

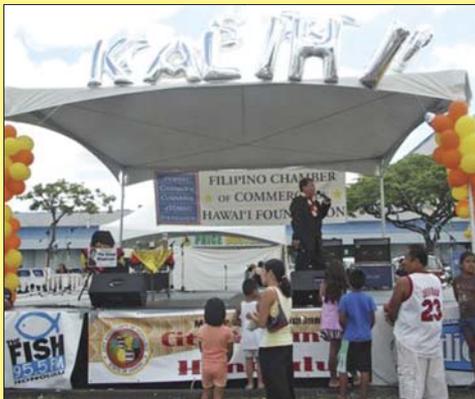
HAWAII-PHILIPPINE NEWS EDITION

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

SECOND ANNUAL "TASTE OF KALIHI"—TWICE THE FUN

By Dennis GALOLO



If you enjoy good food, live entertainment, dancing and a fun time, then the Second Annual Taste of Kalihi—set for Saturday, September 6, 2008 from 10 am to 8 pm—may just be the event you're looking for.

The resounding success of the 2007 Taste of Kalihi prompted organizers to plan for a repeat performance. The one-day event, billed as an annual block-party style celebration, highlights Kalihi's rich history and cultural diversity.

Bishop Gardens resident Rudy Ibay was among the several thousands who at-

tended the inaugural Taste of Kalihi. While people-watching, Ibay ran into several friends and neighbors as well as Kalihi politicians, including State Rep. Joey Manahan, City Councilmember Romy Cachola and Mayor Hannemann, who was born and raised in Kalihi.

Ibay and his friends thoroughly enjoyed themselves, despite the rain which fell for most of the afternoon.

"If not for the rain, we would have enjoyed it even more," Ibay says. "People lined up for the good food and for the dancing. We'll be sure to go again this year."

REVITALIZING KALIHI

The Taste of Kalihi is one of the results of the Mayor's Kalihi Economic Summit which was held in April 2007. The overall goal of the summit was to brainstorm ways of revitalizing Kalihi, stimulating economic opportunities and restoring pride back to the community via true public-private sector partnerships.

"The event brings together Kalihi's restaurants, businesses and performers to showcase Kalihi's rich cultural diversity," Mayor Mufi Hannemann said. "I'm excited to see community members come together

(continued on page 4)

Top Filipina Chef Will Be Guest Speaker at Women's Conference

By HFC Staff

Gov. Linda Lingle will host the 5th Annual International Women's Leadership Conference on September 24, 2008 at the Sheraton Waikiki.

Over 1,200 women are expected to attend the conference, along with leaders from 10 different nations. Attendees will hear inspiring stories from women all over the world, including the Philippines, United Kingdom, Finland, Uganda, China, Japan, Australia, Sudan and the United States.

"As Hawaii continues to increase its leadership in the global community, we have an obligation to learn from other female leaders who have different perspectives and backgrounds and who can help mentor Hawaii's future leaders," says Gov. Lingle.

(continued on page 4)



Cristeta Comerford

U.S. Gold Medal Swimmer Has Ties to Philippines

By HFC Staff

Hawaii's Filipino viewers who have been tuning in to the 2008 Olympics in Beijing may be interested in knowing that U.S. gold medal winner Natalie Coughlin's maternal grandmother is from the Philippines.

Coughlin, who won gold in the 100m backstroke, is of Filipino and Irish heritage and lives in California. She also won two bronze medals in the 4 x 200m freestyle

(continued on page 7)



Olympic gold-medalist Natalie Coughlin

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EDITORIAL

On the Brink of Collapse

Infants have died of sepsis in overcrowded hospitals as the country's health facilities fail to meet the needs of an ever-growing population.

Now comes a report that seven out of 10 sick Filipinos die without getting medical treatment due to an acute lack of doctors. This is according to Jaime Galvez-Tan, a former secretary of health who also said the country's health care system is collapsing.

The number of municipalities without a single doctor has gone down to 120 from 271 in 1992 when Tan and doctors' groups launched the "Doctors to the Barrios" program. But 120 is still a lot, and the figure could rise as fewer Filipinos study medicine and doctors continue to leave the country for higher paying jobs overseas. Citing data from the Professional Regulation Commission, Tan said 10,000 doctors have also shifted to nursing because it is easier to find jobs abroad as a nurse. Of the 10,000, 6,000 have gone overseas.

Medicine is one of the toughest courses to pursue, and also one of the most expensive. There is no guarantee of passing the medical board examinations after many years of grueling studies. Only a few hospitals in the country, most of them in Metro Manila, can offer doctors decent salaries, and even then the rates are no match for what prosperous countries can offer.

With doctors leaving the country in droves and the number of medical students plunging, the biggest victims are residents of remote and impoverished communities. Few doctors are willing to risk their necks in conflict areas while working for a pittance. Public health care in these areas is largely limited to special medical missions undertaken by the military, foreign aid workers and non-government organizations. But even in Metro Manila and other urban centers, the growing lack of doctors is taking its toll.



Programs are in the works to encourage more people to study medicine and serve in communities where they are needed most. All the programs entail a degree of personal sacrifice on the part of doctors. There are no easy answers to this crisis in health care. For now the only reward in store for doctors is the appreciation of a grateful nation. (www.philstar.com) ■

Preparing for Full Poll Automation

Violence erupted in some areas, but so far no one seems to be complaining about the conduct of automated elections — the first in the country — in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The success of the country's experiment with electronic voting gives more certainty to the prospect that the general elections in 2010 will be fully automated. Officials of the Commission on Elections said as much yesterday as they prepared to proclaim the winners in the ARMM polls.

With less than two years to go before the general elections, the Comelec should work double-time to ensure that poll automation in 2010 will be glitch-free. As the presidential race in the United States has shown, even countries with a long experience in automated elections can mess up the process big-time. Specifically, the Comelec should focus on ensuring that electronic voting, which aims to speed up the electoral process, will not make it easier to manipulate the vote. Experts should be brought in to prevent automated electoral fraud.

Computerized elections are not glitch-free, but the advantages still out-

weigh the potential problems. Long, manual vote counts leave too many opportunities for cheating — through ballot padding, snatching or switching of ballot boxes, and the alteration of numbers written in longhand on election returns. The long wait for official results also heightens tension and can trigger violence.

Filipinos have endured the antiquated manual system of voting for too long. Many other countries, including several at the same level of economic development as the Philippines, moved on long ago to automated elections, getting poll results within 24 hours. The Philippines had planned to make its first general elections in the new millennium fully automated. But that hope was dashed by a corruption scandal that has saddled Filipinos with P1.2 billion worth of computers and voting software that are now rotting away in a warehouse that taxpayers are renting for a princely sum. The Comelec should see to it that the next attempt at full poll automation will not suffer the same fate. (www.philstar.com) ■

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION

Forgotten Soldiers And A Lost Battlefield



An aerial view of the Ewa Air Field



by Senator Will
ESPERO

These are two of the matters that others have brought to my attention, and asked that you join them by writing letters of support to those who both make decisions and influence decision-making in Washington.

SOLDIERS WE NEED TO RE-MEMBER

Our lovely and intelligent publisher Chona Sonido earlier this year brought to my attention the widespread problem of discrimination against Filipinos. One of the more inexplicable instances of discrimination is found in the 1946 Rescission Act, which Congress has still to rectify. The law stripped Filipinos of all the benefits they were promised as members of the U.S. military during World War II. Over 250,000 Filipinos braved life and limb for our country. Their war efforts were no less courageous than our fellow Japanese soldiers whose heroism is better known. About 18,000 Filipino veterans are alive today.

The Rescission Act took away U.S. veteran status and its benefits for Filipinos only. Nationals from the 66 other countries who served under American command received U.S. veteran status. Only Filipinos were singled out for discriminatory treatment. Let's not allow this unequal treatment to continue. We need the support of

other veterans' groups to gain passage of HR 670, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2007, to correct this gross injustice and renege of promises made to those who bravely served the American flag. Filipinos deserve the full honor of the status and benefits that befit those who have fought for our country. Our representatives, Neil Abernethy and Mazie Hirono are already aware of this, and wider support among other Congressional leaders is needed. The National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity has asked people to urge other veterans' groups and other members of the U.S. House of Representatives to pass HR 670. Members of Congress can be reached through the Congressional website, www.house.gov.

For more information, contact Ben de Guzman, National Alliance for Filipino Veterans Equity, NAFVE Campaign Coordinator at nafve2007@gmail.com or by phone at (202) 422-4909.

THE LOST WORLD WAR II BATTLEFIELD

World War II for the United States started on an airstrip in the plains of Ewa on Oahu, Hawaii. In three passes earlier that fateful morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese Zeroes struck low and fast, destroying most of the 50 U.S. aircraft there and killing four Marines before Kamikaze went on to bomb Pearl Harbor. An originally classified Defense Department report on the Japanese raid that precipitated American involvement in the war, said the attack on Ewa was "so precise and well-executed that it appeared as though each

plane previously had selected its particular target...with the purpose of riddling them, and setting fire to the gas tanks to render them useless for pursuit and interception."

Thus commenced the very first act of Japanese aggression against America, and the entrance of the U.S. into World War II.

The "Ewa Marine Corps Air Station's Marine Air group 21 had 11 Grumman F4F Wildcats, 32 Scout dive bombers, and six utility planes. Marines heroically defended the base that eventful morning, manning machine guns of damaged aircraft and fighting back with only small arms and rifles. Lt. Yoshio Shiga, commander of nine Zero fighters, recalled years later, his memory of one Leatherneck who stood transfixed on the field amidst the machine gun fire striking all around him, emptying his sidearm at Shiga's plane as it roared past. Shiga described that "one, defiant, and unknown Marine as the bravest American he had ever met."

During World War II, fighters roared into the sky over the former "Ewa Marine Corps Air Station. Famous dogfights involving Japanese fighters and George Welch and Ken Taylor, two Hale'ewa Field pilots, occurred over the airbase. In July 1944, the field was toured by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, General Douglas MacArthur, and

Admiral Chester Nimitz.

In 2008, a wild jungle now covers the heroic battlefield, neglected and forgotten in the shadow of the better-known Arizona Memorial.

The airfield became part of the Barber's Point Naval Air Station, which was officially closed in 1999 by the Base Realignment and Closure Commission. Stables now occupy some of the former aircraft revetments, to house horses owned by current military stationed in Hawaii. The Ewa plain where the field is situated is currently in Navy hands but is scheduled to be turned over to a developer.

Ewa Beach resident John Bond has thoroughly researched the history of the air station, and is leading a campaign to preserve the original part of the airfield, what he calls the "Lost World War II Battlefield." He believes that both runways that existed on December 7, 1941 should be set aside, along with the old mooring mast and control tower locations, and some of the entry roads, including the original main gate where President Roosevelt, Admiral Nimitz, and General MacArthur entered the base. He is pursuing nomination of the base land to the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Bond is concerned because a planned land swap could lead to development of the area. The Navy is currently negotiating the

499 acres for 40 years with an option to take title to the property. The agreement is expected by the end of August 2008.

The bravery of the Marines who were the first Americans to be attacked and to defend their country against that pivotal Japanese invasion on the morning of December 7, 1941, deserves to be remembered and honored. Your assistance in preserving that portion of the air field involved in the very first site of World War II aggression would be greatly appreciated by our military and other patriotic citizens of Hawaii.

John believes that making "Ewa Air Field part of the "Wider Pearl Harbor Monument" would not only give recognition to the Marines lost, but raise awareness of the historic importance of the field. The millions of tourists who visit Pearl Harbor each year would feel the same pride and love of country in the brave shown by our military at Ewa Air Field. Preserving the site will bring visitors to Ewa just as it does to Pearl Harbor. Those who come to Hawaii to view our historic sites would also be interested in the brave battles fought over and from Ewa. If you'd like to help John with this effort, you can contact him at GM@december7.com.

John has informed me that "Ewa Air Field is on the President's List for becoming a National Monument and recognition as a National American Battlefield." Official recognition will make the airstrip eligible for federal funding to be spent in West Oahu for historic preservation. Your support will help bring "Ewa Air Field" on the radar of the decision-makers in Washington. Please write separately to President George Bush and First Lady Laura Bush to ask them to make this happen. Their address is The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Blvd., Washington, D.C. 20500. ■

U.S. Small Business Administration



Your Small Business Resource

SBA: YOUR SMALL BUSINESS CONNECTION

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2008
Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Location: Honolulu Design Center, 1250 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu
Cost: FREE (free parking, too!)
RSVP: Online at www.sba.gov/hl or call Joann at 541-2990, x 203, or joan.makizuru@sba.gov

SBA TRAINING EVENTS AND CALENDARS AUGUST 21-28, 2008

SBA has programs to help entrepreneurs at all levels. This forum is designed for individuals who are interested in starting a new business or expanding an existing venture. Whether you are in need of financial assistance or seeking information on Small Business Certifications, the SBA can help. We will introduce you to SBA Business Development Specialists who will field your questions and address your concerns about starting and growing your small business in Hawaii. Don't miss this great opportunity to connect your business with the proper source for your business needs and interests. Registration is mandatory and space is limited, so call, email or register online today. Registration will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

COMPUTER SECURITY

Date: Thursday, August 28, 2008
Time: 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Location: Honolulu Design Center, 1250 Kapiolani Blvd., Honolulu
Cost: FREE - Free Parking
RSVP: www.sba.gov/hl or call 541-2990

Computer Security - Co-sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), this free workshop could save you and your business money, time and endless frustration! Learn common best practices, identify potential vulnerabilities and threats, and understand threats to your organization and assets. Get proactive - don't be a victim of Identity theft!

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For more information, please call 284-4185 or 678-8930

HEADLINE NEWS

(cont. from page 1; Second Annual...)

and create an event that will let our neighbors know just how special Kalihi has been, is and will continue to be."

The number of attendees is expected to swell this year, now that word has spread and that marketing efforts began a lot sooner this year. In anticipation of a larger audience, organizers expanded the entertainment venue

by adding a second stage for performers.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

The "Electric Slide" dance, which was a hit at the 2007 Taste of Kalihi, will be back by popular demand. Hundreds participated in last year's dance, which was quite

a sight to behold.

"It was huge," says event chair Harry Alonzo. "The entire street, from one end to the other, was filled with people doing the Electric Slide. It was crazy."

Parts of Colburn Street and the Dillingham Shopping Plaza parking lot will again be closed to vehicular traffic.

Alonzo regrets that the video of the Electric Slide never made it on the TV news or even YouTube—a popular online website where people can post video clips. An estimated 800 dancers participated last year but organizers hope to break the mark with well over 1,000 people.

"We'll be doing it again but this time we want to document it," Alonzo says.

If you want to be part of the World's Largest Electric Slide, be at Colburn Street by 7 pm for the warm-up dance. The song? None other than "YMCA" by the 70s disco group the Village People.

OTHER EVENTS

A new event that organizers are trying this year is the Kalihi Backyard BBQ Cook-Off, which will feature several celebrity chefs.

According to FCHH president Jason Pasqua, participating chefs will be required to prepare dishes using a secret theme ingredient—a la the popular Food Network's TV series "Iron Chef."

"The Taste of Honolulu also had a celebrity chef challenge, but this will be different because we'll be using backyard grills," Pasqua said.

In addition to the cook-off, there will also be cooking demon-

(cont. from page 1; Top Filipina Chef...)

Speakers include Kristie Kenney, U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines; Moira Cameron, the first-ever female Yeoman Warder at the Tower of London; Cathy Lanier, chief of police for the District of Columbia; and Vernice Armour, the first female African American combat pilot in military history. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will appear via video message.

Women who attended previous conferences have left feeling inspired and motivated. In return, speakers have gained new perspectives from the women they meet. The success of this conference continues to grow, making each event more exciting than the last.

CHEF EXTRAORDINAIRE

Of special interest to the Filipino community will be a special guest appearance by Cristeta Comerford, the White House's first female executive chef.

Born in Manila, Comerford began as an assistant chef in the White House kitchen in 1995. She worked her way up and by August 2005, she assumed the position as top chef.

Her many responsibilities in-



strations from top chefs, including culinary master Claude Tayag, widely-regarded as one of the Philippines' top 10 chefs. Tayag made a recent guest appearance at "Pau Hana in Waipahu," where he demonstrated to an audience at the Fil-Com Center how to prepare several of his award-winning sauces and dips.

Another new event organizers have planned is a health fair that is will be spearheaded by the Kalihi-Palama Health Center. According to Alonzo, volunteers with the Kalihi-Palama Health Center will be offering dental screenings, blood pressure exams and other free health tests. As an added bonus, the Health Center will also conduct a job fair and review attendees' eligibility for MedQuest—the State's health insurance program.

SPONSORSHIPS

The Taste of Kalihi is spon-



sored by the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCHH), with support from the City and private sector.

The task of securing sponsorships and volunteers for this year's event fell to Rose Mendoza, president-elect of the FCHH. Putting on the event will require about \$25,000 and a small army of between 75-100 volunteers, she says.

"Having enough sponsors and volunteers is essential," Mendoza said. "Because of the down-

(continued on page 7)

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clude designing and executing menus for state dinners, social events, holiday functions, receptions and official luncheons hosted by President and Mrs. Bush.

"Her passion for cooking can be tasted in every bite of her delicious creations," says First Lady Laura Bush.

Comerford is trained in French classical techniques and specializes in ethnic and American cuisine. She has helped develop inventive menus that showcase American foods and wines for special White House events including the State Dinner in honor of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Philippines; the Official Dinner in honor of Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India; and a social dinner in celebration of William Shakespeare's birthday.

Comerford received her bachelor's degree in Food Technology from the University of the Philip-

pines and gained culinary experience serving as Chef Tournant at Le Ciel in Vienna, Austria; Chef at Le Grande Bistro at The Westin Hotel in Washington, D.C.; and Chef at The Colonnade at the ANA Hotel in Washington, D.C., where she implemented the "Culinary Arts Gallery" which showcased the best of American fine cuisine.

In addition, she collaborated with Chef John Ash to promote American game cooking and assisted and coordinated on the "East Meets West" promotion featuring the late Barbara Tropp.

Ms. Comerford melds training received from institutions such as The Education Institute, American Hotel and Motel Association with experiences with some of the nation's most innovative chefs in the California wine country and San Francisco restaurants to produce original dishes with American flavor.

REGISTER NOW

Conference organizers have cooked up a special opportunity for those who register early for this year's conference. Attendees who register by August 22 will enjoy an exclusive breakfast and also hear a special presentation from Comerford. ■

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

City Raises Limit For Housing

Rehab Loan

THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT of Community Services has increased the maximum limit of its Housing Rehabilitation Loan program from \$80,000 to \$150,000.

These loans allow homeowners to make home repairs, accessibility improvements and address health and safety issues. Income-qualified owner-occupant applicants may obtain interest-free loans and be allowed to partially defer repayments for the 15-year term of the loan.

Many of Honolulu's older homeowners have significant eq-

uity in their homes, yet live on limited fixed incomes and often hesitate in making needed repairs. The City's loan program offers liberal repayment options to ensure that even those with very limited resources can receive assistance.

"Qualified homeowners are urged to seriously consider tapping into this important program to ensure their homes are safe and comfortable as they grow older," Mayor Mufi Hannemann said.

Hawaii's older population is growing at a rate faster than most other states. Surveys clearly indicate that most older adults would

prefer to live at home, rather than move to a housing institution. Simple home improvements such as grab bars, widened doorways, non-skid floors and proper lighting provide more options and makes aging in place possible.

Funds for the loan program are available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant program.

Those interested in applying for or learning more about the City's Rehabilitation Loan Program should call 768-7076 or 768-3240. ■

Philippine Artist to Speak at UH

PHILIPPINE ARTIST MICHAEL ARCEGA will be in residence at the University of Hawaii-Manoa from September 2-5, 2008, according to the school's Art Department Intersections Program.

Arcega, an interdisciplinary artist who works primarily in sculpture and installations, will share stories about his quixotic art adventures at a speaking engagement at the UH art auditorium on September 3, 2008 at 6 pm.

A brilliant satirist and conceptualist working in all media, Arcega interprets current political events through parody, visual puns and the use of double entendre. His work "Eternal Salvation" (2006)—a ship held aloft by a pedestal of crates—is a modern retelling of Noah's ark and a reflection on Hurricane Katrina, commenting on the arbitrariness of survival and the challenges raised by global warming and devastating hurricanes and tsunamis.



Artist Michael Arcega

Arcega was born in Manila and currently resides in San Francisco. He received his BFA in Interdisciplinary studies at the San Francisco Art Institute and is currently working towards his MFA at Stanford University.

His work has been seen in group and solo shows in San Francisco, Oakland, Los Angeles, San Diego, Detroit, New York, Hawaii, Seattle, Lisbon, Sweden and Hong Kong. Arcega has enjoyed residencies at the Fine Art Museum's De Young Art Center in San Francisco and Headlands Center for the Arts in Sausalito, California. ■

Volunteers Gear Up For 25th Annual Kalihi Health Fair



Dr. Erlinda Cachola takes the blood pressure of a patient at the Kalihi Community Health Fair.

THE 25TH ANNUAL KALIHI Community Health Fair will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2008, from 1 pm to 5 pm at the Susannah Wesley Community Center at 1117 Kaili Street.

The health fair is an annual event originally organized by the Filipino Catholic Club of St. Anthony's Church in Kalihi and Dr. Erlinda Cachola, a Kalihi medical internist. Both have been the driving force behind this event for the past 25 years.

Originally held at St. Anthony's School cafeteria, the Health Fair was the Cachola family's way of giving back to the community. The event was later moved to its current location at Susannah Wesley as more patients received free health care.

The Health Fair has been an annual success thanks due to the generosity of many health care providers and other volunteers.

"I cannot believe how quickly

the past 25 years have come and gone," says Dr. Erlinda Cachola, who along with Dr. Lyla Cachola-Prather, Earl Cachola, Dr. Elizabeth Abinay and registered nurse Evelyn Llamas, are co-chairing this year's event. "It has taken a lot of time and effort, but we've enjoyed each and every minute. This is the Cachola family's way of saying 'thank you' for supporting us all of these many years."

The health fair is not just for Kalihi, but also for residents in other communities, particularly immigrants, low-income or at-risk groups, and others who often do not have access to basic medical services. Attendees receive a variety of free medical services, including health screenings and tests for height/weight/blood pressure, eye, ear nose & throat (ENT), thyroid, dental, chiropractic, podiatry, breast, colo-rectal/prostate/hernia and osteoporosis, as well as diabetes and Hepatitis B education.

Patients with extensive medical needs are referred to appropriate physicians.

This year's sponsors include: Councilmember Romy Cachola, American Cancer Society, Association of Filipino Dentists of Hawaii, Chinese General Hospital Nurses, Clinical Laboratories, Hawaii Filipino Healthcare, Hawaii Medical Center BCCCP/Susan Komen Foundation, Hepatitis Support Network of Hawaii, Kalakaua Lions Club, Kalihi-Palama Medical Center, Kidney Foundation of Hawaii, Knights of Columbus St. Anthony's Council 14105, Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii, the Filipino Catholic Clubs of St. Anthony's Church in Kalihi and Our Lady of the Mount, and St. John's Parish.

For more information, please contact Dr. Erlinda Cachola at 845-9955. ■



Arcega's 2006 work, the "Eternal Salvation"

Aloha,

The Thirty Meter Telescope project would like to invite you to participate in its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process. This proposed project would be located on Mauna Kea and is in the early planning stages. The Thirty Meter Telescope, if built, would have a segmented primary mirror 30 meters in diameter. The proposed telescope would be the most technically advanced telescope in the world with observational powers many times greater than any available today. An Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice for the project will be published soon and public meetings will be held shortly after.

Getting on the project's mailing list guarantees you will receive project updates, notices, and other information regarding the EIS progress. There are three ways to add yourself to the mailing list:

- Visit our website at www.TMT-HawaiiEIS.org
- Call our project toll-free hotline at 1-866-284-1716
- Cut out the form below and mail it to the address indicated

We look forward to working with the communities of Hawaii on this project. Mahalo for your time and interest.

Name: _____

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

62% of Pinoys Feel Life Is Worse

by Helen FLORES



PESSIMISM PREVAILS AMONG

Filipinos as shown in another survey with a record-high 62 percent saying their quality of life has deteriorated in the past half year and 52 percent expecting the economy to get worse in the next 12 months.

The Second Quarter 2008 Social Weather Stations (SWS) Survey, conducted from June 27 to 30, registered only 12 percent of the 1,200 respondents — termed “gainers” by SWS — that said their lives had become better compared to 12 months ago.

“The latest gainers-losers gap of -50 (percent gainers minus percent losers) is the worst since SWS began monitoring in April 1983,” SWS reported yesterday. The survey used face-to-face

interviews of 1,200 representative adults divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the balance of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

The non-commissioned survey found 30 percent of Filipinos expecting their personal quality of life to get worse, or whom SWS calls “personal pessimists,” in the next 12 months. The figure dominates the 24 percent expecting it to improve, or the “personal optimists.”

As to the direction of the economy in general, the “economic pessimists” tallied 52 percent or those who expect it to get worse in the coming half-year. The 12 percent who anticipates it to get better are the “economic optimists.”

SWS said the proportion of those saying their personal quality of life worsened from a year ago, or “losers,” has steadily risen over the past four quarters — from 42 percent in September 2007, 45 percent in December 2007, 50 percent in March 2008, and 62 percent in June.

Compared to the previous quarter, the gainers-losers gap worsened by 22 points in balance Luzon, from -23 to -45, a new record-high gap for that area, the survey firm said.

In the Visayas, it fell by 19 points, from -42 to -61, surpassing the previous record-high gap of -60 in October 2008.

It declined by 18 points in Mindanao, from -32 to -50, and by eight points in Metro Manila,

from -44 to -52.

The gainers-losers gap worsened by 35 points among the upper-middle classes ABCs, from net -6 in March to -41 in June, SWS said.

It fell by 18 points among the masses or Class Ds, from -32 to -50, returning to its record-high gap first reported in July 1985, and fell by 13 points among Class Es, from -40 to -53, a new record-high for this group, the SWS said.

The pollster reported that over the past five quarters, the proportion of personal pessimists has increased steadily, from 11 percent in June 2007 up to 30 percent in June 2008, while personal optimists have declined steadily from 32 percent in September 2007 to 24 percent now.

“This brought net personal optimism — or the difference of personal optimists over personal pessimists — steadily down from +22 in June 2007, +18 in September 2007, +14 in December 2007, +6 in March 2008, to -6 in June 2008,” SWS said.

Compared to the previous quarter, net personal optimism fell by 20 points in the Visayas, from +3 to -17, by 13 points in balance Luzon, from +14 to +1, and by 11 points in Mindanao, from +2 to -9. It stayed at net -9 in Metro Manila, the SWS said.

It went down by 12 points among class Es, from -1 to -13,

by 11 points among class Ds, from +6 to -5, and by 8 points among classes ABCs, from +22 to +14.

Pessimism that the Philippine economy would get worse in the coming year rose from 45 percent in March to 52 percent in June, while optimism went from 15 percent to 12 percent, bringing net economic optimism (percent economic optimists minus economic pessimists) down from -29 to -39, SWS said.

Net economic optimism fell by 18 points in the Visayas, from -37 in March to -55 in June 2008, by 16 points in Mindanao, from -21 to -37, by 6 points in Metro Manila, from -35 to -41, and by 5 points in the rest of Luzon, from -28 to -33, it said.

It fell by 25 points among class ABC, from -20 to -45, by 10 points among class Es, from -24 to -34, and by eight points among class Ds, from -33 to -41.

“Optimism about the future economy is based on a question about the economy in general and not about oneself in particular. It is normal to be more optimistic about one’s own quality of life than about the economy as a whole,” SWS said.

The survey has sampling error margins of plus or minus three percent for national percentages and plus or minus six percent for area percentages. (www.philstar.com) ■

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Binay Warns of Martial Law

by Michael PUNONGBAYAN

MAKATI CITY MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY of the United Opposition (UNO) yesterday warned of the possibility of the Arroyo administration declaring martial law if hostilities between government troops and secessionist rebels in Mindanao escalate.

He said such a declaration would advance the administration's alleged “hidden agenda” of extending President Arroyo's stay in power beyond 2010.

“The Mindanao situation presents a win-win scenario for the administration. If the accord on ancestral domain is upheld by the Supreme Court, they can proceed with amending the Constitution which, they say, is needed for the agreement to be effective,” he explained.

But should the agreement be discarded, Binay said the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) would have the basis to resume its offensives.

“Should the hostilities escalate and reach areas outside Mindanao, the administration will have the basis to declare emergency rule,” he warned, stressing that both scenarios have the same objective of extending Mrs. Arroyo's term.

Binay said the high-profile role of former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Hermogenes Esperon Jr. in the ongoing conflict is important to note.

“Mr. Esperon has shown his loyalty to Mrs. Arroyo since the 2004 elections, and he is now directly influencing events in Min-



Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay

danao,” Binay said.

He added that the escalating conflict in Mindanao represents a failure in governance.

“If you cannot manage Mindanao, at least do not give it away,” Binay appealed to President Arroyo.

He lashed out at the Arroyo administration for putting at risk peace and stability in Mindanao to push for Charter change.

“It appears that the administration, driven by an obsession to extend Mrs. Arroyo's stay in power, has disregarded the people of Mindanao, and is even willing to risk civil war in the island,” he said.

Binay emphasized that the Charter change agenda of the Arroyo administration has been unmasked by the statements of Press Secretary Jesus Dureza and Esperon that implementing the accord with the MILF would require amendments to the Constitution. (www.philstar.com) ■

IMMIGRATION GUIDE

How Late Bloomer Can Bring Young Wife to America Without Really Trying



by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

"No hay mas grande loco que el viejo loco." (There is no bigger fool than an old fool.) - Spanish proverb.

A "late bloomer" is a person who does not discover his talents and abilities until later than normally expected. The term "late bloomer" is also used to refer to individuals who lose their virginity at an age that is considered advanced for the society in which they live. Wikipedia. Sometimes the term "late bloomer" is used to describe a person who marries much later than usual.

For a fistful of dollars, a late bloomer can bring a young wife to America without really trying if he lets a competent attorney with imagination and a successful track record do it for him, instead of trying to do it himself or with an immigration herbolario. The late bloomer should hire the attorney before marrying the woman.

If he hires an attorney after the consul has denied her a visa for failure to establish that the mar-

riage is genuine, he might have to spend what a slightly used (okay pre-owned) BMW costs.

HAWAII'S LATE BLOOMERS

Hawaii abounds in late bloomers. Septuagenarians and octogenarians have been flocking to the Philippines to marry women young enough to be their daughter or even granddaughter.

Hawaii's senior U.S. senator, 83, recently married a 50 something. His bride is a U.S. citizen so there are no immigration issues.

There is something about young women. This is not the place to tell you about the pleasures of being with them. Suffice it to say that you will become young too -- via osmosis. Que horror if the young woman becomes a victim of reverse osmosis.

NA FEEL MO AND NAPLICO

An Ilocano octogenarian married a 30 something. During their honeymoon, the groom whispered: "Na feel mo, honey." (Did you feel it, honey.) The unsatisfied wife complained: "Naplico" (It is bent.)

OBSESSED WITH SEX

Many of these late bloomers have encountered difficulties in obtaining visas for their young wives. U.S. consular employees in Manila,

particularly the Filipinos in the Fraud Prevention Unit (FPU), seem obsessed with sex. They grill these young women for hours and sometimes days trying to elicit facts about their sex lives and deride the sexual abilities of their husbands. Then they deny them visas believing that an 80 man can no longer perform his marital duties and make the woman enjoy. They apparently think that the only way to make a woman enjoy marriage is by having sex. Of course, they will not write that in their denial. They will simply state: "You have not established a petitionable relationship."

If only these late bloomers hired a competent attorney earlier, their wife would be spared these indignities.

CASE NUMBER 1

An FPU employee grilled a 50 something woman who was applying for a visa. She was petitioned by an octogenarian. Here is the colloquy:

"Bakit mo pinakasaan yan. Parang latay mo. (Why did you marry him. He is old enough to be your father.)

"Mabait siya. (He is good.)
"Hindi na puede." (He can no longer perform.)

"Puede pa. (He still can.)
"Huwag mong sasabihin yan. Lalaki ako. Alam ko. (Do not say

that, I am a man, I know).

The husband sought our help. We successfully overturned the denial. She is now in the U.S. We submitted a plethora of documents to show that their marriage was genuine. The key was a doctor's certification that he had no physical impediment that would prevent him from performing sex. We went to Manila to talk with the consul.

CASE NUMBER 2

A 34 year old woman married a 79 year old man. After being interrogated by the FPU, she was denied a visa. Here is the Q & A.

"Malakas pa bang mag sex ang asawa mo? (Is your husband still vigorous engaging in sex?)

"Malakas pa." (He is still strong.)

"Hindi ako naniniwala." (I do not believe it.)

The husband asked us for help. We again successfully obtained a reversal of the denial. We advised them to have a child via in vitro fertilization. A doctor said it costs P1,200,000.00 (about \$25,000). We believe that the key to winning this case was the doctor's certification of the couple's visit and his proposed fee. We submitted documents more than three inches thick to establish the genuineness of their marriage

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The documents to establish that a marriage is genuine should include (1) affidavits, (2) pictures, (3) financial records, (4) joint income tax returns, (5) joint ownership or joint rental agreement for residence, (6) letters, (7) telephone records, (8) passport and airline tickets showing visits by the husband, and (9) other documents that normally a husband and wife should have.

AGGRESSIVE LAWYERING

The lawyer must request the transcript of the interview. If they do not produce it, he must file a Freedom of Information Act request. If the documents are not produced quickly, he must tell them that he will sue. ■

(Atty. Tipon is from Losang City, Philippines. He holds a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from U.P. He is admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court, other U.S. Courts, and the Philippine courts. He handles cases throughout the U.S. and the Philippines. He specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: 903 East St., Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 96819. Tel. (808) 847-1901. E-mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to his very interesting, useful, and humorous program "Immigration 3 Files" on KN2H Hawaii radio 1270 AM on the dial every Friday 7:30-8:00 a.m. This article is for general information only. It is not legal advice. It may not be cited as an authority.)

- HEADLINES (CONT.)

(cont. from page 4; Second Annual...)

turn in the economy, we didn't get the big donations that we had last year. But we have more sponsors this year who gave what they could, which really helped us."

This year's sponsors include Kamehameha Schools, MOBI PCS, AlohaCare, HMSA, Western Union, New Hope, Hawaiian Airlines, Preferred Home & Community Based Services, Inc. and State Farm Insurance.

A portion of the net proceeds will benefit the Kalihai-Palama Health Center whose mission is to provide quality, integrated

health and social services to our community and all others in need of health care.

SUPPORTING THE EVENT

Organizers like Mendoza and Alonzo—who have ties to Kalihai—hope that Filipinos will attend the event, particularly since many of Kalihai's residents are Filipinos.

Mendoza was born in the Philippines but raised in Kalihai, where she attended Kalakaua Middle School and Farrington.

"This community is close to

my heart because I grew up here," she says. "Events like this can show others that Kalihai is not a bad neighborhood."

Alonzo, who was born on Kauai but currently lives in Kalihai, agrees wholeheartedly. He says events like the Taste of Kalihai are good for the community's image.

"Kalihai has had a negative reputation, compared to other neighborhoods," he said. "But Kalihai also has a lot of positive aspects. This event highlights the positive ones." ■

(cont. from page 1; U.S. Gold...)

relay and the women's 200-meter individual medley.

At the 2004 Olympic games in Athens, Coughlin won five gold medals, becoming only the third U.S. female athlete to do so at a single Olympics.

In the coming days, Coughlin will have a chance to add to her medal count by swimming in the 100-meter freestyle, the 4x100-meter freestyle relay and the 4x100-meter medley relay.

According to Oahu resident Mel Domingo, there was a second U.S. Olympic swimmer of Filipino ancestry who also won gold—Victoria Manalo Draves.



Victoria Manalo Draves

who won gold medals in platform and springboard diving in the 1948 Olympics in London. She was born in 1924 in San Francisco to an English immigrant

mother and a Filipino immigrant father.

Manalo-Draves was one of two Asian-American athletes who were the first to win gold medals at the Summer Olympics. Both overcame discrimination and paved the way for future Asian-American athletes to follow in their footsteps.

In honor of Manalo-Draves' accomplishments, the city of San Francisco and Filipinos in the Bay Area named a park after her in October 2006.

"Hopefully, these two Filipina athletes will set an example for other young Filipinos to strive for," Domingo says. ■

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Mayon Alert Level Raised

by Cei DEMATERA

LEGAZPI CITY – Disaster control authorities here again alerted residents living inside the six-kilometer permanent danger zone surrounding Mayon volcano against possible eruption after it spewed ashes up to 200 meters above the crater on Sunday morning.

Albay Gov. Joey Salceda immediately directed the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) to put in place all the preventive measures and strategies should Mayon's condition escalate.

He also ordered the banning of all human activities within the six-kilometer permanent danger zone (PDZ) surrounding the country's most active volcano.

"We cannot sacrifice lives here. We have to take all the necessary precautions before things get worse," Salceda said.

Cedric Daep, Albay's Provincial Disaster Management Office (PDMO) chief, confirmed that at least 1,675 families went back to the declared permanent danger zone after Mayon erupted in 2006.

Daep said that there are 290 families in Tabaco City; 590 in Mailipit; 457 in Camalig; 55 in Guinobatan; and 283 in Ligao City – all within the danger zone.



Mayon volcano's almost-perfect cone

He said his office is already in close coordination with the officials of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) here for possible advice if Mayon again poses a threat to the residents within the danger areas.

"We are in close coordination with Phivolcs for possible action to avoid unnecessary risk of lives should Mayon's condition deteriorate," Daep said.

Mayon spewed pyroclastic gases in Feb. 3, 1993 without prior display of abnormal behavior that resulted in the death of 78 farmers.

"Mayon is really unpredictable. Based on history, it changes conditions sometimes without prior signs of abnormality," Daep said.

He said that those residing within the danger zone facing the southeastern section of Mayon

such as Camalig, Daraga, Legazpi City and Sto. Domingo are the ones in immediate danger in case of worsened volcanic condition.

Ed Laguerta, Phivolcs resident volcanologist here, said Mayon did not show escalating abnormal behavior after Sunday's ash puffing.

"We are maintaining Mayon's alert level at 1. We have yet to observe more abnormal parameters before we would consider raising its alert signal. We don't see these precursors now yet," Laguerta told THE STAR.

However, he admitted that he had already briefed other disaster-control agencies, including the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), on actions to take in case Mayon becomes unpredictable.

(www.philstar.com) ■

Gov't Won't Aid 52 Pinoy 'Drug Mules'

by Edu PUNAY

THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT extend any legal assistance to the 52 Filipinos currently jailed in China for supposedly acting as "mules" of international drug syndicates. Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) chairman Vicente "Tito" Sotto III said yesterday.

Sotto said he received the order from President Arroyo to investigate the cases and do all means possible to prevent simultaneous arrests of Filipinos acting as drug couriers.

"The President made it clear that as far as Filipinos arrested in drug trafficking cases abroad are concerned, they can't expect help from the government. And I can tell that she is firm on this decision," he said.

Sotto explained Mrs. Arroyo is strict in her policy against dangerous drugs.

"You see the government can help those overseas Filipinos who commit personal crimes like killing their employer in self-defense for instance. But in drug cases, we know that these are syndicated so we really can't tolerate them," he stressed.

Sotto said Mrs. Arroyo has expressed her concern over the possible implications of overseas Filipino workers getting involved in high-profile drug operations.

He said the involvement of several OFWs in drug syndicates became a big letdown in China, which had all praises for Filipinos working there.

Sotto said the only help the government can give to the jailed OFWs in China is the assurance from Department of Foreign Affairs that they would get fair trial.

Sotto said they would conduct investigation on the cases of the 52 arrested Filipinos and start coordinating with their Chinese counterparts soon after the Olympic Games in Beijing.

Sotto said of the 52 Filipinos in jail, 50 are women, and two of them are pregnant. One of them is set to be deported within this month for humanitarian reasons, he said.

He said all of them pleaded guilty to drug trafficking. Seven of them have already been convicted and sentenced to death in lower courts. (www.philstar.com) ■

UP Prof Warns Climate Change Could Cut RP's GDP by As Much As 20%

by Helen FLORES

A UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES PROFESSOR yesterday warned that climate change could cause about 10 to 20 percent loss in countries' gross domestic product (GDP), especially in low-income nations.

Rex Victor Cruz, dean of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños, said, however, the amount of damage brought about by climate change depends on the economic conditions of the countries.

"Low income countries will likely sustain GDP losses," Cruz said during the climate change media workshop at the Traders Hotel in Pasay City.

He said climate change would also make it difficult for countries to meet the medium-term development goals (MDGs), adding that a three-degrees Celsius increase in temperature could put millions of people at risk for hunger.

"Poor countries will have limited options and lower resilience in relation to climate change impact," Cruz said. "Rich countries respond better and recover much faster."

Cruz said climate change could have a multiplier effect in terms of worsening poor countries' already bad condition.

In a related development, Suppakorn Chinavanno, project coordinator and advisor of the water resource research group at the Southeast Asia START Regional Center in Chulalongkorn University in Thailand, blamed governments in Southeast Asia for their lack of support for scientists involved in climate change research.

"Everyone has to take the blame. But the governments must have to take the blame for not supplying the technology that provide the scientists access to information," he said.

Chinavanno also said that Southeast Asia has only a handful of scientists involved in research on climate change, resulting in limited knowledge about this global issue in the entire region.

"We lack local data in Southeast Asia," he said.

Some 26 journalists from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) gathered yesterday for a two-day seminar workshop on climate change.

The event was organized by the Philippine Science Journalists

Association, Inc. in collaboration with the International Development Research Center Regional Office for Southeast and East Asia based in Canada, and the Economy and Environment Program for Southeast Asia based in Singapore.

With the theme "Reporting Climate Change: Creating a Climate of Change in Southeast Asia," the activity aims to improve media coverage of climate change issues and to develop and foster greater collaboration and foster greater collaboration between and among journalists and climate change experts.

NO CLEAR CUT SOLUTION

Meanwhile, a new United Nations-backed report classified the Philippines among eight "Climate Resilient Cities" that need to enhance resiliency to threats emanating from climate change and slash greenhouse emissions to mitigate the consequences of future natural disasters.

With eight of the world's 10 most populous cities situated near rivers or seas and already being exposed to such hazards as flooding, earthquakes and typhoons, the report offers suggestions on how to enhance

resiliency to threats emanating from climate change. It also warned that the cities hardest hit by climate change will be the ones least prepared.

"Climate Resilient Cities" – jointly produced by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) – serves as a primer for East Asia and the Pacific to curb vulnerability to climate change and bolster disaster risk management.

"Ultimately, the cities hardest hit by climate change will be the ones least prepared," said Neeraj Prasad, the World Bank's Lead Environmental Specialist for East Asia and the Pacific.

"Global warming points towards more frequent and extreme weather events, so managers must take action to protect their cities sooner rather than later," the report urged.

It said that for every one meter rise in sea levels, there will be a corresponding two percent drop in GDP due to the decrease in fresh water, damage to agriculture and fisheries, disrupted tourism and reduced energy security, among other consequences.

According to the report, the surging concentration of people in

cities also steps up their susceptibility to climate-related damage.

The study cited East Asia as one of the world's most vulnerable areas. "We have seen events like the 2004 tsunami, and recently Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and a typhoon in the Philippines," said Jitendra J. Shah, who coordinates the World Bank's environmental program in Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia and Thailand.

"Climate Resilient Cities" calls on cities to strategize to adapt to climate change and to mitigate the consequences of future natural disasters. It also appeals to them to slash greenhouse gas emissions.

Some measures the report recommends are simple, such as raising awareness of global warming's impact, promoting the use of bicycles and increasing the use of energy-efficient public transport vehicles. Others entail legislation and increased investment, including providing fossil fuel alternatives and improving public infrastructure.

"Every city is different," Prasad said. "There is no cookie-cutter solution to climate change impacts. It's important that you are able to anticipate the likely impacts on your city and make the decision to deal with that."

(www.philstar.com) ■



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PHILIPPINE NEWS

AFP-MILF Clashes Escalate in Cotabato

by Edith REGALADO

MORE THAN 100,000 RESIDENTS of Cotabato and Maguindanao provinces have fled their homes as fighting escalated between government troops and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Davao Region police director Chief Superintendent Andres Caro II said police are on alert for a possible spillover of the fighting in central Mindanao.

"We have tightened further the security measures that we have put in place," he said.

The intelligence community has also strengthened its network and intensified gathering of information, he added.

In Cotabato, marauding MILF rebels vandalized a historic Catholic chapel before setting it

on fire along with eight other houses in Upper Labas, a farming community of mixed Muslim and Christian settlers in Midsayap town.

Midsayap Mayor Manuel Rabarra said the rebels used dried coconut leaves and kerosene to burn the San Isidro Labrador Chapel at the center of Upper Labas.

"They should have spared that worship site," he said.

"True Muslims respect worship sites regardless if they belong to Christians, Muslims or people of any other faith."

The rebels also burned eight houses and robbed fleeing farmers of some 30 heads of cows and carabaos, he added.

The rebels also took rice stored in makeshift storage facil-



ties of farmers, according to evacuees from Upper Labas.

Casualties mount
A soldier was killed and 32 others wounded as troops advanced to flush out MILF rebels in Cotabato.

On the MILF side, intelligence reports said the rebels suffered heavy casualties, but there is no way to officially confirm this.

"Our sustained aerial and ground bombardments have hit them hard," said a junior officer who asked not to be named because he is not the official spokesman. "There were dozens who were reported killed."

In Cotabato, air strikes and artillery fire continued yesterday as troops faced stiff resistance from MILF rebels holding out in some barangays.

In Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Armed Forces vice chief Lt. Gen. Cardoza Luna said troops have already cleared Barangays Upper Lapak and Lagindingan in Midsayap town in Cotabato of MILF rebels.

"Of course they are resisting heavily," he said in a telephone

interview.

However, the MILF band led by Amriel Ombra Kato would not be able to sustain the fighting because they have limited supplies, Luna said.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesman and civil military affairs chief, said they might send reinforcements to their beleaguered comrades.

"It is not a lost command," he said.

"Ombra Kato is a legit commander of the MILF who heads the 105th Base Command, he is the legitimate commander. He does not lead a lost command as reported."

Kabalu said they consider the military operations in Cotabato as an attack against the whole MILF.

However, the MILF is keeping the door open to peaceful means of resolving the conflict, he added.

NPA MIGHT JOIN FIGHTING

The New People's Army (NPA) might join forces with the MILF to repel advancing government troops in Cotabato province and Maguindanao, a military commander said yesterday.

Maj. Gen. Leo Jogy Fojas, Army 10th Infantry Battalion commander based on Camp Panacan in Davao City, said it is possible that the NPA will take advantage of the situation in Cotabato and Maguindanao.

"There is always such a possibility because a tactical alliance has always been existing in their efforts to topple the government," he said. "But in terms of ideology, the MILF and the NPA have different beliefs."

Fojas said he has also placed on alert troops in the SOCCSARGEN Region for the possible merger of the NPA and MILF.

"Most probable also is these rebels would be bombing transmission lines," he said.

"My instruction is to closely guard these installations and watch the activities of these people."

MILF forces in Cotabato might resort to terror bombings to divert the attention of government troops, Fojas said.

In Cotabato, MILF guerrillas killed one person and wounded another after blocking a stretch of the national highway linking Alusan and Pitik towns and opened fire at a group of passengers herded together firing squad style.

Lt. Col. Juliato Ando, Army 8th Infantry Division spokesman, said the fighting in Cotabato would not have escalated if Ombra had not defied an order from the MILF leadership to vacate the barangays they occupied three weeks ago.

Ombra and his men have burned 84 houses in the barangays they captured after driving away Muslim and Christian settlers at gunpoint. (www.philstar.com) ■

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Texting While Driving to be Made Illegal Soon

by Jess DIAZ

IF THREE PARTY-LIST representatives in the House of Representatives would have their way, it would soon be illegal for motorists to use mobile phones — either for calls or texting — while driving.

Representatives Irwin Tieng, Ma. Carissa Coscolluela and Rene Velarde of Buhay have filed Bill 4917, "The Anti-Texting While Driving Act of 2008."

The bill seeks to ban the use of cellular phones, particularly for reading, composing or sending text messages, while driving.

Tieng, principal author of the measure, said yesterday motorists using mobile phones while driving "are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves, passengers and pedestrians as well," compared to drivers not using phones.

"Using a cellular phone while driving is analogous to driving while drunk," he said.

He cited data from the Metro



Manila Development Authority road safety office showing that for the first half of 2007, 30,001 vehicular accidents occurred in the metropolis, claiming the lives of 172 people and injuring 5,412.

"This means that 166 road accidents take place in Metro Manila daily. A car, bus, truck, or jeep kills one person almost every day and maims around 30," he said.

He said many of the accidents occurred while drivers were using mobile phones.

He also cited studies abroad suggesting that mobile phones cause accidents that kill thousands of people every year and create monstrous traffic jams.

Tieng said this has prompted more than 40 countries around the

world to enact laws banning the use of cellular phones while driving.

He said among these countries are England, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Norway, Portugal, Poland, Russia, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, and Italy.

He said in Asia, nations that have enacted similar legislation include India, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore.

Australia and Zimbabwe have such a law too, he added.

He pointed out that in the Philippines, only Quezon City and Makati have passed ordinances prohibiting the use of mobile phones while driving.

Under Bill 4917, those caught using cellular phones while driving would face imprisonment of one day to six months, or a fine of P5,000 to P100,000, or both, upon the discretion of the court.

Exempted would be law enforcers on duty, drivers of ambulances and rescue vehicles, persons responding to emergencies, and reporters of television and radio networks. ■

PHILIPPINE NEWS

PNB: \$34-Million Marcos Swiss Deposits All Accounted For

by **Mayen JAYMALIN**

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK (PNB) yesterday gave assurances that the \$34 million in Marcos Swiss deposits recovered by the Philippine government remains fully accounted for and continues to be held in escrow at the bank with the full knowledge and agreement of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG).

PNB Chief Counsel Alvin Go, in a statement, said published articles which referred to the "missing" \$34 million held by PNB are "erroneous and without factual basis."

"As a premier banking institution, PNB acts faithfully in accordance with its contractual obligation and continues to do so in matters which pertain to the recovered Swiss funds. The funds, which are actually not 'missing,' are retained by PNB based on

the agreement signed by former PCGG chair Haydee Yorac. The retained funds will be turned over to PCGG after litigation is completed based on the said accord," said Go.

"In fact, PNB was able to increase the net after tax value of the escrowed funds by 20 percent over the last five years when the \$624 million of the total \$658 million in Swiss deposits was turned over to the government in 2004 upon orders of the Supreme Court," Go clarified.

Instead of being unfairly cited for funds which are actually not 'missing', Go said PNB should be commended for the successful litigation in the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

"This crucial victory helped preserve the Marcos funds and prevented its premature turnover to claimants of the Marcos estate except in accordance with its mandate as escrow," Go said. (www.philstar.com) ■

Reyes Says Oil Firms May Consider One-time Rollback

by **Helen FLORES**

ENERGY SECRETARY ANGELO REYES bared yesterday that local oil companies may have to consider a one-time rollback with the continuing drop of crude oil prices in the world market.

"We have to study the interplay of demand and supply. The oil companies are, of course, responding also to world prices," he said.

Reyes pointed out that this would be the prerogative of the oil players since it is a deregulated market.

"We will see how things develop. It's good prices are going down," he said, when asked if the government may consider using "moral suasion" to convince oil firms to roll back prices at a faster pace.

He also expressed optimism that pump prices will continue to go down in the next few weeks.

"The current trends such as the reduction of the world oil prices and the strengthening of the dollar augur well and exerts tremendous pressure on pump prices in the Philippines to come down. And that is what market forces are all about — pressure as a result of the interplay of demand and supply," he said.

Fernando Martinez, chairman of the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (IPPCA), said there could be another price rollback today.

"Maybe we can see another price adjustment at the same rate as last week," Martinez said.

Oil firms brought down their gasoline prices by P1 per liter and 50 centavos per

liter for diesel last week.

Reyes said he is also happy to see that prices at the local oil market vary.

"Right now, what we're seeing is the oil companies are setting their prices differently. Some are increasing prices in diesel, decrease in gas, etc. This affords the consuming public to exercise the power of choice on where they do buy diesel and gasoline. And this is a good sign," he said.

At the same time, he said they would continue to curb oil smuggling as oil prices are now easing up which may lead to proliferation of such illegal activities again.

As of Aug. 8, 2008, unleaded gasoline is priced at P56.70 to P58.15, premium gasoline at P58.80 to P60.76, diesel at P55.30 to P58.00, Auto LPG at P31.00 to P33.56 and LPG (11 kg) at P619.00 to P671.50.

The average Dubai crude, the benchmark of oil refiners in pricing their products, dropped to \$116.17 per barrel as of Aug. 13 compared to July average of \$131.27 per barrel.

Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS), gauge of oil importers, priced its unleaded gasoline as of Aug. 13 at \$117.53 per barrel, a decline from July 2008 average of \$135.27 per barrel.

MOPS Diesel, on the other hand, averaged as of Aug. 13, \$140.16 per barrel as against July 2008 average of \$168.01 per barrel.

International contract prices of LPG also dropped to \$881 per metric ton as against July's level of \$936.50. (www.philstar.com) ■



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MAINLAND NEWS

Philippine Consulate General in Chicago Assists Filipinos in Ohio

THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE General in Chicago recently conducted a consular outreach program in Parma, Ohio at the city's Philippine-American Cultural and Civic Center.

A seven-member team traveled to Northeastern Ohio to attend to the needs of the area's large and fast-growing Filipino-American community. The outreach mission was meant to make it convenient for kababayans to avail of the essential services that the Consulate provides.

Filipinos from all over Ohio drove for hours to process various applications and documents as well as to meet with the official delegation from Chicago.

The delegation received and processed 68 applications for renewal of Philippine passports, 31 applications for dual citizenship and 21 notaries/civil registry. They also serviced and answered queries

on dual citizenship, visas, owning property in the Philippines and studying abroad. Aside from the consular services, the Consular team also provided information and replied to tourism-related queries like tourism destinations and medical tourism. Promotional materials, posters and brochures were made available by the Philippine Department of Tourism office



in Chicago.

Chicago Consul General Blessia C. Cabrera said the consular outreach program is in line with the Philippine government's commitment to reach out and bring services to Filipino communities in the U.S. Midwest.

"We understand the great difficulties of our kababayans to travel all the way from Northeast Ohio to Chicago," she said.

Assisting the Consulate General in Chicago were several Fil-Am organizations, including the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce (USA) Inc., Cleveland Chapter. (DFA)

Pinoy Dancers Win 7th Annual World Hip Hop Dance Championship

A DANCE CREW from the Philippines took top honors in their division at the 7th Annual World Hip Hop Dance Championship, held August 3, 2008 in Las Vegas.

Over 1,500 dancers from 22 countries competed in the electrifying event which brought the audience to its feet numerous times as dance crews presented dazzling routines blending old and

new school moves.

The Philippine All Stars dance crew received the highest score of the night (8.94) and took home the gold medal in the Adult Division (ages 18+). The Pinoy dancers strutted their stuff in front of a crowd of approximately 2,000—rocking, dancing and jumping with unmatched intensity.

The Philippine All-Stars' routine was based on Ken Jhons' thrilling choreography. During one particular dance sequence, Jhons plucked a dancer from the ground and raised him above his head on a single arm, holding him aloft like a hunter with a prize kill, before discarding him back onto the stage. The move drew astonished gasps and a standing ovation from the audience.

The bronze, silver and gold medals were presented by rap artist MC Hammer, who described the event as a "positive outlet for your youthful participants." (www.filammation.com) ■

Filipino Girl Wins U.S. Golf Championship

MIA LEGASPI of the Philippines won the girls' 9-under division in the U.S. Kids World Golf Championships at Longleaf Golf Club in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

A fourth-grader at St. Paul's College in Pasig City, Legaspi, shot a final round one-under-par 35, for a two-stroke victory over her closest opponent Haley Moore of the U.S.

It was the third world crown for Legaspi, who also has titles in the Callaway Junior Worlds (2006) and in the 8-under division of this same tournament last year.

The annual tournament fea-



tured young golfers from the U.S. and 35 other countries, which made Legaspi's victory even sweeter as it erased the stigma of a disappointing joint seventh place finish in the Junior World Golf Championships. (Good News Philippines) ■

Family of Pinoy Doctors Receives 'PEACE' Award

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC and Cultural Endowment (PEACE) USA bestowed the Peace Family Award to a Filipino family of 11 physicians.

The Endowment Awards were held in Atlantic City, New Jersey in June 2008. Attendees included Willy Gaa, Philippine Ambassador to the U.S., his wife and leaders of several professional and civic associations around the country. The awards were presented by Ambassador Gaa.

Honored were Farida Quiambao Isip-Chua, MD, a retired pediatrician, her husband Philip S. Chua, MD, FACS, a retired cardiac surgeon, and their five children who are all in the U.S.: Sheillah C. Gentile, MD; Felipe I. Chua, MD; Portia C. Gonzales, MD; Rachel Chua Brown, MD; and Emily C. Greenlee, MD. The four husbands of the Chua women are also physicians: Anthony N. Gentile, MD; Luisito C. Gonzales, MD; Jim M. Brown III,

MD; and Jeremy W. Greenlee, MD.

Dr. Philip Chua, who is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, is currently chairman of Cardiac Surgery of the Cebu Doctors University Hospital, in Cebu City, Philippines, where he shuttles to every other month from their home in Munster, Indiana, and Las Vegas. He is also vice president for Far East of the Cardiovascular Hospitals of America (CHA) and the chairman of the advocacy group for good governance, the Filipino United Network (USA).

His health column appears in five newspapers and one magazine in the United States, five newspapers and one magazine in the Philippines, and on eight web sites. Dr. Farida is former president of the Philippine Medical Association of Chicago Women's Auxiliary and a previous awardee—Most Outstanding Woman in Medicine—of the Circolo Kapampangan in Chicago. (Philippine News) ■

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LEGAL NOTES

H-2B Visas No Longer Available



by Reuben S. SEGURITAN

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced on July 30 that the H-2B cap for the first half of the 2009 fiscal year has been reached.

This means that new petitions received on or after July 30 would be rejected.

As in the case of H1B petitions, there is an annual limit of 66,000. One half or 33,000 are allotted for the first half of the fiscal year and the remaining numbers are reserved for the second half. The fiscal year starts on October 1.

All new petitions received on July 29, 2008 will be subject to a computer-generated random selection process. Those not chosen will be rejected and their filing fees returned.

H-2B extensions or those petitions seeking to change the terms of employment or to change or add employers and extend their stay are not subject to the cap and the USCIS will continue to process them.

H-2B visas are reserved for

non-agricultural workers who enter the U.S. to perform temporary services for an employer on a one-time, seasonal, peak load or intermittent basis. The temporariness of the job is determined by the nature of the need of the employer, not the nature of the duties.

The H-2B process starts with the filing of a temporary labor certification (ETA Form 750 Part A) with the local State Workforce Agency (SWA) not more than 120 days prior to the employer's needs.

After review, the SWA will forward the ETA Form 750 A to the National Processing Center where a final determination will be made.

A labor certification is issued

when the Department of Labor (DOL) finds that there are no U.S. qualified workers for the job and that similarly situated workers will not be adversely affected by the hiring of foreign workers.

The approved labor certification or the DOL statement of no certification is then attached to the I-129 petition that is submitted to the USCIS.

A labor certification does not guarantee the approval of the H-2B petition. On the other hand, a negative decision on the labor certification application does not automatically result in a denial of the petition.

Multiple beneficiaries may be included in a single H-2B petition if they will be performing the same work for the same period in

the same location.

The H-2B worker is allowed a maximum of not more than a year. In extraordinary cases, two one-year extensions may be allowed.

Unlike in H-1B cases, the filing of an immigrant visa petition or permanent labor certification is not allowed for H-2B workers. The rule cannot be circumvented by the filing for permanent resident status on behalf of the alien in a different job. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at 212 695 5281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com

GLOBAL NEWS

Filipinos 'Highly Respected' in China



Chinese President Hu Jintao welcomes PGMA in China.

THE ESTIMATED 10,000 Filipinos in China are highly-regarded by the socialist republic and its people, a Philippine diplomat told President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in a recent meeting with the Filipino community.

"Filipinos here are highly respected," said Sonia Brady, Philippine Ambassador to China.

Arroyo told the expatriate Filipinos that her administration has worked hard to eventually make going overseas "a career option and not a necessity for a good-paying job."

She said the Philippines experi-

enced the highest growth rate in a generation last year amid the global economic slowdown and a spike in prices of food and petroleum products.

As food riots erupted in other countries, the Philippines devised ways to avert a food crisis, she said, noting that the price of rice in the country is lower compared to its Asian neighbors.

Arroyo defended the value-added tax, saying it was needed to bankroll government's pro-poor programs.

Brady said that most of the Filipinos who work in China are engi-

neers and other workers with high technical skills. She said that teachers in English, musicians and hotel managers and workers are also increasing in number.

Filipino technical workers in China often work in United Nations agencies, hotels, other embassies and multinational companies.

"The growing Chinese demand to learn English has led to an increase in the number of Filipinos working as English teachers and tutors. Those teachers working in schools licensed to hire foreigners often have adequate compensation and good working and living conditions," a local newspaper said.

Brady said that Filipinos in China not only contribute to the Asian giant's fast growing economy, but also to its culture.

"The people-to-people relationship is exemplary," she said, noting that Filipinos here serve as the country's best ambassadors to China, making for "closer" Philippine-China relations.

"With the opening of our consulates in Chongqing and Chengdu, we expect our numbers to increase," the ambassador said.

Of the 10,000 Filipinos in China, some 1,500 are in Beijing. (*Asian Journal Online*) ■

Philippine Normal University Choir Excels in Spain Music Fest

THE PHILIPPINE NORMAL University Choir won first prize in the Folk Song Competition and third place in the Mixed Choir Competition at the 25th Annual Festival Internacional de Musica de Cantorijos, held in Spain from July 17-20, 2008.

The Philippine Consulate General in Barcelona and the local Filipino community celebrated the choir's award-winning performance at the prestigious international music festival.

The Philippine Normal University Choir's success comes on the heels of other choirs from the Philippines that competed in previous Cantorijos festivals, including the Philippine Male Chorale and the UP Singing Ambassadors, which won prizes in the 14th and 19th editions of the festival.

As a tribute to Barcelona's Filipino community, the Philippine Normal University Choir performed in a special evening concert at a local church patronized by the Filipino

community. Among the 250 attendees were Spanish and foreign nationals who thoroughly enjoyed the choir's sterling performance.

Philippine Consul General Eduardo de Vega praised the choir's performance, which he says "demonstrated the depth of the Filipino's artistic talent, and the inherent capability to achieve greatness."

According to several choir members, their experiences in Europe will be invaluable in their future careers as professional teachers. ■

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

Lakay Hermoso Cruzado: Sakada Maudi Iti Dua A Paset



ILOKO

by Amado I. YOROT

Dasya ti nangsigkit idi barukongna itay nadakamat ni Simon ti Port Salomage. Giddao a bimmangon ti ranglay ti lagda a pinugsat ti adun a lawen. Uray ita, biribokenna pay laeng ti sugbat dagiti saludsodna no ania ti nagbanagan ti kunkuna ni Carmelita nga anakda. Saanen a bale ken ni Carmelita ta nadamag-na a nalay a nagpasngay.

Immanges iti nauneg. Ngem ad-ada a kimmarayo ti riknana. Aglalo ita a pampunolotenna dagiti impakita ken imbasa ni Simon a kallian ken am-amuena, agraman ti naganna, nga im-pablak ti Santak. Nupay adda dagiti dina malagipen, adda met dagiti malagipen. Nagballig dagiti dadduma. Napay met a kas kenkuana dagiti dadduma. Nag-bakasion ken nagyanen iday Filipinas dagiti dadduma. Iya, adda pay laeng a taplakopen iti Kampu Uno.

Ngem adda pagduadaanna. Nagkatawa itay ibaga ni Simon a pilendita ta ta lawen a kangrunaan a sakada! Asino koma itay a reunion? Ania koma iti ipagan-nakelna iti komite?

Nabayag a sinumama ti kaipapanan ti iyaw-awis ti komite. Lakayenit Maya, saan ti malig-pannakelna. Saan a naglupos. Hermoso Cruzado a pimmangoy iti Sta. Narcisca, Hermoso pay laeng no agawid.

Binaliwanna a kinita ti pak-abuklan ti Kampu Uno. Ania ti agur-uray a gasatna itoy sangkapriga s

daga dagiti Kanaka? Bassit la a daga daytoy nagdissuan ti BQna ngem kayatna a pagtalawan.

"Saan a natalna ti bagkio daytoy," insursuratna idi ken ni Carmelita. "Agmallaak nga agnayan-ayno nga agallalmaak. No dikeko latta a masarakan ti kita ti bag a mabalinko nga idanon iti amam, 'Ibamoto lattan a napayak..."

"Diak ammo no anianto ti ipanangko ni anikta. Ngem am-muem koma a saeta ti ama daytoy. Daran, wen, daran, Hermoso..."

Nadamagna laengena a natay ni Carmelita idi ipasnganya ti mal-adaga a babai. Ngem apay a kasta nagsat a naminpisan ti damag iti dayta nga ubing? Adda kadl pakainagan ni Lakay Agaton Dayoan nga ama ni Carmelita?

Napanunotna manen ti kinanumona. Saan a nagbalwi. Mintalan latta. Pensionador. Iy biangna, saan a libanen ti biagna dagiti gargaret ken alkalmerna a kas katikneno ken agpadpadanum. Umanayan ti sangkabasit a pensio-naria iti social security ken ti se-guro ti kompania a nagtrabahuana. Nakipulap met idin kadagiti nadumaduma a puli.

Immay daytoy Hawaii a sakada. Nagkarapad iti katapokan. Iy kaunas-nasan. Nagdigos ti ling-et. Tinurtor ti ketang ken puyat. Nababa ti suel-dona ngem inkagumanna ni ag-biagi. Timpon kadagiti nadara ken makabisan a welga. Inrupima ti kallintengana. Nakiider a kameng ti unyon agingna iti nagretiro.

ADDA nagsardeng a lugan iti sangto ti BQna. Nasalinna ti Subaru TV. Duna nga aglutubo ti dimsaag. Da manen Palma ken Campos!

Adda semsen iti unegna ngem dina impadlaw. Namrayanna ti immisem idi kablaawan dagiti dua a pannaakabagi ti Ohana Sugar Mill. Ubbing pay dagitoy. Ngem adda

panagraenna kadakuada. Saanda nangam a kas kadagiti dadduma a nganito it adal ken puesto a ta magpipirrit. Ken saanda nga ipadlaw a pagkarita ti puestoita ti kompania.

"Nakapanunotkan, Mr. Cruzado?" sinaludsod ni Adigi Campos.

"A, awan ti kayatko a papanan, Mr. Campos. No adda man maile-dayto kaniek, diak kabealan ti abang."

"Ngem nasken a panawanyo ti kampo," kinuna ni Laurel Palma. "Amoyon a dakkel a proyekto ti mabangon daytoy."

"Ngem saandak a basta mapepanaw daytoy," inkalintegan ni Lakay Hermoso. "Awan ti makabalaga ti kayatko nga aramiden."

"Ngem nasken a maawatam. Nasken nga agtintinnulongtayo. Dimo piliten ti kompania a mang-patipaok kenka."

"Inted ti kompania daytoy a pagyanak. Nabayagakon daytoy," im-mirmiteng ti balikas ni Lakay Hermoso. "Ditoyak a naglaklakay. Ita pay a saanakan nga agtrabaho ti panangpapanawyo kompania."

"Adda pagpatintangan ti benepisio nga ited ti kompania, Mr. Cruzado," kinuna ni Adigi Campos. "Saana a sumursurot inggat patay." "Kunayo daytan ta nalpasandakamin!" adda saem iti balikas ti retirado a sakada. "Inibusyo amna a pigsami tapno agdur-as laeng ti pag-uansanyo. Tapno umasensokayo?"

"Saana kasta, Apo Hermoso," simmag ni Palma. Saandakayo met a baybay-an. Iya ngurud nga im-maykami tapno ilawlawagmi ti pudno a panggep ti redevelopment.

Ken adda met masindaduan a pangyakanami kadakayo. Ken am-muem a bigigenni ti dakkel a kon-tribusyonio iti pangdur-as ti unas ken ti industriya ti plantasyon. Kas pammigbigmi, adda ti elderly housing a papanayo. Nasken nga ipatungpalmi ti bilin ti ngato. Nasken a madalusan daytoy a kampo. Proyekto ti gobierno daytoy kadagiti moderno a condominium, shopping center, ken housing met laeng."

Gobierno? Apay a bumiang ti gobierno iti kaunasanyo? Awan kadl ti panangisaklyto? kunana koma ngem namrayanna laengen a sirinpat ti umas-asimbuyok a sim-

borio ti sugar mill.

"Saanak a pumanaw daytoy," kinuna manen ti sakada. "Ditoyak a naglaklakay. Adda daytoy ti riknang."

"Ngem laglagipem a saanmo a kukua ti daga. Ab-abangam laeng iti kompania a nagtrabahuam," im-palagay ni Campos.

"Ngem paseten ti biagko ti Kampu Uno. No rebbaenyo, kasla rebbaenyo metten ti kinataok. Awan la kadin ti maaramidyo a sabali? Mangkayo kadl met laeng a kadararak ti dakgadoel iti arapaakyo nga a biag a natalna iti kampo?"

Nagkinilita dagiti aglutubo. "Yakardakayo ngarud iti sabali a kampo," kinuna ni Palma.

"Agpapan pay. Saan a mabalin kaniak dayta."

"Dinamakan koma a piliten a mangbanon iti demolition team, Mr. Cruzado," kinuna ni Campos.

"Adda met kallintengan a mangbusib iti benepisio iti kaunas-an, Mr. Cruzado."

"Kayatko a yuman daytoy iti Union Housing Chairman," kinuna ti sakada.

"Naimbag no kasta ti arami-dem, ngem ammuem nga ammo ti unyonio daytoy a banag."

NGINETNETGAN ni Lakay Hermoso Cruzado ti kassasaadna. Kasla saan a mamati nga agawenda lattan ti lote ken BQna. No agpasyo nga adda redevelopment project iti Kampu Uno, dina maawatam no apay. Nagadu ti sabali a disso a pagbangonanda. Patayenda kadin ti daan a kita ti komunidad itoy a kampo? Adda sabali a rupa daytoy a kampo. Ditoy ti nagdas-alan ti adu nga annak dagiti sakada a kas kenkuana. Awan kadl ti kallintengana a mangtali-ngan ti kuluradta?

Imbaw-ingna ti panagkitana iti pakabuklan ti Ohana Sugar Mill. Umas-asimbuyok latta ti simborio iti lubes ti nakaberberde a kaunasan. Tumukno iti langit iti panagkitana. Kas kangato ti arapaana a dumuras idi agkabannuag pay.

MALEM. Il-ihwen ni Lakay Her-moso Cruzado a sarungkarang koma manen ni Moises Simon. Nabayagan a saan a sim-marungkar daytoy. Damagenna koma no matulonganda a mang-tuntun ti benepisioa iti HSPA. Adda ngamin libat a plete dagiti yaan pay a nagawid sipud daydi dayda sa sakada. Damagenna koma pay no kaano nga agluas ti kunkunada a sentimental journey

ken ti reunion.

Kasla nalawng ngem naamo a kalapatni ti surat a naawatna iti mayya a malem. Alegre Dayoan ti nagripma. Ibagbaga ti surat a nabasana kano dagiti nagan dagiti malagita iti mayya a pagwirnam. Sakada ni Lakay Hermoso a nairama-ni ti listaan. Ammona a ni Moises Simon ti maakamto ti adresna. Kastoy ti paset ti surat: "Misterio ti biag a nangilimel iti amin. Ngem sabkay ti ipupusy ti apok a lakay, ni Lakay Agaton Dayoan ken Con-solacion Roseite iti mayya nga aksiden-te, impudnora amin a napasamak. Nadalus ti pang-abawina kadagiti babakna kenka, ken daydi inik. Saanaka gayam a pudno nga ina ni Nana Consolacion. Carmelita ni inik. Ammok metten no apay a pimmawanika. Saanaka a babalawan. Awan katukad ti ayat no di ayat. Ngem addan dagiti kinagium iti kuarta no dadduma. Gatadnada ti ayat. Ngem ania ti maaay ti ayat no mapukaw ti patpatgep? Sapay koma ta maawatannak met no apay a busekag kadagiti kinapudno. Ket dakkelto a sagut iti biagko no mak-itak ti pudno nga ammok. Adda agur-uray kenka daytoy a kasungani ti panangipapanayo. Barenng makikyuyogka iti grupo dagiti sakada nga aglitipon daytoy Salomage. Wen, siak ti imbatim a bukel kadagiti Nana Carmelita..."

Kinammet ti napalaua nga iliw. Immanges iti nauneg. Nakitana manen ti kinanumona iti witi ti siled. Ania ti isarangnaya iti napanawanna a lugar?

Pinalabsanna ti pakabuklan ti Kampu Uno. Mapagtalawto latta, kayatna man wengo saan. Awanen ti duri ti uniorada. Saan metten nga inggaan da Palma ken Campos.

Ngem pumasay kadl lattan a dina makita ti Sta. Narcisca? Ni Alegre Dayoan? Ditoy kadin ti ungto ti desedna? Agrakaya ken mapugao a kas kadagiti daenan a taeng iti Kampu Uno?

Kimmammet pay namnsan ti iliw iti barukongna. Kinitana ti inik. Lumumleem. Ita a rabi, ukopan manen ti daan a BQ. No ania ti mas-pasamakna itoy nga agpatnag, inton bigat, ta mabangonanto pay ti sabali nga inik ti biagna, uray sino dadda Moises Simon wengno da Laurel Palma ken Adigi Campos, ti umuna a sumarungkar iti taengna, amantonan ti sumaruno nga aramidema. ■

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SEPTEMBER 5, 2008 FRIDAY
Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC), Inauguration and installation of officers • 6:00PM at Ala Moana Hotel • For details, please call: Cirivalina Longboy 375-0828 • Danny Villaruz 778-0233 • Carlota Ader 688-3215

SEPTEMBER 27, SATURDAY
Maria Clara Ball at Hibiscus Ballroom of Ala Moana Hotel • 6:00 pm. • Contact Edna Alipala at 282-3669 or Jo Farina at 282-3847

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