



**P3** Nobel Peace Prize Maria Ressa



**P12** Filipino-American History Month

## PAF receives 5 Black Hawk helicopters from Poland, 4 UAVs from US



Five new S-70i Black Hawk helicopters are delivered to the Philippine Air Force on Oct. 13, 2021.

**BY MARTY SADONGDONG**

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) announced Friday, Oct. 15, that it has formally accepted five new S-70i Black Hawk helicopters and four Scan Eagle unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) which

are expected to boost the capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP).

Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Gen. Jose Faustino Jr., AFP Chief of Staff, and Lt.

Gen. Allen Paredes, PAF Commanding General, led the acceptance and turnover of the choppers and aerial drones at the Haribon Hangar, Clark Air Base in Mabalacat City, Pampanga last  
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## Pacquiao strikes Marcoses: Return 'ill-gotten wealth', apologize for abuses

**BY NEIL ARWIN MERCADO**

The Marcos family should return their ill-gotten wealth and apologize for abuses during the presidency of their late patriarch, presidential aspirant and Sen. Manny Pacquiao said Friday.



September 6, 2021

Sen. Manny Pacquiao

Pacquiao made the remark as he faces former senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., the son of the late president Ferdinand Marcos, for presidency in the 2022 national elections.

"Yung issue ng yaman

na hawak ng Marcoses ay kung anuman yung nanakaw nila sa ating gobyerno, kailangan siguro ibalik yung sinisigaw ng taumbayan," Pacquiao said in an interview on

ABS-CBN News Channel.

(Whatever ill-gotten wealth they have, they should return it to the government because the public is clamoring for it.)

Pacquiao likewise said he is open to review the cases related to the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth should he be elected as president.

Aspiring president and former Senator Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. revealed that the Partido Federal ng Pilipinas (PFP) initially planned to adopt President Rodrigo Duterte as vice presidential bet in the 2022 polls.

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## 500 Years of Christianity

BY DALE ESPERANTE



The Filipino Apostolate of the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento (FACDS) organized the anniversary celebration of 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines, held on 29 September 2021, at St. Clare Catholic Church, 1950 Junction Blvd, Roseville, CA 95747. Early in September, Beatriz Alo and Maricel Lumaquin of FACDS contacted the veterans of The American Legion Magellan Post 604, for the honor of posting the national flags. The Magellan veterans accepted the honor without hesitation. Continued on page 6

## California law named after Filipino American

BY MAINA CHEN

On Sept. 30, California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed eight bills into law that support police reform with one of the bills named after Angelo Quinto, who died after an officer knelt on his neck for five minutes during a mental health crisis.



New Calif. law banning police chokeholds named after Filipino American Navy vet suffocated by cop.

The incident: On Dec. 23, 2020, Antioch police received a call from Quinto's sister, who alerted them about his crisis.

The 30-year old Filipino American Navy veteran had been experiencing paranoid episodes after sustaining a head injury and was in

an agitated and fearful state before the officers arrived.

Quinto allegedly calmed down after the officers arrived but was still restrained by them. He lost consciousness and died in a hospital three days later.

In August, Quinto's family filed a lawsuit against

the Antioch police where they accused the chief of a cover-up after officers allegedly claimed that the Navy veteran was high on meth. John Burris, the family's attorney, pointed instead to an independent autopsy of Quinto's body that showed no drugs in his system at the time and

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## Morality has no “other side” and mainstream media don’t get it

BY JOEAM

**M**orality is not negotiable. It’s the foundation for every decision we make.

Well, yes, moral systems can vary, for example, communist versus capitalist or Christian vs Zoroastrian. But for a group of peoples, like nations or groups of them, morality is the rock of good behavior and right decisions.

The US and Philippines are similar. The moral system is “western”, Christian-based, diverse and open, stressing honesty, equality, and fairness under laws. It emphasizes education and knowledge and always strives for self-improvement.

Social interactions are robust and sometimes tense. Mainstream media play the role of information-intermediaries between diverse groups and government, an important role that keeps both nations free and open. Mainstream media have earned the title “Fourth Estate” as the informal fourth branch of government, performing a vital check and balance function.

Journalism ethics traditionally demand that media report facts and keep opinions clearly labeled and separate from news reporting. But since the greater openness and more robust advocacies of the internet era, this has broken down and a lot of news has taken on a slant.

Indeed, I’d argue that mainstream media have totally lost their bearings. Facts are so distorted by argument that they have become lost. Advocacy has become so prominent that morality has become lost. There is no foundation of “right” behavior left as media portray issues as being one side against another.



President Rodrigo Duterte

So it becomes Democrats vs Republicans in the US, not decency vs indecency. As if Trump’s lying were a legitimate “side” to an argument.

Or as if Duterte’s killings were a legitimate side, opposing human rights.

No. No. No. No. Decency and human rights are not sides of an argument. They are the foundations of good and right decisions, the moral basis for harmony and understanding. They are non-negotiable.

Mainstream media today are allowing themselves to be led by the nose by powerful advocacies into PROMOTING the undermining of decency and human rights. They are legitimizing the values that are sure to tear down harmony and understanding. Lying by government officials is wrong. Killing citizens outside due process is wrong. They are not sides of an argument.

Media need to re-center their ethics and report on facts and moral rules, not abandon them as if our nations were nothing better than packs of fighting jackals. If they fail to place facts within a moral framework, democracy will most assuredly break down. Indeed, on the current path, journalists will soon no longer be free to report. They’ll be propaganda vendors.

## PAF receives 5 Black Hawk helicopters from Poland, 4 UAVs from US

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Wednesday.

The five newly delivered Black Hawks were part of the 16 units procured by the PAF from Polish aircraft manufacturer Polskie Zaklady Lotnicze Sp.z.o.o for around P11.5 billion. The initial batch of six units were delivered from November 9 to Dec. 2, 2020 — one of which was involved in a plane crash last June 24, 2021 — while the second batch of five units arrived last June 7, 2021.

“These helicopters will add to the Black Hawk fleet of the PAF which will boost the heli-lift capability of the AFP,” said Lt. Col. Maynard Mariano, PAF spokesperson.

Meanwhile, the aerial drones worth around \$4 million or P200 million were donated by the United States government to the AFP.

These are expected to provide additional capabilities in unmanned intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR) of the AFP in support of their

counterterrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) efforts.

“These UAVs will enhance the reconnaissance operations of the AFP,” Mariano said.

Prior to the turnover of the choppers and aerial drones, the PAF also decommissioned 10 UH-1D helicopters which has been the workhorse of the military for heli-lift operations.

The UH-1D aircraft were towed between two firetrucks where they were given the traditional water cannon salute that signalled the formal end of their services in the PAF.

The aircraft were acquired from the American aircraft supply firm Rice Aircraft Services in 2013 as part of the PAF’s “interim solution” for their relief transport.

“These are the aircraft that have already served its purpose,” Mariano explained.

## Pacquiao strikes Marcoses: Return ‘ill-gotten wealth’, apologize for abuses

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Pacquiao also backed calls for the younger Marcos to apologize over the supposed abuses during the regime of his late father, former president Ferdinand E. Marcos.

“Sang-ayon ako dyan dahil kailangan kung nagkamali ka, marunong kang humingi ng patawad (I agree with it because if you made a mistake, you should know how to apologize),” Pacquiao said.

“Hindi yan tama na sabihin na wala pa siyang alam sa mga nangyayari

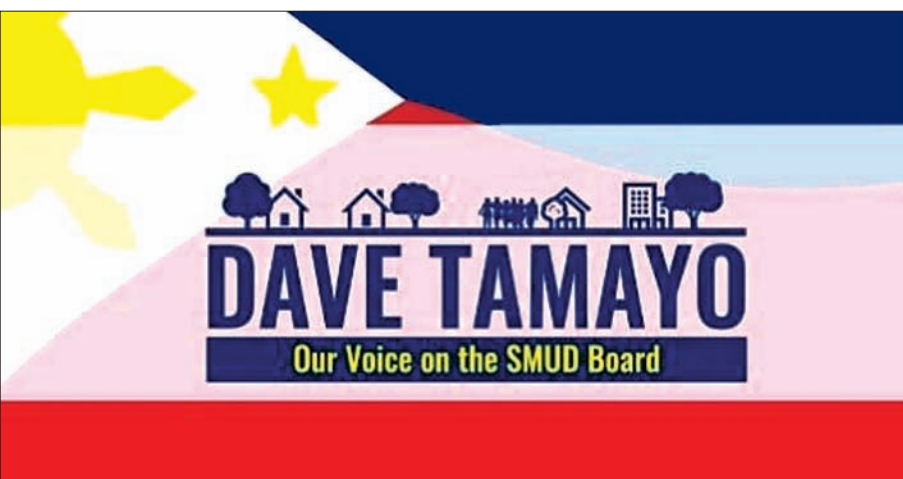
noong panahon ng tatay niya... Hindi niya pwedeng sabihin na wala siyang alam,” he added.

(It is not right for him to say that he did not know the events during the time of his father... He cannot say he does not know anything.)

INQUIRER.net has reached out to Marcos and his spokesperson for a comment Pacquiao’s remarks.

Join the Filipino community of Sacramento at 6pm on October 25th at Tilted Mash Brewing as we support our own Dave Tamayo for SMUD Board of Directors! Food will be provided by Bahay\_kubo\_ko and music by the always-entertaining Rogeniv Mamaug and DjMariov!

RSVP to Natalie: (916) 396-9738 or natalieby@hotmail.com



### Editor's Note

This is Philippine Fiesta’s last issue for the year. We are hoping you are able to get a glimpse of what went on in our Filipino-American community in Sacramento, in this humble publication.

Despite the pandemic with the ongoing celebrations of life, our community stayed resilient and continued on celebrating friends and families’ significant milestones, and participated in what our Filipino American community is taking a stand for.

With barely two months left in the year, several functions are lined up, which include the month of October being celebrated as the Filipino American History month. Please refer to PF news community postings of activities in these pages.

As we prepare to celebrate the upcoming holidays, continue to stay safe, be grateful of our presence in our community, and remember our departed loved ones.

Gratefully yours,  
Dinnah San Pedro

# 1st Filipino Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Ressa hailed press freedom world champion

BY AURORA QUADRA-BALIBAY

Rappler’s Maria Ressa was awarded the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize named after Alfred Nobel.

The first Filipino Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Maria Ressa, has just been hailed as a world champion for press freedom and democracy.

Ressa is the first from the Philippines to earn the Nobel Peace Prize in 120 years ever since the awards were established in 1901.

Maria Ressa was named co-winner of the 2021 edition of the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize along with Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov “for their efforts to safeguard freedom of expression, which is a precondition for democracy and lasting peace”.

“Ms. Ressa and Mr. Muratov are receiving the Peace Prize for their courageous fight for freedom of expression in the Philippines and Russia. At the same time, they are representatives of all journalists who stand up for this ideal in a world in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions,” stated the Norwegian Nobel Committee in its announcement of this year’s winners.

Maria Ressa of the Rappler digital media news organization in the Philippines was awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize in virtual ceremonies held on October 8, 2021, in Oslo, Norway.

The Nobel announcement hailed Ressa for continuing to be a defender of freedom of expression despite attacks on her and her team due to coverage that “expose on

ing authoritarianism in her native country, the Philippines”.

“Rappler has focused critical attention on the Duterte regime’s controversial, murderous anti-drug campaign. The number of deaths is so high that the campaign resembles a war waged against the country’s own population. Ms. Ressa and Rappler have also documented how social media is being used to spread fake news, harass opponents and manipulate public discourse,” said the Nobel citation.

Maria Ressa has received various recognitions for her work in the Philippines, including the UNESCO World Press Freedom Prize.

Ressa was previously named the TIME Person of the Year representing press freedom fighters in the world.



Rappler’s Maria Ressa was awarded the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize named after Alfred Nobel.

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# 'Maring' leaves 9 dead, 11 missing

BY DEMPSEY REYES



Policemen and personnel of the Philippine Coast Guard conduct clearing operations in San Juan, La Union, one of the areas hit by floods, on Oct. 12, 2021.

Nine persons died while 11 were reported missing as severe Tropical Storm "Maring" (international name: Kompas) continued to bring heavy rains and trigger flash floods and landslides mostly in Northern Luzon.

Ricardo Jalad, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), on Tuesday said three of the nine fatalities died in a landslide in Central Ambiong in La Trinidad, Benguet, while another was also killed in a landslide in Ampucao in Itogon, also in Benguet.

Four were reported to have died in a flash flood in Barangay Batang-Batang in Narra, Palawan while another drowned in Claveria, Cagayan.

Jalad said 11 persons were reported missing in landslides: three in Barangay Dominican-Mirador in Baguio City, two in Central Ambiong and one in Itogon.

Four others were missing in Barangay Batang-Batang and one in Badoc, Ilocos Norte.

Two persons were reported injured, one from Buguias, Benguet and the other from Itogon.

The NDRRMC said at least 15 flash floods and four landslides were recorded, mostly in Northern Luzon.

It added that 478 families or 1,638 persons were affected by Maring while 247 families or 850 persons were brought to evacuation centers.

Maring disrupted electricity supply in certain areas, the Department of Energy (DoE) said also

on Tuesday.

Citing the National Electrification Administration's power monitoring report, the DoE said the storm affected 34 electric cooperatives in Regions 1, 2, 3 and Cordillera Administrative Region in Northern Luzon and Region 4A in Southern Tagalog.

Power supply restoration is ongoing in La Union Electric Cooperative Inc. and Cagayan II Electric Cooperative Inc.

Electricity in the franchise areas of Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative Inc., Ilocos Sur Electric Cooperative Inc., Nueva Ecija I Electric Cooperative Inc., Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative Inc.-Area 1 and Tarlac II Electric Cooperative Inc. have been restored.

The DoE said state-run National Power Corp. is conducting spilling operations in Ambuklao, Binga and Lake Lanao dams.

Diesel power plants (DPPs) located in Balatubat and Minabel towns in Cagayan have been offline since Monday.

Also, another DPP in Hikdop, Surigao del Norte, is still not operational because of a line fault.

Diesel power plants in Calayan, Cagayan, as well as Maconacon and Palanan towns in Isabela, were either not operational or on standby also as a result of bad weather or line faults.

The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines said Lal-lo-Sta. Ana 69kV Line, Bacnotan-Bulala 69kV Line, Bauang-San Fabian 69kV Line,

Tuguegarao-Magapit 69kV Line, San Esteban-Bangued 69kV Line and Labrador-Bolinao 69kV Line are unavailable.

Maring blew out of the country on Tuesday, but Malacañang asked the public to continue adhering to minimum health standards while staying alert and vigilant.

In a statement, Palace spokesman Harry Roque Jr. assured the public that the government is closely monitoring operations for Maring.

"We ask the public to continue to take precautionary measures, observe minimum public health standards and cooperate with their respective local authorities in case of an evacuation," Roque said.

He added that local government units are in close coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Philippine National Police and the Bureau of Fire Protection to ensure immediate response operations in affected areas.

Roque said that the Department of Social Welfare and Development has standby funds of over P128 million as of October 10.

He said a total of 373,737 family food packs worth around P219 million are also available.

"Power and water supply restoration and clearing operations of roads are ongoing in affected areas, according to the [NDRRMC]," Roque added.

The weather bureau said storm alerts remained in some areas in Luzon.



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*Sr. Fe Bigwas, RYM, Rolli Mamaug, Sponsoring Organizations, Flower Offerers,*  
*Door Prize Donors, and to everybody who helped make this celebration a memorable event.*

## California law named after Filipino American

From page 1

petechial hemorrhaging in his eyes, which is a sign of asphyxiation.

Rallying: After months of rallying for justice for Quinto and other victims of excessive force and chokeholds, especially after the prominence of George Floyd's murder, Angelo's Law or Assembly Bill 490 by Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson), bans restraint tactics and face-down holds that would cause asphyxiation in California, according to AP News. Newsom was joined by Quinto's family at the signing.

The other seven bills cover the following:

AB 26 by Assemblymember Chris Holden (D-Pasadena): police officers must immediately report potential excessive force and intervene if another officer is doing it. Officers are prohibited from retaliating against those who report.

AB 48 by Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego): bans usage of rubber bullets or tear gas.

AB 89 by Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles): to be an officer, the applicant must be at least 21, instead of 18.

AB 481 by Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco): regulates military equipment funding, acquisition and use.

AB 958 by Assemblymember Mike Gipson (D-Carson): officers will have their badges taken if they are a part of a "law enforcement gang," a group of officers who participate in "unlawful or unethical on-duty behavior."

SB 2 by Senator Steven Bradford (D-Gardena): existing officers or officer applicants will be disqualified or revoked of certificates if the newly formed Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board finds prior offenses such as, sexual assault,

bias, excessive force, false arrest or being a part of a law enforcement gang.

SB 16 by Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley): more transparency to the public of an officers' use of excessive force or being a bystander to an officer doing it, as well as other misconducts.

"Too many lives have been lost due to racial profiling and excessive use of force. We cannot change what is past, but we can build accountability, root out racial injustice and fight systemic racism. We are all indebted to the families who have persevered through their grief to continue this fight and work toward a more just future," Newsom said.

With the implementation of SB 2, California joins 46 other states in disallowing abusive officers with prior misconducts from transferring to another department instead of being made accountable, according to the Los Angeles Times.

# The Philippine political circus begins

PerryScope

By PERRY DIAZ

As expected, the 2022 Philippine presidential election will be one of the most – if not the most – interesting elections in the Philippines. It is a political alchemy of various personalities that includes a former boxing great, the heir of the late dictator, a colorful Manila mayor, two former national police chiefs, and the widow of an assassinated popular political heavyweight.

The people are energized to elect the next president who – as usual – promises to bring “peace and prosperity” to a third-world country that dreams of greatness since the corrupt late dictator promised to make the Philippines great again. Thus was born the “Great Again Society,” which was as promising as it was half a century ago when it became the rallying cry of the “New Balintawak,” which was “For God and country: Guns, goons, and gold” – the three G’s that brought the Marcos family to the forefront of greed, ambition, and power. But in the end, the people revolted and sent the Marcoses to exile in Hawaii.

Thirty-two years later, the heirs of Marcos brought home the remains of the dictator and retreated to Ilocos Norte where they slowly rebuilt their political base, which remained loyal to their “Apo Lakay” to this day. That was the Solid North that brought to the presidency of Elpidio Quirino, Carlos P. Garcia (parents were Ilocanos), Ramon Magsaysay, Ferdinand Marcos, and Fidel Ramos. The loyal Ilocanos hope Bongbong Marcos would be next, which would mark 2022 as the rebirth of the Marcos dynasty or if he fails, its final political burial year.

So, with that introduction, let the circus begin!

As of the final filing date last October 8, more than 90 Filipinos have filed their certificates of candidacy (COC). I’m not going to name all of them since most of them filed just to have the bragging right of “being a presidential candidate.” There



are however, a handful of serious candidates. They are the following (in no particular order):

## Former Senator Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos, Jr.

This is Bongbong’s second attempt to run for higher office. He was beaten by Vice President Leni Robredo in 2016 when he ran for Vice President. His popularity stands at 20%.

## Vice President Maria Leonor “Leni” Robredo

Although she’s the incumbent Vice President, Leni’s popularity is less than 10%. However, she’s always been behind in ratings since she first entered politics. She first ran as Congresswoman in Camarines Sur’s 3rd congressional district in 2013 beating the wife of former Congressman Luis Villafuerte of the politically powerful Villafuerte political dynasty.

In 2016, she ran for Vice President and won. She became the voice and face of the opposition. In 2018, she criticized China for establishing missiles in the West Philippine Sea. On October 7, 2021, she announced her candidacy for President as an independent although she remains a member and chairman of the Liberal Party. Clearly, she’s distancing herself from the “dilawan” (yellow) brand of the Liberal Party.

To accentuate her independence, she adopted “pink” as the color of her candidacy. But make no mistake, the Liberal Party supports her candidacy and is expected to campaign for her. In explaining why she picked “pink,” Leni said, “This is a different fight. We have a bigger fight ahead. This is a

battle against the comeback of the dictator’s son and incompetent governance which is the root of our problems.”

## Senator Emmanuel “Manny” Pacquiao

After announcing his retirement from boxing on September 29, 2021, after a record of 62-8-2, 39 KOs at age 42, Manny declared two days later that he was running for President. One of the greatest boxing champions of all time, “Pacman,” as he was known in the ring, won 12 world titles in eight weight divisions. The presidency would be the apex of his rise to greatness.

Manny was so poor that he stopped his studies in high school to help earn money for his family. In 2007, he took, and passed, a high school equivalency exam making him eligible for college education. In the same year, he ran for Congress and lost. Never a quitter, he ran again in 2010 and won. He was reelected in 2013. In 2016, he ran for Senator and won. Surely, he has the mentality of a winner.

## Manila Mayor Francisco “Isko” Moreno Domagoso

Isko Moreno is running for president in his first attempt at national politics. He was first elected Vice Mayor of Manila in 2019 when he unseated Manila mayor and former president Joseph “Erap” Estrada. A former actor who grew up in the slums of Tondo, Isko Moreno – his name as an actor -- acknowledged that he doesn’t have an extensive educational background and he doesn’t come from a powerful political clan. He’s using his successful programs and projects to pro-

pel him to the presidency. “I do not run on promises. I run on prototypes,” the 46-year-old mayor said during his campaign launch in Tondo.

## Senator Panfilo “Ping” Lacson

Ping Lacson first ran for president as an independent in 2004 when he suffered a landslide defeat at the hands of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. He finished third in a five-way contest. A graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, he ran on a campaign against illegal drugs, criminality, and corruption, which was his forte as a former Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief.

After Estrada was ousted in 2001, Lacson won a seat in the Senate that same year, and proceeded to win two more terms. He remained an independent since then. In 2021, Lacson was named the chairman of the revived Partido Reporma. He and his running mate former Senate President Tito Sotto launched their candidacies last August 4.

## Senator Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa

Bato rose to prominence when President Duterte appointed him as PNP Chief in 2016. He led the Oplan Tokhang, the controversial “war on drugs” campaign. As a result, several groups including human rights groups and religious leaders strongly objected to Dela Rosa and President Duterte’s initiatives.

In 2018, Dela Rosa was appointed as Director General of the Bureau of Corrections. The following year, he ran for Senator and won. On October 8,

he announced his candidacy for President, which surprised a lot of people. Why was he running for President, they asked? Speculations started to spread that Dela Rosa was running for President and then Sara Duterte-Carpio will substitute for him on November 15, when substitutions are allowed. It’s interesting to note that President Duterte used the same playbook in 2015 when he ran as a substitute for an unknown candidate who gladly allowed Duterte to take his place.

I am not going to discuss the other presidential candidates whom I believe have not an iota of chance of winning. At best, they’re spoilers who just wanted to brag about their presidential candidacies.

On the Vice Presidential contest, so far Leni Robredo has announced Senator Francisco “Kiko” Pangilinan to be her running mate; Ping Lacson has picked Tito Sotto; Pacquiao picked former Mayor Lito Atienza as his running mate; and Moreno picked Dr. Willie Ong, a cardiologist and a political newcomer, as his running mate.

Meanwhile, Bongbong Marcos wanted President Duterte to be his running mate but Duterte took himself out of the race for Vice President after his ratings plummeted. Bongbong’s second choice is Bong Go who already announced his vice presidential candidacy. There is no final word on a Bongbong-Bong Go tandem yet but people have started using “Bong in the third power” as a campaign slogan.

So there you go! May the best man or woman win!  
(PerryDiaz@gmail.com)

# 500 Years of Christianity

BY DALE ESPERANTE

From page 1

Before the posting of the national flags outside the church, the parishioners were congregated inside St. Clare Catholic Church for a special mass to commemorate the 500 years anniversary. The prelude of the mass featured Bato Balani, sung by the choir. A procession of Maria Clara Filipinas swayed to the tune of the song as they entered the church led by a Barong Tagalog Filipino carrying the Cross. Before the mass, a commentator narrated that on March 16, 1521, the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan landed on the island of Limasawa. On March 31, 1521, the first catholic mass in the Philippines was celebrated where some 800 natives were baptized. Fast forward to the present, some 80 million Filipinos or 80 percent of the population in the Philippines are Catholics.

Panginoon, a Tagalog Song accompanied the procession of Knights of Columbus Honor Guards. These Knights, who came from various Sacramento parishes, posted accordingly to open the main aisleway for the procession of acolytes, a company of Filipino priests, the priests assisting and/or co-celebrating with the bishop, and finally His Excellency himself, Bishop Jaime Soto.

The Bishop of Sacramento, Excellency Jaime Soto, celebrated the mass in honor of the First Filipino Saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz. Saved for the Gospel, Homily, and Mass Ritual Prayers: The Hymnals, Readings, Responsorial Psalms, and Prayers of the Faithful were all presented in different Filipino dialects.

Before the end of the mass, Father Jovito Rata, Pastor of Saint Peter – All Hallows Church in Sacramento, delivered an impactful closing speech, announcement, and acknowledgements. He expressed his gratitude to all for the planning of this 500 Years of Christianity celebration, then humorously added, “it’ll probably



The Filipino Apostolate of the Diocese of Sacramento (FACDS)



Father Sal Bringas and Rev. Joyle Martinez



American Legion Magellan Post 604 Color Guard with Commander Tom Amaba



Photos by Dale Esperante

take another 500 years to recover from all this planning.” The people loved Father Jovito’s speech and humor!

After the church service, the parishioners assembled outside for the Fiesta. The posting of the national flags, the national anthems sing-along, introductions, performances, and presentation of the priests from the Philippines onstage with Bishop Jaime Soto, fulfilled the evening’s fellowship of the Filipino American community.

At the Fiesta, I met the former Vicar of St. Charles Borromeo, Father Sal Bringas who assisted in identifying the major-

ity of the priests: Fr. Jovito Rata Jr., Fr. Brian Atienza, Fr. Giovanni Gamas, Fr. Rey Bersabal, Fr. Julito Orpilla, Fr. Joyle Martinez, Fr. Jonathan Molina, Fr. Loreto “Bong” Roxas, Fr. George Snyder Jr., Fr. Alfredo Tamayo, Fr. Michael Baricuatro, Fr. Salvador Bringas, Fr. Abel Cabasagan, Fr. Raj Derivera, Fr. Eric Flores, Fr. Jhay Galeon, Fr. Fredhelito “Freddie” Gucor, Fr. Vincent Juan, Fr. Antonio “Ace” Racela, Fr. Aldrin Basarte, Fr. Ronal Torres, Fr. Lester Manor, Fr. Cormac Lagre, Fr. Paul Catada, MSgr. James Murphy, and Deacons Larry Bertrand and James Murphy. Fr. Joel Genabia and Fr. Percy

Singco may have also been in attendance. For this list of names, we are grateful to Father Sal of St. John Parish in Quincy, CA.

We would like to express our thanks to Beatriz Alo and Maricel Lumaquin for inviting us military veterans to this significant event. For the successful organization of the 500 Years of Christianity celebration, we would like to congratulate the FACDS committee: Father Jovito Rata, Johnny Regadio, Maricel Lumaquin, Beatriz Alo, Vicky Watson, Eric Watson, and Vicky Alonzo.



(L to R) Vince Sales, Lilia Rivera and Dr. Robyn Rodriguez



With guest speakers SMUD Board Member Dave Tamayo and Sacramento City Council Mai Vang

## UC Davis’ Bulosan Center for Filipino Studies Releases Health Data on Region’s Filipinos, Impacts of COVID



On October 14, 2021 at the Kapit Bahay (Seafood City), Sacramento, CA, Dr. Robyn Magalit Rodriguez along with area community leaders of Sacramento and Elk Grove talked about the COVID-19 pandemic, the data on the real impacts on the region’s communities including the Filipino American community.

The press conference highlight the stories of the pandemics impact on the Filipino population, the statistic on health coverage, workers experience and mental health implications and why this data is critical to decision makers when it comes to improving the outcomes and overall well-being of our Filipino populations, beyond just recovery from COVID-19.

# Citizenship Day

BY DALE ESPERANTE

The Ladies of The American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604 commemorated Constitution Day, aka, Citizenship Day on September 25, 2021. "Constitution Day is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become US citizens. It is normally observed on September 17, the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia." (Online reference)

At 3pm, the program started with an invocation by Historian Oyen Abad, then the singing of the national anthem by everyone. Followed by a singalong rehearsal of the Tagalog song, "Ikaw ang Mahal Ko," by the members of the Auxiliary.

President Frennie Williams delivered her welcome address to prelude the introduction of the special guest. Vice President Lilia Rivera was given the honor to introduce the guest speaker, Will Williams, the Vice Commander of Area 1 Representing Northern California. The Northern California commander focused his speech on the history of Citizenship, from colonial times to the present. He defined the different types of citizenship: Birthright, Naturalized, Honorary, and the distinction between citizenship and nationality. Excellent presentation by Commander Will.

One of the many benefits of being a citizen is the right to celebrate a special day like Citizenship Day. Celebration means food and beverages. The



The Ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary Magellan Unit 604

Photos by Dale Esperante



Song rehearsal of the song "Ikaw and mahal ko" by the Auxiliary



Will Williams and members of the Auxiliary

Auxiliary did not disappoint by serving delicious dishes, coffee, and water.

For entertainment, the Kapitbahay Dancers started with the "Kiss Me" line dance number. Everyone joined in the first line dance and stayed until the last dance, four hours later.

The Auxiliary Unit 604 an-

nounced that all proceeds received from this fundraising event would be donated to the American Legion Magellan Post 604 to assist them in the roof reparation of the building. The Auxiliary had also expressed their support in the selling of Post 604 Fundraising Raffle Tickets.

Donation for a ticket is \$100

each, and the prizes are the following:

**SUPER GRAND PRIZE: \$3000**

**1st Grand Prize: \$1000**

**2nd Grand Prize: \$1000**

**3rd Grand Prize: \$1000**

Drawing will be held on Veterans Day, Thursday, November 11, 2021, at 11am. You do not need to be present to win. This is a building maintenance and

repairs fundraiser and is considered a tax-deductible donation.

Contact: Al Garcia  
(916) 591-5524.

Please help to maintain Magellan Hall, a historical building that has served the community for the past 75 years.



American Legion Post 604  
**Magellan Hall**

8831 Gerber Road, Sacramento CA 95828

**Help us to maintain this historical building that has served the community for the past 75 years.**

**Super GRAND Prize - \$3000**  
**1st GRAND Prize - \$1,000**  
**2nd GRAND Prize - \$1,000**  
**3rd GRAND Prize - \$1,000**

Donation: \$100  
Drawing will be held on Veterans Day, November 11, 2021 at the Magellan Hall. You do not need to be present to win  
Building maintenance and repairs fund raiser  
Tax deductible donation

Contact: AL GARCIA - 916.591.5524

# Are Filipino Americans Pacific Islanders?

BY ZACH ANDERSON

After a notably tragic Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage month this year, Viet Thanh Nguyen, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of “The Sympathizer” penned an editorial for the New York Times entitled “The Beautifully Flawed Fiction of ‘Asian America’.”

At its core, Nguyen wrote, Asian American identity is an inherently political one and only arbitrarily connected to the physical geographies of either Asia or America. The binding force that unites Americans of Asian descent is a shared history that despite being just as vast and complex as general American history, is nonetheless pushed to the side in classrooms.

The narratives of this history are as familiar to Asian Americans as anything else—Chinese prospectors during the Gold Rush and their construction of the transcontinental; Japanese incarceration during World War II; and the arrival of Southeast Asian refugees in the aftermath of the Vietnam War.

Intertwined with this history is that of Filipino Americans, the third largest Asian group in the United States. This history began in 1587 when the first Pinoys set foot on North America on the beaches of Morro Bay, California. It continued into the Central Valley where after a long day’s work in the asparagus fields young Pinoys danced their hearts away in the dance halls of Stockton. Years later, those same Pinoys—now old men—walked off the vineyards of Delano, beginning one of the largest labor struggles in US History.

At the onset of the creation of ethnic studies programs in the 1960s that resulted in the creation of the term Asian American, Filipino activists like Dan Gonzales were on the frontlines alongside Chinese and Japanese students.

However, according to One Down Media, 48 percent of Filipino Americans identify themselves as Pacific Islanders.

In the same article, it states that Filipinos who do identify as Pacific Islanders point to geography and shared ancestry.

The Philippines is made up of

more than 7,000 islands located in the Pacific. But according to the US Census Bureau, Pacific Islanders are people who either descend or are from the three regions of Pasifika—Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia. The Philippines is not part of any of them.

But when it comes to ancestral roots, there is precedent that the people of the Philippines share origins with Pacific Islanders—especially the Chamorro people of the Mariana Islands.

When informed of the number of Filipinos who call themselves Pacific Islanders, Dr. Lisalinda Natividad, a Chamorro/Filipino social work professor at the University of Guam, was not surprised.



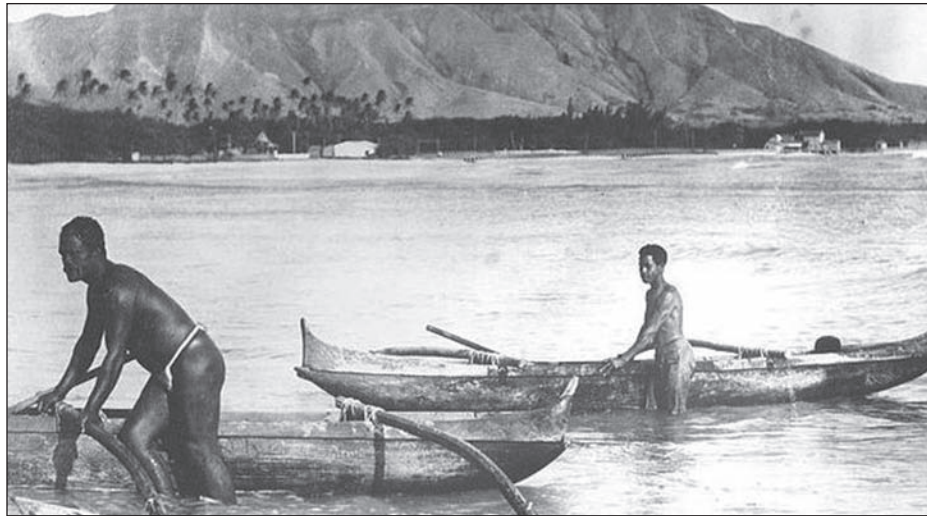
The Delano Manongs

As part of her work, Dr. Natividad and some of her students participated in a cultural exchange program with Benguet State University in the Philippines which included touring a local ethnographic museum.

“You could see so many connections, culturally between Chamorros and Filipinos,” said Dr. Natividad. “It really is hard to separate Chamorro-ness from Filipino-ness.”

In the case of the Marianas, the history of the Philippines and Pasifika are intertwined.

Four thousand years ago, when the Austronesians migrated outside of modern-day Taiwan, they sailed to island groups across the Pacific including— but certainly not



Variations of the outrigger canoes used by the Austronesians can be found in the Philippines and throughout Pasifika. Photo via Wikimedia Creative Commons

limited to—the Philippines and Marianas.

During Magellan’s expedition to circumnavigate the earth, he first made contact with the Chamorro people off the coast of Guam. Ten days later, he made landfall in the Philippines, marking the beginning of the Spanish era for that ended in 1898 after the US conquered them during the Spanish American War.

Throughout most of those four centuries, much of indigenous culture was lost because of centuries of colonial power.

“Many things [in Guam] have been hijacked by colonization and have disappeared,” said Dr. Natividad, citing traditional Chamorro dance as an example. “A lot of filling in the gaps of who we are came from looking

at the diasporic migration [of Austronesians] through the Philippines, Guam, and the rest of Micronesia.”

Today, 37 percent of Guam’s population are Chamorro while 29 percent are Filipino. Some are descended from the groups of political dissidents sent to the island by the Spanish and Americans as farm laborers. Others from those who migrated after World War II to work on US military bases.

Similarly in Hawaii, 13 percent of the population are Filipino and nine percent are Native Hawaiian. Many Filipinos descend from laborers brought to the islands to work on the sugar plantations where they also joined Chinese, Japanese,

Korean, and Native Hawaiian laborers.

But these Filipinos do not identify as Pacific Islanders either, despite deep ties to those places.

Keana Aguila Labra, a Pinoy poet from San Jose, said that their Pinoy friends from Hawaii still consider themselves Filipino.

“[They] acknowledge they’re on stolen land,” said Aguila Labra. “When I met each of them, all different times, they each said something like: ‘I’m X, I’m an Ilokano settler on the island of Oahu.’”

Perhaps the most damning argument to the contrary is that Filipinos from the Philippines identify as Asian.

“My parents corrected my siblings and I immediately once we brought the conversation into our household...” said Aguila Labra. “I very much see the Philippines and myself as Southeast Asian.”

Shiabe Bok, a Chamorro musician born on Guam and based in San Diego, shared this sentiment.

“I get friends who are full Filipino born and raised on Guam who say they are Filipino but from there,” he said. “A lot from Hawaii say they’re Filipino but rep Hawaii.”

Bok also noted that Filipinos who do claim to be Pacific Islander are from the US mainland and not from the islands.

“It’s like this: if you are from Guam do you say you’re Guamanian or Chamorro?”

This phrasing, which distinctively separates Filipinos from Pacific Islanders in an ethnic context, works to clear the air on the issue. Filipinos born and raised in Pasifika are much more connected to the

culture than mainland Pinoys, and their choice to distinguish themselves apart from that ethnic group indicates understanding of what happens if they occupy that space.

Aguila Labra, also said that Pinoys who do identify as Pacific Islander use surface-level explanations such as “shared physical features” and colonialism, indicating a lack of knowledge of the nuanced ties between those islands and others.

This does not come without consequence. When Filipinos occupy conversations that should be occupied by Pacific Islanders, that community’s concerns are ignored or downright erase.

It makes it difficult to talk about issues like the impact of nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands; the discrimination against Micronesian immigrants in Hawaii and Guam; that Guamanians enlist in the armed forces at higher rates than any other state or territory; and the work of Hawaiian activists to preserve cultural practices.

But this does not mean that Filipinos from Hawaii or the Marianas cannot identify with island life and culture.

“How a person is connected to their race and to their culture are two very different things, and this is a complicated matter for those who are not first or second or even third generation citizens in America,” said Jared Elizares, a San Francisco-based photographer who was born in Hawaii and is half Filipino. “...I have many friends who find it insulting that Filipinos would identify one way (and many feel the same about the other), but this is a challenging conversation that many people my age need to navigate through their own contexts.”

It is understandable why mainland Pinoys have complicated relationships to identity. Mainstream American discourse pushes the fiction that Asian Americans are exclusively those of East Asian descent. Coupled with ideas of the model minority, it can be difficult for young Pinoys to feel connected to Asian identity.

But what needs to be understood is that Filipinos, despite origins in island life and culture and despite historical connections, are not Pacific Islanders.



# Jose “Joe” Gonzalez

BY DALE ESPERANTE

**J**oe was born on September 20, 1947, in Las Pinas, Philippines. On September 12, 2021, in Sacramento, California, Joe departed to be with the angels of The Lord.

On the evening of 8 Oct 2021 at East Lawn Memorial Chapel in Elk Grove, we bade farewell to Joe. We, the veterans of The American Legion Magellan Post 604 and The Filipino American Veterans Association (FAVA), conducted a Military Honors Ceremony witnessed by family, friends, and community members of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity.

The evening started at 5pm with the Viewing and the Rosary. From 6pm – 7pm, the Military Honors Ceremony by the veterans of The American Legion Magellan Post 604, and the veterans of the Filipino American Veterans Association. 7pm – 8pm started with a song tribute by family members followed with acknowledgements by Joe’s son, Jazel Gonzalez. Eulogies, remembrance, and bonding time concluded the evening..

For years, Joe actively served the Sacramento Filipino Community. The first time I met him was at a FAVA meeting circa 2008. In addition to FAVA, he also became a member of The American Legion and rose to the position of Magellan Post 604 adjutant, and eventually to the office of the commander. After his tenure as Post Commander, the District 6 commander, Lionel “Will” Williams, invited Joe to attend a meeting with him in Rocklin. The Rocklin meeting eventually resulted in Joe being selected as The American Legion, District 6, Finance Officer. Being a district officer is akin to being a Sacramento County elected officer. As district finance officer, Joe held a significant American Legion responsibility for District 6 that encompasses Sacramento and Yolo Counties.

Besides the veteran organizations, Joe became a part of the Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity (FCSV). He served as a board member. In 2018-2019, he served as FCSV’s 1st Vice President under Merced Guerrero’s administration. He also served as the Chair of Maintenance Committee instrumental in caring for the FCSV grounds. Until 2020- 2021, he served as one of the incumbent peace officers for the organization.

Being a known asset to the community, the Filipino Fiesta organization (FF) invited Joe to become a member. Filipino Fiesta is responsible for organizing an annual community event held every first Sunday of June to celebrate the Philippine Independence Day. Joe served as Vice President for seven years, in-charge of logistics. In this capacity, he was responsible for the following: signing up vendors and exhibitors – ground and hall



Joe’s wife Carina



Jose ‘Joe’ Gonzales



Military Honors Ceremony by the Filipino Veterans Association and the American Legion Magellan Post 604 at East Lawn Memorial Chapel in Elk Grove, CA



layout – contracts to rent the stage, tents, tables, chairs – assignment of vendors, sponsors, and activities – closing of street for the parade - permits for health and safety compliance from the Fire Marshall’s Office and County Health Inspectors. Non-compliance of health and safety regulations can shut down the Fiesta celebration. Joe never failed to receive an approval from the inspectors even through some trying times.

To attract different generations to visit the Fiesta, Joe recruited his son, Jazel, to help establish and promote a Fiesta car-themed event. Pre-COVID, the Fiesta’s Car Show became the largest in northern California because of Joe and Jazel’s teamwork. To record the progress of the annual Filipino Fiesta, he asked me to become the official photographer of the annual celebration for a few years. One year, I had a chance to walk around the entire grounds with Joe. We started from inside the Rizal Community Center, on through the outside grounds where there were two performance stages and a multitude of tents/booths used by the vendors, eventually reaching the popular car show where the younger crowd gathered. Every step of the way, someone would greet him, or approach



Photos by Dale Esperante

The family of Jose Gonzales

him for his recommendation or instructions. Everyone who talked to him came with a smile on their face: the security patrols, the vendors, the car show participants, and even the headliner performers of the day.

Indefatigable, Joe also held an important position with the Pacific Rim Heritage Foundation (PRHF), an organization whose mission is “To provide a place for the community to come together to preserve and promote its rich cultural and historical heritage,” (prhf.net). During Joe’s term as Chairman of PRHF, the community represented by FCSV partnered with East Lawn Memorial Park in Elk Grove to launch the Filipino Garden. The said partnership is helping raise funds

for the building of a Filipino Center in Sacramento.

With all his veteran and community activities, Joe still found time to relax by meeting up with his golfing buddies, at least three times a week during his robust years.

For Joe, all his activities could not have been accomplished without the support of his family, especially by his devoted wife, Carina. Before heading to any activity, he ensured that all was taken care of at the home front. As

a devoted husband and family man, he had told me several times, “When my wife is happy, I am happy.”

As one of the many friends of Joe’s, I am familiar with his friendly and caring disposition. He always greeted you with a smile. I can say that he lived a happy life because of his love for his wife, children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces, extended family, and friends.

To Leila Pereira (FCSV) and Lilia Rivera (Filipino Fiesta), we are grateful for the information you provided regarding Joe’s accomplishments with your organizations.

# COVID-19 causes steep rise in depression, anxiety – study

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Cases of depression and anxiety surged by more than a quarter globally during the first year of the pandemic, especially among women and young adults, a major study showed on Saturday.

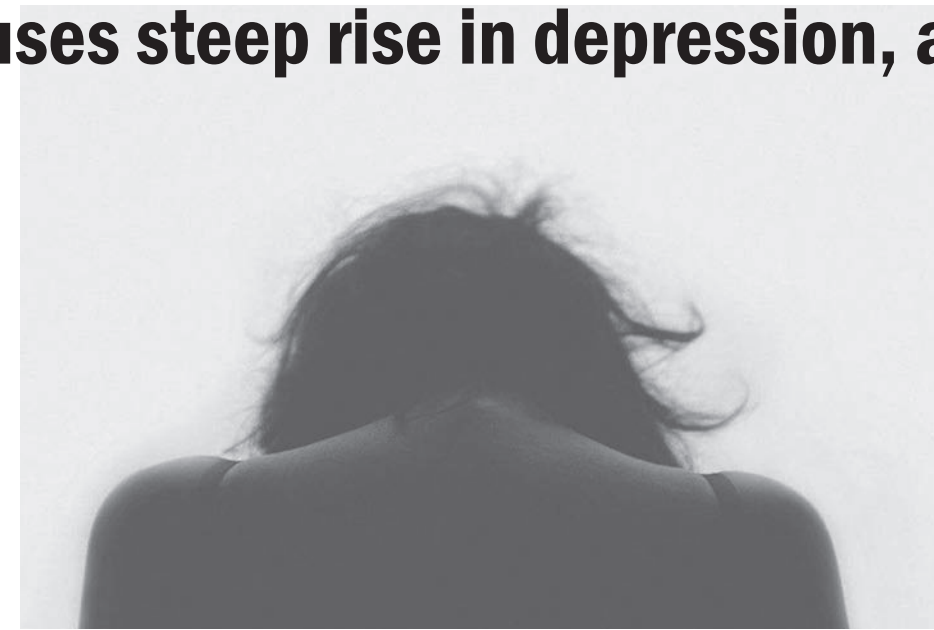
In the first worldwide estimate of the mental health impact of COVID-19, researchers estimated that 2020 saw an additional 52 million people suffer from major depressive disorder, and an additional 76 million cases of anxiety.

These represent a 28- and 26-percent increase in the two disorders respectively, according to the study, published in *The Lancet* medical journal.

COVID-19 has claimed nearly 5 million lives since it emerged in late 2019, but experts say this is likely to be a vast underestimate.

Friday's study showed that the hardest-hit countries were saddled with the greatest mental health burden, with a strong link between high COVID-19 case levels, restrictions on movement, and elevated rates of depression and anxiety.

"Our findings highlight an urgent need to strengthen mental health systems in



order to address the growing burden of major depressive disorder and anxiety disorders worldwide," said lead study author Damian Santomauro, from the University of Queensland's School of Public Health.

"Meeting the added demand for mental health services due to COVID-19 will be challenging, but taking no action should not be an option."

Analysing data collected across North America, Europe and East Asia re-

searchers modelled the expected prevalence of depression and anxiety.

Had the pandemic not occurred, 193 million cases of depression would have been expected. This compared with an observed 246 million cases during 2020.

Similarly, for anxiety, models predicted 298 million cases of anxiety globally without COVID-19, when in fact the actual number of cases last year was 374 million.

The analysis showed that women

suffered disproportionately, largely because pandemic measures exacerbated existing health and social inequality in most nations.

Additional caring and domestic duties still mainly fall to women, and women are far more likely to be victims of domestic violence, which surged during the pandemic.

School and college closures restricted young people's ability to learn, interact with peers, and gain employment, leading to outsized mental health impacts among 20-24 year olds, the study showed.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many existing inequalities, and social determinants of mental health disorders, and the underpinning mechanisms to improve mental health in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic globally," said Alize Ferrari, from the University of Queensland.

"It is crucial that policymakers take underlying factors such as these into account as part of measures to strengthen mental health services."

## Buhay Pinoy

Komiks by Dave San Pedro

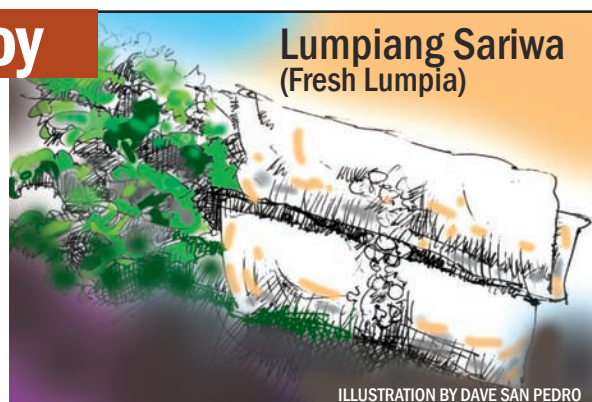


## Lasang Pinoy

**Ingredients**  
Lumpia Wrappers  
½ head cabbage, chopped  
100g green beans, chopped  
1-2 sweet potato, chopped  
1 large Jicama, chopped  
100g bean sprouts [togue]  
1 carrot, chopped  
100g pork, minced  
100 shrimp, minced  
2 tbsp cooking oil  
1 onion chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
salt and pepper  
10 pcs native lettuce leaves

♥ for the sauce  
2 cups water  
3 tbsp soy sauce  
3 tbsp sugar  
1 tsp cornstarch  
4 tbsp ground peanuts  
4 tbsp garlic, minced

**Directions**  
Fry sweet potato until golden brown and set aside.  
In the same pan, sauté garlic and onion until it becomes translucent.



## Lumpiang Sariwa (Fresh Lumpia)

Add pork and shrimp and fry until cooked. Add all the vegetables and season with salt and pepper.

The water content of the vegetable should be enough to cook them but if the vegetable is a little dry, you can 1-2 tsp of water.

Cook until vegetable are done. Constantly stir vegetables to prevent them from burning.

For the sauce: Boil water, sugar and soy sauce. Stir cornstarch in 1 tsp water and pour in the sauce. Wait for it to boil, to thicken the sauce

To serve: Put 1 native lettuce leaf and 3-4 tsp of vegetable at the center of each wrapper and roll.

Top each Lumpia with 3 tsp of sauce, ground peanuts and freshly minced garlic.

## The Matrix Real Time

BY JoeAM

The movie "The Matrix" explores a digital reality where humans have been reduced to a source of energy empowering the computer. A few rebels are fighting it. It's pretty much what we see in our world today only the computer does not yet have us physically plugged in. It is just a malevolent thought

dealing advocacies assuming moral high ground.

We assume the role of resources for our disinformation matrix in which the powerful and rich game our knowledge. We are here at the pleasure of, and value to, the favored few. Our labors and taxes create wealth for the entitled. They control our life. Freedom is an empty concept deployed when it is useful.

How did I come to this grim vision of where we are heading?

I commented on Twitter that James Fallows, who wrote an earthshaking piece for *The Atlantic* that called the Philippines a "damaged culture", was back with a blog. I learned that a lot of my followers have no idea who



James Fallows is. They have no idea what Marcos was about, in fact. Or Edsa. Or Gloria Arroyo.

Knowledge is disappearing like whales from the ocean. Head-long extinction.

Replacing the knowledge is dirty data. Conspiracy theories. Paid journalists and pundits. Armies of trolls. Self-

dealing advocacies assuming moral high ground.

Little incidents become national crises inflamed by a sensationalist press aways on the lookout for dirt and someone to disparage. National crises become partisan battlegrounds where, in the US, kids are sent off to hospitals to die so anti-vax politicians can appeal to Trump's lunatic base, a base that loves living in a field of dirty data.

It's ugly, this place where knowledge is replaced by dirt. Where science is a swear word.

We need to be more aware of what is going on. We need to strive for clean, scientific data. For knowledge. For facts. And we should definitely call out the mudslingers.

# Ellen Adarna, Derek Ramsay's sexy couple shoot hints at wedding coming soon

BY DANA CRUZ

**E**llen Adarna and Derek Ramsay looked sexy and daring in their first photo shoot together as they prepare for their wedding slated this year.

Ramsay can be seen guiding Adarna in a field with tall grass as the actress walks topless after him, as shown on the actor's Instagram page today, Oct. 12. They can also be seen going for a kiss in another photo.

"Can't wait love!" Ramsay said.

The couple did not state whether the portraits are part of a pre-nup shoot, though the pictures were taken by celebrity and wedding photographer Pat Dy. This led fans to speculate that Adarna and Ramsay's wedding is just around the corner.

For her part, Adarna shared photos of herself and Ramsay wearing various beige and black-colored outfits while



Ellen Adarna and Derek Ramsay

cuddling in an open space, embracing by a hillside and sitting next to each other in a car, also through her Instagram page today.

"Our first photoshoot ever" and "My forever D," she said.

Adarna and Ramsay confirmed their relationship last February and got engaged in March. They said they planned to tie the knot this year. The couple's families went fishing and swimming together in Siargao last month for a pamanhikan trip.

# Toktok welcomes Vice Ganda as its newest ambassador

INQUIRER.net

**V**ice Ganda, a phenomenal star and one of the country's leading endorsers, is now the latest brand ambassador of toktok, a Filipino-developed app that offers a one-stop shop for all your needs.

Toktok and Vice Ganda share the same qualities: They're both fun, trendy, and up-to-date. Toktok, with its multi-function and easy-to-use features, will provide you with your essentials.

Jonathan So and Carl Macadangdang, founders of toktok, welcomed Vice Ganda in their family of stars.

"We are happy that Vice Ganda chose to be with us. She would definitely be a big factor in terms of our marketing plans," says So.

"Vice Ganda's colorful personality and multiple talents definitely fit our brand" adds Macadangdang.

And after hitting its first million downloads and launching its online mall, the new trending go-to app toktok is celebrating the month of October with Toktoberfest!

With selected brands and items participating, shoppers can add-to-cart and get surprise discounts upon checking out with their toktoberfest!

For details, you may check out the website or download the app via the Google Playstore and the App Store.



Vice Ganda gets a warm welcome as newest toktok ambassador from founders Carl Macadangdang (left) and Jonathan So.



Vice Ganda is joined by fellow toktok ambassadors (from left) Daniel Padilla and Kathryn Bernardo and Maine Mendoza and Alden Richards.

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# Filipino Community of Sacramento & Vicinity (FCSV) Filipino-American History Month

BY MURRAY NAVARRO  
Photos by Dale Esperante

As Filipino-Americans rush the waves to celebrate our history in the US, FCSV had a blast of a powerful event “October”!

The event signifies the recognition of the pioneering organization of Sacramento vis-a-vis the proclamation of October 25, 2020, as “Larry Itliong Day” by the Governor of the State of California. A special tribute to Itliong was given by Cynthia Bonta who was introduced by Josie Patria. Followed by Jay Paular who handed the Plaque of Recognition from FCSV to the family of Larry Itliong.

Held at Rizal Community Center on October 16, 2021, from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. The 1st Vice President of FCSV Edna de los Reyes spearheaded the successful celebration. And the different pioneering organizations had their stints to showcase their beginnings with their special numbers that contributed to the event musicals.

Philippine National Day Association  
Filipino Family Fraternity  
American Legion Post 604  
Filipino Women’s Club  
Visayan Association  
Sacramento Mabuhay Lions Club

And for the finale FCSV displayed significant heroes who combated our ultimate freedom from the revolutionary to liberation history of the Philippines. Heroes were role played by the FCSV officers and members. Flag bearers President Dick Mazon as 2nd VP Mina Guerra  
Sto Nino bearer - Reyna Erlinda Aglubat  
Dave San Pedro as Jose Rizal  
Dinnah San Pedro as Maria Clara  
Murray Navarro as Andres Bonifacio  
Jay Paular as Emilio Aguinaldo  
Melchor Munar as Magellan  
Frank Zabal as Lapu-Lapu  
Vince Sales as Juan Luna  
Rose de la Cruz as Gabriela Silang  
Pete de la Cruz as Diego Silang  
Leonardo Pena as Apolinario Mabini  
Tandang Sora as Mercedes Guerrero  
Edna de los Reyes ended by narrating the entrance of interpretative dancers of “Ang Bayan Ko” rendered by Remy Solomon. The dancers were Sarah Enloe, Leila Pereira, Zenny Yagen, Cleo Sabarre-Ner, Bembet Borromeo, and Ling Avera.

The program was closed by 2nd VP Mina Guerra thanking all who contributed to the success of the history month celebration.

The organizational presentations were followed by dancing enthusiasts turning the dance floor as an avenue of musicals of rhythms and sounds combined. Some dancers were in their glittering ternos for ladies and embroidered Barong Tagalog.

The official hosts of the memorable ceremony “October” were Cleo Sabarre-Ner, Vince Sales, and Murray Navarro.

