

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

OUR 17th YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ NOVEMBER 21, 2009 ◆

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The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published weekly by The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. It is mailed directly to subscribers and distributed at various outlets around Oahu and the neighbor islands. Editorial and advertising deadlines are three weeks prior to publication date. Subscriptions are available at \$75 per year for Oahu and the neighbor islands, continental U.S. \$80, foreign country \$90. Copyright 2008. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone (808) 678-8930 Facsimile (808) 678-1820. E-mail: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Website: www.thefilipinochronicle.com. Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Let me be the first to congratulate and thank you for picking up this issue, which marks the 17th Anniversary of the Hawaii-Filipino Chronicle. It's hard to believe how fast time has flown. I can still vividly recall when the original members of our editorial board first met to begin work on our inaugural issue. As time marched on, the faces changed and we moved offices from Kalihi to Waipahu. But one thing that has remained the same is our commitment to providing the Filipino community with timely and useful news. That commitment along with the faithful support of our readers have enabled the Hawaii-Filipino Chronicle to not only survive, but thrive as a small business in Hawaii's unpredictable business climate.

As we enter the final weeks of 2009, many of you are no doubt looking forward to what is traditionally considered the best time of the year—Thanksgiving and the start of the Yuletide Season! While it's a bit early to wish you a Mele Kalikimaka, we do however, extend our best to you and your family for a very Happy Thanksgiving.

The cover story for this special, 24-page anniversary issue is about the 2009 Ilocos Homecoming Medical Mission, scheduled for December 15-23. Held every two years, this mission will meet the medical needs of needy patients in the Philippines and also feature singing and academic contests meant to strengthen relationships between the people of Hawaii and the Ilocos region. Please read more on this ambitious and extensive medical mission beginning on page 4.

Speaking of missions, the Aloha Medical Mission and Queen's Medical Center are teaming up for the annual benefit piano concert. This year's concert is entitled "Four Doctors, a Patient & a Sweetheart" and is scheduled for December 10, 2009 at the Blaisdell Concert Hall beginning at 7 pm. We hope you will make arrangements to attend this very worthwhile event which is meant to raise funds for AMM's numerous programs and missions of mercy.

This issue also features the return of contributing writer Felino Tubera, who has been with the Chronicle from the very beginning. We always look forward to his interesting perspectives on life. This time around, he has submitted an article on page 7 entitled "The Chronicle Is..." which is about the Chronicle's role and impact on Hawaii's Filipino community.

There are many more interesting articles of interest in this issue, particularly our Commentary column (page 10) which was written by associate editor Edwin Quinabo, Legal Notes (page 15) and Philippine Language (page 16). We hope these articles will inform you and stimulate your thinking.

In closing, thank you again for your support these past 17 years. It has been a pleasure to serve all of our readers. Until next time, aloha and mahuhay!

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido



EDITORIALS

ISAH Medical Mission to Strengthen Ties With Ilocos Region

2009 marks version three of the Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii's (ISAH) homecoming medical mission to the Ilocos region of the Philippines. ISAH's mission is unique from other medical missions from the U.S. to the Philippines and the world for that matter because of a unique twist that incorporates holistic healing and extends into education, culture and entertainment.

A myriad of non-medical events have been planned, including singing and talent contests as well as scholarship exams that are sure to uplift the spirits of many families in Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte and neighboring areas and provide them with a very memorable Christmas.

ISAH's mission is a spin-off from the Aloha Medical Mission started in the mid-1980s by a group of Filipino doctors with the Philippine Medical Association (PMAH). Over the years, PMAH members have organized smaller missions of mercy to their respective hometowns in the Philippines. Such missions are examples of medicine at its most fundamental core—healing the sick without thought of reward of payment. Perhaps this selfless act can be best summed up in two words—*noblesse oblige*, French for "to whom much is given, much is expected."

With long, difficult hours and less-than-ideal conditions, a typical mission is by no means a vacation. But for first timers, a medical mission to a Third World Country will be something they will remember for the rest of their lives. For seasoned medical mission volunteers, these missions provide a respite from the minutiae associated with their medical practices and an opportunity to feed their altruistic inclinations.

ISAH's mission and others like them are inspirational examples of the impact a small group of dedicated volunteers can have on the world's less fortunate. We commend ISAH members and hope that their efforts will continue to inspire other Filipino organizations in Hawaii to plan similar events for their respective hometowns and provinces.

Happy 17th Anniversary!

Seventeen years is a long time to be doing anything, much less publish an ethnic community newspaper. To get an idea of the longevity of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, 17 years ago Bill Clinton won the U.S. presidency, while retired general Fidel Ramos and movie star Joseph Estrada were elected president and vice president of the Philippines, respectively. Locally,

Ben Cayetano was bidding his time as lieutenant governor behind then-Gov. John Waihee.

Over the years, the Chronicle has survived the ups-and-downs of the economy, several governors and U.S. presidents, along with a Gulf War and a succeeding war on terrorism—which is no mere small feat considering that dozens of ethnic newspapers across the nation have folded during the same time span. Along the way, the Chronicle has received numerous awards for excellence from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and from various community organizations. The paper has also been fortunate to have an outstanding list of columnists and contributing writers, as well as exclusive columns from the Governor's and Mayor's offices...all of which have led to well-balanced and informative reporting.

Perhaps it was simply meant for the Chronicle to survive this long and to take its place among other ethnic media that play a vital role in the communities they serve. The Chronicle's publishers and editorial board realize that an informed populace keeps government accountable. Its timely reporting of news arms readers with knowledge of current events and issues so that they can become wise participants in societal decision-making.

More importantly, the Chronicle gives a voice to Hawaii's Filipino community, strengthens cohesion among the numerous Filipino community groups in existence and corrects harmful misperceptions promulgated by mainstream media. We hope that the Chronicle, with an ability to tap into the Filipino community, will continue to offer unique content, history and perspectives found nowhere else—for the next 17 years and beyond.

**Aloha and Mabuhay to Hawaii Filipino Chronicle!
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Ilocos Homecoming Medical Mission 2009

By J.P. Orias

After the first Ilocos Homecoming Medical Mission in 2005, Apo Carlito Soria, then Ilocos Surian Association of Hawaii (ISAH) vice president and one of the group's respected kupuna, proposed that the medical mission be held every two years.

The 2005 mission served approximately 15,000 patients and had a strong memory recall in Ilocos. The homecoming package combined the medical mission with academic and cultural competitions, which became the template for the 2007 homecoming mission surpassing expectations in terms of attendance and impact on the people of Ilocos.

Organizers of the first two homecoming missions say their success largely depended on the awareness created through non-medical activities such as a Spelling Bee competition, Bukaneang and Math and Science Olympiads which involved the participation of the population at large. These extremely popular contests were a "Pied Piper" of sorts that drew throngs of people to the medical missions.

For ISAH members, these

friendly contests were an excellent way of giving back to their hometowns and providing cash prizes and fond memories for the youth and people of Ilocos Sur. The competitions also served as vehicle to help fulfill ISAH's goal "to build communities here and in our homeland."

Current ISAH president Danny Villaruz is certain that the 2009 Ilocos Homecoming Medical Mission, scheduled for December 15-23, will be as successful as the previous missions.

"I'm confident that we will achieve our goals for this homecoming mission in an economical manner by applying what we have learned from the past missions," he says. "We are also lucky that former State representative Felipe "Jun" Abinsay, who is from Vigan, is doing a lot of

coordination with the local government in Ilocos."

This year, organizers began publicizing the mission during the first week of November by conducting preliminary singing competitions for "Ilocos Sur Idol" on radio station DWRS in Vigan City and online at www.dwrscommandoradio.com. The top 12 qualifiers of the preliminaries will compete on December 19, 2009.

As in the past, the medical mission will cover Vigan City, Cabugao, Sinaat, Santa and Santiago in Ilocos Sur and Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte. The mission will also reach Parañaque City in Metro Manila, as requested by the city government of Parañaque City through friends and affiliations of ISAH. Doing so will help victims of Ondoy, the recent typhoon that devast-



Dr. Elizabeth Abinsay is shown here treating a young child in Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte during the 2007 homecoming medical mission

tated the Manila Metropolitan.

The mission towns are determined upon request by local affiliates who, through the unit organization in Hawaii, raised funds for medication, vitamins and other expenses directly attributable to the medical mission. Medical mission volunteers shoulder their respective transportation, food and accommodation expenses. ISAH pays for group meals during mission days.

ISAH Fundraisers

To achieve its community-building goals, ISAH members conduct several fundraisers such as cultural pageants and other charitable endeavors. This year,

Mrs. ISAH 2008-2010 Davelyn Anchel Quijano and her royal court will be recognized at a mayoral reception in her hometown of Sinaat.

The Mrs. ISAH 2008-2010 royal court consists of Analiza Braceros Mateo, first princess from Cabugao; Loida Alimboyogin Yamamoto, second princess from Vigan; and Ruth Eden Manzano third princess from Santa. Members of the royal court will also perform specific functions during the medical mission.

Medical Mission

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COVER STORY

and with the support of local physicians in each town, the medical mission is expecting to serve 13,000 - 15,000 medical and dental patients in seven towns across three provinces, including those affected by recent natural calamities.

The primary care physicians headed by Dr. Charlie Sonido include Drs. Elizabeth Abinsay, co-chair; Ed Alquero, family practice; Remedios Sonson, OBGYN; Erlinda Cachola, internal medicine; Dean Aguilin, internal medicine; Rey Etrata, Jr., anesthesiologist; Diana Pace, anesthesiologist; Ferdie Cerceña, general surgeon; Dante Rafanan, pediatric; Eric Singson and Arnold Villafuerte, public health.

"If one considers that about \$160,000 worth of medications will be distributed by 50 health professionals, this mission is big," says Dr. Sonido. "Medical care covers more than the usual acute diseases. There will be hypertension, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and diabetic screening and long-term maintenance treatment will be provided for many patients. During previous missions, we saw an increasing incidence of chronic diseases not previously diagnosed or treated. We will help these patients too."

Services Provided

Other services provided by the medical mission include diabetes and blood pressure screening, free medical consultation, free medications including acute and chronic diseases, free multivitamins and analgesics. In addition, minor surgeries will be



Local volunteers administer blood pressure check-up while a long line of people wait for their turn during the 2007 homecoming medical mission.

done such as cyst excisions and circumcisions.

This will be rendered to pre-qualified patients by surgeons from Manila and anesthesiologists from California through the sponsorship of the Renato and Maria Etrata Foundation. Dental examination and surgeries will also be conducted.

Ilocos Sur Idol

This solo singing contest, which is open to amateurs age 15 to 30, recognized the otherwise dormant talents of Edward Allen Miranda of Santiago, Monalyn Galicha of Sta. Cruz and Lorna Palapala of Bantay during its first season in 2005. Lorna Palapala came back as a more robust performer in 2007 and topped the batch of some 25 contestants of that year, followed by Lovely Castañeda of Santiago and Jolthe Bueno of Vigan City.

Since then, Ilocos Sur Idol has been on the demand. The contest has expanded in terms of exposure and coverage. Preliminary rounds held in 32 towns from Ilocos Sur are currently being held by DWRS local. Organizers hope to narrow the competition to 12 semi-finalists. The 12 will then be trimmed to

three finalists who will then compete at 7 pm at Padre Burgos Plaza, Vigan City. In addition to the P1,000 qualifying prize, the top three winners will receive P20,000, P15,000 and P10,000 cash and trophies respectively.

Math, Science and General Info Bowl

Among the other academic competitions that were staged in the past two Ilocos Homecoming Missions, the Math and Science Bowl for elementary and high school students gained the widest acceptance, since it also honored teachers for their hard work and dedication.

This year, general information is being added to the academic joust scheduled for December 19, 2009 starting with a qualifying written test and verbal competition.

With the help of the Philippine Department of Education, this competition has attained prestige among the youth and the academic field. It highlights the academic talents of the youth of Ilocos Sur in math, chemistry, biology, physics, general science, reading comprehension, language, vocabulary and general information.

In addition to P1,000 qualifying prizes, cash and trophy prizes will be given to winning individuals and school teams. Special prizes and recognition will be given to winning schools. The estimated budget for cash prizes and trophies for the Ilocos Sur Idol and Math, Science and General Information Bowl is \$25,000.

Itinerary

The ISAH Homecoming Medical Mission 2009 starts on the morning of December 15, at Barangay Sun Valley, Paranaque City. A gift-giving visit to Gawad Kalinga Village at Barangay Agudo, Madaluyop, precedes an eight-hour bus ride to Vigan City.

The Aloha Night Block Party will close Salcedo Street on December 16. The first medical mission will be in Cagubago on December 17, followed by Sinaat on December 18 at the Sinaat District Hospital. A mayoral ball recognizing Queen Davelyn and her royal court will be held in the evening at the Sinaat Municipal Auditorium.

The medical mission in Vigan City will be held at the Civic Center on December 19. Simultaneously, the qualifying written exams on Math, Science and General Information for both elementary and high school levels will be held at East Central School from 8 am - 12 noon, with verbal semi-finals and finals scheduled for the afternoon. The Ilocos Sur Idol finals will be at 8 pm at Vigan City's Plaza Burgos.

The medical mission will reach Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte on December 21 at Barangay 2—the hub of the Villafuertes, sponsors of the Pasuquin mission. Going back to Ilocos Sur, the medical mission will reach Santa on December 22 at the town's Sports Complex. The last stop for the medical mission is Santiago, Ilocos Sur on December 23, 2009 at the municipal hall and sports complex.

Volunteers

Mahalo nui loa, Dios it angina to the more than 50 volunteers with roots and hearts in Ilocos: Dr. Elizabeth Abinsay, Felipe Abinsay, Enriqueta Adaog, Dr. Dean Aguilin, Dr. Ed Alquero, Dr. Albert Bercasio, Alejandro Braceros, Councilman Romy Cachola, Dr. Erlinda Cachola, Rudy Cachola, Cora Castillo, Pronia Castillo, Gus Concepcion, Dr. Ferdie Cerceña, Veronica Esteban, Emy Etrata, Jayna Etrata, Maria Etrata, Rey Etrata, Rudy Etrata,

Dr. Rey Etrata, Jr., Bernadette Fajardo, Cesar Benedict Dario Fajardo, Cesar Fajardo, Emme Guillermo, Liza Mateo, Melinda Montgomery, Jose-Pedro B. Orias, Mario Palma, Norma Palma, Brigida Parayno, Ilo Palapalao, Rommel Pasqua, Dr. Diana Pace, Davelyn Quijano, Servillano Ricardo, Feliciano Ricardo, Dr. Dante Rafanan, Jose Rojas, Ariel Snyquo Que, Dr. Charlie Sonido, Erlinda Sonido, Nelson Sonido, Dr. Remedios Sonson, Dr. Eric Singson, Dr. Rudy Singson, Dr. Arnold Villafuerte, Teodora Villafuerte, Danny Villaruz, Darrel Villaruz, Emmie Villaruz, Josie Villaruz, Stephanie Villaruz, Nancy Walsh and Loida Yamamoto. Other physicians and health professionals from the Philippines will join this volunteer group.

Town and Event Coordinators

Officers and Town coordinators for 2009 are: Nelson Sonido, Erlinda Sonido, Erwin Mateo and Liza Braceros-Mateo (Cagubago); Gus Concepcion and Davelyn Quijano (Sinaat); Jun Abinsay and Loida Alimboyoguen Yamamoto (Vigan); Emy Etrata (Santiago); Danny and Emmie Villaruz (Santa); Arnold and Dory Villafuerte (Pasuquin); Melinda Montgomery (Paranaque); Jun Abinsay and J.P. Orias (Ilocos Sur Idol); Dory Villafuerte, Ilo Palapalao, Darrel Villaruz and J.P. Orias (academic contests); Amado Yoro and J.P. Orias (media).

Major Sponsors

In addition to banner sponsor ISAH, the list of major sponsors include: Titans USA Foundation, the Renato and Maria Etrata Foundation, Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls, FMS Hawaii, Dr. Ray Romero, Waikiki Family Practice (Dr. Richard Ricardo) Medical Assistance Program (medication donor), Veronica Esteban and Galiner De Robertis On Law Firm.

The major sponsoring town organizations include the following: Cagubago Sons and Daughters Association of Hawaii, Annak It Sinaat It Hawaii/Sinaat National High School Alumni Association of Hawaii, Vigan Association of Hawaii, Santenians Association of Hawaii-USA and Santiagianians of Hawaii.

Tax-deductible donations to the Ilocos Homecoming Medical Mission may be sent to Titans USA Foundation, Inc. c/o FMS Hawaii, 1149 N. King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817. For details, please call ISAH president Danny Villaruz at 778-0233 or Dory Villafuerte at 382-5564.

CHRONICLE PULSE

Why have you decided to join the 2009 Ilocos Homecoming Medical Mission?

"To find joy in giving and sharing with people who really need help and making them happy and feel important for even a little while."

- RENATO AND MARIA ETRATA & FAMILY

"We believe that we need to provide service to the communities in the Philippines, especially those who were affected by the recent typhoons. We are also visiting our relatives in Quezon City, Ilocos and Pangasinan."

- ILALO & BRIGIDA PARAYNO

"Joining the mission will be very interesting because we will have hands-on experience in providing much needed medical and dental services to our constituents in the Philippines, especially those affected by the recent calamities."

- GUS CONCEPCION, REALTOR

"To see the town where I grew up, connect with my relatives and friends and offer help for a healthier environment."

- SERVILLANO (RICKY) RICARDO, RETIRED



To help our less fortunate kababayans have healthier conditions.

- FELICIANO (FELY) RICARDO, RETIRED

"It's a good feeling to help people in need, especially those who cannot afford to pay for their medical expenses."

- EMMIE VILLARUZ

"Giving back to the community and sharing one's blessings by joining medical missions is always an event I look forward to. It definitely is hard work yet very gratifying whenever you see a smile on the patients' faces."

- DR. ARNOLD VILLAFUERTE

MAYOR'S COLUMN



By Mayor Mufi Hannemann

Congratulations to the Filipino Chronicle on your 17th anniversary! Your publication is an excellent community resource that many readers rely upon for important information. Thank you for providing this great public service.

Working hard for the community can also be lots of fun, and one of the most enjoyable elements of our re-

Mayor Hannemann Wows 'em on Wowowee



Willie Revillame (host of Wowowee) with Edgar Mortiz (Director of Wowowee, partly hidden) during their stint in Hawaii.

cent Trade Mission to the Philippines was a special guest appearance I and Filipino members of my Cabinet made on the hugely popular "Wowowee"

variety show.

I presented host Willie Revillame with a nice aloha shirt, and he gave me a Wowowee t-shirt in exchange. It was a little too small for me—he wasn't expecting someone so tall—but it was a great gift nonetheless, and I doubt any other elected official in Hawaii has one.

We had a great time when an elderly woman who participated in one of the show's contests led me out to dance with her, and I ended up waltzing with her and spinning her around a few times. But the best part was when Revillame donated some money to a woman whose child suffers from several health problems. I dug deep in my wallet to match his donation, and I sincerely wish this humble family all the best.

It's amazing how popular Wowowee has become in the Philippines and throughout the world, thanks to modern television broadcasting abilities. Throughout our trip, many friendly people approached me

and members of our delegation to say they recognized us from the show. We also received text messages from Filipinos around the world, and when we returned home, many folks in Honolulu said they saw us on Wowowee.

So many people we met during our travels were friendly, generous, good-natured and pleasant, and I'm looking forward to future trade missions to explore new opportunities and further enhance our sister-city relationships with Baguio, Cebu, Laoag, Manila and Vigan. Mabuhay!

The Trade Mission included a presentation in Cebu City. From left to right are Hawaii Representatives Kyle Yamashiro and Ryan Yamane, Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmena, and Honolulu City Councilman Nestor Garcia.



PICTORIAL NEWS



MoneyGram International's Daniel O'Malley (far left) and Nick Cunnew (far right) present a check worth 1 million pesos (US\$ 21,000) to GMA Kapuso Foundation's Mel Tiango (second from left) and Manuel dela Fuente for on-going disaster relief operations following the series of typhoons that ravaged Luzon. MoneyGram International is a leading global provider of money transfer services. The company made an earlier donation of US\$20,000 to the American Red Cross for similar purposes. To help families rebuild their damaged homes, the monies will be used to provide home repair kits which will be distributed through Habitat for Humanity. The donations are part of MoneyGram's Global Giving Program which issues financial support to organizations around the globe, including those that respond in times of disaster.

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ALL IDEAS CONSIDERED



By Felino S. Tubera



Something greater than the sum of its parts – and then some. It is the only Filipino news

weekly publication in Hawaii in English that also has Filipino and Ilocano sections. Now celebrating its 17th anniversary, it has remained steadfast and true in fulfilling its mission of service to the community. Congratulations!

For people who have a fascination in giving meaning and significance to numbers, 17 is a significant milestone. First, add the 1 and the 7 and you get the solid number 8. This is an auspicious symbol. You make just one stroke to write it from top down with a loop and back to top without breaking or

The Chronicle is...

skipping a beat. This represents energy that is well-spent, or power saved or stored. Fulfilled efficiency. Sculptured beauty. The *Chronicle* all through these 17 years, has dedicated, used, consumed, stored and saved such kind of energy, power, efficiency and beauty in pursuing its mission and achieving its goals. Numbers might mean differently to people, but at 17, the *Chronicle* is growing and counting!

...the *Chronicle* is more than news events, editorials, features and commentaries: it's a forum of issues meeting head-on, or problems and questions criss-crossing in the traffic of ideas and events and realities of daily life. A steward-facilitator in the formation of public opinion and debate. It is public service that thrives on relationships. In any kind of "ships" you can think of: fellowship, friendship, courtship, citizenship, readership, sponsorship...the *Chronicle* is there as a living presence. Even in the bed of hardship that we remain sleepless on. It's ironic

that the warranties on the soft bed of luxury we seemed to have been used to, have long expired, yet we don't seem to mind living in an age when unnecessary things are our only necessities. Our relationships don't seem to matter much in some ways. Some level or degree of our relationships, personal, business, social or what have you, is misinterpreted, misconstrued or misunderstood. The *Chronicle* is in the service of simplifying, stabilizing, enhancing and promoting our traditional, if not cultural relationships (Filipino-American flavor) through its balanced and objective culture of journalism. Some people do not recognize this facet of the service it provides. It can be said: The *Chronicle* stands on its record of balanced news reporting, fairness and objectivity.

"There is nothing new under the sun." - Ecclesiastes 1:9 This biblical quote does not necessarily negate the possibility of bringing novelty into our lives. Innovation is the child of inspiration which may come



from an old block of rock or piece of driftwood. The *Chronicle's* weekly frequency with its improved news layout-format, refreshes, rejuvenates old standards of reading pleasure. While some aspirations can only remain as dream-bubbles, the *Chronicle* has transformed some of its pipe dreams into innovative content-delights that readers would not want to miss. Again, this does not only draw attention and attraction, it navigates well into the seas and ships of old and newrelations. Welcome, innovation!

...the *Chronicle* at 17 still has the qualities of a robust, idealistic teenager with the vigor of an un-matriculated college imagination and noble intentions. Be that as it may, it is poised to grow in wisdom and maturity with the courage of a midget facing a goliath...the uncertain future. (I dare myself to live to 100 years; I'm now 78 and by the year 2030, I'll be a centenarian, like my mother was in 1996 when she passed

away. On this note, I dare say that I'll still be reading the *Chronicle*. By then, it will be just 39 years young! I feel that I'll outlive people who are much younger...and the *Chronicle* (in one form or another) will outlive doubters along the way. (Make room and allowance for technology and change)

"Well, the *Chronicle* is also about pride and identity. Filipino pride. Never mind the undefined identity of the Filipino and his community. It is nonetheless a part of that vibrant diversity that cannot be isolated from that identity. What, if, anything else, can undo the reasons why the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, is greater than the sum of its parts? Nothing. You avid readers, wise advertisers, creative promoters, loyal supporters, who give the publishers, management and staff the push and inspiration ... WE, US ALL... are the parts of the great sum.

A pat on the back is not necessary, but important...so let's celebrate. *Mabuhay!*

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

AMM to Hold Benefit Concert at Blaisdell Center

In three short weeks, the Philippine typhoon relief fund drive netted over \$130,000, according to officials from the Fil-Com Center.

The Aloha Medical Mission (AMM) and The Queen's Medical Center will present a piano benefit concert, "Four Doctors, A Patient & A Sweetheart!" on Thursday, December 10, at 7 p.m. at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall. Organizers expect the concert to be sold out this year with the addition of Hawaii's own "sweetheart," Grammy nominated recording artist, Raiatea Helm.

Although they normally use their hands to heal, local physicians Jorge Camara, Aileen Denny, Timothy Lee, and Elizabeth Ignacio—all outstanding classical pianists—will use their hands to create an evening of beautiful music. The "patient" is Chris Cerna, a gifted blind pianist who was helped by AMM. Local media personality Emme Tomimbang will emcee this memorable evening.



This year marks the 26th anniversary of the AMM, which provides free medical and dental services to the most needy in Hawaii at their clinic located at Palama Settlement. AMM also mobilizes volunteers to provide free medical and surgical services to those in the Asia-Pacific region who lack access to basic health care. AMM volunteers recently provided medical relief for the victims of Typhoon Ketsana in the Philippines and to tsunami-

ravaged Samoa.

Over the past 25 years, AMM has conducted 116 missions to 15 countries and treated almost 250,000 people. All volunteers pay their own travel expenses. AMM has a well-deserved reputation as Hawaii's Ambassadors of Health and Goodwill and over the years has provided over \$86 million in free health care.

The benefit concert is AMM's major fundraising effort. Proceeds will help fund the organization's vital programs. Tickets are \$40, \$60, \$75, \$100 and \$250 and are available from Ticketmaster (1-800-745-3000 or ticketmaster.com) and the Blaisdell box office (591-2211).

If you wish to help the AMM continue its missions of mercy, please send your donations to:

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More information on the AMM is available online at: www.alohamedicalmission.org.

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NEWS FEATURE

Philippine Trade Mission a Big Success and Wonderful Experience

Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, key members of his staff and leaders of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii recently returned from a trade mission to the Philippines, which brought together hundreds of investors, business people and public officials.

"We made many new friends in Manila, Cebu and other cities as we explored business opportunities and introduced investors and key officials to each other to facilitate communications and partnerships," Hannemann says.

The mayor met with former President Fidel V. Ramos and several top business and government leaders. He made two economic development presentations to business groups in Metro Manila on the advantages of doing business in Hawaii and in the Philippines and even managed to visit his cousin, LDS Mission President Beaver Ho Ching, who's been living in the Philippines with his wife Judy for the past three years.

Hannemann and several staff members helped to distribute humanitarian relief supplies to victims of recent flooding in Pasig. Hundreds of families received food, coffee, sugar, soap and other basic necessities. Former Pasig Mayor Soledad Eusebio facilitated this special assistance to the needy. The former mayor said the flooding was the worst calamity to ever strike Pasig and required the emergency evacuation of 1,400 families.

A special side-trip to the Ilocos region was exceptionally enjoyable and the hospitality extended to the Honolulu delegation was truly heartfelt, he says.

"I'm very thankful to Ilocos Norte Governor Michael Marcos Keon for naming me an adopted son of that wonderful province, the ancestral home of so many Hawaii-based Filipinos and Filipino-Americans," Hannemann says.

The Honolulu delegation also met with sister-city Mayor Michael Fariñas in Laog to bolster the cities' special relation-



Mayor Hannemann, his staff and local volunteers helped distribute humanitarian relief supplies to residents of Pasig who were displaced by recent flooding.

ship. The group visited with Ilocos Sur Governor DV Savellano at Port Salomague, where the sakadas left for Hawaii's plantations in 1946. Cabugao Mayor Diocesa Suero joined in a special tribute to the sakadas.

During lunch at a local beach resort in honor of the Honolulu delegation, Hannemann found that he and Governor Savellano have much in common.

"I discovered that he likes to sing as much as I do," Hannemann says.

Also very memorable were similar meetings in Badoc with Mayor Thomas Torralba; in Batac with Mayor Jeffrey Jubal

Nalupta; in San Nicolas with Mayor Alfredo Valdez; in Pasuquin with Mayor Oscar Aguinaldo; and in Bacara

with Mayor Nicomedes Dela Cruz. Hannemann was adopted as son of Pasuquin and as an honorary citizen of San Nicolas.

The grand opening of the San Nicolas people's market was held in conjunction with the Honolulu delegation's visit. Thousands of local residents were treated to a special presentation and performances.

In Cebu, Mayor Tomas Osmena and Vice-Mayor Michael Rama held a special ceremony to reaffirm Cebu's sister-city relationship with Honolulu. Hannemann made a presentation at the Trade Mission conference and business seminar that was very well-received.

Joel Uy, managing director of the Cebu Investment Promotion Center, credited meetings with Hannemann and his staff in 1992—when Hannemann served as director of the Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development and

Tourism—with helping Uy formulate a tourism strategy for Cebu that has been very successful. That year also saw DBEDT's first partnership with the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii on economic development efforts with the Philippines.

Honolulu City Councilmember Nestor Garcia and state Representatives Joey Manahao, Ryan Yamane and Kyle Yamashiro also participated in the Trade Mission while in Cebu.

Hannemann said one of the most poignant segments of the trip was a Veterans Day visit to the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial, where 16,636 Americans and 570 Filipinos who served with U.S. forces during World War II are interred. Another 36,285 Americans who remain missing-in-action, or who were buried at sea, are also honored at the memorial, which was established shortly after World War II on the grounds of the former Fort William McKinley U.S. military reservation.

Overall, Hannemann says the trade mission was a wonderful success.

"We strengthened our ties with great people and communities that share strong family, cultural and business ties with Honolulu," he says. "I'm very grateful to the Filipino Chamber and all those from Hawaii and the Philippines who worked hard to make the trade mission and all other aspects of our visit so meaningful and successful."

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Flores Speaks on Multi-Cultural Upbringing

Honolulu businessman Eddie Flores, Jr. was the keynote speaker at the Hawaii Heritage Center Annual Meeting and Program on November 21, 2009 from 10 am - 1 pm at Hee Hing Restaurant on Kapahulu Avenue.

Flores shared his story of "Growing Up Half Chinese and Half Filipino in Hong Kong and Hawaii" as well as the cultural influences and prejudices he experienced as a child up to the present.

Flores is a first generation American who realized the "American Dream" through hard work, creative and gutsy entrepreneurship and smart marketing. He was born in Hong Kong to a Chinese mother and Filipino father



Eddie Flores, Jr.

and came to Hawaii as a 16 year old immigrant.

His parents' influences, values and traditions have guided Flores to become an exceptionally successful business leader. He is CEO and President of I&L Drive-Inn/I&L Hawaiian Barbecue, Chairman Emeritus of the Filipino Community Center and a director on several boards including the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Goodwill Industries of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Heritage Center is a nonprofit educational organization founded in 1980 to preserve and perpetuate knowledge of the history and heritage of Hawaii's unique diverse multicultural community.

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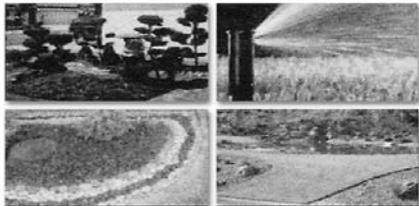
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COMMENTARY

Middle America, Take Back Your Economy

By Edwin Quinabon

Now do you fix something that cannot be understood fully?

This is the challenge President Barack Obama faces even after the passage of a \$787 billion economic recovery package, the largest stimulus program in our nation's history. The shadow of doubt over fixing the deepest U.S. recession since the 1920s has less to do with President Obama's abilities, but is more telling of a global world economy steeped with complexities.

Simplified economics pushed forth by the mainstream media has most Americans convinced that sub-prime loans, unscrupulous banking, naive homebuyers and the GOP's deregulation policies (especially during George W. Bush's second term) were responsible for tanking the economy.

But if conditions were as simple as $1+2=3$, with sub-primes now gone, banks held to greater regulation, faulty loans in foreclosure and Bush dethroned, the U.S. economy would have already shown marked signs of a rebound. But Wall Street knows that systemic deficiencies remain and economic indicators will only straighten when greater clarity prevails.

The reality is no one really knows what it will take to speed up recovery, just as the Fed and greatest economic minds (Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, in-

cluded) failed to forecast this financial bust in the first place.

Systemic Fallacies

What are we fixing anyway? At its core is a conceptual problem, an economic model weak in addressing sustainability and jobs. The Global World Economic model must find optimal means to support billions of workers and consumers at minimal expense.

This challenge is not being met across the board internationally as the distribution of wealth widens from unimaginable riches by a few on one spectrum to an empty-fisted majority reaching for scintillating crumbs on the other end.

The Global World Economic model cannot succeed for one major reason. While the world's economies continue to merge into blocks (EU, ASEAN, NAFTA, etc.) or become infiltrated by way of neocolonialism (foreign-owned economies), sovereign nations maintain their own independent political states. This political plurality makes a one-world economy inefficient for countries to respond to important policy features in trade and the after-effects of job outsourcing.

Multinational corporations have no loyalties where profit margins are concerned and do not succumb to nationalism or to any one or set of countries' needs. A typical example plays out this way: a company originates in a U.S. city and prospers for years. Then executives decide to move to Mexico to cut costs and move yet another time to the Philippines or China for

even cheaper labor and favorable tax laws.

Companies that were built up are now left abandoned. Government helped to build infrastructure and extended large corporation tax breaks for multiple years to get foreign investors to do business in their communities. But as soon as some other location seems itself to be more profitable, investors leave, along with their jobs.

Hybrid Economies

Politically, what can be done? The U.S. must develop policies that protect its people from the adverse effects of globalism. Sounds easy? Not so. This hands-on, regulated approach to governing our national economy attacks the nucleus of capitalism.

Its ideologues, mostly comprised of GOP party-members, defend fervently a hands-off philosophy toward free market practices, until of course asked by corporate giants to intervene. During President Obama's inaugural year, these same free-reefer supporters of the market silenced their political hands-off demagoguery in the government bailout of major corporations such as GM, AIG and numerous giant Wall Street banks.

This hypocritical, desperate act actually highlights two things: first the gravity of this current recession that business cannot carry on as usual; and second, that it's time to give way to a new era of hybrid, mixed economies.

Hybrid economies (a fusion of free market capitalism and government socio-economic intervention) has become the new

safety net model working alongside the Global World Economy. All throughout the EU, Japan, and Canada, hybrid economies have become the standard. Gone are the days of purism. Just as attempts at pure socialism failed during the fall of the old Soviet Union and eastern European economies in 1989, so too is pure capitalism unfit to meet today's challenges.

The harmful consequence of holding on to this archaic practice is evidently apparent in the banking deregulation fiasco that left tens of thousands of homeowners in the U.S. foreclosed.

Strengthening the Middle Class

Essential to a successful hybrid economy is investing in communities and building the country's middle class. Two out of every three middle class families in the U.S. are at risk of completely falling out of the middle class, according to a new study from Demos and the Institute for Assets and Social Policy at Brandeis University.

The study states that 13 percent of middle class families have enough assets to cover most living expenses for nine months if they lose their regular income, while 79 percent don't have enough to cover even three months of living expenses. More than one out of five middle class families (21 percent) have less than \$100 a week left after covering their essential expenses.

Cutting expenses is where social intervention can help both individuals and the overall economy. One major expense Americans grapple with is the high cost of health care, which is responsible for more than 60 percent of personal bankruptcies.

While GOP purists of capitalism continue their anti-social intervention scare tactics, it's become more apparent that major health care reform must be adopted before millions of others continue to lose health insurance due to out-of-reach, exorbitant high premiums. If moral justice and compassion are not enough reasons for reforming health care, GOP capitalists must face the undeniable truth that capitalism depends heavily on the middle and working classes to generate profits.

When the middle and working classes are in depressed con-

ditions for long periods of time, as they are now struggling to pay for costly healthcare and other basic needs, whom can profits benefit? The savings to families with health care reform will be at the very least spur spending.

Strengthening Small and Medium Size Businesses

Another key component to a healthier economy is shaping a prosperous environment for small to middle size businesses. Some steps to take may include lowering interest rates on small business loans (should be government-mandated in exchange for federally insured guarantees), increasing tax credits to companies employing small numbers of workers, lowering taxes on imported goods through fair trade, and devising a new comprehensive tax scheme for small- to medium-sized business.

The current economic system is devised to benefit large corporations. Interestingly, periods of stagnation (or recessions) are first caused when huge corporations scale-down employment due to smaller profit margins; but in the end when the economy rebounds, these same monolith corporations benefit most as their smaller market competitors (small to medium sized businesses) either go out of business or scale down to an even smaller, non-competitive size during stagnation.

So a top heavy system is perpetuated with the elimination of real competition whenever the economy goes soft. What does this translate to?—a greater reliance on large corporations and an undiversified economy susceptible to even more recessions (occurring much more frequently). After many cycles of this same process, it's by no accident that the typical, local "mom-and-pop" store is fast disappearing.

Power to the People, Purge Your Mind of Myths

The question is why does middle America allow itself to fall further behind? The great American myth of mobility is true enough to enable people to get ahead, even with statistics showing the opposite for the vast majority of people. Americans are taught there's room for people to rise to a higher income bracket through educa-

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

PMAH Holds Medical Mission in Isabela

The Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) held a medical mission in Santiago City, Isabela, Philippines from September 7-11, 2009.

A small team of volunteer doctors, nurses and laypersons treated approximately 2,888 patients during a five-day period. The PMAH Ohana also donated about 60 boxes of much-needed medical supplies.

Participating physicians included Elenita Alvarez (OB-GYN), Glorifin Belmonte



(psychiatry/IM), Chao Chen (OB-GYN), Tak Ming Chen (anesthesiologist), Amelia Jacang (pediatrics), Nick Joaquin (internal medicine),



Douglas Johnson (internal medicine/dermatology), Thomas Namiki (pathologist/IM), Fernando Ona (IM/gastroenterology),

Celia Ona (psychiatry/neurology) and Remedios Sonson (OB-GYN).

They were assisted by the following nurses: Lesley

Bakke, Marianela Jacob, Stephanie Namuo, Paul Ross, Kathy Sassy and Leovi Vizcarra. Support personnel included Van Diesel, Greg McIntosh and Imelda Joaquin.

Unused medical supplies were donated to the mayor of Santiago City for distribution to local community health centers.

Local physicians and city officials held a farewell party at Santiago City Museum on the final day of the medical mission. PMAH volunteers received much-deserved awards of appreciation for their hard work and generosity.

COMMENTARY (CONT.)

tion. So Americans tend to vote as if they were guaranteed to be the next nouveau riche.

But the reality is numbers don't lie and the few exceptional individuals who do make it should think twice before dressing into that "emperor's new-clothes" political suit that only helps to keep middle America down.

Recessions and market instability are actually permanent features of today's capitalist

Global World Economy and fusion economies. Where the economy can flourish, is where social interventions are in place to provide balance to capitalism's brutal, Darwinian nature. Middle America cannot continue to carry on in ignorance. They must defend social intervention policies and support small to medium size businesses as shrewd consumers.

The first message to send to naysayers that Middle America

will no longer tolerate business as usual is to pass a historic healthcare reform bill.

News update: While the nation's economy continues to crawl, many Wall Street giants that received billions in government bailout money (taxpayers money) announced that it will hand out billions in bonuses to their top executives (an end of year practice that do not include their base salary and other perks). According to a report

from financial news agency Bloomberg, Goldman Sachs, for example, has set aside \$6.8 billion for bonuses, and Morgan Stanley, \$6.4 billion.

In healthcare news, the U.S. House passed a healthcare reform bill but the Senate is still short of a 60 majority to push for a "public option." Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut threatened to filibuster a bill containing a public option. Con-

necticut is home to some of the largest health insurers and pharmaceutical companies. The senator, as well as many Republican members and blue dog Democrats, continue to receive substantial campaign donations by powerful health insurers and pharmaceutical companies.

About the writer: EDWIN QUINABO is a political scientist and small business owner.

Congratulations and Mabuhay to Hawaii Filipino Chronicle on Your 17th Year Anniversary! We wish you more years of excellent reporting!



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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii to Host 2011 APEC Meeting



The 2009 APEC Summit in Singapore

Honolulu has been selected to host the 2011 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Ministerial and Leaders Meeting—the first APEC summit in the U.S. since 1993.

“As the host site of the 2011 APEC Summit, Hawaii will be able to showcase its heritage, natural beauty and strategic location to a global audience,” says U.S. Rep. Neil Abercrombie. He and other members of Hawaii’s congressional delegation signed joint letters urging the Obama administration to support Hawaii’s bid to host the 2011 APEC summit.

The APEC meeting is the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region. APEC’s 21 members account for approximately 41 percent of the world’s population, approximately 54 percent of world Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and about 44 percent of world trade.

The 2009 APEC meeting was held earlier this month in Singapore. President Barack Obama, who was among the participants, is looking forward to welcoming fellow APEC leaders to Hawaii in 2011. He pledged that under his administration, the U.S. will be an active and engaged partner in APEC and the region.

Obama and Hawaii’s economic ties to the Asia-Pacific, according to Rep. Abercrombie, will be beneficial to the U.S.

“President Obama views APEC as an essential forum that will play a major role in nurturing economic and governmental relationships between the U.S. and the Asia-Pacific region,” he says. “The president will be able to speak in personal terms about America’s commitment to the region because of his ties to Hawaii, our people and our diversity that is rooted in the history and culture of Asia and the Pacific.”

APEC’s 21 Member Economies are Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of the Philippines, The Russian Federation, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, the U.S. and Vietnam.

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Four Immigration-Related Programs Extended

2012. These programs relate to the non-minister religious workers, the Conrad 30, the EB5 investor visa and the E verify.

Surviving spouses will be able to self-petition for their green card even though the marriage to the deceased U.S. citizen lasted for less than two years.

It will also allow surviving family members to continue the processing of their adjustment of status applications provided they were residing in the U.S. at the time of the death of the petitioner and that they continue to reside in the U.S.

The non-religious worker program provides for special immigrant status under the em-

ployment-based 4th preference category to those who work in a professional capacity in a religious vocation or occupation, or work in a religious vocation or occupation for an organization or its nonprofit affiliate.

The applicant should have been for the past two years a member of a religious denomination which has a bonafide nonprofit religious organization in the U.S. and who has been carrying on the vocation, professional work or other work continuously for the past two years.

The Conrad 30 program grants each state the authority to issue waiver recommendation of the two year foreign residence requirement for 30 international medical graduates who serve in medically underserved areas.

Such waiver is needed to en-

able an international medical graduate to change to H-1B or adjust his/her status to permanent resident. The program, according to American Hospital Association, has been the "only source of healthcare" for more than 20 million Americans who live in underserved areas.

The EB-5 immigrant investor program refers to investors in regional centers designated by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). These centers are entities that focus on specific geographic areas and seek to promote economic growth.

This fast way to obtain a green card requires a capital investment of \$500,000 or higher in any of these regional centers. There are currently 45 centers

and 3,000 visa numbers are reserved annually for the investors.

The E-verify is an electronic verification system used by employers to check the immigration status of newly-hired employees by accessing the files of the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security.

This controversial program has been criticized by immigrant advocates. Senator Robert Menendez opposed it in the past because of its tendency "to misidentify U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents and it can create a financial burden on small businesses."

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

President Obama signed into law last October 28 the 2010 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act which eliminates the so-called widow penalty and allows surviving family members to process their permanent residence applications to completion notwithstanding the death of their petitioner.

The new law also extends four immigration-related programs through September 30,

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from **TEAM CACHOLA**
Team Cachola



(l-r): Joseph, Romy, Shane, Aiden & Earl (babies); Efinda, Aylo, Lyfa & Karen.

Post by Amy Cacho, Group Captain, PMA Ballis-Treas, HI #4871

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Pasko sa Fil-Com!

Want to experience a traditional Filipino Christmas celebration? If so, make plans for the annual Pasko sa Fil-Com, scheduled for Sunday, December 13, 2009 from 2 pm – 7 pm.

This year's theme is "Tayo'y magbigayan!" (let's give and share). Pasko sa Fil-

Com will feature entertainment by the Royal Hawaiian Band, KaniKapila Singers, Mahalohalo Kolintang, Himig at Indak, the Silangan Singers and others. For the artistically-inclined, there will be contests for the best paper, tabletop Christmas tree, Christmas tree ornament and daigong (Christmas caroling).

In addition, the event will feature re-enactments of the Christmas story, traditional Filipino foods served during Christmas, various children's games and activities, prizes and other activities.

For more details on this event, please contact the Fil-Com Center at 680-0451 or Raymond Liongson at 381-4315.

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BANAGHARI

By Ruth Elynia Mabanglo, Ph.D.

Naroon ako. Naranasan ko. Nasaksitan ko. Tatlong kalupitan ng kalikasang bumugbog at sumalanta sa

maraming bahagi ng Luzon. Tatlong kalupitan ng kalikasang bumawi ng libu-libong buhay at milyun-milyong kabuhayan. Una si Ondoy. Pangalawa si Ramil. Pangatlo si Santi.

Biernes nagsimula ang ulan. Sabi ng matatanda, masama kapag nagsimula ng Biyernes ang ulan, magsisiyam. Ibig sabihin, parang nobena, siyam na araw magtatagal ang bagyo. Hindi naman inabot ng gaonoong katagal si Ondoy, ngunit sa dalawa pang kasundo, tila nagsiyam nga ang ulan.

Inabot ako ng bagyong Ondoy at na-stranded sa De La Salle University. Sabado ng umaga nang tumungo ako roon para magklase. Alas otso ang klase hanggang alas onse. Magdamag nang umulan noon pero pwedeng pang tumawid sa mga

Kuwentong Bagyo

Kalupitan ng Kalikasan at Kabayanihan

kalsada. Gayunman, habang tumatanghali, palakas nang palakas ang ulan. Nang bumaba ako ng gusali, nagsimula nang bumaha sa loob ng La Salle. Noon ko lang nakita ang inabot ng tubig ang loob ng kampus.

Tuwang-tuwa ang mga estudyante, niretratuhan ang baha. Na-excite sila. Hindi nila akalaging papasukin ng tubig ang “mighty La Salle”. Dumaan kami sa gilid ng mga gusaling mataas, nakatawid kami sa ibang bilding para mananghali. Habang kumakain, narinig naming kinansela na ang mga klase. Panay ang text ng mga bata sa cellphone, nagreklamo na sila. Nagpupulit umuwi ang ilang estudyanteng may kotse pero hanggang bewang na ang taas ng tubig sa Taft Avenue.

Nang makababa kami mula sa kantinan nasa ikalawang palapag, mataas na mataas na ang tubig sa loob ng La Salle. Parang kaybilis ng paglaki ng tubig. Walang tigil din at parang nagpapalisahan ang malalaking patak ng ulan.

Ilang guro ang nagtangkang umuwi. May nakabagtas na lalaki, iniwan ang kotse sa garaje dahil isa siyang ama at sa Malabon pa uwi, isang bahaing lugar. May isang taga-Cavite na



bumalik. Walang masakyan. May ilang gaya ko na nagpasyang maiwan na lamang doon. Bumalik kami sa aming upisnang nasa fourth floor. Nagsimulang alamin ang mga balita sa internet. Manaknakang sumisilip sa bintana at nakikitang lalong lumalaki ang tubig. Resign na kami. Nang mag-aalas sais na ng gabi, gutom na kaming limang naroon. Nabaliitan namin nagpapakain ang mga La Sallian Brothers sa may kapilya, pero ayaw naming bumaba. Nagtatawag iyong isang kasamahan namin sa mga karinderya sa condominium nila, may nagaupaik namang maghathi.

Iyong isang kasama namin nasa telepono, palakad-lakad.

Pinasok ng tubig ang bahay niya sa San Jose Del Monte. Stress siya. Nababaha. Iniutos sa mga kasambahay na iaakyat ang mga kasangkapan sa itaas ng bahay. Sa internet, nabaliitan namin na sa Marikina, sa Provident Village, hanggang leeg na ang tubig. May isang nagsabi sa Facebook na iyong nanay niya kailangang sagipin sa may Quezon City dahil wala raw kasama.

Sino nga ba itong sina Ondoy, Ramil at Santi? Sumipot nang buong giting at lakas—ulan at hangin—iwinasigang ang laha! Daming kalye ang binaha sa NCR (National Capital Region), daming tulay ang nawasak sa rumaragasang tubig na pinawalalan sa La Mesa Dam, Angat Dam at Ipo Dam. Tumaas nang tumaas ang baha at imposible nang lakarin. Nang dumating naman si Ramil, ginulpi nang husto ang Pangasinan, Ilokos, Cagayan, Aurora at iba pa. Maraming dam din ang nagpawala ng tubig. Si Santi, hindi rin nagpatawad, kinulata ang mga bahay at mamamayang ni hindi pa malay makabangon mula sa trahedyang ni Ondoy.

Nakakaisindak na ang mga tanawing inilalarawan ng telebisyon. Mga pamilyang nasa bubong ng bahay nila, naghihintay ng saklo. May mag-anak na naging malakas ang loob na suinging ang hanggang-leeg-na-tubig, kapit-kapit nang ang tabiki ng bahay nila'y ibagsak ng tubig. Umakyat sila sa bahay na mataas; may naglagay ng mga bata at sanggol sa malalaking planganang plastik at itinutalak iyon sa baha; may sumakay sa ibabaw ng airbed at ginawa iyong salbabida. May mabubuting loob na nagtangkang magligtas ng mga kapitbahay. Isang lalaki ang lumangoy sa baha at isa-isang pinuntahan ang mga kapitbahay niya at dinala niya sa evacuation center. May animnapu ang nailigtas niya, pero nung huli, hindi na siya bumalik, tinangay siya ng tubig at di na nakita.

Pagkaraan ng Ondoy, isang kaibigan ko ang nag-iyak dahil lahat ng kanyang mga pinakainigatang retrato ng kanyang kasal, binyag at gradwasyon ng mga anak ay nilamon ng tubig. Hindi na pwedeng i-restore. May isang pamilyang binubuo ng anim na katao ang nasiraan ng bahay at upang iligtas ang sarili, pinutol ang tatlong puno ng saging sa harap nila. Itinali

roon ang kanilang papag at sinakyan upang makaligtas sa baha. Ngunit inalon-inalon ang balsa nila at parang basong iniligwak ang lamang tubig. Nagkahiwa-hiwalay ang mag-anak. Iyong ina na lamang ang natira, hanggang ngayon, hinahanap pa niya ang pamilya niya.

Si Gilda Cordero Fernando ay nagkuwento ng tungkol sa isang patay sa isang bahagi ng Quezon City ang pinaglalamayayan at dahil binaha, lumutang-lutang ang ataul. Nawala sa ataul ang patay at nabiliisan siya bilang isa sa mga biktima ng baha. May isang bahay namang may third floor at pinutakti ng tao dahil mataas. Sikisindaw ang mga tao kaya nakatayo na lang ang lahat. Nang mauhaw sila, ipinasang isang bottled water pero sinabihan ang lahat na basain lamang ang mga labi nila para hindi maubos agad ang tubig. Sang-ayon pa rin kay Gilda, isang hydrocephalic na babae (lumalaki ang ulo) ang sakay ng isang wheelchair pero hanggang baywang ang tubig. Nawalan ng bait ang babae at nagsisiyag. Tumaob ang wheelchair at bago nasaklolohan ng mga kaanak niya, namatay sa pagkaluod. Kinalalang ilagay ang bangkay sa isang batya na itinutalak ng pamilya habang lumalad sa malalim ng baha.

Sang-ayon naman sa TV, may isang 18 anyos na manlalangoy ang nagligtas sa 30 katao. Dahil sa sobrang pagod, hindi niya nalabanan ang malakas na agos, bumalandra siya sa pader at namatay. May isa pang nagkuwento na may isang grupong nagpe-prayer meeting sa isang kapilya ang nasalakab ng baha. Para maligtas, lumambitin silang lahat sa aranya ng simbahan. Kinuha sila ng rescue team sa pagbutas ng bubong ng kapilya na paghugot sa kanila nang isa-isa. May nakita naman kami sa telebisyon na maraming taong, nagsiya sa puno. Labimpitong oras sila doon (17 hours) kaya inaakyat na raw sila ng mga ahas. (Siguro nagtataka ang mga ahas kung baht inagaawan sila ng bahay ng mga tao.)

Hindi lang tao ang mga nadisgrasya. Mga materyal na gamit din. Sa Quezon City, may isang konstruksyong marahil ay tatayuan ng condominium. Mahigit dalawangampung talam-

(continued on page 22)

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SOCIETY PAGE



L-R: Charles Sonido, Justin Chun, Father Ericson Josue & Dr. Arnold Villafuerte during a graduation party in Kaneohe



L-R: Ofelia Lagat, Eivira Gabriel, Tommy Mc Norton & Mambo Vinzons during a party in Kaneohe



L to R: Drs. Oliver Arquero, Mark Joven, Nestro Herana and Dean Aguilang at a Kaneohe restaurant during a farewell party

OTHER EVENTS



L-R: Frank Catalan, Rose & Al Sabangan, Pete & Nilda Quindara at a graduation party in Kaneohe



L-R: Dr. Joseph, Dr. Gloria Madamba, Dr. Ramon Sy, Drs. Ely and Antonio Tan and Greta Pecson having an enjoyable time at a Windward dinner party

PMAH AWARDS



Dr. Elenita Alvarez with Emme Alcan during the PMAH Awards night last month



Jaime & Kathy Adaoa at a dinner function at Prince Hotel



Dr. Glorfin Belmonte with mom during PMAH awards night last month



Drs. Fernando and Celia Ona, Mylene and Dr. Fred Pacpaco



L-R Standing: Charlie Aquinaldo, Dr. Dan Ablan, Dr. Ray Romero & Dr. Richard Kua; L-R Seating: Dr. Charlie Sonido (Physician of the Year awardee) and Dr. Edward Alquero



Dr. Arnold Villafuerte and Dr. S.Y. Tan (guest lecturer for the event)



Dr. Mercedes Kua and Dr. Amelia Jacang (Meritorious Service awardee)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Pinoy Named CNN 'Hero of the Year'

By Paolo Romero /
Monday, Nov. 23, 2009

MANILA, Philippines – A Filipino has received international recognition for his innovative effort in educating poor children.

Efren Peñaflorida, who started the “Kariton Klassroom” to bring education to poor children, has been named CNN Hero of the Year, the cable news network announced yesterday.

According to the CNN website, Peñaflorida was selected after getting the highest number of online votes, which reached 2.75 million in seven weeks.

The 28-year-old teacher from Cavite City bested nine other contenders from different countries.

Peñaflorida received the award from actress Eva Mendes at the conclusion of “CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute” held at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood on Saturday night in the US.

He received \$100,000 cash to continue his work with his group, Dynamic Teen Company, according to CNN.

The cash prize is on top of the \$25,000 bonus that Peñaflorida received after he

was included in the top 10 CNN Heroes.

“Our planet is filled with heroes, young and old, rich and poor, man, woman of different colors, shapes and sizes. We are one great tapestry,” Peñaflorida said in his acceptance speech before an audience of about 3,000.

Peñaflorida urged the crowd to “be the hero to the next one in need.” He also called on them to “serve well, serve others above yourself and be happy to serve.”

“As I always tell to my volunteers... you are the change that you dream as I am the change that I dream and collectively we are the change that this world needs to be,” Peñaflorida said.

As a child, Peñaflorida chose education over gang life in Cavite City and vowed to create a way for other children to make the same choice.

Peñaflorida created a program that brought books to children in slums and on the streets, and the 10,000 members of his Dynamic Teen Company have brought reading, writing and hygiene to 1,500 youngsters.

“My message to children of all races, please, to embrace learning and love it for it will



Efren Peñaflorida

embrace and love you back and enable you to change your world,” Peñaflorida said.

Peñaflorida’s group was first recognized after it won the Bayaning Pilipino award for its heroic work in bringing education to poor children in Cavite.

Since 1997, more than 10,000 volunteers are now helping in educating more than 1,500 kids in depressed areas in Cavite.

The group later launched the “Kariton Klassroom,” an innovative way of bringing the classroom to the children in the depressed areas.

The pushcart classroom is now complete with teaching aids, blackboards and even folding tables and chairs to allow children to sit and read materials provided in a mini-library – a far cry from the humble effort of

loading the books and school supplies in large plastic bags.

Peñaflorida now earns a living as a public school teacher in Cavite but still continues his pushcart classrooms on weekends where volunteers have started teaching the streeturchins of Manila.

Peñaflorida recalled that he and other volunteers had to endure discrimination and even being branded as “trash collectors” with their pushcarts whenever they carry out their noble mission.

The public, however, took notice of Peñaflorida’s ingenious way of bring education to poor children by nominating him to the CNN’s list of heroes for this year.

Peñaflorida was a member of Club 8586, a youth group in Cavite that financed his elementary and high school education.

When CNN early this year announced its annual search for Heroes, Club 8586 nominated Peñaflorida.

CNN’s Blue Ribbon Panel sifted through 9,000 nominees from over 100 countries, and soon narrowed down its choices to 28. On Oct. 1 (Oct. 2 in Manila), CNN announced its top 10 finalists for its Hero of the Year. Peñaflorida made it.

A brief moment of triumph

Peñaflorida said his inclusion in CNN’s Top 10 “gave Filipinos a breath of fresh air, a brief moment to cheer and celebrate,” since the Philippines was still reeling from the week-long floods and devastation wrought by storms “Ondoy” and “Pepeng.”

During gala night, the top 10 CNN Heroes, chosen by a blue-ribbon panel from an initial pool of more than 9,000 viewer nominations, were each honored with a documentary tribute and introduced by a celebrity presenter, according to the Web site. Each of the top 10 Heroes received \$25,000.

The finalists were selected by a panel that included former US secretary of state Colin Powell, Whoopi Goldberg and Ted Turner. The winner was chosen online by the public, with nearly 3 million votes cast.

Grammy Award-winning artist Carrie Underwood, R&B crooner Maxwell and British pop sensation Leona Lewis performed during the gala event.

CNN anchor Anderson Cooper hosted the event that would be shown on Nov. 26, at 9 p.m. EST on CNN.

(www.philstar.com)

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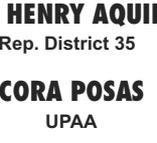
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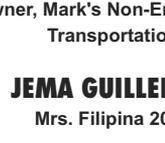
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PHILIPPINE NEWS

US Court: FM Victims Entitled to \$35-Million Deposits

By Rainier Allan Ronda / Monday, Nov. 23, 2009

MANILA, Philippines – A New York State Supreme Court justice has ruled that the 10,000 human rights victims during the 20-year rule of the late President Ferdinand Marcos can lay claim to the \$35-million Arelma deposits to partially satisfy the \$2-billion indemnity awarded to them by a jury in 1995.

Failed New York securities firm Merrill Lynch held the funds for Arelma.

New York State Supreme Court Justice Charles Ramos said a US high court ruling is-

sued two years ago, which upheld the Philippine government's sovereign immunity and right to claim all confiscated ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses, was merely "informative" and does not bind the New York State Supreme Court.

"The Supreme Court's interpretation of federal procedure, while informative, is not binding on New York courts," Ramos said in his ruling dated Nov. 9.

Ramos explained that Marcos human rights victims could forge ahead with their claim pending before his court and seek the turnover to them of the funds being held by Merrill Lynch, even though they have failed to join the action by the

Philippine government, which has a competing claim on the deposits.

In his order, Ramos set a pre-trial conference for a hearing on Dec. 15.

The Philippine government and its Presidential Commission on Good Government have refused to come into the court as a party, invoking sovereign immunity upheld by the US Supreme Court in a landmark ruling two years ago.

Ramos, however, said that the court could proceed with hearing the case despite the Philippine government's refusal to participate, explaining that New York's joinder statutes had permitted the case to go without them.

Loretta Rosales, a former party-list lawmaker and member of the 10,000 human rights victims, hailed the New York State Supreme Court's ruling.

"This is good news for us. This means we can now make our case before the New York State Supreme Court and move that the \$35-million Arelma deposit is forfeited in our favor to settle part of the \$2-billion compensation awarded to us," Rosales told THE STAR.

The late deposited president Marcos, with the assistance of cronies Filipino-Chinese businessman Jose Yao Campos and Swiss banker Jean Luis Sunier, set up the Merrill Lynch account in September 1972. (www.philtar.com)

PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE (Cont.)

(Kahulugan... from page 16)

pakan ang lalim ng hinukay ng mga trabahador. Nang bumaha, bumigay ang bakal na tarangkahan ng konstruksyon. Isa-isang tinanyag ng tubig sa pagragsasa sa hukay na yaon ang mga kotse, van at iba pang sasakyan. Sa Novaliches naman, may isang katatayang bungalaw ang inililing ng landslide. Mayroon namang isang pamilyang nakatulong nang mahimbig at nang magingis, nawala ang hagdang ng bahay nila. Lulutang-lutang sa baha ang kanilang mga kama, computer, telebisyon, at mga muhebles. Piano lang daw ang hindi napalutang ng tubig.

Marami pang samutsaring kuwento... kulang sa espasyo ang buong libro. Pero sa lahat ng ito, nakapangigingbabaw ang bayanihan ng mga tao. Totoo, maraming nakapagtanto kung bakit naging malupit ang kalikasan. Alam nilang hindi nila ito minahal. Nagkalat ang basura, walang mainam na sistema ng sewerage, pagtotroso, kawalan ng kahandaan kahit alam nilang bagyuhin ang bansa. Ngunit sa huli, sa harap ng kalamidad, sa harap ng kamatayan, pantay ang mahirap at mayaman. Maaaring may mariwasang ang gustong iligtas sa aparador ay ang koleksyon ng mga bag na Gucci o Coach; mayroon namang nag-aalala sa kanyang sasakyan, ngunit sumuko silang lahat sa pwersa ng kalikasan.

Nakita ng mundo na kahit mahirap, dumokot sa balsa at nag-abot ng ambag sa mga dukha. Maraming nagbigay ng delata, damit, pagkain, mga kumot mga gamot. Lahat ng estasyon ng telebisyon, himpilan ng radyo, mga diyaryo, simbahan, malalaking unibersidad, Non-Government Organizations, militar, iba't ibang kumpanya at pribadong mamamayan ang bukas-palad na nagtutulung-tulong para magbigay ng tirahan sa mga "bakwit", magpakain, magdonasyon, magboluntaryo, mangilak, at kung anu-ano pa.

Makinig lamang sa ABS-CBN at GMA, malalamang milyon-milyon ang nakolekta - pera at iba pa.

Minsan, pa, napatunayan ng mga Pilipino, walang nag-iisa; lagi, may isang magbabayani, magpapabayani, magiging bayani. Ito ang kaluluwa ng bayanihan. Sa kabila ng mga inggitan, iringan, away at galit ng mga mamamayan, lulutang at lulutang ang pagtutulungan. Ito ang lakas ng ating lahi, ng ating bansa.

Happy 17th Anniversary Hawaii Filipino Chronicle

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Warmest Aloha & Mabuhay ~



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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Filipino Catholic Clubs Hold 59th Convention

The Diocesan Congress of Filipino Catholic Clubs held its 59th Convention from November 20-22, 2009 at the Pagoda Hotel. The theme for the three-day conference was "Here I Am Lord."

This year's host was the Oahu Council of Filipino Catholic Clubs (OCFCC), headed by DCFCC Spiritual Director, Rev. Peter Dumag and President Prudencio Ferido from Our Lady of Sorrows, Wahiawa.

Delegates from the Island

Councils on Hawaii, Kauai and Maui deliberated in workshops on "Faith Journey through Life's Challenges" and "Vocation to Priesthood, Deaconate & Religious Life." Discussion on the table will be "What is our FCC Mission?"

Reports from the Standing FCC Committees on accomplishments and recommendations on improving the FCC's role were processed and recorded. There was also entertainment from various participating units. Distinguished speakers Iwice Tamashiro from the

Catholic Social Ministry and Charlene Cuaremas graced the luncheon and evening break.

Lt. Gov. James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr. spoke on the topic "The Challenges of a Catholic Public Leader" during the evening banquet on November 21. Later that evening, Fr. Ernest Claes awarded from each Council were recognized and the FCC Individual of the Year was presented with the Osmundo Calip Founder's Plaque. Rev. Calip founded and organized the Filipino Catholic Clubs in Hawaii in 1948.

Consul General Visits Maui

Philippine Consul General Leoncio Cardenas and the consulate staff recently traveled to Maui to meet with government officials and to conduct "Alay sa Kababayan," or its Consular Outreach Program.

Consul General Cardenas paid a courtesy visit to Mayor Tavares on November 13, 2009. Among the topics of discussion was a Sister City agreement currently in the works between Badoc, Ilocos Norte and Maui. He also met



Consul General Cardenas and Maui Mayor Tavares (both seated) with the Maui County Economic Development Team.

with members of the Maui Economic Development Team and the Maui County Council.

During their three-day stay on the island, consulate staff processed 250 passport applica-

tions and 10 notarial services. Some 26 Filipinos required their Philippine citizenship under the Retention and Reacquisition Act of 2003 during a formal oath taking ceremony. Herman Andaya, President of the Maui Filipino Community Council, thanked consulate officials for bringing the team to Maui and saving residents the cost of traveling to Honolulu for the filing of application of their passports and other consular needs.

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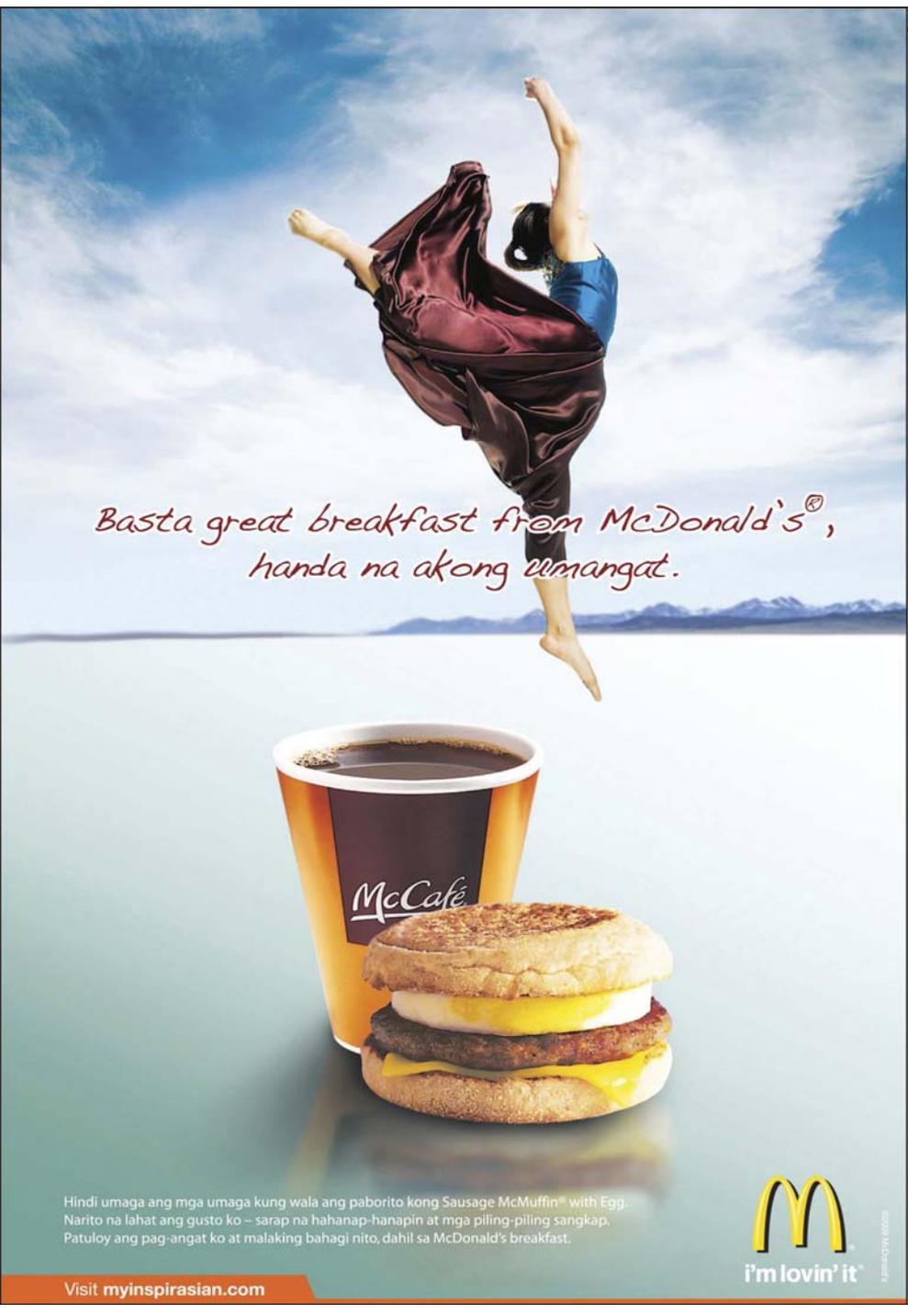
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