

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ MAY 2, 2009 ◆

HONORING OUR MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY

COVER STORY PAGE

4



PHILIPPINE NEWS

100,000 GRANTED MORTGAGE AMNESTY

11



YOUTH FEATURE

FILIPINO YOUTH LEADER & TEACHER IS "CNN HERO"

12



LEGAL NOTES

H-3 TRAINEE VISA FOR NURSES

13

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EDITORIAL

Happy Mother's Day!

Quick—name the one person who has been most influential in your life. If you're like most people, your mom is probably your answer. More than anyone else, she is that special someone whose love, nurture and unceasing patience play such a huge role in your life.

Celebrated worldwide on the second Sunday in May, many people have circled the day on their calendars. In the Philippines, most Filipinos spend Mother's Day with their moms, who are culturally considered as perhaps the most important figure in the family. Filipina mothers are also among the most loving and protective of all moms. They are to be admired for always caring, sacrificing their lives for their children, devoting herself to them day and night and helping them with all of their needs.

Cynics may say that Mother's Day is but a clever sales ploy by floral shops and greeting card companies, but they're dead wrong. Many businesses do profit handsomely from Mother's Day, but deservedly so.

So with Mother's Day fast approaching, start planning something special now for your mom and make an extra effort to love her the way she loves us. We really should try to live that way every day, but then again, we all don't have hearts like our moms.

On this Mother's Day, let's be sure to return the favor to our moms. Love her no matter what and do it every day—not just on Mother's Day.

Dealing With Swine Flu Outbreak

Health officials around the world are continuing to closely monitor the swine flu outbreak. As of April 30, the swine flu—officially known as the H1N1(A) strain—has sickened 109 people in the U.S. and 257 others worldwide, according to the Centers For Disease Control and the World Health Organization.

The good news, scientists say, is that H1N1(A), which originated in Mexico, doesn't appear to be as lethal as the recent H5N1 avian flu or the 1918 strain that killed an estimated 50 million people worldwide. In fact, two antiviral drugs—Relenza and Tamiflu—have been shown to work against the H1N1(A) strain.

The outbreak, however, could deal a crippling blow to our tourism industry, which is already reeling from the effects of recession-stricken economy. While Hawaii has yet to report a case of the flu, tourism officials worry that a widespread outbreak could lead to the cancellation of summer travel plans, including trips to Hawaii—unwelcome news for the visitor industry which last month saw a nearly 17 percent dip in visitor arrivals compared to March 2008.

For now, state health experts have advised Hawaii residents to take simple precautions such as washing your hands regularly with soap and water, covering your mouth when coughing, and staying home if you feel sick to avoid the possibility of exposing others. Above all, stay tuned for the latest advisories, stay calm and don't panic.

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Aloha and welcome to the latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! Can you believe that Mother's Day is right around the corner? Our cover story for this issue, written by Danny de Gracia, II

pays tribute to the one person in our lives who has given us her very best—our moms. Danny provides a brief history of Mother's Day and reminds us of the importance of honoring and respecting our moms. Please read more beginning on page 4. On behalf of the Chronicle, we'd like to wish all of the moms out there a very special and Happy Mother's Day!

In keeping with this issue's heartwarming Mother's Day theme, contributing writer Glenn Wakai submitted the touching story of Dennis Cuizon, a man who received a new lease on life, thanks to the kindness of strangers. Stricken with heart troubles, Cuizon received a life-saving gift from Maui resident Lenny Uyetake who suffered a fatal stroke. The Uyetake family donated Lenny's heart and other organs to the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii. Their gift was a God-send for Cuizon and three others desperately waiting for a transplant. Cuizon recently met the Uyetake family. Please read more on page 6.

Not to be outdone, contributing writer Gregory Bren Garcia wrote a second heartwarming story on Efrén Peñaflorida, Jr., a young man from the Philippines who has been nominated for the prestigious 2009 CNN Heroes Awards Program. Peñaflorida is the founder of the Dynamic Teen Company, a group that has worked to provide hope and a future for the street children of Cavite City. Driven by compassion, Dynamic Teen Company has reached thousands of children. Please read more about this remarkable organization and its founder on page 12.

Lastly, members of Bible Baptist Church of Honolulu recently marked their 25th Anniversary with a special celebration at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. The guest of honor and keynote speaker was Philippine Congressman Benny Abante, Jr. who represents the 6th district of Manila. We congratulate Pastor Fernie Nicolas for reaching this milestone and wish him all the very best!

In closing, we hope that you will enjoy reading the other articles and columns of interest in this issue, particularly the "Mayor's Column" on page 3, "Immigration Guide" on page 7, "Legal Notes" on page 13 and "Philippine Language" on page 14.

Until next time...aloha and *mabuhay!*

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MAYOR'S COLUMN



By Mayor Mufi Hannemann

Fiesta Helps Community Spirit Grow and Thrive

come significant challenges, setbacks and roadblocks, and we must remain committed to ensuring that opportunities are created and sustained.

Filipinos are well-represented in my Cabinet, on my Senior Staff, and throughout the city workforce. We also work hard to build strong relationships in our neighborhoods. Popular public events such as the annual Taste of Kalihi and Filipino Fiesta celebrations have proven very popular and successful, and we look forward to continuing these efforts that build community pride and recognition while also providing an economic boost. The bayanihan spirit and tradition of working together to achieve common goals is something we must all embrace.

In last year's election, I was very proud to receive overwhelming support in neighborhoods with large Filipino populations such as Waipahu, Kalihi, Ewa Beach, Kapolei and Wahiawa. For example, I carried 71 percent of the vote in Kapolei, 70 percent in Waikaele and part of Waipahu, and 68 percent in Ewa Beach. Mahalo and Maraming Salamat to all my supporters!

I was also very honored to receive the Ateng Kaibigan award last year from the United Filipino Council of Hawaii. The UFCH and the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii were early and strong support-

ers of rail transit, and helped foster an informed discussion about the project and its merits.

We look forward to further strengthening our close relationship with the community as we move forward with rail transit and transit-oriented development in communities such as Waipahu, Kapolei and eventually Kalihi.

We are committed to making sure all stakeholders in these and other neighborhoods have the opportunity to learn about the project and to become involved in planning the growth that will accompany it.

This planning will help create economically vibrant communities that are healthier and more pedestrian-friendly. The plans will become the foundation for specific zoning regulations and financial incentives.

The series of workshops we're holding this spring and summer are especially designed to inform communities from Kapolei to Waipahu about the seven rail stations to be built along this part of the transit route, and to seek public input about their appearance.

The two Waipahu stations will be located at West Loch at



Mayor Mufi Hannemann with fiesta goers during past Filipino Fiesta and Parade Event

the intersection of Farrington Highway and Leoku Street; and the Waipahu Transit Center at the intersection of Farrington Highway and Mokuola Street. One community workshop for Waipahu was held April 14, and two more will be held in the summer. Similar workshops will be scheduled later this spring for rail stations planned for East Kapolei, UH West Oahu, the Hoopili area, and at Leeward Community College.

Recently, I learned that Philippine Consul General Ariel Abadilla is being re-assigned to Dublin, Ireland. He

has been an outstanding diplomat for his country and a popular friend to the Filipinos in the State of Hawaii.

I first met him in Manila at a meeting with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2005 when I last visited the Philippines. He generously hosted our delegation and shared the beauty of his country through its people and culture. Consul General Abadilla was assigned to Hawaii soon after our visit, where we have continued to work together and fostered a warm and meaningful friendship.

The Filipino Fiesta and Parade is an important and exciting event that the City is always happy to co-sponsor, and I encourage everyone to enjoy this year's celebration on May 9th in Waikiki. It's wonderful that so many good people work so hard to showcase the culture and history of the Philippines and of Filipinos in Hawaii. We are very proud of our close ties with the Philippines, and of the vital contributions that people of Filipino ancestry have made, and continue to make, to our island home.

As most people know, I'm of Samoan, German and English ancestry. But I like to invoke my warm relationship with the community and occasionally joke that I am the world's tallest Filipino singing mayor, having been adopted by several Philippine provinces. I also deeply appreciate the fact that so many people in the community have welcomed me as one of their own.

Hawaii residents of Filipino ancestry have worked very hard and made tremendous sacrifices to achieve their goals here, often while assisting family members in the Philippines or elsewhere. Many have over-



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COVER STORY



National televangelist Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher with his mother, Barbara Swisher.

and saw his mother.

Swisher's mom would also disagree with the saying that 'America is a melting pot.' She reasoned that in a melting pot, all people would melt into one. Instead, she compared America to a salad bowl full of delicious, colorful and zesty peo-

ple where everyone is valued, respected and needed.

Swisher also believes in the importance of obeying the Bible's commandment to honor one's father and mother.

"Mother's Day should be a time of memories, fondness and joy," he says. "Allow the

In Filipino society, the mother is typically in charge of household matters and responsible for raising the children. Her influence in the lives of her children is unmistakable.

Spirit of God to infuse you with renewed passion for ohana."

Our Grandmothers

For others like Baybee Hufana-Ablan, grandmothers can also positively influence our lives. She shares a strong bond with her grandmother who helped to raise her.

"I remember her sweet, soft voice that never changed even when she grew angry," she says. "She guided me during my childhood and teenage years and constantly gave me advice on potential careers to get into when I became older."

Hufana-Ablan's grandmother often pampered her with things like candy, toys, new clothes and new shoes.

"She would comb and style my hair everyday for school. She would also dress

me in beautiful clothing with socks and either white or black shoes just to go into town," she says.

"My grandmother would bring me wherever she went and was always there to watch over me. I remember how she would always wipe my back when I'd be perspiring. My memories of her are all very pleasant and I really enjoy sharing stories of her with everyone."

Hufana-Ablan credits her grandmother for a large part of the successes she has achieved in life.

"Living with my grandmother was like living with a mentor," she says. "She taught me skills I would need to raise my own children."

Hufana-Ablan's views on parenting were strongly influenced by her grandmother.



Baybee Hufana-Ablan, senior advisor to the Honolulu Emergency Services Department, grew up under her grandmother and has fond memories

"A mother's responsibility is teach her family to be respectful, loving and caring," she says. "It is important to teach children the importance of honesty and integrity."

One thing is clear: our mothers are the first other, and this Mother's Day, whether we take our mothers out to a restaurant or buy them something special, don't forget that love and respect are what counts most!

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FEATURE

Pearl City Man Has Heart to Heart With Life Savers

By Glenn Wakai

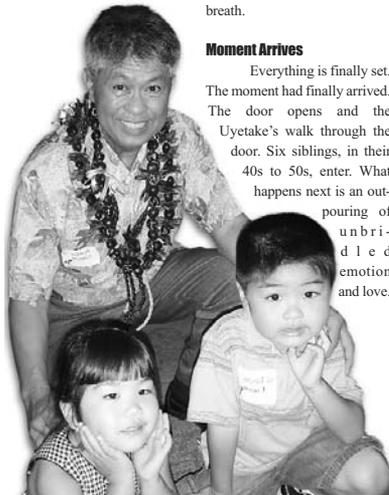
The beauty of life was about to unfold in a conference room at Ko'olau Golf Course. With Kaneohe's majestic cliffs in the background, 62-year old Dennis Cuizon and his family were busy

unwrapping and organizing a collection of lei. The flower garlands were to be given to a very special group flying in from Hilo, just to meet him.

The two sides had become pen pals -- writing letters to each other for a year. This day was circled on their calendars for months. Anticipation fills the room as Cuizon takes a deep breath.

Moment Arrives

Everything is finally set. The moment had finally arrived. The door opens and the Uyetake's walk through the door. Six siblings, in their 40s to 50s, enter. What happens next is an outpouring of unbridled emotion and love.



They are strangers, but they greet one another like a wife would embrace her husband returning from a lengthy tour in Iraq.

After ten minutes of tears and smiles, Cuizon describes the encounter, "It's overwhelming. It's like a new chapter in my life."

This day was made possible because the Uyetake family allowed their brother's heart to be placed in Cuizon's chest.

46-year old Alton Uyetake felt comfortable meeting the man who keeps his brother's heart beating, "I had a lot of mixed emotions. Was this meeting going to be joyful or sad? Was he going to accept us? But now it's like I already knew him. It's a comfortable feeling."

Cuizon was stricken with heart troubles more than ten years ago, "I used to go diving with friends on the North Shore. I love the water. I like to swim. I also like martial arts. I had my first heart attack while at karate practice in 1996. Only 20% live after a heart attack."

The Pearl City man almost died again on the operating table when doctors were inserting a pace maker. Cuizon was not confident he would be able to see his two grandchildren grow up. He was placed on the organ donor waitlist for more than a year before receiving the gift of life in January 2008.

Lenny Uyetake's Living Legacy

In the days leading up to his passing, 43-year old Lenny Uyetake complained of headaches. Alton says his brother recently purchased a floral shop on Maui. He was on the way back from a floral delivery to a hotel, when he pulled over to the side of the road, and suffered a debilitating stroke. By the next day, he was brain dead.

That was on January 16, 2008. The Uyetake family gathered at Maui Memorial Hospital. Alton remembers thoughts racing through their minds,

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"Now what? What do we do? The Organ program gave us choices." That evening, the family made a life changing decision. They allowed the Organ Donor Center of Hawaii to remove Lenny's heart, liver, and two kidneys. Within hours, four local people on the transplant waiting list were about to have a second birthday.

"It was a good way for us to continue his legacy. Lenny was so generous. The decision was tough, yet easy. This is something he would have wanted," says Alton, "Detours are not dead ends, they are opportunities to redirect us. My brother's death was not by chance. It was part of God's plan."

The Gift of Life

The United Network for Organ Sharing has approximately 366 seriously ill people on a list waiting for a heart, liver, kidney or pancreas transplant. About 12 people die each year in the State waiting for generous families to step forward.

Instead of indicting one's intention of being an organ donor when renewing their driver's license, the ODHJ just began a statewide on-line registry. The designation will allow family members to make an informed and more complete decision: <http://odchdr.transplant.net/Home.aspx>

The biggest barrier to getting more people involved in organ donation is the lack of understanding. ODHJ Executive Director, Stephen Kula says, "We hope that the online registry will increase awareness by educating the public. In many cases, people will say they want to be organ donors on their driver's licenses, but have never talked to their family about it.

So when something does happen there is a lot of confusion and distress over the decision to donate. This registry is designed to help generate and encourage conversation by informed donors, friends, and family."

Changes Evident

Turning tragedy into triumphs is at the root of organ donation. Many recipients talk about how they take on the donor's characteristics. Since receiving Lenny's heart, Cuizon has noticed many similarities, "We both sing karaoke. We both like to travel. We are both left handed. I was brought up not to show emotion, but now I find myself being emotional."

The parallels between the families go back generations. The Uyetake's father is Japanese and their mother was a Filipina from Cebu. They worked on a Big Island plantation. Meanwhile, Cuizon's grandmother is also from Cebu. She also met her husband on a Big Island plantation.

In an ironic twist of fate, the Uyetake family has an aunt that received a kidney transplant two months ago. On the other end of the spectrum, the Cuizon family had an 11-year old nephew who donated seven organs following a car accident in 1996.

Before the families leave the ballroom, Cuizon places his heart on his chest and says, "I gotta take care of Lenny. We're going places." Those in the room smile and hug one last time.

The circle of life is complete -- two families now bonded through a common heart.

GLENN WAKAI is the State Representative (Moanalua-Salt Lake) and is former television reporter.



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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel
Samonte Tipon

Is U.S. Citizen's Widow Still a Spouse for Immigration Purposes?

married for one year and eleven months. On October 26, 2006, USCIS denied the I-130 petition for Gerald because upon his death she was no longer the "spouse" of a U.S. citizen and therefore not entitled to treatment as an "immediate relative" under INA 8 § 1151(b)(2)(A)(i) [U.S.C. § 1151(b)(2)(A)(i)]. USCIS also denied Nelly's I-485 application because it was dependent on the approval of her husband's I-130 petition.

USCIS denied Nelly's motion to reopen and reconsider and placed her in removal proceedings.

Injunction, Declaratory Relief, and Mandamus

Nelly filed with the U.S. District Court a petition for injunctive, declaratory, and mandamus relief to compel the Department of Homeland Security to find as a matter of law that she is an "immediate relative".

Issue

Whether an alien spouse whose citizen spouse filed an immediate relative visa petition but died within two years of the marriage qualifies as a spouse under the "immediate relative" provision of the INA.

The Law

INA § 204 (a)(1)(A)(i) [8 U.S.C. § 1154 (a)(1)(A)(i)] provides: "Any citizen of the United States claiming that an alien is entitled to classification by reason of a relationship described in paragraph (1), (3), or (4) of section 203(a) or to an immediate relative status under section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) may file a petition with the Attorney

General for such classification."

INA § 201(b)(2)(A)(i) [8 U.S.C. § 1151 (b)(2)(A)(i)] defines "immediate relatives" thus: "For purposes of this subsection, the term 'immediate relatives' means the children, spouses, and parents of a citizen of the United States, except that, in the case of parents, such citizens shall be at least 21 years of age. In the case of an alien who was the spouse of a citizen of the United States for at least 2 years at the time of the citizen's death and was not legally separated from the citizen at the time of the citizen's death, the alien (and each child of the alien) shall be considered, for purposes of this subsection, to remain an immediate relative after the date of the citizen's death but only if the spouse files a petition under section 204(a)(1)(A)(ii) within 2 years after such date and only until the date the spouse remarries. For purposes of this clause, an alien who has filed a petition under clause (ii) or (iv) of section 204(a)(1)(A) of this Act remains an immediate relative in the event that the United States citizen spouse or parent loses United States citizenship on account of the abuse."

Decision

The Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit, held that a surviving alien spouse is a "spouse" within the meaning of the "immediate relative" provision of the INA.

The court denied the DHS's contention that a marriage ends with the death of a spouse, and a "surviving spouse" is not a "spouse" within the common, ordinary meaning of the term.

The court explained that the ordinary meaning of "spouse" is "one's wife or husband," and a "surviving spouse" is "one of a married pair who outlives the other."

Lockhart v. Napolitano, No. 08-3321, Court of Appeals 6th Circuit, April 8, 2009.

(ATTY. TIPON has won all deportation cases he handled and obtained approval of all visa petitions he filed. He is from Laoag City. He has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines.

He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service," an 8-volume practice and procedure guide for immigration officers and lawyers. He specializes in immigration and criminal defense. Office at 905 Uni St. corner N. King, Suite 201, Honolulu, HI 96819. Tel. (808) 847 1601. Fax (808) 847 1624. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com. Listen to the most interesting and humorous radio program on Hawaii radio KNDI 1270 every Friday 7:30-8:00 AM. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice for any specific person or situation. Neither the writer nor publisher warrant the completeness or accuracy of the information provided herein at the time of publication.)

Does the surviving wife of a U.S. citizen who dies within two years after their marriage remain a "spouse" so as to be able to obtain immigration benefits?

The various circuits of the U.S. Court of Appeals do not agree on the answer. Two circuits (6th and 9th) say "Yes," while one circuit (3rd) says "No." Until the U.S. Supreme Court decides the issue, no one knows the correct answer. That is why we have advocated that all appeals in immigration cases be assigned to only one circuit to avoid conflicting decisions.

Filipina's Case

The latest case decided April 8 on this issue involved Nelly, a Filipina. On December 15, 2003, she lawfully entered the U.S. On January 20, 2004, she married Gerald, a U.S. citizen. On February 1, 2004, Gerald filed an I-130 Petition for Alien Relative with USCIS, and Nelly filed an I-485 Application for Adjustment of Status.

On June 24, 2004, Nelly gave birth to a son, listing Gerald as the father. In April or May 2005, USCIS interviewed the couple. They testified that their marriage was valid. USCIS requested additional evidence which she complied with.

On December 21, 2005, Gerald died. They had been

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Phil Congressman Delivers Keynote Address for BBC's 25th Anniversary

By Danny De Gracia, II



Congressman Benny Abante, Jr. delivering his address to the attendees of the 25th anniversary of the Bible Baptist Church (BBC) of Honolulu

“Live as though Christ died yesterday, rose from the grave today, and is coming back tomorrow.” — Theodore Epp, Christian author and radio host

These are indeed words to live by for members of Bible Baptist Church of Honolulu, an independent, non-affiliated Baptist church which recently celebrated its 25th Silver Anniversary. Over the years, the small, but devoted, congregation has remained faithful to their home church, which was originally founded in April 1984.

Head pastor Fernie Nicolas Sr., who was born and raised in

Batac, Ilocos Norte, comes from a family of ministers. As a young man, he attended an International Youth Fellowship Camp in Baguio, organized by U.S. missionaries where he first felt a calling to enter the ministry.

Heeding the call, he enrolled at Northwestern University in the Philippines, where he received his Bachelor's degree in Theology. He also received his Master's degree in Theology from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1984.

Following the Lord's guidance, he moved to Hawaii that same year. The first church

service was held at a private residence in Pearl City. To make ends meet, Pastor Fernie worked for the City & County of Honolulu as a driver's license examiner and as a family education specialist for Susannah Wesley Community Center. Along the way, relatives introduced him to Mona, his future wife. They now have two children—Leilani and Ferni Jr.

Sunday services during the church's early years were held at Puuhale Elementary, then at Pearl City Elementary, until a permanent location in Waipahu was purchased. Today, the church has an average Sunday attendance of between 175 to 200 people.

Looking back at the events of the past 25 years, Pastor Fernie says God has remained ever faithful.

“To God be the glory for all the things He has done,” he says. “We've reached this point only by the grace of God and of course the unity of our members, supporters and friends.”

Church members held a special 25th Anniversary celebration at the Hilton Hawaiian Village. The special guest speaker was Philippine Con-

gressman Benny Abante, Jr. who represents the 6th district of Manila.

A born again Christian believer, Abante delivered a sermon entitled “Born to Be Wise” to a ballroom of hundreds of guests, many of whom were community leaders and elected state representatives.

Church members will continue to take an active role in looking after the spiritual needs of the community. Their ministries include Sunday School, a women's prayer group, men's prayer breakfast, young people's group, Saturday morning visitation and home Bible studies.

Disabled Rights Advocate to Visit Hawaii

By Teresita Bernaldes, Ph.D

Deanna Gregorio, one of the Philippines' most outspoken advocates for the handicapped and disabled, will be speaking at the Pacific Rim Conference on Disabilities May 4-5, 2009 at the Hawaii Convention Center.

Gregorio is President of the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) Council of the Philippine National Anti-Poverty Commission, which advises the Office of the President on legislation and programs that concern the disabled sector. She suffered from infantile cholera at age two and has battled multiple sclerosis her entire life.

She is currently lobbying for the Philippine government to allocate 1 percent of its national budget for PWD programs, for a 20 percent discount for the disabled and the establishment of PWD offices at many local government units.

In addition to her advocacy work, Gregorio is a creative artist and has used her artistic talents for meaningful projects for the disabled.

Artistic products created by the disabled will be on display at the Pacific Rim Conference.

After the event, she is scheduled to speak at the Pan Pacific Asian and Southeast Asian Women's Association Meeting on May 16, 2009 at the Hale Koa Hotel. Before returning to the

Philippines, she will lecture at the University of Hawaii-Manoa on May 18, 2009 at 2 pm at Saunders Hall Room 713. Her lecture, “Doing Good and Doing Well: A Framework for Empowering Persons with Disabilities,” is co-sponsored by the Student Excellence Equity and Diversity (SEED) Program of UH Manoa, Student Activity Program and Fee Board and the Center for Philippine Studies.



Deanna Gregorio

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PICTORIAL NEWS

WW II Veterans Testified on HCR298



State Senators Mike Gabbard, Will Espero, and Robert Bunda pose with Filipino-American WWII veterans at the State Capitol after a hearing with the Senate Public Safety & Military Affairs Committee chaired by Senator Espero. The veterans testified on HCR298 which requests the federal government to expedite immigrant visas for certain WWII veterans to reunite in the U.S. with their family members.

PHILIPPINE NEWS



100,000 Granted Mortgage Amnesty

By Perseus Echeminada/
Friday, May 1, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - The National Housing Authority (NHA) began implementing yesterday an amnesty program for some 100,000 homebuyers who are threatened with cancellation and foreclosure of the homes they acquired through the low cost housing program of the government.

NHA general manager Federico Laxa said the amnesty program is being carried out in compliance with Republic Act 9507 or the Socializing and Low Cost Housing Loan restructuring

program for 2008.

"We want to provide a facility for our beneficiaries to get out from financial barriers," Laxa told reporters during a press briefing at the NHA central office in Quezon City.

Laxa said the P1.4 billion amnesty program would activate dormant accounts which is expected to generate more revenues for the government.

He said both the government and the homebuyers stand to benefit from the programs.

The new measure seeks to assist residential homeowners with arrears to update their account minus the condonation of penalties and unpaid interest

and the structuring of their loan at lower interest rates and longer payment period.

Josephine Hottle, director of the corporate planning office, said after the approval, the terms of repayment would be extended to a maximum of 30 years depending on the age of the beneficiaries.

"We are allowing substitution of the heir so that they should be able to come up with monthly payment that will be affordable to them," Hottle said.

She also said they would not impose any payment for the application of the amnesty except for the regular monthly amortization of their loan and additional one-month amortization which will be credited for updated accounts.

She said "the principal will decrease every year if the ac-

count is paid on time."

If the balance of P60,000 is paid in full, a 20 percent discount will be given to the applicant.

Over 100,000 accounts in 39 NHA projects are eligible to avail the program which will be officially launched on May 4 at the Bagong Silang Resettlement project in Caloocan city. The NHA will start accepting applicants in different project offices.

Covered by the condona-

tion program are outstanding residential accounts or loans with principal accounts of less than P2.5 million, which have cumulated arrearages equivalent to at least three monthly amortization as of March 16, 2009.

Also eligible to avail of the amnesty program are community association beneficiaries under land tenure community and land acquisition support program (CLASP). (www.philstar.com)



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Mall Guard Returns P2.4M in Cash, Checks

Trinidad Quintana, an SM City Baliuag security guard found and returned a bag containing P2.4 million worth of checks and P35,000 in cash.

Quintana, who was hired four months ago by the RDC Security Agency, was on a routine check at the mall's food court when he saw the bag on a table.

He initially kept an eye on the bag, thinking that its owner might have gone to the comfort room. When nobody claimed it after a few minutes, he asked a nearby couple if it belong to them.

Since its owner apparently had already left, Quintana took the clutch bag and brought it to his office.

Beverly Cruz, public relations officer of SM City Baliuag, said the bag contained at least seven checks worth P2.4 million, P35,000 in cash and



other valuables. The bag was later returned to its owner.

When asked why he returned the bag, Quintana said it was not his. He added that his parents had taught him to be honest and said that he felt good after the owner got his bag back.

The SM City Baliuag management commended Quintana for his honesty. The third of nine siblings from Leyte, Quintana aspires to become a police officer. He received his Bachelor's degree in Criminology from Tacloban-Leyte College in 2007. (www.goodnewsphilippines.com)



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YOUTH FEATURE

Filipino Teacher and Youth Leader is a 'CNN Hero'

By Gregory Bren Garcia

Every Saturday, members of the Dynamic Teen Company (DTC) bring their "Kariton Klasrooms"

(Pushcart Classrooms) into some of the most depressed slums in Cavite City, a town located about 35 kilometers southwest of Manila, Philippines. Armed with this mobile wooden "school" laden with books, a blackboard and other educational supplies, the group begins transforming underprivileged children into responsible and productive citizens.

Its founder, Efrén Peñaflorida, Jr., grew up in one of Cavite City's least desirable neighborhoods. Still, he never considered his family as poor.

"Even if we missed a meal or two, and even when we played near the garbage dumpsite, life seemed normal to me," he says.

For his efforts to provide hope to impoverished children, Peñaflorida, 28, has been nominated for the prestigious 2009 CNN Heroes Awards Program.

One dynamic idea

It wasn't until high school when Peñaflorida fully realized the grim realities of poverty. Violence was rampant among the local youth. His fellow high-schoolers ran with gangs, harassing those within and outside the school premises.

In 1997, he and several friends thought of forming a club that would be a positive alternative to gang activity.

"We thought of a group

name that signified 'life' and had a touch of dignity to it," he says. "Since we were in our teens back then, we came up with the name 'Dynamic Teen Company.'"

Early on, Peñaflorida and the 20 other pioneering members were discouraged by incredulous parents and fellow students who misinterpreted their intentions and considered them as another gang or fraternity. When they tried holding Bible studies, they were labelled as a religious cult.

"It's a good thing that our mentor kept us motivated," Peñaflorida says. He credits a non-government organization called Club 8586, Inc., for training their members, serving as a role model and providing a framework to develop DTC's philosophy.

"Our group yearns for positive change. We want to get across our message that every person, no matter how young or old, can make a difference," he says.

A Continuing Passion

Despite the pressures and challenges that teens face, Peñaflorida remained committed to helping his fellow youth. After high school, he attended San Sebastian College Recoletos de Cavite and earned an Associate's degree in computer technology. He later received a Bachelor's in secondary education from Cavite State University and is currently taking his master's degree in public administration at the University of the Philippines' Open University. In addition to being a teacher in a private school in Cavite City, Peñaflorida still accompanies the new brood of DTC mentors during their lectures.

So far, Peñaflorida and the DTC have drawn together some 10,000 members and reached out to almost 2,000 children through their "Kalingain Batang Maharap Project" (Care for Poor Children Project), of which the Kariton Klasrum is a part of.

"The project offers feeding and nutrition, literacy and values reformation programs. It also offers scholarship assistance to deserving DTC-served children," he says.



Efrén Peñaflorida, Jr. and the Dynamic Teen Company help in transforming underprivileged children into responsible and productive citizens thru their "Kariton Klasrooms"

Peñaflorida and his team also afford children and teenagers with other programs and services designed to provide them with holistic education. For instance, there is the "Interactive Support Group" which helps students cope with the pressures and problems of school, in their communities and at home. It also doubles as a prayer and study session.

And of course, what youth organization would be complete without an element of music? The DTC also organizes the "Likhang Awit Kabataan para sa Bayan" (Songs for Motherland from the Youth)—a fundraiser that encourages young people to channel their creativity through the writing of songs which talk about unity, helping others, youth empowerment and love for country. The activity culminates with a concert that showcases the songs written.

The DTC also engages in organizing medical and hygiene missions as well as annual programs wherein they hand out free school supplies, clothes, footwear, toys and essential items to needy children and teens.

The Hero Within

In March 2009, the Cable News Network (CNN) chose Peñaflorida as one of its "CNN Heroes" for the year. On March 6, 2009, Peñaflorida was featured on the CNN show "Larry King Live."

The title CNN Hero is conferred upon those who have made remarkable contributions to their communities. Peñaflorida is among the first of

about 30 people who have been named a CNN Hero. Later this year, a panel of judges will narrow the list to 10 semi-finalists, who will be honored at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California.

The public will then be asked to choose the CNN Hero of the Year via online voting. The winner will receive a \$100,000 grant, which will be awarded during an end-of-the-year gala.

Ever the team player, Peñaflorida feels that the award should collectively recognize the efforts of his entire team.

"They are the real heroes," he says. "Together, we made the most out of this opportunity to represent 'hope and change' for children who are victims of poverty."

Peñaflorida was quite specific when asked the type of transformation that Filipino youth should strive for.

"We need to start thinking of ways to serve others first, instead of waiting to be served," he says. We should also discipline ourselves to do the things that are obviously the right things to do. And we should not fear problems. Instead, we need to be able to see problems as challenges."

To the youth at large, Peñaflorida sends out this insightful message:

"You are your own hero too. Be not blinded by the hurdles blocking your way but instead, rise above the challenges. Keep dreaming and fulfil your goals one step at a time. Remember, you are the change that you dream about."



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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

H-3 Trainee Visa for Nurses

First, it must not be available in the beneficiary's home country; secondly, the beneficiary will not displace the regular employment of citizens and resident workers; third, the training will not result in "productive employment unless necessary"; lastly, the training will benefit the beneficiary in pursuing his/her nursing career outside the U.S.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will examine the training program to ensure that it meets the above requirements by scrutinizing whether any of the following features are present:

- It deals with generalities and does not have a fixed schedule, objective or means of evaluation;
- It is incompatible with the petitioner's business or en-

terprise;

- The beneficiary already has substantial training and expertise in the field of nursing;
- His/her training will unlikely be used outside the U.S.;
- It results in "productive employment, unless necessary to the training";
- It is designed to recruit and train foreign nurses for staffing of U.S. hospitals and other healthcare facilities;
- The petitioner has no venue or sufficient staff to provide proposed training;
- It is designed to extend the total allowable practical training allowed a nonimmigrant student.

If any of the above features is present, the training program

may not be approved.

The training program should include the kind of training and supervision to be received by the trainee and indicate the number of hours spent in classroom instruction and on-the-job training.

The petitioner should also state the reason why such training cannot be obtained in the alien's country and why it is necessary for him/her to be trained in the U.S.

In one case, an H-3 petition was filed on behalf of nurses from the Philippines but it was denied because the petitioner did not sufficiently establish that the nurse trainees would not be doing normal nursing care. Moreover, the purported training seemed to be incompatible with the petitioners' business as a recruiter of highly trained nurses.

The petitioner also did not have sufficient staff to train the nurses and the background and experience of the nurses were not clearly stated in the petition.

An H-3 beneficiary is admitted for the duration of the training program but not exceeding two years. After two years, he/she may not seek extension, change of status or be readmitted to the U.S. under H or L unless he/she has resided and been physically present outside the U.S. for the immediately preceding six (6) months.

The filing of a preference petition for the nurse trainee who is currently employed by or in a training position with the same petitioner may be a reason to deny an extension of his/her stay.

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

A foreign nurse may enter the U.S. under an H-3 visa to receive training provided he/she has an unrestricted license in the country of his/her nursing education or such education was obtained in the U.S. or Canada.

The petitioner must certify that under the laws of the place where the training will be conducted, the nurse is fully qualified to receive the training and the petitioner is authorized to give such training.

The training program must meet certain criteria.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Lozada Arrested, Detained

By Evelyn Macairan /
Thursday, April 30, 2009

MANILA, Philippines — The man who blew the whistle on the controversial national broadband network (NBN) deal that implicated several high government officials was arrested yesterday on charges of perjury.

Former government consultant Rodolfo Noel "Jun" Lozada Jr. was arrested yesterday by members of the Manila Police District (MPD) who

served the warrant a day after it was issued by the Manila Metropolitan Trial Court.

Lozada did not resist arrest when he was picked up by the lawmen from De la Salle Greenhills in San Juan City. He refused to post bail for his release.

The arresting lawmen led by SPO4 Alfredo Valenzuela and SPO2 Pedro Flores had to wait for 20 minutes for Lozada to emerge with his lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno.

"I only need a lawyer to

make sure that everything is correct. I would accept the arrest warrant without qualms," Lozada said.

Lozada yielded peacefully and was accompanied by numerous supporters who followed the police convoy to the MPD headquarters in Manila.

Police said Lozada would be temporarily detained at the office of the Detective Jail Management Section awaiting the commitment order from the court for transfer to the Manila City Jail.

Former presidents Corason Aquino and Joseph Estrada said they were saddened that Lozada was arrested for merely telling the truth.

Mrs. Aquino said Lozada became "a victim of injustice."

"I'm deeply saddened by the news that Mr. Jun Lozada has been placed under arrest on allegations of perjury. I shall

pray for him that he may be delivered from harm and injustice."

Mrs. Aquino said Lozada's arrest "serves to intimidate those who fight for the truth, fairness and decency in our society."

"I appeal to all freedom-loving Filipinos to support Mr. Jun Lozada in every way possible and to make it known loud and clear that he is not alone," she said.

Estrada also urged support for Lozada, saying his arrest was obviously politically motivated.

"This is obviously politics. Why should you arrest a man for speaking the truth? All of us are supporting him. I urge all Filipinos to join Jun Lozada," Estrada said.

Lozada's arrest stemmed from the perjury complaint filed by Philippine National Railroad

(PNR) chairman Michael Defensor alleging that the former government consultant lied in his testimony before the Court of Appeals in the petition for habeas corpus last year.

Lozada allegedly stated that Defensor tried to convince him to retract his claims that he was abducted to keep him from testifying in the Senate on the NBN deal.

Lozada alleged he was offered P50,000 by Defensor to retract his statement that he was snatched at the airport upon arrival from abroad, as well as to deny that he knew the details surrounding the NBN deal. Defensor, who served as President Arroyo's chief of staff when the NBN deal broke out, denied the allegations.

He said he only knew about the alleged kidnapping of Lozada from news reports. (www.philstar.com)

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Gumil Hawaii (GH). Tawen 1968 idi nabukel ti GF iti Baguio City. Ket 1971 met idi naorganisar ti GH iti KAIM Ragid, Honolulu. Gapu iti kinapateg dagitoy a rusat saan mi a malwiyang ti di tumabong kadagitoy panagitipon iti Gumil

Maika-41 A Kombensyon National Ti Gumil Filipinas

Filipinas (GF).

Iday our Lady of Angeles Franciscan Seminary idiyay Novaliches, Quezon City ti nakaawisan ti kombensyon ita a tawen Abril 11-12, 2009. Napateg latta ti panagitipon dagiti manurrat iti tinawan. Adda amin nangibagi kadagitoy nadumaduma a chapter agraman GH. Lima dagiti reyna ti GH a napan.

Nakanta ti nailian a kanta nga indaulo ti Direktor ti GF, Avelina Fe Camacho. Kasta met ti Gumil Aweng, ni Ben Pacris. Ket ni presidente Valdivino Valdez ti nanglukat ti kombensyon. Pammasangbay a bitla ni Rogie Baysa, secretario

heneral ti GF kasta met palagip ti House Rules ni Ariel Tabag-tesorero ti GF. Naipabuya met ti kannawidan a sala iti Filipinas (Daklis) a sinala ti Editorial Board. Binagi met ti Gumil Hawaii a kinanta ti Ilokana a Nasudi ken ti sala a Hula iti Hawaii a sinala ni Fely Cristobal. Nagsarita ti naisangsangayan a Sangaili ni Judge Vivencio Baclig kasta met ti panagalbalita ti nailiana nga Artista ti Literatura ni F. Siol Jose. Inyamm-amo met ni Dionisio Bulong ti nag-lecture a Ramon Magsaysay Awardee ni Sac Sarian.

Kalpasan ti pangaldaw iti Abril 11 naglecture niAida

Tiama. Kasta met ni Paul Blanco Zapafaralla, Ph.D. iti Art Critic. Imbasa met ni Rose Dapozza, Mrs. GH, 2007 ti aramidna a danuw. Inyamm-amo ni Ariel Tabag ni Ron Bryant ti award winning Indie Film Maker. Inpanggeget met ni Fernando Sanches, Pedro Bucaneg 2006 ti panagibagis ti danuw kasta met ni Prof. Honor Blanco Cabie, dati a presidente ti GF.

Iti maikadua a rabii Abril 12 naiparang met ti rabii ti kultura ket nabuya ti kannawidan a salsala ti Ilocos Norte. Imburay met ti dati a Presidente ti GH ni Pacita Saludes babaeln ti panagsaritana maipapan ti Gumil Hawaii dagiti ar-aramind ken ganungan ken ti tinawan a panagiburay ti GH kadagitoy gapuananna kadagitoy li-

braria a maipaw-it kadagitoy tinawan a delegad ti kombensyon. Naibunong ti bagnos ti libro ti GH iti Tallo Dekada, kasta met ti Libro a Dawa a naglaon kadagitoy gapuanan dagiti kankamngem ti GH kadagitoy nalapalab a tawtawen.

Napintas ti monologue nga indasar ti Ilocos Norte ken kanta a Samtoy. Nakoronaan ti Mutya ti GF 2009 a nakairang-pinan met ti pannakaiparang ti reyna ti GH 2009 ni Mrs. Gloria Raquedan. Nangipatayab ti Danuw ti Pirmado a Mannanaw ti GH ni Guillermo Concepcion nga agpaay kadagitoy dua a reyna. Naindayon dagiti nagdengdengngem ti panaganidan nga urayla a nakadugan dagiti reyna a nadinawan agraman dagiti agbuybuya.

MAINLAND NEWS

Pacman Mobbed in Las Vegas

By Abac Cordero/
Thursday, April 30, 2009

LAS VEGAS – Unless they put the Secret Service on him, there'll be no more grand arrivals in hotel lobbies for Manny Pacquiao.

Bob Arum of Top Rank said that for safety reasons, he'd rather have the extremely popular Filipino boxer just popping out of his hotel room window and waving down at his fans and the media in his future fights.

"This is insane but it's not surprising. He could have been trampled if we stayed down here," said Arum after making sure that Pacquiao was in one piece, up in his 60th floor suite, after getting a tumultuous welcome.

Pacquiao and his huge entourage, including his mother,

Dionisia, trainers Freddie Roach and Michael Moorer, advisers Mike Koncz and Wakee Salud, and friends always glued to the boxer, got off their bus at noon.

Then it was all "close to being dangerous" as Pacquiao was literally mobbed. Lee Samuels of Top Rank said they haven't seen anything like this before, not even during Oscar

dela Hoya fights.

Pacquiao was like a human magnet as he squeezed tightly inside the main lobby of Mandalay Bay. In the past, he'd stop for brief interviews, but this time, Arum just won't allow it to happen.

"It would have been a dangerous situation. When I saw what was developing I got him right up to his suite. I think this will be Manny's last arrival. Next time we'll put him up in a

window and he waves at them," said Arum.

The legendary promoter wasn't blaming anyone. He said it was understandable that with Pacquiao's popularity, everybody wants to get a piece of him.

"They told me that in the Time Magazine poll, in the 100 most influential people in the world, Manny Pacquiao has now officially outpolled, and got more votes than President Obama. Hey! Here's the new President of the Philippines," said Arum.

When the smoke cleared, the first thing Arum did was call the MGM Grand where Ricky Hatton was to have his own ar-

rival ceremony.

"I alerted them of the situation and I told them not to get out of the car," said Arum, and MGM took the cue, by lining up velvet ropes from the main entrance all the way up to the makeshift ring where the British star greeted his fans and did interviews.

"This is as close to being dangerous. Luckily we have here Bob Peters (Team Pacquiao head of security) and we got him out," as he looked back.

"And they wanted to make interviews. If we stopped for interviews he would have been killed," said Arum with a little exaggeration. (www.philstar.com)



Manny Pacquiao shows a thumbs-up as he arrives at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas

GLOBAL NEWS

DFA Warns Overseas Filipinos against Text Scams

The Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs is warning overseas Filipinos to beware of rampant text messaging scams claiming that they have won prizes in raffles.

Those who respond to the text message have been asked to transmit money as a requirement prior to receiving their so-called prizes. The money will be used supposedly to pay for taxes or remittance charges.

The scammers at times represent themselves as legitimate enterprises, such as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Department of Trade and Industry, but provide fake names for contact purposes.

A Filipina working in Singapore reported that she received a text message from a certain "Atty. Lorna Ruiz" who

informed her that she had won a prize in an electronic raffle. She was advised to contact a "Ricardo Mendoza" to receive her supposed prize. She was asked to transmit a certain amount via Western Union to an "Elmer Dawang." After sending the amount, the scammers ceased to communicate with her. Attempted by Philippine authorities to contact the scammers proved futile.

The Philippine government takes these scams seriously. The Cybercrimes Division of the National Bureau of Investigation investigates cases of text message scams and email fraud.

The DFA strongly advises all Filipinos to be wary of these fraudulent schemes and to not respond to any such text messages to avoid becoming victims. (DFA)

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SIGNIFICANT DATES IN 2009 WHEN THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONOLULU WILL HOLD COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL EMILY AT 595-6316 EXT 242

JUNE TO AUGUST—Overseas Absentee Voting Registration for Filipino citizens who wish to vote in the presidential elections in May 2010. Registrants may come to the Consulate in person with their

Philippine passports to accomplish the application form.

JUNE 12, 8:30am. at the consulate grounds — *"Araw ng Kalayaan"* (Independence Day)

and another activity at 6:30 pm.

JULY 10-14TH — Ambassadors and Consul Generals Tour to the Philippines, a special package tour for the public.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DIVINE WORD COLLEGE OF LAOAG ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII (DWCLCAAH), 1ST INT'L GRAND REUNION
May 2, 2009 • Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii • For more information call Jesse Pascual at 225-3388 or Fe Velasco at 2227436; Amado Yoro 699-9814

Waikiki Ballroom • For tickets and more information, call Dr. Aurelio Agcaolli at 956-8405 or Julius Sorria at 956-2226

FILIPINO FIESTA, PARADE AND SANTACRUZAN / SATURDAY
May 9, 2009 • All day starting at 8 am. • For inquiries, call Fil-Com Center at 680-0451

LITTLE MISS PHIL. HAWAII / SATURDAY
May 30, 2009 • Call Maggie Domingo-841-2841, Estrella Ramos-927-8188 and Janice Sevilla-595-8000

MRS. HAWAII FILIPINA PAGEANT BY UFCH / SATURDAY
June 6, 2009 • 6 pm • Hilton Hawaiian Village, Tapa Room • Contact person: Eddie Agas-783-3327, Carlota Ader-688-3215

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROJECT / SATURDAY
June 13, 2009 • 9:30 am - 1:30 pm • Likelike Highway & Kalihi Street • Contact Lina Longboy at 375 0828

MISS OAHU FILIPINA PAGEANT / SATURDAY
June 14, 2009 • 6 pm • Hawaii Prince Hotel • Contact event chair Danny Villaruz at 778-0233 or Lina Longboy at 375 0828

OFFC GOLDEN JUBILEE PRESI-

DENT'S BALL / FRIDAY

June 26, 2009 • 6 pm • Hilton Hawaii Village Resort & SPA H • Contact event chair Leo Gozar at 230-0088 or Lina Longboy at 375 0828

OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY CONVENTION (OFFC) ANNUAL CONVENTION / SATURDAY

June 27, 2009 • 7:30 am - 4 pm • Hilton Hawaiian Village Resort & SPA • Contact event chair Carlota Ader at 688-3215 or Lina Longboy at 375 0828 for more details

FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII INSTALLATION BANQUET / SATURDAY

July 11, 2009 • 6 pm • Hilton Hawaiian Village • Call Rose Mendoza at 371-3902 or Bennett Evangelista at 398-5988

VISAYAN CENTENNIAL EVENTS

VISAYAN CENTENNIAL FIESTA
May 2009 • Lanai

VISAYAN CENTENNIAL TOUR
May 15 - June 3, 2009 • (Iloilo, Cebu and Davao) Philippines

VISAYAN CENTENNIAL AWARDS GALA / SUNDAY
July 19, 2009 • 6 pm. • Hale Koa Hotel, Waikiki

COVO STATEWIDE CONVENTION AND CENTENNIAL GALA
August 2009 • Kona Big Island

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