsicle treat, but it always felt puny compared to the multi-scoop

"dirty ice cream" that the other kids had already enjoyed.

Afternoon merienda (snack) time would mean the return of the "potpot" and a host of other vendors as well. Some days it would be the taho (sweetened tofu) vendor carrying on his shoulder a pole with two medium-sized aluminum bins, one containing the warm white soft tofu and side container of tapioca balls, the other the syrup that would be poured into the scooped out taho.

Other vendors would peddle turon (plantain rolls), mais (corn on the cob) wrapped in a burlap sack to keep the heat

in, binatog (hominy served with ground coconut) and such fruits as santol (sour apple-like fruit) and manggang hilaw (green mango), which the vendor would slice in the middle so she could put a spoonful of pink bagoong (shrimp paste) on it, sandwich style. This green mango treat would make our mouths water with anticipation, never mind that it would be wrapped in whatever trash paper the vendor would have picked up along the way. We were living dangerously but didn't realize it.

The evening hour was always announced by the unmistakable call of the balut (duck egg embryo) vendor. I used to wonder why balut was always sold at night. I only found out much later when I was already an adult that it goes well with beer, and beer is best enjoyed when relaxing with friends at the end of a hard day's work. Balut is also reputedly a guaranteed aphrodisiac, pampatibay ng tuhod (a knee strengthener), the guys would wink.

Many years later, I would be told that several of the balut vendors that circled our neighborhood very late at night were actually undercover military operatives watching our streets and houses for suspected subversives. At that time of widespread paranoia, that discovery was enough to stop me from buying from ambulant vendors again – a decision I regret now. After all, fast-food Filipino style, just like our homeland's politics, may be dirty and messy, but they always provided satisfying pleasure.

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# Sinag-tala

By Jonathan Taraya

As the days get shorter and the chill of winter settles in, the green and red glow of holiday lights begin to blanket the Sacramento Valley. For one week-end only, one light burns brighter than the rest, and casts its warmth across the entire Filipino community.

Theater and Performing Arts Association, will be performed Dec. 5-7, 2014 at Luther Burbank High School in Sacramento.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary show, the Sacramento-based non-profit organization is putting together a program this year that strives to meet its namesake.

“In English, our name is starlight, a star’s radiance,” said SFTPAA Artistic Director and CEO Sonny Alforque. “For our 25th anniversary, we tried to capture all the stellar performances we are known for over the years into one beautiful event.”

Since its first show in 1990, SFTPAA’s mission is to promote theater and performing arts through community outreach. SFTPAA accomplishes this goal by providing training in the study, interpretation and staging of Filipino musical and literary art, including cultural dance.

“All the pieces we are performing were composed or created by Filipino artists, writers and musicians,” said Alforque. “Our cast and crew is nearly 100 people of all ethnicities and features returning artists from previous years.”

The all-volunteer Theatrical Revue cast and crew received 12 weeks of free training in basic artistic and business principles of theater and performing arts and the ages



Photos by Rick Garcia



of participants ranges from as young as 4-years-old to performers in their mid-sixties.

The 25th anniversary show will have three performances beginning opening night, Friday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. The 2nd performance will be Saturday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. The final performance will be Sunday afternoon, Dec. 7 at 2:30 p.m.

All performances will be held at Luther

Burbank High School, 3500 Florin Rd., Sacramento 95823.

General admission is \$20 for the Friday and Sunday shows (12/5 and 12/7) and \$25 for Saturday (12/6). Admission is \$15 for children under 12, students and seniors for all three performances. For more information please visit: <http://sftpaa.org/> or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SFTPAA](http://www.facebook.com/SFTPAA)



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# 'There are no excuses': Pacquiao camp calls out Mayweather

By George Willis

While Manny Pacquiao was trying to coax Floyd Mayweather into being his next opponent, Chris Algieri was left to contemplate what might have been. They are two prizefighters headed in different directions after Pacquiao's dominating performance in their WBO welterweight championship fight Saturday night at the Cotai Arena at the Venetian Macao.



Not even close: Manny Pacquiao completely dominated Chris Algieri in the ring for his third consecutive win on Sunday, November 23, at the Cotai Arena in Macau.

Pacquiao (57-5-2, 38 KOs) scored five knockdowns and also forced Algieri into a standing eight-count en route to a one-sided decision before a sellout crowd of 13,202. It left Pacquiao publicly calling out Mayweather, and Algieri wondering how things could have gone so wrong.

"I think it's time to make that fight happen," Pacquiao said of the long-discussed match with the unbeaten Mayweather. "The fans really deserve that fight. It's time to say yes, so people can prepare for early next year."

Pacquiao's promoter Bob Arum and trainer Freddie Roach also challenged Mayweather.

"I think that anybody, whoever reads about Mayweather or Manny, will say, 'Why didn't these guys fight each other?'" Roach said. "It'll always be a question mark. Let's face it: The best should fight the best. They've been the best guys out there for over three years. Usually, the best does fight the best somewhere along the line. This is something that will haunt them forever."

Arum added: "If boxing is to be considered a major sport, the fight has to happen. All the nonsense has to cease. Everybody should be working together to make that fight. There are no excuses anymore. None. I'll be at the phone. Manny will be at his phone. We're ready."

Algieri, meanwhile, faces an uncertain future. He was never in the fight with Pacquiao, losing on the scorecards 119-103 twice and 120-102. He was overly passive in the early rounds, had no sting on his jab and often fought with his head low, nullifying his 4-inch height advantage and 72-inch reach. He was an easy target for Pacquiao's rapid combinations.

The Filipino was credited with six knockdowns, though the first in the second round appeared to be more of a slip. Algieri was dropped twice in the sixth round, and twice again in the ninth, when he was nearly stopped by a straight left and later forced into taking a standing eight-count. Pacquiao earned another knockdown in the 10th, when Algieri went down in the slippery corner amid another flurry. There was never a point in the fight when Pacquiao was hurt as Algieri simply fought to survive.

Modal Trigger

Algieri tries to dodge more Pacquiao blows. Photo: Getty Images  
"I would have liked to have seen Chris settle down, stand up straighter and fight him," said Joe DeGuardia, Algieri's promoter. "But if he does what he's supposed to do, he'll learn from this loss and become a better fighter."

Some speculated Algieri was overwhelmed by the magnitude

of the pay-per-view bout fought Sunday morning local time amid a boisterous crowd of mostly Pacquiao fans. But the Long Island long shot credited Pacquiao for making him look overmatched.

"Every time I thought I had him, he had the ability to adjust," Algieri said. "He's a great fighter and his experience really showed. It was difficult to get much steam going as he kept readjusting."

Algieri never had any steam.

"Once it was late in the fight and the scores were pretty wide, I tried to look for some good opportunities, but Manny didn't give me a lot of holes," he said. "He was not reckless. He was smart in his approach. He didn't leave me much to take advantage of."

Roach expected a more competitive fight.

"After the first 30 seconds of the first round, you knew he was lost," he said of Algieri. "You could see he didn't belong in the ring with Manny Pacquiao."

Algieri (20-1, 8 KOs) was stripped of his WBO light welterweight title for fighting Pacquiao for the welterweight crown. He plans to take a break and contemplate his future.

"It's a learning experience," Algieri said. "It's not going to shake my confidence in my ability. I'm still proud of my skills. I'm just very disappointed with the way the fight went."



Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather

## Pacquiao not looking to get lion's share vs Mayweather

The camp of Manny Pacquiao assured Floyd Mayweather that they're willing to give in to possible demands by the American fighter if that's what it takes to make a megabuck showdown happen.

Pacquiao's adviser Michael Koncz made the assurance on behalf of the Filipino icon, saying his client would even agree to let Mayweather get the bulk of the money involved in the fight.

"We're very reasonable," Koncz said after Pacquiao routed Chris Algieri Sunday at the Cotai Arena inside The Venetian Macao here in a fight that saw the challenger get knocked down a jaw-dropping six times.

"I don't want to throw numbers out because that is going to hurt our negotiation. But we're very reasonable. We're not expecting to get the lion's share and if we have to give a little bit to get the fight, then we'll do it," he added.

Interest about a Mayweather-Pacquiao showdown once again reached an all-time high following Pacquiao's dominant performance, with Top Rank chief Bob Arum expressing optimism that the super bout can be made in the next six months.

Pacquiao himself declared he wants the fight – and this time he is pressing hard for it unlike before. He called out Mayweather at Sunday's post-fight presser and prior to that, he even starred in a Foot Locker commercial alluding to a much-awaited clash with Mayweather.

But Koncz stressed everything is still up to the undefeated Mayweather, widely recognized as the top pound-for-pound fighter in the planet today.

"If this fight is going to happen, it's because Floyd wants it to happen," Koncz continued. "It's not going to matter what we want, it's not going to matter what HBO wants, what Arum wants, or what (former Golden Boy CEO Richard) Schaefer wants. The fight is going to happen because Floyd wants it."

"We've been trying to get this fight done for the past six or five years. So until I hear something from Floyd, I don't hold high hopes," he also said.

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# Kim Chiu, Coco Martin lead winners of 28th Star Awards for TV

By Chuck Smith

MANILA, Philippines – ABS-CBN stars Kim Chiu and Coco Martin were the big winners at the 28th PMPC Star Awards for Television held on Sunday, November 23.

Coco and Kim and were named Best Drama Actor and Actress, respectively, for their performances in the ABS-CBN drama “Ikaw Lamang.”

Kim bested six other actresses for the award, including Angel Locsin and Maja Salvador for “The Legal Wife” and Lovi Poe and Maricel Soriano for “Ang Dalawang Mrs. Real.”

“Ikaw Lamang” dominated this year’s Star Awards for TV as it won the Best Prime-time Drama Series award, Best Drama Supporting Actor award (for John Estrada) and Best Drama Supporting Actress award (for KC Concepcion).

Both Coco and KC were repeat winners from last year for their respective categories.

Toni Gonzaga took home the awards for Best Female Showbiz Oriented Talk Show Host (for “The Buzz”), Best Female TV Host (for “ASAP 19”) and Best Reality Show Host (with Bianca Gonzalez, John Prats, Robi Domingo and Toni Gonzaga for “Pinoy Big Brother: All In”)

Meanwhile, Vice Ganda won two awards as he was named Best Celebrity Talk Show Host for “Gandang Gabi Vice” and Best Male TV Host for “It’s Showtime.”

Here is the complete list of winners of the 28th PMPC Star Awards for Television:

Best TV Station: ABS-CBN-2

Best Primetime Drama Series: Ikaw Lamang (ABS-CBN)

Best Daytime Drama Series: Be Careful With My Heart (ABS-CBN)

Best Drama Actor: Coco Martin for Ikaw Lamang (ABS-CBN)

Best Primetime Drama Series: Ikaw Lamang (ABS-CBN))

Best Drama Actress: Kim Chiu for Ikaw Lamang (ABS-CBN)

Best Drama Supporting Actor: John Estrada for Ikaw Lamang (ABS-CBN)

Best Drama Supporting Actress: KC Concepcion for Ikaw Lamang (ABS-CBN)

Best Drama Anthology: Magpakailanman (GMA)

Best Single Performance by an Actor: (tie) Arjo Atayde for Maalaala Mo Kaya episode: “Dos Por Dos” (ABS-CBN)

Jose Manalo for Eat Bulaga! Lenten special: “Hulong Langit” (GMA)

Best Single Performance by an Actress: Sunshine Cruz for MMK episode: “Karayom” (ABS-CBN)

Best Child Performer: Ralkko Mateo for Honesto (ABS-CBN)



An emotional Kim Chiu received her Best Drama Actress award for her performance in ABS-CBN’s soap opera “Ikaw Lamang” at the 28th PMPC Star Awards for Television.



Coco Martin is named Best Drama Actor at the 28th PMPC Star Awards for Television.

Best New Male TV Personality: Manolo Pedrosa for MMK episode: “Selfie” (ABS-CBN)

Best New Female TV Personality: Lyca Gairanod for MMK episode: “Red Envelope” (ABS-CBN)

Best Gag Show: Goin’ Bulilit (ABS-CBN)

Best Comedy Show: Home Sweetie Home (ABS-CBN)

Best Comedy Actor: Sef Cadayona for Bubble Gang (GMA)

Best Comedy Actress: Rufa Mae Quinto for Bubble Gang (GMA)

Best Variety Show: It’s Showtime (ABS-CBN)

Best Musical Variety Show:

ASAP 19 (ABS-CBN)

Best Male TV Host: Vice Ganda for It’s Showtime (ABS-CBN)

Best Female TV Host: Toni Gonzaga for ASAP 19 (ABS-CBN)

Best Public Service Program: T3: Enforced (TV5)

Best Public Service Program Host: Vicky Morales for Wish Ko Lang (GMA)

Best Reality Show: It Takes Gutz To Be A Gutierrez (TV5)

Best Reality Show Hosts: Bianca Gonzalez, John Prats, Robi Domingo and Toni Gonzaga for Pinoy Big Brother: All In (ABS-CBN)

Best Game Show: Celebrity Bluff (GMA)

Best Game Show Host: Judy Ann Santos for Bet on Your Baby (ABS-CBN)

Best Talent Show Program: Celebrity Dance Battle (TV5)

Best Talent Show Program Host: Alex Gonzaga and Luis Manzano for The Voice Kids

(ABS-CBN)

Best Youth Oriented Program: Luv U (ABS-CBN)

Best Educational Program: (tie) Born to Be Wild (GMA); Matanglawin (ABS-CBN)

Best Educational Program Host: Kim Atienza for Matanglawin (ABS-CBN)

Best Celebrity Talk Show: Gandang Gabi Vice (ABS-CBN)

Best Celebrity Talk Show Host: Vice Ganda for Gandang Gabi Vice (ABS-CBN)

Best Documentary Program: I-Witness (GMA)

Best Documentary Program Host: Howie Severino, Jay Taruc, Kara David and Sandra Aguinaldo for I-Witness (GMA)

Best Documentary Special: Yolanda (ABS-CBN)

Best Magazine Show: I Juander (GMA News TV)

Best Magazine Show Host: Cesar Apolinario and Susan Enriquez for I Juander (GMA News TV)

Best News Program: State of the Nation with Jessica Soho (GMA News TV)

Best Male Newscaster: Erwin Tulfo for Aksyon (TV5)

Best Female Newscaster: Jessica Soho for State of the Nation (GMA News TV)

Best Morning Show: Umagang Kay Ganda (ABS-CBN)

Best Morning Show Host: Anthony Taberna, Ariel Ureta, Atom Araullo, Jing Castaneda, Winnie Cordero and Zen Hernandez for Umagang Kay Ganda (ABS-CBN)

Best Public Affairs Program: The Bottomline with Boy Abunda (ABS-CBN)

Best Public Affairs Program Host: Boy Abunda for The Bottomline (ABS-CBN)

Best Showbiz Oriented Talk Show: The Buzz (ABS-CBN)

Best Showbiz Oriented Talk Show Host: Ricky Lo for Startalk (GMA)

Best Female Showbiz Oriented Talk Show Host: Toni Gonzaga for The Buzz (ABS-CBN)

Best Children Show: Tropang Potchi (GMA)


Best Children Show Host: Isabel Frial, Kyle Danielle Ocampo, Lianne Valentino, Miggs Cuaderno, Miggy Jimenez, Nomer Limatog and Sabrina Man for Tropang Potchi

Best Travel Show: Biyahe ni Drew (GMA News TV)

Best Travel Show Host: Aga Muhlach for Pinoy Explorer (TV5)

Best Lifestyle Show: Gandang Ricky Reyes (GMA News TV)

Best Lifestyle Show Host: Kris Aquino for Kris TV (ABS-CBN)



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