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PHILIPPINE Fiesta

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Rize All Arts Center Anniversary Recital - Page 10

No destabilization plot, say bishops

BY TINA G. SANTOS

Catholic bishops on Thursday gave assurance that they were not trying to destabilize the government by protesting President Duterte's diatribes against God and the Church.



CONSULTATION MEET Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista and other members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) meet with Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Albayalde and other PNP officials to discuss issues on human rights, the government's war on drugs and the recent killings of priests at the CBCP office in Intramuros, Manila.

The bishops were pushing back against a statement by Pastor Saycon, a member of the government's dialogue panel with religious groups, that he was not discounting the possibility that the Catholic Church could be used to destabilize the Duterte administration. Saycon, a member of the

Edsa People Power Commission and one of the leaders of the Council of Philippine Affairs whom former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo called

a "termite" for organizing protests against her administration, said there were "radical" members of the Catholic clergy

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Duterte on Samar misencounter: The ultimate blame, fault is on me

BY NESTOR CPORRALES

President Rodrigo Duterte took full responsibility on the bloody misencounter between the police and military, which led to the death of six policemen in Samar. "I would like to tell you that the ultimate blame, fault is on me," Duterte said in a speech on Friday during the Sangyaw Festival of Lights in Tacloban, Leyte.

Known for delivering lengthy speeches that last for hours, Duterte's speech on Friday night could be one of his shortest messages.



President Rodrigo Duterte visits the wake of the policemen killed during a misencounter with the military in a hinterland village in Samar.

Duterte was in Palo, Leyte City to attend the wake of prior to his visit in Tacloban

Continued on page 3

Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento



The Filipino-American Veterans Association carrying the colors and Armed Forces service flags.

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Every year in Sacramento, the Philippine Independence Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of June and proclaimed as, "Filipino Fiesta." The celebration has always been held at the Jose P. Rizal Community Center at 7320 Florin Mall Drive in South Sacramento.

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The Sinag-tala Ensemble Photos by Dave San Pedro

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The war against ‘tambays’

BY RANDY DAVID

After President Duterte spoke of his wish to see city streets rid of bystanders who like to spend the night at street corners and public places singing, drinking, gambling or just shooting the breeze, the Philippine National Police started rounding up everyone they thought had no business being where they were. In so doing, the police effectively resurrected the anti-vagrancy law, which was erased from the Revised Penal Code by an act of Congress in March 2012.

The PNP defends its actions by saying that each one of the more than 5,000 people they had “invited” or arrested, and put in jail, was picked up from the streets for violating a local ordinance. It could be for drinking in public, gambling, causing alarm and scandal, urinating in a public place, being half-naked in public, or possessing a bladed weapon, etc. Not for vagrancy.

I am certain that, at least on paper, the arresting officers would make sure that the detention of the “tambays” they have rounded up in compliance with the President’s verbal order would be legally defensible. In any event, they don’t expect their actions to be challenged in court by any of the detainees.

So, first, they arrest the “tambays” without a warrant. Then, they choose randomly from the thousand and one offenses in the book some petty crime or misdemeanor with which to charge them. If the detained “tambays” are meek and submissive, and show no hint of anger or defiance, they will be sent home in a few days. They will be detained just long enough to teach them, and people like them, a lesson in “urbanidad” they won’t forget.

I don’t think there is enough prison space remaining in our city jails to hold this new category of offenders even just for a

week. The police know that. Our city jails are already bursting with inmates who have been arrested for drug offenses and other crimes. Unable to post bail, they live in squalor inside congested cages, subject to the whims of police officers and the viciousness of prison gangs, and perennially exposed to the peril of infectious diseases. Having no means to affect the pace in which the cases against them are processed, they wait indefinitely. Many would prefer outright conviction if it was the only way to get out of the brutish existence inside the country’s city jails. They know that the conditions in the state penitentiaries are a lot better.

What might be the objective behind this ill-conceived shock-and-awe operation against “tambays”? My guess is that the intent is purely to terrorize and deter. The spectacle of “tambays” spending time in the city jail,



est hovels imaginable often have to share the scanty space they inhabit with other homeless families that must wait for their turn to sleep.

The streets are to the poor what salas or verandas or gardens are to the rich. The dimly-lit carinderia around the street is their Starbucks. Its service area spills out into the road al fresco not by choice but by necessity. The principle tacitly at work here is the same one that makes people in the countryside use well-paved roads as drying spaces for palay. It seems abusive at first glance, until, upon closer look, one discovers the unstated rules governing the use of these streets as shared communal spaces.

It shocks me that the police, many of whose members originated from these same neighborhoods, would treat the city streets where poor people live as though they were territory to be wrested back from the enemy.

They and President Duterte, whose daily fulminations they thoughtlessly translate into policy, could learn a thing or two from the folk wisdom of those who have lived among the poor. Here’s a searing depiction of the war on “tambays,” crafted in verse by a young poet who goes by the initials BSJ, that

has recently gone viral on social media:

*“Maliit ang bahay ko, walang kusina walang banyo/
Sa sala na amin ring kwarto,
nag-aaral ang aking bunso./
Wala rin kaming pridiyder,
para magtago ng yelo./
Mainit sa loob ng kwarto,
sarap ng cold water sa baso./
Masikip na iskinita, siksikan
ang mga tao./
Tanging ginhawa ko, ang
tindahan sa kanto./
Dito lang may tinda, malamig
na coke litro. Pwede ilista,
kasi walang resibo./
Ewan ko ba ngayon, bakit
galit ang idol kong pangulo./
Sa mga dukhang tulad ko,
nagpapahinga lamang galit
sa trabaho./
Dito lang sa kanto, sa tindahan
tabi ng poso./
Dadamputin kaming tambay,
bakit meron bang Martial Law?”*

at the mercy of hardened criminals who rule these crowded cells in collusion with corrupt policemen, was meant to deter people from using the streets at night as places of conviviality.

This is tantamount to enforcing a nationwide curfew, without having to formally declare martial law. It violates the Bill of Rights. Without giving any thought to its consequences and ramifications, the police might have assumed that, despite its dubious legality, most peace-loving citizens would welcome seeing the streets cleared of loiterers and potential troublemakers.

If there is anything truly anti-poor, it is this. It shows no understanding, and absolutely no empathy, for the millions of impoverished Filipinos who need to stay outdoors most of the time if only to be able to breathe. I know that many poor families who live in the small-

An appeal for peace, unity despite differences

Pope Francis was in Geneva, Switzerland, last week – not for any program or activity of the Roman Catholic Church which he heads, but to join the World Council of Churches (WCC) which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. The WCC is a fellowship of 350 Christian churches throughout the world. The Roman Catholic Church is not a member, but sends accredited observers to its meetings and they cooperate in some areas.

In the long history of Christianity, many wars have been fought between nations following one or another of the many Christian faiths. The Thirty Years War of 1618-1648 began as a war between various Protestant and Catholic states in central Europe that developed into a general conflict that fragmented the Holy Roman Empire. As late as the 1990s, British unionists who were mostly Protestants battled Irish nationalists who were mostly Catholics in Northern Ireland.

The World Council of Churches was founded in 1948 and its members today include 349 global, regional, national, and



local Christian churches, among them Eastern Orthodox, Old Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran, Mennonite, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal, etc. The members of its many churches and denominations number about 590 million people in about 150 countries.

It was to the anniversary celebration of the WCC in Geneva that Pope Francis, leader of the world’s 1.299 billion Roman Catholics, journeyed last week in what he called an “ecumenical pilgrimage.” His meeting with WCC leaders, he said, was “not mere courtesy.” He said he wanted to discuss with them the need for “unity for peace” among the churches, as the world is facing a “crisis of hope, a crisis of human rights, a crisis of mediation, a crisis of peace.”

In Geneva, he met with church leaders from both North and South Korea who, in an ecumenical forum, appealed “to all countries to

refrain from confrontation and militarization in the region.” In his speech before his non-Catholic Christian hosts, the Pope said, “I have desired to come here, a pilgrim in quest of unity and peace. I thank God because here I have found you, brothers and sisters, already making this same journey.”

The meeting in Geneva of the leaders of so many Christian churches stands out at a time when there is so much conflict – trade wars and actual wars, refugees dying in sinking ships, children getting separated from their families, political and church leaders assailing one another. The Pope acknowledged the diversity that exists today among Christians but their differences, he said, should not be made excuses for inaction. It was an appeal that should likewise be heeded by national political leaders in many nations around the world.



Editor’s Note

This month of June has been a great month for me. It’s my birthday month and just before we ended the month, I had the chance to celebrate this momentous occasion with a group of family and friends who are the most dearest to me.

Blessings are countless and I can’t thank God enough and all the people who have been instrumental for me to be at this stage in my life.

It has been for the most part in sync with what’s expected of us with regards to achieving the different stages and milestones in life. The first 18 years may have been rough for me, having lived in the Philippines with scarce resources at the time. But even after then, in my arrival in Virginia at a young age of 18, the culture shock had almost directed me in to seclusion with having to overcome peer pressure and my inability to relate with people well. I have to say that having an education and getting a career in healthcare have been one of the best routes I’ve chosen in life. It has allowed me to breeze through successfully raise my own family, own a nursing career for over 30 years, and fulfill a wonderful mission that we do for our community with this publication for 17 years now.

I’m at this stage in life of realizing that blessings are abundant, surrounded with beautiful family and friends. I proudly say that I’m 60, and that I’m thankful. I look forward to be blessed with good health to enjoy hopefully, the next phase in life!

Cheers,
Dinnah San Pedro

'Duterte's erratic, crass leadership putting off investors'

BY LAWRENCE AGCAOLI

The erratic and crass leadership style of President Duterte is putting off investors as poor leadership and political uncertainty could derail the country's economic growth momentum, according to Capital Economics, a London-based independent macroeconomic research, analysis and forecasts firm.

"The much bigger concern for the economy over the long term... is a string of inflammatory comments and policy changes by Duterte that have raised concerns in the minds of investors over the President's judgment and commitment to the rule of law," Gareth Leather, senior economist at Capital Economics, said in its latest emerging Asia economics focus titled "Philippines: A two-year progress report on President Duterte."

Leather added that the country's own history shows how poor leadership and political uncertainty can hold back an economy.

"The biggest risk for the Philippines is that history now repeats itself. There are already signs that things are taking a turn for the worse. Since Duterte came to power, the stock market has underperformed, inflows into the country's equity market have dropped, while pledges of foreign direct investment have fallen," he said.

The Philippines booked 77 quarters of uninterrupted growth as the country's gross domestic product (GDP) expansion picked up to 6.8 percent in the first quarter of the year from the revised 6.5 percent in the fourth quarter of last year.



President Rodrigo Duterte

Economic managers, through the Cabinet-level Development Budget Co-ordination Committee (DBCC), penciled a GDP growth of seven to eight percent this year from 6.7 percent last year.

"Two years after coming to power, President Duterte of the Philippines has not been the disaster for the economy that some feared. Growth has remained strong, while economic policy has been left in the hands of technocrats, who have pushed through a number of sensible reforms," he said.

The economists, however, pointed out Duterte's abrasive rhetoric and dictatorial tendencies are starting to undermine the country's long-term prospects.

The Duterte administration has committed to ramp up infrastructure spending to seven percent of the country's GDP by 2022 from the projected 5.3 percent of this year's GDP through the "Build Build Build" program, where it earmarked P8.4 trillion for the massive infrastructure buildup.

The administration is also pursuing a comprehensive tax reform program through Republic Act 10963 or the

Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law to raise much-needed revenues.

Leather, however, said the infrastructure drive and the tax reform are creating some problems for the economy in the short term as inflation kicked up to a fresh five-year high of 4.6 percent in May from 4.5 percent in April. This also led to higher imports translating to wider trade and current account deficits, prompting the peso to hit a fresh 12-year low after breaching the P53 to \$1 level.

"While higher inflation and the shift in the current account to the red will weigh on the country's prospects, the much bigger concern for the economy over the long term is the string of inflammatory comments and policy changes which have raised concerns in the minds of investors over Duterte's judgment and commitment to the rule of law," Leather said.

Capital Economics cited the ongoing war on drugs that has claimed an estimated 20,000 lives, the shift in the country's foreign policy by opening an alliance with China and threats to declare martial law.

US Navy ship rescues 2 Pinoy fishermen

BY JONAS REYES

According to a statement by the United States Navy, the USS Mustin was conducting a routine patrol in the area when Filipino-American watch officers saw a fishing vessel with Filipino fishermen on board who were frantically waving.



Subic Bay Freeport - Two Filipino fishermen were rescued by crewmen of the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS Mustin (DDG-89) during its routine patrol Tuesday in the South China Sea.

The US Navy found out that the fishermen's boat encountered engine trouble and have ran out of food though they had enough drinking water.

The US Navy servicemen extended assistance to the distressed fishermen, and contacted nearby fishing vessels to relay the fishermen's situation.

The servicemen deployed their Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) and towed the fishermen's vessels to another Filipino fishing boat.

"The Mustin nation feels very fortunate to have been at the right place at the right time in order to provide assistance to fel-

low mariners while underway conducting routine operations in the South China Sea. I couldn't be prouder of my sailors' ability to safely and professionally assist our fellow mariners at sea," said Cmdr. Warren Smith.

"That pride extends from my bridge watch officers who spotted the Filipino mariners in the distance indicating distress by waving their shirts over their heads, to our Tagalog speakers who could break through the language barrier to determine the extent of the distress, and finally to my small boat team for their ability to tow the fishing boat to safety during heavy rain, lightning, and thunderstorms."

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Nicasio Bone, one of watch officer Mustin, said that they were lucky to be on duty when they spotted the small fishing vessel.

"It was fortunate that we saw the banca when we did. Based on the conversation that they had with us, the fishermen had no radio, no way of contacting the coast guard, and were relying on the luck of finding other people out at sea for help," said Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Arleen Castro.

The USS Mustin provided the Filipino fishermen with three days of food before connecting the vessel with their fellow Filipino fishermen's vessel before continuing their routine patrol.

Duterte on Samar misencounter

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the slain policemen at the Camp Ruperto Kangleon. He also visited the wounded government troops at the Easter Visayas Regional Medical Center.

The President blamed the Murphy's Law in what he described as a who described the misencounter as "a very unfortunate event."

"I told them, forget about

it. It was not intentional and you know the Murphy's Law operates the way it is. If things can go wrong, it will go wrong," he said.

He told the police and the military to forget the hurts and assured them that an investigation was ongoing.

"And so I said to the police and the army, I am your commander and so I just said that it's all my fault, but since you're all my soldiers,

let us forget the hurts, allow the investigation to go on, and let us see what develops in the future," he said.

On the morning of June 25, six policemen and nine others were injured after a misencounter between members of the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines in a hinterland village in Samar.



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'Your God is stupid. Mine has a lot of common sense,' Duterte says

BY AUDREY MORALLO

MANILA, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday stuck to his guns on his comment that God is "stupid" but clarified that he was insulting the God of his critics.

The president was widely criticized for questioning the Genesis creation story and saying that God was "stupid" for allowing temptation to corrupt his creation.

This was Duterte's latest attack on the Catholic Church,

whose priests he has criticized for corruption and hypocrisy. He also questioned the teachings of the Catholic church, which has been critical of his administration's human rights violations.

In an attempt to clarify his remarks, the chief executive said that he was not talking about his God and was instead insulting the God of his critics.

According to Pew Research Center data, there were an estimated 86.79 million Christians in the Philippines in 2010. Of that number, 75.94 million were Catholic, around 10 million were Protestant, and around 820,000 were classified as "other Christian." Christians believe there is only one God.

"Wala akong sinabing torpe ang Ginoo ko (I did not say that my God was sheepish)," the president said, without clarifying whom he meant.

"What I said was your God is not my God because your God is stupid. Mine has a lot of common sense," Duterte added.

During his speech at the



President Rodrigo Duterte prays during the mass at the wedding of Waldo and Regine Carpio at San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila on September 16, 2017.

oath-taking of newly-elected village chairpersons, Duterte again questioned the logic behind the Genesis creation narrative.

At one point, he even called the creation of the first woman, Eve, as "the greatest mistake of God."

Duterte again questioned why God had to tempt mankind and destroy his creation by falsely claiming that God had sent the serpent to tempt Eve.

He also labeled the Catholic belief in the concept of original sin as an "idiotic proposition."

Duterte also challenged his critics to prove that their God was perfect and offered to kneel down and ask for forgiveness if they were able to do so.

The Catholic Church does not teach a literal interpretation of the creation story and stresses that the story employed "figurative language [but] affirms a primeval event, a deed that took place at the beginning of the history of man."

Palace counters with Church

scandals Malacañang, in an effort to defend the president, brought up the issue on the child abuse scandal that rocked the Catholic Church.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque said that the president's comments stemmed from his bad experience with priests when he was younger. Duterte claimed that he was abused by an American priest when he was still studying at Ateneo de Davao.

Roque, a lawyer, also sidestepped the issue on the president's remarks and instead urged the Catholic Church to apologize for the abuses of some of its priests.

Several senators and religious groups have panned the president for his remarks, with one lawmaker labeling his statement as the "height of arrogance of power."

The president meanwhile accused his critics of taking advantage of the issue and riding on the wave of criticism over his comments.

No destabilization plot, say bishops

From page 1

who might be used by some organizations to undermine the government.

Not true

"There is no truth to that, definitely not true," said Imus Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista, chair of the public affairs committee of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

Evangelista said there was no reason for the Catholic Church to initiate destabilization moves against Mr. Duterte, who sparked public outrage by calling God "stupid" in a speech to supporters in his hometown Davao City last Friday.

"We do not want to escalate the situation. We are all for peace, we are peace-loving people," he said.

On Thursday, Malacañang distanced itself from the statements of Saycon.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Roque told reporters that the Palace did not share Saycon's view.

Roque said he would talk to Saycon about "standard operating procedures [in] the Office of the Spokesperson."

"I'll have to tell him to be more careful about what he says to the public and to the media, and that there are vetting processes before we're able to say anything to the media," he said.

It wasn't clear what provoked Mr. Duterte's ire last Friday. All of a sudden, he questioned the biblical story of the creation, blasting God for making Adam and Eve perfect only to allow them to fall into sin.

"Who is this stupid God? You created something perfect and then you think of an event that would destroy the quality of your work. How can you rationalize that God. How can you believe him. So now we're all born with an original sin,"

Mr. Duterte said.

His remarks drew condemnation from Catholics, including some of his supporters, and members of the clergy.

Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes called President Duterte a "madman" and urged the faithful to pray for an end to his "blasphemous utterances and dictatorial tendencies."

Sen. Panfilo Lacson, a former chief of the Philippine National Police, said he had not often backed President Duterte's policies, but after the President's attack on God, "to whom I pray every single day and with whom I've found solace and comfort in all my difficult times, I don't even have to think of my choice."

"May God forgive him and make him atone for all his sins," Lacson said.

Confusion

But President Duterte, who cursed Pope Francis during the campaign for Malacañang in 2016, went on haranguing audiences with his confusing denial of the Christian God, embrace of a god that he did not explain, and insistence on not believing at all.

"Your God is not my god because your God is stupid. Mine has a lot of common sense," he said in a speech at Cagayan de Oro City on Monday.

"If I choose not to believe in any god, what's the fucking thing about it? It's a freedom to choose one," he said.

But not really unmindful of the furor he had inspired, Mr. Du-

terte formed a body to talk with the Catholic hierarchy and the leaders of other religious groups to prevent the fence from completely collapsing.

At first there were Roque, Saycon and Foreign Undersecretary Ernesto Abella—a former pastor—on the dialogue panel.

On Thursday, the President appointed Cabinet Secretary Leoncio Evasco, a former Catholic priest, to the group.

No apology

But, speaking at a vice mayors' meeting in Panglao, Bohol province, Mr. Duterte said he would never apologize, "not in a million years."

"I'm shaking the tree," he said, but added that he would keep quiet for now and "see how the nation reacts."

In Manila, Roque said Evasco's experience as a priest would be beneficial to the government panel in the dialogue with the country's religious leaders.

The panel spoke to leaders of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches on Wednesday.

A dialogue with the CBCP is expected next week

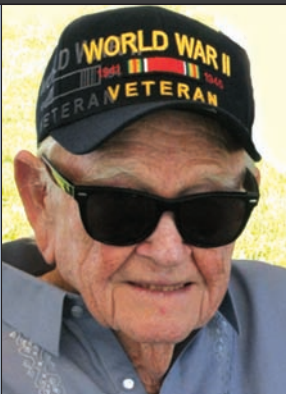
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Taiwan president urges world to stand up to China – AFP interview

Agence France-Presse

TAIPEI, Taiwan – Taiwan’s President Tsai Ing-wen called on the international community to “constrain” China by standing up for freedoms, casting her island’s giant neighbor as a global threat to democracy.

Her comments in an exclusive interview with AFP on Monday, June 25, come as Taiwan faces what Tsai called “immense pressure” from Beijing.

She urged other nations to unite with Taiwan in defending against China’s expansionist aims and to protect shared liberal values.

“This is not just Taiwan’s challenge, it is a challenge for the region and the world as a whole, because today it’s Taiwan, but tomorrow it may be any other country that will have to face the expansion of China’s influence,” Tsai told AFP.

“Their democracy, freedom, and freedom to do business will one day be affected by China,” Tsai added.

“We need to work together to reaffirm our values of democracy and freedom in order to constrain China and also minimize the expansion of their hegemonic influence.”

Her comments come after a sustained period of aggression from China towards Taiwan, which Beijing believes is part of mainland territory, to be reunified by force if necessary.

Self-ruling Taiwan is a democracy and sees itself as a sovereign country, although it has never formally declared independence from the mainland.

An increasingly hardline President Xi Jinping has made it clear that what he sees as threats to China’s territorial integrity will not be tolerated.

China is deeply suspicious of Tsai as her Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) is traditionally pro-independence.

Since she took office in 2016, Beijing has ramped up military drills near the island and has successfully pressured some major international companies to list Taiwan as part of China on their websites.

It has also exerted diplo-



Taiwan’s President Tsai Ing-wen urges other nations to unite in defending against China’s expansionist aims and to protect shared liberal values

matic pressure by ensuring Taiwan is excluded from major international forums and wooing away some of its few remaining official allies.

Tsai said China should “be aware of their own responsibility” in the region and “engage in conversation with Taiwan”.

Countries both around the region and further afield have expressed concern over China building military facilities on remote islands in the South China Sea.

Beijing has also been seeking to extend its power with its globe-spanning Belt and Road infrastructure project, which aims to connect the world’s second-largest economy with Africa, Asia and Europe through a vast network of ports, railways, roads and industrial parks.

Meeting with Xi

But despite escalating tensions, Tsai said she would still “be willing” to meet with China’s President Xi Jinping.

“Of course, I hope that during my term as president, there is a chance for both sides to sit down and talk,” Tsai said.

She added she would meet Xi on an equal footing and with no political pre-conditions, a position she has long taken.

However Beijing insists Tsai must agree that Taiwan is part of “one China” in order for any meeting to take place, which she has refused to do.

M Tsai said the recent summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had “provided a lot to think about”.

“Their two countries are very far apart in terms of cultural values and other aspects, as well as the posi-

tions they hold,” said Tsai.

“But they were able to sit down and talk on the basis of reciprocity and mutual respect in Singapore. I think this was a positive development for the international community.

“It is also an encouragement for countries that are at odds with one another.”

With its number of official allies dwindling to 18 as Beijing lures them away, Taiwan is now trying to forge new friendships.

Its most powerful ally is the United States, which is its major arms supplier even though it does not have formal diplomatic relations with the island.

Tsai said Taiwan had seen growing support from the United States, where Congress recently passed bills paving the way for higher level official visits, and recommending greater US-Taiwan military exchanges. The US State Department also approved a preliminary license for sensitive submarine technology, riling Beijing.

The warming relationship comes as Taiwan tries to boost its homegrown defense force.

“In the face of China’s threats we feel the need for us to improve self-defense capabilities,” she told AFP.

Tsai said Taiwan is looking to bolster ties with “like-minded” countries.

But against Beijing’s growing global influence, the island’s desire to promote its status internationally as a beacon of democracy in Asia remains an uphill struggle.

“Of course there are times when we feel frustrated, but the Taiwanese people do not have the option of giving up,” she said. –

Palace: Duterte won’t change South China Sea policy

BY ALEXIS ROMERO

Manila, Philippines — There’s no way President Duterte will change his policy on the West Philippine Sea or apologize for it, his spokesman said yesterday, at the same time blaming the previous Aquino administration for triggering the militarization of Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal.

“When we had a confrontation with the Chinese, they drove us away from Panatag. Let’s not forget it was president Aquino who militarized it. He sent the Navy so the Chinese never left,” Roque said in Filipino at a press briefing in Cagayan de Oro City.

He was referring to a standoff at Panatag Shoal in 2012 that ended up with China taking control of the shoal and preventing Filipinos from fishing in the area.

Navy ship BRP Gregorio del Pilar was trying to accost Chinese poachers when it was stopped from doing so by Chinese surveillance vessels.

Roque was commenting on acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio’s chiding the President for insisting that asserting the Philippines’ sovereignty over the West Philippine Sea would only divide the nation.

Duterte is being criticized for not challenging China’s aggressive moves in the West Philippine Sea. In his speeches, Duterte had repeatedly voiced his aversion to antagonizing a powerful China. He said confronting China militarily would surely result in a massacre of Filipino soldiers.

Carpio insisted Filipinos asserting the country’s territorial rights have never called for a war with China.

Carpio, in a speech before graduating students of the University of the Philippines National College of Public Administration and Governance last Friday, also cited the need to “resist any and all attempts to weaken the nation” in defending its national territory and



“When we had a confrontation with the Chinese, they drove us away from Panatag. Let’s not forget it was president Aquino who militarized it. He sent the Navy so the Chinese never left,” Roque said in Filipino at a press briefing in Cagayan de Oro City.

maritime zones.

“The President would not apologize for that (policy). If we use violence just like what president Aquino did, which led to the occupation by the Chinese of the Panatag... a military conflict would ensue and that is what we are trying to avoid,” Roque said.

The shoal, a traditional fishing ground, is situated 124 nautical miles off Zamboales and is within the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone.

China claims about 90 percent of the South China Sea while the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have overlapping claims.

China’s claim was voided by an international arbitral tribunal in 2016 but the Chinese government has refused to recognize the ruling. The tribunal’s decision stemmed from a complaint filed by the Aquino administration contesting China’s “excessive” and “exaggerated” claim.

Roque said Duterte’s policy has led to bilateral cooperation with China, which is now providing military and development aid to the Philippines.

Roque also insisted that international law does not bar Chinese aircraft from landing in the Philippines.

“All aircraft, provided that they asked for a permit, are

allowed to refuel. I do not know of any prohibitions in the International Law that bars Chinese planes from using airports if they are allowed by the host country,” the spokesman said in Filipino.

Last Saturday, a Chinese plane again landed in Davao City to refuel but officials claimed all local protocols were observed. The landing happened two weeks after a Chinese military aircraft landed in the city.

Tell the people

President Duterte should tell the public if his administration has special arrangements with China regarding the refueling of its aircraft, a party-list lawmaker said.

“Why do Chinese military aircraft refuel in President Duterte’s hometown in Davao City amid the West Philippine Sea dispute and lack of any military agreement with China?” asked Anakpawis party-list Rep. Ariel Casilao in a statement yesterday.

Casilao said “Davao City is becoming a logistical hub for China.”

He urged the people to “actively protest the transforming of the country as Chinese military base in the region” and press Duterte “to disclose his arrangements and concessions with the foreign superpower.”



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Midtown Lions Club



On June 14, 2018, the 4-C5 District Governor Don Ring installed the new officers of the Midtown Lions Club.

The new officers for 2018-2019:
 President - Lion Vicky Johnson
 1st Vice President - Lion Maria Bahoric
 Secretary - Lion Ann Alvarez,
 Treasurer - Lion Nardo Pena,
 Membership - Lion Jocelyn Banag
 Director - Lion Lucy Villarica,
 Tail Twister - Lion Joe Villarica,
 Lion Tamer - Norm Johnson,
 LCIF Coordinator-Lion Ann Alvarez

Congratulations and continue to contribute something new for the betterment of the club.



PDG Don Ring installed the new officers for 2018-2019.



Music provided by Lion Sonny Kellogg, Lion Rollie Mamaug and Lion Joe Villarica.



Presentation of Certificates



Maharlika Lions Club Installation of Officers / Dinner and Awards Night

Lion Joe Stayner installed as the new President of the Maharlika Lions Club on June 16, 2018 held at the Frasinetti Winery and Restaurant in Sacramento, CA.

The Maharlika Lions Club officers for 2018-2019:
 President - Lion Joe Stayner
 1st Vice President - Lion Mark Bamba
 2nd Vice President - Lion Myrna Agbunag
 Secretary - Lion Vicky Debord
 Treasurer - Lion Lyn Ventura
 Membership - Lion Vannie Powers
 Tail Twister - Lion Pete Lumbang
 Lion Tamer - Lion Ben Cu
 LCIF Coordinator-Lion Bing Ventura

1 - Year Directors: Lion Dee Brown
 Lion Les Duldulao
 Lion Rey De Jesus
 Lion David Jese
 2 - Year Directors: Lion Efren Diaz
 Lion Bing Ventura
 Lion Vannie Powers



President Lion Joe Stayner



The Maharlika Seven



The Maharlika Lions Club new officers for 2018 - 2019.

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Source: gettyimages.com

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Are you with me?

BY NEAL P. CORPUS

As more and more people become aware that all people deserve to be equal, more and more people are showing support for the LGBTQ+ community. That's great! Pride Month has never been more alive than it is today. That's great. There are more and more commercials and campaigns that include queer people in the mainstream: gay people getting married, gay people buying houses, gay people having kids, gay people being accepted by their parents in tearjerking ad spots. That's great. But — and there is always a “but” — being an ally in 2018 doesn't just mean waving a rainbow flag and calling it a day. Are they still allies once June is over?



As Pride Month comes to an end, we take a minute to think about what it really means to be an ally to the LGBTQ+ community.

what their goals are — because that's when you'll know what you're doing is productive. Second: take a stand and stick with it. If you're going to dress up in rainbows and butterflies during Pride Month, don't sit on the sidelines the other 11 months of the year. Nothing is more flaky than deciding to stay silent when the real issues start to come up. For example, in 2016, Target took a stand with a transgender bathroom policy, allowing their guests and employees to enter the bathroom that corresponded with their gender identity. They stuck with this policy even as they faced boycott.

ter the bathroom that corresponded with their gender identity. They stuck with this policy even as they faced boycott.

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If you must create products and commercials, make sure to include LGBTQ+ community in its creation. It's one way to make sure we're not misrepresented, and it also gives us a platform to shine. Not that you should be giving handouts, but it's important to have a gay perspective on a gay product, duh. Lastly, donate to the local Pride organization or buy their merch. Organizing Pride marches is a lot of hard work, mostly done by volunteers. Mounting these events requires quite a sum, and raising funds is never an easy task. It's the one event each year where we celebrate who we are, and it means a lot to many people.

Being a true ally takes work. It's not just about shouting to the world that you support your queer friends — it means shouting to the world that you support your queer friends and meaning it. Just because you watch RuPaul's Drag Race or speak gay lingo or take your gay friends shopping doesn't automatically make you an ally. And just because queer people are getting more and more attention doesn't mean you can exploit them, or any other minority for that matter. Being an ally means allowing us to be heard; being an ally does not mean joining the conversation only to drown out the people around you. It doesn't have to be some big gesture every time; sometimes the smallest yet meaningful actions can make a big impact. Happy Pride.

Here's the thing: people, groups, brands, corporations and politicians who try to be inclusive are good and all, but there has to be meaningful support behind it. Because the LGBTQ+ community is still a minority, and it's going to take more work to make everyone truly equal. Are they amplifying LGBTQ+ voices, or are they drowning them out instead? Are they fighting for equal rights, or do they only show support when it's convenient and become silent when issues arise? Are they donating to projects and causes like Pride marches, or are they simply trying to capture the market?

Don't get me wrong — it's nice to see rainbows where they didn't exist before, and it's nice to be represented, but sometimes you just gotta think: are they with me or just trying to sell to me? Being part of the LGBTQ+ spectrum is not a trend to be followed nor is it some bandwagon that people need to jump on. These are identities, struggles, and lives of real people. As more and more companies and politicians “reach out” and get a slice of the gay pie, it's going to take a little more digging to see what they're really getting at.

For example, Primark recently came out (pun intended) with an LGBTQ+ collection in time for Pride, where a portion of the proceeds will go to Stonewall UK, an LGBTQ+ rights charity. Sounds great and all, but Stonewall is not at all affiliated with, and has had issues with, Pride organizations before. Pride organizations in the UK have had to scale down their marches due to lack of funds, and instead of donating to Pride, Primark decides to sell its own merch instead. Here's the kicker: Primark's clothes are made in Turkey, where the LGBTQ+ community is still largely persecuted, and in Myanmar, where being gay is outright illegal.

So what can you do to be a better ally? The first thing anyone can do to really make a difference is listen. Listen to what the LGBTQ+ community actually needs, listen to

Gunman kills 5 in attack targeting Maryland newspaper

BY BRIAN WHITE

A man armed with smoke grenades and a shotgun attacked a newspaper in Maryland's capital Thursday, killing four journalists and a staffer before police quickly stormed the building and arrested him, police and witnesses said.



Cops have now charged 30-year-old Jarrod W. Ramos, who had a grudge against the paper, with five counts of first degree murder.

The shooting came amid months of verbal and online attacks on the “fake news media” from politicians and others from President Donald Trump on down. It prompted New York City police to immediately tighten security at news organizations in the nation's media capital.

Police in Annapolis said a white man in his late 30s was in custody after the rampage at The Capital Gazette. A law enforcement official said the suspect was identified as Jarrod W. Ramos. The official wasn't authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity.

“This person was prepared today to come in, this person was prepared to shoot people,” Krampf said.

The dead included Rob Hiaasen, 59, assistant managing editor and brother of novelist Carl Hiaasen. Carl Hiaasen said he was “devastated and heartsick” at losing his brother, “one of the most gentle and funny people I've ever known.” Also slain were Gerald Fischman, editorial page editor; features reporter Wendi Winters; reporter John McNamara, and sales assistant Rebecca Smith. Police said two others had minor injuries, and the newspaper later reported both were employees later released from a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Krampf said the gunman was a Maryland resident, but didn't name him.

Phil Davis, a reporter who covers courts and crime for the paper, tweeted that the gunman shot out the glass door to the office and fired into the newsroom, sending people scrambling under desks.

“There is nothing more terrifying than hearing multiple people get shot while you're under your desk and then hear the gunman reload,” he wrote.

At the White House, spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said: “There is no room for violence, and we stick by that. Violence is never tolerated in any form, no matter whom it is against.”

Meanwhile, investigators said they would seek to learn more of the gunman's motives.

“The shooter has not been very forth-

coming, so we don't have any information yet on motive,” Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh said.

In 2012, Ramos filed a defamation lawsuit against the paper, alleging he was harmed by an article about his conviction in a criminal harassment case a year earlier. The suit was dismissed by a judge who wrote Ramos hadn't shown “anything that was published about you is, in fact, false.” An appeals court later upheld the dismissal.

In an interview appearing on The Capital Gazette's online site, Davis said it “was

like a war zone” inside the newspaper's offices.

“I'm a police reporter. I write about this stuff — not necessarily to this extent, but shootings and death — all the time,” he said. “But as much as I'm going to try to articulate how traumatizing it is to be hiding under your desk, you don't know until you're there and you feel helpless.”

Reporter Selene San Felice told CNN she ran after hearing shots but found a back door locked, then watched as a colleague was shot.

“I heard footsteps a couple of times ... I was breathing really loud and was trying not to, but I couldn't be quiet,” she added.

The reporter recalled a June 2016 mass shooting attack on Orlando's gay nightclub Pulse and how terrified people crouching inside had texted loved ones as dozens were killed. She added: “And there I was sitting under a desk, texting my parents and telling them I loved them.”

Police spokesman Lt. Ryan Frashure said officers arrived within about 60 seconds and took the gunman into custody without an exchange of gunfire. About 170 people were evacuated, many leaving with their hands up as police and other emergency vehicles arrived.

Annapolis Mayor Gavin Buckley said the community was grieving the attack on its paper.

“These are the guys that come to city council meetings, have to listen to boring politicians and sit there,” Buckley said. “They don't make a lot of money. It's just immoral that their lives should be in danger.”

The newspaper is part of Capital Gazette Communications, which also publishes the Maryland Gazette and CapitalGazette.com. It is owned by The Baltimore Sun.

The Associated Press Media Editors have promised to help Capital Gazette journalists as they recover. An APME statement called on newspapers nationwide to help the paper and its journalists so they can continue to cover their community and fight for freedom of the press.

The attacker had mutilated his fingers in an apparent attempt to make it harder to identify him, according to a law enforcement official who was not authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity. Another official speaking on condition of anonymity said he was identified with help of facial recognition technology. Of the two accounts, Krampf said: “We have no verification of either.”

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PerryScope

Zero Tolerance Policy punishes migrant children

BY PERRY DIAZ

Last April 6, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that he's implementing a "Zero Tolerance Policy" (ZTP) for immigrants illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. He then directed federal prosecutors in the region of the new policy, directing them to make prosecuting criminal immigration offenses a priority.

Sessions defended the ZTP by citing the Bible. Specifically, he referred to Romans 13:1-7, which is one of the most misunderstood – and misinterpreted – passages in the Bible. It was written by Apostle Paul around 57 AD, instructing Christians to submit to "God's servants," that is, the government. "Let everyone be subject to the governing authority, for there is no authority except that which God has established," the passage says. "The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves."

It is interesting to note that Nazi sympathizers, apartheid-enforcers, slave owners, and loyalists opposed to the American Revolution have cited Romans 13 to justify their actions. Present day Christians also referred to the passage to issues like abortion, same-sex marriages, and taxes.

Rounding up the children

Within days of the issuance of ZTP, children were forcibly separated from their parents. By May 31, 2018, 1,995 children were ripped from their parents. They were brought to detention centers. It was also disclosed that a contractor was paid \$10 million to build a tent city at an undisclosed location near El Paso, Texas in an area that's inaccessible to the public. The rest of the separated children are housed in warehouse-like detention centers. Every day, an average of 70 children are forcibly separated from their parents and sent to the detention centers. Another 12,000 minors are in the cus-

tody of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). That number is expected to increase to 20,000 by August.

Trump tried to wash his hands of the controversial ZTP by blaming the Democrats for his controversial actions. At an impromptu press conference at the White House lawn, Trump blamed the Democrats for the children's plight. He said that it was the Democrats who created the law. However,



Migrant children in detention center sleeping at night.

one reporter told him that it was his policy — the ZTP — that forcibly took the children away from their parents. Trump ignored the reporter and continued ranting and blaming the "Democrats' law." Another reporter said that Trump could stop the separation of children from their parents with just one phone call. Another reporter noted that Trump controls both houses of Congress, so he could change the law anytime he wants to.



President Donald Trump.

Sticking to his guns that it's the "Democrats' law" — which he claims he hates — that is the separating the children from their parents. However, he has not done anything to stop his cruel actions. And he continues to lie, which reminds me of Hitler's propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels who once said, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it." It is no wonder then that Trump never admitted to lying. According to the Washington Post, who maintained a list of Trump's lies, Trump has lied more than 3,000 times since he took office. That's an average of 6.5 lies a day. And yet his base never questioned those lies.

Political leverage

Last June 15, White House officials leaked information to the media, which says Trump admitted that he has calculated that

"he would gain political leverage in congressional negotiations by continuing to enforce the ZTP." Trump suggested that he would not change the ZTP unless "Democrats agreed to his offer to his other immigration demands, which include funding a border wall, tightening the rules for border enforcement and curbing legal entry." Indeed, Trump is using the children as pawns to achieve his legislative immigration agenda. It is not only unconscionable; it is obscene! Falsely claiming that the Democrats alone had the power to alter the ZTP, he said, "I hate the children being taken away." But ZTP is his policy, not the Democrats'. The Democrats had nothing to do with it. And he can reverse it anytime. And to add insult to an injury, Trump tweeted: "The Democrats are forcing the breakup of families at the Border with their horrible and cruel legislative agenda." Huh?

It's obvious that Trump all along had used the ZTP as a weapon to punish immigrants — particularly Mexicans — that he claimed during the 2016 presidential campaign: "They are not our friend, believe me. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

And now, he has children of illegal immigrants rounded up and placed in warehouses and a tent city under the hot summer sun in the middle of the desert in Tornillo, Texas. This reminds me of what Hitler and the Nazis did to Jewish children during World War II. They separated the children from their parents, sending most of the parents to the gas chambers while putting able-bodied adults and children to work in concentration camps like the one in Auschwitz and 45 other camps where the Nazis had put more than six million Jews to death.

The detention shelters — or concentration camps — for the separated children are no different from how the Nazis treated Jewish children during World War II. Like the Jewish children, the children separated from their parents would be scarred and traumatized for the rest of their lives. Is this necessary punishment for innocent people whose only crimes are that they're children of immigrants seeking asylum in America?

Trump retreats

Meanwhile, on Father's Day, First Lady Melania Trump weighed in. "Mrs. Trump hates to see children separated from their families and



Migrant child watches while her mother is being searched by border guard.

hopes both sides of the aisle can finally come together to achieve successful immigration reform," her communications director, Stephanie Grisham, told CNN on Sunday. "She believes we need to be a country that follows all laws, but also a country that governs with heart."

Former First Lady Laura Bush also weighed in, saying: "I appreciate the need to enforce and protect our international boundaries, but this zero-tolerance policy is cruel. It is immoral. And it breaks my heart." She also said: "Our government should not be in the business of warehousing children in converted box stores or making plans to place them in tent cities in the desert outside of El Paso. These images are eerily reminiscent of the Japanese American internment camps of World War II, now considered to have been one of the most shameful episodes in U.S. history."

And just as when Americans thought that the internment camps were things of America's shameful past, the Trump administration built tent cities (the Trump administration calls them "tender age" shelters) where toddlers and babies are housed. The Associated Press reported that at least three "tender age" shelters were built in southern Texas that could accommodate 4,000 toddlers and



Migrant little girl in front of a small tent.

babies. I call the tent shelters, "Trumpville." There is only one word to describe this: Madness!

Last June 20, Trump backed down amid public indignation and worldwide outrage. He conveniently issued an executive order

temporarily allowing migrant families to be held in detention centers together with their children. However, Trump did not reverse or revoke ZTP, which remains like a sword of Damocles over the heads of migrant families. But it was a fellow Republican, Florida Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who aptly described Trump's actions, calling him an "arsonist" who is now



Orphaned migrant children orphaned by separation from their parents.

playing "fireman" by putting out his own fire. Sad to say, it's too late because the fire has already consumed a whole mountain of forests.

While this would give a sigh of relief to families who haven't been ripped apart yet, there are around 2,500 children who are in detention centers and another 12,000 minors under the custody of the DHHS. Their future remains unknown. According to DHHS officials, there are no plans to reunite the children with their families, which begs the question: What will happen to the children already in detention? The problem of migrant children "orphaned" by separation remains and there seems to be no end in sight to their agony. Their status is in limbo.

At the end of the day, Trump may have gained some respite from the ordeal that he inflicted upon himself but the separated children will be an albatross round his neck, a heavy burden he'll carry for the rest of his presidency. Meanwhile, the "Zero Tolerance Policy" continues to punish migrant children. (PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

A Pact sealed with Blood: The Diazes of Paoay

BY GEORGE M. HIZON

The Katipunan, also known as the K.K.K. is probably the most famous secret society formed in the Philippines. The movement's acronym, the K.K.K. stood for *Kataastaasan Kagalanggalangan na Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan* and its ultimate aim was to establish an independent Philippine state. Although many articles were written about the Katipunan, little was written about its members, except for Andres Bonifacio. This article is dedicated to two of the Katipunan's members, Valentin Diaz and his cousin Eulalio Diaz, who even after surrender of last Filipino general to the Americans, have tried to revive the struggle for Philippine Independence in Paoay, Ilocos Norte.

Valentin Diaz Katipunan Co-Founder and Treasurer (1849-1916)

Due to the secrecy that shrouded the life of many of the Katipunan's members, little is known of the early life of Valentin Diaz. Records show that he was born on November 1, 1849 in Paoay, Ilocos Norte to Geronimo Diaz and Maria Villanueva. In 1857, his family moved to Tayug, Pangasinan. Again, nothing is known of the educational background of Diaz. But it can be presumed that he studied because in 1857, he became the *governadorcillo* of Tayug. Moreover, he and his family

must have been influential, for the Spanish authorities awarded such positions only to members of important families.

Exactly when and how he came to live in Tondo is not known. But when the reformist movement, the *La Liga Filipina* was formed by Dr. Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio at Ilaya St. in Tondo, Diaz was listed as one of its founding members. On July 6, 1892, the *La Liga* was dissolved following the arrest of its founder, Dr. Jose Rizal. The following day, former *La Liga* members decided it was time to set up a more radical movement. It was named the *Katipunan*, and its aim was to overthrow the 350-year old Spanish Government in the Philippines. In a darkly lit alley in Manila, with 72 Azcarraga St. as address, the men gathered and performed an ancient blood compact (incision on the left forearm) and signed their papers of membership with their own blood. Among the *Katipunan's* founders were Deodato Arellano, Ladislao Diwa, Andres Bonifacio, Teodoro Plata, Jose Dizon and Valentin Diaz. Valentin Diaz later served as the *Katipunan's* treasurer.

During the outbreak of hostilities between the Filipinos and the Spaniards, Diaz fought as a major in the revolutionary army of Andres Bonifacio. When a ceasefire agreement between the Filipinos and the Spaniards was promulgated on Nov. 1, 1897 (the Pact of Biak na Bato), Diaz became one of its signatories. Later, he joined General Emilio Aguinaldo in exile in Hong Kong because this was one of the conditions stipulated in the agreement. When the hostilities between the Filipinos and the Spaniards broke out again, Diaz was brought back from exile and fought with the armies of General Francisco Makabulos and then Colonel Servilliano Aquino in Central Luzon (from the book "Filipinos in History", vol. 3, by the National Historical Institute). They first laid siege on the town



of Dagupan, Pangasinan. On June 22, 1898, Colonel Ceballos, the commander of the Spanish Army in Pangasinan surrendered to the advancing Filipino forces. On July 1, Makabulos along with 700 of his men laid siege on the Spanish garrison in Tarlac. Ten days later, the garrison surrendered. Later, Bienvenido Flandes, Francisco Gomez Gonzales, Inocencio La Fuente, and Jose Maria Ovelana signed the terms of capitulation for the Spanish Government while the winning Revolutionary army was represented by Valentin Diaz and Jose Bunuelos. A total of 1,500 Spanish prisoners were captured and about 1,300 firearms were confiscated.

During the Philippine-American War (1899-1902), Diaz once again served in the Philippine Army as a colonel. He was first under the command of Artemio Ricarte and later, Antonio Luna. Both were famous Ilocano generals.

In 1916, *Katipunan* co-founder Valentin Diaz died in Manila at the age of 67. Today, Valentin Diaz is memorialized with a national heritage marker at his birthplace in Paoay, Ilocos Norte.

Eulalio Diaz

After a two-year exile in Guam, General Artemio Ricarte and Apolinario Mabini were brought back to the Philippines by the U.S. authorities in early 1903. Upon reaching the Manila dockport, Mabini pledged his allegiance to the United States of America. He was very sick and died soon after. Ricarte, on the other hand,

did not. He escaped and tried to foment another rebellion.

Emboldened by Ricarte's escape, a group of former Ilocano revolutionaries tried to incite another rebellion in Paoay, Ilocos Norte. Foremost among the leaders of this group were Eulalio Diaz, Canuto Butardo, Valentin Butardo, Sergio Sadang Sr., Sergio Sangcali, Sotero Abutan, Panfilo Paclibari and Eugenio Raganit. Eulalio Diaz was the cousin of *Katipunan* co-founder Valentin Diaz. Like Valentin, little was known of Eulalio's early life although records show he was once the *governadorcillo* of Paoay.

During the Philippine-American War, Diaz fought as a guerrilla leader in Fr. Gregorio Aglipay's army. In the book "The life and church of Gregorio Aglipay 1860-1960", the authors Pedro S. de Achutegui and Miguel Anselmo Bernad described the guerrilla's actions 'they came out in large numbers, from their hiding places, and the Americans retreated to Batac where houses were also set on fire. The Americans were reinforced from Laoag, and the Filipinos after a running battle which lasted for several hours were almost successful in driving out the new aggressors'. But Aglipay was captured in 1902. Later, Diaz and remnants of his forces went underground.

In 1903, Diaz would resurface as an instigator of another revolt. From the last days of June up to the first week of July, 1903, Diaz took his followers in the outskirts Paoay (in the remote forest

of Buga, Sulcue, Pias and Baranico) and formed a secret society called the *Kanayonan*, an equivalent of the *Katipunan* but based in the countryside of Ilocos Norte. The group's aim was to overthrow the U.S. colonial government in the Philippines. A blood compact similar to the one that took place in Manila in 1892 was conducted as the new members were sworn 'to defend the country with the last drop of their blood'.

But even before the first shots of the new rebellion was fired, a traitor turned against Diaz. On August 25, 1903, Eulalio Diaz, Valentin Butardo, Canuto Butardo, etc. were charged with conspiracy to commit rebellion and sedition. It was a much publicized trial that lasted for a year and became the 'highlight' of the new Anti-Sedition Law passed by the U.S. administration. On April 16, 1904, all of them were found guilty of the charges and were sentenced to 6 years imprisonment with hard labor, to pay a fine of \$5,000, gold and the cost of the prosecution. "The penalties of imprisonment, hard labor and gold bars were very heavy. It was probably meant to discourage future acts of rebellion and sedition during the American period" according to grandson Eulalio "Galland" Diaz III. Diaz III is a practicing lawyer.

Earlier, in March 29, 1904, General Artemio Ricarte, one of the instigators of the revolt was captured in Mariveles, Bataan. His dream for another rebellion to take place in the Ilocandia region was dashed with the incarceration of Eulalio Diaz and members of his *Kanayonan*.

On April, 1904 however, another rebel took over from where General Ricarte and Eulalio Diaz left. His name was Macario Sakay and he would raze havoc on the U.S. forces from April, 1904 to July, 1906.

To LRA (Land Registration Authority) chief Eulalio "Galland" Diaz and Vicente "Enteng" Vilarama, thank you very much for the valuable information.

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Rize All Elk Grove First Anniversary Recital Was A Huge Hit



BY ASHLEY NEWELL

Photos by Ashley Newell

Elk Grove performing arts non-profit Rize All celebrated their one year anniversary earlier this year. Rize All is an art center that teaches children life skills and community through dance and movement. To celebrate their anniversary, they had their biggest recitals to date. Costumes and routines were amped up therefore giving the audience a great show. The nearly sold out performances show just how much Elk Grove loves dance!

Progression of Performances

Just under a year ago, Rize All had their first recital. Laguna Town Hall was the setting for the show. Dancers provided their own costumes based on a theme. The show was performed on a small stage that is often used for CSD pre-school shows and graduations. Students danced to songs like "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

Fast forward to this year, hundreds of dancers took the stage in their fancy costumes at the theater at Consumnes Oaks. 36 songs were performed with a 10 minute intermission. The theater style seats were full of family and friends cheering on the dancers. In addition, professional quality lighting and sound made the show very enjoyable.

Dance Numbers

Audiences were delighted at all the new additions to the Take One show! First, all of the things you love about recitals were still there. Little ballerinas in

fluffy tutus stole the hearts of everyone. Tiny hula dancers that danced to the beat of their own drum were a huge hit as well. From light hearted hip hop numbers choreographed to cartoon theme songs to heart breaking contemporary, the audience stayed excited and engaged.

However, Rize All took it up a notch with performances that transitioned from the littlest dancers to the biggest dancer within a certain style. The Michael Jackson medley started with 5-7 year old dancers. Next, the preteens and teens came out showing more advanced hip hop dancing. Then, the instructors came out to show even more advanced moves. Finally, they brought all the kiddos back out to dance together. This opening set the tone for the show.

New Addition

Another great addition to the show were the parent and student dances. A father daughter number to Isn't She Lovely by Stevie Wonder melted the hearts of the audience. Dads in dress clothes perfectly framed their little girl dancers with lifts, dips, and twirls. In contrast was the high energy Finesse by Bruno Mars number. Moms and dads took the stage with their boys and girl dancers in this hip hop routine. Trendy dance moves and giant smiles had the audience cheering.

Conclusion

After just one year in business, Rize All has earned a spot in the hearts of many Elk Grove families. Students and parents lit up the stage with joy. Each recital is better than the one before! In conclusion, I can't wait to see what Rize All does next!



Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento 2018

BY DALE ESPERANTE

During the Spanish era in the Philippines, native Filipinos lived under the colonial rule of Spain. Some men and women led movements to free the islands from said rule. Jose Rizal was one of the leaders of the revolution who used his education and intelligence to speak for his kababayans. The Spanish rulers became alarmed by the words and actions of Rizal. They decided to execute this outspoken Filipino on December 30, 1896. The Filipino (Rizal) that we now know as the National Hero of the Philippines, and the Filipino who sparked the flame of revolution helped significantly in the eventual independence of the Philippines from Spanish rule. On June 5, 1898, revolutionary leader Emilio Aguinaldo issued a decree setting aside June 12, 1898 as the day of the proclamation of independence (Source: Wikipedia).

Every year in Sacramento, the Philippine Independence Day is celebrated on the first Sunday of June and proclaimed as, "Filipino Fiesta." The celebration has always been held at the Jose P. Rizal Community Center at 7320 Florin Mall Drive in South Sacramento. Woody Hampton Park adjacent to the community center becomes part of the fiesta with stages and tents housing organizational booths and various vendors. A row of food booths offering a variety of international food fare is a big part of the Fiesta every year, attracting people of all nationalities to enjoy a taste of the Philippines and international cuisines.

Celebrating the 120th Anniversary of Philippine Independence this year, at approximately 10:30 a.m., the community parade started, led by members of the Filipino-American Veterans Association (FAVA) carrying the national colors and armed forces service flags. The FAVA Ladies carried the organizational banner. Behind FAVA, the parade of organizations included: Crossings TV (a huge sponsor of the Fiesta), Park West Casino (also a generous sponsor), first-timer Filipinx members of the Sacramento LTGBQ Filipino community, The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity



Photos by Dave San Pedro



led by President Mercy Guerrero, the Parade Marshall and VIPs, the lively Aklan Association of Sacramento and Vicinity complete with drums and xylophone, The Filipino Women's Club led by President Zeny Yagen, Santa Cruzan by The Filipino Family Fraternity of Sacramento, United Federation of Fil-Am Educators chanting PINOY KAMI PROUD KAMI, and last but not least, The Sinagtala led by President Dick Mazon. Veteran Pete Delacruz followed behind Si-

nagtala to ensure pedestrian safety of the participants from the convoy of traffic following the parade.

On the stage of Wells Fargo (another huge sponsor), Sarah Enloe and Tina Macuha (co-emcees) awaited. Sarah introduced FAVA

for the posting of the national colors. Members of Sinagtala (Kristina Garcia, Apollross Reyes, and Jasmine Lewis) sang the national anthems. After the singing of the national anthems, President Lilia Rivera of Filipino Fiesta delivered her welcome address. President

Lilia introduced the main guest speaker, Philippine Consul General Henry S. Bensurto, Jr. who started with the chant, Pinoy Ako Proud Ako! The consul general's inspirational speech invigorated the crowd. Mona Pasquil fol-

Continued on page 12

Filipino Fiesta of Sacramento 2018

From page 11

lowed the Consul General. Mona is the Appointments Secretary of current Governor Jerry Brown. Mona presented a proclamation signed by the governor to the Filipino Fiesta, received on behalf of the Filipino Fiesta members by President Lilia Rivera. Following Mona, a distinguished group of special guests delivered their congratulatory remarks to the Filipino Fiesta community.

This year, Filipino Fiesta paid tribute to the Heroes of the Revolution. A choir of community members headed by Janet Tavora and Estela Rabara invited all to sing Ang Bayan Ko.

Prior to concluding the official program, the judges announced the parade winners: Lauren Carpio (Treasurer of Philippine National Day Association), Maricor and Michael Ramos (Doctors of Dentistry), Rosie Dauz (Vice President of Philippine National Day Association), Conrad De Castro. The Parade Winners: Fiesta Theme awarded to Filipino Family Fraternity, Most Participants Award received by The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Most Colorful awarded to The Filipino Women's Club, and the Most Enthusiastic Award was earned by Sinagtala!

Following the official program, entertainment ensued at three different stages/venues: Seafood City Stage (indoor stage), Wells Fargo Bank Stage (venue of the official program), and Parkwest Casino - Lotus Stage (Amphitheatre). It was a full day of festivities, from 10 in the morning until past 5 in the afternoon.

MABUHAY! PINOY AKO PROUD AKO! Congratulations to the community of Filipino American organizations who contributed to the successful Filipino Fiesta



Photos by Dave San Pedro

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Dinnah San Pedro

60 and Thankful

An outdoor birthday celebrations of thanksgiving with family, friends, and coworkers held at the residence of Dinnah San Pedro on June 16, 2018, in Elk Grove, California. It was held to celebrate her birthday, in reaching this momentous milestone, as she turns 60 on June 21.

She'd like to convey her heartfelt gratitude to all who came and celebrated a fun night of partying and dancing to the 70s music by DJ Ozgee Gonzales.

A special thank you to Dale Esperante for the video coverage, to Joe Geddes for photography, and to Leila Pereira, Remy Solomon, Lee Ramirez, Mildred Mabitad Go, Elena Mag-suci, Zeny Yagen, Nelda Abeleda, Jojo Sabianiano, Emily Pascua, and Lanie Leonardo for their lively dance presentations.

Another gracious act of kindness is also appreciated by Dinnah for the personally crafted center pieces and colorful backdrop prepared by Mildred Mabitad Go, with the assistance of Reyvan for the event.



The Surreal Dancers



Friends and coworkers from Kaiser Hospital



The Dancing Queens Dancers



Dinnah's family



UNLUCAI Casino Fund Raising at Jackson Rancheria on June 23, with 40 attendees, some members coming from Vallejo, Bay Area and Stockton, headed by UNLUCAI President Tina Bambao.

79th Birthday Celebrations for Josie Patria

A surprise Luau party for Josie Patria given by her family and friends in the community, held at the beautiful house of her daughter and son-in-law Josie and Jay, in Elk Grove, California on June 23, 2018.

It was a very colorful birthday party by the pool and everyone in Hawaiian attire waiting for Josie's entrance. It was definitely a very special occasion as she was surrounded by her family and friends. The celebration continued with a lively dance performance by the "Dancing Queens Dancers."



Josie Patria and grandchildren.



Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity.



The Filipino Women's Club.



JUNE BIRTHDAY CELEBRANT: (L-R) Lourdes, Josie, Norm, Jen and Dinnah.

Calendar of Events

AUGUST 4, 2018 (SAT.)
FAVA Filipiniana
Scholarship Awards
Dinner & Dance
 6pm -11pm
 Happy Garden Seafood Restaurant
 5731 Stockton Blvd. Sac CA 95824
 Attire: Barong/Filipina Dress
 Donation: \$40.00
 Olive Jackson 916.262.6273



Birthdays



CHRISTINA GARCIA
JULY 24



CAROLINE KANG
JUNE 24



DAVE TAMAYO
JUNE 24



AYEWAN LAUTENGCO
JULY 29



CHRISTOPHER ERESPE
JULY 21

AUGUST 25, 2018 (SAT.)
Maharlika Lions Club
25TH ANNIVERSARY
 6 pm Dinner / Formal
 \$55 per person
 Hilton Arden West
 2200 Harvard St. Sacramento, CA
 Lyn 916.798.4423
 Vickie 916.524.3452
 Myrna 916.505.1421



JUN ABAYA
JULY 28



JOEY ABAYA
JULY 29



MICHAEL MERCADO, JULY 31 and son ANGELO, JULY 22 with mom Danamer and brother Anthony.

Anniversary

OCTOBER 27, 2018 (SAT.)
My Sister's House 15th Annual
Run for a Safe Haven
 Race day registration - 8:00am
 William Land Park
 corner of Freeport Blvd. & Sutterville Rd.
 Register at <http://www.runforasafehaven.com>



DAN and JINKY DOLAR
26th Wedding Anniversary
June 27



SEGUNDO and AIDA AZURIN
36th Wedding Anniversary
June 16



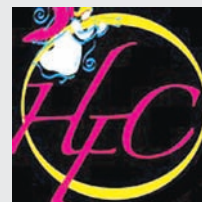
RHUENA and MANNIE BUENTIPO
36th Wedding Anniversary
June 12



DINNAH and DAVE SAN PEDRO
37th Wedding Anniversary
July 24



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365 Guidelines To Live By

Some of the following do not have any scientific proof behind them. These are just personal tips or guidelines on how to live healthy, easily and happily. Get medical approval prior to the medical applications. Doing just at least one of these may bring a positive outlook to life.

July:

1. Vitamin D:

This sunshine vitamin helps absorb calcium, a nutrient good for the bones and heart. If your physician says that your HDL {High Density-Lipoprotein or good cholesterol} level is lower than 60mg/dl, consider taking vitamin D-3 vitamins. Our body makes D-3 by exposing to the sun, but, during winter time, it makes less. Yale researchers say taking 3,000 IU of daily intake of vitamin D-3 can boost the HDL production by 28%. One does not have to get sunshine outside the house. In the morning, look for an eastern window and get your exposure from the sun at this time.

2. Honey:

Honey keeps indefinitely, but, commercially, it has a two year shelf life.

Regular intake of cinnamon and raw honey, which contains powerful antioxidants known as polyphenols, has shown to revitalize the arteries and veins of the heart. It also decreases the cholesterol in the body up to 10 percent, and may reduce the risk of heart attack. In addition, raw honey is good for cleansing the liver, removing fat from the body, lowering serum triglycerides compared

to sugar, protects the body from some bacteria, boosts immune system, if applied to the face could relieve acne and other skin problems, suppresses appetite and activates hormones, helps in weight loss, easily absorbed energy supply, which is important for workouts and sport competitions, may help reduce the risk of developing diabetes and is even used to treat diabetes, promotes sleep, restores the liver's glycogen supply, and helps release melatonin {great for promoting restorative sleep and rebuilding tissue while resting}. The recommended daily intake is on an empty stomach: a glass of warm water, with little cinnamon, with lemon and 2-3 tablespoons of raw honey. Again, please seek medical advice before this regimen.

3. Anti-Reflux Medicines:

Anti-reflux medicines can cause bone loss, and therefore, ask your physician before use.

4. Independence:

Independence in any form must be respected and not to be abused.

5. Walking:

Walking is one of the best exercises. It is also free and could be done indoor or outdoor.

6. Valuables:

Take pictures of your valuables, label and describe them. Save them or store them where they would be safe.

7. Magnesium:

Less would cause constipation. Foods high in magnesium are:

Pumpkin seeds, coconut, cashew nuts, dark chocolate, and black beans.

8. Exercise Limitations:

Know your limitations when exercising. You do not have to do twenty times of an exercise if you become so tired just after the count of fifteen. Stop then, and just do the warmup. Remember, pushing your body is pushing your heart too.

9. Health Emergency Numbers:

Always have your medicine and health emergency numbers on hand.

10. Electronics:

Remember that electronics are here to help us and not to be their slaves.

11. Clean Surroundings:

Keep our surroundings clean and in order.

12. Hydration:

Hydrate your body well. Drink plenty of fluids, especially, water. Always have bottles of drinking water handy.

13. Movies:

Go see a good movie, at home or in a theater. There are movie



theaters now that provide very comfortable reclining chairs.

14. Rest Eyes From Electronics:

Stop, look far, and slowly count to at least twenty when watching electronics. Make this a habit especially for the children, too.

15. Notepads:

Have a notepad or an electronic memo pad nearby to record your dreams or ideas.

16. The Right Time:

Do not always wait for the right time-this might be IT! Do not let it fly away.

17. Food High In Fiber:

Eat food high in fiber, like nuts, beans, fruits, vegetables, cocoa powder, oats, wheat, potato, and popcorn.

18. Enjoy Today:

Enjoy today. Tomorrow is uncertain.

19. Share Good Things:

Share whatever good things you have with the unfortunate ones.

20. Help Others:

Help others to help themselves.

21. Victim:

Be on the alert so not to be a victim.

22. Say What Is In Your Mind:

Be tactful, but, say what is in your mind, without hurting others.

23. Buy one, give one away.



BY NANCY CRISTI BAUTISTA

If you buy one item, give an unneeded item away.

24. Slow Traffic:

A slow, but, safe traffic is better than a fast accident.

25. Sticks And Stones:

"Sticks and stones may hurt my bones, and sure, words may do worse." by Nancy Bautista

26. Kids Making Up Words:

Most of the time, kids do not make up words. They probably learned them from someone close.

27. Credit Cards:

Cut up all the credit cards received and just keep maybe one or two for emergency uses only.

28. Debit Cards:

Use a debit card with a credit card capacity linked to your checking account. By this, there would be a limit use to the credit that you only have in your checking account.

29. Non-perishable Food or Drink:

Always bring non-perishable food or drink in your car in case of emergency.

30. Electric Cords:

Make sure that all electric cords are plugged all the way to avoid electrocution.

31. Mind And Body Rest:

Give your mind and body a moment of rest frequently. This is not an excuse, though, for laziness.

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Tel 916.732.2020

EAST LAWN
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& Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery
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Sacramento, CA 95841
Tel 916.732.2037

EAST LAWN
Albert Brown Mortuary
3476 Piedmont Ave.
Oakland, CA 94611
Lic. #FD-242
Tel 800.652.1873

EAST LAWN
Elk Grove Memorial
Park & Mortuary
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Tel 916.732.2031

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Lic. #FD-136
Tel 916.732.2026


The US Government is awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to WW2 Filipino Veterans.

A ceremony is being planned for 13 October here in Sacramento to make award to the Veterans and/or their families.

At this time, the Veteran or his/her family has to make application for this Medal. Attached is the Application Form as well as some additional information.

If you have a WW2 Vet in your family and you wish to have this Medal awarded to the Vet, or to yourself on behalf of him/her, you must act now to make application to insure the Medal is approved. Applications are needed by the 6th of July to insure that they are processed in time for the October ceremony. Additional information can be obtained by emailing sacfilvet@gmail.com

Rose Delacruz received the Medal on behalf of her father in April at a ceremony in San Francisco. You can contact her if you want her insight on the application process and the ceremony itself.



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Please contact me if you have any questions. My email address is above, and my phone is 916-849-1666.

Veteran Public Service Announcement

BY DALE ESPERANTE

United States Armed Forces of the Far East (USAFFE) WWII Filipino Veterans are eligible to apply for the Congressional Gold Medal. For those needing assistance to apply for this award, the following options are available:

1. The University of California Davis' students of the Bayanihan Clinic will be available to assist all WWII Filipino Vets, on 19 Aug 2018, at the Magellan Post 604, 8831 Gerber Road, Sacramento, CA, after the General Membership Meeting of the Post at approximately 5 p.m.

Family members of living and/or deceased USAFFE veterans may apply in behalf of the veteran, if the

veteran is no longer able to apply for one self.

Proof of service is required, such as, Discharge Papers, DD Form 214, or Official Orders/Documents.

2. From Richard "Dick" Weitzenberg, President of the Filipino American Veterans Association:

The United States Government is awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to WW2 Filipino Veterans. A ceremony is being planned for 13 October here in Sacramento to present the award to the Veterans and/or their families.

At this time, the Veteran or his/her family has to submit an application for this Medal.

If you have a WW2 Vet in your family and you wish to have this Medal awarded to the Vet, or to yourself on behalf of him/her, you must act now to submit an application to ensure the Medal is approved. Applications are needed by the 6th of July to ensure that they are processed in time for the October ceremony. Additional information can be obtained by emailing sacfilvet@gmail.com.

Please contact me if you have any questions. My email address is richard@weitzenberg.org. My phone number is 916-849-1666. Thank you for your service.

Dick W. President, FAVA

Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the American Legion Magellan Post 604 for July 2018 – June 2019!

- Marcos Evangelista - Commander
- Tom Amaba - 1st Vice Commander
- Fred Amper - 2nd Vice Commander
- Fortunato Delacruz - Chaplain
- Dick Weitzenberg - Judge Advocate
- Joe Gonzalez - Historian
- Assistant Sgt-at-Arms - Bill Bostock



Directors:
 John Picazzo, Fred Calindas, Andy Tancioco, Bill Versoza and Cheryl Lynn Amaba.

Congratulations to the American Legion Auxiliary Magellan 604 Officers elected for the year 2018 – 2019

- President - Lilia Rivera
- 1st Vice-President - Olive Jackson
- 2nd Vice-President - Aida Azurin
- Treasurer - Jocelyn Banag
- Secretary - Letecia O'Quinn
- Assistant Secretary - Linda Gibson
- Marshall - Penafancia Williams
- Sgt-at-Arms - Remedios Mangosing
- Executive Committee: - Florentina Abad, Nenita Nerona, Warnita Avillanoza, Victoria Peluso, Linda Cordero



Delegates to the American Legion 2018 Convention :

- Jocelyn Banag
- Linda Gibson
- Penafancia Williams

Alternates are: Lilia Rivera, Linda Cordero and Bella Nido
Delegates and alternates were advised to attend the next district meeting to be held on June 3 10:00 AM at Unit 383. Josie will represent all delegates at the district meeting.



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Filipino American Veterans Association, Inc.
Filipiniana 2017 & Scholarship Awards Dinner & Dance

Saturday, August 4, 2018 / 6:00 pm - 11 pm
 Happy Garden Seafood Restaurant
 5731 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95824
 Attire: Barong / Filipina Dress
 Donation: \$40.00 per person
 Contact - Olive Jackson 916.262.6273
 Bill Versoza 916.927.7829 / Melit Pangalanan



Filipino Cadets at West Point

BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA, PHD

While sitting on a bench at Michie Stadium waiting for the start of graduation and commissioning ceremony of U.S. Military Academy cadets I was approached by a guy in USMA uniform.

He introduced himself as Cadet Jesson Penaflor. Cadet Penaflor is from Bukidnon Province located in Mindanao, Southern Philippines. His native dialect is Hiligaynon like mine. He is an Ilongo.

Thanks to Mrs. Irene Hamada of PMA for informally introducing cadet Jesson Penaflor to me via facebook.

Cadet Penaflor took and passed the qualifying examination for USMA when he was still a plebe (freshman) at Philippine Military Academy. Penaflor told me he was an alternate to study at West Point per PMA.

He was not expecting to go to West Point but there was a twist on his favor. USMA has the final say who they want to get as international cadet. He was chosen to join USMA Class 2020.

When asked what happened to the first choice cadet from PMA, Penaflor said he stayed at Fort Del Pilar in Baguio. He is now First Class (graduating) cadet at PMA while Penaflor needs two more years to graduate at USMA.

Why is that? What happens is when a plebe from PMA passes USMA qualifying test he has to wait for the August reception of new cadets at West Point in which he is joining.

In other words he is late one year of his contemporary at PMA. His original classmates at PMA are graduating in 2019 while he is graduating in 2020.

When asked how many Filipino cadets currently studying at West Point, "There are two of us, sir." Said Cadet Penaflor. "But he is not here today. He is undergoing cadet training at the camp. His name is Reniel Dela Cruz." Added Penaflor.

Cadet Penaflor was called by another cadet so he excused himself from our conversation.

Few minutes later Cadet Penaflor came back, to where my wife and I were located, with Cadet Reniel Dela Cruz.

After Penaflor introduced us to cadet Dela Cruz good



Cadet Jesson Penaflor, Gab Ortigoza and Cadet Reniel Dela Cruz

conversation commenced anew.

"I thought you were undergoing training as mentioned by Jesson?" I said to cadet Dela Cruz. He replied saying fortunately his group was pulled out from the camp to attend the graduation ceremony.

Cadet Reniel Dela Cruz is now a First Class (graduating) cadet at West Point. He belongs to class 2019. Cadet Dela Cruz is from Baybay, Leyte in Eastern Visayas.

Graduating cadets have their major course already and cadet Dela Cruz is majoring on nuclear engineering. This is a specialty that few cadets are enrolled due to hard math and a difficult course but seems easy for Dela Cruz.

The Philippine government is planning to revive the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant in the province of Bataan and I told Dela Cruz he can work at BNPP someday.

When our conversation touched their economic status specifically on their allowances both cadets shook their head saying it's not that impressive. As international cadets they are supposed to get a monthly pay of \$200 but they only receive \$100 per month for now.

(\$100 is a two-hour pay of a new grad newly hired RN at the hospital I work in Sacramento.)

They explained there is a \$2,000 deposit for education and training supplies for foreign cadets joining USMA. It must be paid by each international cadet but they don't have that huge amount to pay USMA for their admission.

Philippine government is not paying for it. PMA is not paying for it. AFP is not paying for it. Neither DND is paying for it. The \$2,000 admission deposit is paid by individual cadet from PMA.

Because they were unable to pay the 2 grand deposit,

West Point has a financial scheme which is to deduct \$100 from their monthly pay until the amount is fully paid.

Foster parents are of great help with Filipino cadets at West Point. They include their foster son(s) in their mobile phone family plan which make the cadet(s) use their cellphones to call, search, and enjoy social media and keep themselves updated with what's going in this world.

During academic break they have to buy their ticket to fly home should they wish to. If they don't have the money to buy expensive plane tickets to and from the Philippines they have to stay.

I remember president Fidel V. Ramos (USMA 50) in one of his talk to Fil-Am groups in Sacramento that he used to visit his relatives in the Capital City of California to spend his vacation because it was very expensive to travel to and from the Philippines.

President Ramos added he travelled by ship during his journey to the U.S. in 1946 and it took him one month for the commercial vessel to reach his U.S. port of entry. He has to endure that long voyage to accomplish his dream.

The same is true with these two young Filipino cadets at West Point. They have to live up to what they have to attain their dreams to graduate at West Point and go back to motherland to serve the armed forces.

We take pride with these Filipino cadets at West Point but I guess PMA, AFP, and DND should look into this matter to economically unburden our PMA cadets joining USMA from the \$2,000 admission fee.

I hope and pray that this concern will reach Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana to iron out the kinks in financial obligation on PMA cadet joining USMA.

Good luck to our cadets at West Point.

Spending Purposeful Vacation at Home



BY GABRIEL ORTIGOZA, PHD

During vacation period people go to different places to explore and enjoy. Some go back to the places they grew up in which they call home.

Heading back home brings me memories of economic deprivation but happy childhood knowing my parents struggled to meet both ends just to give us good education.

It is humbling to see my parents survived the life phase of economic hardship and manage to send us all to school and finished college.

As professional I still ask and heed the wise advises of my elderly parents who are in their finishing lap of life. My mother says: "I'm ready to meet my Creator." My father is a quiet guy so he is silent on this matter.

My father is turning 90 years old this Sunday, June 24th. Papa's birthday is easy to remember because it is also San Juan Day (St. John's Day) in the entire Philippines.

When it is San Juan Day expect people, particularly children, holding their buckets full of water and ready to splash travelers and even people walking in the streets to celebrate the day. June is Wet Season in the Philippines.

I don't know if this practice is being celebrated at present in the Philippines but during my school age time in the 70s to 80s we loved to splash water to the

people and we ran away for safety because we knew the consequence of our actions.

Some of the victims of water splash were not happy to get wet but still able to smile for the sake of this tradition.

The tradition of birthday being celebrated is very much alive and observed mostly by people who have in life.



My parents are frugal and celebrate their birthday with simple home-cooked food such as suman (sticky sweet brown rice) and some non-alcoholic drinks (religious influence). It has been their practice ever since.

It is humbling to know my parents survived the bombings of World War II and for my father to survive Korean War being a veteran. And overcome the hardship of building a family, knowing they married late, my mother was 31 and my father was 37, because they sent their younger brothers and sisters to school for them to have good lives.

Nothing is impossible once you believe in Christ, my mother always tells us.

This year my two siblings and I secretly decided to go home to celebrate my father's 90th birthday. This is also an opportunity for

us to gather as a family since the last time we had complete family home attendance was in 1991 after I graduated from college.

I am excited to spend my family vacation in Mlang, North Cotabato a place I called home.

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Why Cavite Is the Capital of Philippine Heritage Cooking

In Cavite, food is history

BY CATHERINE ORDA

Food cities—simply, places celebrated and recognized for their food—have reputations built on distinctiveness. A quality that allows you to use a name of a place as shorthand for food or drink: Iloilo is almost synonymous to batchoy; Batangas means lomi and barako; Cebu reminds us of lechon. Whoever has the last word on these things is entirely subjective, but if ease of recall was the only basis of possessing a culinary reputation, then some cities simply can't enjoy the privilege of being universally regarded for their food.

Cavite is one such place. It's not easy for a non-local to name Cavite food beyond Bacoor's famed halo-halo, which is something you can easily get around the metro. It is a place known instead for its rich history, for being home to a good number of national heroes and historical milestones.

In any given period, this information might not mean much in a province's effort to establish a distinct culinary identity. Cavite cannot bank on its historical currency in order to escape the mire of gastronomic obscurity it has long been in. Except recently, things seem to be in favor of just that: history. Amid the popularity of global flavors and the increasing foreign franchises in the country, the past two or three years have seen an emerging interest in local heritage cooking.

An informal forecast about the food trends of 2018 commissioned by San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center has found that Filipino heritage cuisine is bound to gain more traction among diners. Food that is rich in history is in. Fortunately for Cavite, food is history.

Such a clear-eyed, uncomplicated philosophy can sometimes suffer from the skepticism of the modern diner, but Fontanilla—who was born and raised in Cavite and to this day, cooks with her mother's recipes—doesn't employ nostalgia for nostalgia's sake. Fontanilla runs her restaurant with the discipline of an industry veteran. And food, for her, plays a function that extends beyond pleasure or sustenance. It is a way to educate, and heritage cooking is a much-needed education. It's necessary because, for one, it turns out that it's not just non-locals that are unaware of Cavite cuisine. "The young people here in Cavite, they don't know their own cuisine. They've forgotten about it. Cooking and running this restaurant is my way to reintroduce Cavite cuisine to them."

CAVITE CITY: BERNIE'S KITCHENETTE
Chef Bernie, who has been cooking heirloom dishes for over 30 years now, insists that she is a cook—not a chef.

Three years ago, Bernardita "Bernie" Rojas Fontanilla opened Bernie's Kitchenette, a humble restaurant unapologetically evocative of

nostalgia in both its food and interiors. Framed black and white photos and historical memorabilia provide a backdrop of old-fashioned luminescence as we dined on pansit pusit (squid ink flavor and color the noodles' sauce), pansit puso (pansit served with kinilaw na puso ng saging), buttered bacalao (cod fish sautéed in butter), and crispy laolao (a type of fish that is possibly indigenous to Cavite). These were standard Tagalog dishes, possessing the same notes of sourness and saltiness that most Filipinos have grown up with. Except, as we learned that day, every dish is also distinctively Caviteño in that a few subtle tweaks were injected into them: For example, the addition of squid ink and kinilaw na puso ng saging.

Chef Bernie demonstrates how to cook buttered bacalao

The food is nostalgic not only because we recognize the flavors from our childhoods but also because Fontanilla says so. "For me, we still need to go back to the old times. Whatever happens, there will always be new food coming out. It's just like a cycle, you'll really need to go back to your roots and learn about the food that was being served before. That's how you'll realize and appreciate that the people who cooked before created really something special," Fontanilla explains.

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TANZA: ABAD HERITAGE HOUSE

The 1820s saw the establishment of the Abad Heritage House, one of the oldest houses in the town of Tanza that has become a kind of histori-



The Abad heritage house was once a clinic and a production hub for bagoong and patis

cal emblem for Spanish-influenced homes in Cavite. Currently maintained by three brothers, the house is not open to the public—but that day allowed us to watch a cooking demonstration set at the top-floor veranda of the heritage house. The first dish was called pipian, which is a variation of the classic kare-kare. The dish is comprised of ingredients that go into the usual kare-kare, except it uses chicken—not ox tripe—as its meat. The second dish, which is called tinumis, is Cavite's version of dinuguan. The Caviteño tweak here is the use of tamarind leaves as the dish's souring agent. Much like the food in Bernie's Kitchenette, pipian and tinumis are renditions of classic Filipino food: bears marks of Spanish and Chinese influences, heavy on meat, saltiness, and sourness. The idea that Caviteño cuisine is actually built on variations of beloved Filipino dishes was not a mere recurring theme after all.

Chef Chris Bautista, who did the cooking demo, was upfront about Caviteño cuisine's lack of distinctive dishes and flavors. "There's no unique flavor. It's really just traditional dishes that have been influenced from the culinary intermarriages that happened around the Cavite area." And though Bautista is equally honest about the province's lagging culinary reputation at a national scale, he believes that because of its close relationship with history, Cavite will soon benefit from the growing demand for Philippine heritage cooking. "This interest in heirloom dishes can teach us things about Caviteño cuisine. For example, I recently just learned that pinaputok na tilapia is actually a traditional Caviteño dish."

Much like the food in Bernie's Kitchenette, pipian and tinumis are renditions of classic Filipino food: bears marks of Spanish and Chinese influences, heavy on meat, saltiness, and sourness. The idea that Caviteño cuisine is actually built on variations of beloved Filipino dishes was not a mere recurring theme after all.

It's the kind of interest that is similar to other patterns in diner behavior: customer inclinations like the pursuit of authentic national dishes (and getting it right—through cooking or otherwise); knowing where your food comes from; employing humane practices in raising animals. Moral and environmental consciousness, the welfare of

the marginalized, integrity—these are at the forefront of these movements, and the same could be said about this growing interest in heritage cooking. It tells us that Filipinos want to relearn and re-establish their culinary identity, and like the abovementioned movements, this "trend" is equally complex and is borne out of the desire to preserve something.

According to Bautista, the interest in Philippine heritage cuisine began as a way to protect traditional Filipino food from possible inauthentic renditions. "Five or 10 years ago, there's already been an interest in Filipino cooking in the States. But some people feel like that it's getting out of hand because of the Americanization of Filipino food. So dedicated fans of Filipino cuisine, they want to make sure that we keep Filipino food in its truest form, but we can't do it abroad so we have to do it here."



This restaurant was established 16 years ago, during Independence Day

TRECE MARTIRES: CAVITE REPUBLIC RESTAURANT

The large, cursive letters that spell this restaurant's name will tell you enough about the establishment's personality and mission statement. The kind of image it wants to convey is this: This restaurant was created with an official institution in mind, a top-of-mind landmark in Cavite—maybe the same way Aguinaldo Shrine is considered an important landmark in Cavite. That may be a bit of an exaggeration, but Cavite Republic Restaurant does possess some kind of historical relevance. This 16-year old restaurant was opened on June 12, Philippine Independence Day, as a reincarnation of Town's Delight, another

favorite food destination in Cavite. About the beginnings of this restaurant, chef and owner Matt Pacumio says: "It was really something that came from an intense desire to put up a historic landmark within the province of Cavite, and because my dad really wanted to showcase the cuisine of Cavite."

"While some of our dishes are still based on family recipes from the '70s, we wanted to take a different approach that could cater to the millennials. They're not easy to impress, especially since their palates are complex. In a dish, they look for different textures and flavors, and they also want it to be Instagrammable. Still, we want to tap that market because they're a big population," says Pacumio.

Chef Matt Pacumio is the grandson of Cecilla Pacumio, the owner of Town's Delight.

Paella Valenciana, grilled chicken sinampalukan, Cavite express, pansit estacion negra, and crispy dinuguan, and salted egg-stuffed rice cake

We went into this warm, family-friendly restaurant thinking it to be the most traditional one among all the food tour stops, but the food proved us wrong. Pacumio, who is in his early 20s, has decided to employ a strategy that slightly veers away from the traditional roots of the restaurant. "While some of our dishes are still based on family recipes from the '70s, we wanted to take a different approach that could cater to the millennials. They're not easy to impress, especially since their palates are complex. In a dish, they look for different textures and flavors, and they also want it to be

Instagrammable. Still, we want to tap that market because they're a big population."

Pacumio believes that attracting this market is key to not only mainstreaming Cavite cuisine but also as a way to preserve its [Cavite cuisine] historical relevance, suggesting that heirloom cooking does not lose its authenticity through innovation. We dined on, again, variants of traditional dishes: paella Valenciana, grilled chicken sinampalukan, Cavite express, pansit estacion negra, and crispy dinuguan. The tweaks, this time, were not only unique to Cavite but were also reflective of a new generation's efforts of recognizing and sharing history through food.



Manila Mayor Joseph 'Erap' Estrada with the city's 'beauty-ful' harvest

32 beauties competing for 2018 Miss Manila title

BY CELSO DE GUZMAN CAPARAS

Manila, Philippines — The City of Manila and MARE Foundation, together with Viva Live, once again teamed up to crown a new Miss Manila with 32 beauties vying for this year's crown and title.

The official candidates presented to media on June 19 at the Centennial Hall of Manila Hotel were: Esel Mae Pabillaran, Lux Colleen Brusas, Charlotte Jhiza Beleno, Genesis Durana, Elaine Contreras, Kristi Celyn Banks, Ria Angelique Siozon, Julee Anne Mae Cabrera, Kayla Fajardo, Paulina Labayo, Malka Suaver, Ma. Flordeliza Mabao, Katrina Racelis, Dyan Shane Mag-abo, Leitz Camyl Ang,

Therese Marie Marguerette Gaston, Lois Sta. Maria, Maria Lianina Macalino, Nikki Lim Sotelo, Agatha Lei Romero, Sheika Hanna Galang, Christine Roazol, Joanna Day, Angelique Mae Santos, Kathleen Joy Paton, Julie Ann Forbers, Zeta Erin Alegre, Joan Patrice Dulina, Georgette Coronacion, Samantha Elin Coloso, Beatriz Canary Tolentino and Lean Dominique Lalu.

On its fifth consecutive year, the City of Manila is not only looking for a woman of beauty, but also of empowerment, who personifies social awareness, and embodies a true Manileña with grace, passion and optimism.

The winner will be the city's ambassador and will participate in different functions and events. She will receive a prize package of P1M (P500,000 cash

prize and Viva Management contract worth P500,000).

The runners-up will take home P350,000 (first), P250,000 (second), P150,000 (third) and P100,000 (fourth).

In celebration of Araw ng Maynila (last Sunday, June 24) under the decree of Mayor Estrada, proceeds from this year's pageant will benefit MARE Foundation, a non-profit institution headed by chairperson and pageant director, Jackie Ejercito.

The Grand Coronation will be held tonight at the Reception Hall of the PICC (Philippine International Convention Center) with delayed telecast on Sunday, July 1, over ABS-CBN Sunday's Best.

TNT Boys astonish music world over and over again

BY ARLO CUSTODIO

Just 10 months after the first "Tawag ng Tanghalan Kids" winner was declared in June 2017, three of the grandfinalists—11-year-old Francis Concepcion, 12-year-old Mackie Empuerto and 13-year-old Kiefer Sanchez—collectively known as TNT Boys have conquered UK television.

Their cover of Beyonce's "Listen" on "Gandang Gabi Vice," which became viral landed them on "Little Big Shots" where they performed the same song for the English audience in April. Their performance, according to comments on the show's YouTube channel, brought goosebumps to viewers, many of whom were non-Filipinos.

Not long after, they were on the original version of the show in the US hosted by Steve Harvey, and again, their rendition of the Beyonce hit commanded a standing ovation.

The ultra talented TNT Boys revel in the standing ovation Steve Harvey's "Little Big Shots" audience gave them in the US FACEBOOK PHOTO

Popular talk show host Ellen Degeneres, who is co-producer of the kiddie talent show, called out the former Destiny's Child member on social media saying, "Beyonce, I hope you watch Sunday's Little Big Shots."

Back home, the TNT Boys were selected as "Your Face Sounds Familiar" contestants, with them doing "Too Much Heaven" by the Bee Gees on the debut episode.



(From left) Kiefer Sanchez, Francis Concepcion and Mackie Empuerto

Judge Gary Valenciano expressed amazement on how the boys excelled in their chosen song, while another judge, Sharon Cuneta, said she hoped Barry Gibb, the only surviving member of the trio brothers—after Maurice died in 2003 and Robin in 2008—was watching "so he'd know how talented this generation of Filipinos is."

True enough, Gibb tweeted, "Imitation truly is the sincerest form of flattery! Thank you #TNTBoys @YourFacePH for your rendition of "Too Much Heaven" #MyBeeGees" sharing the YouTube link of the trio's performance.

In the next two weeks of the contest, they chose to impersonate the Apo Hiking Society with their rendition of "Mahirap Magmahal Ng Syota Ng Iba" then as Salbakuta for "S2pid Luv." It was on the fourth week of the show that TNT Boys finally topped the competition as Destiny's Child with "Survivor." They did good as Aegis singing "Sinta" on the fifth week.

Whether as all-boy, all-girl or mixed, the TNT Boys proved they can be as effective with their successive performances as The Supremes ("You Can't Hurry Love"), Hagibis ("Nanggigil"), and just last week, wresting back the top spot as Mariah Carey and Boyz

II Men ("One Sweet Day").

On June 22 (June 23 in Manila), the trio returned to Little Big Shots USA, commanding a standing ovation anew with their perfect harmonized rendition of rock band Queen's "Somebody To Love."

In the official Facebook page of the show, the video clip is annotated with, "The TNT Boys harmonize in a way we have never heard before." It then said, "The TNT Boys are back and ready to capture your heart for the second time."

The performance has been viewed more than 4.3 million times and shared 3,800 times as of this writing.

One of the members of Queen—known for their song, "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "We Are The Champions"—Brian May, shared the video saying, "Check out these lovely young lads from the Philippines. Brilliant. Great to see youngsters relating to Queen so well—and enjoying." Other members are Roger Taylor, John Deacon and the late Freddie Mercury, whose biographical film is due for release in October.

According to comments on the TNT Boys' Facebook page, the trio will be seen and heard as Spice Girls next and also set to appear in the Australian edition of the kiddie talent show. They are also part of the "TNT All-Star Showdown" concert at the Araneta Coliseum on July 28 gathering the first and second season winners and grand finalists of the popular singing competition segment of the ABS-CBN noontime show.



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