



Which US presidential candidate is better for the Philippines? Trump or Clinton? - Page 4

Philippine Fiesta™

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The Duterte crowd is everywhere Page 3



Photo by Dave San Pedro

Philippine Consulate on Wheels

Bring services to Sacramento

By Carle and Sarah Enloe

On March 12, 2016, the Bayanihan Club of Sacramento, USA along with the American Legion Magellan Post 604; American Legion Auxiliary Unit 604; Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (FCSV); Maharlika Lions Club; Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce; Philippine Fiesta Newspaper; Philippine National Day Association (PNDA);

and United Naguilian, La Union Circle of America Inc. sponsored the Seventh (7th) Annual Philippine Consulate on Wheels (COW) (Consular Outreach) at the Filipino American Veterans Hall, 8831 Gerber Road, Sacramento, CA 95828. This year Memie Weitzenberg, a long standing community leader and member of the Bayanihan Association, chaired the event.

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Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity Holds Hawaiian Night For Mrs. Philippines Bets



The officers and members of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity.

Photos by Faina Abaya

By Faina E. Abaya

The Filipinos who are far from their homeland are not only appreciated for their high degree of civility in their dealings with other nationalities but also known for being so gregarious to show the beauty, grace and elegance of their traditional costumes, dances, songs and music.

Our premier community organization, the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity under the leadership of Mercedes Guerrero also added one other respectable quality of the Filipinos, their chameleon like adaptability of their environment. For such natural ability, the Filipinos easily adapt the noble practices of other people to consider them as their own. Continued on page 10



Hula performance by Deidra San Pedro with the FCSV members and families.

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Editor's Note

Pastel-colored eggs and bunnies aside, Easter celebrations bring us new meanings and renewed faith in our Christian life. In the Pass-over, may each one of us continues to live each day in remembrance of Jesus Christ' resurrection, united in his name full of aspirations and hopes.

This issue of Philippine Fiesta news brings us to several community events, both past and upcoming. I have to say, I enjoyed witnessing those that embraced their Filipino citizenship again at the last Consulate On Wheels (COW) by the San Francisco Philippine Consulate, and as sponsored by the Bayanihan Club, USA and other community organization. In addition, I was also fascinated by the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity's formerly Spring Brunch, turned to a successful hula-themed event in our community. Emceed by Estela Rabara and Ray Oneiza, the afternoon was delightful to watch with performances from our local dance group (the Royal Court) and proudly of my daughter Deidra, with her solo hula dance and a group dance with our ever-active friends in the community. I was almost in awe how her performance was generously received but more in seeing her come back and perform in front of the audience of friends in the community. I love that she continues to share her many talents, along with my other children (Dino and Dane), whether to entertain or to be of service to our community.

In the same token, I'd like to invite everyone to our son Dane along with Amanda, as cofounder, to their non-profit organization Rize All's premier show on April 17, at the Guild's Theater. In this organization, they teach dance to children of all ages. I suggest that you come with your children or grandchildren. Someday soon, they will replace us on the dance floor, or we may be surprised that one of them may make it in to the mainstream. This leads me to inviting you to read on the write up about Brian Rivera, the son of Lilia and Joe Rivera, as written by Dale Esparante. Dreams do come true! I encourage our readers to submit names of individuals or groups to be highlighted in Philippine Fiesta news. Let's bring back the "Ganda, Talino, at Talento" section of the paper.

Lastly and humbly, this is to share with our readers the culmination of my journey in attaining a higher degree in nursing education, with an MSN degree in nursing informatics. My graduation is set for June 17 at the Denver Performing Arts in Denver, Colorado. My dreams also came true but not without the help of my forever supportive husband. Thank you for everything that you've done for me to achieve my goals in life!

And so, I'm back and have made it to almost, the 15th year of Philippine Fiesta news in our community.

With all my love,
Dinnah S. San Pedro

Do We Have a Choice?

By Erick San Juan

The Philippines and United States have agreed on the five military bases in the country where the Americans can build facilities under the Enhanced Defense Agreement Cooperation.



B-52

The five "EDCA Agreed Locations" identified during the sixth Bilateral Strategic Dialogue in Washington DC this week are:

Antonio Bautista Air Base in Puerto Princesa, Palawan
Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga
Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija
Lumbia Air Base in Cagayan de Oro
Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base in Mactan

The annual dialogue was co-chaired by Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel and Assistant Secretary of Defense David Shear for the US, and Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Evan P. Garcia and Undersecretary of National Defense Pio Lorenzo F. Batino for the Philippines, the Philippine embassy in Washington DC said in a statement.

Under EDCA, the US can not only increase its military presence in the country but also build facilities in local bases under the supervision of the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, expanding on the Visiting Forces Agreement. (Source: InterAksyon.com, March 19, 2016)

After declaring EDCA as constitutional by the Supreme Court, all systems go in its implementation as soon as possible. Some Filipinos believe that the presence of US military troops in the country will somehow deter the Chinese from its bullying its neighbors in the region. But some Filipinos, especially from the progressive left and the patriotic ones, the country doesn't need the 'big brother' because it only increases the tension in the South China Sea and put the country in the crosshairs.

As what Peter Lee wrote in his article China is Not Leaving the "South China

Sea", "America is learning that the South China Sea is called the South "China" Sea for a reason, despite patriotic efforts in various nations to rename it the "West Philippine Sea" or "East Vietnamese Sea".

Peoples Republic of China Foreign Minister Wang Yi declared that China was the first to discover, name, develop, and administer the various islands of the southern seas. Our ancestors have tilled those fields and toiled there amid hardships for generations. We know this place and love this place better than anyone else, and more than any other people we wish for the peace and stability of the southern sea and freedom of navigation.

Wang Yi's flowery rhetoric about China's sole historical claim to all the islands of the southern seas and their development is a historical nonsense.

But the second part, about the Beijing's paramount interest and growing predominance in the South China Sea is closer to the truth. This is because the PRC is spending a lot of money, effort, and diplomatic capital to make it true.

What was not told was to please the millions of Chinese fisher folks not only roaming around the 9 dash line but also all oceans of the world. No wonder incidents like the Argentinian navy downed a China's fishing ship intruding its territory, emboldened the Chinese to test other territorial waters.

The People's Republic of China sails through the South China Sea, flies through it, fishes in it, erects towns and airfields, sends in cruise ships and commercial jet liners on regular schedules, patrols it with an armada of coast guard and naval vessels, maintains forward military bases in it, builds faux islands in it,

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The Duterte crowd is everywhere

By Carmen N. Pedrosa

It brings to an end a debate provoked by Malcolm Gladwell when he wrote in New Yorker that revolutions could not be facebooked or twitted. I think that to him revolutions come from real life relationships – friends and relatives – all connected somehow not by printed word alone through postings.

I was ready to accept his theory because in the Philippines separated by more than a thousand islands it was next to impossible to create a huge physical crowd. That is what made Edsa exceptional. Even if there were less than a million that gathered to support the rebels in military camps headed by Fidel Ramos and Juan Ponce Enrile, it was a big crowd.

In those days, Edsa was the template for peaceful revolution. But it would not last long. Reformist Filipinos soon realized they had been duped and that they risked life and limb for one group of oligarchs for another. Corruption was back and worse. Unity was more elusive than ever with the oligarchy ruling the roost. Reformists became aware that something more lasting than massing a crowd was needed – constitutional change that would give us new politics and government.

In time, a new form of protest appeared, of all places in cold Iceland, that did well for a time in international banking. It was the darling of bankers out for the big bucks until recession broke out in 2008. As Icelanders told it, the elite and incumbent government were at a loss on what to do until a group of citizen reformers decided it was time to get involved.

Iceland is small and has a politically literate population. They called their movement crowdsourcing. They would bring in as

many people representing diverse sectors of the community.

In Iceland, the first step was to organize a panel of experts (about 50) that would cull suggestions from the crowd. That's how it came to be known as 'crowdsourcing.' Iceland would crowd source for a new Constitution. It was a combination of both real crowdsourcing and the use of the Internet for a political revolution. When its citizens decided to unite to challenge solutions from the bankers and government leaders, Iceland became a template for countries big and small on how to change government and reform through constitutional change. But in the Philippines? It seemed impossible.

I knew nothing about Iceland. When social activism first began there, we saw pictures of its citizens seated around bonfires in the streets where they talked about what they could do together to help survive the crisis.

I was into constitutional change for many years, fighting for it through several administrations but at the time I thought this could only be done through the usual means – either by constitutional assembly, that is, by Congress, a constitutional convention dominated by politicians, their relatives and friends, or by people's initiative through a percentage of signatures.

So I had no listeners who cared to understand crowdsourcing using the modern tools of communication. To them, crowdsourcing with a hundred million people was not possible in a country with a political system that had been set for decades for the few. It was a strange word that had nothing to do with the Philippines.

I joined other groups and tried to explain the concept. It was about the few and the many. The few had the monopoly of resources

while the many ate the crumbs that fell from their tables.

Friends and enemies wanted to stick to people's initiative through which they would gather a percentage of signatures and force constitutional reform on a Congress dominated by the few.

In hindsight, the groups who tried this route learned the precious lesson that it was a trick – the sovereign people would never be allowed to change the oligarch-designed and authored 1987 Constitution. We had tried before with no success. It was then that I thought of doing what was done in Iceland in the Philippines. Why not gather the people together who would suggest and propose the changes needed?

That was when I read Malcolm Gladwell's Small Change in the New Yorker that said "a revolution cannot be tweeted." He cited the Million March and the unforgettable speech of Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream.' The problem was we had no Martin Luther King in the Philippines.

To me that was the challenge. We did not have the crowds and no Martin Luther King around whom to organize.

Gladwell used the Million March from Alabama to Washington for his argument. He said the people came together because there were physical connections between them.

It happened so quickly they didn't have time for political theories. The political theorist Michael Walzer wrote in Dissent, "The answer was always the same: It was like a fever. Everyone wanted to go."

A Martin Luther King did not



Rodrigo Duterte

appear in our midst but a Heneral Luna did – Rodrigo Duterte. He may not be as eloquent as Martin Luther but he could communicate to the crowds – the masses hungry for change – in the language of Heneral Luna. It became a fever. Wherever Duterte went, he was received with fervor and enthusiasm, with screams and clenched fists, signaling they were ready to fight for him.

I am writing this column from a Facebook posting that said "The presidency of the Philippines will be won in social media."

Like any mass movement we do not know the formula of how and why it works. That was what Malcolm Gladwell missed. It is like a fever. So was the Duterte campaign. It became a fever and many caught it in towns and cities in most parts of the country.

The traditional politicians can-

not overcome this fever. Friends of Duterte groups are spreading out over Facebook and Twitter, liking and sharing Duterte stuff. These are crucial because it makes Duterte omnipresent to at least a third of the 100 million Filipinos who are connected by Internet everyday and every hour.

The posting in Facebook says, "Keep SHARING Duterte stuffs!" With the

fever present online, it spills out outside social media into the real physical world.

Today, as the popularity and satisfaction ratings of Noynoy Aquino continue to fall with the Mamasapano massacre, the neglect of Yolanda victims, the PDAF and DAP pork declared unconstitutional, the Duterte crowds grow ever larger. All other candidates that connect to the Liberal Party or Noynoy Aquino are shunned or rejected. Instead Filipinos stream to the Duterte rallies all over the country. But pictures and videos of his huge crowds are not shown by mainstream media nor get television coverage.

Duterte was alone on stage...with his crowd. That is crowdsourcing Philippine style. The people have spoken through the Duterte crowds and it is clear whom they want as president.



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Which US presidential candidate is better for the Philippines? Clinton or Trump?

By Joe America

You get to weigh in on the likely US American presidential candidates, Republican (conservative) lead candidate Donald Trump and Democratic (liberal) leader Hillary Clinton.

What do you think about it?

The policy debate will consider the four main topics: Trans-Pacific Partnership (TTP), China, the Global Economy and Perspectives on the Philippines.

Positives

Donald Trump is a dynamic orator, a showman, charismatic and sharp of word and profound of decision. His background is in the real estate business where he has made billions in hotels, offices and gambling casinos, and in entertainment, where he has hosted a series of "Apprentice" reality shows where individuals compete on business acumen. He hires, and he fires. As a political leader, he has proven skilled at drawing a huge following of Americans who are tired of the same old game-playing in Washington. He promises to tear up the rule book and make America great again.

Hillary Clinton is a woman . . . America has never had a woman president . . . smart, with a huge depth of experience in government capped by her position as Secretary of State under President Obama. She fought the early health care battles for her husband, former President Bill Clinton, has stood up for the under-privileged and human rights, and was the architect of Obama's foreign policy, including the pivot to the Pacific. She has strong backing from the nation's minorities, as did her husband. She argues for realistic solutions to problems, rather than rhetoric, and says she will bring unity to keep American great.

Negatives

Donald Trump has history, and that history is filled with bankruptcies, womanizing, and misrepresentation of who he is (Trump University is regularly panned for being shoddy). His outsized comments during the campaign have been shocking and abrasive . . . yet they seem to speak for a lot of Americans. He both offends people and attracts them. "Ban all Muslims from coming to America. Put up a wall between the US and Mexico. Tear up the Iran agreement. If someone protests at my rally, punch them out!" He talks in generalities and big decisions; he will let his people deal

with the details. He is vulnerable to charges of demagoguery and bigotry – race, religion, gender, handicap – and there is a lot of video evidence that supports this. The Democratic video files will be voluminous.

Hillary Clinton has history, and it includes her husband's philandering while in office, huge income from speeches, some delivered to upper echelon Wall Street firms, her use of a private e-mail server in her home, and the tragic deaths of the American ambassador and other staff in Libya. Any perceived failures of the Obama Administration will get attached to her, especially the idea that America is weaker today than before Obama because of "socialistic" domestic policies, the Iraq withdrawal, poor relations with Israel, and a stand-back approach to Russia's incursions into the Crimea and Syria.

Trans Pacific Partnership (TTP)

Donald Trump ardently opposes both the Trans Pacific Trade Partnership (TTP) and North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the latter put in place under President Bill Clinton. He believes these agreements penalize American businesses and take jobs out of the US. Plus, the TTP does not protect the US against currency manipulations from nations such as Japan, which have adjusted their currency value to protect the nation's price advantage. Trump believes China would come in the back door and take advantage of the agreement. His argument that cheaper foreign products would put Americans out of work is essentially the main Democratic argument. [Donald Trump slams Pacific free trade deal; Is It Possible Donald Trump Was Right About China and the TPP?]

Hillary Clinton opposes the current draft of the TTP because it does not properly protect American middle class interests (more jobs and higher wages) or national security interests. Like Trump, she believes the agreement does not protect the US against currency manipulations. However, she will withhold final judgment until the wording of legislation is finalized. Her view represents a change from that of her husband who put NAFTA into place, and it is a surprise considering her own promotion of trade initiatives as Secretary of State and her primary role in developing Obama's the pivot to Asia. Some say her opposition is an election-year political expedience catering to trade unions who oppose the pact. [Why Hillary Clinton Is Right on the TPP;

Hillary Clinton comes out against TPP trade deal]

China

Donald Trump, in the broadest sense, is an advocate of commercial conquest, not military conquest. He appears to admire China's aggressive acquisition and building of islands for commercial purposes. His objection to China is not addition to territory, but how North Korea is managed, and China's currency manipulations. Trump finds the stationing of US troops around the world in peaceful places such as Europe to be ridiculous. He has not opined on the US/Philippines Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) specifically, but has advocated build-up of American presence in Asia to counter Chinese power. His engagement over the islands is likely to be subordinate to a broader policy that is concerned with commercial interests. [Trump throws China, Spratlys into campaign mix; China getting nervous about a Trump presidency; China using trump to mock western democracy]

Hillary Clinton is the architect of the Obama pivot to Asia, and clearly supports EDCA. China would prefer "anybody but Hillary", whom they see as a hard line opponent on two fronts: human rights and infringement upon open seas. China holds the view that most US presidents bend to global realities and shrink back from confrontation. Hillary Clinton is different: "But in Clinton, China sees a politician who is demonstrably devoted to furthering a campaign to 'contain' China." Furthermore, she has said that: "legitimate claims to maritime space in the South China Sea should be derived solely from legitimate claims to land features" which suggests she is well-versed on the technical arguments in the Philippine arbitration case against Chinese claims. [Why China dreads a Hillary Clinton presidency]

Global Economy

Donald Trump's policies, both domestically and globally, are so far outside the norm that economists worry greatly that he will provoke instability. In addition to a hard line on immigration (America is for Americans; ship out illegal immigrants!), he holds hard-line views toward Iran, Saudi Arabia, North Korea and especially China that are troubling to those who want economic certainty. Here's what The Economist observed: "A Donald Trump presidency poses a top-10 risk event that could disrupt the world economy, lead to politi-



Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton

cal chaos in the U.S. and heighten security risks for the United States . . . Electing Trump could also start a trade war, hurt trade with Mexico and be a godsend to terrorist recruiters in the Middle East." [What Does Donald Trump's Tough Talk on China Mean for the U.S. Economy?; The Economist rates Trump presidency among its top 10 global risks]

Hillary Clinton's economic policies are influenced by humanitarian issues such as immigration, climate change and human rights. She is an experienced, pragmatic leader with stern views about trade, China, Russia and the players in the Middle East. She knows Wall Street and is not exactly an enemy there, as is the other Democratic Candidate, Bernie Sanders. She projects stability and old-school diplomatic leadership, with US interests foremost in mind. [Does Hillary Clinton have a better plan for the global economy than Barack Obama does?; Commentary: If elected president, I'll level the playing field on global trade, Clinton says]

Perspectives on the Philippines

Donald Trump, making comments regarding the luxury condominium tower under construction in Manila that bears his name: "I've always loved the Philippines. I think it's just a special place and Manila is one of Asia's most spectacular cities." He is for sure not a Philippine nationalist, though, for he is the guy who said of the Miss Universe mix-up that Miss Columbia and Miss Philippines should share the crown. His interest in the Philippines is commercial. [Trump brand; Trump Tower Manila]

Hillary Clinton's view of the Philippines is diplomatic and political. She understands that the Philippines is in a tough contest with China over sea rights. She supports EDCA and the Philippine law-based approach to the island conflict. She visited Manila in 2011. The declaration signed during that meeting reaffirmed the Mutual Defense Treaty and stated: "Our common values, commitment to democracy and the rule of law, robust economic relationship, and strong people-to-people

ties will continue to ensure that our partnership remains strong and vibrant well into the future. [Clinton on Manila Declaration (US Embassy)]

Philippine Best Interests

Donald Trump views most things through commercial or business lenses, and wants to make America great again (after Obama policies). Hillary Clinton views most things through humanitarian and political lenses, with US interests foremost in mind. She thinks America is already great and needs to keep pace with global developments.

*Trans Pacific Partnership (TTP): The Philippines is working toward compliance with standards set forth in the agreement, but has not agreed to join because of concerns that farm producers would be disadvantaged. If the Philippines does not endorse the TPP, it doesn't matter which US candidate is elected. If the Philippines supports a negotiated agreement that protects Philippine interests, Hillary Clinton speaks that same language.

*China: Under Trump, the Philippines would be a player on the board, with the US driving matters. Under Clinton, the Philippines would be a partner, with both nations speaking the same language. Clinton is the better candidate IF the Aquino approach is continued in the Philippines.

*Global Economy: The Philippines is fairly isolated from global economic cycles due to self-containment and OFW remittances, but certainly would be better served through stability than disruption. Clinton is the better candidate.

*Perspectives on the Philippines: Donald Trump loves every place that gives him commercial profits. Hillary Clinton respects the Philippines. Clinton is the better candidate.

All that said, if Hillary Clinton visited the Philippines, she would be welcomed as a diplomat. If Donald Trump visited the Philippines, he'd be welcomed as a rock star. Donald Trump would likely get more enthusiastic popular backing of US initiatives from the Philippines than Hillary Clinton.



Glenn D. Carrasca,
FBI Community Outreach Program

Steve Dupre, Media Representative-
Community Outreach Coordinator

Sacramento, Calif. -- U.S. District Judge Troy L. Nunley sentenced Percy Love III, 34, of Sacramento, to 35 years in prison for five counts of sex trafficking related to multiple victims, United States Benjamin B. Wagner announced.

On December 23, 2014, after an 11-day trial, a federal jury found Love guilty of three counts of sex trafficking by force and one count of sex trafficking of a minor.

U.S. Attorney Wagner stated: "This defendant forced his will upon weaker people for profit using threats and violence. Percy Love should spend the next several decades reflecting on how his abuse and humiliation of his victims has resulted in a life behind bars. He is a dangerous predator and the sentence imposed will protect society from him."

This case was the product of an investigation by the FBI's Child Exploitation Task Force, a multi-jurisdictional task force composed of representatives from the FBI and the Sacramento Police Department, with assistance from the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorneys Michele Beckwith and Jason Hitt prosecuted the case.

"Percy Love strategically preyed upon vulnerable young women and underage girls, luring them into a cycle of exploitation, brutal violence, and intimidation for his financial benefit. He exhibited complete disregard for the well-being of his victims and the laws. The sentence will not erase the physical and emotional scars Love inflicted upon his victims but it will offer them time to heal," said Special Agent in Charge Monica M. Miller of the FBI Sacramento field office. "Our Innocence Lost Task Force, which includes of-

ficers from the Sacramento Police Department, is committed to identifying men and women who exploit our community's most vulnerable adults and children."

Two victims appeared at the sentencing hearing and described the lasting impact that the defendant's crime had on their lives. In sentencing the defendant, Judge Nunley described the defendant as a "gorilla pimp" who had attempted to beat the spirit out of his victims and based on the trial evidence, earned every year that he would serve in prison.

According to evidence produced at trial, Love targeted vulnerable young women and underage girls to work as prostitutes for him since at least 2007. The testimony of witnesses at trial, including the victims, revealed a pattern of conduct where Love used charm to recruit and brute force to control the women and girls who worked for him.

According to court documents, on July 22, 2013, Sacramento police officers were called to a report of domestic violence and found Love asleep in front seat of a car with woman, whose sister had called in the report. The woman explained to officers that she was in a "working relationship" with Love. She reported that Love had beaten her many times, and she had bruises and cigarette burns on her hands, arm, and stomach. Love was arrested that night for domestic violence and possession of Ecstasy.

On September 12, 2013, federal grand jury indicted Love, charging him with two counts for sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion. After further investigation revealed more victims, a superseding indictment was brought on March 13, 2014. Love has been in custody since his arrest and represented himself during trial.



The graduates of Eskwela Natin 2014.

Sacramento, California - The Eskwela Natin is proud to announce its Summer Program for 2016, from May 15 to July 17, 2016 to be held at the Community Room of the Human Resources Building, 2450 Florin Road, Sacramento, California. The new format of camp-like sessions will be held every Sunday afternoon.

On opening day, May 15, 2016, there will be a reception at noon before the first class session. The program will include a welcome from the Philippine Consulate who have attended in the past and have continuously supported the mission and goals of the Filipino cultural school. We will also honor this year's winners of the scholarship program awarding them with certificates and cash money. After the reception, the first class session will start which will focus on the Philippine celebrations of Flores de Mayo and Santacruzán, Ati-atihan and Pasko. The children will be making and decorating their props for these celebrations and parade them in the vicinity.

Eskwela Natin's summer program will include eight classes and a graduation ceremony. The program is free and open to children ages five to 12 years old. The classes are segmented into the following areas: Philippine

celebrations, Music and dance, Games, tourist spots and Geography, Cuisine and foodfest, Arts and crafts, History, literacy, heroes and tradition etc. The children will learn at least 25 Tagalog words and phrases each session. We will partner with a local library to enhance the literacy program with storytelling from our combined collection of Filipino children's books. The summer program this year will include an excursion to the 40th Anniversary Philippine Fiesta celebration at the Rizal Center, June 5, 2016 where there will be an Eskwela Natin booth and exhibit as well as hosting Filipino children's games.

Eskwela Natin was founded in 2013 by a group of Filipino-American community leaders for the purpose of educating Filipino American children about the rich and diverse Filipino culture, ensuring the unique traditions of the Philippines are passed on to the next generation in a safe and fun environment. This year, the scope has been expanded to include new and exciting areas of interest to the Filipino-American youth.

To reach out to a broader number of children, parents, and educators, the composition of the 21-member Board of Directors is changed to include parents and teachers. In addition, Eskwela Natin will be working collaboratively with the newly organized Sacramento

Eskwela Natin to begin its 2016 summer program

Chapter of the United Federation of Filipino-American Educators (UNIFFIED), a national organization with chapters all over the United States. Murray Navarro, UNIFFIED President, and Anna Mestidio, Eskwela Natin's teacher and concurrently UNIFFIED Vice President have actively participated in the curriculum development committee meetings of Eskwela Natin.

Eskwela Natin is now accepting registration of students for its summer program, which is scheduled for the following dates: May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19, 26, (skip July 3), July 10 and graduation on July 17, 2016. The classes will be from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM at the same location as in the past three years, the Community Room, Human Resources Building at 2450 Florin Road, Sacramento, California.

For information, please contact Dolores V. Diaz at (916) 396-2351 or email at doloresvdiaz@gmail.com.



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Poverty rate jumps among California seniors

Twice as many age 65 and older living in poverty than a decade ago
Lack of affordable housing, rising health costs, government cuts add to burden
Advocate says problem has no easy fixes

By Claudia Buck

The older you are, the poorer you get.

For a growing number of California seniors living on the edges of poverty, that's the uncomfortable reality.

In the Sacramento region, the number of residents 65 and older living at or below the federal poverty line – \$11,400 for a single individual – roughly doubled from 2005 to 2014, according to a Sacramento Bee review of U.S. census data. That means 28,000 seniors, or 9 percent of the region's elderly population, are officially considered poor.

Statewide, the number of impoverished residents age 65 and older increased by 85 percent, to roughly 520,000, between 1999 and 2014, more than double the rate of population growth among the elderly.

Poverty among seniors is not new, but has been exacerbated in recent years by a cyclone of

factors, especially in California.

Seniors statewide caught at the edge of poverty are mostly single; the large majority are women. They're often minorities.

They are people such as Margie Ann Powell, 80, who earns about \$1,500 a month from Social Security and a small pension. She and her retired daughter, who has no income and is waiting to qualify for the county's In-Home Supportive Services program, shared a \$750-a-month North Sacramento apartment but left four months ago after being forced out due to a bedbug infestation. Since then, Powell said she has slept outside, in motels or in churches. She worries she and her daughter might not have enough to pay for a new apartment once she uses up a motel voucher provided by the homeless services agency Loaves & Fishes.

She said she is on 17 lists for affordable housing units in Sacramento.

"It's been hell," said Powell.

"I've still got no place to go. I don't know what I am going to do."

Some financially stressed seniors live with family members in subsidized housing and cheap motels. In dire cases, they bunker down by the American River or on the streets.

In the Sacramento area, they're concentrated in a handful of ZIP codes: downtown Sacramento, Del Paso Heights, Lemon Hill, Oak Park and the Broderick area of West Sacramento.

How they each got to that official poverty line varies. Some didn't work outside the home long enough to qualify for Social Security. Others had jobs but no pension. Some made poor financial decisions or investments; others are victims of financial abuse. Some saw their savings and retirement accounts depleted by the recession and earlier downturns. Many, especially those 85 and older, are simply living longer and contending with costly, chronic health conditions.

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PerryScope

By Perry Diaz

Why China wants the SCS badly



Oil-rig

ous year to 335.5 million tons [Source: China's General Administration]. But the problem is: About 80% of that came from the Middle East and Africa through the Strait of Malacca. This is China's Achilles' heel. Known as the "Malacca Dilemma," it is believed that China's economy would implode if the U.S. blocked the choke points at both ends of the Malacca Strait and the Sunda and Lombok Straits in Indonesia.

Gloria's folly

In 2005, then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo offered China and Vietnam a proposal – the Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking (JMSU) – to jointly explore the South China Sea for oil and gas for three

years. China grabbed the opportunity and even offered the Philippines low-interest loans for various infrastructure projects. All total, the Arroyo administration signed 65 bilateral agreements with China. But here's the rub: About 80% of the JMSU site included parts of the Recto (Reed) Bank, which is within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ). In 2008,

the questionable deal created a firestorm of controversy. Critics of the JMSU called on the Supreme Court to declare it unconstitutional.

The JMSU was not renewed when it lapsed on June 30, 2008. The Philippines then explored the area around Recto Bank on her own. And for her part, China increased her presence in the Spratly

archipelago and began harassing Philippine fishing boats, claiming sovereignty over the region. In 2012, China took de facto possession of the Scarborough Shoal, a territory of the Philippines. The following year, she started building artificial islands in the Spratlys.



Former Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo welcomes Chinese President Hu Jintao

Militarization

Recently, China deployed surface-to-air missiles and fighter jets on Woody Island in the Paracels. The Chinese militarization of SCS had begun.

But there is one problem China has to tackle to gain de facto possession of the SCS: The United States wouldn't allow her to control the SCS, which is one of the busiest — if not the busiest — shipping lanes in the world where US\$5 trillion in trade passes through every year. It is not surprising then that China regards the SCS as a "core interest." And just like her other core interests, Taiwan and Tibet, she considers the SCS as "non-negotiable." However, the U.S. says that she, too, had a "national interest" in the freedom of navigation (FON) in the SCS.

U.S. President Barack Obama

— who had played a pacifist hand in trying to convince China to back off — has turned around to challenge China's aggressive attempt to convert the SCS into a "Beijing Lake." Recently, the U.S. Navy conducted two FON operations in which an American guided-missile warship came within 12 miles of two of the re-

claimed islands.

On February 25, 2016, the U.S. Navy dispatched a Carrier Strike Group (CSG) to the SCS. The CSG included the nuclear carrier USS John C. Stennis, two cruisers, two destroyers, and the 7th Fleet's command ship, USS Blue Ridge. The deployment of the CSG was intended to show China that the U.S. is steadfast in her position of maintaining freedom of navigation in the SCS.

Strategic alliance

But what has become apparent is that the U.S. has started forging a quadrilateral strategic alliance — known as "security diamond" — that would protect the interests of the U.S., Japan, Australia, and India in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. As Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had said in 2012, the strategic alliance would "safeguard the maritime commons stretching from the Indian Ocean region to the Western Pacific."

Andaman-Islands Recently, the U.S. deployed three B-2 nuclear-capable bombers to her military base in the Diego Garcia Island in the Indian Ocean, which is within reach of India's offshore territory, the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands, in the Bay of Bengal at the western end of the Strait of Malacca. It's interesting to note that China had started showing maps

that depict claims over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which is reminiscent of the Chinese maps showing the SCS area bounded by the so-called "nine-dash line" as part of Chinese territory.

In the face of China's attempt to project power in the Indian Ocean, what could be timelier than the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA)



Security Diamond

between the U.S. and India, which they are expected to sign in April? The LSA would allow the two countries' militaries to use each other's land, air and naval bases for resupplies, repair and rest.

The U.S. is also negotiating with Australia to rotate B-1 bombers and aerial tankers at air bases in Darwin and Tindal. It is reported in the news that American officials are considering an expansion of B-52 bomber missions and positioning more U.S. military aircraft close to the disputed region. It would be of no surprise if these military assets would be prepositioned in the Philippines, which is now allowed under the new Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) between the U.S. and the Philippines.

And with the anticipated deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) in South Korea and the recent rapprochement between South Korea and Japan, two of the U.S. major allies in Asia-Pacific, the envisioned "security diamond" is coming to fruition.

At the end of the day, with all of the geopolitical posturing and China's warmongering, it is evident why China wants the SCS badly: she is in dire need of oil.

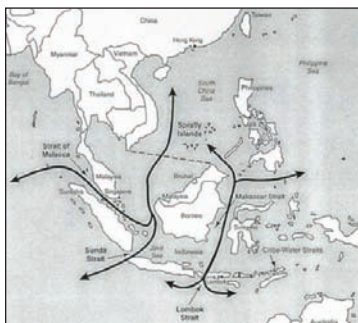
(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

There are a lot of things and events — including geopolitics — that contributed to the systematic destruction of the South China Sea's ecosystem. But the most blatant act is China's raping of the marine environment by changing the natural make-up of the islands, atolls, rocks, shoals, and sandbanks that dotted the SCS, particularly the Spratly archipelago. With China's building of artificial islands in the Spratlys, the ecological balance in the SCS is altered forever, which begs the question: Why is China destroying this beautiful gift of nature?

Malacca Dilemma

Straits-of-Malacca-Sunda-Lombok-China's limited natural resources is driving her to go beyond her borders in search of the most important element to support her growing economy and population. Simply put, China doesn't have enough oil and gas to fuel her economic engine and military machinery. According to the Chinese government's forecast, her reliance on foreign crude oil this year would likely increase to 62%.

In 2015, China's crude oil imports rose 8.8% from the previ-



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The Bataan Legacy Historical Society

A coalition of supporters of the Filipino World War II veterans led by the Bataan Legacy Historical Society (BLHS) attended a meeting of the California Department of Education's Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to advocate for the inclusion of Filipino WWII veterans in U.S. history books and school curriculum that will be historically accurate and representative of all the soldiers and civilians during WWII in the Philippines. The IQC approved the proposal submitted by BLHS at the IQC meeting and public hearing held in Sacramento on March 24, 2016.



BLHS coalition members pose with Mona Pasquil (center), Governor Brown's Appointments Secretary, at the Governor's Office at the State Capitol.



BLHS coalition members gather at a restaurant after the IQC meeting to discuss future action for the implementation of the approved curriculum changes.

Do We Have a Choice?

From page 2

occasionally prospects within it with its massive semi-submersible drilling rig, dots it with radar stations and lighthouses, relies for it as a vital energy corridor..."

The mere fact that both Beijing and Washington are accusing each other of militarizing the region thereby increasing the hostilities in the SCS, neither will give way to ease the tension in the already militarized region. Much more leave the South China Sea.

As far as China is concern, so much investment had been poured in the SCS and literally fortifying it with troops and military hardware but US military isn't going anywhere either.

"If the US wishes to evict the PRC from the South China Sea, it will have to consider stronger, more dangerous, and politically and diplomatically less palatable measures-and a more convincing menace than an imputed PRC threat to commercial freedom of navigation, or even as antagonist to the international norms and laws represented by the UNCLOS ruling.

The US military is now shifting the terms of debate from the shaky premise that the PRC presence in the South China Sea is a threat to global commerce and the world order to a somewhat more realistic anxiety that the PRC will, in the near future, possess sufficient military assets in the South China Sea to challenge and in theory impede or deny military maritime and aviation traffic by other nations.

This strategy is encapsulated in the continued alarms that the PRC is "militarizing" the South China Sea, an accusation that the PRC, particularly after the US Navy sailed a carrier battle group through the SCS in early March 2016, is not inclined to take seriously.

The focus on "militarization" is



There are apparently five bases the US will use for staging equipment and housing troops that are rotated through the Philippines:

- Antonio Bautista Air Base in Puerto Princesa, Palawan
- Lumbia Air Base in Cagayan de Oro, NW Mindanao
- Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga province
- Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija province
- Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base in Cebu

exemplified by warning the PRC not to announce a South China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone or ADIZ, which would require aircraft flying near and toward the PRC (including its contested SCS facilities) to identify themselves and state their intentions. To knock down a frequently stated canard, an ADIZ is not a declaration of territorial airspace and the ADIZ of various nations can overlap, as the PRC and Republic of Korea ADIZs overlap in the East China Sea. One might think that the SCS, with growing military traffic by hostile powers, sorely needs an ADIZ to prevent misunderstandings, incidents, and escalation, but China hawks will try to advance the argument that in this case, as in many matters involving the South China Sea, ordinary logic simply doesn't apply." (Peter Lee)

The tension in the South China Sea will not stop until a real peaceful resolution will be agreed upon and implemented by China and the claimants in the disputed areas. But with the US in the background and continually prodding its allies to settle the disputes through multilateral talks, there will always be a threat to the region's peace.

Do we have a choice?

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By Gabriel Ortigoza, PhD

The Life of Sen. Jovito R. Salonga

It is refreshing to hear present and former senators delivered eulogies about former Senate President Jovito R. Salonga during the necrological service which was broadcasted live via ANC at the Philippine Senate.

I had a chance to meet and to shake hands with Sen. Salonga when he was invited guest and speaker at Central Philippine University (CPU) during my senior year in 1991. I admired his wisdom, Christian values and I loved the way he speak. I am also thankful at CPU for inviting Sen. Salonga. CPU is a baptist school in Iloilo where I took my BS Nursing.

Jovito Reyes Salonga was born on June 22, 1920 in Pasig, Rizal. His father was a Methodist pastor and his mother was a market vendor. He came from a very poor family. He cut grass to help his parents earn a living. But because of his extraordinary academic talent, he was qualified and went to a prestigious university, the University of Philippines (UP). Some alumni call UP "The only university of the Philippines". While at UP, he joined different student clubs. During his time Jovito was known as "UP debater". He finished law degree at UP.

During World War II, Salonga was imprisoned by the Japanese and was sentenced hard labor for seven (7) years.

One year after he was releases by the Japanese army, he took the

bar exam. Lo and behold! This brilliant poor boy from Pasig topped the bar exam with a grade of 95.3%. (FYI, years later, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago of Iloilo took the bar and got a passing grade while her classmates Congressman Ronaldo Zamora of Mandaluyong topped the exam and senate president Franklin Drilon of Iloilo landed in the top 10).

Salonga taught law and became dean of Far Eastern University College of Law. He finished his master's degree in law at Harvard University in Massachusetts (the number one law school on earth) and Doctor of Law from Yale University in New York.

Because of his exceptional ability not only in the academe but also in the field of social science, the people of Pasig elected him in congress.

Good and bad things happened to this man of God. During the Liberal Party rally at Plaza Miranda an improvised explosive device went off and Salonga is one of the victims of that unfateful night bombing in 1971. As a result, he lost his left eye but it did not deter him from pursuing his political career.

During Martial Law, Salonga was imprisoned, together with other political detainees, at Fort Santiago by a dictator named Ferdinand E. Marcos. After he was released from prison, Salonga went exile in Hawaii and in California.

In 1985, Salonga went back to the Philippines to help the presidential candidacy of Corazon "Cory" Cojuangco-Aquino who run against a dictator. When Cory was

installed president, Salonga was appointed chairman of Presidential Commission on Good Government. The mission of PCGG is to take back Marcos' ill-gotten wealth and stolen assets. Salonga was the first chair of PCGG.

In 1987, Salonga run for the senate and topped that election. For the record, he topped the 1965 and 1971 senatorial elections respectively. He is the only senator of the republic who held the record of topping three senatorial elections in three different decades (60, 70, and 80). Salonga influenced positively the policy formation and structuring of The Senate of the Philippines.

When the renewal of US bases treaty in the Philippines was negotiated, Salonga opposed it. President Cory, together with her cabinet members to include the incumbent Senate President Franklin Drilon who was Cory's Executive Secretary that time, talked to Salonga to persuade him to vote "Yes" but he humbly stood his ground before his former boss Cory.

With a vote of 11-11, Salonga, being the senate president, has the last say and he explain his decision before he voted. When he said his piece, he grabbed his gavel and banged it saying with his negative vote, the treaty is denied. Salonga was known one of the "Magnificent 12" who voted against the renewal of United State military bases in the Philippines on that unforgettable day of September 16, 1991. In December of the same year, Salonga was dethroned as senate president.



Jovito R. Salonga

Salonga tried his luck to run as a Liberal Party candidate in the presidential election in 1992 but he lost to Fidel V. Ramos, United States Military Academy graduate. In the election results, FVR was followed by Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Ramon Mitra, Imelda Marcos. Salonga got

the lowest votes among the candidates.

That turned around of event made him decide to retire from politics and concentrate his energy in religious and civic groups activities. Salonga died peacefully on March 10, 2016 at age 95. (gabbyortigo@yahoo.com).



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Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity Holds Hawaiian Night For Mrs. Philippines Bets

By Faina E. Abaya

Hawaiian night is just one of those social gatherings which have been considered as Filipino like way of life; hence, it is usually included in the list of popular event being held for various commendable objectives. On March 19, 2016 at the Jose Rizal Community Center on Florin Mall Drive, Sacramento, the Hawaiian Night Dinner Dance was held to raise additional funds for our Filipino Cultural Center and also the most appropriate occasion to introduce the candidates for our annual Mrs. Philippines Contest.

The perfect spring weather has made most of the invited guests to wear the traditional Hawaiian shirt with the usual fauna and flora printed designs for men and the ankle length muumuus for the ladies also with varied colorful looks. Ironically, such kind of attires unlike the western style of clothing, are both for casual and formal wears in the island paradise of the State of Hawaii.

As expected the night has been transformed into some sort of kaleidoscope of colors showing the sartorial elegance on how Filipinos are naturally relaxed in the design of their Hawaiian attires that even the most fastidious dressers could be impressed.

When the Rizal Center was filled up to the capacity, the program started by both Estela Rabara and Ray Oineza who alternately emceed the program as they greeted



The best Hawaiian outfit on different categories.



Pres. Mercy Guerrero



Ray and Julie Oineza



FCSV and invited guests wearing traditional Hawaiian outfit.



Dayang-dayang dance by The Golden Ladies

Photos by Dave San Pedro

everyone with the traditional Hawaiian Aloha Ahiahi greeting which could just simply meant good eve-

ning.

Thereafter, an invocation was delivered by former FCSV President Aida Azurin who invoked the guidance of the Devine Providence to continue the already well established better relationship of everyone which has been nurtured for so many years by whoever at the helm of the community organization. Likewise, she also blessed the food which was served and managed by the community's favorite Chef Carol Munar with her usual delicious American and Filipino cuisines.

While everyone was enjoying their food, an exhibition tango dance was performed by husband and wife dancing partners of Ray and Julie Oineza who showed their virtuosity on the dance floor receiving thunderous applause from their admiring audience.

The national anthems of both the Philippines and United States were ably rendered by the Royal Court Singers composed of Fe Alvarez, Rosie Sloan, Edna Villanueva and Janet Tabora. Continuing the sequence of the program, the amiable President of the FCSV Mercedes Guerrero delivered her welcome address



Rosie and Estela

expressing her profound gratitude to all for graciously coming to enjoy the night and support an event for the betterment of the Filipino American community.

When Hawaii was still a Kingdom ruled by royal families, the



FCSV Mrs. Philippines candidates

hula dance was revered and considered sacred which must be perfectly performed believing that a slight mistake could bring misfortune. Hula dancing could be performed either sitting or standing or even both positions accompanied by chanting or singing with native musical instruments.

Continued on page 12




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THE BAYANIHAN ASSOCIATION AND IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER FILIPINO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SPONSORED THE SEVENTH ANNUAL PHILIPPINE CONSULATE ON WHEELS (CONSULAR OUTREACH)

By Carle and Sarah Enloe

As in years past, Dr. Tony Solomon, President of Bayanihan and Remy, his wife, were in charge of setting up the appointments and coordinating with the Philippine Consulate. Congratulations! The Seventh (7th) Annual Philippine Consulate on Wheels (COW) (Consular Outreach) project was once again a big success due to a great team effort by all involved.

We would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work and commitment.

Continued on page 12



Rick Rafanan, Faina Abaya, Kristel Centeno and Lito Pabon



Community organization volunteers
Photos by Faina Abaya




The Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA, the community volunteers, and the Philippine Consulate Staff

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FCSV Holds Hawaiian Night For Mrs. Philippines Bets

From page 10

However, with the influx of western people into the islands, the dance has evolved and it becomes a form of art and entertainment accompanied by western songs, music and musical instruments.

One of the few if not the only lady in the community who can perform a professional like hula dance is Deidra San Pedro possessing the poise and beauty of a true hula dancer.

Wearing an authentic costume of a hula dancer and to the tune of Hawaiian dance music, the lady showed the grace and elegance of the dance elevating into an Art as well as for entertainment. As she dances the Hula she showed that every movement of the body, feet and hands could represent the swinging of tree branches and leaves, the refreshing sea breeze from the pristine waters of the ocean and the gentle cascading waves that hit the white beaches of the sea shores. Such performance received not only deafening thunderous applause from her awed and mesmerized audience but a standing ovation from everyone. The hula dance was so perfectly performed that according to native Hawaiians it will surely give good fortune to the community.

After the performance, Deidra also invited everyone to learn with her the rudiments of hula dancing and many of the ladies (including those who are aging gracefully)



The Royal Court Dancers

were thrilled to join her on the dance floor as they learn the correct movements of the dance.

Other form of entertainments followed such as hula dancing performed by the Royal Court Dancers who also regaled their audience with their graceful movements. The Kapit bahay line dancers led by Lilia Rivera also showed their usual admired choreographed dancing which drew loud applauds from their audience. The Golden Ladies also enthralled their audience with their well synchronized colorful dance number called Dayang-Dayang composed of ladies who are still graceful despite their advanced ages, such as Rose Basos (Choreographer), Mercy Guerrero, Aida Azurin, Priscilla Ramos, Luz Daclan, Cleo Sabarner and Ling Avera.

The highlight of the evening's program was the presentation of the candidates vying for the coveted title of Mrs. Philippines 2016-



The Kapit Bahay line dancers

17 chaired by Mina Guerra. The candidates are Luz Molina, Carol Munar, Esmeralda Maguire and Dr. Louie Oberman. As they were introduced, all of them were requested to walk around the middle space of the Center for everyone to see. The candidates were praised for their spirit of volunteerism and for being civic minded willing to give their time and efforts to raise funds for the best interest of their community, the Filipino American community of Sacramento and vicinity.

A surprise number of the program was the search for the best Hawaiian outfit in different categories such as Originality, Self Confidence and Overall Appearance based on the judgment made by the panel composed of, Michael Lopez, Rick, Rafanan, Joe Gonzalez and Steve Coloma.

The winners were announced by Mercy Guerrero and Cleo Sabarner who also presented their respective prizes in kind and modest amount of money. The winners

are; Best Hawaiian Dress, Elena Kehue, runner up was Miriam Krummier and Lourdes Belasco. For best outfit Couple, winner was Armando and Carlina Gonzales, runner up was Mr. and Mrs. Magnoay; Best Lei was Julie Vergara, runner up was Cid Butcher; Men's best shirt went to Henry Domondon and runners up were Rey Oineza and Joe Rivera.

Jose Gonzalez, the First Vice President of FCSV delivered the closing remarks expressing his deep gratitude on behalf of the officers and volunteers who made the holding of the Hawaiian Night possible. Likewise, he also thanks everyone for their continued support of the activities of the FCSV that will redound to the best interest of our community. Music and dancing continued until closing time.

Community leaders and well known personalities who were seen enjoying the night were Maria Bahoric, Dave and Dinnah San Pedro, Dave Tamayo, Dick and Memie Weitzenburg, Mercury Apostol, Edna de los Reyes, Rick Rafanan, Lilia Rivera, Ann Viernes, Nellie Umali, Gary Perry, Remy Solomon, Placida Butcher, Vicky and Norman Butcher, Alice Pambid, Ray and Julie Oineza, Minda Miguel and Ling Avera.

Consulate on Wheels Sacramento

From page 11

The documents processed were Passport Applications and Renewals; Dual Citizenships; Legal Documentations (SPAs; Affidavits; Civil Registry; Reports of Births; and Marriages, etc). According to Remy Solomon, there were 135 Passports processed; 49 Dual Citizenships processed; and 36 SPA/Legal Documents processed for a total of 220 items processed.

Prior to day of the event, there were several planning and training meetings to ensure that all the volunteers were adequately oriented to their duties. This event was definitely a team effort by all concerned.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Deputy Consul Carlyn Monastrial and the Consulate staff for their hard-work and effort. Also, we would like to thank and congratulate the Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA and all the sponsoring organizations for sponsoring such a successful and worthwhile event benefiting the entire Sacramento Filipino Community.



Oath taking with the Deputy Consul Carlyn Monastrial



Derek Ledda, Deputy Consul Carlyn Monastrial and Maharlika Lions Club Pres. Zeny Yagen.



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By Dale Esperante

A Sacramento Son Making His Mark on Broadway

In live theater, we Filipinos can proudly claim a number of world class artists. Naming just a few:

Lea Salonga is perhaps the most celebrated Filipina who ever graced the stage on Broadway. At least for those who are old enough to remember that she was the leading lady and Tony Award winner on the Broadway hit, Miss Saigon. She also played Eponine in the Broadway production of Les Miserables.

She performed the Aladdin song A Whole New World during the 1993 Academy Awards. By the way, the song won an academy award aka Oscar. Besides Lea Salonga, the current crop of outstanding Filipino-American artists have starred or are still starring on Broadway:

Adam Jacobs – He is half Filipino who starred in major Broadway plays such as Aladdin, Lion King, and Les Miserables.

Eli Ewoldt, partly of Filipino descent, performed as Cossette of Les Miserables. She also starred as Princess Jasmine in Aladdin.

Anna Maria Perez de Tagle was born in San Francisco, CA, of Filipino descent. The great Filipina actress Sylvia La Torre is her grandmother. Her aunt is Isabel Preysler and she is a cousin of Enrique Iglesias. She performed

in Godspell. Besides being a Broadway actress, she has starred in movies and also recorded some songs.

George Salazar. His mom is a Filipina. He has performed in the Broadway play Godspell. He is also part of an off Broadway David Byrne and Fatboy Slim's production entitled Here Lies Love.

The illustrious list above is just a short sampling of Filipinos rising to the heights of the stars on Broadway. Of course we are always proud to see, hear, and learn the successes of our fellow Filipinos in any positive field of endeavor.

In Sacramento, Joe and Lilia Rivera are quietly swimming in pride knowing their son is in a leading role on a big stage in New York City. Rightly so, because Brian Matthew Rivera is currently performing as the King of Siam in the Broadway revival of the Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical, The King and I.

As a youngster, Brian attended St. Anne Elementary School. He later attended Jesuit High School where he actively participated in school plays. Outside school hours, he kept sharp creatively by



Brian Matthew Rivera



being an active member of the Sinagtala Filipino Theater and Performing Arts Association.

He graduated from San Francisco State University with a bachelor's degree in Drama. In 1999 he spent a British American Drama Academy (BADA) midsummer in Oxford, England. BADA "is designed for serious acting students at all levels" concentrating "on classical acting with an emphasis on Shakespeare."

Before he moved to New York, Brian appeared in a production of the centuries-old Chinese epic The Orphan of Zhao at the American Conservatory Theater, in San Francisco. Several of his fellow cast mates in Zhao received word from their agents in New York about an upcoming production of The King and I. Brian said, "I looked longingly at that material, wishing that I had received it too." Between acting

gigs, Brian tried various types of work to "make ends meet" since his graduation from San Francisco State. One of his most interesting jobs was as a security guard at a cannabis club in San Francisco—a dispensary for medical marijuana.

One day like a godsend, he heard that a King and I audition was scheduled to be held at the San Francisco's American Conservatory Theater, where Brian had appeared in a couple of productions. He auditioned and he got the job! He agreed to be one of the understudies for the roles of the King, the Kralahome, and Captain Orton. It took about a year but on Sunday, 28 Feb 2016, Brian was informed just before curtain (start of the show) that he would be performing the monarch, The King of Siam. He has performed the King's role a number of times since then.

His parents, Joe and Lilia Rivera, travelled from Sacramento to New

York on 8 Mar 2016. Next day they proudly watched their son perform "one of the greatest roles in musical theater on a Broadway stage." Joe and Lilia are back in Sacramento now but their pride and joy of a son is still in New York, reigning as the King on Broadway.

A quick list of Brian's experiences: American Conservatory Theater, California Shakespeare Theater, Berkeley Rep, Campo Santo, Sacramento's Shakespeare Festival among others. He was a member of the San Francisco Mime Troupe when they toured the state and then overseas to France. He directed Angels in America with the Lambda Players in Sacramento. He played a part on Trauma, a high octane medical drama television show. His special skills include being a baritone singer; speaking various dialects/impressions from Arabic to British English and many others in between; Martial Arts (Kenpo, Escrima, Stage Fight/Choreography, Tai Chi); Dance (beginning jazz freestyle, hip hop, Filipino, folk, and swing); miscellaneous from circular whistling to painting and sketching, and so on.

For the Sacramento Filipino American Community, we can proclaim that our very own Brian Matthew Rivera is now part of the distinguished list of Filipino Broadway Achievers!

Mabuhay and Salamat Brian for making all of us back home here in Sacramento feel so proud along with your parents, Joe and Lilia Rivera. The neon lights are brightly shining upon a Sacramento Son in New York City!



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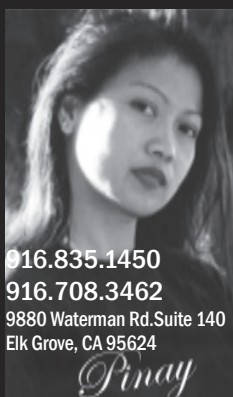
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Source: gettyimages.com



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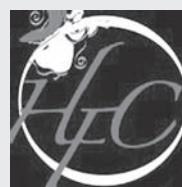
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GERRY LOBO
APRIL 1



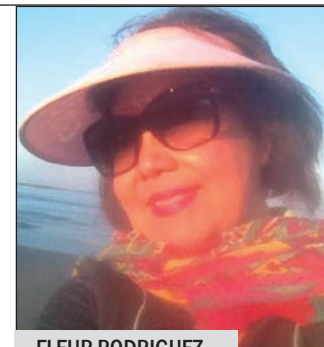
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10 Vintage Photos of Filipinos Being Awesome

By FilipiKnow

Vintage photos are pieces of history that provide an honest depiction of our ancestor's life and times. If they only had Facebook profiles and advanced cameras back then, our history books are probably filled with vintage selfies by now.

Nonetheless, popular Facebook pages such as Ambeth Ocampo's and Pearl of the Orient: Discover Old Philippines prove that our past is rife with fascinating pictures that truly paint a thousand words. Here are just 10 of them:

10. "Coconut Kids" (late 19th century)

This fascinating colorized photo was originally shared by John Tewell through his Flickr account. Showing Cebuano children playing around the coconut trees, this photo was then colorized by Reimbau Lluvia to bring this forgotten moment back to life. [Image source]



Coconut Kids



Harana

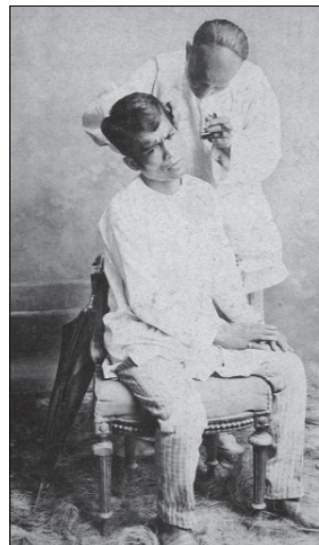


Men washing clothes

These men (above) were no ordinary men. Flexing their muscles a la Mr. Philippines are Guillermo Tolentino (center), National Artist for Sculpture, along with his assistant Anastacio Caedo (third from left), the man who many believe was the real model behind the iconic UP Oblation. [Image source]



Kuwentuhan sa tindahan



Ear Candle Treatment



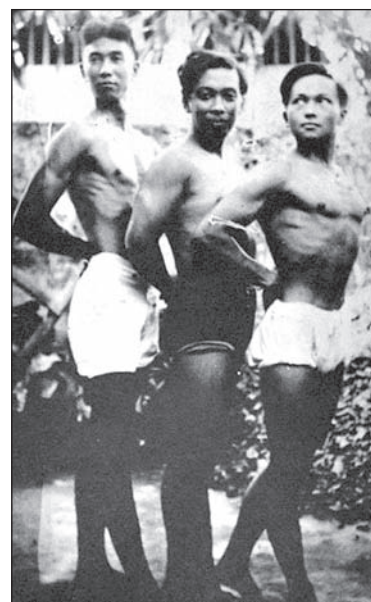
Kuto

2. "Men On Boat"

Thanks to Anyare? Facebook page, this vintage photo is only one of many that instantly became viral. It shows a group of pre-war Filipino—probably in their "wackiest" pose—riding a make-believe cardboard boat. Back then, it took ages before a picture is captured which probably explains why these guys didn't even bother to smile. [Image source]

9. "Visayan Harana" (1905)

Harana was a traditional form of courtship in the Philippines. Through a kundiman song accompanied by guitar, a haranista was able to capture his woman's heart. That is, if he had the vocal prowess to do so. Otherwise, he could ask help from his musician friends (see photo above) and turn harana into social event.



Sculpt models



Diki-diki



Twins

1. "Diki Diki: Small But Terrible"

Taken from the fascinating pre-war magazine El Renacimiento Filipino, this vintage photo shows Panglima Diki Diki, a small (dikidiki or rikiriki means "little" in Tausug) but powerful governor and military ruler from Jolo, Sulu.

8. "Labanderos" (1910)

Washing clothes was a painstaking process back then. In fact, after washing the clothes in the riverbanks during the morning, women often go back by noon to bleach them. Fortunately, their men were always ready to lend them a hand. [Image source]



Men on boat

Much of the stories about him were based partly on legend. It is believed that Diki Diki married either a midget princess or his nurse who saved him from a fatal illness. Some even claimed he had several wives!

7. "Kwentuhan sa Tindahan" (circa 1900)

Capturing a simple moment of life back then, this photo features a classic sari-sari store that offered canned goods and dried fish placed in a traditional bilao. [Image source]

Chinese men offering ear-cleaning services were a common sight. Interestingly, some of them peddled milk in jars while other street vendors sold phyton or sawa, a common anti-mice remedy back then.

be flown away to some nearby mountain. [Image source]

4. "Double Wedding"

Born in 1908, twins Lucio and Simplicio Godino became part of a freak show before they were adopted by Teodoro Yangco. They were treated as celebrities in the pre-war Philippines, especially when they tied the knot with sisters Natividad and Victorina Matos. Learn more about their interesting story here. [Image source]

6. "Chinese ear cleaner" (19th century)

In the streets of Spanish Manila,

5. "Kutuhan sa Tanghalian"

Today, head lice infestation is easily treated with medicated shampoo. Back in the day, however, women get rid of them through "head-lice hunting" done every afternoon. Filipina children were even threatened by their elders that if left unharmed, head lice would grow bigger and they would

3. "Muscle Flexing"

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By Nancy Cristi Bautista

Ang Konsensya Sa Kuwaresma

Sa mga masasamang nangyayari sa mundo, alam natin na tala-gang may mga kampon ng kadiliman sa paligid. Alam din natin na ang mga ito ay hindi natutulog, at laging nanunukso upang ang mga tao ay makalimot at makagawa ng masama. Alam din natin na mayroong Diyos na mabait at mapangunawa na lagi ring inilalayo tayo sa tukso kung ating nanaisin.

Itong huling mga salita na nabanggit ang dahilan kung bakit mayroong napapariwara at mayroon din namang nasasalba. Totoo din ang kasabihang nasa Diyos ang awa, ngunit, nasa tao ang gawa. Tayo ay binigyan ng Panginoon ng karagdagan lakas na labanan ang mga tukso, ngunit, nasa sa atin din kung pababayaan natin itong manalo at pasukin ang ating mga kahinaan.

Minsan, talagang nakakapagtaga kung bakit mayroong mga tao na walang konsiyensya sa paggawa ng masama laban sa ibang nilalang. Lahat tayo ay ipinanganak na walang muwang sa paggawa ng labag sa kautusan ng tao at lalo na ng Diyos. Iniatang ng Panginoon na ang paggabay sa mga supling ay ipinaubaya sa mga magulang, na gagawin ang lahat ng kanilang makakaya na maging ligtas, malusog, at mabuting tao ang kanilang mga anak. Mayroon din namang iba na walang pakialam sa kalagayan o kinabukasan ng kanilang mga anak. Kung ano man ang dahilan kung bakit ang iba ay nagiging mabuti o masamang tao, lahat, maliban sa mga bata at mga may sakit sa kaisipan ay biniyayaan ng Diyos ng konsensya. Maari na sa mga iba't ibang dahilan, lalo na sa mga taong nababalot ng mga bawal na inumin o gamot, o sa dahil sa mga iba't ibang kultura, ang mahalagang konsensya ay natatabunan na at binabale-wala na ang lahat

ng katinuan at pagmamahal sa sarili, sa pamilya at sa Diyos.

Lahat ng tao ay dumaaan sa panunukso ng demonyo. Ang ating Panginoong Hesus ay tatlong beses na tinukso ng hari ng impiyerno. Ginawa ni satanas ang lahat upang si Hesus ay makalimot sa sarili at mag-ing mahina ang Kaniyang katawang tao at pagiisip. Sa lahat ng ito, hindi nanaig ang kadiliman. Ang Diyos pa rin ang nagwagi at hindi natukso ang Katawang Tao ng Panginoon.

Ito ang nagbibigay ng halimbawa na tayong mga tao



ay hindi rin makakaligtas sa tukso ng kademonyohan, ngunit, nariyan na sa tulong ng konsensya, alam natin ang tama at mali, at naririyang din ang Diyos upang ituro sa atin na tahakin ang tamang landas.

Ngayong panahon ng Kuwaresma, nararapat lamang na tayo ay magmuni-muni sa ating mga kasalanan. Ngayon natin isipin kung paano tayo hihingi ng awa sa Panginoong Diyos na tayo ay tulungang maging malakas at matatag laban sa katuksohan. Kadalasan sa mga tao, ito lamang ang panahon upang bumalik sa Diyos. Sa mga ibang araw ng panahon, ang karamihan ay dating gawi ika nga, ang labagin ang mga kautusan ng Panginoon at gumawa ng masama sa kapuwa. Karamihan din, ang kanilang rason sa mga kasalanan kanilang ginagawa ay dahil sa kahira-pan o dahil sa kagahaman.

Kung tutuusin, ang mga rasong nabanggit ay hindi katanggap-tanggap sa paningin ng Dakilang Diyos. Ganoon pa man, hindi binibigyang pansin ng mga karamihan ang mga ito, at kanilang isinasagawa pa rin ang kanilang mga kamunduhang pagkakamali. Kanila ding hinihintay ang panahon ng Kuwaresma upang hugasan ang kanilang mga maling gawain, at Hindi panghuhusga ang mga nakaraang mga salita, sa dahilang tayong lahat ay makasalanan, ganoon pa man, tayong lahat ay magisip ng mabuti sa ikasasalba nating lahat.

Ating gamitin ang bigay ng Diyos na konsiyensya upang tayo ay gabayan sa ating pagtahak at paglakbay sa kumplikadong mundong ito upang pagdating ng tamang panahon na tayo ay humarap sa Kataas-taasan, tayo ay maging handa. Huwag nating hintayin lamang ang Kuwaresma upang magsisi sa mga kasalanan ng nagawa. Gawin nating humingi sa Diyos ng patnubay at kapatawaran araw-araw.

Ang Dakilang Lumikha ay nagkatawang tao upang ipakita sa ating lahat na tayo man ay maihahambing sa Kaniyang imahe at Siya ay bumaba mula sa langit upang tayo ay maisalba. Huwag nating ipagkanulo ulit si Hesus sa pamamagitan ng pagkutya sa Kaniya sa pamamagitan ng paglabag sa Kaniyang kautusan. Huwag tayong mag anyong Demonyo at piliin ang pagpanig sa kadiliman o kasamaan. Tayo ay magpasalamat at tayo ay may pagkakataon pang magbagong buhay. Ating isipin ang ating kahihinatnan kapag tayo ay biglang binawian ng buhay at nawalan tayo ng pagkakataong magsisi at magdasal sa Diyos, dahil tayo ay naniniwala na may impiyerno at mayroon din namang Kalangitang walang hanggan.

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BRADLEY READY FOR PACQUIAO'S LAST BULLET

By Recah Trinidad

(LAST Bullet) Those who have been fighting hard and barking for a Rody Duterte presidency have obviously found a fitting theme for their determined cry: Duterte is the last chance. In this country wracked by rampant criminality, corruption and the deathly drug menace, Duterte is the Last Bullet which cannot afford to miss or misfire.

In an obscure street corner that serves as garage and repair shop for at least a dozen run-down passenger jeepneys in Barangay Vergara, Mandaluyong City, the clamor for a Duterte presidency became more desperate among poor and tired daily wage earners late Tuesday, the day it was announced the tough, courageous Mayor of Davao City has soared to the top in the latest poll survey. All the way, kapit bisig, walang atrasan.)

THE way Tim Bradley claims it, he has been reshaped into the finest boxer he has ever dreamed to be.

"Everything is tight," Bradley remarked, bowing in the direction of his new trainer, the credentialed and respected Teddy Atlas. Bradley did not have to be told. He knows deep within that Manny Pacquiao, whom he fights for the third time on April 9, will come for what could easily be believed the Filipino boxing superhero's last hurrah.

Anyway, while there had been earlier hints from no less than trainer Freddie Roach that Pacquiao has slowed down, Atlas was quick to explain that they expect the same explosive and dangerous Pacquiao to show up for his third encounter against Bradley.

"There has been no sign of deterioration or dissipation whatsoever," Atlas said.

In fact, latest info from the Wild Card Gym in California says Pacquiao's repaired right arm has become doubly powerful, swift and and, maybe, vicious as a bullet.

Should this be taken to mean Pacquiao would be at his



Manny Pacquiao and Tim Bradley

greatest form ever come April 9.

Bradley himself would not hasten a guess.

But, contrary to what Freddie Roach continued to assert, Bradley claimed he has improved splendidly.

"We've become more cerebral, more of a thinking fighter," Bradley told Robert Morales of the Long Beach Press Telegraph. To illustrate, Bradley said he's no longer the boxer who just steps in there to fight.

Robert Morales, who was allowed a rare peek into the reclusive Bradley camp, said the Atlas-Bradley chemistry has been very good.

Roach, for his part, continued to claim there's no way Atlas could turn Bradley into a better fighter.

Wrote Morales: "Atlas, contrary to popular belief, is not changing Bradley's style. He's refining his fundamentals, such as throwing punches from correct angles, also pulling out in time before being whacked with a counter."

No more standing in front of the foe too long, no more wild punches.

Morales claimed the Bradley-Atlas link-up has become sincere and perfect, it could also be scary.

Well said. But it's quite doubtful Roach would ever believe all that.

Is Mayweather eyeing a ring return?

By Dennis Principe

A major boxing card that is set to happen today in California could influence Floyd Mayweather, Jr. regarding a potential ring return.



Floyd Mayweather

Undefeated former world supermiddleweight champion Andre Ward makes his light heavyweight debut when he battles fellow unbeaten Sullivan Barrera of Cuba in a 12-round battle at the Oracle Arena in Oakland.

In reality, none between Ward and Sullivan are being considered as potential opponents for Mayweather.

But the currently retired American mentioned the name of Ward as a fighter whom one of his challengers must face before he considers a ring return.

Last week, Mayweather gave a hint about a possible comeback when he challenged undefeated middleweight champion Genady Golovkin of Kazakhstan to face and beat Ward before they battle each other.

"He's gotta call out Andre Ward, beat Andre Ward and then I'll fight him. I haven't seen him call out Andre Ward," said Mayweather.

Last year, the camps of Ward and Golovkin tried to make the fight but weight issues shot down talks.

Golovkin insisted on a catchweight of 164lbs. while Ward wanted a bout set at 168lbs.

The 33-year-old Golovkin (34-0, 31 knockouts) has mentioned a match with Mayweather as his 'dream fight' and that he is willing to move down to 154lbs. to meet the American kingpin.

Golovkin has never fought below 160lbs. in his nine-year career that saw him reign as middleweight champion since 2010.

Golovkin is set to see action on April 23

when he defends his middleweight crown against American Dominic Wade in a 12-round title bout at the Forum in Inglewood, California.

In the same interview with Fighthype.com, Mayweather mentioned another name as someone who

could lure him to eye win number 50 and break the late great Rocky Marciano's unbeaten run who retired without a loss after 49 fights.

The 39-year-old Mayweather tallied his 49th straight win in his last fight when he decided Andre Berto September of last year in Las Vegas.

Mayweather said current World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight champion Danny Garcia is one fighter who could make him get the itch to step back in the ring.

"If I did think about coming back, there's only one name I'm looking at and that's Danny Garcia," said Mayweather "I have to say Danny Garcia because you look at Danny Garcia, he's undefeated and he's a world champion. If I'm going to fight a guy, it's going to be a world champion."

Retiring and coming back is nothing new for Mayweather who called it quits at least five times.

A Mayweather comeback may prop up the upcoming bout between Manny Pacquiao and Tim Bradley set on April 9 in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao, who lost to Mayweather in their 12-round welterweight battle last May 2015, is said to be angling for a rematch against his American tormentor.

Pacquiao, who also announced that his fight opposite Bradley will be his last, is said to be ready to reconsider his retirement plans if ever he gets a return bout against Mayweather.

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Dark Knight versus Man of Steel: Time to take sides

By NR Ramos

Who would win in a fight between Batman and Superman? This is a question we have been pondering since we were kids. Apparently, it goes way back – even our aunts and uncles have wondered about it.



A SCENE from 'Batman V Superman: Dawn Of Justice'

We are among those who side with Superman, believing his god-like attributes would make him do a quick work of anybody who dares step on his cape. Then again, Dark Knight-fanatics say they could always use Kryptonite on our hero before letting fists fly.

In between power slams and eye pokes, we would point to the use of Kryptonite as unfair. The other side will have none of it, of course, arguing that all's fair in love and war, hence, using that stone is but tactical move.

Given that anything goes in a battle, Batman could also go after Lois Lane or Clark Kent's parents. Superman? He could ravage Wayne Enterprises and bring down Robin and Bruce Wayne's butler, Alfred. Okay?

Note that DC Comics has tackled the matter on multiple occasions, going on to paint the duo as polar opposites. In the red corner, Dark Knight, who's willing to go to great lengths to dispense justice. On the other side of the ring, the Man of Steel, a boy scout who could not and will not break any rules.

In fact, in several comic books, Superman is seen admonishing Batman for his vigilante ways. Batman, on the other hand, is seen plotting ways to stop Superman in case the latter becomes power-hungry.

The debate is being revived in light of "Batman V Superman: Dawn Of Justice" hitting theaters today. Supposedly, the film will end all arguments as the two engage in combat.

A peek at trailers released early on seemed to indicate Superman's victory. One of the scenes shows Superman (played by Henry Cavill) ripping the Batmobile apart with his bare hands. Another shows the Man of Steel slamming Batman (Ben Affleck) through buildings like a rag doll, declaring, "...if I'd wanted you'd be dead already."

But in one of the more recent trailers,

Batman seemed to have the upper hand. In one of the scenes, the Dark Knight is shown able to withstand Superman's two-punch combo like it was nothing.

Now, how is that possible? Was Superman weakened by his, err, love for Lois Lane? Maybe Lex Luthor has something to do with it?

And what about Wonder Woman – did she enable Batman to gain some super-human strength along the way? The plot thickens.

According to Guillermo Grispo, who worked with film director Zack Snyder in choreographing the fight scenes, it's just the Batman being, well, the Batman. Speaking on the matter to writer Claudio Pombinho for Spanish website Los Andes Diario, he revealed that Batman will be using a few tricks when it comes to the showdown.

Translated from Spanish by Batman News, Snyder said, "There's a thought that Batman has no chance, that the other (Superman) will squash him like a bug. But when you see the movie, and how it all comes out, there's a very intelligent explanation as to why they could have a firsthand confrontation..."

Unfortunately, that's all Grispo said about it. He didn't mention anything about Kryptonite. In the trailers, Batman is seen wearing Frank Miller's classic "Dark Knight Returns" armor, which according to the comics, has Kryptonite enhanced gloves so, some fans are assuming that's what made it possible.

Whatever the case may be, it is working. Fans all over the world now eagerly await the chance to finally see the battle played out on the big screen.

In the end – whoever side you're on – the biggest winner is Hollywood.

Coco Martin gets his creative juices flowing

By Marinel Cruz

Many are unaware that Coco Martin, aside from being the lead actor of the top-rated action drama series, "Ang Probinsiyano," is also a part of the program's creative team.



COCO Martin in "Ang Probinsiyano"

"As in my previous television projects, I'm very much involved here. I want to prove that actors are good, not just at working in front of the camera," said Coco, who plays the heroic cop, Cardo, in the series. This week, his mission is to rescue his nephew, Junior (Lei Andrei Navarro), from the hands of kidnappers who are also members of an organ-trading syndicate.

"I learned a lot from Direk Brillante Mendoza and Bing Lao," said Coco of his director and writer, respectively, in a number of indie movies that he was part of in the early 2000s. "I observed and listened to them while at work. When I started doing projects for TV, I made sure to participate in the brainstorming sessions."

He works hard at maintaining a good working relationship with the people on the set. "They look at me as their leader. When I have ideas, especially on how to improve the program, I share it with the production team. I'm not in favor of making just one character shine in this series. I want the program to be a showcase for a lot of talents."

The show also features Maja Salvador, Bela Padilla, Arjo Atayde, Pepe Herrera, Agot Isidro, Albert Martinez and Susan Roces, who plays Cardo's Lola Flora.

Relevance

"We try to make episodes that are relevant to the times. We create characters that

inspire and encourage the audience to do good," Coco said in Filipino. "These heroes aren't hard to find. They aren't necessarily policemen like Cardo. We see them in ordinary men who are always ready to help others."

He said he was able to relate easily to the character because "like me, Cardo came from a poor family. He worked hard to be able to fulfill his dreams, and he did this with his family in mind. I like that he is also concerned with the welfare of his community.

I consider him a hero."

The actor also finds strength in the lola characters in all of his TV series. "This is because, in real life, I was raised not by my parents but my grandmother. I always say, my leading lady is my lola. I have one in most of the shows I was part of," said Coco, such as "Juan dela Cruz," where he worked with Gina Pareño as Lola Belen; "Walang Hanggan," also with Roces as Manang Henya; and "Tayong Dalawa," with Pareño as Lola Gets.

This week's "Ang Probinsiyano" also features Gelli de Belen, who plays a mother desperate to prolong the life of her dying son. Eric Quizon likewise appears on the show as a doctor who harvests kidneys from unwilling patients and sells them to his millionaire clients. Cardo teams up with fellow police officer Glen (Salvador) to hunt down the gang responsible for Junior's disappearance.



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