



A Living History Lesson
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PF NEWS

A Division of Five D's Arts, LLC

Volume 15 No. 11

April 2017



Kappa Psi Epsilon's Veterano Panel
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Duterte promotes martial law as cure to PH ills



DRUG KILLING Policemen investigating the killing of an alleged drug dealer who was gunned down in Manila. President Duterte has repeatedly warned that martial law may be needed to save the Philippines from descending into drug, crime and terrorism-induced anarchy. —AFP

Three turbulent decades after the Philippines shed dictatorship, President Rodrigo Duterte is offering a return to authoritarian rule as a solution to all the problems that democracy has failed to fix.

In a series of recent speeches, Mr. Duterte has repeatedly said martial law may be needed to save his nation of 100 million people from descending into drug, crime and terrorism-induced anarchy.

Mr. Duterte's warnings, which echo back to dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos who was toppled in the 1986 EDSA People Power Revolution, are placing intense scrutiny on democratic institutions that have been slowly rebuilt since then.

"I think the situation today is

the closest we've been to an authoritarian form of government in 30 years," Jose Manuel Diokno, dean of the College of Law at De La Salle University and one of the nation's leading human rights lawyers, told Agence France-Presse (AFP).

"There are so many parallels between what's happening today and what happened before (during the Marcos dictatorship)," Diokno added.

Climate of fear

Diokno said one commonality was a climate of fear, created partly by Mr. Duterte's controversial war on drugs that has claimed thousands of lives since he took office nine months ago.

"The situation today is similar to the Marcos period in the sense that both are fueled by the barrel of the gun," he said.

Marcos justified his authoritarianism as necessary to bring order to a chaotic country.

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Impeachment galore!



New attempts to impeach both President Rodrigo Duterte and Vice President Leni Robredo. Duterte lashed out at Robredo and Senators Antonio Trillanes IV and Leila de Lima, accusing them of being behind the move to impeach him. Continued on page 8



Photo by Leila Pereira

Newly inducted Dual Citizens including volunteer Lu Capuchino with Philippine Vice Consul Carlyn Monastrial and Remy Solomon (L), event coordinator representing Bayanihan of Sacramento USA, the main organizer of the COW project.

Philippine Consulate On Wheels

By Faina E. Abaya

Just like the previous years, the Consulate on Wheels picked the date of their Sacramento schedule and the event was in partnership with several Filipino American community organizations whose leaderships usually sent their respective volunteers to assist the Cow staffers.

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Sinners and criminals

By Rina Jimenez-David

Leading the campaign to put Sen. Leila de Lima behind bars (in which he succeeded), Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez and his sidekicks in the House gleefully feasted on the allegations that the senator had had an affair with her driver/bodyguard and used him as a go-between with drug lords incarcerated in Bilibid.

Alvarez's allies and supporters of President Duterte were not so interested in the how's and why's of the supposed drug trade and pay-offs taking place in the national penitentiary. Instead, they pounced on the driver/bodyguard and fished for details of the supposed affair, including their nicknames for each other and how intimate they had become. The aim of this line of questioning, it seemed obvious, was not to get to the bottom of the drug dealings, but rather to shame and embarrass the senator. And the tactic worked. In macho Philippines, a man's extramarital and extracurricular affairs are often "excused" as part of male privilege. But when a woman embarks on these exercises, she is branded a loose woman, a Jezebel, a sinner.

Well, there are red faces all around in the wake of the cat fight (tomcat fight?) between Speaker Alvarez and a former good friend and supporter of his, Rep. Antonio "Tonyboy" Floirendo. Officially, the spat supposedly arises from charges lodged by Alvarez against Floirendo regarding a decades-old transaction involving the Floirendo fam-

ily's property being used by penal authorities. But reports have emerged that the differences between the two are rooted in an altercation between the Speaker's girlfriend (he is still married) and the congressman's partner. The two women supposedly shouted at each other last year during the Masskara Festival in Bacolod.

The rift between two leading lights in Congress just shows that not only are men capable of violating their vows and upending public morality (something we all already knew, right?), they are also capable of using their positions of power to pursue their own personal selfish interests.

So who's the sinner and criminal now?

But women are just as capable of jumping into the moral quagmire. Former social welfare secretary Dinky Soliman has written a letter of complaint addressed to Civil Service Commission Chair Alice Bala regarding the social media posts of Assistant Social Welfare Secretary Lorraine Marie Badoy.

Badoy, recognized by many as a soldier in the "troll army" fielded in support of Mr. Duterte, has been using language "unbecoming of a civil servant," Soliman said in her letter.

In particular, Soliman cited Badoy's post attacking the European Union for its condemnation of the government's "war on drugs." In her post, Badoy told off the EU: "Mag online child porn muna kayo. Diyan naman kayo magaling eh."

(Just engage in child porn. That's what you're good at.)

Soliman said that being an official of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Badoy "should not be making a joke out of child pornography," and added that a DSWD representative "cannot be flippant about a serious injustice being done to children."

She also decried Badoy's attacks on previous DSWD administrations, alleging corruption and negligence. She called on the CSC to conduct an investigation and file charges against Badoy. But the latter shrugged off Soliman's charges, saying the worst that could happen to her was to lose her job. Maybe so. But I bet the victims of child sex trafficking and pornography and their families would not be so sanguine about Badoy's flippant remarks. It's rubbing salt on the raw wounds of exploitation.

I don't know about you. But I wouldn't want my epitaph to read: Here lies ... killed by vanity. The report on the death of a 29-year-old businesswoman after undergoing an 11-hour operation for three cosmetic procedures has garnered a lot of coverage and headlines.

While investigation is still ongoing, one wonders what compelled this single mother to run the risk of undergoing three major procedures in one go. And why her surgeons and the clinic where the operation was performed agreed to it. Her death may strike many as unfortunate and unnecessary, but can we at least take away some lessons from it?

The promising Mr. Duterte

By Leandro DD Coronel

Isn't President Duterte's statement about continuing his so-called war on drugs until the last day of his term an admission that it's a war that he can't win?



President Duterte

Whatever happened to this boast to lick the drug problem in six months? (His drug war was wrong from the start. Why kill users instead of interdicting the supply? Stop the supply and there will be nothing to deal, push, or use.)

It wasn't the only boast that came out of Mr. Duterte's mouth. The Abu Sayyaf and the Maute terror group will be destroyed in one week. He will ride a jet ski to plant the Philippine flag on Scarborough Shoal to defy China.

He will burn down the United Nations headquarters in New York City. The same thing with the European Union.

I said in the last column that Duterte is impulsive (which his supporters mistake for decisiveness). He reacts without thinking to questions or statements that annoy him. In Tagalog, he's pikon, reacting petulantly to what he perceives as slights or challenges to his authority or machismo.

Duterte claims that advice-givers shouldn't do it openly because that em-

barrasses him. But he has to learn how to deflect statements voiced openly by different personalities. He's a politician and he should be used to political give-and-take, that's a trademark of a democracy.

When his self-announced deadline of six months to tame the drug menace was up, a reporter asked him about his pledge. He didn't like being questioned and it was then that he said his war on drugs will continue until the last day of his term. He was being impulsive too when he vowed not to talk to media anymore until the end of his term.

Talk among political observers is that most Filipinos are keeping quiet to give Duterte the benefit of the doubt about making good on his boasts. But the same observers opine that in two years' time (or less) if he doesn't deliver on his pledges, the people will start getting impatient.

Mr. Duterte has projected himself as a politician who keeps his promises, that he does what he says. Sixteen million people believed him and made him president, although a minority one, garnering only 38 percent of the vote.

Filipinos are giving Duterte time. But more and more, as time goes by, the people will be asking for results. Pressure will start to mount on Duterte to produce results.

The pressure is self-inflicted. His boasts to deliver in six months is very vivid in people's minds. He has asked for more time and the people, by their silence, have allowed him more time. But his time is not unlimited.

Those who like him may be more forgiving. They may not be too vocal if he fails to deliver.

But those who never really took to liking him because of his boastful and crude style will be more demanding. Even at this early stage, many people on social media are already finding him wanting in many ways. The pressure will build up as the months pass.

Mr. Duterte has put a lot of pressure on himself by boasting that he could accomplish several things in a short time. Gullible people voted for him. But can he deliver in the coming months?

If he doesn't, how will the people react?



Editor's Note

Spring has sprung! Allergies are on attack, as the wind blows unknown pollens that make us miserable, in going about our daily routine. It's a mere reminder to carry with us medications to decrease the discomforts and prevent complications from allergies leading to upper respiratory infections, which can include bronchitis and pneumonia.

This issue leaves no gap to what has transpired during the winter seasons in our Fil-Am community. It summarizes past major accomplishments by our community organizations, by the Bayanihan of Sacramento USA, in particular. It also opens its pages to the upcoming events in our community. Take note of the PF News' calendar of events, which highlights important community events. Make plans to attend and show support to our Fil-Am community organization's projects, especially those that are dedicated to the youths. The Philippine National Day Association will be holding their OFYA (Outstanding Filipino Youths Awards) presentation on April 20, combined with a banquet-style gathering, and open to everyone to attend.

Rize All, a non-profit organization, which focus in providing carefully structured dance lessons will be opening its second dance unit in two weeks. Please come by and support. It's very close to my heart, as it supports similar passion in serving our community.

With love always,
Dinnah S. San Pedro



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Rody asks envoy: Why didn't US stop China?

By Christina Mendez

MANILA, Philippines - President Duterte has asked United States Ambassador Sung Kim why the US did nothing to stop China from building structures in the South China Sea.



US Ambassador Sung Kim

Duterte met with Kim at the Malacañang of the South in Panacan, Davao City on Monday.

During the meeting, Duterte told Kim he was surprised that Washington did not prevent construction activities by the Chinese in the West Philippine Sea.

The President noted that the US conducted overflights in the disputed sea in recent years.

“Why did the US not send the 7th Fleet and tell the Chinese right in their face to stop it?” Duterte told Kim.

In response, Kim said he was not yet assigned to the Philippines at the time and that his concerns were focused on North Korea.

Duterte then described North Korean leader Kim Jong-un as “sira ulo” or insane.

Speaking before residents and local officials of Mindoro yesterday, Duterte reiterated that the Philippines has not abandoned its claim to the South China Sea.

He said the Philippines remains a friend of the US, but he also gave credit to Philippines-China relations under President Xi Jinping.

China began building structures in the South China Sea, starting with huts on Panganiban or Mischief Reef, about a year after the Philippines drove out US troops from their bases in the Philippines.

Bilateral relations between the

treaty allies turned sour for about a decade after US forces pulled out of Subic Bay in 1992.

US forces returned to the country only in 2002, upon the invitation of then president Gloria

Macapagal-Arroyo, who wanted American help in ending a kidnapping spree by Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Basilan and Sulu.

Arroyo expressed support for the US war on terrorism after the attacks in New York and Washington on Sept. 11, 2001.

Duterte was welcomed by local officials led by Mindoro Gov. Alfonso Umali Jr., Reps. Doy Leachon and Reynaldo Umali during his visit to Barangay Dalig in Socorro town.

The President was with Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority secretary general Guiling Mamondiong.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella on Tuesday said Philippine-US relations remain strong.

Abella said the two countries have expressed readiness to discuss matters of mutual interest.

He said Kim lauded the cooperation between the Philippines and the US in terms of intelligence and information sharing, training and equipment support.

Kim also assured the President that the US understands the security concerns of the Philippines.

Kim reiterated that the US government is ready to provide military equipment, assistance and training to the Philippines.

To defend West Philippine Sea, Philippines must bring the allies in

By Dindo Manhit

When President Rodrigo Duterte visited China last year to reset strained bilateral relations, bringing home billions in pledged investments and credit facilities, we responded with cautious optimism. If fully implemented, these deals would infuse needed capital into key sectors of the economy—from agriculture, food and energy to manufacturing, telecommunications and infrastructure—that would boost the inclusive growth at the heart of the 10-point socio-economic agenda.

But at what price? Alarm bells rang when news broke that Chinese survey ships were conducting oceanographic research in Benham Rise—a 13-million-hectare underwater plateau near Aurora province believed to be atop vast deposits of natural gas and heavy metals.

Fuel poured into the fire when a week later Xiao Jie, mayor of China’s Sansha City, said China is planning to begin work to construct an environmental monitoring station in Scarborough Shoal. China’s foreign ministry denied these plans, but in people’s minds the damage had been done. We couldn’t help but ask: Is another piece of the Philippines up for grabs in exchange of greater trade and investment with China?

As the Philippines seeks to advance its foreign relations strategy, one of goal is to minimize its trade-offs. In the past, the Philippines has managed its great power relations by working



Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo ship USNS Washington Chambers (T-AKE 11), left, conducts a vertical replenishment with amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), while amphibious transport dock ship USS Green Bay (LPD 20) conducts a fueling at sea with Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS Walter S. Diehl. Bonhomme Richard, flagship of the Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group, is operating in the South China Sea in support of security and stability in the Indo-Asia Pacific region. US Navy/Jeanette Mullinax/Released

with the US-led alliance system on the Pacific Rim. In “The Role of America’s Alliances in the Philippines’ Balancing Policy on China: From the Aquino to the Duterte Administration,” a special study by ADRi (Albert Del Rosario Institute) trustee Renato de Castro, he reviews the base of the Philippines’ balancing tactics.

Weak external defense

Beset with internal armed security threats as well as political and bureaucratic hurdles, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) never evolved into a conventional armed force fully capable for external defense. A 2012 assessment by the Center for New American Security argued that for the Philippines to have a credible defense capability, the AFP should acquire 48 upgraded F-16 fighter planes, several corvette or frigate-type combatants, and four to six midget submarines. These were far beyond what the AFP

had planned for and could afford.

Recognizing the inherent vulnerability of its external defense posture, the Philippines had no leveraged its long-standing alliance with its strategic ally and security partners in the bid to deter an assertive China. The US-led security alliance system is the sum-total of security arrangements between the US and Japan, South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand.

The contributions of the US-led security alliance system to the enhancement of the AFP’s extended deterrence and material capabilities should not be minimized. First, as the critical hub, the US strengthens the AFP’s territorial defense capabilities with tangible US security assistance and joint training exercises, such as the Amphibious Landing Exercise (PHIBLEX), Balikatan exercise (ahoulder-to-shoulder) and Co-operation Afloat Readiness and

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Pardon for cops in Espinosa slay doubtful, says lawyer

By Joey A. Gabieta

TACLOBAN CITY, Leyte—A presidential pardon for the policemen accused of killing Mayor Rolando Espinosa Sr. inside jail remained a long shot, according to the family's legal counsel.

Leilani Villarino, lawyer of the Espinosas, pointed out that the decision on the case might outlast the term of President Rodrigo Duterte since the judicial system in the country grinds slowly.

"We'll see what will be the verdict of the court and if Mr. Duterte is still the President. How can he pardon them if he is no longer the President at that time?" Villarino said in a phone interview.

The President, who is waging a controversial and brutal war on illegal drugs, is constitutionally mandated to step down in 2022.

On Wednesday, Mr. Duterte vowed to grant presidential pardon to police officers who were convicted in the performance of their duties.

His statements came in the wake of the arrest and detention of 19 members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in



Supt. Marvin Marcos (right) and one of his coaccused in the murder of Albuera, Leyte Mayor Rolando Espinosa Sr. arrive at the court that issued arrest warrants for them.

Eastern Visayas for the murder of Espinosa, father of the region's alleged top drug lord, Kerwin.

Accused for murder were former CIDG-8 director Supt. Marvin Marcos and 18 others who all claimed that Espinosa and another detainee, Raul Yap were killed in a shootout inside their prison cell.

Marcos and his co-accused are detained at the CIDG-8 regional office in this city.

Reporters were barred from entering the office, brewing speculations that special treatment may have been given to the accused who used to be part of CIDG.

Villarino said they could

not question should Marcos and his co-accused be given presidential pardon.

"The process of pardon is granted to our President under our Constitution. But there should be a parameter before he could issue such. For one, there should be conviction," she said.

"How could they be pardon by the President if there is no conviction from the court of competent jurisdiction?" Villarino said.

He said that when Mr. Duterte issued the statement, he could be talking as a lawyer.

"Utak abogado ang pinairal niya (He is thinking like a lawyer). He was just rational. But in fairness to the President, he has not done anything that could prejudice the case. Under niya DOJ (the Department of Justice is under him), but he didn't do anything," she said.

But the victim's family was sad since they wanted justice "just like any family whose loved one was murdered," Villarino said.

Duterte promotes martial law as cure to PH ills

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ian rule by what he said was the threat of communism, while Mr. Duterte is doing the same based on drugs and criminality, according to Diokno.

He said some relatives of those killed by police and unknown vigilantes feared retribution if they complained, while intimidation tactics were being used against dissenters.

Solid base of support

Nevertheless, like US President Donald Trump and other populist leaders around the world who are posing challenges for democracy, Mr. Duterte is operating atop a solid base of support.

Many Filipinos have cheered the administration's antidrug war and believe Mr. Duterte is the strongman needed to radically change a deeply corrupt political system that has created one of Asia's biggest rich-poor divides.

Mr. Duterte intends to fundamentally reshape Philippine democracy by amending the Constitution to bring about a shift from a unitary and presidential form of government to a federal and parliamentary system.

He has touted his proposal as a way to end the injustices served out by so-called "Imperial Manila," portraying the capital as home to corrupt elites—in much the same way that Trump has described Washington as a "swamp" that must be drained.

Supporters believe federalism can work and, with a commanding majority in Congress,

Mr. Duterte will be able to achieve it.

Alarms raised

But critics fear that amending the Constitution, which currently limits the President to a single term of six years, could end up cementing authoritarian rule.

Mr. Duterte has further raised alarm by proposing the return of the Marcos-era Constabulary, a combined military and police force that was one of the dictator's main ways of suppressing dissent.

Last week, he also raised the prospect of bringing back a Marcos order allowing security forces to conduct searches and arrests without warrants.

"It is a cruel process and it is taken care of by the military," Mr. Duterte said of warrantless arrests, referring in that context to him being "just like Mr. Marcos."

With his style of governing, Mr. Duterte is subjecting the country's democratic institutions to stress tests, according to Ronald Mendoza, the Harvard-educated dean of Ateneo School of Government.

Strong institutions

But Mendoza said the change process envisioned by Mr. Duterte could result in some good by identifying

the weakest parts of the nation's young democracy and proving that strong institutions could withstand pressures.

Mendoza cited as a positive factor the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which responded to Mr. Duterte's warnings of martial law with a statement saying there was no need for it.

The military has also rejected repeated calls by Mr. Duterte, a former city mayor and lawyer, to join the Philippine National Police as frontline enforcers in his war on drugs.

Mendoza pointed to an independent central bank as another bright spot, while Diokno said the country's feisty media was proving to be an important bulwark for democracy.

'In a much stronger place'

Mendoza said Congress and the PNP were institutions with weaknesses that had been exposed under Mr. Duterte.

But overall, Mendoza remained cautiously optimistic the Philippines' democratic institutions and the Filipino people would prevent a slide back to martial law.

"We are in a much stronger place than we were several decades ago," he said. —AFP

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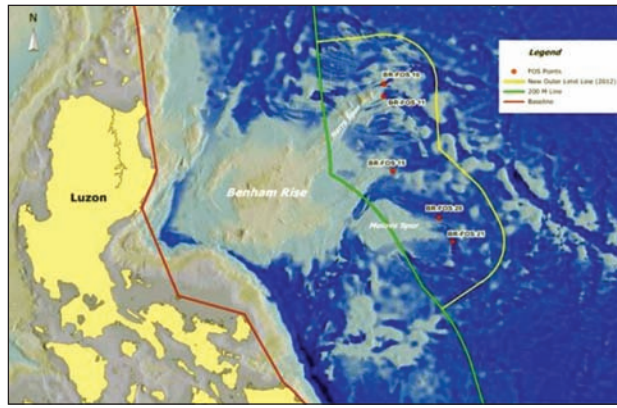
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Defend Benham Rise!

By Joe America

Most Filipinos do not know of Benham Rise. It is time to end this little shard of ignorance. The well-being of every Filipino born and yet to be born depends on it. Benham Rise is one of those grand historical moments, a flash point like the Alamo or the fictional "Bridge on the River Kwai", where a nation's well-being is destined to be defended at all costs, for it is that important.



Benham Rise

President Duterte's stand is predictably conflicted, which is not good. He has instructed the Navy to build something out there. ("Wary of China, Duterte tells navy to build 'structures' east of Philippines"; Reuters). He has also given China a green light to survey.

What is Benham Rise?

Benham Rise is a huge underwater plateau, an extension of the continental shelf upon which the Philippines rests. The area is just about the same size as Luzon. It is an amazing and largely untapped region of promise.

Because the plateau is covered by water, rights of free passage are granted to other nations in the surrounding Philippine Sea. Global laws permit that. But economic rights belong to the Philippines.

Under President Arroyo, the Philippines took the step of applying to the United Nations for official certification that Benham Rise is a part of the continental shelf upon which the Philippines rests. This was a huge undertaking, a huge investment in the future of the nation. Contributing to the Philippine presentation were institutions in Mexico, Norway, New Zealand, Germany, and Japan.

The 2009 filing is presented in detail in the linked "Executive Summary" document. Even the summary is technical, detailing specific geographic points and the legal basis for the underwater features belonging to the Philippines.

On April 12, 2012, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf approved the application, making only minor adjustments to the Philippine line-drawing. Click on the link and you will get to the official document, with all its technical details and pretty maps.

What do the lines mean? This larger map gives a good picture of the lay of the lines.

The red line is the Base Line that shows the edge of the Philippine land territory. The green line is the all important 200 nautical mile wide area that represents the Philippine "Exclusive Economic Zone", or EEZ. The yellow line represents the additional seabed added to the Philippine sphere of economic control by the UN certification. It is called the "New Outer Limit Line".

The legal documents spend most of their time detailing this extension, for example, defining exactly where the "Molave Spur" extends to. The red dots are survey guideposts from which the yellow line is drawn.

Because there are no islands or rock formations in this area of the Philippine Sea, neither China nor any other country has a basis for historical claim to the Benham Rise Plateau. Without question, the resources and monetary values represented by this underwater land mass belong to the Philippines. That is what the UN finding certified. Senior Associate Supreme Court Justice explains the situation clearly:

The Philippines does not own the land (China can argue that point accurately), but she holds exclusive mineral and economic rights to the entire region.

Therein lies the huge possible conflict that, for the Philippines, is worth defending at all costs.

Why is Benham Rise so important?

What's there? Known reserves of methane in solid state. Important minerals. Possibly huge reserves of oil. ("10 Things to know about Benham Rise"; update.ph)

Much of the Philippine electrical energy production

is now fueled by the giant Malampaya natural gas field near Palawan. That resource is drying up, with its official end-of life now estimated to be in 2024. Some gas may still be available until about 2030, but the huge demands of a growing nation will no longer be satisfied by Malampaya. ("Malampaya gas field can fuel plants after 2030";

The Philippines must find new sources of fuel for energy to support its population and economic growth. China's acquisition of rocks and islands in the West Philippine Sea cut the Philippines off from drilling for oil and gas there. Exploration was halted. Leasing of drilling sites was halted.

China took those opportunities from the Philippines.

It was highly disturbing to many, if not the President, that China had ships out surveying Benham Rise. ("Chinese survey ship spotted in Benham Rise, says defense chief"; ABS-CBN News).

China's presence there ought to strike fear or claustrophobia or whatever emotions accompany the knowledge that acquisitive China has the power . . . but not the right . . . to take Benham Rise, and all its riches, from the Philippines.

The issue couldn't be more stark.

If the Philippines wishes to stand as a sovereign, independent, prosperous nation, her rights to Benham Rise must be defended. The nation must hold onto the promise of Benham Rise or remain impoverished and weak and little more than a dilapidated, shanty nation begging for alms from China.

Benham Rise represents sovereign self-determination . . . and the path to modernism and prosperity for the Philippines. Nothing less.



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To defend West Philippine Sea, Philippines must bring the allies in

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funding for the Coast Watch South project aimed at boosting the AFP's surveillance, communication and interdiction capabilities.

In the long term, the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) will not only facilitate the modernization of the AFP and interoperability between the armed forces of the Philippines and the US. EDCA will have two strategic and diplomatic implications. First, temporary and rotational US military presence will provide a boost to the Philippines' resolve to uphold its territorial claims in the disputed sea. Second, access to air/naval infrastructure in the Philippines will allow the rapid and massive deployment of US troops in the event of a confrontation.

Second, as the spokes, security allies such as Japan, South Korea and Australia augment the Philippines' strategic alliance with the US. Japan assists the Philippines in beefing up its maritime law enforcement capability through: joint activities by their respective Coast Guards; joint counter-terrorism and UN peacekeeping trainings; and engagements on counter-nuclear-arms prolif-



eration. Meanwhile, Korea and the Philippines conduct intelligence-sharing; exchange visits by military personnel and experts; military education and training; and support to humanitarian assistance and disaster response activities. Finally, Australia contributes to the organizational empowerment of the AFP through the following: naval exercises; Special Forces units training; combat and disaster relief operations training; counter-terrorism training; and providing financial and technical assistance to the Coast Watch South project.

Managing the Trump transition

Duterte's adoption of an "independent foreign policy" has tried the viability and sustainability of the Philippines' international security ties. Given the time-tested commitment and capability of the alliance members as capability enhancers and force multipliers in the ongoing West Philippine Sea dispute, Duterte ought not to put all of his eggs in the Chinese and Russian basket, and instead, deepen its ties with its security partners as

strategic leverage while he seeks to strengthen economic and commercial ties with China.

Therefore, in order for the Philippines to better secure its national interests in the West Philippine Sea, Duterte should formally reset US-Philippine relations under President Donald Trump and create a new seamless thread that shall link the country with the other spokes within the alliance more effectively. The Philippines should not allow the reoccurrence of the infamous Scarborough incident. For that to happen, he must bring the allies in.

China is stronger and wealthier than the Philippines, and there is no doubt that it is already a serious power. What we need to know, but cannot see, is if it is a responsible one. If, given our size, we cannot test this proposition on our own, we must work with our friends to uphold the international order that serves all of our interests. The Philippines must do its part to protect itself, not against the giants of today, but against any giants any time in the future.

California chief justice blasts immigration crackdown, says rule of law is 'being challenged'

By Derek Hawkins

In her annual “state of the judiciary” speech on March 27, Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye of the California Supreme Court hinted at executive overreach and attacks on a free press.

Tani Cantil-Sakauye, California’s chief justice, is fast emerging as one of the Trump administration’s most vocal critics in the judiciary.

Her main concern is the controversy surrounding President Trump’s immigration policies. Earlier this month, she criticized federal immigration authorities for using courthouses as “bait” to arrest undocumented immigrants. Days later, she assailed the president’s disparaging comments about federal judges who ruled against his travel ban.

And on Monday, Cantil-Sakauye used her annual State of the Judiciary address to argue that the rule of law was being “challenged” amid the administration’s immigration crackdown.

Without mentioning Trump by name, she told the state’s lawmakers that “the rule of law means that we as a people are governed by laws and rules, and not by a monarch.”

“We are living in a time of civil rights unrest, eroding public trust in our institutions, economic anxiety, and unprecedented po-

larization,” she said. “Our values, our rules and our laws are being called into question, and all three branches of government and the free press are in the crosshairs.”

Cantil-Sakauye, a Republican appointed in 2010 by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, has typically used the state of the judiciary address to discuss budget issues before the legislature.

But she devoted much of Monday’s speech to immigration enforcement under the Trump administration.

She criticized recent raids by immigration authorities that had taken place at or near courthouses, saying they would shake people’s trust in the judicial branch. Such incidents have been reported in at least five states, including California, as The Washington Post’s Kristine Phillips has written.

Cantil-Sakauye warned of far-reaching consequences if the raids continued.

“When we hear of immigration arrests and the fear of immigration arrests in our state courthouses, I am concerned that that kind of information trickles down into the community, the schools, the churches, the families, and people will no longer come to court to protect themselves or cooperate or bear witness,” Cantil-Sakauye said. “I am afraid that will be the end of justice and communities will be less safe and victimization



California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye

will continue.”

She argued that sweeps by immigration authorities had already created tension between the judicial branch and government agencies. Courthouses, she said, should be treated like hospitals or churches — places where immigration enforcement is “the exception, not the practice.”

Cantil-Sakauye told legislators: “I am not saying, ‘Do not enforce the federal law.’ I am saying, ‘Please don’t do so at, or in, California state courthouses.’”

The chief justice’s address was the latest in a string of critiques against the Trump administration in recent weeks. In mid-March, she wrote a sharply worded letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Department of Homeland Security Secretary John F.

in the necessary enforcement of our country’s immigration laws.”

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have responded that they make arrests at courthouses only after exhausting other options, as The Post has reported.

Last week, in an interview with KQED, Cantil-Sakauye criticized the president for his attacks on the judiciary. Trump referred to one federal judge who ruled against his travel ban as a “so-called judge” and suggested that he had put the country in “peril.” He also suggested that an appeals court decision against his ban was politically motivated.

Cantil-Sakauye told KQED that Trump’s remarks had offended the judiciary as a whole.

“It’s an indication of not treating the three branches as co-equal,” she said. “And it’s troubling to all of us to hear that, because it’s an attack on the public confidence and trust and in the judicial branch’s rulings.”

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First Trump-deported Filipino speaks out

By Steve Angeles

After seven years of living in the US as an undocumented immigrant, Rey Galleon's life in the country came to an abrupt end on the morning of March 17.



The former crew man who jumped ship is the first known undocumented Filipino in Southern California to have been arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) since President Donald Trump took office.

He was an inactive member of the Pilipino Workers Center and he reached out to them as he arrived in the Philippines.

Galleon had just dropped off his 9-year-old at school when he found people his apartment complex asking neighbors where he and his wife were.

He spoke to them unknowing that they were immigration agents set out to arrest him.

As officers let him go inside to change clothes, he alerted his wife who is also in the country illegally to sneak out a backdoor with one of their children.

From his home, ICE took him to the Homeland Security Office in Long Beach with an ultimatum.

"Pinapili nila ako kung uuwi ba

ako or gusto ma detain," he said.

He was then escorted to Los Angeles International Airport and by 10 p.m. he was on a Philippine-bound plane on a ticket that he paid for himself. It was only at this time that he was able to speak to his wife within 24 hours. Galleon was no longer in the US.

Caught by surprise by ICE and with no access to legal help advocates, there could've been a different outcome if he was more informed. With two US citizen children and no criminal record, they say he may have had a chance to fight off the deportation orders.

But they say that ICE agents will intentionally intimidate their targets and never tell them their rights.

"ICE, if you interact with them,

are trying to get you to sign your own voluntary departure. He was asking for legal assistance and they were ignoring that and in the end they gave him false options. There was a bond process. If he was able to connect to legal services like here at PWC, we could've galvanized legal support

and community support so that he could've gotten out on bond," said Aqui Soriano Versoza of the Pilipino Workers Center.

With nowhere to go, his wife and two US citizen children followed him home to Zamboanga about a week later.

The PWC is now trying to rally monetary and emotional support for his family.

This weekend, Galleon will address a group of undocumented workers at the Filipino Workers center during a Know Your Rights Workshop.

While the former crewman's 7 years stay in the US may have come to an abrupt end, he hopes his story can unify and warn his kababayans and give them a fighting chance to survive in this tough immigrant climate.

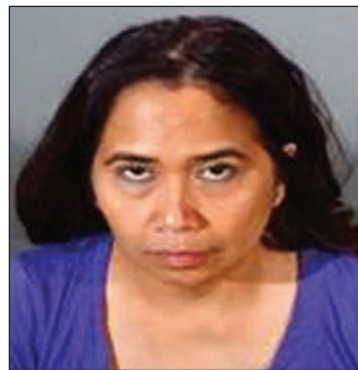
Filipina caregiver charged with theft in California

INQUIRER.net

A Filipina caregiver in California faces a life sentence for alleged theft.

Local news site KTLA reported that Maria Rose Licuanan, 49, was arrested by Palos Verdes Estates Police for stealing credit cards from her elderly patients and using them for her purchases.

Also, Licuanan reportedly made photocopies of her victims' credit card information and used them



Maria Rose Licuanan

that Licuanan swiped cash from their cards after they discovered fraudulent activities on their account.

To conceal her identity, Licuanan used aliases such as Rose Licuanan, Maria Licuanan, Marosario Mendoza Licuanan and Rosario Licuanan, according to a statement by the police.

Licuanan, who was held without bail, is charged with several felony counts and two misdemeanor counts. Gianna Francesca Catolico /ra

for her own online transactions. Five of her patients told the police

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PerryScope

By Perry Diaz

Impeachment galore!

In the past two decades, impeachment – or the threat of it -- has become the most common method of removing constitutional officers from office. It is a two-step “political” process that begins in the House of Representatives and ends in the Senate. Removal from office occurs when the House impeaches a public official by one-third vote of the House and followed by conviction by two-third majority of the Senate sitting as judges.

The first and only president to be impeached was Joseph “Erap” Estrada who was impeached by the House of Representatives in November 2000 on charges of bribery and corruption. However, the Senate failed to convict and remove him from office because he was ousted in what is now referred to as EDSA 2 People Power revolution, which elevated then Vice President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to the presidency.

So far, only one public official – the late Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona – was impeached, convicted, and removed from office. But it was revealed later that the senator-judges reached a decision to convict Corona after they allegedly received bribes from then President Beni-

gno Aquino III in the form of pork barrel allocations.

Another public official – former Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez – was impeached by the House but she avoided a Senate trial by resigning from her position in a deal she struck with Aquino.

But while impeachment worked with non-elective constitutional officers, it has yet to successfully remove an elected constitutional officer – i.e., president and vice president – from office. Take the case of former president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo who faced impeachment complaints just about every year during her presidency. It could have been more but the



EDSA 2 People Power Revolution.

constitution allows only one impeachment complaint to be filed each year against the same person. Many believe that in the case of Arroyo, weak impeachment complaints were filed against her by her allies in the House to preempt legitimate complaints from being filed. It worked!

Pork barrel

In the case of Aquino, he was spared from impeachment because of massive pork barrel allocations – officially called Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) -- totaling P62.5 billion that he used to keep his House allies happy. Why would they get rid of the goose that lay golden eggs for them?

In addition, Aquino had a hu-

mongous pork barrel known as the Disbursement Acceleration Program (DAP) that amounted to P157 billion. The controversial DAP, the brainchild of Aquino’s Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. PDAF was also deemed partially illegal and was also stopped by the High Court.

It is interesting to note that 325 House of Representatives members and 17 senators were allegedly the beneficiaries of his presidential dole-outs. However, only three opposition senators – Juan Ponce Enrile, Jinggoy Estrada, and Ramon Revilla – were charged and detained. Now, you can see why Aquino was untouchable and immune from impeachment. However, there are still some of Aquino’s political enemies who’d like to see him imprisoned for corruption in handling the PDAF and DAP funds.

Impeach Duterte

But that has been placed in the back burner for now because of new attempts to impeach both President Rodrigo Duterte and Vice President Leni Robredo. Duterte lashed out at Robredo and Senators Antonio Trillanes IV and Leila de Lima, accusing them of being behind the move to impeach him.

Vice President Leni Robredo and President Rodrigo Duterte



of the Magdalo party-list group filed the first impeachment complaint against Duterte for allegedly “pursuing a state policy of extrajudicial killings and amassing more than P2 billion in bank deposits.” He accused Duterte of culpable violation of the Constitution, bribery, graft and corruption, betrayal of public trust and committing other high crimes, which are the grounds for impeachment under the Constitution.



Former Pres. Benigno Aquino III (R) and Budget Secretary Florencio Abad (L)

Incidentally, Alejano is a former marine captain and a colleague of Trillanes who led the Oakwood mutiny against Arroyo in 2003.

Alejano claimed that in just over eight months in office, Duterte’s “war on drugs” has resulted in the gangland-style killings and executions – known as “salvaging” -- of more than 8,000 individuals.

Impeach Robredo

Robredo, on the other hand, said that defeated vice presidential candidate and former Senator Bongbong Marcos has a hand in the filing of impeachment complaints against her. Two impeachment complaints have thus far been filed against Robredo. The first was filed by known Marcos “loyalists” Oliver Lozano and Melchor Chavez, accusing her of having “commit-

ted acts of injustice” when she spread “fake news” about the Philippines with her video message to the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs side event criticizing the administration’s war on drugs.

The second impeachment complaint is being prepared by a group of six lawyers who call themselves “Impeach Leni Team.” One of them is Bruce Rivera who represented the “pork barrel queen” Janet Lim Napoles in the serious illegal detention case against her.

With all these impeachment complaints taking center stage, one wonders if the government would be able to serve the people’s needs. Their pre-occupation with political wrangling and posturing could lead to destabilizing the government, which is already enmeshed in sovereignty issues over the Spratlys, Scarborough Shoal, and Benham Rise. A few days ago, Duterte was reported to have said “in jest” during a speech that he “believed China was seeking to turn his country into a province of theirs.” “They really want to make the Philippines a province of China,” he joked. But the joke could be on him because China has transformed the Philippines into an economic vassal state. And if Duterte doesn’t know it yet, then he deserved to be impeached.

As for Robredo, it is obvious



Former Senator Bongbong Marcos and Vice President Leni Robredo.

that the impeachment complaints against her are all trumped-up charges and don’t have any legal or constitutional basis. How can one say that she violated the law and the constitution when the office of the vice president doesn’t have any governmental function? As they say, it’s just a “spare tire.”

At the end of the day, what we’re seeing in these impeachment complaints – just like before – are episodes of moro-moro, which is to entertain the people and lull them into forgetting the misery that their government inflicts on them. (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

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Last March 16, Rep. Gary Alejano



Rep. Gary Alejano of the Magdalo party-list group filed the first impeachment complaint against President Duterte.

The Bataan Memorial Death March: 'A Living History Lesson'

By Jonathan Melegrito

White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. Filipinos and Filipino Americans – mostly descendants, relatives and supporters of World War II veterans – showed up here in large numbers on March 19, to honor the heroes of Bataan and Corregidor in what organizers describe as “a living history lesson.”

Along with more than 7,000 members of US military units, foreign armed forces, ROTC cadets, wounded warriors, veterans and family members, they came to reenact the ordeal suffered by 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers 75 years ago, when they marched for days in scorching heat through malaria-infested jungles in the Philippines following their surrender to Japanese Imperial forces.

Largely unknown and almost forgotten, the infamous 65-mile Bataan Death March claimed the lives of 9,000 Filipinos and 1,000 Americans. Many more died in prison camps.

But “the spirit of Bataan resides in each of us today,” said Col. Dave Brown, Garrison Commander of the White Sands Missile Range, where the Bataan Memorial Death March is held annually.

In his welcome remarks during the opening ceremony, Brown noted how “a remarkable group of World War II heroes encountered horrific combat conditions on quarter rations with little or no medical help, fought with outdated equipment with virtually no air power, and survived the atrocities of prisoner of war camps.”

Brown later asked all march participants to join him recite the cry of the *Battling Bastards of Bataan*: “No Mama, No Papa, No Uncle Sam, No Aunts, No Uncles, No Nephews, No Nieces, No Pills, No Planes, No Artillery Pieces, and Nobody Gives a Damn.”

After a brief pause, Brown exhorted: “Ladies and Gentlemen let our cry be known: We all give a damn!”

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Five D's Arts, LLC (Publisher)

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recalled the “brutal, brutal, brutal” experience his father and his comrades endured in the hot jungles of the Bataan Peninsula, marching for 65 miles without food or water for days.

Referring to the sandy and hilly terrain of White Sands and the 90-degree weather that marchers were about to face, Taguba warned that “it’s going to be painful out there, but not as painful” as the Bataan Death March.

“Let us be inspired by their service and sacrifice,” he urged the thousands of cheering participants massed in front of the stage at six o’clock Sunday morning. “Let’s do it for them, for their families, for us and for our country.”

Taguba’s father, Tomas B. Taguba, a U.S. Army Sergeant First Class in the 57th Infantry Regiment, was not among the eight Bataan Death March survivors who were seated on the front row that morning. He passed away in 2011. But Filipino World War II Veteran and Senior Chief Petty Officer Rey Cabacar, 89, of Fort Washington, Maryland, was among them. His older brother Heren was a Bataan Death March survivor who died in 1981. Cabacar was accompanied by her two daughters from Fort Washington, MD. – Vilma Megorden and Genevieve Thompson.

A poignant moment during the morning ceremony was the symbolic roll call of living survivors and veterans who have died since the last memorial march, followed by a bugler playing Taps. The Organ mountains overlooking the Missile Range echoed the names as they were called. Among them was Purple Heart Awardee Jesse Baltazar of Falls Church, Va. A Bataan Death March survivor, he made a valiant effort to attend last year’s memorial march despite his ailing health. He passed away a few months later. He was buried in the Arlington National Cemetery.

Baltazar’s son, Phillip, was seated among the families of survivors. Standing at attention while Taps was being played, he broke down in tears. He keeps returning to White Sands, he says, “because this place means so much to my dad. It reminded him of the brutality and savagery of the war, but also of the



Family members and descendants of Bataan Death March survivors at the opening ceremonies include US Navy veteran Senior Chief Petty Officer Rey Cabacar (left) and Philip Baltazar, son of Purple Heart Awardee Jesse Baltazar, the last Filipino Bataan Death March survivor who attended the memorial march before passing away last year.

courage and nobility of his comrades who risked their lives for us.” Sixteen-year-old Ricky, Baltazar’s grandson who came with his dad to run the marathon for the second time, said he will always remember his grandpa’s advice: “Never give up, never surrender.”

Historic Firsts

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Bataan Death March, the singing of “Lupang Hinirang,” the Philippine National Anthem, was included in the program for the first time in the memorial march’s history. Filipino American marathoner and musical performer Jim Diego provided the vocal rendition. His great uncle, Ulrico Causing, was in the Bataan Death March.

The Philippine flag was also prominently displayed on stage beside the American flag, another significant first. “It gives me goosebumps just to see the Philippine flag and hear the Philippine national anthem sung,” said Christy Panis Poisot of Houston, TX., a FilVetREP Regional Director. Her grandfather, Francisco Panis, was beaten badly during the Bataan Death March because of his rank as third lieutenant in the Philippine Army. He survived the prison camp and later rejoined Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s forces. He passed away in 2003.

“Clearly, the memorial march is the nation’s largest gathering to commemorate a Philippine historical event, and the prominence given to Filipino American participation is a meaningful tribute to our Filipino soldiers’ role in the Pacific theater,” says FilVetREP Director Sonny Busa of Annandale, Va. Busa’s late father-in-law, Pantaleon Cawagas of San Narciso, Zambales, survived the Bataan Death March and later joined the guerrillas. This is the fourth time Busa and wife, Ceres, participated in this grueling trek.

March in the Desert

Now in its 28th year, the marathon drew the largest number of participants from across the country and all over the world. It was also the hottest, with temperatures reaching 91 degrees at midday.

One team included Albanian, Filipino, German, Japanese and Korean master sergeants. Filipino American participants, estimated to be the largest this year, travelled from several states, including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina,

Texas, Virginia and Washington.

Since its inception in 1989, the Bataan Death March has been memorialized by a 26-mile march in the desert, covering paved roads and long trails of ankle-deep sand, and a 14-mile run for those who do not wish to run the full course.

A group of ROTC cadets in New Mexico started the marathon to honor members of the state’s National Guard who fought in Bataan and Corregidor. It grew over the years, from 200 to more than 6,000 marchers each year.

Taguba started running in 2005, with his son, U.S. Army Capt. Sean Taguba, joining him in the last few years. Former Philippine Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. attended in 2014, along with then Philippine Veterans Affairs Director Delfin Lorenzana, now Philippine Defense Secretary. Philippine Embassy officials and FilVetREP Board Members and Executive Committee officers are also regular participants.

Of the eight Bataan Death March survivors who came to White Sands this year, Retired U.S. Army Col. Ben Skardon, 99, was the only one who walked. This was his tenth time to do eight and a half miles.

The last person to reach the finish line was Kirk Bauer, an above-the-knee amputee who served in Afghanistan. He began the march at about 7:25 a.m. and completed 26.2 miles at around 10:00 p.m. This was the 68-year-old wounded warrior’s eighth march.

‘Duty to Country’

The day before the march, participants availed of various educational programs, including display booths at the Exhibition Hall. The FilVetREP table was a meet-and-greet point and a resource for marchers and visitors. Among those who stopped by was Brian Duffy, Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). VFW was the first national veterans advocacy group that endorsed FilVetREP’s Congressional Gold Medal campaign.

FilVetREP Regional Director Sonny Busa and FilVetREP Program Director Ben de Guzman made two presentations at the Post Theater, which included a screening of the documentary “Duty to Country,” a discussion of the 1946 Rescission Acts, the nationwide fight for veterans benefits, and the legislative campaign to secure Senate and House sponsors for the Congressional Gold Medal Award (CGM) bill. FilVetREP also provided information about the National Registry and encouraged families of both surviving and deceased veterans to help identify CGM recipients. FilVetREP Regional Director Brig. Gen. Oscar Hillman explained the need to raise funds to cover the costs of CGM bronze replicas and FilVetREP’s education program.

“I find it incredible that some

marchers did not even know Filipinos were in the Bataan Death March,” Busa said. “

A Hero’s Story

On Saturday night, FilVetREP hosted a gala dinner at the Doubletree Hotel Sky Lounge, mainly to raise funds for the Congressional Gold Medal project. More than a hundred guests attended. Supporting organizations include the Filipino American National Historical Society, Filipino American Association of El Paso (FAAEP), National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), Bryan Ramos Law Firm, Pilipino American Unity for Progress, Inc., (UNIPRO) and Tigua Indian Social Dance Group.

Speakers include FilVetREP Chairman Antonio Taguba and Philippine Consul General Angelito S. Cruz of the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles.

The evening’s highlight was a story shared by the keynote speaker, US Navy veteran Rey Cabacar. His older brother, Sgt. Heren Cabacar of San Narciso, Zambales, was a Bataan Death March survivor. After he was released following Japan’s surrender, he joined the US Army and was later deployed for combat in Korea. His unit, however, suffered defeat and was forced to endure his second death march – the Tiger Death March. A POW for 32 months, he managed to survive by fishing and planting corn around the tents. A prisoner exchange led to his release. He later found himself assigned to Portsmouth, Virginia. In 1981, he was murdered on his way home in an apparent hold up.

“This brave soldier survived two wars, yet died in the streets of the country he fought for,” Cabacar said of his older brother. “His parting is a sweet sorrow and not in vain. He served this country’s flag well, with honor and dignity. The blood that ran in this soldier’s veins also runs in mine.”

‘Unforgettable Experience’

Among the early risers Sunday morning is Zenaida Crisostomo Slep of Seattle, WA., a FilVetREP Regional Deputy Director. She says her first time joining the Bataan Memorial Death March has been “an emotional experience.” On the day of the march, she wrote down a list of names on small sheets of paper and pinned them to her shirt. “I’m marching for my dad, Serafin Salazar Crisostomo and my uncles Marcelino Serra, Anatalio Ubalde and Pedro Crisostomo,” she said. “They were all death march survivors and POWs. I’m glad we have an opportunity to educate the American people about what happened in Bataan. We must sustain our efforts to ensure that their story is never forgotten.”

Rea Sampilo, 26, President of UNIPRO Houston Chapter and Vice President of FANHS Houston Chapter, describes her first march as “an unforgettable experience. I marched for my grandpa, Benny De Leon Sampilo, a Filipino WWII veteran. It was definitely a challenge, but carrying his name on my back along with other veterans gave me the drive to complete the march. This was for them. Without their sacrifices and their service, we would not be here today.”

Outstanding Filipino Youth Awards 2017: Celebrating Student Success on April 20!



By Chris Mateo

For the second time in its history, the Philippine National Day Association will be celebrating the youth recipients of its annual Outstanding Filipino Youth Awards (OFYA) with a dinner, music, and live performances in Elk Grove on Thursday, April 20.

While PNDA has hosted an awards ceremony for over 25 years, this will be the first time since 1994 that the organization will host a banquet-style event that will feature an authentic Filipino dinner, a performance by the students of the Rize All Arts Center, and much more.

Since 1999 PNDA has given thousands of dollars in scholarship to 8th and 12th grade students pursuing higher education. Students submit an application, write an essay, and interview with a scholarship panel before getting selected for specific scholarships and other awards. After the decisions have been made, students and their families are then invited to the awards ceremony. The ceremony includes the recognition of the students and their academic achievements, the actual granting of awards, and a keynote speech by the “Lakandiwa” or inspiring role model. Notable Lakandiwa include Mona Pasquil, Appointments Secretary to Governor Brown, Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Chief Justice of California, and Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor of West Sacramento.

The 2017 OFYA Awards Ceremony will still include these elements, yet will feature more facets to help the students and their families celebrate. This year’s event will open with a reception. The student recipients, their families, and other attendees of the awards ceremony will get to settle-in and mingle with members of PNDA’s Board of Directors and some special guests. One of these guests is Prosy Abarquez Delacruz, author of “Even the Rainbow has a Body: Distinct Artistic Legacies” will be present to discuss her recent book and sign copies available for purchase. The book will be a gift to the “Best Essay” award recipient. Delacruz is a guest of PNDA Founding Director Cynthia Bonta. “Prosy’s book is made up of stories of artists who have fulfilled their dream in the United States, and contributed their talents to the broader community while uplifting the image of Filipinos,” says Bonta. “Prosy lived through the civil rights movement. She struggled as an immigrant but has learned to see the bigger picture of the roles and contributions of Filipinos in American, and how it is important to see the good in life.” Delacruz is a full-time writer and regular contributor to the Asian Journal.

Guests of the event will also be able to meet the evening’s mistress of ceremonies, Irene Cruz. Cruz joined Sacramento’s ABC10 in February 2015 and is the anchor for the channel’s News10 Mornings on the weekend. According to her ABC10 bio,



Panelists from left to right: Alicia Priego, Jofil Borja, Lisa Mayberry, Cynthia Bonta, Jane Soria, Justin Delacruz, and Alliver Verzon.



Irene Cruz of ABC News10

“Irene is a proud Filipina-American and is originally from Orange County in Southern California.” As a graduate of UC Irvine who received her bachelor of arts in Literary Journalism in just three years, Irene was the PNDA Board’s first choice to host this year’s OFYA Awards Ceremony.

Taking guests from the reception and through the remainder of the program will be DJ Mario Vitug, a friend of PNDA since he provided the music for the gala in 2015. In addition to providing excellent music and a warm, friendly personality, Mario’s wife, Joyce, will be doing the decorations for the event. Mario and Joyce are parents themselves, and are excited about PNDA’s growth. “I love supporting PNDA, especially during this time when their programs are growing,” says Mario. “Our daughters are now old enough to apply for scholarships, to take on leadership roles, and to get mentored, and PNDA has provided pathways to do these things and so much more. We’re happy and proud to be part of this journey.”

After the reception, attendees will be seated and presented with an incredible program, focused on the achievements of this year’s student recipients. To kick-off the dinner portion of the evening, the Rize All Arts Center will showcase some of its very talented student performers. Rize All



Rize All’s directors Dane San Pedro and Amanda Newsum

is a local nonprofit that was formed in 2014 by founders Dane San Pedro and Amanda Newsum. They realized the positive effect that dance had on their lives, and decided to offer programs to students for this same purpose. Rize All has been serving the Sacramento and Elk Grove school districts for over 3 years, and recently opened their dance studio, the Rize All Arts Center, in Elk Grove, just down the street from the OFYA Awards Ceremony venue, Armaans Palace Event Hall. One of Rize All’s directors, Dane San Pedro, was a product of PNDA and remains close to the organization. San Pedro, like the evening’s student honorees, was a student recipient of the Outstanding Filipino Youth Awards. He was also an attendee of PNDA’s Filipino American Youth Leadership Conference. Dane credits PNDA and the community for his achievements, and hopes he is doing the same by teaching the students at Rize All’s Arts Center.

After Rize All’s students perform during the dinner segment, the OFYA Chairperson, Justin Delacruz, will be introducing the 8th and 12th grade students that applied for this year’s awards and scholarships. Delacruz, who is also the Secretary for PNDA’s Board of Directors, has been overseeing the program since he joined the Board in 2013.

Like San Pedro, Delacruz is also giving

back to the organization because of his experience as a student. “Being the OFYA Chair for the past couple of years has meant a lot to me,” says Delacruz. “I participated in OFYA as an 8th grader many years ago. This is my way of giving back. I was asked to be an interview panelist in 2014 and have been involved ever since. I get to see so many incredibly talented students and it makes me think how bright the future is for them and for the community as a whole.”

When asked why this year’s event is different from previous ceremonies, Delacruz credits his OFYA Committee, including fellow Board Director Jennifer Berdugo, for wanting to showcase the recipients to a broader audience. “In years past, the OFYA Ceremony was somewhat intimate and, although not intentional,

was limited to our recipients, their families, and our donors” says Delacruz. “I believe the goal of OFYA is three-fold: to identify Filipino youth who show traits of not just achievement, but also leadership; to present them to the community; and to provide financial support for future education in acknowledgement of their achievements. Having a gala-type dinner as the awards ceremony promotes all three goals.”

For the future of OFYA, Delacruz hopes to see PNDA provide enough funds to pay for one year of tuition for a scholarship recipient, or be able to continue distributing funds to a student from freshman year to graduation. “We obviously are not there yet, but we’ve made huge strides,” says Delacruz. “The Board has added new directors with great fundraising talent and I’m excited to see what happens in the next few years.”

One of the Board’s latest additions is Alicia Priego, who joined the Board in 2016. In addition to her ability to fundraise, Priego will be overseeing PNDA’s Mentoring Program – the “next step” for students that have participated in both the OFYA and Filipino American Youth Leadership Conference. While this is definitely a new program, it is just one of many pieces of “BIG NEWS” the organization will be sharing on April 20th.

Another piece of news will be the announcement of PNDA’s new website: www.PNDA-Sac.org. At the ceremony, the Board will be sharing their efforts in collaborating with other Filipino organizations, starting with two pages on the new site: “Upcoming Events” in which a community calendar will include various Filipino events taking place in Sacramento, and “Community Partners” in which links to other organizations’ websites and social media will be available.

Needless to say, the Outstanding Filipino Youth Awards Ceremony is reflective of the many changes that the Philippine National Day Association is undergoing. From the event’s evolution to new Board Directors and programs, the guests of the evening are definitely in for a treat. The one thing that will not change is the reason the OFYA Awards Ceremony exists – to acknowledge the achievements of our youth. And that will always be cause for celebration.

Philippine Consulate On Wheels Outreach Program in Sacramento

By Faina E. Abaya

Just immediately after the Philippines has gained its independence from the United States in 1946, the Philippine Consulate Mission in San Francisco was established to service the many problems of the Filipinos within its consular jurisdiction.

Today, the Consular Mission in San Francisco has expanded its jurisdiction to include ten States including Northern California where the City of Sacramento is located. To facilitate and ease the burden of securing needed services for the several thousands of Filipinos (both immigrants and Filipino Americans) living within its area of Consular responsibility, the Mission created its non-political Outreach Program dubbed as Consulate on Wheels.

Among the services rendered by the Consulate on Wheels are; the issuance and renewal of passports, dual citizenship, legal documentations

such as Special Power of Attorney, Sworn Affidavit, entry in the Civil Registry, reports of birth and marriage, authentication of documents and registration of overseas voters. The COW is staffed with highly efficient and professional career foreign affairs personnel. On the other hand, the volunteers are the movers and shakers of our community, most of them are known for their gregariousness, generosity, highly educated and responsible citizens, sense of unity for commendable community projects and always ready to voluntarily render civic work for the good of the place where they have found peace and contentment for themselves.

Just like the previous years, the Consulate on Wheels picked the date of their Sacramento schedule and the event was in partnership with several Filipino American community organizations whose leaderships usually sent their respective volunteers to assist the COW staffers. The civic minded community volunteers are given proper orientation on their respective assignments to help the resolution of whatever predicaments legal



The Bayanihan of Sacramento, USA with several Filipino American community volunteers and the Philippine Consulate staff.



Photos by Faina Abaya

or otherwise that the applicants may have brought with them. Several of the orientations of the volunteers were held at the office clinic of

Dr. Tony Solomon, the President of the Bayanihan Club of Sacramento, USA who took the usual initiative to communicate with the San Francisco Philippine Consulate to hold their Outreach Program in Sacramento. Dr. Tony Solomon was ably assisted by his wife Remy Solomon and the event was co-chaired by Sarah Enloe, Leila Periera, Rose Dela Cruz and Lee Ramirez. In addition, community leader and realtor Crisel Centeno who volunteered her time and the use of her copier machines which she also donated whatever income to be generated will be used for any miscellaneous expenses to be incurred for the event.

This year's Consulate on Wheels was held on March 18, 2017 at the Filipino American Veterans Hall of the American Legion Magellan Post 604 along Gerber Road, Sacramento. The Hall was so meticulously arranged by the volunteers themselves to accommodate the expected more than 300 applicants who will be served on the basis of their appointments which have been received days or even months by the organizers before the scheduled COW working day. To facilitate whatever matters that the applicants will bring to the attention of the COW staff-



showing that anyone has acted otherwise.

Undoubtedly, the process was orderly proceeded through proper coordination by both the community volunteers and the COW staffers and both showed high degree of professionalism in their given tasks. During

lunch break, some of the applicants went to take their lunch while others stayed to finish their applications which were attended to by the COW personnel and volunteers who stayed on their assignments as others took their lunch.

Food for both the COW staffers and volunteers were provided by all the sponsoring community organizations inside the Hall to avoid unnecessarily delays in the processing of the applicant's papers, although, some were also donated by the applicants themselves to show their deep appreciation to both the COW staffers and community volunteers for work well done. By the middle of the afternoon, more than half of the applicants needed documents were done, showcasing the dedication and commendable amazing work ethics of both COW staffers and

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Continued on page 12



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Philippine Consulate On Wheels Outreach Program in Sacramento

From page 11

community volunteers for the best interest of their 'kababayan'.

At this juncture, the amiable Philippine Vice Consul Carlyn Manasterio has already conducted the oath taking ceremony of the first batch of Filipino Americans who regained their Filipino citizenship, thus, enjoying again the rights and privileges of being Filipino citizens. And before the end of the day's work, all the applicant's documents and problems were properly addressed to and resolved for the satisfaction of everyone. Likewise, all applicants for Dual Citizenship were attended to and they also proudly took their oath as Filipino citizens before said Philippine Vice Consul.

It is, therefore, gratifying to note that at the end of the allotted working day, all matters brought to the attention of the COW personnel were properly attended in coordination with the volunteers who gave it all to match the precision like working habit of their consular counterparts. This meritorious partnership between the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco and our community volunteers through the Consulate on Wheels should continue to service the needs of our "kababayan" on matters that involved about themselves and their country of origin. Everyone hopes



Photos by Faina Abaya

that this will not be tainted with political partisan that could place the more than 2 million Filipinos now in the United States in limbo or have a greater predicament to secure matters that deeply concerned them.

Kudos to both personnel of

the Consulate on Wheels and the community volunteers for job well done. Total documents processed during the event were more than 300 including 75 Registrations for Overseas Voters and about 100 Dual Citizenships.

The members of the Consulate

on Wheels are: Vice Consul Carlyn Monasterio, Lito Lucido, Ray Sambitan, Jimmy Bilar, Caloy Cabuniag, Let Garcia, Gigi Abad, Jun Logarta, Ethel Castillo and Layden Pacho. Among the community volunteers who were conspicuously wearing Philippine Consul-

ate on Wheels white T-shirts from different sponsoring organizations are; Bill Bostok, Atty. Derek Ledda, Henry and Tina Bambao, Dolores Diaz, Aida Azurin, Edna Villanueva, Virgil and Grace Faundo, Mercedes Guererro, Aida Azurin, Alex and Ling Avera, Bobby Ching, Maria Sotelo, Espie Espina, Rose and Pete Delacruz, Edna de los Reyes, Roselie Crandall, Elvie Aquirre, Tess Arca, Norma Viray, Placida Butcher, Estella Rabara, Francis Torres, Joe Gonzalez, Lerma Amaba, Lu Capuchino, Malou Amper, Charity Avena, Bill and Gwen Carlos, Bella Nidoy, Vicky Alonzo, Dylan Montalbo, Gabriel Shane Aguirre and Ryan Joshua Ramos.

The community sponsoring organizations for the said event with their respective leaders are; Bayanihan Club of Sacramento, USA, (Dr. Tony Solomon); American Legion Magellan Post 604 (Commander Tom Amaba); Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (Mercedes Guererro); United Naguilian, La Union, Circle of America Incorporated (Tina Bambao); Cabalen Club of Sacramento (VP Helen Reboja); Maharlika Lions Club (Dolores Diaz) and Philippine Fiesta News (Dave and Dinnah San Pedro, publishers/owners).



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Everyone is welcome—students do not have to be Filipino. • Classes are free!

Eskwela Natin's Summer Session starts May 21!

Join us for the 2017 opening reception, scholarship awards' presentation and first class:

Sunday, May 21, 2017
Reception starts at 12:00 p.m.
Class from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Class Location

County Human Resources Building (Community Room)
2450 Florin Road (entrance 25th St.)
Sacramento, CA

2017 Summer Class Dates

May 21	June 25
May 28	July 9
June 4	July 16
June 11	July 23
June 18	July 30

All classes from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.

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

Join us at [Facebook.com/EskwelaNatin](https://www.facebook.com/EskwelaNatin).

Eskwela Natin is a registered 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. Tax ID #46 2747258

Eskwela Natin now on its Fifth Year!!! begins its 2017 summer program

Sacramento, California (March 24, 2017) - The Eskwela Natin is proud to announce its Summer Program for 2017, from May 21 to July 30, 2016 to be held at the Community Room of the Human Resources Building, 2450 Florin Road, Sacramento, California. The new format of camp-like sessions will be held every Sunday afternoon.

On opening day, May 21, 2017, there will be a reception at noon before the first class session. The program will include a welcome from the Philippine Consulate who have attended in the past and have continuously supported the mission and goals of the Filipino cultural school. We will also honor this year's winners of the scholarship program awarding them with certificates and cash money. After the reception, the first class session will start which will focus on the Philippine celebrations of Flores de Mayo and Santacruzán. The children will be making and decorating their props for these celebrations and parade them in the vicinity.

Eskwela Natin's summer program will include nine classes and a graduation ceremony. The program is free and open to children ages five to 12 years old. The classes are segmented into the following areas: Philippine celebrations, Music and dance, Games, tourist spots and Geography, Cuisine and foodfest, Arts and crafts, History, literacy, heroes and tradition etc. The children will learn at least 25 Tagalog words and phrases each session. We will partner with a local library to enhance the literacy program with storytelling from our combined collection of Filipino children's books. The summer program this year will include an excursion to the 41st Anniversary Philippine Fiesta celebration at the Rizal Center, June 4, 2017 where there will be an Eskwela Natin booth and exhibit as well as hosting Filipino children's games.



“Local Domestic Violence Shelter celebrates 3rd birthday of operating café with 3 generations”

By Nilda Valmores

On Tuesday, March 21 from 10 – 11 a.m., My Sister’s House will be celebrating the 3rd year of operating My Sister’s Café, the only café operated by a domestic violence shelter in California. According to Nilda Valmores, My Sister’s House Executive Director, “We’re proud that with My Sister’s Café we have been able to support My Sister’s House Women to Work program which helps domestic violence survivors get back on their feet financially.”

Another unique factor about this year’s birthday celebration is that it will feature 3 generations of a Japanese American family who once owned and operated a boarding house on the same site of My Sister’s Café 75 years ago until the internment period occurred. The granddaughter is now working at My Sister’s House and the family just recently made the historical and coincidental connection.

The birthday celebration and My Sister’s Café is located at 455 Capitol Mall.

**About My Sister’s House:*

For 16 years, My Sister’s House is the non-profit organization in the Central Valley which has provided culturally appropriate services for domestic violence victims within the Central Valley’s highly diverse Asian/Pacific Islander community. In 2016, My Sister’s House answered 2,615 crisis phone calls, provided 870 individual counseling sessions, provided 4,008 nights of shelter (emergency, transitional, and anti-human trafficking), utilities, food, case management services, legal services, and job training to more than 400 women and children. For more info about My Sister’s House, go to www.my-sisters-house.org.

**About My Sister’s Café:*

My Sister’s Café is a small, local restaurant which serves delicious American food with an Asian twist for the purpose of providing support for My Sister’s House Women to Work Program which helps domestic violence survivors and human trafficking victims “get back on their feet” financially. For more information about My Sister’s Café, go to www.mysisterscafe.com.



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May 27, 2017 - Saturday - 6 PM
 Hilton Sacramento Arden West
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 Proceeds to benefit club projects
 Donation \$60 Attire: Semi-Formal

Calendar of Events

**APRIL 20, 2017 (THURS.)
OUTSTANDING FILIPINO YOUTH
AWARD CEREMONY (OFYA)**
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Armaan's Palace
2301 Longfort Ct.
Elk Grove, CA 95758
www.pnda-sac.org

**APRIL 22, 2017 (SAT.)
ANNUAL SPRING BRUNCH**
Food, entertainment, prizes and raffle
karaoke contest and more...
10 am - 2 pm
Jose Rizal Community Center
7230 Florin Mall Dr. Sacramento, CA
916.266.1923
9916.396.7863
916.524.8008

**MAY 21, 2017 (SUN.)
ESKWELA NATIN (Our Filipino School)**
Reception 12-2pm
Class 2-4:30pm
County Human Resources Bldg.
2450 Florin Rd., Sacramento, CA
Dolores Diaz - 916.396.2351

**MAY 27, 2017 (SAT.)
UNLUCAI 35TH Anniversary**
Dinner and Dance / 6pm
Hilton Sacramento Arden West
Sacramento, CA 95815
Attire: Semi Formal
Donation \$60

**JUNE 4, 2017 (SUN.)
FILIPINO FIESTA of Sacramento**
Commemorating the 75th Anniversary
of the Bataan Death March
10AM - 5PM
Jose Rizal Community Center
7230 Florin Mall Dr. Sacramento, CA
916.524.8008
916.266.1923
916.396.7863

Birthdays



KRYSTLE P. JONG
MARCH 26



EDNA DELOS REYES
APRIL 18



AIDA GARRUCHO
APRIL 18



DEREK LEDDA
APRIL 18



FRANK AYRAN
APRIL 16



GERRY LOBO
APRIL 1



DICK MAZON
APRIL 8



MERCEDES GUERRERO
APRIL 5



PETE MARZAN with Brandon & Jabari
APRIL 26



BEN and JOHN and son LENNOX ABAYA
APRIL 1



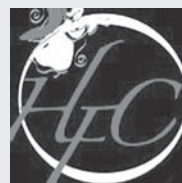
LIZA VALENTINE and FAINA ABAYA
APRIL 6 and MAY 18



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By Dale Esperante

Kappa Psi Epsilon's (KPsiE) Veterano Panel

On 19 Mar 2017, the KPsiE sisters and their peers waited patiently outside Magellan Hall. The general membership meeting of Magellan Post 604 veterans extended beyond the normal end time of 4 to 4:30 p.m. A little before 5 p.m., the doors opened, signaling the adjournment of the Post meeting.

The chaplain of Post 604, being the liaison officer for the Post and KPsiE, quickly approached the Community Chairs of KPsiE, Gabrielle Evangelista and Sherylley Lomboy, to apologize for the delay. Gabbie and Sheryl explained that no apologies necessary for they are honored to be visiting Post 604 again, this time to listen to the veterans' experiences.

At 5:15 p.m., Sherylley welcomed everyone including out of town friends from colleges and universities located in the bay area. She also acknowledged the Bayanihan of UC Davis and her Sacramento KPsiE sisters. She thanked the Auxiliary Unit 604 members who stayed after their unit's meeting to listen to the stories of the veterans. Marcos Evangelista spoke for the veterans when he acknowledged the Post 604 members.

Sherylley introduced the veteran sitting at the designated first panel, yours truly. She invited me to start my story. I am the current chaplain of Post 604 as well as being the assistant adjutant. As chaplain, I have been responsible for saying the prayer (opening and closing/invocation and benediction) in official functions. The American Legion "Manual of Ceremonies gives an important place to the chaplain in the conduct of meetings, the observance of patriotic occasions, funeral services and dedication ceremonies. At all these events, the chaplain is the moral leader." In addition, yours truly contributes to this media, PF News. Active as a church coordinator for St. Charles Borromeo's Sunday 12 p.m. lay ministers, primarily responsible for scheduling ministers, training, and assisting. Joined U.S. Air Force at age 17 and made it a career for 20 years, retiring at age 37. Been assigned almost around the world. Have been stationed overseas totaling more than 10 years—almost 9 years in Europe. Took advantage of being stationed in Korea to tour the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ line), the line dividing North and South Korea. The opposing soldiers standing guard at the DMZ are within reach of each other, careful not to step over the line. Stepping over the DMZ line without authorization could cause a military skirmish that may blow

up to an international incident. DMZ military personnel must meet rigid physical requirements, e.g., must be six-foot tall and competent in the art of self-defense (black belt with degrees). The chaplain is always thankful to the spiritual guidance that led him to join the United States Air Force. Lastly, blessed to have completed a second career with the United States Postal Service.

Panelist 2 seated Korean War Veteran, Pastor "Pat" Engkabo. Pat acknowledged the presence of his family in the audience. Born in Stockton, CA, on

September 11, 1930, Pat will be 87 years' young this year. Already adventurous at 16 years old, he left home to work in a farm. Drafted by the army in 1951 and served through 1953. For a time, he was a 20-year old soldier who couldn't order an alcoholic drink in a bar. He was stationed at Fort Ord for two months before shipping to Korea. He was trained to sleep with his weapons: gun and knife. He was trained to kill. He remembered discrimination and prejudices in the army. Being a minority, he was shipped to the front lines while the white majority were positioned behind in the second line. Educated Caucasians were given the choicest positions, the farthest away behind the front line. He had lots of friends who died fighting in the front lines. When questioned how many people he has killed? His answer, many. Perhaps not all military enemies but may also include collateral damage. Collateral damage is damage inflicted on an unintended target (non-combatants). One of his most vivid memories was of an airplane pilot in his cockpit looking at him moments before that pilot fatally crashed his plane. He also remembered the Korean winter ground that was as hard as solid rock. No 7 1/2 snowshoes were available for him so he was given a size 10 pair of shoes to wear for a while. Pat suffered from shellshock, now known as PTSD for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Without treatment, PTSD could cause someone to harm himself and others. PTSD could also lead to alcohol dependence because of ...

Pat talked lovingly about his wife of 54 years who passed away in 2005. He also talked about reuniting with a childhood sweetheart recently. Pat has been a member of the American Legion for 36 years. After the army, he worked for 25 years as an appraiser.

Question for Pat asked by KP-

siE sister Alaina Domingo: "What did the government do to help you cope with PTSD?" Pat explained that after the service, no one briefed him on his VA medical benefits. Without assistance from the military or the Veterans Administration (VA), alcohol became one of his means to cope. Finally, 50 years after he was discharged from the army, he started receiving care and therapy from the VA.

Panel 3 seated Navy Veteran and Retiree Bobby Aglubat. Bobby proudly acknowledged Sherylley as his niece. He then explained the impact of the Navy to the Filipinos from 1950 through 1991. The U.S. Navy recruited Filipinos from the Philippines to join as Stewards in the Navy. The Filipinos could only join as Stewards because no security clearance was required for Stewards duty. Bobby's objectives for joining the Navy were: (1) Bring his family to the United States, (2) Get a college degree in the states. Bobby graduated from Sac State in 1974 majoring in Business Administration. His four children are all educated and successful. He retired as a State of California employee after 28 years of service. He served as a Steward for five years in active-duty Navy before joining the Navy Reserves. He retired from the Navy Reserves after 27 years. He advised the students "to plan for your life while still young for You are the only one who can make it happen." During his early years in the Navy, his English was so poor that people used to laugh when he talked. So, he decided to focus and learn how to talk like an American. "Thereafter, the first time he opened his mouth was the first time he couldn't shut his mouth."

Panel 4 presented Air Force Retiree Joe Gonzalez. Joe completed high school from the Philippine



Members of Kappa Psi Epsilon's (KPsiE) and the Magellan Post 604 veterans.



Veterans Dale Esperante, Pastor Engkabo and Bobby Aglubat.

Photos by KPsiE Janina Mae Bernas

College of Arts and Trade in Manila, now Technical University of the Philippines. He graduated college from the Philippines School of Business Administration. He also received an AA college degree from the Community College of the Air Force. In 1972, he was drafted by the Army. Joe reacted swiftly by joining the Air Force on 8 Aug 1972. After 8 years of active duty in the Air Force, Joe joined the Air Force Reserves. He has been to places such as Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Bosnia, Southwest Asia, active during 9/11. He was a First Sergeant at Beale AFB before retiring in 2005 at Beale AFB. In 2008 he joined the Filipino American Veterans Association, joined the American Legion in 2009, in 2010-2012 he was a Legion adjutant, 2012-2014 was Magellan Post 604 Commander. He is active with the Sacramento Fil-Am community serving as vice-president for the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (FCSV), and currently serving as Chairman of the Pacific Rim Heritage Center. He enjoys the game of golf and he loves to have a positively good time.

Question by a KPsiE sister Alaina Domingo to Joe: "How did the Air Force duty impact your family life?" Joe remembered one specific deployment. After the deployment, he arrived home in a newly renovated house. His wife busied herself redecorating the whole house including the landscaping outside while Joe was away. A surprise Joe was still a happy Joe because he made it home to be with his loving and faithful wife, Carina.

Panel 5 introduced the District 6 Commander—Commander Will Williams, who started with, "Imagine yourself a 16-year old sitting in an all-male assembly in high school." Student Will heard recruiters talk from different branches of the military, but when the blue pants with red stripes recruiter came on, young Will listened and decided to join the United States Marine Corps

(USMC). In Will's teen years, his favorite television show on TV was Victory at Sea. One of his favorite movies was Back to Bataan. Will grew up in Watts, CA. Later his parents, with 9 children in the family, upgraded to the neighborhood of Compton, CA. Travel was never far from the mind of young Will. Impressed by the USMC recruiter during the assembly, the next Saturday morning with friends, Will walked miles and miles to reach the USMC recruiter's office. The recruiter showed the young applicants a movie narrated by Jack Webb entitled, The Boy Next Door. After the movie, Will was given a consent form by the recruiter for his parents to sign, being he was still a minor at the time. At 17, after a physical exam on a navy ship, Will "took an oath that could cost me my life." During basic training, he learned the price for becoming a marine: "They break you down as if you're nothing, then they rebuild you to their own standards." He learned the USMC way, "preparing to do our job of defending the USA." One day on leave in his neighborhood, he saw his Navy friends playing football in the street. He reminded his navy friends that it was against regulations to play in the streets while they were still in full uniform. The uniform must be respected and it is not worn to play games in the streets. Then he jokingly added that the Men's Department in the Navy is the U.S. Marine Corps. Marine Will Williams served in Vietnam during the fiercest years of the war. After more than 40 straight minutes of talk, and reminded of the late hour, D6 Commander Will relinquished the microphone to the youngest veteran.

Gulf War Veteran Marcos Evangelista waited patiently as the last panelist. Marcos first paid respect to his predecessors (family and veterans) who paved the way for him. His grandparents led the family to America by way of Hawaii. In Sacramento alone, the family members' numbers are in the 200 plus. Marcos said he owes his success to his parents and grandparents who set a great example for him to follow. At 24-years of age, Marcos joined the U.S. Navy where he spent 16 years before he retired in 2003. He has been around the world, courtesy of the Navy. At 25-years old, he was in the Persian Gulf War. When he started sharing the effects caused by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), he had to pause for a while. When he continued, he spoke about the Wounded Warrior Project and other Veterans Administration's rehab programs. "It's hard learning to deal with it."

Proudly, he spoke about his son who served in the Marines for four years. His son qualified in the Junior Olympics competing in Tae Kwon Do. Before he concluded,

Continued on page 16



By Gabriel Ortigoza, PhD

Honeybees Attack 82 year Old Woman

An 83 years old woman was attacked by honeybees while trimming orchids and some flowers planted at her front yard Saturday, March 18th.

Unaware of the presence of bees in the yard the woman kept on doing her daily routine every morning to keep her physically active and strong.

Unintentionally the old woman disturbed a bee hive that caused the resident bees to follow the dictum of offensive defense by attacking the person whom the honeybees considered as predator.

The bees, by nature, respond by stinging anybody that threatens them and their colony.

The old woman tried to protect herself from painful sting by slapping the bees away but the bees considered arm-waving, sudden or jerky movements as threat and reacted by swarming the predator.

The old woman tried to escape from the scene of

attacking bees but she cannot run away because of right-sided weakness due to stroke.

She tried her best to quickly walked away but she tripped and fell on the ground. Unable to get herself up she called for help.



Her husband, 88 years old retired soldier and a proud Korean Veteran who was also doing gardening at the backyard, heard somebody calling for help.

He went to the direction of call and found her wife lying on the yard.

He helped her stood up and rushed to walk her away from the bee colony.

With vengeance in his

mind the old veteran came back to the colony armed with a long wooden stick, newspaper, and posporo (match) and started a fire.

He burned the bees that invaded their yard. He also put on fire the large hives that were secretly built in the couple's property.

Thanks to the Bermuda grass planted in the yard. It served as cushion when the old woman fell. No head injury due to fall. Neither obvious injury nor fracture was noted.

Shout out also to a good neighbor Mrs. Nelma Valente who came to help.

The couple, who live by themselves in their humble dwelling, went inside their house after the incident to debrief. They live happily ever.

The couple's names are Daisy and Marcelo Ortigoza. They are my precious parents. Daisy is celebrating her 83rd birthday on April 14th. Happy birthday mama.

Making a Deal with the Devil: The Faustian Bargain

By Andrew Lim

When ancient man figured out that living in groups, specially large ones was more advantageous, he quickly learned how to make a deal- get something by giving up another.



The deal could be between two entities: a modus vivendi, or internally, with one's conscience.

In German legend, Faust was an intellectual who made a deal with the devil: in exchange for his soul, he gets unlimited knowledge and pleasure.

Sometimes, I think the Filipino version of Faust is the foolish Catholic: I will do as I please during my time on earth (which includes committing evil in the pursuit of good), but ask for forgiveness at the end, because everyone is forgiven anyway.

It would be a lot of fun if we could develop an algorithm- if it was possible -that could compute how humans calibrate their interests and its valuation but let's try it here.

In contemporary Philippine politics, forces in play can be understood by studying the types of deals they enter into. What follows is my analysis/opinions of the various players and the bargains they have made. Throw in yours.

I would not be surprised if President Duterte made a similar list in his mind pre-inauguration to keep these volatile forces in check and squarely in his camp.

Philippine Left (legal and underground) – Duterte dangled Cabinet jobs and a ceasefire and the Left bit. This effectively froze the most organized ideological grouping in the country. The new democratic space enticed them, as well as the

opportunity to push Marxist agenda, and a chance to rest and regroup. But it could also be due to the opportunities for intelligence gathering – just think of how much intel those cabinet members and their staff can collect while on official duty.

VACC, diehard Duterte supporters– The ferocity of personalities like Uson and Jimenez is riveting. My view is that their advocacies are a way of quenching an unquenchable thirst for vengeance, since the pursuit for justice for the murders of their loved ones did not end well. In the same way abused children have a strong tendency to become abusers themselves if not treated, victims of violence can become unhinged, unaware they have turned into monsters themselves.

Father and son Pimentel– a brand name for integrity and anti-dictatorship in the Marcos era, but their moist eyes for federalization make them look the other way. Most likely, they believe this is the only chance federalization will ever get. Very interesting to probe this further, considering both are highly intelligent persons. How do they make the moral trade-offs, specially with regards to the Marcos burial?

Marcos, Arroyo blocs – Pretty straightforward motivations. Freedom from the arc of history that may be long but bends towards justice; wealth preservation, a chance to revise history.

Senators Sotto, Pacquiao, Gordon, Cayetano and other lawmakers– cafeteria Christians, I call them. Sotto is a stalwart of Couples for Christ, Pacquiao is a tabula

rasa for any preacher. They pick and choose whatever doctrine suits them while blatantly ignoring others.

Business sector– For them, business continuity is the most important thing in the world;

only when this is threatened can you expect resistance.

Those who voted for Duterte – It is the tragedy of the Philippines that a huge chunk of its population are woefully informed and ignorant. Ignorance leads to exploitation, poor information leads to poor decisions. It was as if people were told last May 2016: “I will lead you to heaven but you have to hold my hand, pointy fingers and all, and come down with me to the dungeon.” And 16 million said yes.

Those who gave up their freedoms for a little more bread soon find out that they lose both, since they could not complain anymore about the lack of food as well. Ask the countries under the former Warsaw Pact alliance.

Fr Joel Tabora S.J. , president of Ateneo de Davao is a man you may characterize as having an intuitive feel for the eternal, and how it contrasts with the ephemeral. Formerly a staunch supporter of Duterte, he now believes, “... it is better to battle evil on the side of God, rather on the side of the evil one.”

In no uncertain terms: “If I must choose between going to hell with President Duterte in pursuit of the war on drugs in the Philippines or going to heaven with Abp. Soc Villegas because neither he nor any of the Catholic Bishops of the Philippines “find pleasure in the death of anyone who dies” (cf. Ezekiel 18:32), I choose going to heaven with the CBCP, even if their company and their language is neither as colorful nor as entertaining as that of the President. “

Kappa Psi Epsilon's (KPsiE) Veterano Panel

From page 15

he again mentioned his sincerest respect to his fellow veterans.

Sherylley opened the floor for the audience to ask questions. First question by KPsiE sister Alaina: How or what would you tell the government about helping the veterans? Veterans Will, Marcos, and Bobby answered that changes for the positive are being considered and some implemented. They also challenged the students to be the catalysts to help change things for the better. Veteran Joe added his advice to the students - commit to education and then enjoy life. Will added, “Today is your generation. . Young Americans should spend at least 2 years of work or volunteerism in government program.

Sherylley asked, “How would you like us to pass on your legacy?” Pat - glad to hear the question from students, thanking them for the care they have shown



Photo by KPsiE Janina Mae Bernas

the veterans. Pat served and fought a war in the American military in his youth, so he is hopeful that the young generation will also do whatever is necessary to serve the country well. Will – show your love for your country, everything starts with the family, you are the future leaders. Bobby – Continue your studies to reach more opportunities. Marcos – Share what you've heard today. Educate, Vote, “we're all in this together.”

Thank the veterans who never came back. Dale – Be aware of the things around you (city, state, country, the world). Be safe, be smart, be thrifty, and make it better for yourself. If for some way, the veterans made it easier for you, give back by making it easier for the ones following you. When the veterans signed up to serve the country, they knew that the ultimate price may have to be paid. To paraphrase District 6 Commander Will

Williams, “All Have Given Some, But Some Have Given All.” To paraphrase Marcos Evangelista, “respectfully remember and thank the veterans who weren't able to return.”

THANK YOU again to the KPsiE Social Chair and Co-Community Action Chair, Sherylley Lomboy, Califor-

nia State University, Sacramento, Kappa Psi Epsilon/ Epsilon Zeta; and KPsiE Vice President and Co-Community Action Chair, Gabrielle Evangelista, California State University, Sacramento, Kappa Psi Epsilon/ Epsilon Chapter. Recording this event in digital photos, THANK YOU to KPsiE Public Relations Chair

and Official Photographer, Janina Mae V. Bernas, California State University, Sacramento, Kappa Psi Epsilon, Epsilon Chapter/Zeta Class. The Veterans of the American Legion Magellan Post 604 salute all the members and alumnae of Kappa Psi Epsilon and their supportive peers!

A 13-year-old sobbed on camera when ICE took her father away. Now she has a plan.

Daughter of detained immigrant tearfully speaks about father

By Lindsey Bever

The sobbing 13-year-old girl had captured a gut-wrenching moment on video: the moment her father, who was driving her to school, was pulled over and taken into custody by U.S. immigration agents.

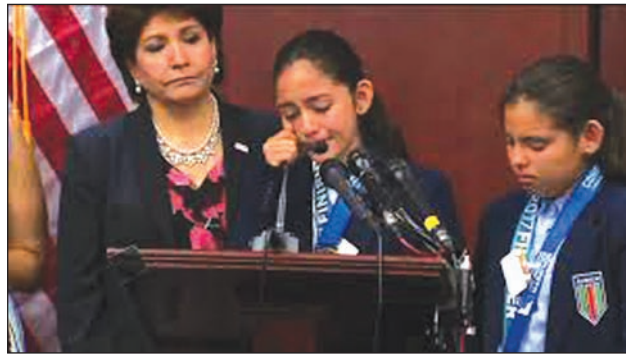
As Romulo Avelica-Gonzalez stepped out of the vehicle on the morning of Feb. 28, he told his daughter, Fatima, “relax and be strong,” according to CW affiliate KTLA. Then, the girl’s mother told her to record his arrest.

On Tuesday, exactly one month later, the teen appeared at Sen. Charles E. Schumer’s (D-N.Y.) news conference on President Trump’s proposed border wall, speaking through tears about the scene she captured on film.

“My dad was detained in front of me on my way to school,” Fatima told reporters. “It was the hardest thing to watch, but I still went to school because my father showed me the importance of education. I knew I’d have someone to support me there.”

Fatima spoke from the podium in Washington, clutching a medal hanging from her neck.

“I finished the L.A. Marathon with the help of my dad,” she said, explaining that her father would ride his bike alongside her dur-



Fatima Avelica spoke about her father, Romulo Avelica-Gonzalez, who was taken into custody by U.S. immigration agents while driving her to school. Avelica spoke at Sen. Charles E. Schumer’s (D-N.Y.) news conference on President Trump’s proposed border wall on March 28.

ing weekend practices, to make sure she did not give up.

“When I finish high school, I want to go to college so I can go to law school. I want to become an immigration lawyer,” she added. “That’s like a new marathon for me, and I know I can finish it, but I need my coach there; I need my dad. I never thought any of my life I would have to experience seeing my father taken away from me. He has always been right beside me to help me in any struggles I had.”

Tuesday’s event was organized by the National Council of La Raza and Democratic senators opposed to Trump’s requests for hundreds of millions of dollars to begin construction on a U.S.-Mexico border wall and for more personnel at Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

With talks underway between Democrats and Re-

publicans on a new spending agreement that has to be approved by late April, senior Democratic aides said their caucus will continue highlighting the personal stories of families affected by Trump’s immigration policies in a bid to build up more public opposition to his border wall plans.

One woman, Rosa Escobar, whose husband, Jose, was deported back to Mexico, told reporters she is struggling to explain her husband’s removal to her young children.

“My biggest fear today is getting a phone call saying that my husband has been murdered,” she told a room packed with dozens of people and 11 television cameras. “How do I explain that to my two children? Why is my American Dream being crushed by my own country, because my own president doesn’t understand that I’m in love with someone who is an il-

legal immigrant. However, I’m trying to do things the right way.”

In the wake of President Trump’s orders to crack down on illegal immigration, the arrest of Avelica-Gonzalez on Feb. 28 left teachers trying to console students — even as they began to prepare some for the possibility of their own parents’ sudden deportation.

“You need to be ready. ‘Have you talked to your parents? Do you have power of attorney?’” Ricardo Mireles, executive director of Academia Avance, told the Los Angeles Times.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said in a statement to ABC affiliate KABC that Avelica-Gonzalez was “targeted for arrest because relevant databases indicate he has multiple prior criminal convictions, including a DUI in 2009, as well as an outstanding order of removal dating back to 2014.”

“We knew the day was going to come,” Avelica-Gonzalez’s 19-year-old daughter, Jocelyn, told KTLA after the arrest. “Especially with the election. We just weren’t prepared.”

Avelica-Gonzalez, a 48-year-old restaurant worker, was reportedly the sole source of income for his wife and four children, according to the Los Angeles Times.

“Now my family and I are living day by day to see what happens next,” Fatima said at Tuesday’s news con-

ference.

Fatima said she visited Avelica-Gonzalez in custody late last week and noted that he appeared “way skinnier than he was, and I’m scared that, over time, he will change more.”

Crying, Fatima said that her father told her “how much he wants to be home with us.”

“My dad has lived here more than he has lived in Mexico,” the 13-year-old said. “He knows life here. Me and my sisters are not willing to go back to Mexico. We’re here to stay.”

On Tuesday, Schumer blasted Trump’s calls for border wall money and to expand the size of ICE, saying, “Instead of spending taxpayer dollars on a pointless wall, we should be investing in creating jobs, and fixing our infrastructure — not in separating American families, harming kids and local economies who are without workers who work so hard.”

“Immigrants are an integral part of this country. Democrats will be vigilant

and strong in our commitment to upholding the promise of America and shielding immigrants from President Trump’s policies. Senate Democrats are prepared to fight this all the way,” Schumer added.

Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), who has worked on immigration issues since coming to Congress in the 1990s, fought back tears after Fatima spoke, telling reporters that the latest stories from families affected by Trump’s policies add to decades of “stories that we have been dealing with for some time.”

“I believe that our caucus will do everything possible to make sure that U.S. taxpayer moneys do not go to build a wall. President Trump said Mexico is going to build that wall, I don’t believe we need a wall,” he said.

“At the end of the day, he should keep his word and make someone else pay for it — not the United States taxpayer,” Menendez added. “And we will do everything possible.”



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Every Girl Can: Modern Filipinas breaking the glass barrier

By Ed Margareth Barahan

What does it mean to be a modern Filipina?

Journalist and broadcaster Karen Davila said “modern” is often falsely equated to being “liberal.”

Stripping for an Instagram post, having one night stands, being disrespectful, drinking alcohol all day, she said, doesn’t make one “modern.”

“This is what modern is today. Can you think for yourself without Facebook, without Instagram telling you how to think? Do you still have the integrity of your own thoughts? Can you stand to your own decisions?” Davila said during the Every Girl Can forum at Blue Leafs Events Pavilion in Taguig last March 18.

Davila said being a modern woman means being able to earn your own money instead of just being content to marry a rich man.

“That does not make you modern. Modern is when you pick up your own paycheck, modern is when you’re able to start your own business, when you’re able to live your own decisions,” she said.

Being modern is when you can go against the tide, and say, “This is who I am.”

Hosted by Sarah Meier, who co-spearheaded the event, Every Girl Can was a one-day forum organized by She Talks Asia and Mano Amiga Pilipinas in time for Women’s Month.

Modern Filipina Panel takes group photo.

Know your true strength

Every modern Filipina has her strength—and strength comes in different forms.



Modern Filipina Panel talks about what it means to be one. (L-R: Panel Moderator Bianca Gonzales-Intal, Panelists Minette Navarete, Ana Santos, Karen Davila, Pia Cayetano and Gang Badoy)

Kickstart Ventures, Inc. vice-chairman and president Minette Navarete said that kindness is not weakness.

“It is important to be kind. In this world, it’s important to help others. And it does not mean that you are weak. It means that you are strong enough to give something of yourself to others,” she said.

“To be strong does not mean you have to be like a man. We have a different way of being strong. Find what it is about you that makes you strong and go for it. You don’t have to pretend to be angry and aggressive. You can succeed by being yourself,” Navarete added.

RockEd Philippines founder Gang Badoy said, “I don’t think the strength

of a woman [should be measured] when they’re angry or ugly. I think we’re strongest when we’re gentle. We have aces that [men] don’t have.”

Senator Pia Cayetano also weighed in, saying that women have the power to adjust.

“We can be fierce when needed, or more calm in other situations,” she said.

Meanwhile, Davila urged women invest in education and take a stand. “It’s about getting an education. Invest in yourself. It’s really about what you stand for,” she said and reminded, “You are your own wealth.”

Davila, Navarete, Badoy and Cayetano were part of event’s Modern Filipina panel.

Meanwhile, in a different panel—the New Frontiers for Women, brand strategist Michelle Barretto echoed Davila’s sentiments, saying knowledge is one’s advantage.

“Money will fizzle out but no one can take away your knowledge,” Barretto said.

“Always learn. Even the best of the best study. Knowledge—nobody can take that away from you,” she added.

Understand what matters

“Hard work, merit, personality, goodness, that is what matters. Looks, that’s just a bonus,” Gang Badoy said.

Addressing young girls in the venue, Karen Davila said, “We have come to an age where everything’s been fought for. You all have it.”

“The question is, when you’re making these choices, who are you making them for?” she asked.

She then quoted Hilary Clinton to warn them of the dangers of “attaching adjectives to women” as a form of disempowerment. “There’s a pressure for girls to look a certain way,” she said, emphasizing the importance of promoting one’s inner beauty and intelligence.

If you still do not know where you’re going, or if you haven’t laid a path for yourself yet—it’s okay, life coach and motivational speaker Pia Acevedo assured.

“In understanding [your uncertainty,] it’s your first step to clarity. Having the strength to admit that you don’t know gives you reason to

not force yourself to be okay,” she said.

Acevedo also urged that people should focus on what matters, and making life meaningful.

Millennials: Empowered or entitled?

During the millennial panel, student activist Monica Magsanoc responded to the question about this generation’s attitude with, “We’re not entitled to success. That’s not what we believe. We’re entitled to the same rights and opportunities.”

“Being a millennial, I just learned how not to care,” restaurateur Thea De Rivera answered when she was asked how she deals with people criticizing her for not having formal training in handling a restaurant.

“Maybe they think, you can do that because you have this, or you came from Ateneo, this and that, but at the end of the day, it’s all about what you do and your hard work, and I feel like you’re the only person who can tell yourself what you can and can’t achieve,” De Vera added.

Jasmin Curtis-Smith also took time to share her experiences in the entertainment industry, saying that usually, female actresses are always paired up with male actors.

“But here I am, going against it—I don’t wanna be in a love team. I don’t wanna be with just one guy for all my projects because where’s the diversity in characters there? Where’s the diversity in representing every type of person? And people in my industry see that as, ‘Why do you think you can make it on your own? Why do you think you’ll be more successful without being paired up with another actor?’” the actress said.

“Why is that even the structure here? Why can’t I be a solo female, striving on my own, and achieving success on my own standards?” she added.

Learn how to deal with people on Social Media

With today’s technology, people can easily say what they want on social media. On getting into social media fights, director Sam Lee shared her rule—if you can’t say it to someone’s face, then do post it on Twitter or Instagram.

J Patty Tiu agreed, saying, “There are times that it’s below the belt already and you need to speak up. But if you think it’ll only make it worse, then don’t say anything,” she said.

“Social media is such a double-edged sword. It can be a platform to make girls insecure. Or you can harness its power to support a cause,” Magsanoc, who used social media to make a stand against Marcos burial said.

And if you’re receiving social media hate, De Vera has a piece of advice: “You need to stand firm in what you believe in. You just do what you have to do.” JE

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Ballet	7 to 10	4:00-4:30pm	Ballet/Jazz	3 to 5	11-11:30am
Jazz/Contemporary	7 to 10	4:30-5:00pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	3 to 5	11:30-12:00pm
Ballet	10 to 13	5:00-5:30pm	Ballet	5 to 7	4:00-4:30pm
Hip-Hop/Breaking	10 to 13	5:30-6:00pm	Jazz	5 to 7	4:30-5:00pm
Contemporary/Jazz	13 to 18	6:00-6:30pm	Ballet/Jazz	3 to 5	5:00-5:30pm
Hip-Hop/Breaking	13 to 18	6:30-7:00pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	3 to 5	5:30-6:00pm
Contemporary	18+	7:00-7:30pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	7 to 10	6:00-6:30pm
Hip-Hop/Breaking	18+	7:30-8:00pm	Ballet	10 to 13	6:30-7:00pm
Wednesday, March 1	age levels	time	Contemporary/Jazz	10 to 13	7:00-7:30pm
Kid and Play	6mnt to 3 & 18+	10:00-10:30am	Thursday, March 2	age levels	time
Hip-Hop/Breaking	3 to 5	4:00-4:30pm	Ballet	5 to 7	4:00-4:30pm
Ballet/Jazz	3 to 5	4:30-5:00pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	5 to 7	4:30-5:00pm
Jazz/Contemporary	10 to 13	5:00-5:30pm	Ballet/Contemporary	7 to 10	5:00-5:30pm
Hip-Hop/Breaking	10 to 13	5:30-6:00pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	7 to 10	5:30-6:00pm
Jazz	5 to 7	6:00-6:30pm	Ballet	13 to 18	6:00-6:30pm
Hip-Hop/Breaking	5 to 7	6:30-7:00pm	Jazz/Contemporary	13 to 18	6:30-7:00pm
Contemporary/Jazz	13 to 18	7:00-7:30pm	Contemporary	18+	7:00-7:30pm
Ballroom	10+	7:30-8:00pm	Hip-Hop	18+	7:30-8:00pm
Friday, March 3	age levels	time	Saturday, March 4	age levels	time
Hmong	5 to 10	5:00-5:30pm	Ribbon Cutting	all ages	10:30-11:00am
Hula	5 to 10	5:30-6:00pm	Register/Capezio	all ages	11:00-1:00pm
Hula	10 to 18	6:00-6:30pm	Ballet/Jazz	3 to 10	11:00-11:30pm
Hmong	10 to 18	6:30-7:00pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	3 to 10	11:30-12:00pm
Master Class	all ages	7:00-8:00pm	Ballet/Jazz/Contempor	10 to 17	12:00-12:30pm
Freestyle Games/Snacks	all ages	8:00-9:00pm	Hip-Hop/Breaking	10 to 17	12:30-1:00pm

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A mom's exchange: The woman behind Sarah Geronimo

Or what a mother wouldn't do for her children

MANILA, Philippines – What's the biggest sacrifice your mother made for you?

Coming up with just one answer is difficult, right?

Your mother brought you into this world. She taught you everything you need to know. You don't know how she does it, but somehow she always manages to make ends meet.

Mothers make sacrifices every day. They give up time for themselves for their children's sake – to prepare them meals, to earn money, to pick them up from school. They do it all for love. And we don't often pay attention.

March is Women's Month. It's the perfect time to recognize the not-so-little sacrifices our mothers made and continue to make for us.

A timely video produced by Cebuana Lhuillier puts the story of one mother's hard work and dedication in the spotlight. It features Alden Richards and Sarah Geronimo in a never-before-seen collaboration, along with a special, everyday hero.

A mother's jewels

Even before Sarah became the acclaimed pop celebrity that she is today, she has always been a star in the eyes of her Mommy Divine.

The road to Sarah's success was a tough one. "Galing kami sa simpleng buhay. Kahit yung bigas wala kaming pambili," Divine says. (We came from a simple life. We had no money to buy even rice.)

When her family experienced hard times,



Divine did everything she could to earn extra income. She learned to cut hair, and sold barbecue when she wasn't manning her small store. Through her perseverance, all her kids were able to eat meals daily and attend school.

When resources ran dry, Divine had to give up even the things closest to her heart — she pawned her favorite jewelry.

These were her most precious valuables. But for Divine, her children were more valuable.

For her children, she gave up what was most dear to her, without question or second thought. And thanks to her sacrifice, all her children — Sarah included — are now thriving and happy today.

She says: "Lahat gagawin mo, huwag lang ang masama, hangga't kaya mo para sa mga anak mo. Lahat naman ng magulang ganun, diba?" (You will do everything, except evil acts, as long as you can for your children. All parents are like that, right?)

Don't forget to let your own mother know that you're grateful for her sacrifices. — Rappler.com

Bend without breaking

By NR Ramos

Rubbing shoulders with the likes of Lea Salonga and Sharon Cuneta, rock singer Bamboo is, no doubt, as mainstream as it gets. There's nothing wrong with that, of course. Being a family man, he needs to earn good money.

So far, Bamboo has released two albums and these are "No Water, No Moon" (2011) and "Bless This Mess" (2015). But for all the clout that comes with being seen on TV almost on a daily basis, Bamboo is yet to score one hit that would establish him a solo star. Sure, he has had a couple of minor ones in "Questions" and "Firepower," but these pale in comparison to the landmark tunes he made with his former bands Rivermaya and Bamboo. And he knows it, too.

"That's the goal, actually," he said in a recent interview. "That has been my main thing, to write something that would speak to the masses."

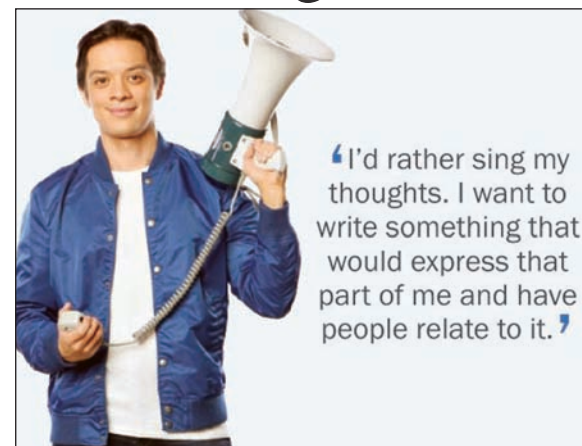
Bamboo is not losing sleep over it, however, saying, "it will come if it will come."

For now, the singer is busy with "The Voice Teens" where he sits as judge alongside Lea, Sharon and Sarah Geronimo.

The format excites Bamboo. "Teens are different from the kids we handled in the past. Ito, they have more angst so it makes things more interesting. Mas makulay," he noted.

He promises to be more patient in picking people for his team this time around.

"Yeah kasi mas alam ko na ang hihanap ko eh," he said. "I don't want to dwell on the contestants' backstories. Ang question for me now is 'How



'I'd rather sing my thoughts. I want to write something that would express that part of me and have people relate to it.'

Bamboo continues his quest for musical greatness even if it means giving in to mainstream proclivities at times

could I bring them into the finals?"

How does he feel when contestants do songs he has popularized?

"Well, honestly, sometimes I'd rather they do not kasi parang may aspect na nao-obliga ako to give my nod na hindi dapat. But it's nice, I appreciate it."

Bamboo admitted seeing some of his wards not make it through the finals still gets to him.

"Masakit but, of course, alam ko na masakit for them and I feel that so ang hi-rap, It sucks so bad," he said.

It is such, he said, "I've opened myself up to them. Sabi ko, 'Whenever you need me just give me a call.' Like for a show or sa recording, whatever. I want them to know that I really do care."

Telling him how we miss hearing him sing songs like "Tatsulok," he said, "That song still speaks to me."

He added, "I see what's happening in the country, the world and you know, I have my own opinion about it but yeah, I'd rather not talk about it at least on camera."

But why?

"It's not my thing," he said. "I'd rather sing my thoughts, you know. That's why, like I said, I want to write something that would express that part of me and have people relate to it and I'm still on it. That's what I've been working on."

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