

PHILIPPINE Fiesta

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P5 Hate Begets Violence Challenges Democracy



P8 Boys State Delegate Garrett Winuk

FCSV Scholarship Award Night



Photo by Frank Zabal

The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Inc. honored high school students in this year's Scholarship Award Program (SAP) Night on July 16, 2022, at Rizal Community Center. Continued on page 6

Folk displaced by earthquake hit 33,000; injured at 320

BY DEXTER CABALZA

MANILA, Philippines — The number of families or individuals affected by the magnitude 7 earthquake that hit northern Luzon on Wednesday continued to pile up way beyond the initial figures on Thursday, when the tally of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) was only beginning to clarify the situation in the quake's aftermath.



Residents affected by the July 27 earthquake in Bangued, Abra, wait in line for their water supply.

The latest data from the NDRRMC showed 62,024 families, or 228,238 individuals, affected by the quake—an increase of 463.8 percent from the 3,456 families reported on Thursday, and of 1,663.1 percent from the 12,945 individuals as also initially reported by the council.

Most of the quake victims are from the directly

affected regions of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos and Cagayan Valley.

The number of displaced persons grew to 33,383, compared with just 567 on Thursday.

Of the latest figure, only 6,176 have been sheltered in 46 evacuation centers, according to the council.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency said

the Japanese government will send to the Philippines 100 camping tents, 500 sleeping pads, 100 rolls of plastic sheets, eight generators with 16 cord reels and 16 conversion plugs, and 100 portable jerry cans and water containers for the earthquake victims.

The death toll stood at 10, with the bodies

Working Together to Deter Anti-Asian Hate

BY LORRIE SPURGAT WILLIAMS

Asians are being targeted as a recent surge in hate crimes and incidents are happening all over the country. If you, your family, your friends, or anyone you know from the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community have felt a heightened sense of fear and distress lately, you are not alone. Working together we bring our unique experiences, knowledge, and ideas which may collectively restore safer communities.

According to the 2021 Hate Crime in California Report, "reported anti-Asian hate crime events once again increased dramatically, rising 177.5% from 2020 to 2021", and are peaking overall to their highest level since 2001. The report includes some significant actions being taken such as the number of hate crime cases filed for prosecution which increased by 30.1%. Also, Attorney General Rob Bonta's office launched the Racial Justice Bureau which will increase resources to the DOJ's Civil Rights Enforcement Section and to thirteen mayors across the state to more effectively prevent and punish anti-Asian hate crimes. But what else can we do?

As part of a state-wide campaign, this article series will discuss vari-



Photo by Dave San Pedro

Asian organizations in a rally at the Florin Road and 65th Street, Sacramento, CA.

ous aspects of anti-Asian hate over the next year. Why has there been an increase in hate crimes and hate incidents and who is perpetrating this hate? What can be done to protect ourselves and others? By examining history, politics, Asian visibility, generational experiences, and the laws and resources in existence, my hope is that there can be a better understanding of how the AAPI community can be better supported and protected.

The United States of America has a centuries-old vow to protect the civil rights of citizens and non-citizens. The majority of people residing in the US are immigrants as recent as first generation and beyond, and most likely a combination of origins. Isn't that what makes America unique and so great? A diversity of cultures, traditions, and languages are reflected everywhere. Currently, 26% of US households are first and second generation immigrants. The chances are very high that every person belongs to or knows someone from one of the families. My family is one of these

families.

My family is what I like to call "beautifully blended". Our ethnicities include Filipino, German, Thai, English, and Taiwanese. We have recent immigrants from Thailand and Taiwan, first and second generation from the Philippines, and lots of third generation from all over the world. A cultural amalgamation is when there's a mixing of two or more cultures which creates a new culture in of itself. It's a very common process in this country within each family and the larger community as well. A diverse community enriches people's lives both directly and indirectly, essentially weaving together a fabric of beauty and strength.

"We all should know that diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value no matter what their color." (Maya Angelou) Every human deserves the basic human rights our country promises no matter their color, ethnicity, citizenship, gender, or age.

Continued on page 2

Asian senior victims of hate say U.S. 'more physically dangerous' for community

BY KIMMY YAM

"Anti-Asian hate and violence instilled a sense of fear and anxiety, especially among Asian American older adults in dense, urban areas," according to a new report.

New research shows the toll anti-Asian racism has had on Asian American seniors amid the pandemic.

The report, by the hate incident tracking coalition Stop AAPI Hate and the American Association of Retired Persons, found that almost all Asian American elders who experienced hate incidents during the pandemic reported feeling that the U.S. has become "more physically dangerous for Asian Americans."

"Over the past two years, Covid-19 exacerbated threats to the safety and well-being for Asian American elders ages 60 and up — a community that was already highly vulnerable prior to the pandemic," researchers wrote in the study, which was released Tuesday. "Anti-Asian hate and violence instilled a sense of fear and anxiety, especially among Asian American older adults in dense, urban areas."

The report examined data released by Stop AAPI Hate, which collected reports of more than 820 hate incidents against Asian American elders from March 2020 to December 2021. While Stop AAPI Hate collects incidents in 15 languages online, researchers said that incidents targeting Asian American and Pacific Islander elders are typically underreported due to technological, linguistic and cultural barriers.



People wear protective masks in the Chinatown area of New York City in August 2020. Noam Galai / Getty Images file

Researchers revealed that more than a quarter of hate incidents against seniors involved physical assault, nearly double the rate that those under 60 experienced. More than 60 percent of incidents involved verbal harassment or shunning. Elders reported their race, ethnicity and gender as the top suspected reasons for the discrimination they received.

Asian American seniors were more likely to face discrimination on public streets and at businesses, similar to younger people. But seniors were twice as likely to face discrimination at private residences, compared to those under 60.

The attacks have had lasting effects. According to the study, 65.5 percent of those who experienced hate incidents reported stress, compared to 24.2 percent in the overall Asian American senior population. The report also showed that in addition to the mental stress elders faced due to racism and discrimination, they also confronted social isolation during the pandemic, which has contributed to depres-

sion, anxiety and decline in physical health. Almost 66 percent of Asian American seniors who reported hate incidents experienced more stress from social isolation, compared to 43.4 percent of those who did not.

But mental health issues among the Asian American senior population often go undetected, the researchers said, due to systemic, cultural and linguistic barriers to treatment, as well as the "long-standing cultural stigma" against seeking help. The study did note, however, that Asian seniors said that seeing an Asian mental health professional would make them feel more comfortable sharing their difficulties.

"Community-based organizations are best positioned to support individual older adults with their immediate needs in times of crisis," the report said. "Local, state, and federal government agencies, however, can address the structural roots that cause fear, isolation, and mental health challenges through culturally and linguistically responsive programming."

BY JOEAM

We need to get a handle on the Marcos campaign's call for "unity" to figure out if it warrants support should it become an operating framework for the Marcos Administration. Maybe it does, maybe it doesn't.

It seems to me there are two types of unity, one that is political, and one that is Constitutional. The political call for unity might see leftists and pinks as troublemakers, or threats, whereas the Constitutional one would see them, and all groups, as vibrant diversity in a welcoming land. This is pretty straightforward. Government tagging of

Unity, who you?



people as a political act, outside of evidence and due process, is wrong. That is abuse under the false claim of unity.

The Duterte Government got it wrong. We'll see how President Marcos handles it.

Constitutional unity is not fear-based. It is fairness based. The Constitution is a unifying document that defines the nation's goals and structures a government that exists to take good care of Filipinos. It takes care of Filipinos of all religions, ethnicities, ages, genders, sexual persua-

sions, regions, families, occupations, and political views. Its inclusivity and its diversity is, in fact, its unity.

Any call that demands Filipinos toe a mandated political line, or engage in acts that are contrary to due process, are actually DIVISIVE, and should be recognized as such.

Red-tagging, drug-tagging, smearing citizens, and list-making represent forms of due process that are NOT unity in action.

They are its opposite.



Editor's Note

We were going to call it, "done" this year, as in we've reached two decades of Philippine Fiesta News publication in our community, and it's time to retire! And the way we hear news now, locally and globally, have changed dramatically. The technology and the social media have made it easier to learn about what's taking place around us. They're way faster than reading hard copies of any print publication. But suddenly, we come to realize that Philippine Fiesta News' mission is not over yet.

For another full year, we are partnering with other Ethnic Media in Sacramento, as part of the grant awarded to us by the California State Library "to report and create content, to raise awareness of Asian hate incidents and crimes, as well as survivor services, community healing and prevention resources in the community".

As you've seen in this publication, we have always covered Filipino events and celebrations with the goal to entertain our readers. This time around though we are asking our community to join forces with us in our fight to Stop Asian Hate.

We are calling on our Filipino American Youth, Pinay, and Senior leaders to participate in our upcoming community conversation scheduled on August 20, September 10 and 17. Please read through this issue of PF News for more information.

Stay safe everyone!

With love always,
Dinnah San Pedro

Working Together to Deter Anti-Asian Hate

From page 1

Those who sew disharmony in to society disrupt peace of mind.

With the increase in anti-Asian hate events in California and the US, we must boost the signal on these issues to reclaim peace of mind and assurance.

Lorrie Spurgat Williams worked in education for over 20 years as a researcher, grant writer, and an at-risk youth mentor. She studied Child Development and Sociology while raising her two amazing children. Happily residing in Elk Grove with her husband, she loves making memories with her growing family.

Homecoming, family reunion: Ilokano president visits earthquake-hit Abra

BY BEA CUPIN

BANGUED, Abra – July 27 was a night of little rest and barely any sleep for most residents of Bangued town in Abra and nearby Vigan in Ilocos Sur.

That morning, their towns shook, houses creaked, soda bottles crashed to the floor, and old buildings – emblems of a glorious past that this part of the Philippines is best known for – got damaged that either left them irreparable or would take lots of funds and lots of time to repair. The tremors kept coming back sporadically in the evening.

It's the north that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr saw upon visiting Abra province on Thursday, June 28, a day after a magnitude 7 earthquake shook the Luzon island, affecting several provinces, especially those in Ilocos and Cordillera.

It was both a homecoming – and family reunion of sorts – for the President whose term began less than a month ago and who, just days prior, delivered his first State of the Nation Address. Homecoming, family reunion: Ilokano president visits earthquake-hit Abra

The President was decidedly lowkey in his visit, at least for those who were in Bangued themselves. Marcos, alongside key Cabinet officials – Special Assistant to the President Secretary Anton Lagdamao, Interior and Local Government Secretary Benhur Abalos, Social Welfare Secretary Erwin Tulfo, and Defense Officer-in-Charge Jose Faustino – flew from Manila to Vigan, then by helicopter to Bangued. They arrived at around 10 am and were out of Abra before 1 pm.

While in Bangued, Marcos visited the Abra Provincial Hospital, where some of the injured were confined, and an evacuation center at the town poblacion, where displaced families had spent their first sleepless night.

In between, Marcos presided over a briefing on the post-earthquake situation in Abra and nearby areas led by provincial and regional officials. There, he was joined by his sister, Senator Imee Marcos and his cousin, House Speaker Martin Romualdez.

Return to normal



The President visits the earthquake-hit province that overwhelmingly chose him as their leader in the 2022 race.

While the devastation wasn't at a large scale and the death toll has, so far, been mercifully low, life in many towns and cities in the areas affected by the earthquake was anything but back to normal.

As the day started, residents rose from their slumber – or what little they got of it – inside evacuation centers or right outside their homes, so they could run out to the streets in case of another strong aftershock.

There were at least two strong ones overnight, and at least one more weaker tremor that morning.

Vice Governor Maria Jocelyn Bernos asked national officials when would residents finally be able to enter their homes. Science and Technology Undersecretary Renato Solidum said that would be determined by engineers.

The local government is tasked with inspecting homes in the aftermath of an earthquake.

After the hour-and-a-half-long meeting, the President zeroed in on two points: bringing life back to normal by making sure structures are safe and usable, and making sure national government coordinates with local government units in planning and implementing those plans.

“Hindi kayo nag-uulit, hindi kayo nag-kukulang (You don't overlap, you don't fall short of anything), you plan everything together. You listen to the local governments because... they are the ones who have the fundamental responsibility to bring this aid to our people, to those who have been hurt,” he said. ‘Solid North’

While Marcos' trip was meant for him to personally check on the status of relief efforts in Abra, it turned into a “sortie” of sorts. During the situational briefing, local executives called on the Ilokano President to deliver on the long-neglected needs of their towns.

At the town square in the capitol of

Bangued, chants of “BBM” greeted Marcos, as locals gathered both to see the President and to collect relief goods and tarpaulins to serve as temporary shelter while they waited out the aftershocks outside their homes.

Homecoming, family reunion: Ilokano president visits earthquake-hit Abra

“Thank you all very much. Maraming salamat at sa... Para akong nagkakampanya pa rin (Thank you for the... it's like I'm campaigning all over again),” Marcos joked, adding that it was fun to campaign in Abra because the results – referring to the 2022 polls – were even more fun.

Marcos won big in Abra province – getting at least 95% of votes in the presidential race – a fact La Paz Mayor Joseph Bernos made sure to point out when he asked for fire trucks and ambulances for Abra.

While Marcos didn't mention the 2022 polls during the briefing with officials, he did so when he was facing Bangued locals at the evacuation center.

“Maraming salamat sa tulong ninyo. Maraming salamat sa suporta ninyo. Ngayon ako naman ang tutulong sa inyo at magsusuporta sa inyo,” he added.

(I thank you all for your help and your support. This time, I'll be the one to help and support you.)

In the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) of which Abra is a part of, as of Thursday, four people died because of the earthquake. Most of the cities in CAR and other regions that lost power due to the temblor have since gotten their supply back. Mobile services are fully restored in most town and city centers.

Over 868 houses were damaged by the earthquake, with 11 considered totally damaged. Hours after the briefing headed by Marcos took place, Abra was officially placed under a state of calamity. – Rappler.com

China and the US are facing off – and in Taiwan we are caught between them

BY BRIAN HIOE

It's no secret why Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan has been such big news. As speaker of the US House of Representatives, she is in direct succession to the presidency after the vice-president. No comparable visit by a US official has taken place for 25 years. On the eve of the visit, there was talk of a possible fourth crisis in the Taiwan Strait; Xi Jinping warned the US that it was "play[ing] with fire". Some commentators have been hyperbolic enough to invoke the prospect of world war.

But for people in Taiwan, for now at least, life carries on as usual. Such is the nature of living in a nation that has long been seen as a geopolitical pawn. What the Taiwanese actually want, or how we feel, is eclipsed by the "great power" showdown on our doorstep.

China has announced it will be conducting live-fire exercises around Taiwan in the coming days in response to Pelosi's visit. But there is also nothing new about Chinese military threats directed at Taiwan. Beijing considers the island to be sovereign Chinese territory, even though it is de facto independent; the US is Taiwan's security guarantor in the event of a Chinese invasion. Taiwan believes China has had thousands of missiles pointed at us for

decades. Meanwhile, in the past few weeks, the domestic news cycle in Taiwan has seemed more focused on celebrity gossip and plagiarism claims involving a mayoral candidate than global affairs.

Tensions certainly are on the rise. Last October, China sent a record number of warplanes into Taiwan's air defence identification zone. More recently, Chinese warships have been spotted off of outlying islands of Taiwan, such as Lanyu. But, still, these military threats often do not seem to register with the general public. Beijing has perhaps failed when it comes to establishing a narrative of escalating threats at Taiwan: for people here, the narrative is sometimes felt as one of endless repetition.

China claims Taiwan to have been part of its integral territory since time immemorial. The history is more complex. It was only incorporated into China during the Qing dynasty in the 17th century – but the Qing empire only controlled part of the island and did not seem particularly interested in it, ceding Taiwan to Japan after



Nancy Pelosi's visit the island has put the world on edge.

the Sino-Japanese war in 1895. After the Chinese civil war, which led to the triumph of the communists, control of Taiwan fell to the losing side, the Kuomintang (KMT), who brought a new wave of migrants but also subjected Taiwan to the period of authoritarianism known as the White Terror.

Flash forward several decades and Taiwan is now a flourishing democracy. The Democratic Progressive party, which emerged from Taiwan's democracy movement, holds power. It currently advocates for maintaining the status quo, (which means the ambiguous position where Taiwan is de facto but not de jure independent). The KMT continues to be a political party, having reinvented itself as a political advocate of unification, though it has suffered a beating in recent elections and is trying to change its

be more firmly pro-independence if there were no threats from China.

When news of Pelosi's expected visit broke, I happened to be in Hualien, on the rural eastern seaboard, where the mountainous terrain that characterises central Taiwan meets the beach. As host to a number of military bases, Hualien is also where Taiwanese fighter jets would probably be deployed from, to conduct interceptions of Chinese planes in the event of a conflict or air intrusions.

I was there to observe the Qataban harvest festival of the indigenous Kebaran people. I had looked forward to learning more about how the Kebaran have kept their culture alive after centuries of colonialism from Han and other groups. Unverified disinformation circulated, meanwhile, on social

media, such as the claim that all Taiwanese soldiers had their holidays called off and were being recalled to active duty. One of the community members I met was actually a soldier who had taken time off to participate in the festivities.

Some of the people I spoke to reflected on the effects tourism has on their ability to preserve their culture – Chinese tour groups having been a common sight in Taiwan before the pandemic. The issue points to part of Taiwan's conundrum, in that it is deeply economically interlinked with China.

Immediately prior to the expected Pelosi visit, China announced import bans on 100 Taiwanese food products. Previous bans by China were aimed at pressuring farmers, fishers and other economically precarious groups into political compliance, for fear of being shut out of the Chinese market. China has also sought to use tourism for similar reasons.

Either way, I instead found myself on the fringes of the traditional ceremonies taking calls in the car park from international media. At one point, someone wandered over and asked what I was doing. They quipped that I should try to get the ceremony or the calmness of the beach in the shot – to show that, in Taiwan, life simply carries on.

Black, Asian and Latino communities all faced mass shootings in 2 weeks. How they're showing support.

BY SAKSHI VENKATRAMAN

"I hope that we can use this moment to lean on one another," one coalition leader said.

The nation was still reeling from a deadly shooting blamed on an alleged white supremacist in Buffalo, New York, an anti-Asian shooting in Dallas' Koreatown neighborhood and slayings at a Taiwanese church in Laguna Woods, California, when a gunman killed at least 19 children and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas, on Tuesday.

Now, Black and Asian American and Pacific Islander communities are showing their solidarity with the Latino population in Uvalde at a time when calls to protect America's most disadvantaged populations are becoming increasingly urgent. Latino and Hispanic residents

make up 72.7 percent of Uvalde County's population, according to census data.

"I hope that we can use this moment to lean on one another," said Chas Moore, the founder of the Austin Justice Coalition, a Black-led social justice organization. "The Black community just went through the terrible hate crime that happened in Buffalo. Now the Latino community is going through this. Our communities are mourning."

Civil rights leaders across communities have been texting and emailing with one another since the Dallas and Buffalo shootings this month, said John C. Yang, the president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

"Even after the Buffalo, La-



Black and Asian American and Pacific Islander communities are showing their solidarity with the Latino population in Uvalde at a time when calls to protect America's most disadvantaged populations are becoming increasingly urgent.

guna Woods and Dallas shootings, all of our communities had been talking to each other by text, cellphone and email," he said.

With every shooting comes a new discussion, he said, and the constant communications

often feel bleak.

"Those conversations have been angry, sad, frustrated," he said. "When we get on the phone with each other, we all have this recognition of 'here we go again.' Because this is not the first time we've had these conversations."

Similar discussions, as well as joint communications directed at the White House, have taken place after shootings at Asian-owned spas in Atlanta; a Walmart in

El Paso, Texas; Emanuel AME Baptist Church in Charleston, South Carolina; and the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. "The list has gone on," he said.

"At a very basic level, I would ask people to reach out to your friends and neighbors in the different communities that have

been affected," Yang said. "Just open up that conversation and be courageous in your discomfort. We recognize that some of these conversations will be hard and uncomfortable, but we need to have them."

Authorities said an 18-year-old man barricaded himself in a classroom at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde and opened fire on students and teachers. Uvalde, about 83 miles west of San Antonio, is in a region with a large Mexican American population, and about 87 percent of the school's students are considered economically disadvantaged.

Yang said the violence against three communities puts a spotlight on the dangers of existing as a minority in the U.S.

"It just re-emphasizes the desperate need to work together and find solutions," he said.



BY BENJAMIN ABAYA

Hate Begets Violence Challenges Democracy

News in bold letters in our daily papers as well as television shows and commentaries have pictured to us vividly the ugly, violent and lamentable political and social conditions of some countries in the middle of pandemic, economic crisis and many other human hardships that greatly affected the lives of everyone the world over.

Peace loving people were shocked and bewildered to witness in television the assassination of former Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who held the position of his country's political leadership to be the longest in history. World leaders sent their profound condolences to the family and the Japanese people for such a great loss.

Leading other news headlines were the accounts of the massacre of young boys and girls with their teachers in an elementary school at Uvalde, Texas, USA despite the presence of so many law enforcement agencies that made the nation numbed and many unanswered questions of why such tragedy happened. Ironically, the killer in this heinous crime was perpetrated by 18-year-old young man who at his age can not even permitted to buy a cigarette but can legally purchase high powered firearms.

Just lately, a Philippine lawyer who was only visiting his mother in the United States was killed when his car was riddled with bullets by still unknown assailant. Early investigation disclosed that it was most likely a mistaken identity, yet to the mind of a keenly observer, it could be a hate crime against Asian descent in connection with the spread of the pandemic disease which to a deranged mind attributed to

have originated by people coming from southeast Asia.

Accordingly, there were many other incidents involving Asian Americans or just other nationals in the United States, who were either assaulted or just harassed for being Asian, claiming that the current pandemic has originated and spread by them. Political pundits and medical experts usually against China concluded that the pandemic known as Covid 19 was Chinese origin but as expected Chinese authorities denied such perception as they repeatedly said that it was only brought by foreign individuals already infected with the virus into their country.

The virus was politized during the presidential election of 2020 when former president Donald Trump labeled the Covid 19 as China virus because it emanated from that country that ignited more fire and hatred against Asian descent especially those coming from Southeast Asia.

Russia, a powerful nation ruled by a ruthless dictator, waged a senseless war against Ukraine to extend its tentacles of tyranny and oppression that continuously affected many nations politically and economically not to mention the loss of innocent lives and the destruction of needed infrastructures which have nothing to do with military objectives. Russian propaganda machines showed to its people as it encourages its soldiers to fight Ukrainian defenders whom they labeled as Nazi sympathizers to inculcate into their minds how their ancestors fought and hate Nazi Germany during World War 11.

The tragic occurrences of the abovementioned news headlines were committed with deeply rooted human emotion of abomination, thinking that the perpetrators have the best

solutions to end the problems that have caused their miseries, if there were any. There were other headlines news that we encountered in our daily readings or just watching TV shows that were profoundly based on hatred which resulted into violence, deaths and destruction of property.

Paradoxically, topping all headlines in social media and other reading references is the current congressional investigation of the mob who attacked the US capitol building and fought with outnumbered security police force who were speared, stomped and sprayed with chemicals. The melee resulted into death, injuries and the destruction of some parts of the building.

The unstoppable angry crowd forced their way into the building with only one objective to overturn the result of the presidential election which was clearly won by Joe Biden in both popular and the Electoral College results. The losing candidate who was then the incumbent president did not concede and even bragged that he won the election but was just stolen from him. Additionally, he did not also do anything within his power to send contingent of National Guards to augment the police force trying to stop the seemingly act of insurrection by the angry crowd.

Incidentally, the crowd consists of different factions, all were avid supporters of Donald Trump from the "Oath Keepers" to far right racists "Proud



January 6, 2021 will surely go down in the history of the world as a day when Democracy as practice in the United States of America, the most powerful and greatest country in the world was challenged from within only to prevail unbending and victorious.

Boys". The unruly crowd was looking for Vice President Mike Pence who was inside the session hall performing his constitutional duty to count the number of electors in the Electoral College and to declare the winners for President and Vice President respectively. The rioters were chanting "hang Mike Pence" repeatedly for his refusal to stop his sworn constitution duty to preside with the proceeding of counting the electoral votes. It was even overheard Donald trump saying "maybe they have better idea" for Mike Pence.

January 6, 2021 will surely go down in the history of the world as a day when Democracy as practice in the United States of America, the most powerful and greatest country in the world was challenged from within only to prevail unbending and victorious. The Department of Justice and the January 26 Congressional committee are now investigating the role of everyone for

possible criminal actions to show that in the United States no one is above the law.

I was just a little boy when I and my twin brother were brought by our mother to the United States. My first encounter with African American boy was in a grocery store, he was also accompanied by his mother. The boy waved at me which I also did. Such innocent act of greeting

for being friendly became my natural norm of conduct to anyone regardless of race and social standing. Travelling across the United States has just confirmed my highest expectation that this country welcome so many nationalities from every nook and corner of the world to live and assimilate themselves for common good and contribute their skills for all to enjoy. It is also the place where I found solace, peace and comfort for my future undertakings, indeed, the best place to build a strong foundation of a family which, of course, I will do.

Deducing from abovementioned news headlines, one can say that hates beget endless violence that usually resulted into deaths and destruction of property. And, in addition such human feeling of hatred can challenge political ideology such as our democratic way of life, the very foundation where we are supposed to live peacefully.

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FCSV Scholarship Award Night

BY MURRAY NAVARRO
FCSV Secretary

Sacramento, CA– The Filipino Community of Sacramento and Vicinity, Inc. honored high school students in this year’s Scholarship Award Program (SAP) Night on July 16, 2022, at Rizal Community Center. The program has three criteria for the selection process: an un-weighted grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 of 50%, an interview portion score of 25%, and an essay score of 25%. Usually, academic curricular activities were included in the past years, but due to the pandemic since the 2020 lockdown, the selection committee decided to eliminate them.

There are three applicants this year. These are fresh high school graduates from Elk Grove Unified School District: Aurora Carlos – Cosumnes Oaks High School, Ezekiel Dabay – Monterey Trail High School, and Angelo Torricer – Franklin High School.

Last July 13th, the interview portion was conducted online through Zoom. The members of the panel of judges were Ms. Sharon Council – Principal of Heritage Peak Charter School of West Sacramento, CA, Dr. Rosalina S. Bajolo – Middle School Science Teacher of New York City, NY, and Dr. Eduardo Dacpano – Asst. Principal of Julius Dorsey Leadership Academy of Dallas Independent School District, TX. Each applicant had a chance to talk in Zoom’s break-room with the judges. There was a series of standard questions used by the judges for a basis of scoring worth 100 points. The essays were given a score of 25 points by the judges as well.

The results of the selection process were the accumulated percentages from the three categories. The overall ranking results were garnering the top rank is Ezekiel Dabay (94.67%) who bagged the FCSV Scholarship Award worth a thousand dollars, running the second rank is Aurora Carlos (92.67%) who got the Vicente and Susana Andrade Scholarship Fund



Dr. Rachel delos Reyes, Inspirational Speaker



Most Outstanding Scholar Ezekiel Dabay with SAP Chair Margie Pasalo & FCSV Pres. Dick Mazon



Second Outstanding Scholar Aurora Carlos with BM Edna Delos Reyes & FCSV 2nd VP Mina Guerra



Third Outstanding Scholar Angelo Torricer with BM Sylvia Fortis and FCSV Reigning Mrs. Philippines



The scholars with their family members

Photos by Frank Zabal



FCSV food server volunteers with Carol Munar

Award with a monetary award of three hundred dollars. Each awardee was given a Certificate of Achievement. As a token of appreciation, each member of the panel of judges was given a Certificate of Recognition and a gift card.

Before the awarding moment, Dr. Rachel Delos Reyes who is the current Facilitator of UC San Francisco’s College of Nursing Practice served as the awarding ceremony’s inspirational speaker for the scholars. She emphasized the importance of reaching college goals and her altruistic wisdom and guidance for the scholars’ pathways in their chosen fields.

Three FCSV board members enthusiastically did the extra mile in searching for scholars to apply for the said SAP search. In gratitude, they were given a Certificate of Appreciation. They are BM Mylene Simons, Treasurer Aurora Ramos, and Asst. Secretary Margarita E. Pasalo who also served as the Chairman of this year’s SAP Committee 2022.

Award worth five hundred dollars and the third rank is Angelo Torricer (82.17%) who also got the Erlinda Aglubat Scholarship Fund

Other members are BM Edna Delos Reyes, BM Sylvia Fortis, and yours truly.

The Filipino Community of Sacramento & Vicinity (FCSV)

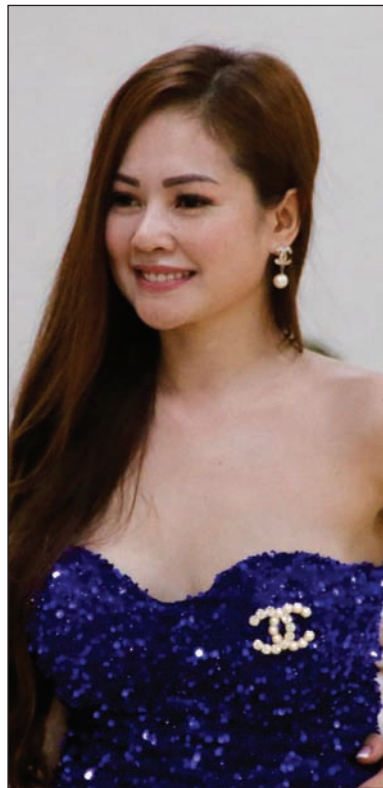
Scholarship Awards & The Mrs. Philippines 2022-2023

1st Canvassing

BY DALE ESPERANTE

On 16 Jul 2022 at the Jose Rizal hCommunity Center, the community gathered to honor the brains and talented beauties of the FCSV.

To start the evening, Dr. Rachel Delos Reyes, introduced by FCSV Secretary Murray Navarro, spoke directly to the young scholars who listened attentively to her inspirational speech. Dr. Rachel currently leads the Academic Program Unit at UCSF's highly ranked School of Nursing. She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology at UC Davis, her master's degree in Higher Education Leadership and Higher Education Policy from CSU Sacramento and Walden University. She also completed her PHD in Education, specializing in Higher Education Policy, Management, and Leadership. She has chaired and cochaired various national and international conferences and studied abroad in Belgium, Spain, and the Netherlands, including Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, and The United Nations. Rachel was born in the Philippines and raised in Sacramento by her two parents who are continu-



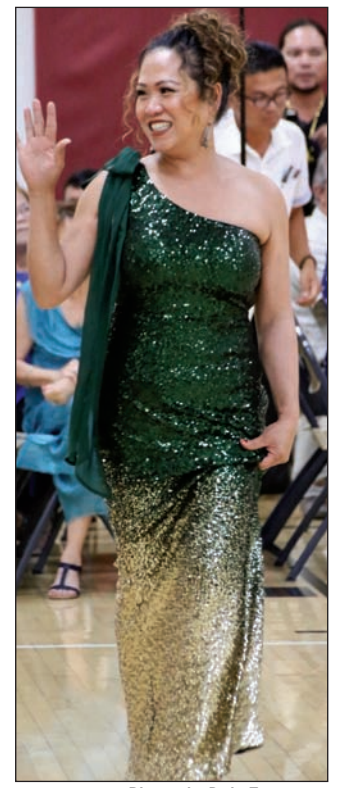
Elmalyn Llamas



Shane Gitmed



Carol Fonseca



Photos by Dale Esperante
Joy Roberts

ally active in the Filipino community, Edna, and Bobby. Her most proud accomplishments are being a mom to her two daughters', Mia, and KC.

After the inspirational speech of Dr. Rachel, FCSV presented the awards to the

deserving young scholars: 1st Scholar Ezekiel Mistal Dabay, 2nd Scholar Aurora Patterson Carlos, 3rd Scholar Angelo Pasalo Terricer. All are 18 years old: Ezekiel will study to become a future nurse, Aurora wants to become an English Teacher, and Angelo will be

studying to become a Radiology Tech. Congratulations to the future leaders and professionals of our community.

Part II of the evening's agenda, the Mrs. Philippines 2022 – 2023 Popular-
Continued on page 12

A Family in the Medical Field

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Joseph Sarette, son of John and Presely Sarette of Wilton, recently completed his Residency in Radiology. Four years of medical school, one year of internship after medical school, and four years of residency, the young doctor likes to say that he finally finished his 25th grade.

On 2 July 2022, John and Presely invited family and close friends from their church community to their beautiful Wilton property to celebrate their son's visit and latest accomplishment.



Marci (Joseph's wife) and Joseph with Presely and John Sarette.



Joseph Sarette's graduation photo from the Uniform Services University for Medical School.



Older brother, Johnny Sarette, receiving his Residency Diploma to become a full fledged Psychiatrist. He is still serving in the United States Air Force.

Joseph and his siblings, Johnny, and Jenely did not have to look far to find their models to be inspired and become successful in their chosen careers. Parents John and Presely showed their kids the way. His father, John, was a Systems Engineer working for the Defense Industry before becoming a nurse. He signed up for the army when he was going for his master's degree to be a Nurse Anesthetist. After the army, he is now working as a nurse anesthetist at Kaiser Permanente. As for mom Presely, she retired from Kaiser Perma-

nente as a Nursing Professional Development Specialist. She graduated from Far Eastern University (FEU) for her BSN, then received a master's degree in Healthcare Administration at University of Phoenix. Presely grew up in Sto. Nino Cagayan Valley, Northern Luzon.

Joseph's brother, Johnny, also graduated from the Air Force Academy and received his MD from the Uniformed Services University in Maryland. He

too just graduated from his Residency earning him a Psychiatry Degree. Their oldest and only sister, Jenely, received her BSN Degree from San Francisco State University, and is now an RN and a Clinical Instructor in Oahu.

"It was a long road for us all bereft with all kinds of challenges and sacrifices," according to Presely. "Both John and I went back to school with 3 kids in tow while holding full time jobs, but

we wanted to set good examples, that nothing worthwhile comes easy, but hard work and setting high a goal pays off in the end."

Mabuhay and Congratulations Presely and John for raising wonderful children who are now successful in their chosen professions!



BY DALE ESPERANTE



The American Legion Post 604

Boys State Delegate Garrett Winuk

On 17 Jul 2022, Post 604 welcomed Boys State delegate, Garrett Winuk, to their general membership meeting. The American Legion Boys State and American Legion Auxiliary Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs for high school juniors, which focus on exploring the mechanics of American government and politics. Young Garrett Winuk recently completed the Boys State program held at California State University in Sacramento. He came to share his experiences being picked as a Member of the Assembly Committee, as well as express his gratitude to Post 604 for sponsoring him. He was introduced by the Post's Boys State Chairman, Rey Ado, before being escorted to the speaker's podium. After his speech, the adjutant read the certificates presented by Commander Alberto Garcia, Sr., to Garrett and his father, Gary Winuk. Mr. Gary Winuk is also a member of The American Legion Magellan Post 604.

Members of the Post are mostly Filipino American veterans, the majority of which are Vietnam Era veterans.



Gary Winuk receiving his certificate for encouraging his son, Garrett, to attend Boys State as a delegate of Magellan Post 604.

After WWII, the aging Filipino laborers deeded the property to the younger WWII veterans. Ever since then, the veterans have been responsible for the maintenance of the property including the preservation of Magellan Hall which was built circa 1950. A brand-

new roof for the hall was finally installed last year. Next on the list: paving of the parking lot, landscaping, upgrade of walls, ceilings, and floors...etc.

If you would like to help preserve the legacy of the Manongs and Tatangs

who deeded the property in the care of the veterans, please donate through GoFundMe: Search for Filipino-American Veterans Memorial Hall or Veterans Magellan Hall. Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Thank you - Maraming Salamat Po!



Group photo of father and son Winuk with the Post adjutant and commander



Johnny G. Ruiz

May 27, 1939 - Jun 24, 2022



Veterans slow Funeral Salute

Photos by Dale Esperante



FAVA President Jesse Velasco expressing condolences to Manang Norma.

BY DALE ESPERANTE

Veterans of both Filipino American Veterans Association (FAVA), and The American Legion Magellan Post 604 attended the funeral service of Comrade Johnny G. Ruiz, on 11 Jul 2022, that started at 6pm, at East Lawn Funeral Home in Elk Grove. Prayer service followed with eulogies from family and friends covered the first hour of the evening. At approximately 7pm, President Jesse Velasco of FAVA introduced himself, then introduced the chaplain of Magellan Post 604. The chaplain remembered how Johnny Ruiz handled himself

when he first set foot in Magellan Hall a few years ago. He spoke and carried himself honorably. "He was an honorable man," emphasized the chaplain. Since Johnny was the focus of all the prayers during the first hour, the chaplain offered to say a prayer for the bereaved family. Prayer said, the chaplain joined the column of veterans who have been standing ready for the Final Roll Call. President Jesse Velasco was the first one to respond to the roll call by answering, PRESENT. He walked up the center aisle alone and halted before

the casket where Johnny Ruiz lies in repose. There, President Jesse rendered the slow funeral salute to fallen Comrade Johnny. Upon completion of the salute, the FAVA president proceeded to take command of the ceremony, calling the names of the participating veterans who answered appropriately and walked two at a time up the center aisle to render their salutes.

The final name called by the president of FAVA was that of Johnny Ruiz. The president called Johnny Ruiz's name

three times. After the third time, the legion chaplain answered, "Sir, our brother, Johnny Ruiz, is present, but is unable to answer, Sir." The president then asked everyone to stand up with the veterans for the playing of the Taps. All the veterans held their salutes until the last note of Taps. To the family and friends of Comrade, Manong, Kuya Johnny Ruiz, may you find strength and comfort in this time of grief. Have trust and confidence in God's heavenly care of Johnny G. Ruiz. Amen.



PerryScope

BY PERRY DIAZ

Should Trump be prosecuted?



Donald Trump could be the first former president to face prosecution.

WATCHING THE PUBLIC HEARINGS

of the January 6th Select Committee makes one wonder: Why is Trump not being prosecuted in spite of the various damaging testimonies given by witnesses? And by all accounts, why is Attorney General Merrick Garland hesitant to indict Trump for witness tampering and other serious crimes? And without Garland's indictment, Trump will remain scot-free. That's a lot of power held by one man, who was appointed Attorney General by President Joe Biden.

But Garland—who is facing increasing pressure to indict Trump over his alleged role in the January 6, 2021, Capitol riot—has so far refrained from directly addressing the possibility of prosecuting former President Donald Trump.

As the country's chief law enforcement officer, Garland—who was once former President Barack Obama's pick for a seat on the Supreme Court—has vowed to “follow the facts wherever they lead—in holding those behind the attack responsible.

Pressure on Garland

For some time now, Garland has faced pressure to indict Trump as revealed in the ongoing series of hearings from the House Select Committee investigating the riot. It has placed the spotlight on the Attorney General's lack of official action against Trump.

Members of the January 6th Select Committee have been presenting findings, which

showed a coordinated effort to overturn the 2020 presidential election results and prevent the transfer of power to President Joe Biden. Had Trump succeeded in overturning the election results, it would have resulted in a coup d'état. Garland pledged to follow evidence wherever it leads.

However, according to Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, President Biden won't pressure Garland to indict Trump. He'll leave it up to the Department of Justice to decide whether or not to indict Trump on charges related to the January 6th insurrection.

Independent Department of Justice

“The Department of Justice (DOJ) is independent. The president chose Attorney General Garland because of his loyalty to the law and our Constitution, and to restore the independence and integrity of the Justice Department,” she said. “That's exactly what the attorney general is doing, so we leave it up to the Department of Justice.”

The congressional hearings have once again questioned the DOJ's lack of action against Trump into national debate. If Garland were to prosecute Trump, he would be the first former president to ever be prosecuted for criminal conduct.

It must be remembered that Garland's role as Attorney General is not the same as when he was a judge. A judge is a public official whose duty it is to administer the law, especially by presiding over trials and rendering judgments. A judge is a person who decides the fate of someone or something that has been called into question.

A prosecutor or attorney general is a lawyer who decides whether to charge a person with a crime and tries to prove in court before a judge that the person is guilty.

Clearly, Garland seems to think that he's still acting as a judge. He wants to hear all the arguments before he passes judgment. As attorney general, he prosecutes cases before the judge and acts as the cases progress.

Democrats want to indict Trump

Some of the same people who once considered Merrick Garland a martyr to Republican treachery—when he was bypassed for Supreme Court confirmation by the Senate—now consider him a disappointment, or worse, as attorney general.

What the Democrats want to do, most all: Indict former president Donald Trump. And rightly so. Trump had pressured Vice President Mike Pence to block congressional certification of Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 presidential race. Trump engaged in this pressure campaign even though many people—federal judges, state officials and his own advisers—had indicated that he lost the election, the widespread fraud he kept in-

voking had not occurred. And the Constitution had demanded that Biden take office. There simply is no reason why Trump shouldn't be indicted. He should never be allowed to run for office again.

With Garland's apparent sympathetic feelings for Trump, there is a good

chance that Garland would allow him to go free. First of all, Garland's hesitance may be of his fear that an indictment would bring the MAGA right wing supporters of Trump to rise up in arms. Just imagine the same people—the Proud Boys, the Oath Keepers, and other pro-Trump right wing groups—who rioted at the Capitol coming back armed to the teeth. It would ensue in total chaos! It would spark a real—and bloody—insurrection. And it will spread nationwide.

Garland's dilemma

Indeed, Garland has a serious dilemma: Indict Trump and he'd see a MAGA uprising. Free him and he'd ignite the ire of the people. It's a no-win situation for him. But which would be more palatable for Garland. Trump's one-time chief strategist Steve Bannon had warned Garland: “Indict Trump and we'll impeach you!”

Garland could avoid getting involved directly by letting the January 6th Select Committee make the criminal referrals to the DOJ and the committee staff will turn over the evidence they have gathered. Thus, Garland would avoid being involved directly.

In such a referral, the committee might reference several

statutes that the DOJ can use to prosecute Trump and others, which would include obstruction of an official proceeding, conspiracy, and seditious conspiracy.

The seditious conspiracy statute provides that “if two or more persons . . . conspire to overthrow, put down, or to destroy by force the Government of the United States. . . or by force to prevent, hinder, or delay the execution of any law of the United States, they can be fined and imprisoned for up to twenty years.”

Conspiracy is a powerful charge. And it looks like the January 6th Select Committee is closely examining the facts to see if they line up. The committee is exploring whether “Trump oversaw an unlawful conspiracy that involved coordination between the ‘political elements’ of the White House plan communicated to Republican lawmakers and extremist groups that stormed the Capitol.”

But proving the existence of a conspiracy can be difficult, as evidence of an agreement would need to be shown, though juries can draw inferences from behavior and testimony without a smoking gun. However difficult it might be, it's doable.

Unafraid of Steve Bannon, Garland could then prosecute Trump based on the evidence gathered by the January 6th Select Committee. As the Attorney General, Garland would only provide the vehicle driven by the January 6th Select Committee, a clean and straightforward job.

At the end of the day, Garland would have achieved something that would satisfy his boss, President Biden, and the American people, preserve democracy, and prosecute Trump criminally.

(PerryDiaz@gmil.com)

“FILIPINO AMERICANS IN THE U.S. NAVY WERE HONORED!”

BY PELAGIO VALDEZ

The unveiling and dedication attracted scores of dignitaries and guests from the Hampton Roads region, including many Filipinos who served in the U.S. Navy and members of their families. The event last Saturday on May 28th, 2022, was sponsored by The Council of United Filipino Organizations of Tidewater, Inc. (CUFOT), and the Filipino American National Historical Society — Hampton Roads Chapter (FANS-HR), with support from the Commonwealth of Virginia,



The Council of United Filipino Organizations of Tidewater, Inc. (CUFOT), and the Filipino American National Historical Society with Rear Adm. Alan Reyes (NAVSUP).



Virginia's newest state historical marker honoring Filipinos in the U.S. Navy.

City of Virginia Beach, and the Hampton Roads Naval Museum among others.

Congresswoman Elaine Luria, (D, VA-02) offered some remarks during the event. “Ham-

pton Roads would not be what it is without the rich history and vibrant culture of the Navy and our Filipino Community, and it is a great day to come together and celebrate these 2 institutions that have such an impact in our area,” Luria said in her remarks.

“This long-awaited honor will recognize the service of countless Filipino and Filipino American men and women who have served and currently serve in the Navy.”

According to a news release from CUFOT, the majority of the estimated 45,000 Filipino Americans living in the region can trace their lineage to a Filipino relative who served in the U.S. Navy. This newest historical marker was selected after Governor Ralph Northam announced 5 historical markers which highlighted the contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders to Virginia and the Nation in August 2021.

Rear Adm. Alan Reyes, who serves as the Deputy Commander of Naval Supply Systems

mand (NAVSUP) served as the keynote speaker. Reyes, a Filipino American, recognized “the contributions of Filipino Americans to our great Navy and to our great nation for over 120 years since President William McKinley signed an Executive Order in 1901 allowing the Navy to enlist 500 Filipinos. “I’d also like to personally recognize the many Filipino Americans, Navy veterans and retirees, currently serving sailors and their families who are joining us on this wonderful day here in Virginia Beach. You are truly the embodiment of why we are here today.”

Julie Langan, Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, noted that state historical highway markers are “the most publicly accessible and visible program, and it teaches the public about our rich range of Virginia history.” Langan also noted that Virginia’s roughly 2,500 historical markers are among the oldest in the nation, and date back to 1920.

Among the dignitaries offering remarks at the event were Mayor Robert Dyer of Virginia Beach, the Honorable Craig Crenshaw, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs for the Commonwealth of Virginia, Congressman Robert Scott of Virginia’s Third Congressional District, and State Delegate Kelly Fowler, who represents the 21st District in Virginia’s House of Delegates.

Ray Obispo, President of FANS-HR and a teacher at Sa-

lem High School in Virginia Beach, read the text of the historical marker:

Filipinos in the U.S. Navy:

Filipinos, who had served in the U.S. Navy as early as the Civil War, began enlisting in larger numbers after the U.S. took possession of the Philippines following the Spanish-American War. The Philippines gained independence in 1946, and an agreement negotiated the next year allowed the U.S. Navy to recruit Filipino nationals. Over the next 4 decades, about 35,000 Filipinos served in the Navy, initially as stewards and mess attendants. Eligible to serve in all enlisted and officer positions by the 1970’s, they later rose to the Navy’s highest ranks. Filipino American communities often developed near naval bases and one of the nation’s largest such communities is here in Hampton Roads.

At the conclusion of remarks, dignitaries and guests proceeded outdoors to watch as the historical marker was formally unveiled as Deacon Chris Romero, a U.S. Navy Veteran, offered a benediction. For those interested in seeing Virginia’s newest state historical marker honoring Filipinos in the U.S. Navy, the marker is located at the entrance to the Philippine Cultural Center of Virginia at 4857 Baxter Road in Virginia Beach.

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Will Smith issues new apology for Chris Rock slap: 'I am deeply remorseful.'

BY NATACHI ONWUAMAEGBU

Finally, some answers to the slap heard across the world.

On Friday morning, Will Smith released a video answering questions about slapping Chris Rock during the Academy Awards ceremony. The incident tarnished Smith's Hollywood Golden Boy image (perhaps forever), led to his decade-long ban from the Academy and sparked a serious conversation about what role violence has, if any, in public displays of anger.

"Disappointing people is my central trauma," said Smith, facing the camera. "I hate when I let people down. It hurts."



Will Smith

In the nearly six-minute-long YouTube video, Smith addressed frequent questions he received after the incident. Did his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, tell him to do it? No. Why didn't he apologize to Rock during his acceptance speech just moments later? It was "a blur."

During the Oscars, Rock took the stage to present the winner of the documentary feature category, but started with a joke. Targeting Jada Pinkett Smith's closely cropped head, which may have been a result of her struggles with alopecia, he said, "Jada, I love you. G.I. Jane 2, can't wait to see it." Smith, then strode up to the stage, slapped Rock across the face before returning to his seat where he re-

peatedly yelled: "Keep my wife's name out of your f---ing mouth."

Smith offered an apology on social media shortly after the event, but Rock has largely stayed silent, though he briefly touched on the matter during a stand-up set in March: "I had like a whole show I wrote before the weekend," he said, according to a Washington Post reporter in the audience. "And I'm still kind of processing what happened. At some point, I'll talk about that." A representative for Rock could not immediately reached for comment.

The video was a chain of apologies — to Rock, to Pinkett Smith, to his family, to



Will Smith slapped Chris Rock after the comedian made a joke about Smith's wife's hair during the Oscars on March 27.

the Academy, to Questlove, to his fans, even to Rock's mother who said during an interview with an NBC affiliate that when Smith "slapped Chris, he slapped all of us. He really slapped me."

There were several moments in which Smith appeared to be holding back tears, including when he recalled the look in the eyes of Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, who was awarded the best documentary trophy for "Summer of Soul (... Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)" shortly after the incident. It was Thompson's first Academy Award. Smith paused just slightly to consider his words: "I'm sorry isn't really sufficient."

Will Smith slapped Chris Rock after the comedian made a joke about Smith's wife's hair during the Oscars on March 27. Smith won best actor for "King Richard."

To his fans who were let down by his actions, he said: "I know it was confusing. I know it was shocking. But I promise you, I am deeply devoted and committed to putting light and love and joy into the world. And, you know, if you hang on, I promise we'll be able to be

friends again."

Smith also said he is committed to doing work on himself — he's trying to be "remorseful without being ashamed. Right? I'm human. And I made a mistake and I'm trying not to think of myself as a piece of s---."

But according to Smith, Rock still isn't ready for a face-to-face apology. "I've reached out to Chris and the message that came back is that he's not ready to talk, and when he is he will reach out," Smith said. "So I will say to you, Chris, I apologize to you. My behavior was unacceptable, and I'm here whenever you're ready to talk."

Catriona Gray assures no 'Steve Harvey moment' delayed Binibining Pilipinas 2022



Left: Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray hosting the recently concluded Bb. Pilipinas. Gray with Nicole Cordoves during the delay in the announcement of Bb. Pilipinas International winner (top, right). Newly crowned 2022 Binibining Pilipinas queens pose for photos during the grand coronation night at the Smart Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City on Monday midnight. (L-R) Bb. Pilipinas 2nd runner-up Stacey Daniella Gabriel, Bb. Pilipinas Globe Chelsea Fernandez, Bb. Pilipinas Intercontinental Gabrielle Camille Basiano, Bb. Pilipinas International Nicole Borromeo, Bb. Pilipinas Grand International Roberta Angela Tamondong and Bb. Pilipinas 1st runner-up Herlene Budol (bottom, right).

BY KATHLEEN A. LLEMIT

MANILA, Philippines — Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray assured the public that she and co-host, Miss Grand International 2016 1st runner-up Nicole Cordoves, read the names right at early Monday morning's Binibining Pilipinas coronation held at the Smart Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City.

"As the hosts of last night's Binibining

Pilipinas 2022, @binibiningnicolecordoves and I announced the winners accordingly based on the titles printed on the individual title cards as these were handed over by SGV & Co. partner and representative, Mr. Ocho," Catriona wrote on her social media accounts.

She added that Ocho later rechecked the cards and confirmed the results they previously announced. This was the decisive factor that allowed them to move forward with the announcement.

"As former candidates ourselves, we understand what the girls go through and would, therefore—without a second thought—correct any errors, if any were made. But as already explained, SGV & Co. partner and representative Mr. Ocho

himself confirmed the validity of the results," Catriona said.

In Catriona's Instagram post, a fan asked for a clarification on the cause of delay as well as raised the questions many netizens were asking about the correct names in the envelop.

"The envelope was clear. Like every announcement we're queued (sic) by the director. We were told to hold," Catriona replied.

"Let's celebrate our Queens who are wearing their rightful crowns. Congratulations to our new @bbpilipinasofficial Queens! I'm so excited to witness your journeys and I know you will make our country proud!!" she ended her post.

Scholarship Awards & The Mrs. Philippines 2022-2023

From page 7

Contest 1st Canvassing of Votes

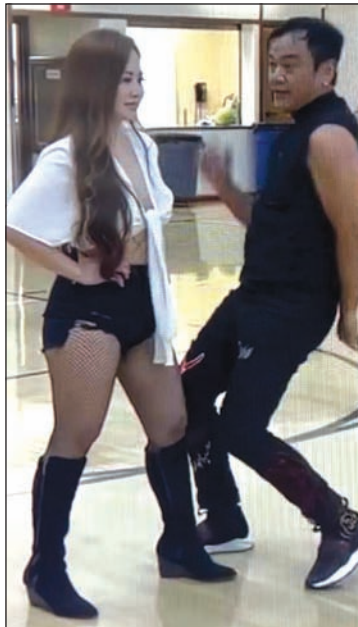
Emcee Mina Guerra introduced the following candidates, each one walked the ballroom for everyone to admire their poise and courage to serve for the good of the community. Each one also offered a special talent for all to appreciate.

Elmalyn Llamas Performed a contemporary dance number partnered with Alvin A. Sisayan

Carol Fonseca Performed a cultural dance number with partner Carlos Cordero

Joy Roberts Sang a beautiful duet with Kitz Clarete

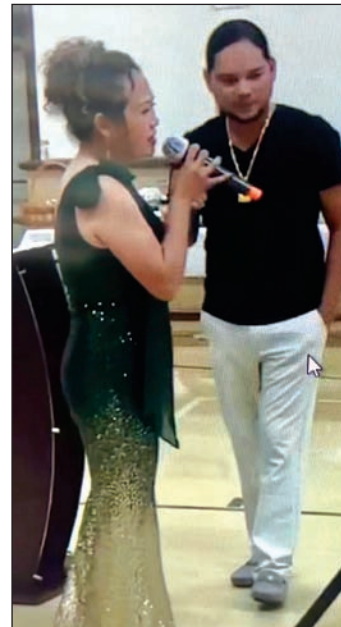
Shane Gitmed Soloed a beautiful medley of songs accompanied by a pianist



Elmalyn Llamas with Alvin Sisayan



Carol Fonseca with Carlos Cordero



Joy Roberts with Kitz Clarete



Shane Gitmed accompanied by a pianist

Photos by Frank Zabal

Every candidate danced minutes with their supporters to auction off their gifts to the highest bidder. The highest bid for the evening reached \$250 for a basket of wine and

cheeses. The tabulation of the votes was accomplished by a team led by Luz Daclan, FCSV Board Member.

Dancing ensued during the

counting of the votes until the last minute of the last hour of the fun evening. We are proud of you Dr. Rachel Delos Reyes, and thank you for inspiring us! Congratulations to the scholars

and keep up the excellent work! For the good of our community, we appreciate the candidates of the Mrs. Philippines 2022-2023 for their courage and service to FCSV.

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