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## Comparing Extrajudicial Killings in the Philippines and the U.S.

By Vicente L. Rafael

These are grim days for human rights around the world. In the United States and its former colony, the Philippines, extrajudicial killings--long practiced but often swept aside--have recently become the norm. Is it possible to think comparatively, which is to say critically, about the connection between these two

segregation and settler colonialism productive of and sustained by an ideology of white supremacy. The history of these practices and ideology continues to be deeply entrenched and institutionalized in militarized modes of policing, which have emerged since the 1970s in response to urban insurgencies in US



A Black Lives Matter protest in New York

regimes of extrajudicial killings thousands of miles away: the police execution of black citizens and other peoples of color in the US on the one hand and the Presidentially mandated, police and vigilante-incited and performed executions of purported drug dealers and drug addicts in the Philippines on the other?

In the US, the targeting of black bodies has a very long history. It is rooted in centuries of racialized slavery,

cities. Indeed, the history of policing in America has its roots in slave patrols—bands of armed white men employed by slave holders to keep blacks in check and search for runaways—as well as a long history of local codes designed to criminalize the mere presence of Native Americans and immigrants of color in urban areas. The system of discriminatory policing is also sustained by a vast prison-industrial complex.

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## FCSV Holds First Canvassing for Mrs. Philippines Candidates

By Faina E. Abaya

Among the twenty plus Filipino American community organizations in Sacramento and outlying areas, the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity is considered to be the premier organization. For many years, the FCSV has played a major role in many commendable and meritorious activities that redounded to the best interest of the community.



Photo by Faina Abaya

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

The membership of the FCSV is composed of Filipino Americans who have been in the area for many years and as such familiar with each other. Some of

them are little bit Americanized in their day to day undertakings but most of them have retained the

deeply rooted Filipino traditional values of being hardworking, sociable, respectful, generous and

high degree of civility in their dealings with other people.

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## FAVA's Filipiniana and Scholarship Evening



Photo by Joe Gonzalez

The FAVA Ladies performed a special dance number on July 30, 2016 for their Filipiniana Fund Raising Scholarship Award Night. Continued on page 10

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### Editor's Note

Nope! There's no PokemonGo creatures in the following pages of Philippine Fiesta News. For those, who are not-so-young anymore, it is not the Pokemon that our now-grown children have had the chance to play when they were little. PokemonGo in this era of new technology is an application that can be downloaded for free, for both IOS and Android smartphones. It allow users to virtually interact with Pokemon creatures whether to locate, battle, train, or to capture them. Because it is location based (through GPS), users can see them in their phone screen making them feel like they are in the Pokemon creatures' virtual environment.

Pokemon creatures' virtual environment.

On the contrary and in saying, what you read is what you get as you flip through the following pages of Philippine Fiesta news. They are original and not make-believe stories, especially the local Fil-Am community news, written wholeheartedly by our contributing writers to inform and entertain our readers.

In this issue are community gatherings, birthdays, retirement party, and some news about our beloved country. Check out the upcoming Filipino fiesta celebrations that will be held in Elk Grove, Stockton, and in San Francisco.

And as always, enjoy reading the rest of this August issue of Philippine Fiesta news.

With you in community service,  
Dinnah San Pedro

## Clinton, Trump and the West Philippine Sea

By Lila Ramos Shahani

On the day the Award of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) was released—disallowing, among other things, Chinese nine-dash line claims—both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump issued statements of support for the process. Clinton said: “The US has a deep and abiding interest in the South China Sea and in the free flow of commerce—so critical to our economy—that flows through it. It is important that all claimants abide by this ruling and continue to pursue peaceful, multilateral means to resolve disputes among them.”

Trump's statement was, “We urge all parties in the dispute to respect the decision of the international court and resolve matters peacefully.”

These two, Clinton and Trump, are now, of course, the official presidential candidates of their respective parties. Come November, one of them will become the president and commander-in-chief of the United States of America. The winner will face China regarding the South China Sea, the West Philippine Sea, and our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Our government has welcomed the PCA Award and stated that our negotiations with China will be based on it. However, the way things play out in this situation will depend much on US-Chinese relations.

What those relations will be, exactly, depend very much on the policies of whoever the next US president will be. Not only do the two candidates have widely divergent views of the situation; China itself has some very distinct attitudes to-



Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump. AP

wards the two candidates. But first, where do the two of them stand? How do their views differ?

Hillary Clinton, respecting language as a weapon of diplomacy and believing in “keeping our cards close to our chest,” has avoided provocative speech, but her record and history are well-known to all players. She is considered a South China Sea hawk, both in terms of freedom of navigation and treaty obligations with regional players like Japan, South Korea and the Philippines. She is well-versed in UNCLOS and its insistence on sea claims decided by coastline rather than historical interests. Thanks to her tenure as Secretary of State, she has been considered the face of the US “pivot to Asia” and is expected to support—if not push directly—law-of-the-sea issues even more forcefully than Obama.

Her 2010 statement at an Asia-Pacific forum that South China Sea freedom of navigation was a matter of “national interest” to the US was noted around the world and prompted an angry walkout by the Chinese foreign minister.

Trump's position, in the

meantime, is even more confusing. He stokes the anger and disaffection of his supporters by railing against China for stealing American jobs; threatens to take it to task for currency manipulation; proposes a 45 percent tariff on all Chinese imports—which one assumes would include all the Trump-branded merchandise he has made there. His official campaign website, however, is devoted entirely to economic issues and only mentions freedom of navigation in passing.

But, only last week, he set off media truth meters, saying China is “in the South China Sea and (building) a military fortress the likes of which perhaps the world has not seen.” Politifact rated his statement as “Half True.” He did not, however, indicate what, if anything, he intended to do.

China's attitude towards Clinton is clear. The 2010 walkout at the Vietnam meet was neither her first, nor latest, confrontation with Chinese officials. Chinese feminists

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## Comparing Extrajudicial Killings in the Philippines and the U.S.

From page 1

The criminal justice system in the US disproportionately incarcerates and disenfranchises people of color, placing them under constant surveillance

The climate for extrajudicial killings has been further stoked by the ready availability of assault rifles and other high-powered guns. Thanks to the lobbying efforts of Second-Amendment fundamentalists such as the NRA and the gun industry, the US now has a heavily armed citizenry. This volatile combination of racism and guns has literally triggered the recurring murder of black people by police forces and, more recently as in Dallas, the occasional armed response by a lone black gunman.

In the Philippine case, things are, of course, different. The targets of extrajudicial killings are mostly poor. Those who are influential and wealthy are publicly accused but held off from execution and subject to investigation, such as the police generals named by President Duterte. For the poor, however, there is no due process. Suspicion or accusation is warrant enough to kill them. Terrorizing ordinary citizens, their bodies are displayed, at times with signs, for everyone to see as both warning to other dealers and as marks of the will of a sovereign power, as in any public execution. The display of their corpses is a way for the regime to claim for itself the power of their enemies and project this power to the people.

What about the comparative responses to extrajudicial killings?

In the US, anti-racist movements such as Black Lives Matter arise to protest the killings. They draw on a long history of civil rights activism that appeal to liberal democracy even as they are critical of its discriminatory application. Media debates are intense, and the conservative press aside, there is a real debate to recast issues and put forth solutions both on the local and national level. And the US being an imperial power, it is not uncommon that racist violence at home is often linked to racist warfare abroad, and more generally



Funeral workers carry out the body of an alleged drug dealer who was killed in a shootout with the police in the Philippines.

the racializing inequities of global capitalism. Hence, many have pointed out the irony of President Obama denouncing both the police murders of blacks even as he presides over a kill-list of suspected terrorists in the Middle East targeted for drone assassination. The use of a robot to kill the alleged assassin of Dallas cops during a Black Lives Matter demonstration shows how the counter-terrorist weaponry used abroad has come home to roost in the US cities.

In the Philippines, social movements have yet to emerge questioning extrajudicial killings. While some senators and human rights advocates raise objections, no one wants to be seen as coddling or protecting those who are killed. The Communist left and its allies have so far remained circumspect over these killings in an attempt to solidify their coalition with Duterte. Some of the armed groups have even acted as vigilantes to carry out killings in the provinces. Everyone, or at least most everyone, thus assumes that those who are killed are guilty and their innocence need not be proved. They are dead because they deserve to be dead, according to this solipsistic populism. They have forfeited their rights, and due process would simply be a waste of time and resources, according to this logic, since courts are corrupt and drug dealers, armed with lots of cash, will simply bribe their way out of prosecution.

Unlike the U.S., victims of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines start out as being racially or ethnically identical with their perpetrators. But being associated with illegal drugs renders them into a different race

altogether: one deserving neither human recognition nor humane treatment. They become in the eyes of the President, the police and vigilantes, pieces of garbage polluting society and so needing to be cleared away. Their corpses then become surfaces for ominous warnings from a deadly power.

In both the U.S. and Philippines cases, there is thus a process of racialization that takes place. In the U.S., it entails the “blackening” or “browning” of bodies tantamount to their criminalization and the necessary prelude for the police to render summary judgment as to who shall live and who shall die. But the response to police violence and white supremacy is loud and swift: widespread opposition develops, calls are made for reform and the prosecution of guilty police, academic analyses and policy debates ensue. Even if it seems like little changes, the political and ethical stakes of opposing racialized extrajudicial killings are clear. The ready availability of cell phones to record killings have further given citizens an important tool for raising awareness and providing proof of these police murders.

“Unlike the US, victims of extrajudicial killings in the Philippines start out as being racially or ethnically identical with their perpetrators.”

In the Philippines, again, nothing of this sort has or is likely to happen. Poor people, to begin with, have few rights that the middle class or the wealthy are compelled to recognize. From the perspective of the latter, the poverty of the former is not related to the wealth of those above; the causes of

Continued on page 3

# Communist Party: NPA will not be browbeaten into ceasefire

By Patricia Lourdes Viray

MANILA, Philippines — Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Maria “Joma” Sison has called out President Rodrigo Duterte for lifting the unilateral ceasefire with communist rebels less than a week after declaring it.

Sison, chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines, called the president a “very volatile” leader who rushes to decisions without considering the other aspects of the situation.

Duterte announced a unilateral ceasefire with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People’s Army-National Democratic Front in his State of the Nation Address on July 25. He lifted the ceasefire on Saturday night after the NDF failed to announce a reciprocal ceasefire within a deadline that Duterte gave.

“Nagpakita si Duterte ng pagsasalita na butangero na gusto niya bakbakan kaagad kung hindi masunod yung utos niya. Akala niya nakakuha na siya ng mga utusan,” Sison said in a telephone interview with ABS-CBN News.

The exiled CPP founder claimed that the communists were supposed to announce a truce at 8 p.m., three hours after the ultimatum set by Duterte.

“Ayaw ni Duterte ng ceasefire, ayaw na rin niya ng peace negotiations, bahala siya! Pinakaayaw ng kilos rebolusyonaryo yung nambully,” Sison said.

Sison added that the president had no right to order the New People’s Army and the revolutionary movement to declare a ceasefire without consulting the government peace panel.

NPA Southern Mindanao Regional



Jose Maria “Joma” Sison, founder of the Communist party of the Philippines and its armed wing, The New People’s Army, has lived in exile in the Netherlands since 1987.

Command spokesperson Rigoberto Sanchez has claimed that there was no actual ceasefire with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which conducted military operations five days after the president declared the unilateral ceasefire.

A reported NPA ambush on government militiamen in Davao del Norte last week prompted Duterte to issue the ultimatum, but the NPA has said the ambushed troops had been on the way to launch an operation despite the ceasefire.

Ceasefire on August 20  
Meanwhile, the CPP said that it will issue a unilateral ceasefire declaration with the government on August 20, the first day of the resumption of peace talks in Oslo, Norway.

“To further support peace negotiations, the CPP is willing to issue a unilateral ceasefire declaration separately but simultaneously with the Duterte government on August 20. The timeframe can be determined through negotiations,” the CPP said in a statement.

The CPP added that it took a

“more prudent path” when it refused to reciprocate the ceasefire declared by the new president.

“The CPP took the more prudent path of moving slowly in a deliberate effort to observe the situation at the ground even as it ordered the NPA to stay on active defense. The CPP, however, will not allow itself to be browbeaten to order the NPA to go on a ceasefire while operating troops of the AFP showed no plans of letting up in their search-and-destroy operations and frenzied offensives that terrorize civilian communities,” the statement read.

Meanwhile, the AFP has resumed its operations against the NPA after Duterte lifted the ceasefire with the communist rebels.

The AFP and the Philippine National Police are now under high alert and have been ordered to sustain offensive operations against the rebels.

# Comparing Extrajudicial Killings

From page 2

their destitution are rarely traced to the privilege of the rich; and their tendency to turn to crime, including the dealing and consumption of illegal drugs, are disconnected from any understanding of their immiseration and the precariousness of their daily lives. Historically excluded from the liberal elite democracy inherited from nationalist ilustrados, the poor exist to be exploited, their votes bought, their labor used up, and their sufferings patronized and made into the material for soap operas and political sloganeering. Small wonder then that they can be easily racialized: set aside as less than human and casually killed, their deaths weighing less than a centavo on the heads of those above. By subsuming the poor as a separate race, the class-based violence of the state is also tinged with racist intent.

But what about the poor themselves? What is their understanding of extrajudicial killings? I’m not sure and I’m not aware of much research on this topic—an absence which is itself telling of the seriousness, or lack of it, with which their views are taken by the political and cultural intelligentsia. But we can guess at some of the reasons why they stand by while the killings occur. Perhaps some support the President and the police, seeing drug dealers as non-humans with little or no rights. Perhaps they have been victimized by dealers themselves, suffering their extortions and violence. Indeed, some of those targeted have been corrupt cops known for taking bribes and selling drugs. One can imagine how their execution might seem like just deserts to those

who knew them. No doubt, the poor are also fearful of intervening directly. Bereft of resources, they feel their disenfranchisement and vulnerability on the most practical level. Rather than confront state authorities, many opt for a variety of traditional tactics to negotiate with them—from bribes to compliance, from collaboration to flight, though very rarely do the poor resort to assassination and other violent—and riskier—forms of retaliation against the police. In short, they will do anything to deflect the full force of those above while inflecting that force towards maximizing their chances for survival.

In any case, the seeming passivity, maybe even consent, of the poor to extrajudicial killings remains a real puzzle. The relative absence of collective class-based response occurs amid the sharp and finely developed sense of class-consciousness whereby the poor have a deep understanding of what it means to be poor. This gap between action and consciousness is undoubtedly common in many places and among other classes. But in the context of extrajudicial killings aimed specifically at the poor, it stands in stark contrast to the strength of anti-racist discourse and resistance in the U.S. Such a contrast deserves further study.

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# South China Sea Row – A Waiting Game

By Criselda Yabes

Grand plans for a naval station looking out to the South China Sea from the mouth of Ulugan Bay, on Palawan island, are stuck in limbo, one of many strategic ideas the Philippine military has been unable to realize.

A small cove inside Ulugan Bay already harbors a small and run-down naval base. It is where the Philippine Navy's two refurbished U.S. cutters, the pride of the fleet, are usually moored between deployments.

A plan to build the new base within five years was signed when U.S. President Barack Obama visited Manila in early 2014, and it was seen as suitable location for joint operations with the U.S. military for the Enhanced Defence Co-operation Agreement (EDCA), amid Obama's declared "pivot" to Asia, a reassurance Manila needed almost desperately as China began laying its hands on the sea.

But the Supreme Court is currently assessing whether the plans are unconstitutional for having bypassed approval by Congress and using funds that may be ring-fenced for other purposes. Military thinkers remain optimistic, though, believing a killer argument is the increased capability it could offer in the South China Sea power play.

"Some military analysts say it is now a waiting game, and a priority should be procuring drones to keep watch beyond Palawan's shores."

The idyllic Ulugan Bay base used to be a post for commanders heading into retirement. That has changed since China began its expansionist policies in the South China Sea, pushing the Philippines to the international court in The Hague for a decision under the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas on sovereignty over the Spratly chain of more than 750 islands, reefs and atolls, 45 of which are inhabited.

With China's astonishing creation within a year of land with military-like structures at seven reefs, the threat has landed suddenly at Manila's doorstep, with the potential of cutting-off of supply routes and endangering a natural gas platform that provides 30 per cent of power to Luzon, the Philippines' main island.

The military's Western Command is now at the front line and has had to step up its "operational tempo," as one officer said, working to shape international opinion ahead of the court decision next year.



Ulugan Bay, where the Philippine Navy is stationed. This was where the Americans were planning to expand its use as part of the new agreement EDCA (Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement) still subject to approval by the Supreme Court.

They must counter China's varied tactical challenges, which they say slyly combine threats and opportunities, strengths and weaknesses. "They understood war ahead of everyone. How do we fight an old civilization? How do we fight a grandfather?"

One answer is trying to get a firmer commitment from the U.S. The Philippines' ally had kept its distance from the dispute until aerial photos recently exposed China's build-up and prompted the U.S. Navy to call on China to stop.

The EDCA is meant to run for ten years, giving the U.S. wider access to seaports and airfields and allowing more troop rotation and sharing of facilities. It is a partnership extended from a previous one in combating terrorism in Muslim Mindanao in the southern Philippines.

Internal wars had until recently preoccupied the Philippine military, which had neglected modernization and defence reforms over the years and was also freighted with corruption and outdated procurement rules.

The most promising undertaking would have been a coast watch system in the archipelago's critical and strategic waters, but that too has floundered.

Some military analysts say it is now a waiting game, and a priority should be procuring drones to keep watch beyond Palawan's shores, to make sure the islands and reefs occupied by the Philippines remain unthreatened.

Most primary-school children of Pag-Asa, the faraway island claimed by the Philippines in the middle of the South China Sea, say they want to be in the Coast Guard when they grow up. That's understandable. They are only aping their teachers, two young men dressed in the impressive uniform of the Philippine Coast Guard.

Their youthful zeal strikes a symbolic resonance in the 37-hectare island, whose Tagalog name means "hope," where a tiny



A Coast Guard teacher takes the children for a stroll by the beach.

community has nestled for decades before China lit an international spark with territorial claims the length of the South China Sea. Its rapid building of artificial islands in the disputed Spratly chain is setting off alarm bells across the Philippines.

Day to day, though, there is little else to occupy the Coast Guard officers here. They volunteer to teach a dozen or so children in a small, donated prefabricated school, rotating every three months. Their sub-station has an aluminum speedboat parked under the shade of a tree, belying any sense of urgency.

Out from the coral-ringed shore are hazy outlines of huge fishing boats from either Vietnam or China, they reckon, and that to them is normal.

To the children, the Vietnamese are friends and the Chinese are not. That's what they have seen on cable television in the evenings when electricity is available. That's what they have heard from their parents, who talk of China's rapid island-building in the waters around them. They don't quite know what it means, and the idea of a full-scale conflict seems unreal, for now.

Once, the Philippines had been ahead of the game by staking its claim to this island, known to the outside world as Thitu, the second-



One of the children playing on the shore near the coast guard sub-station. (Photo by Criselda Yabes)

largest in the Spratly chain. Thanks to a self-styled admiral who claimed the territory in the 1970s (honored with a bronze bust near the island's flagpole), the Philippines is on the frontlines against China's expansionism.

In the possible beginnings of a cold war, policymakers in Manila see Pag-Asa

as a winning point, an occupation made effective by law, the legacy of a historical strategy suddenly relevant in today's geopolitics.

"It is not just about putting military boots on the ground," said one. "At the end of the day, it's what you occupy that is yours."

The build-up of a settlement on the island -- it can hold about 120 people -- started in the late 1990s. People from the rural fringes of Palawan, the nearest island province 285 nautical miles away, were recruited to replace a military population with civilians.

They didn't mind the isolation. An estimated 25 families lived like castaways but were otherwise provided with rice, free electricity and filtered water. Some were given houses made of split-bamboo pallets. Most importantly, there was a school for their children. These were privileges they would have had to fight for back home.

They have a stripped-down airport with a tower, a municipal hall, police station, health center (with no doctor) -- all standing side by side in box-like structures. Everything must be run from the central government's budget of about 52 million pesos (US\$1.15 million), a figure that has risen by about three percent a year for the past two decades.

Mayor Eugenio Bitoonon lately

has been dreaming of turning Pag-Asa into a tourist haven, as Malaysia has done at Swallow Reef, off the coast of Sabah; or a marine fisheries zone where groupers, clams and sea cucumbers profitable in the international market are bountiful.

But it's easier said than done. The ice plant stopped working a while ago and the new solar panels are in need of repair. "I've been saying this for the past five years, and look at China -- they've done what they wanted to do just yesterday. They've reached their vision beyond our imagination and here we are, the world is waiting for us."

Bitoonon recalls with a shudder his convoy of wooden boats nearly being rammed a few years ago by a Chinese warship maneuvering toward the nearby Subi reef that China had occupied. As the latecomer on the scene -- the Vietnamese, Filipinos, and Malaysians having previously claimed most of the reefs -- China's rapid reclamation on seven reefs in one year has ominous overtones.

But the islanders' health is the biggest headache, says Mary Joy Batiacila, the municipal administrator. "This is our biggest challenge, not China, not our military facing their military." The most recent scare has been an outbreak of diarrhea, for which a Navy doctor had to be flown in.

Batiacila is in a hurry to get on a two-hour flight back to Palawan for more supplies. If she misses it, she would have to endure three days chugging in a 32-meter wooden-hulled boat.

On Pag-Asa, life is always slow. Workers building a concrete performance stage by the mini-plaza -- a cultural fixture indispensable in every Philippine town -- say they've been at it off and on for four months, as the delivery of materials allows. Once it's done, though, there will be much singing to stave off the loneliness; one wonders how the Chinese will take that.

## Clinton, Trump and the West Philippine Sea From page 2

remember her from a 1995 speech as first lady to the United Nations' World Conference on Women in Beijing. The speech was censored in China. Supporting a younger generation of Chinese feminists being detained at the time, she called President Xi Jinping "shameless" on Twitter in 2015, saying his detention of five young feminists—cracking down on them while hosting a meeting on women's rights—"inexcusable." Beijing's state media fired back, accusing her of being a "rabble-rouser," China-bashing to win election points.

While not getting nearly the negative media coverage she faces at home, a quasi-official newspaper editorial insisted that she "was not welcome in China" just before an official visit as US Secretary of State; a Chinese TV pundit also called her a "crazy old woman." Even her clothes and hairstyles get openly mocked. Ultimately, however, it is her "lawyerly-ness" they hate and dread. She presses aggressively for rule-of-law on exactly the issues that China claims special "historic" exceptions to—including the nine-dash line—while her own sense of "American Exceptionalism" makes her see the US as policeman of the world.

China's responses to Trump have been much more mixed, have evolved over time and are expressed differently by government and the public—as reflected on the internet and in media polls. At first, he, too, was mocked; was called a "big-mouthed clown" and presented as positive proof that liberal democracy was in decline. But, as he became a serious presidential contender—and as it became clear that Clinton would be his opponent—those attitudes began to change. Officialdom believes that, as president, he will be a more favorable to China than Clinton.

His stances on trade—first seen as totally outrageous—are now being talked about as little more than the negotiation points of a clever businessman. And China—convinced it has the best businessmen in the world—remains

confident that it can make deals with him. They embrace his anti-Muslim xenophobia as reinforcing their own internal issues with the Uighurs—infamously fraught with human rights violations. They also consider themselves to be a nation particularly adept at "handling" egotistical world leaders.

Thousands of Chinese Internet users are literally "fans" of Trump—for a number of reasons. In the fortune-seeking atmosphere of China today, his success as a businessman inspires the "aspirational class." The combination of business success and his frequent authoritarian pronouncements—no matter how impossible those goals might be in reality—resonate with the general belief that iron-fisted control of state capitalism is the secret of China's success and that a businessman like Trump would be a person they could work with. And his "reality TV" persona attracts mightily—is, in fact, for many, the only reason for following the US election in the first place.

Official attitudes are somewhat more subdued. China's leadership is frankly concerned about his statement that Japan and South Korea should develop their own nuclear weapons and quit depending upon expensive US military defense—which they never pay for. Nuclear-armed neighbors are not what China wants to see. They would, however, welcome his proposed abandonment of defense alliances with those countries and, of course, the Philippines, if at all possible. Geopolitical and foreign affairs mavens are in a rare state of agreement that Trump's neo-isolationist plans would throw all of Asia into turmoil. That is a situation China believes it might gain benefit from.

As opposed to his neo-isolationism, Clinton has been seen as the very incarnation of American Exceptionalism & Manifest Destiny. China, therefore, favors Trump.

No matter who wins the US presidency, the US is a big, powerful country with a quietly entrenched bureaucracy. Tensions between the State Department, which sees trade and diplomacy as the

means of maintaining world influence, and the Defense Department, committed to geopolitical goals involving the projection of American power—and large defense budgets—as the method of maintaining American global supremacy, continue to exist.

Clinton, with her long-time supporters in the Pentagon and her experience as Secretary of State, would likely be able to strike a successful balance. Far from being the total hawk China portrays her to be, she has played a critical role in such delicate operations as getting the Iran nuclear treaty negotiations going, first by supporting tougher financial sanctions against Iran, and then opening back-channel treaty talks. She reached out—unsuccessfully—to the Taliban, attempting to find a peaceable solution to the Afghan conflict. And, perhaps most notably, she oversaw the rapprochement with the pro-Chinese military junta in Myanmar, setting the stage for elections and the release of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi (whose party is now in power there) from years of house arrest.

Conversely, Trump is likely to encounter resistance from both. The Defense Department, for instance, has pointed out that many of his proposals would constitute war crimes—and that they would refuse to obey such orders as torture or bombing cities occupied by ISIS, even if they were still filled with civilians. They are politically outraged by what they see as Trump's "cozying up" to Russia in general, and Putin in particular. Every pitch the Pentagon makes before the US Congress puts Russia at the top of the list of threats to world peace, and Trump's views that NATO is obsolete and that fulfillment of European treaty obligations should depend upon whether they've "paid their fair share," leaving most Defense officials in near apopleptic silence.

The State Department is equally polarized against many of his stated policies on trade, diplomacy and treaty obligations. So, even though he and Clinton may make very similar statements about sup-

## Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales wins Ramon Magsaysay Award

By Aries Joseph Hegina

Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales has been given the distinction of being one of the awardees of the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Awards for 2016.



Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales.

The award-giving body, which is widely regarded as the Asia's equivalent of the Noble Prize, extolled Morales for "restoring the faith in rule of law."

"In electing Conchita Carpio-Morales to receive the 2016 Ramon Magsaysay Award, the board of trustees recognizes her moral courage and commitment to justice in taking head-on one of the most intractable problems in the Philippines; promoting by her example of incorruptibility, diligence, vision and leadership, the highest ethical standards in public service," the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation said in a statement.

The 75-year-old public servant, said that she "radically improved the efficacy and credibility" of the Ombudsman and "has shown the way towards a more coherent, concerted action against cor-

ruption."

"She is, quite simply, an inspiring public servant," the foundation added.

Aside from Morales, the other awardees are Bezwada Wilson and Thodur Madabusi Krishna from India, Dompot Dhuafa from Indonesia, Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers from Japan and Vientiane Rescue from Laos.

Morales was appointed by former President Benigno Aquino III in 2011 and the fifth ombudsman since the office was established in 1998.

The Ombudsman obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Economics in 1964 and Bachelor of Laws in 1968, both from the University of the Philippines. Before being the Ombudsman, she served as Pasay City Regional Trial Court Judge, Court of Appeals Justice and a Supreme Court Associate Justice. RAM

porting PCA's Award, the sheer ability to act upon that support is much more problematic, given a Trump presidency. This is not about anyone in this country supporting or opposing a candidate in the US election. This is about ensuring the sovereignty of the Philippines and its rights over its own EEZ—the West Philippine Sea.

In sum, Clinton, is the more hawkish candidate, and so most likely to continue current US policy in the Asia-Pacific region. Under her, American treaty obligations with the Philippines are

not likely to change. Trump, on the other hand, comes across as a neo-isolationist who seems to take treaty obligations lightly. With Trump as president, we can expect a more volatile and unpredictable US policy in Asia, something that China may actually benefit from.

In the end, what we need is an independent foreign policy—one in which our national interests take precedence and set the terms for negotiating with China, the US and other states.

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## KAYA: Filipino Americans for Progress™ Amplifies DNC to Stand Together for the 2016 Elections at AAPI, Small Business, and LGBT Caucuses



Filipino Americans, as part of the larger Asian American ethnic group, have a unique voice in American politics. KAYA® members at the Democratic National Committee's (DNC) support our kababayans working directly with our community, from advocacy organizations to elected officials, including those Filipinos and allies running for office. On the Communications panel of the AAPI Caucus, Filipino American Gregory Cendana highlighted that the diversity of our community is vibrant; we bring a unique perspective to the political landscape. Mr. Cendana's identity as young, gay, Filipino, who grew up in a working-class family, is only an example that gives a background of connecting to our humanity as reflected in the Democratic National Committee's inclusive platform in opposition to the Republican National Committee in this particular election cycle.

Many allies in the Asian Ameri-

can Pacific Islander (AAPI) community champion the efforts to advocate for Filipino American Veterans with comprehensive and humane immigration reform. Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI) talked at length about the unified efforts of the Asian American democratic community to be a voice for the rights of our veterans. Hirono emphasized family unity, in particular for Filipino WWII veterans to reunite with their children under the new Parole program. She also commented that the longest waiting group amongst the AAPI group are largely from the Philippines. Further, 1.5 million are AAPIs in the U.S. and about 25% of DREAMers (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors aka DREAM) are AAPI.

Filipino American voters will play an important role in this election season, especially in battleground states like Nevada and Virginia. Additionally, Filipino American communities can influence red-to-blue races like ones in Florida.

Stephanie Murphy, a Vietnamese-American who is running in the Central Florida's 7th District, comments on Filipino Americans voting in Florida that "this election is about ALL voices. We need to unite in support of representatives that advocate for inclusiveness."

KAYA® members were also present at the Small Business Council at the DNC on Wednesday, taking the pulse of the various matters particular to the Filipino American community. The major takeaway was that the Obama administration fully funded the Small Business Administration, the backbone of America's economy. As a small business owner and resident of historic Filipinotown in Los Angeles, Ms. Joselyn Gaega of Los Angeles, and the first Filipino American woman to run for State Assembly in 1992, understands the privilege that "America doesn't have to deal with the corruption and paralyzing degree in which other countries have to start and run a business." She comments from

the Small Business Council at the DNC: "The success of business - both big and small - is because we have a strong infrastructure for good roads, good facilities, and good governance. Democrats make sure that we have that strong infrastructure in order to create that environment for success."

KAYA® member and former KAYA® Policy Director Ben de Guzman and Greg Cendana will be taking part in events with LGBT constituencies attending the DNC. Greg will be addressing the DNC's LGBT Caucus on Thursday as the Co-Chair of the AAPI Caucus of the DC State Committee. Ben will be talking on a panel discussing LGBT people of color entitled "What's Next for LGBT People of Color?" cosponsored by national LGBT organizations serving communities of color.

KAYA works on electing progressive allies into office that advocate the needs of the Filipino American community and advance our mission.



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PerryScope

By Perry Diaz

Right after the Philippine Congress proclaimed Rodrigo Duterte president of the Philippines, Chinese President Xi Jinping didn't waste any time writing a congratulatory message to him. Elated by Xi's gesture, Duterte said, "I was honored, receiving a congratulatory message from a great president."

Several days later, Duterte — who was seemingly buoyed by Xi's expression of goodwill — remarked that he would not resort to violence. He declared that that his government was "willing to talk with China over the maritime dispute instead of waging a war." "War is a dirty word," he quipped. It must have sounded like a sweet melody to Xi. Indeed, he might have felt that his "China Dream" was just about to be fulfilled. But then... several days later, his world turned upside down! The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) had just handed China a stunning defeat to her claim to 90% of the entire South China Sea (SCS). It seemed like a bad dream, a nightmare! But then he must have realized that it wasn't a dream. It's very real.

### Revelation

But what happened next revealed China's true intent. In an extraordinary move, China went on a diplomatic overdrive and tried to bamboozle the Duterte administration into submission. That was a big — no, stupid! — mistake on the part of the Chinese. They just blew what could have been a productive bilateral relationship, which would have settled their territorial disputes once and for all. Xi would have gotten everything he wanted while Duterte would be happy with a railway in Mindanao. Would it have been an equitable trade? Not by any means. But Duterte's wish would have been granted — "No war!"

In an article, "Man in the Middle: Rodrigo Duterte Gets a Taste



Duterte-and-Xi-Jinping-with-flags

of China's Heavy Hand," published in the Wall Street Journal, columnist Andrew Browne wrote: "On the afternoon of July 12, Mr. Duterte was irritated, according to one of his closest aides. He felt China was toying with him.

"A cabinet meeting had just received word live from The Hague of Manila's stunning victory in its legal challenge to China's claims in the South China Sea, and after noisy clapping and jubilant fist-pumping around the table the first order of business was to issue a public statement. A minister spoke up: He'd had dinner the previous night with the Chinese ambassador.

"That got Mr. Duterte's attention. 'Are you already a spy of the Chinese?' he demanded, in a teasing kind of way, according to the aide who was in the room.

"The minister then relayed a long and detailed list of demands from the envoy about what the Philippine government should say—and not say—when the ruling came out. Anticipating a defeat, China was panicked at the prospect that Manila might issue a gloating statement that would add to its humiliation.

"Mr. Duterte turned serious. What irked him, said the person in the room, was more than just the presumptuousness of the Chinese demands. The president had met with the ambassador [Zhao Jianhua] himself earlier the same day to offer reassurances. 'Didn't he trust what I told him?' asked Mr. Duterte.

" 'Between us guys,' he remarked, 'I would have said some

of those things, but because the [Chinese] embassy wants me to say them, I won't.' "

### Diplomatic faux pas

Given Duterte's volcanic temperament, he must have felt insulted by China's high-handedness in trying to force him to kowtow to Xi's demands. But nothing could have been more insulting to him — he grew up a "kanto boy" in an environment that abides by the law of the jungle — than a disloyal underling, the "minister" who dined with the Chinese Ambassador, who handed him a list of what to say and not to say about the arbitral tribunal's ruling.

Could that "minister" be Perfecto Yasay Jr., whom Duterte handpicked to be his Secretary of Foreign Affairs? Given Yasay's professional and business background, he appeared to be his perfect choice for the job.

But as it turned out, Yasay wasn't perfect after all. He committed a diplomatic faux pas that drastically changed the dynamics of what could have been an amicable — albeit unfair — settlement of the South China Sea disputes. However, it could have been a blessing in disguise because it gave Duterte a quick lesson in geopolitics. And as quickly, too, he became his own man, and not somebody's puppet or patsy.

### Boiling water

But Yasay — whose immersion into the treacherous waters of the South China Sea imbroglio has taught him never to jump into boiling water — has been rumored to



Former President Fidel V. Ramos confers with President Duterte upon his appointment as Special Envoy to China.

be on his way out. But last July 19, Duterte doused cold water on the rumor when he released a video statement to clarify Yasay's status. He said, "I would like to arrest a few rumors going around that Secretary Yasay of the Department of Foreign Affairs is on his way out. I would like to assure the Secretary that he is in good company and there is no truth to the rumor that there is a plan for his ouster, far from it actually."

Duterte went on to say that he personally pleaded with Yasay to join his administration because of his competence and honesty. But here's the twist: He said, "Although there's a caveat. Actually, Secretary [Yasay] accepted the position on the condition that he will only serve for a few months, not even a year because he has contractual obligations to teach, professorial chair, well most universities in the western side... California, Hawaii and somewhere else." He went on to say that Yasay has "his backing and full support." But don't they all say that when someone is just about to be canned?

### Standoff

Last July 14, Duterte said he would send former president Fidel V. Ramos to China to start talks on the PCA arbitral tribunal ruling. In accepting the assignment, Ramos suggested setting aside the arbitral tribunal's ruling to pursue a "settlement" with China. However, he said that the Philippines should first convene the National Security Council (NSC), which consists of the President, Vice President, Senate President, Speaker of the House, and others who are cho-

sen by Duterte. "There should be a National Security Council [meeting] first, so that the Philippine position can be defined," Ramos said.

But the whole idea of setting aside the tribu-

nal's ruling brings to the fore a slew of questions that the NSC has to address, to wit: (1) Could the Philippines bring the tribunal's ruling back to the negotiating table at a latter time? (2) Would the Philippines recognize China's "nine-dash line" claim over the SCS? (3) Would the Philippines acknowledge China's "undisputed sovereignty" over the SCS? (4) Would the Philippines agree to relinquish her exclusive economic zone (EEZ) to China who claims that it is within the area demarcated by the nine-dash line? And (5) Would the Philippines vacate and surrender Pag-asa Island, which is part of the province of Palawan? There are more; however, these, I believe, would be the core questions that need to be answered.

Duterte-blink But like all successful diplomatic negotiations, a middle ground has to be reached, and a compromise to be worked out. In other words, the parties have to agree to a "win-win" solution. Can this be achieved knowing that China had time and time again declared that she would not yield an inch of territory?

Indeed, Ramos has his work cut out for him. Let's hope — and pray — that he'd be able to convince the Chinese that while there is plenty of room for negotiation, there are certain things that the Philippines can't concede, which are spelled out in the Constitution. And this is the toughest challenge for both the Philippines and China. The question is: Who will blink first? Or, did Duterte blink already?

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**PerryScope**  
By Perry Diaz

# Bato: A hard rock to crack

It must have been fate that brought President Rodrigo “Rody” Duterte and Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Ronald dela Rosa together 30 years ago in the aftermath of the EDSA People Power Revolution that toppled the Marcos dictatorship. Duterte was appointed acting vice-mayor of Davao City by then President Cory Aquino. Dela Rosa, then a fresh graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) Class of 1986, was commissioned Lieutenant and assigned to the now-defunct Philippine Constabulary (PC) in Davao City. Their paths crossed and their lives have since been intertwined. Their personal relationship was also enhanced when Duterte stood as a principal sponsor at Dela Rosa’s wedding.



PNP Chief Ronad dela Rosa

Over the years, they remained loyal to one another. In his Facebook account, Dela Rosa posted a greeting on Duterte’s birthday: “I never feared to enforce the law and prevent crimes because you are always there watching my back. To the greatest leader on Earth, Mayor RRD, happy birthday Sir!” Indeed, “Bato” – Dela Rosa’s moniker, which means “stone” – had nothing but warm words for his mentor and ninong. And when Rody ran for president, Bato posted, “Those who will cheat and will manipulate this May 9 elections, be warned! We will crush you!”

Born on January 21, 1962 in Barangay Bato, Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, Ronald Marapon dela Rosa earned his moniker “Bato” not because of where he was born but because of his rock-like persona. It’s a reputation that he lived by. And

when Duterte won the presidency last May 9, he picked his loyal friend Bato to become Chief of the 160,000-strong PNP, bypassing more senior police officers who were Bato’s upperclassmen at the PMA. Traditionally, they are the ones on the “short list” for promotion to the top police job. Yep, one-star police general Dela Rosa’s promotion earned him the four stars reserved for PNP Chiefs; thus, bypassing several two-star and three-star police generals on the PNP hierarchy.

### Bounty

He took over the top PNP job on July 1, 2016, a day after his boss, “The Punisher” – Duterte’s street

moniker – was sworn in as president of the country. On his first day on the job, Bato warned the policemen involved in illegal drugs that “they have 48 hours to surrender to him.” He didn’t waste any time going after them. Calling him “Bato” would be kinder than what I’d call him – a pit bull... on the loose.

On the second day, it was rumored that 20 imprisoned drug lords have put a P1-billion contract on his and Duterte’s heads. But instead of cowering in fear from the jailed drug lords’ threat to assassinate them, Duterte and Dela Rosa went on the offensive.

To put an end to the corrupt culture inside the New Bilibid Prison,

where the drug lords are given VIP privileges, Duterte ordered the replacement of the correctional officers with commandos from the PNP’s elite Special Action Force (SAF), the equivalent of the SWAT teams in the U.S.

### Face the music

A few days later, during his speech at the 69th anniversary of the Philippine Air Force, Duterte named and relieved five high-ranking police generals from their posts whom he said were allegedly involved in illegal drugs.

The following day, three of the five named police generals, who are still in active duty, reported to Dela Rosa in his office at Camp Crame. They professed innocence and sought due process. “They were very sad. I want to cry with them,” Dela Rosa said of the three officers. “My advice to them is face the music,” he said.

While it might take some time to investigate and prosecute the erring generals, one immediate result of exposing their alleged illegal activity is that it will serve as a warning to all police officers that coddling with drug lords will not be tolerated under the Duterte administration and Dela Rosa will see to it that nobody – regardless of rank – is spared.

### Drug pushers surrender

In Camp Tolentino in Limay, Bataan, Dela Rosa was on hand to witness about 600 drug pushers who surrendered to the PNP. In a press conference that followed, he said that the PNP was ready to wage war against politicians involved in the illegal drug trade. In particular, he mentioned “local chief executives” with links to drug lords. He said they’re part of the Duterte administration’s goal, which is to stop – or suppress – corruption, criminality, and illegal drugs within six months. According to Dela Rosa, there are at least 23 local chief executives on the list that Duterte provided

him. However, he said that it’s up to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) to “handle” the erring mayors.

The question is: Why did Dela Rosa say it’s up to the DILG to “handle” the mayors involved in the illegal drug trade? Is it not a police matter? Or is it best handled politically by the DILG, which is a “political” body?

But going after the local chief executives would be like fishing in small ponds. More than likely all you’d be catching are the bu-tete -- tadpoles. Why not go fishing in larger bodies of water where bigger fish abound? And who are these “bigger fish” in the illegal drug trade? And who is the “big-gest fish” among them? Could it be that there exist powerful politicians or political dynasties that condone – nay, protect – the drug lords in their political turfs, which makes one wonder: Are they untouchable? Is someone protecting the “protectors” of the drug lords?

### Biggest challenge

This would certainly be Duterte’s – and Bato’s – biggest challenge. And this could be the root of corruption that Duterte detested so much. Surmise it to say, the bigger the amount of “dirty money” generated in illegal activities, the larger corruption becomes. And what could generate more “dirty money” than the illegal drug trade?

Needless to say, Duterte and Dela Rosa, working in tandem, are off to a good start. They have a goal and a timeframe... six months. All they need now is a plan that works. And this is where they can fail miserably or succeed modestly. I said “modestly” because I don’t think they can achieve their goal within six months. But it would definitely be a great start because the alternative is unthinkable.

We all know what Duterte wants. But what we don’t know is if he has the political will to go after the corrupt politicians who are involved in the illegal drug trade, some of whom might be his friends and political allies. It would clearly be a test of his leadership.

We also know that Dela Rosa has the ability to fight the illegal drug lords. He’s proven it when he was with the Davao City police force under the guidance of his mentor and ninong. But what we don’t know is if he has the gumption to fight them in a much larger arena where there are no rules of engagement, and where only those who are tempered with fire and hard as the Rock of Gibraltar survive. If there is one such crime-fighter that fits the mold, Bato is the man. He is a hard rock to crack, indeed. (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

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By Gabriel Ortigoza, PhD

**T**omoyuki Yamashita was a ruthless general of Imperial Japanese Army. He graduated from Imperial Japanese Army Academy in 1905 and joined the Army in 1906. Smart and intelligent officer, he graduated number 6 from Imperial Japanese War College. He served different military assignments in Japan and abroad.

One of his assignments was military attaché in Vienna prior to his post as commander in the Far East. Yamashita made military record when he conquered British colonies of Malaya and Singapore in 70 days. Because of his ferocious offensive character, he was given a title Tiger of Malaya. He was also known as The Tiger.

During World War II, Lieutenant General Yamashita and his troops retreated to the mountains of Cordilleras when the Americans, with the help of Filipino soldiers, made offensive attacks against the Japs.



Yamashita Memorial Shrine

Yamashita hid in the ranges of Kiangon, also known as “Million Dollar Hill” because Fil-Am troops blanketed the hill with bombs and spent millions of dollars. Eventually, Yamashita and his troops surrendered to the Americans on September 2, 1945 at Home Economics Building of Kiangon Central Elementary School, the site of Yamashita Shrine. The Americans brought Yamashita to Bamban in Nueva Vizcaya then to La Union and finally to Camp John Hay in Baguio when he officially signed a surrender paper on September 3, 1945.

Yamashita was tried in a Military Court and was found guilty with the penalty of death by hanging. His lawyers, provided by the Americans headed by Col. Clarke, made an appeal to US Supreme Court and Philippine Supreme Court but the was referred back to tary Court.

On February 23, 1946, on the 13th step of the der before his execu-Laguna, south of Ma-Yamashita was asked has last words to say said this words in Ni-

as interpreted: “As I said in the Manila Supreme Court that I have done with my all capacity, so I don’t ashamed in front of the gods for what I have done when I have died. But if you say to me ‘you do not have any ability to

command the Japanese Army’ I should say nothing for it, because it is my own nature. Now, our war criminal trial going under your kindness and right. I know that all your American and American military affairs always have tolerant and rightful judgment. When I have been investigated in Manila court I have had a good treatment, kindful attitude from your good natured officers who protected me all the time. I never forget for what they have done for me even if I had died. I don’t blame my executioner. I’ll pray the gods bless them. Please send my thankful word to Col. Clarke and Lt. Col. Feldhaus, Lt. Col. Hendrix, Maj. Guy, Capt. Sandburg, Capt. Reel, at Manila court, and Col. Arnard. I thank you.”

In 1974, as a sign of peace, a war memorial Yamashita Shrine was constructed in Kiangon. (gabbyortig@yahoo.com)



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# FAVA Filipiniana and Scholarship Evening



**The FAVA Filipiniana Ladies of 2016**

Photos by Joe Gonzalez

The Filipino American Veterans Association (FAVA), Inc. of Sacramento held their annual presentation of scholarship awards on July 30, 2016 at the American Legion's Magellan Hall.

Congratulations to the FAVA Scholarship Awardees: Joellyne Nguyen, Lauren Ferguson, and Matthew DeGuzman! Congratulations also to their parents, grandparents, all FAVA members, the Salvador's, the Jese's, and the Zaragoza's!"



**The FAVA Filipiniana Men of 2016**



**Lauren Ferguson**



**Rick Rafanan, FAVA Pres. Dick Weitzenberg, Matthew DeGuzman and David Jese.**



**Joellyne Nguyen**

# Mildred Go's Retirement Celebration

By Dinnah San Pedro

As Mildred Go enters retirement as life's longest vacation, she ended it with a bang by inviting her family and friends to a grand celebration held at the Sacramento Marriott Hotel in Rancho Cordova just last night (July 30).

Upon entering the ballroom, the light was dimmed with eye-catching red and black color themed decor throughout, as Mildred's favorite color: big red flowers adorned the back drop for picture taking, table center pieces with tall clear vases with shimmering rocks and red roses bouquet, tables lined with red table cloth with matching chair covers, and guests in red and black party outfit and the celebrant herself in a stunning red long gown with black flowery appliqué.

In one corner was a piece of prop, easy to take notice that says "retirement is the only solution", which happens to be Mildred's quote. This explains it all! Everyone invited to the celebration came to witness the culmination of Mildred's years of hard work as a registered nurse (RN) since arriving in the U.S. in 1986, where she has worked in different healthcare organization such as Mills Hospital in San Mateo, California and Asian Nursing Homes, Mercy General Hospital, and UC Davis Health System, which are all based in Sacramento, California. In all those years, she proudly says, she has worked double night-shift jobs at two different hospitals and was glad to have raised her three children- Anne Lorraine Benavidez married to Michael, Beverly Ann Go, and Shane Go, even as a single parent.

Mildred graduated from Cebu Central Colleges and Chong Hua Hospital College of Nursing in 1978 with a bachelor of science degree in nursing (BSN). In attendance were one of her former clinical instructors, and a former classmate (Jojie Acosta), who performed a Hawaiian dance medley in her honor. She was also serenaded by Remy Solo-



**Mildred Go and Family**



**Remy singing and Dr. Tony Solomon dancing with Mildred**



**Vivian Apostol, Helen Lacaste, Ava Lalas (the young and old Mafia)**



**Mildred and the UC Davis family**

mon's ever beautiful voice along with MC Paradela in a duet theme song from Miss Saigon- "Last Night of the World". MC is the son of the late Frank Paradela. His father was Mildred's dance partner, best friend, and confidante up until his

last days. He passed away worthy of Mildred's loving care.

The night, as amazingly emceed by Tina Bambao (her first as she admitted) was filled with entertainment prepared by Mildred's

Continued on page 12



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# FCSV Holds First Canvassing for Mrs. Philippines Candidates

By Faina E. Abaya

For being sociable, the Filipinos are by tradition fun loving and have that sense of oneness to promote the beauty, grace and elegance of their inherently great heritage. And for being generous, the Filipinos easily extend their helping hands to those who deserved to be helped.

Undeniably, the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity under the current leadership of its amiable and energetic President, Mercedes Guerrero has embraced all such traditional Filipino values for the best interest of the place where we found solace, comfort and enjoyment for our families to live.

Just like the previous years, the FCSV launched the Mrs. Philippines Contest to raise needed funds to put into action and reality the many projects of the organization. The Mrs. Philippines Contest is chaired by well-known community Realtor Mina Guerra and there are five candidates for the prestigious title who will reign FCSV Mrs. Philippines for 2017-2018. The candidates with their respective handlers or managers are Esmeralda Maquire managed by Emily Burns and Fe Alvarez; Luz Molina managed by Bella Nidoy and Joe Gonzales; Carol Munar, managed by Nellie Umali and Edna Villanueva; Dr. Louie Oberman managed by Imelda Del Rosario and Susan Aquino to be managed by Fred Aquino.

The FCSV has profoundly appreciated the civic-mindedness of the candidates for their willingness to help our community to fulfill its many projects from Scholarship grants for our deserving students to the funding of everyone's dream to have a Filipino Cultural Center building where it will become the repository of the depth and greatness of our tradition and heritage. Likewise, their respective managers are men and women who are known in the community for their sincerity of purpose to work for the betterment of our community which has been tested time and again.

Entering the initial phase of the contest was held on July 16, 2016 at the Jose Rizal Community Center on Florin Rd., Sacramento for the first canvassing of the ballots



Photos by Faina Abaya



cast to every candidate with their respective social boxes to be auctioned which will be received by the highest bidders.

As expected, the Rizal center was meticulously decorated through the combined creativity of Alex and Ling Avera, Estela Rabara, Bella Nidoy, Rose Basos, Segundo and Aida Azurin. Every table has pink and white linen cover and has crystal vase center

piece containing freshly cut varied colors of roses with assorted leaves around to complement and project the natural beauty of the decorative plants.

When the Center was filled up to the capacity the program was started by Estela Rabara and Remy Solomon who alternately emceed the event as they called Aida Azurin to deliver the invocation. She invoked the blessing of the Divine Providence for everybody's wellbeing as she blessed the food prepared by Carol and Melchor Munar together with Alex and Ling Avera. The national anthems of the United States and Philippines were rendered by the "Beauties" led by the above mentioned emcees.

FCSV President Mercy Guerrero de-

livered her welcome address expressing her heartfelt gratitude to all who graciously accepted their invitation to enjoy the night with them. Likewise, she also thanks the candidates of the Mrs. Philippines Contest for their personal sacrifices to share their time and efforts for the general good of

the community. In addition, the President also praised all the officers and committee members who worked hard for the success of the night event.

Margie Pasalo, the FCSV Treasurer and Chairperson of the  
Continued on page 12

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# FCSV Holds First Canvassingfor Mrs. Philippines Candidates

From page 10

Scholarship Grant introduced the two recipients as Anna Rica and Aleyah Imana Ramos. Due to some personal circumstances, Aleyah Imana Ramos was not able to personally receive her Scholarship Grant.

Anna Rica's undisclosed monetary award and Certificate of Scholarship Grant were presented by Mercy Guerrero, Lilia Rivera and Margie Pasalo in the presence of the recipient's parents, Ernesto and Annabelle Rica with her sister Atizza. Anna Rica finished her secondary education at Monterey Trail High School and she will be pursuing a degree of Civil Engineering at San Jose State University. The other recipient Aleyah Imana Ramos is the daughter of Charlie Ramos and Orchids Lazaro. She graduated from Hercules High School and her career goal is to finish her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. She will either attend CSU East Bay, Sacramento State or Sonoma State University.

The high light of the evening's program was the presentation of the FCSV Mrs. Philippines candidates, however, due to some unavoidable or personal circumstances only two of the five con-



testants Carol Munar and Luz Molina were present while the other one was represented by her sister/manager Emily Burns. All of them were introduced and when called one at a time walked around the center aisle of the auditorium for the audience to decide whom to support.

The FCSV President gave the rules of the social boxes of the

candidates to be auctioned which will last for only seven minutes. Rey Oineza was appointed as the official auctioneer while the timer was Alex Avera. The watchers were Fe Alvarez, Nellie Umali and Ling Avera.

Luz Molina was the first candidate to start the bidding of her social box who was immediately swarmed by her supporters as soon

as she stepped on the dance floor. To the tune of Bruno Mars "Just the way you are" one after the other both males and females danced with her as they bid on her social box and in the end the highest bidder won her social box containing assorted wines.

Thereafter, candidate Carol Munar followed to the tune of the same music, her supporters enthusiastically danced with her while there was a frenzy of bidding on her social box until it was taken by the highest bidder at the last second of the time allotted. The social box contained a beautiful hand painted footed cachepot. Likewise, the level of enthusiasm shown by the supporters of Esmeralda Maquire who was represented by sister Em-

ily Burns was as high as the previous candidates until her social box was auctioned to the highest bidder containing assorted religious CDs, books and Movie cassettes.

The auctioning of the candidate's social boxes has generated much needed ballots for the candidate concerned which will be added on the final counting to declare the winner of the contest. This phase of the contest will surely be remembered by every participant who joined the excitement and thrill of the bidding as they danced with their respective candidates.

As expected, the night was also the time to show the gracefulness of everyone who likes to stretch their body as they dance every music played by Rick Pasalo D'Zound Conneczion band from the latest craze to Line Dancing usually led by Joe Rivera until closing time.

## Mildred Go's Retirement Celebration

From page 10

colleagues: dance presentations by Vivian Apostol, Helen Lacaste, Ava Lalas (the young and old Mafia as they called their dance groups), and Mildred's daughter Ann Lorainne Benavides and dance partner Bernard Avero. Another highlight of the evening was a video presentation of Mildred's years in nursing with friends and families, as produced by Johanna Mallari and who also created the fun photo back drop. The night didn't end without Mildred dancing gracefully with friends in the community: Dr. Tony Solomon, Ver Faundo, Henry Bambao, Tom Carpio, Afin Letim, and Dave San Pedro.

After a sumptuous buffet dinner which was preceded by an invocation by Ruth Balanon, event program, and dancing, Mildred approached the stage and warmly welcomed and acknowledged the special individuals that made her retirement party a marveling success. She's grateful for all her "sponsors" who have one way or another contributed to the enjoyment of the evening.

Cheers to you Mildred as you enjoy your well-deserved retirement!



## High School Reunion



(L-R) Nancy Carol Bautista, Julie Rabago Garcia, and Bea Ruiz Rojas, at their 62nd Stella Maris College mini high school reunion. The former classmates have not seen one another since 1962 graduation.

UNLUCAI



UNLUCAI meeting held at the residence of President Henry Bambao on July 23, 2016

EUGENE BAMBAO



Birthday celebration of Eugene Bambao on July 15, 2016 with wife Erna and children and grandchildren.



(Col. AFP Ret.) Mon Veridiano who just arrived from the Philippines visited Henry Arcangel together with Jun & Faina Abaya with Henry and Tina Bambao, to talk about community project for Veterans which he hopes to benefit them.

EDUARDO ESPERANTE



Happy 80th Eduardo Esperante! Shown here with his one and only Caring, children, and some of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Eskwela Natin



Heaven Leigh Quintana received scholarship award from Eskwela Natin. President Dolores Diaz presented her with a recognition certificate and a scholarship cash award of \$300.00. Heaven placed second in the 2016 Eskwela Natin Scholarship Program.

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**Ida Alvarez**

**Birthday Celebration**

Ida celebrated her birthday on July 9 at the Thunder Valley Casino and Resort with husband Joe, sister Rassel Medina, Hilda Bobier, Tess Santos and Dinnah San Pedro.



**Christopher and Christal**

Happy Birthday to Christopher Leon Ancheta Erespe and Christal Erespe. Born on the same day (years apart), both delivered extreme joy to their parents, Carlito and Maria.

They celebrated their birthday on July 23 at the Stonelake Club in Elk Grove, CA attended by families, relatives and closed friends.



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## Birthdays



MICHAEL VALENTINE  
AUGUST 2



CHARITY AVENA  
JULY 29



JOEY ABAYA  
JULY 29



JUN ABAYA  
JULY 28



EDDIE ADUCAYEN and wifey Christine  
JULY 28



ERROL MERCADO and wifey Alita  
JULY 23



CAROLINA MUNAR and hubby Melchor  
JULY 27



DINNA and DAVE SAN PEDRO  
35th Wedding Anniversary  
JULY 24



NELDA and ARDEN ABELEDA  
30th Wedding Anniversary  
JULY 27



CARING and GEORGE ADUCAYEN  
67th Wedding Anniversary  
AUGUST 1

## Calendar of Events

**AUGUST 13 - 14, 2016 (Sat-Sun)**  
**PISTAHAN Parade & Festival**  
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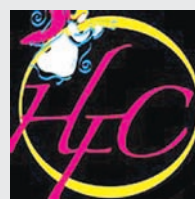
**AUGUST 14, 2016 (Sun)**  
**Annual Barrio Fiesta**  
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**SEPTEMBER 10, 2016 (Sat)**  
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By Dale Esperante

# Magellan Post 604 Proud of Two Key District Officers

The Installation of The American Legion District 6 (D6) Officers took place on 16 Jul 2016 at Haggin Grant Post 521 in Rio Linda. Two district officers are also members of the American Legion Magellan Post 604 in Sacramento. Filipino-Americans of the Magellan Post are proud to congratulate 2016-2017 District 6 Commander Will Williams and District 6 Financial Officer Joe Gonzalez.

D6 Commander Williams has served as the Sgt-at-Arms, 2nd Vice Commander, and First Vice-Commander of Magellan Post 604 before he became the district commander. Upon his first election in 2015 to the office of the D6 commander, Commander Williams remained as an active member of Post 604 but decided not to occupy any official Post officer position. The demands of his district-wide responsibilities are enough to keep Comrade D6 commander occupied. 2016-2017 is Comrade Will Williams' second consecutive term as the District 6 commander. D6 Commander Williams is the proud husband of Penafancia aka Frennie, currently an Executive Board Member of American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604.



District 6 Commander Will Williams and wife Frennie.



District 6 Commander Will Williams and wife Frennie and Commander Gary Leach.

D6 Financial Officer Joe Gonzalez has also served numerous Magellan Post 604 elected positions including as the Post commander for years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. He served as the Post 604 second vice-commander in 2015-2016 while also fulfilling

his first term as the District 6 financial officer. District officers other than the commander and vice-commanders are allowed to serve concurrently as officers for their respective posts. For 2016-2017, Comrade Joe Gonzalez will be serving his second term as D6 financial officer while also serv-



District 6 Financial Officer Joe Gonzalez and District 6 Commander Will Williams



(L to R) Comrade Joe Gonzalez, Comrade Dale Esperante, Commander Will Williams, Melita Esperante and Carina Gonzalez.

ing as Magellan Post 604 Historian. Comrade Joe Gonzalez is the proud husband of Carina.

- The District 6 Officers are responsible for 16 American Legion Posts covering the area of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Commander: Will Williams
- The Magellan Post 604 is an American Legion Post founded by 39 Filipino farmers after their

return from serving in the American military during WWII. Post 604 has approximately 100 veteran members, descendants of Filipino-Americans. Commander: Tom Amaba

- The American Legion California Department/Headquarters recently relocated from San Francisco to Sanger, near Fresno. Commander: Gary Leach



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Compiled and illustrated  
by Dave San Pedro

# Larong Pilipino

Ang mga tradisyunal na larong Pilipino ay sadyang nakapang-aakit, kakaiba, at bunga ng malikhaing imahinasyon. Sa magkakasabay na hiyawan ng bawat manlalaro ay hindi mo mapipigilang mapasali sa kasiyahan. Sa katunayan nga, kahit na magalit pa ang ina kapag umuwi ang batang marumi, pawis, at amoy araw, bawat batang Pilipino'y hindi inaalintana maski pa mapingot ang kanilang mga taynga makasama lang sa paglalaro nito. Isang napakagandang bagay pa tungkol dito ay pwede itong laruin ng kahit sino ng walang bayad! Jack-en-poy, hali hali hoy! Sinong matalo siyang unngoy! Tara na at maglaro!

Umpisahan natin sa maikling kasaysayan ng larong Pilipino.

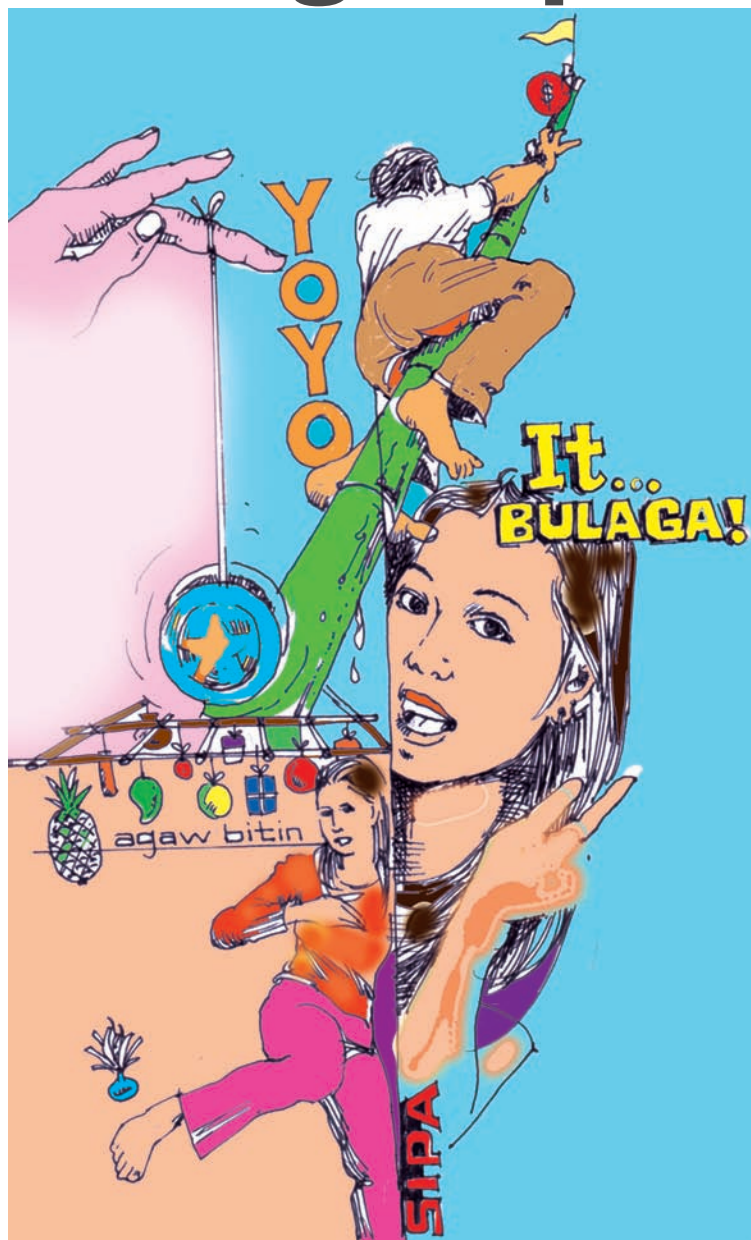
Kilala rin ang larong Pilipino sa bansag na "Laro ng Lahi" dahil sinasagisag nito ang kulturang tunay na maipag-mamalaki ng mga Pilipino. Unang inilunsad ang palarong ito noong Pebrero 10, 1984 sa Laoag, Ilocos Norte sa pangunguna ng Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sports (ngayo'y Department of Education), Office of the Provincial Governor at Office of the Municipal Mayor. Di naglaon ay ibinilang na rin ito sa ilalim ng araling Physical Education ng Bureau of Physical Education and School Sports.

## Patintero

Ang larong ito ay masasabing pinakakilalang laro ng mga Pilipino. Patuloy na kumakalat ang popularidad nito sa iba't ibang lalawigan bagamat mas kilala ito sa Bulacan. Bilis, liksi, at galing sa pagtaya ng kalaban ang pangunahing dapat na isinasaalang alang ng bawat manlalaro. Ang basehan ng pagkapanalo sa larong ito ay ang bilang ng mga manlalarong nakalampas sa bawat guhit nang hindi natataya ng kalaban. Ang isang grupo ay kinabibilangan ng hindi bababa sa 10 miyembro. Maaaring maglaro ng patintero sa kahit anong lugar basta't nasusulat ang sahig ng yeso na nagsisilbing hangganan o kaya naman ay mga linyang dapat malampasan ng bawat manlalaro. Bilang pasimula ng laro, maghahagis ang isa ng barya upang malaman kung aling grupo ang mauunang maglaro at kung sinong grupo ang taya.

## Luksong Lubid

Ang larong ito na binubuo ng tatlo o higit pang manlalaro ay simple lamang na kahit pinagdugtong dugtong na goma ay maaari nang gamitin. Sa larong ito lumulukso ang bawat manlalaro habang pabilis nang pabilis ang ikot ng tali o ng pinagdugtong na mga goma. Kapag tumama ang tali sa paa ng lumulukso, dahilan upang matigil ang pagikot nito ay siyang papalit naman ang ibang manlalaro. Isa pang uri ng luksong



lubid ay tinatawag na Chinese Garter. Sa larong ito, tatlo o higit pang manlalaro ang maaaring sumali. Gamit ang garter, lukuksong lamang ang bawat manlalaro ngunit hindi tulad ng sa naunang uri, ang garter ay pataas ng pataas: mula sa bukung bukung hanggang sa itaas ng ulo. Kapag matatangkad naman ang iyong mga kalaban at may mahaba kang binti ay malaki ang tsansa ng pagkapanalo. Madalas itong makitang nilalaro ng mga bata sa makikipot na kalye ng Tondo, Manila.

## Taguan

Isang larong sikat sa mga lalawigan ng Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija at Pampanga, ito ay hango sa larong Ingles na ang tawag ay Hide and Seek. Magandang maglaro nito sa mga lugar na maraming kubo, puno at matataas na halaman. Kahit ilang tao ay pwedeng sumali, ang kailangan lamang ay may tukuyin na "taya". Ang sinumang matukoy na taya ay siyang magbibilang ng hanggang 30 habang nakapikit at nakasandal sa puno na nagsisilbing home base. Habang ang taya ay nagbibilang, ang mga kalara ay naghahanap ng kanya kanyang mapagtatagan. Pagkatapos magbilang ng taya ay hahanapin na niya ang mga nagtago. Ang bawat nagtago naman ay hahanap ng paraan upang makapunta sa home base nang hindi nakikita ng taya sabay sisigaw ng "save". Maliligtas mula sa pagkataya ang sinumang makapunta dito nang hindi nahuhuli. Matatapos lamang ang laro kung

ang lahat ng manlalaro ay nakalabas na sa pinagtatagan.

## Trumpo

Sa madaling pagsasaliksik ng larong trumpo, makikita mo muna ang sikat at hinahangaang palabas noong 90s. Ito ay pinamamagatang "Tropang Trumpo" na pinagbibidahan nina Ogie Alcasid, Michael V, Gellie De Belen at Carmina Villaroel. Ang nakakatawang palabas na ito ay handog sa larong trumpo. Sa salitang banyaga, tinatawag din ang larong ito bilang Spinning Top sa Ingles, Spun Tsa Lin sa Intsik at Koma Asobi sa Hapon.

Dalawang mahalagang gamit ang kinakailangan upang makapaglaro nito. Una ay ang gawa sa kahoy na hugis ng tulad sa acorn na mayroong pako na nakabaon ang ulo mula sa kahoy at ang pangalawa, isang mahabang lubid na magpapaikot sa kahoy na may pako. Sa oras na mapakawalan na ang kahoy mula sa lubid, marapat na maglaan ng sapat na espasyo ang manlalaro upang magpaikot ikot ito sa iba't ibang direksyon.

Mahilig maglaro ng trumpo ang mga batang lalaki sa Lanao del Sur. Nasa kanilang lugar rin nagmula ang pinakamalaking trumpo sa Pilipinas; tinatawag itong Batige.

## Sipa

Tinatawag na Tepak Sakraw sa Indonesia at Sepak Raga sa Malaysia, ang larong ito ay madaling makikita sa lansangan sapagkat mga punit punit at makukulay na plastik at isang takip ng bote o tansan lang ang kailangan. Nilalaro ito sa pamamagitan ng paghahagis at pagsipa pataas gamit ang paa, siko o iba pang parte

ng katawan. Kapag sumayad na sa lupa ang tansan, ibig sabihin ay tapos na ang laro. Madalas kang makakakita ng mga batang naglalaro ng sipa sa mga pampublikong paaralan ng Bulacan, pagkatapos ng kanilang mga klase.

## Bahay bahayan

Katulad ng larong ito ang Titser Titseran (Umaarteng guro) at Doktor doktoran (umaarteng doktor). Sa larong ito ay may mga batang umaarte na tulad sa ama at ina ng isang bahay, partikular na ang nipa hut, at may kasamang beybi na manika. Ang karaniwang ginagawa ng ama dito ay pumasok sa trabaho habang ang ina na nakasuot ng saya ay naghahanda ng makakain gamit ang mga putik na gawa sa plato at mga damo at bulaklak na nagsisilbing pagkain. Inaalagaan din ng umaarteng ina ang beybi na manika na kanilang anak. Kalat ang kasikatan ng larong ito sa iba't ibang lugar sa Pilipinas sapagkat bawat bata ay mismong sa magulang nakakakuha ng ideya kung paano sila gagayahin.

## Jack-en-poy

Sa Ingles, ang bansag dito ay Rock-Paper-Scissors. Ang larong ito ay naglalayong matalo ang bawat galaw ng kamay sa pagitan ng dalawang manlalaro. Halimbawa, talo ng gunting ang papel, talo ng papel ang bato at talo ng bato ang gunting. Hindi makukumpleto ang larong ito kung wala ang kantang "jack-en-poy, hali, hali hoy! Sino'ng matalo siya'ng unngoy! Kinahihiligan ito ng karamihan sa Maynila.

## Palo Sebo

Hindi makukumpleto ang pistang Pilipino kung walang Palo Sebo. Ito ay nilalaro sa pamamagitan ng pag akyat sa mahabang kawayan na nilagyan ng grasa na nagsisilbing pampadumulas. Kinakailangan ang malakas at makapit na paghawak sa kawayan upang makaabot sa tuktok at makuha ang premyo. Sa mga lalawigan sa Luzon tanyag ang larong ito sapagkat maraming puno ng niyog (madalas gamitin sa larong ito) ang matatagpuan dito.

## Komiks Buhay Pinoy by Dave San Pedro



## Ethan Rivera Diep Wins Art Competition at 2016 California State Fair

By Faina E. Abaya

Filipino American Sean Ethan R. Diep who just turned seven years old has shown his innate artistic talent since he was able to handle properly a pencil to scribble object or animal like drawing.

His parents encouraged him to draw by providing him gadgets for painting such as brush, oil coloring, pads, canvas and many other art tools necessary to enhance his artistic inclination. Even in his school, Ethan's art talent is noticed especially his drawing on different kinds of animals and structural designed objects.

The California State Fair of 2016 has formed the Student Showcase which "recognizes outstanding projects and artwork created by California Youth". They encouraged all who have artistic talent to enter the competition to show their creativity and it is opened to all California residents who are in kindergarten, community college, home school, community clubs/groups and independent study students.

Ethan entered his amazing water colored painting "Rhino" in the competition which won the coveted Best of Class Rosette besting thousands of state wide entries on this category. Additionally, he also received two First Place Blue Ribbons for each of his watercolor paintings, entitled "Dinosaur Fight" and "Golden Gate Bridge."

Ethan was inspired to paint the award-winning "Rhino" after finding out that the rhinoceros he just saw at a zoo was critically endangered. He plans to paint more endangered animals in the future to raise awareness, protection, and conservation of those breed of animals.



A prolific painter since he was able to handle his painting brush, and for such extra ordinary art talent, Ethan has won several awards for his unique paintings at the 2015 Gilroy Arts Alliance Youth Artists Exhibit, 2015 Monterey County Fair, 2015 Santa Cruz County Fair, 2016 Alameda County Fair, and 2016 San Mateo County Fair. His artworks will also be in the upcoming 2016 Santa Clara County Fair, 2016 Monterey County Fair, and 2016 Santa Cruz County Fair.

Ethan is the eldest son of Chinese-Vietnamese Sean T. Diep and Filipina Eloise Marie Lagasca Rivera-Diep of Gilroy, CA. He is entering second grade this Fall at Stratford School in Morgan Hill, California. He shares his love of painting with his younger five-year-old brother Sean Colin. Ethan also enjoys reading, playing the piano and violin as well as swimming, ice skating, playing golf, tennis and ice hockey.

## The dating history of Luis Manzano

By Hazel Dhane Bautista

- Luis Manzano, one of ABS-CBN's prime-time hosts, is mostly known for his hosting expertise but his colorful love life didn't escape the media's attention

- Manzano, in most of his relationships, chose to stay mum on the reason why his relationships didn't work out

- Aside from his current rumored girlfriend, Jessy Mendiola, he was previously committed to Jennylyn Mercado and Angel Locsin among others

A lot easily assumed that Luis Manzano already has a spot reserved for him in the showbiz industry way before he even considered joining. It's no wonder given that his parents are no other than the 'Star for All Seasons' Vilma Santos-Recto and actor Edu Manzano.

Now as a known TV host and actor, Manzano has proved that he can carve a spot for himself with his talent, charm, and wit. But other than his hosting stints, the 35-year old is always on the headlines for his leading ladies in real life.



Nancy Jane

Take a look on the lucky ladies he has dated throughout the years.

### 1. Nancy Jane (2002)

Once known as Nancy Castiglione, the half

Italian and half Filipina singer-actress dated Manzano in 2002. At present time, she is a broker and a mother of fraternal twins, Matteo and Joaquin.

Nancy Jane returned as a singer right after taking a break from showbiz but eventually became a broker.

### 2. Anne Curtis (2007)

Most people would know the close relationship of the two as friends but Anne



Ann Curtis

Curtis once admitted that they tried dating. However, the 'level-up' on their ties did not work as they figured they were better off as friends.

Anne Curtis and Luis Manzano were rumored to be dating after her split with actor-singer Sam Milby.

### 3. Jennylyn Mercado (2011 - 2013)



Jennelyn Mercado

Belonging in rival stations didn't hinder Jennylyn Mercado to be in a relationship with the TV host in 2011. Mercado, a single mother of one, met Manzano through Jiu

Jitsu training. The pair even traveled together locally and internationally. Nevertheless, it was in 2013 when rumors of their separation floated as Manzano flew alone instead of a supposed trip together.

According to showbiz writer, Ricky Lo, the two simply fell out of love and no third party was involved.



Angel Locsin

Jennylyn Mercado shares a son with actor, Patrick Garcia. Her currently rumored boyfriend is Dennis Trillo.

### 4. Angel Locsin (2008 - 2009, 2014-2016)

Perhaps, the longest and most controversial tie in the list was the actor's involvement with actress Angel Locsin.

After being spotted on numerous occasions, the pair confirmed their status in 2008. A year after, while refusing to disclose the reason, the two parted ways. Manzano didn't hide his intentions of winning Locsin back but it wasn't until in 2014 that they started dating again.

Angel Locsin and Luis Manzano went on a trip in the U.S. before calling it quits.

During the course of their relationship, Locsin admitted on a local entertainment show that she was diagnosed with a disc bulge. In the said interview, she happily commended her boyfriend's support for her as she underwent an operation in Singapore. Marriage talks were even discussed but on the first month of 2016, their separation surprised a lot of people.

### 5. Jessy Mendiola (2016)

Two in the list, namely Locsin and Mercado, were both hailed as FHM's Sexiest Woman of the Year. Make that three now, as Governor Vilma recently admitted that she invited this year's sexiest woman of FHM after Manzano admitted that they're going out.

Luis confessed of courting Jessy Mendiola during an interview for his show, 'Minute To Win It.'

Aside from the relationships he admitted publicly, there are other girls that were once linked with Luis Manzano. One was his fellow VJ, Karel Marquez, whom he courted in 2004, but did not progress further as Marquez informed. Another was Toni Gonzaga who married Direk Paul Soriano. However, the two remained as close friends.



Jessy Mendiola

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# BEA and GERALD are FREE

By Irish Christianne Dizon

**B**ea and Gerald are two very different people. “Sobrang sporty ako, tapos wala siyang sport. Mahilig siya sa art, mahilig ako sa fast food,” says Gerald. “Pero sobrang magkasundo kami. We’re both passionate about our craft.”

I fell in love fast and really hard.”

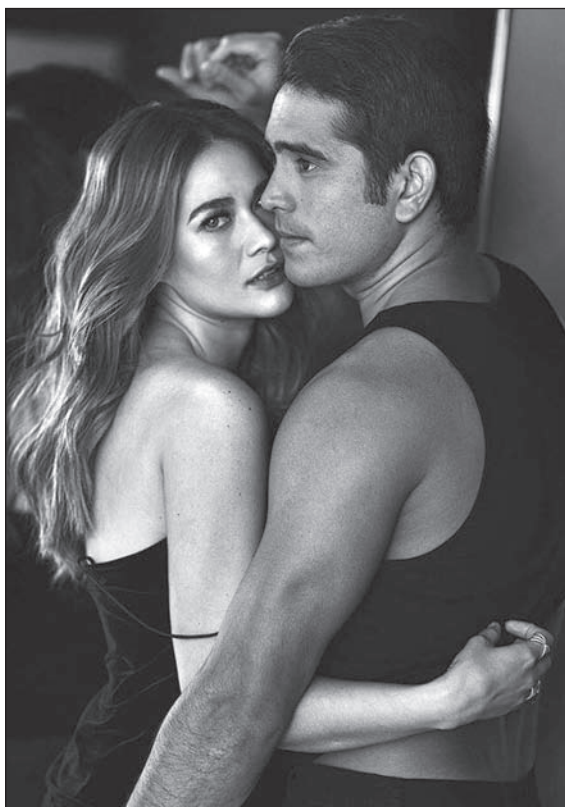
It doesn’t take a psychologist or a body language expert to know that Gerald Anderson, 27, means what he just said. We are inside his tent, pitched at the roof deck of The Bell Mansion Hometel in Quezon City. It’s past 7 p.m. but Gerald looks like he had just rolled out of bed. And turns out, we are right on the money. He spent the entire day just sleeping, well-deserved rest for a man who works hard for himself and his family.

Right now, he’s juggling tapings for an upcoming TV series and shootings for an upcoming movie; clocking in hours for the Gerald Anderson Foundation, a canine search and rescue group (his Ondoy experience made him realize we lack trained disaster responders); and overseeing operations of RJ Tours, his travel agency. (RJ because that’s his real name. Gerald put it up so his dad, Captain Gerald Anderson Sr., would stay in the Philippines instead of accepting military missions abroad.)

Gerald is wearing a basketball jersey and shorts and sporting a five o’clock shadow. He looks good. Even when he couldn’t care less about how he looks. Ge, as he’s called by family and friends, is here for work, and so is Bea Alonzo, 28, his leading lady in the upcoming movie *How To Be Yours*—and the subject of Gerald’s above-mentioned confession.

This teamup is interesting given their turbulent backstory. In case you didn’t know, the two dated for three short but unforgettable months in 2010, and theirs was a love story that sounds, well, straight out of a movie.

The gist: Gerald, 1/2 of one of the hottest love teams then, fell in love with Bea Alonzo, legit movie star (she’s Basha for



Bea Alonzo and Gerald Anderson

Chrissakes), and the world got very, very angry. People took sides. Friendships were put to the test. Someone threatened to throw acid on Bea’s made-for-billboards face. Gerald got death threats. The stress was so intense, the actor ended up crying at a movie presscon, fed up with the tidal wave of hate. It was ugly. Bea and Gerald had two choices:

- A. Choose love and risk losing their careers.
- B. Choose their careers and lose each other. You know how they say life is not like the movies? It really isn’t like the movies. Even for movie stars. Especially for movie stars.

They had to choose choice B

# Enrique Gil confirms relationship with Liza Soberano

By Margaux Torres

**T**ito Boy Abunda took it as an opportunity to derive the truth from the actor during Enrique’s interview in “Tonight With Boy Abunda”

to another groom irks him so much that it must have struck a nerve with the actor?

Enrique Gil confirms relationship with Liza Soberano

– Enrique Gil and Liza Soberano, the Kapamilya love team finally confirmed that they have a boyfriend-girlfriend relationship

The next question Tito Boy posed was, if God would grant him one love wish, what would it be? Enrique also answered can-

– Enrique said that if there’s one wish that he would want God to grant, it’s for him to spend his lifetime with the person he loves

Enrique Gil has finally admitted that Liza Soberano is his girlfriend! This was during an interview with the “Dukot” actor in “Tonight with Boy Abunda.”

Tito Boy posed three questions to the 24-year-old actor, mostly pertaining to his relationship with the young actress.



Enrique Gil and Liza Soberano

The first question Tito Boy posed was what Enrique would do in the event that one morning he wakes up and learns that Liza is getting married to another man. Enrique had no qualms saying, “Ipadukot ko siya.” (I would have her kidnapped.)

didly, “Makasama ko nang habangbuhay yung taong mahal ko.” (I would spend my lifetime with the person I love.)

Tito Boy didn’t let Enrique off the hook, though, he said that a follow-up question from God would be like, “Sino ba yung yung sinasabi mong mahal mo?” (Who is this person whom you say you love?)


One could see on Enrique’s face that there was just a hint of seriousness as he said those three strong words. Does this mean that the mere thought of Liza saying “I do”

At this juncture, Enrique smiled and Tito Boy immediately said that everyone in the room thinks that Liza is Enrique’s girlfriend, and that Enrique was Liza’s girlfriend.

Enrique responded that he and Liza are treating each other as boyfriend-girlfriend. Having been cornered already, Enrique finally said, “Yeah, we’re boyfriend-girlfriend!”

Enrique explained that there really was no expressed “boyfriend-girlfriend” declaration, but at the same time, they treat each other like so. In effect, they are boyfriend and girlfriend.

The absence of that expressed declaration does not negate the fact that Enrique and Liza treat each other as boyfriend or girlfriend. For Enrique, it’s just the same. –



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