

HAWAII

FILIPINO CHRONICLE

Celebrating Our **20th** Year Anniversary!

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ NOVEMBER 17, 2012 ◆

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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EDITORIAL

Giving Thanks for Our Many Blessings

November is a month for thankfulness and we certainly have much to be thankful for—our families, our jobs, our health, the privilege of living in the Land of Opportunity—to name just a few. Here in the U.S., Thanksgiving Day has morphed into a day that competes for our attention—football games, parades, Black Friday shopping deals and sumptuous plates of food (including an estimated 45 million turkeys which will be consumed). While these are all commendable, there is much more to Thanksgiving Day than meets the eye.

The first Pilgrims who in 1621 gathered to observe Thanksgiving did so in the midst of an uncertain future, yet they celebrated with grateful hearts for what they had. The same can be said for many people even today who face an uncertain future. Many are still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Sandy. Others continue to struggle under the load of heavy personal debt, bleak job prospects and other economic woes that seem poised to overwhelm them. Whatever we suffer here in the U.S., it still pales in comparison to what millions of people around the world are facing—hunger, rampant disease and lack of basic life necessities like shelter and safe drinking water.

Like the early Pilgrims in the New World did, we encourage you this Thanksgiving Day to take time to thank God for all the blessings He has given to you and your family. When you gather around the Thanksgiving table, discuss these blessings with your family and children. Ask them what they are thankful for. Also take time to say ‘thank you’ to those who make a difference in your life.

Rather than let our problems overwhelm us, let’s remember our many blessings and how far we have come in life. Let’s use Thanksgiving Day as an opportunity to replenish and renew the very best in all of us—our personal faith, vision and resolve. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

A Closer Look at Newest Proposal to Ban Smoking

A bill is working its way through the Honolulu City Council that would ban smoking at beaches and parks in Waikiki, Ala Moana and Sandy Beach. Introduced by Councilmember Stanley Chang, Bill 72 (2012) is aimed at keeping Oahu’s beaches clean of cigarette butts, which is a leading cause of litter, and to ensure an enjoyable beach-going experience for both visitors and residents.

The measure gives smokers yet another reason to kick the habit. Smoking is already prohibited in bars, nightclubs, restaurants and within 20 feet of doorways and building entrances. There is no disputing the fact that smoking, particularly second-hand smoke, is unhealthy and increases the risk for heart disease, cancer and other ailments. What should also be of concern is the potential for more government intrusion into daily life. Where do we draw the line? For example, smokers often toss cigarette butts out the window while driving—do we ban smoking while driving? Others are unduly affected by smoke coming from barbecues—should a law be passed to ban barbecues? Or could the answer be as simple as moving a few feet away from the source?

Some view the proposal as more of a littering issue and that the solution could simply be a greater enforcement of current litter laws, rather than passing new laws that later prove to be ineffective. Some have suggested that smoking-only areas be designated in certain parks. Others say a system similar to the

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Of you’re like me, Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays of the year—second perhaps only to Christmas. And it’s not just the good food, family and fantastic shopping bargains. When you really think about it, Thanksgiving is a simple holiday that we celebrate, compared to let’s say, Valentine’s Day. On the fourth Thursday of each November, we gather to enjoy a good meal with family and friends and eschew the colorful characters, cards and gift giving. Thanksgiving is truly the last remaining non-commercialized holiday. We at the Chronicle wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving also holds a special meaning for the Chronicle as this issue marks the beginning of our 20th anniversary. It’s hard for me to believe that we have been in existence now for two decades. I still vividly recall how hard our staff worked to produce the Chronicle’s very first issue twenty years ago and how excited we were to see it roll hot off the presses. We are very thankful for the opportunity to serve Hawaii’s Filipino community and look forward to the next 20 years and beyond.

In keeping with the Thanksgiving theme, contributing writer Gregory Bren Garcia delves into the history of Thanksgiving and interviews several Filipinos for their thoughts on this very special day. Ever-popular columnist Felino Tubera, as only he can, has also written a very poignant piece on the Chronicle’s 20th Anniversary in his “All Ideas Considered” column on page 11.

In other news, Joey Manahan was sworn in as the newest member of the Honolulu City Council on November 14, 2012. He will be representing constituents in Council District 7 (Kalihi, Salt Lake and Aliamanu). Manahan will be joined by fellow Filipinos Ron Menor of District 9 (Mililani, Waialeale, Waipahu and Ewa Beach) and Kymberly Pine of District 1 (Ewa, Kapolei, Nanakuli and Waianae) who won their respective elections. The three new councilmembers will look out not only for the interests of Filipinos but for all of their constituents. Congratulations and best wishes to Councilmember Manahan!

Speaking of elections, contributing writer Emmanuel Samonte Tipon has submitted a political piece on Ben Cayetano (see page 6), who suffered his first ever election defeat in the mayoral race to Kirk Caldwell. It was a disappointing loss for the former two-term governor who campaigned to stop the rail project, improve the sewer system, fix aging roads and infrastructure and give power back to the people. Atty. Tipon writes that the millions of dollars spent by special interest groups against Cayetano was unfortunately a major deciding factor. Please read his article and see if you agree with him.

Lastly, we’d like to thank all of you who voted in the last election. You may not realize it but your vote helped to shape the future of our great state as well as our nation. God bless Hawaii and God bless America!

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

State’s plastic bottle recycling effort be set up, wherein those who turn in a certain number of cigarette butts receive cash in return.

The proposed bill will receive a thorough vetting under the watch of Nestor Garcia, chair of the Safety, Economic Development & Government Affairs Committee. The good councilmember gave his initial support for the measure and views it as a public health issue and that if passed, it will ultimately benefit tourists who want to come to Hawaii—the Healthy State—to enjoy our clean and pristine beach parks.

We hope that further discussion will address the aforementioned concerns. Excessive government regulation and control could put us all on a very slippery slope—one that we don’t want to find ourselves on.



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OPINION

P-Noy to Host Obama in Manila in 2015

COMMONSENSE By Marichu A. Villanueva

Some quarters were making fuss and ado over supposed “snub” to President Benigno “Noy” Aquino III by newly re-elected US President Barack Obama. This was after the White House announced President Obama will embark on East Asia trips this month. The US President’s trips will take him to Thailand, Cambodia, and Myanmar one after the other later this week.

For leaving out the Philippines in the Obama official itinerary in East Asia, certain kibitzers have branded this as another “snub” of the Philippines, in particular President Aquino. Duh?

There is obvious attempt to rabble rouse on supposed “snub” — where there is none. Somebody picked up the non-issue and raised this to US ambassador Harry Thomas who was the guest in yesterday’s regular Bulung-pulungan luncheon forum at the Hotel Sofitel in Roxas Boulevard.

The East Asia swing of Mr. Obama comes at a time after Mr. Obama received a fresh mandate from the American people to continue serving them for another four years. He is going on these official trips a week after his overwhelming victory over Republican rival, ex-Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney in the Nov. 6 US presidential elections.

President Obama is actually going on these trips when he joins other world leaders attending this year’s East Asia Summit (EAS) that would be held in Cambodia from Nov.

18 to 20. But a few days before the EAS, or from Nov. 17 to 20, Cambodia is also hosting this year’s Leaders’ Summit of the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) where President Aquino is also attending.

“President Obama is going to East Asia Summit to show his renewed commitments to Asia. Then he will go to Myanmar, an emerging democracy. President Aquino will be there in EAS. I’m sure there they can discuss,” Thomas pointed out.

The White House earlier announced President Obama will attend the 7th EAS in Phnom Penh and also meet with leaders of ASEAN, who include President Aquino. The newly re-elected US leader will travel to Bangkok, Rangoon, and Phnom Penh. After the East Asia trips, Thomas explained President Obama has to rush back home to hold post-election meetings with both Democrats and Republicans to put the US house in order.

In the same announcement, the White House cited the President’s re-election has been receiving messages of congratulations from world leaders. Among the first to greet him was President Aquino. He sent Mr. Obama his congratulatory letter and said he’s looking forward to continue working with him in further strengthening Phl-US relations.

Thomas confirmed this yesterday saying: “We thanked President Aquino for being among the first to congratulate President Obama.” The US ambassador recalled President Obama “warmly welcomed”

President Aquino at the Oval Office when the latter made an official visit in Washington last June 8.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and Malacañang will hold today at the Palace press room a briefing on P-Noy’s forthcoming participation in the ASEAN Leaders’ summit and on possible bilateral meetings with fellow heads of state he will meet at the sidelines of this annual event. As of this writing, there is no official word yet whether Presidents Obama and Aquino will indeed be able to hold one.

Cambodia will fulfill its last major obligation as this year’s ASEAN chair and this year’s EAS. The ASEAN has ten member states, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. On the other hand, the EAS — established in 2005 — has wider membership and its missions are already of great significance for regional architecture. The EAS include all 10 ASEAN members plus Australia, New Zealand, India, China, South Korea, Japan, Russia, and the US.

The EAS boasts the most effective membership of any Asia-Pacific organizations in comparison to such existing grouping like the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) where the Philippines and the US are also members. The EAS was established in 2005, but its membership and mission are already of great significance for regional architecture.

But the EAS does not split ASEAN as APEC does, or excludes major powers as

ASEAN+3 or the ASEAN Regional Forum that includes only China, Japan and South Korea as dialogue partners on regional security issues. Encompassing all 10 ASEAN members plus Australia, New Zealand, India, China, South Korea, Japan, Russia, and the US, the EAS boasts the most effective membership of any Asia-Pacific organization.

The agenda of the 7th EAS will include a number of regional issues like maritime security and the ongoing disputes in the South and East China Seas. In our case that affects us in particular, our claims over islets, shoals, reefs, and atolls around the West Philippine Sea that are also being claimed by China, Vietnam, Taiwan and other countries near the region.

In an official statement, the White House disclosed President Obama will hold “interactions” with EAS heads of states in and out of their meetings. It stated: “During his interactions in the region, he will discuss a broad range of issues including economic prosperity and job creation through increased trade and partnerships, energy

and security cooperation, human rights, shared values and other issues of regional and global concern.”

So more likely than not, both Presidents Obama and Aquino will meet at the EAS that makes the “snub” story a product of overstretched imagination. It will not be a “four-eyes” meeting but still a meeting.

Much, much earlier, President Obama bumped into P-Noy at the sidelines of the APEC Summit hosted by the US that was held last year in Hawaii. Because of the US presidential campaign, Mr. Obama skipped this year’s APEC held at Vladivostok in September.

Barring any hitches, President Aquino will have his chance to play host to President Obama and other world leaders if they will attend the 15th APEC Summit in the Philippines in 2015. This will be held a few months before P-Noy steps down from office in June 2016.

So it will be an event that P-Noy will make sure he will shine to show him as an accomplished leader by that time. We surely hope so.

(www.philstar.com)

LETTERS

A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

Vicky and I have much to be thankful for and are blessed to have so many friends and supporters in the Filipino community and all over Honolulu.

The support, commitment and time that people were willing to give toward a shared vision of our island inspired and energized me. We all can be proud of our democracy and the true grassroots movement that we had in the election. People of diverse backgrounds united with a single voice in the best tradition of democracy. Please never forget that. Remember this experience the next time you feel the need to stand up and speak. Speak, and speak loudly. Stay engaged. You can make a difference.

It has been a pleasure and honor to have served the people of Hawaii for so many years and to have such strong support. Vicky and I wish you the very best and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

**Ben and Vicky Cayetano
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COVER STORY

Hawaii All Set for Thanksgiving Day

By Gregory Garcia

Like other states, Hawaii has its own Thanksgiving Day festivities, including the Honolulu Marathon Clinic's Annual Turkey Trot and the Waikiki Holiday Parade, which honors the survivors and veterans of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Add these events to the numerous Black Friday sales held by retailers, as well as the many Thanksgiving dinners and luau parties organized by hotels, civic groups and families all around the state, and the result is a colorful Thanksgiving celebration that is indeed uniquely Hawaii.



A family gathering during Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day traces its origins to a 1621 harvest feast held by English settlers in Plymouth Colony after a bountiful growing season. When viewed from a similar economic perspective, Hawaii, too, certainly has much to be thankful for this year.

Based on recent figures from the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), we can expect continued positive economic growth in Hawaii for the rest of 2012 and in 2013, particularly among tourism-related indicators. DBEDT projects that overall visitor arrivals will increase 8.6 percent in 2012 compared to 2011, while total visitor spending is projected to in-

crease 15.2 percent. As a result, employment growth is also expected to increase by 1.8 percent, with many of these new jobs created by the visitor industry and by tourism-related sectors like trade, transport and utilities.

The DBEDT data also show that although non-tourism sectors have not yet fully rebounded, they are showing positive signs of recovery. The department says it is now focusing on creating policy tools and drumming up state support for sectors like construction, renewable energy and light manufacturing.

Thankful to be of Service

Aside from these promising economic indicators,

Hawaii residents have their own individual reasons to celebrate Thanksgiving this year. We at the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle (HFC), for instance, are celebrating our paper's 20 years of community service.

Having opened an office in Downtown Honolulu, HFC first started publishing in 1993 as a semi-monthly newspaper. In 2002, its office moved to a new location in Waipahu, and in 2005, it expanded its operations by publishing on a weekly basis. Today, HFC is the only local Filipino newspaper that is published weekly in Hawaii and is also the only local Filipino publication that features columns from the governor of Hawaii and the mayor of Honolulu.

During its nascent years, HFC's survival was very uncertain, as is the case with other small ethnic media outlets. As was noted by an article from our October 1, 1994 issue entitled "Staying Alive in Paradise," figures on the mortality rate of Filipino newspapers, television programs and radio programs were not very encouraging for anyone who wanted to start similar ventures. For starters, making a profit is almost never the motivation for establishing them.

"Ask any television producer, radio host or publisher," the author said, "the reason for keeping the project going, more often than not, is a civic need to give back to the community, a crusade to up-

hold, an adjacent profitable business to fall back on, or just plain pigheadedness—anything but making a buck out of it."

Nevertheless, the author recognized possible factors that could allow Filipino newspapers like the HFC to thrive, including the increasing number of Filipino immigrants to Hawaii and the important role that Filipino-Americans play in the social and economic life of the state.

"Given these circumstances, it would seem to make sense that the Filipino media would thrive," the author said. "There are brief moments when they do and a sudden rash of newspapers, television shows or radio programs hit the community. The glut lasts only briefly, however, and in the end, the business casualties are counted with only a handful of survivors, usually two or less."

This Thanksgiving Day, we at the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle are thankful that our paper has survived beyond this glut and even well into less prosperous times. We are proud to be counted among the "handful of survivors." The recent recession has been a nearly insurmountable challenge for many small businesses, but our commitment to community service and support from our faithful readers and advertisers have allowed us to weather the financial crisis.

We are also thankful for

the accolades we have been honored with throughout the years, including receiving a U.S. Small Business Journalist of the Year Award in 2006. More importantly, however, we are grateful for the fact that HFC has been given the chance to become an advocate for the Filipino-American community, helping to empower them in the fields of government and politics, education, print media, business, entertainment and healthcare.

Friends of HFC Celebrate Thanksgiving Day

As always during important occasions, it is customary for the HFC to include personal reflections from our friends. This year, a number of them agreed to share their families' Thanksgiving traditions and their views on why they think the holiday is relevant to their lives.

Thanksgiving Day occupies a prominent place among Filipino-Americans' pantheon of holidays. Many consider it to be almost as important as Christmas Eve and look forward to it as an opportunity to reunite with family and friends. A dinner at the end of the day is usually held to cap off the celebrations, something like a "Noche Buena" in November.

"In the Philippines, we do not have an official Thanksgiving Day. Our thanksgiving celebration is held when there is an occasion to be thankful

(continued on page 5)

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COVER STORY

(from page 4. HAWAII...)

for,” says Kailua resident Tess Bernales. “In moving to the U.S., along with all the social and cultural adjustments, we also get a whole new set of holidays and traditions. Thus, we try to do what is traditional in the U.S.”

“Having the Thanksgiving dinner is the highlight of our family’s celebration. It is a time to be thankful for all the good graces God has showered us. We also get into those activities typical of any family, like watching the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade on TV, watching a movie or, for the sports minded, watching football games. For the women, it is perusing the newspaper and planning our shopping strategies for Black Friday. We don’t line up at 2 am, but just to feel the spirit of the season, we try to get to a store of our choice by 5 am or 6 am,” she says.

For the family of Jean Jeremiah, also of Hawaii, Thanksgiving Day is a day-long celebration, with the first

Thanksgiving meal held at noon.

“Thanksgiving lunch is usually held at one of my daughters’ houses, attended by our family, her in-laws and some close friends. In the evening, the entire extended family has Thanksgiving dinner at my uncle and auntie’s house in Mililani. This is where the whole clan gathers to celebrate—grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandchildren and even friends and neighbors. The reunion is attended by no less than 50 people every year,” Jeremiah says.

This scenario where the whole clan gathers for one big reunion also happens yearly for physician Nick Joaquin’s family. This year, he is particularly thankful for his mom’s good health and for the gift of new life in their family.

“At least 30 people gather at our house every year for Thanksgiving Day,” he says. This year, the oldest among them would be my mother, who is 97 years old, and the

youngest one is a 2-month old child. We are very thankful for my mother’s long life and also for the arrival of new ones in our family.”

Attitude of Gratitude

Although Thanksgiving Day offers a great opportunity for all of us to reflect on what we are thankful for in life, some people try to cultivate this “attitude of gratitude” and apply it on a daily basis. And why not? Studies have shown that people who are more grateful not only tend to be happier emotionally but also have a greater sense of purpose in life, create better relationships and have higher levels of self-acceptance.

For her part, Bernales sees Thanksgiving Day as a spiritual time for her family, a day of being grateful and of giving back.

“We are grateful for our blessings from God—where we are, what we have accomplished at this stage of our lives. We thank God for guiding us and our

children on a path of righteousness, a life with purpose and with an awareness and willingness to extend ourselves by helping others who are less fortunate,” she says.

Bernales believes that having an “attitude of gratitude” makes life much easier and more meaningful.

“The simple act of thinking about whom and what I’m grateful for makes such a big difference in my life. It reminds me of the positive things in my own life and that I have made a difference in someone else’s life, whether a loved one or a stranger. It reminds me of what is important and makes me ignore the ‘little stuff,’ thus putting my priorities in perspective. Lastly, it reminds me to thank others. Many times, a simple ‘thank you’ to someone can make a difference in that person’s life. People like being appreciated for who they are and what they do. Making someone else happy makes a world of difference for all,” she says.

Jeremiah likewise considers her family as the one thing she is most grateful for this Thanksgiving.

“This year and every year, I am grateful to have my two daughters and my five young grandchildren. My family has been my joy and my strength, and every year I spend with them, things just keep on getting better,” she says.

Jeremiah adds that an “attitude of gratitude” also inspires people to become more generous themselves. She says that when we realize that we have been blessed with so much, we become more encouraged to share these blessings with others.

“I always remind my children to be grateful for what they have and I continue to show them that Thanksgiving is really about giving and sharing,” Jeremiah says. “I personally find life more rewarding and more meaningful when I’m given the opportunity to share what I have with others. It leaves a deeper impact in my life.”

**Happy Anniversary!
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of the community!**

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POLITICS

Cayetano Toppled in Mayoral Bid by Fellow Filipinos, Smear Campaign

by Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

“Best candidates failed to prevail. All the wrong people won, in Washington and Hawaii.” Cliff Coleman, *Honolulu Star Advertiser*, 11/10/2012.

“Now this came about because the sons of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God.” 2 Kings 7, explaining why God had sent to rule [ancient] Israel kings who did evil things, like Menahem who exacted money from wealthy men and Ahaz who took the silver and gold in the House of the Lord and in the treasuries of the king.

Benjamin Cayetano, the first Filipino governor of Hawaii, was toppled in his bid to become the first Filipino mayor of Honolulu, garnering 46 percent (134,690) of the votes while former city man-

ager Kirk Caldwell won with 53 percent (157,650), a difference of 22,960 votes. Cayetano had led in the Primary with 44.8 percent of the votes while Caldwell had gotten 29.5 percent and incumbent mayor Peter Carlisle had obtained 25.1 percent, thus eliminating him in the General Election.

There are about 55,000 Filipino registered voters in Honolulu according to a campaign aide of a well-known politician based on culling the voter registration list for Filipino-sounding names which also included Spanish surnames. Assuming that this is accurate and that they had been solid for Cayetano, he would have won. However, according to a survey conducted by the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle before the elections, only 54.8 percent (29,700) of Filipino registered voters were for Cayetano, 27.8 percent

(15,290) were for Caldwell and 17.4 percent (9,570) were undecided. If the pro-Caldwell and undecided voters totaling 24,860 had voted for Cayetano, their votes would have been more than the 22,960 vote margin that Caldwell had over Cayetano.

Filipinos abroad want political empowerment. But when there was a golden opportunity to achieve that goal in Hawaii with a decent, experienced and well-known Filipino leader like Cayetano, a significant number of Filipinos fought him. Many went on radio, appeared in print ads and some had starring roles in television ads saying bad things against Cayetano. Non-Filipinos who saw this spectacle wondered: If Filipinos don't like Cayetano and say bad things against him, why should we vote for him? With Cayetano gone, Filipinos in Hawaii have lost their only op-



portunity for real political empowerment in this generation and succeeding generations. There is no Filipino in the political firmament in Hawaii who can win the big casino in politics—mayor, governor, senator or congressman.

Smear Campaign

Another major factor that led to Cayetano's defeat was the smear campaign conducted against Cayetano by a labor union. The group report-

edly spent \$2.8 million in television, radio and print ads portraying Cayetano as having taken illegal contributions when he ran for governor and did not return the money. Cayetano filed a libel suit before the elections against the union and its officers, saying that their allegations were not true and that state election officials had cleared him of any wrongdoing. Cayetano and his lawyers vowed to continue the

(continued on page 10)

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LEGAL MATTERS

Damn Those E-mails: All in, No Way Out for Petraeus



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Retired General and former Central Intelligence Agency Director David Petraeus' biography written by his newly exposed (through e-mails) paramour Paula Broadwell, wife of Dr. Scott Broadwell, should be retitled from "All In" to "All in, no way out" or "All in, all hanging out". One can use different permutations.

According to reports, Jill Kelley, 37, the attractive wife of Dr. Scott Kelley, of Tampa, Florida, and a family friend of the Petraeuses, received a number of anonymous harassing e-mails, which reportedly accused her of "inappropriate flirtatious behavior with Petraeus." She serves as a social liaison to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa where the military's Central Command is located. Petraeus once headed the Central Command, during which he and his wife, Holly, met the Kelleys. She notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) which conducted an investigation. It traced the emails to Broadwell. The FBI also discovered emails between Broadwell and Petraeus some of which were allegedly "salacious" and which established that they had an affair. Was Broadwell jealous of Kelley? Look at their pictures and draw your conclusion.

Adultery Is Not A Crime In Most States

Adultery is no longer a crime in most states. Hence no criminal charges are expected to be filed against Petraeus. However, if it turns out that his affair began before he retired from the U.S. Army, he could potentially be subject to prosecution, since adultery is an offense under military law.

Adultery is not a ground for deportation, although adultery is considered by some USCIS officers as indicative of lack of good moral character which is a

requirement for citizenship. We are disputing this determination in a case now on appeal.

It seems that it is only the Philippines and the Bible which punish adultery. Although the U.S. military treats adultery as an offense, who knows, Obama could make adultery no longer illegal in the military, like when he allowed gays in the military.

Officials in high places have been involved in extramarital affairs but kept their office. Our favorite example is President Bill Clinton. Remember his famous line: "I

never had sex with that woman - Monica Lewinsky." But when Monica, offended by his lie and condescending remarks, brought to the FBI her dress which she claimed was stained with Clinton's semen, the FBI took Clinton's DNA and when they matched impeachment followed - not for adultery (since it is not certain whether fellatio is technically adultery which requires sexual intercourse as an element) - but for lying (not lying down with Monica but for not telling the truth). Clinton survived not because he was not guilty but be-

cause his Democratic party mates saved him. He did not compromise national security. He was merely in a compromising position.

Allen Dulles who also headed the CIA, had a number of well-publicized affairs, but he never resigned according to Stephen Kinzer, author of the forthcoming book "The Brothers: John Foster Dulles, Allen Dulles, and Their Secret World War."

So why should the case of Petraeus be different? He confessed to only one affair. Why didn't he stand ramrod straight instead of stooping and say: What I do in my private life is

nobody's business. Or, Petraeus could have told Obama, Mr. President, I had an affair but it's over. Instead, Petraeus upon meeting Obama, handed his resignation letter. The fact that Obama said he wanted to think about it indicates that Obama felt that Petraeus' conduct was not so inherently evil as to warrant immediate resignation. In the James Bond movie Skyfall, M, the head of British intelligence was considered ineffective and it was suggested that she should resign and leave with dignity. "I will resign when the job is done, not when it is dignified to

(continued on page 11)

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FOOD & LEISURE

Of Fine Wine and Prose

FEAST WITH ME By Stephanie Zubiri

For me, drinking an exceptionally fine wine is almost lustful. It's a guilty pleasure in the almost forbidden and yet there is a noble beauty in its humble roots. Agriculture at its finest: simple grapes, fruits of the soil, coaxed lovingly to deliver the most precious of nectars. In its indulgent expense and ever-so-fleeting quality, a fine wine turns me into a character of Nabokovian quality. Observant, almost voyeuristic, desire burning, cheeks flushed, coy yet awestruck with some dumbfounded innocence, a warmth not far from love, frustrated at the finality of resources, appreciative of the uniqueness, grateful for the chance.

I can't help but feel like Van, falling in love with Ada for the first time on that balcony. He observed the "classi-

cal beauty of clover honey, smooth, pale, translucent, freely flowing" — the texture and viscosity reminiscent of beautiful legs of wine running down the sides of the glass. "She considered him. A fiery droplet in the wick of her mouth considered him. A three-colored velvet violet, of which she had done an aquarelle on the eve, considered him from its fluted crystal." It's that urge that stems from sight and smell that prickles your lips as you gently swirl the liquid, inhaling the distinct perfumes.

As you bring up the glass to your lips, it's much like your first kiss — clumsy and intoxicating. "Very lightly he let his parched lips travel... It was the sweetest, the strongest, the most mysterious sensation that the boy had ever experienced; nothing in his sordid venery of the past winter could duplicate that downy tenderness, that despair of desire."



Dramatic as it may seem, one never forgets the incredible oenological moments. And, much like Van, the desire is progressive, cumulative. Everything else seems like winter in comparison. I can't afford to indulge in this activity of fine wine on a regular basis, but the beauty of a great wine is that even for those with pockets so deep, each experience is singular and ephemeral. No two bottles are ever really the same. The moment you share with others at the table, at

that time, drinking out of that very same bottle is what the French would call "insolite," or a truly unusual encounter on the brink of wonderment.

Back to my days in Paris: at my first few classes at Le Cordon Bleu, the sommelier proudly announced that the reason why French wine was so great was that it was all in the hands of God, starting with the terroir, or the absolutely unique quality of that particular parcel of soil and the micro-climate that forms in the luscious, soft rolling hills. The absence of irrigation, allowing the vines to be at the mercy of the weather: "If it's a bad year, so be it!" he exclaims, throwing his hands up in the air. "But a good year ... it's legendaire." Legendary vineyards are gifted with the all the right conditions, producing exemplary wines and yet in this system the humble ones can also benefit from unpredictable and good savoir-faire, creating their own exceptional vintages.

Chateau Margaux has to be one of the most iconic vineyards in the world. Producing wines since the 12th century under the name La Mothe de Margaux, it is also one of the original four wines in Bordeaux to receive the Premier Cru status in 1855 and found diehard fans in the likes of Thomas Jefferson and grumpy old Ernest Hemingway, for whom it was a preferred companion: "I drank a bottle of wine for company. It was Chateau Margaux. It was pleasant to be drinking slowly and to be tasting the wine and to be drinking alone. A bottle of wine was good company."

The elegance of the chateau itself is unmistakable and a reflection of the wine. I remember on a rather blustery day walking through the vineyards of Margaux, my companion and I stumbled on the chateau. Empty yet regal. Closed up for the summer, dormant before the arduous harvest.

A few weeks back I had the privilege of attending a vertical wine tasting of Chateau Margaux's wines at Shangri-La

(continued on page 10)

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The Chronicle is about issues that affect you, your family as well as the Filipino community here and around the world. Our goal is to carry on our mission of empowering Filipinos and serving as the voice of the Filipino community.

It is truly an honor to serve you and we look forward to many more issues and years of fruitful service to the community!



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POLITICS (from page 7, CAYETANO....)

libel suit.

The biggest political issue in Honolulu was whether to construct a \$5.2 billion railroad linking Honolulu to the west side communities. The union supported the rail, while Cayetano vowed to stop it on the grounds that it was too expensive, there was insufficient funding, it would destroy the scenery and there were other and better alternatives, like a bus rapid transit system. It was actually the Hawaii Supreme Court and a federal court that halted the construction of the railroad on the grounds that archaeological surveys were not conducted on the proposed route and alternative routes were not considered.

Cayetano Won't Run Anymore

Cayetano, who had never lost an election before, was very disappointed.

He had fought hard. Thousands of his supporters shared his disappointment. Many wept. "Who will now fight for the small guy?" they wondered. Cayetano indicated that he will not seek elective office any more.

He joked that 8 wins against 1 loss is not such a bad record. Cayetano, 72, said that he came out of retirement to bring back power to the people because the state and the city were being run by a powerful group composed of politicians, big businesses, and unions. He claimed that the issue was not just about rail. He pointed out that the money to be spent for rail would be better spent in a bus system and in fixing the roads, sewers, and other infrastructure. He expressed deep concern that if people with big money can smear and topple someone like him, who would be willing to stand up against these people?

FOOD & LEISURE (from page 8, OF FINE....)

Makati's Red, organized by the wildly epicurean brothers behind Bacchus International Inc., Alex and Clifford Lichaytoo. Thibaud Pontallier, the son of the chateau's winemaker Paul Pontallier and representative for Chateau Margaux in Asia, held our hand throughout dinner, graciously explaining with enthusiasm each wine with restraint in order to allow us to discover for ourselves.

The Pavillon Blanc 2009 was a surprising revelation. Young yet sophisticated, pure Sauvignon Blanc with a rather unexpectedly rich and heady nose. Exotic fruits brightened by hints of citrus, like the young Tahitian women in Paul Gauguin's paintings. Paired with a creamy lobster and scallop that had a controversial touch of vanilla, the nostalgic world of French colonialism collided happily in the mouth.

The dinner went on to showcase the Pavillon Rouge 2006, which reminded me of an agreeable dinner companion: not so complex and puts you at ease. Then came a parade of complexity leading all the way up to the Chateau Margaux 1989.

The Chateau Margaux 1999 had to be one of my favorites that evening. Black fruit, spices, an elegant young woman shining with confidence. It drank like an old friend or lover, whose complexities and stories were so familiar, enjoyable and yet still always exciting. It was a rather happy pairing with the bourgeois dish of duck breast and lentils. Again, familiarity cooked to tender perfection with the lusciousness of a pan-seared foie gras. My compliments to the chef, as it is difficult to get that crisp caramelized outside and tenderly pink inside.

Up for the battle of my heartstrings was the 1996. It is apparently Thibaud and his father's preferred vintage. According to an anecdote in TheWineDoctor.com, Paul Pontallier, who is about to

become a father again this year, told his wife sadly that the vintage was not going to be all that exceptional. But the weather changed and so did the vines. The most striking is its aroma — truly perfume-like, florals surpassing the fruits. Extremely feminine and arousing. A woman who is captivating, difficult to understand and whose heart is not easy to capture, but the right man can unravel all her mystery. I personally felt that it wasn't her time. That perhaps she had not wanted to completely unveil herself to me. Jonathan, my fiancé, was completely smitten, on the other hand.

The much-awaited and heralded 1989 was excellent in its own right but outshone by the two younger vintages. The nose again more developed, a distinct minerality that I enjoy but not unlike a more mature, sophisticated lady, charming only when she feels like it, mostly aloof and regal, waiting for her chosen moment to shine. She wasn't ready to come out of her boudoir and needed a few more moments before making a spectacular public appearance. I did, however, enjoy the pairing with the Emmenthal soufflé, as a good cheese can stroke the wine's ego with a velvety cloth.

The evening ended in song, as the young Pontallier serenaded us with some French music. Cheeks were red and flushed, a tinge of silliness was in the air, along with the high of good wine, good food and good company. To quote Pontallier, "The difference between a good wine and a great wine is that a good wine gives you pleasure and a great wine gives you emotion."

The same goes for food and people. And amidst the passionate, sometimes borderline forgivably pretentious discussions on wine, chefs, and food critics, there definitely was lot of both. (www.philstar.com)

ALL IDEAS CONSIDERED



By Felino S. Tubera

A Matter Of Fact: The HFC, at 20 – Is Healthy and Happy

Facts of the Matter: The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle just turned 20! Established on July 1, 1993, its first copy came out on October 1, 1993, and published initially on a semi-monthly basis ... "created in response to the growing need to reach out to the Filipino community, to inform and educate and provide the vehicle with which our community can grow and prosper."

In other words: The HFC is celebrating a milestone record of two decades of -- chronicling community calendar events, headline news and human interest cover stories, vignettes of art and leisure, history and culture, photo and personality profiles, armchair travelogues, business and legal notes, immigration, government and politics, health and medical breakthroughs, and updates on science and technology. O for the past 20 years, the HFC has been delivering for consumption: the power of

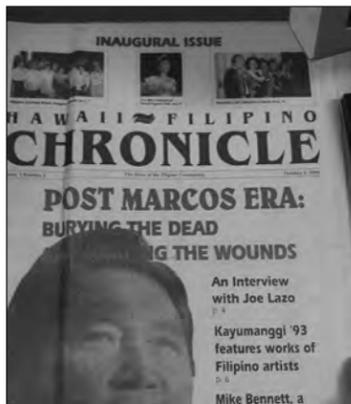
words! With sections in English? Yes! In Pilipino? Yes! In Ilokano? Yes!

In Filipino English? A stranger asked. Oh, come on, if you call it that, bless your soul. This is not a trick question for a prize puzzle. But for curious cranium busters: Filipino English, is indeed, Filipino! Hawaiian born? That, too. These things you call facts of the matter, make the HFC a demographic fit culturally where the Filipino imagination, if not his soul, ever roams.

And on top of this: the HFC continues to present to the public, its own timely, thought-provoking editorials and news stories on local and mainstream issues and subjects that have a direct or indirect impact on our lives, not just for the Filipino as the target audience, but for everyone else. Of course, out of obligation and necessity, the HFC is definitely standing, if not leaning, with a flavorful slant toward our Filipino-American-ness as a community. Where do we come in? And how?

Gentlemen, friends and ladies, hello! What if there were no HFC?

Imagine: without the



HFC, in the past 20 years, we could have been less aware of ourselves as a community, less responsive to the calls of progress. We could have been bereft of the luxury of building relationships: meaningful ones, like bonding with one another with our freedom of talking sense about what matter most in our lives ... with the HFC as a happy medium - of action, interaction, reaction -- to the events of the times. Imagine: us lacking some important tools and weapons for our day-to-day needs of protecting and safeguarding ourselves from ignorance and our vulnerability to the unknown. Without the HFC as a sidewalk presence, we could have been short-changed of opportunities we didn't know about ... without the information and leads that

the HFC provided to us -- free. Thanks to the support of our readership. Our events sponsors. Our advertisers. And to the pool of talent: our writers, reporters, staff and management. Without which...

Nary a whisper about us, as an ethnic group could have been heard ... our individual and collective voice could have been barely audible, a faceless entity in a sea of humanity.

The sweet fact is: The HFC came to light 20 years ago. Now it is that effective mouthpiece we use: our megaphone that articulates and amplifies our vocal pitch in the wavelength of cultural dependence and interdependence in this global kaleidoscope of relationships. The HFC has been, and still is, one of the defining-redeeming tolls of communicating its mission and purpose, helping, guiding us reach places and heights we haven't been to before. And we are richer and stronger with it: on tierra firma, or in cyberspace, over the moon or under the sun, building dreams among the stars, roaming the milky way or the galaxies: anything possible because of man's gift of freedom to imagine! Because we can hear our voice, others can listen, too, and we can all feel happy about it.

Just the thought itself: on a timeline journey of purpose, reaching the 20-year milestone ... is awesomely rewarding! The HFC with twenty exclamations points of existence and gainful experience, we celebrate! And give thanks!

Steadfast and long in enthusiasm and determination, even with limited resources (a shoestring budget) -- think of what the HFC does and what we get, pro bono, practically: Yes, we can pick up a gift-bag of "Yeses."

Yes, it gathers and presents newsworthy subjects and topics, with its "trained nose" for "scents."

Yes, it has a credo on Truth, Integrity and Principle. In reporting and publishing.

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Yes, it welcomes your ideas, opinions and comments. It thrives on openness. And, Yes, if the HFC does not come to you, it is very accessible. In Regular or News Editions. Pick up a free copy at convenient newsstands, at select offices and stores, and on the Internet. Thank goodness, God knows its open lines of communication, and, of course, its home address.

Chronicle! Chronicle! Catch the action: Happy chronicling!

LEGAL MATTERS (from page 7, DAMN....)

do so," she quipped. Petraeus should have seen that movie before resigning. Would Obama have forced Petraeus to resign? Petraeus knows a lot of secrets, including some that might be damaging to Obama or the administration.

"He screwed up" (or "he screwed"?), Steve Boylan, a former Petraeus spokesman, was quoted as saying. David Petraeus's critics have referenced the Bible, comparing it to the "David and Bathsheba" affair. Petraeus has published his "Rules for Living." The Fifth is: "We all make mistakes. The key is to recognize them and admit them." As my father once told me, "there are people who are intelligent but dumb." According to an old saying, "One swallow does not a summer make." Hence,

one adulterous act does not make a person an evil one."

Adultery And 11th Commandment

People who have never committed adultery do not know the thrills and pleasures of it; it is like tasting the forbidden fruit, according to a lawyer I know who has had experience in this adventure. The lawyer has never been caught because he does not use emails to communicate with paramours. He just picks up the phone. The lawyer shuns texting.

(For an article discussing how easy it is for law enforcement agents to examine emails, see <http://news.yahoo.com/not-hard-authorities-email-082207164.html>.)

The moral lesson is: Do not commit adultery. But if you do,

since many of us are human, do as the lawyer does -- no emails, no texting, no facebook, no love notes, and no illegitimate children. In short, do not leave any tangible evidence. Or, as I have always been saying, do not violate the 11th Commandment: "Thou shall not get caught." And if you are caught, "negar hasta muerto" (deny until death).

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. Office: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filam-law@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270, AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.iluko.com.



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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Rep. Ward Steps Down as State House GOP Minority Leader

State Rep. Gene Ward announced to the House Minority Caucus that he would not be seeking re-election as Minority Leader because he felt it was time for the next generation to step into leadership.

"I'm proud of our new caucus that has just been infused with youth, brains and energy. Our caucus faced some tough losses this election cycle, but we came out of it with a caucus in which the majority of members are under the age of 33. Giving them the opportunity to lead is the right thing to do," Rep. Gene Ward says.

Following Ward's announcement, the House Minority Caucus elected Aaron Ling Johanson, 32, as House Minority Leader and Beth Fukumoto, 29, as House Minority Floor Leader, following the move of former floor leader Kymberly Pine to the Honolulu City Council.

"I'm honored to be leading the Republicans in the State House. Gene Ward has always encouraged and mentored young leaders, and I appreciate his decision to push us forward," Rep. Johanson says. "His advice and counsel will continue to be instrumental in



moving the Republican caucus in new directions for the benefit of our state and its future."

Johanson was first elected in 2010 and represents District 31. He has served as a division director in the White House, deputy chief of staff of the U.S. Mint and a commissioner on

the State's Federal Stimulus Oversight Commission. He is a graduate of Yale University and Moanalua High School.

Fukumoto was elected in 2012 and represents District 36. She previously served as director of House Minority Research and in various roles at the State Capitol. She received her master's degree from Georgetown University and graduated from the University of Hawaii-Manoa. She says Ward has been influential in her political career.

"Gene Ward was one of

the first people to encourage me to get into politics. We've worked together in varying capacities at the Legislature and he's always been one of my greatest supporters," she says.

Ward served as Minority Leader from 1993 to 1998 and again from 2010-2012. From 1999 to 2006, he served as presidential appointee in Washington, DC at the U.S. Agency for International Development and later as Peace Corps country director in East Timor. Ward earned a PhD from UH-Manoa.

PHILIPPINE NEWS

SC stops Comelec's DQ Order on Ako Bicol, 3 Others

by Dennis Carcamo
Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2012

MANILA, Philippines – The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday stopped the Commission on Elections (Comelec) from implementing its order disqualifying four party-list groups to run in the May 13, 2013 mid-term elections.

During the en banc deliberations of the SC, the justices issued a status quo ante order (SQA) against Comelec and granted the petitions of the four party-list groups, namely Ako Bicol, APEC, ICARE and Alliance on Rural Concerns, to bar Comelec from implementing its disqualification order.

The SC issued the order to prevent the Comelec from delisting the names of the



The Supreme Court of the Philippines

four party-list groups who were already accredited previously by the Comelec.

It considered the essence of time before the December 2012 printing of the ballots to be undertaken by the Comelec.

The SC also ordered the Comelec to explain or comment on the petitions filed by

the four party-list groups.

The SC is expected to rule on the merits of the case before Feb. 12, 2013, which is the start of the campaign period for the party-list groups.

It also ordered the consolidation of the four petitions which contain the same factual issues. (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Law Against Licensing of Nonimmigrant Workers Invalidated

A federal appeals court recently struck down a New York state law restricting the issuance of pharmacist licenses to U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPRs). The court ruled that such law violated the constitutional guarantee of equal protection.

The plaintiffs in *Paidi v. Mills* were non-immigrant aliens residing in New York, most of whom held H-1B temporary worker visas. Many of the plaintiffs had applied for a

green card while some already had employment authorization documents. All of them obtained a New York pharmacist's license. However, it was only a "limited" type of license which was granted under a waiver provision of the law.

Under the New York statute, only U.S. citizens and LPRs were eligible to obtain a pharmacist's license. The law used to provide for a three-year waiver of the citizenship/LPR requirement, but this waiver provision expired in 2006. Licenses issued under the waiver were set to expire in 2009, which meant that the plaintiffs would no longer be able to work legally as pharmacists in the state.

This led them to file a lawsuit in district court against the officials in charge of enforcing the law. The plaintiffs claimed that the law was unconstitutional because it violated the equal protection clause of the U.S. constitution. The district court agreed with the plaintiffs and permanently enjoined the state officials from enforcing the law.

On appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the state officials argued that the court should review the law using the rational basis standard. This is a low-level standard of judicial review which simply means that if there is a rational basis to support the law, the law should

be upheld.

The Circuit Court rejected this argument. It said that state statutes that give disparate treatment to aliens are reviewed using the highest standard of analysis, called strict scrutiny.

For a law to pass strict scrutiny, it must further a compelling government interest. The law must also be narrowly drawn, meaning that there must be no other less restrictive means to meet that government interest.

The Court held that strict scrutiny should be applied to the New York law that discriminates against aliens who have been lawfully admitted to reside and work in the United States. The court found that the state had no compelling justification for discriminating based on alienage.

The court brushed aside the state's argument that the non-immigrant pharmacists' potential transience was a threat to public health. The Court said that there was no evidence that nonimmigrant pharmacists were more transient than LPR and citizen pharmacists, and that citizenship or permanent residency did not guarantee against potential transience.

The statute was also not narrowly tailored, said the Court, because there were other ways to limit the dangers of potentially transient pharmacists, such as through malpractice insurance.

Even if the law withstood the equal protection challenge, the Court said that it would not survive a challenge on pre-

emption grounds. Federal preemption means that a state law can be invalidated if it conflicts with federal law.

Although the case was decided on equal protection grounds, the Court couldn't help but note that New York has created an obstacle to the accomplishment and execution of federal immigration law. Congress has allowed non-LPRs and non-citizens to perform specialty occupations

as long as they were professionally qualified, but by making immigration status a professional qualification New York caused them to be ineligible to do so.

In concluding that the law was unconstitutional, the Court reiterated a Supreme Court dictum that "the assertion of an authority to deny to aliens the opportunity to earn a livelihood when lawfully admitted to the state would be tantamount to the assertion of the right to deny them entrance, for in ordinary cases they cannot live where they cannot work."

Because of this ruling, New York may not legally make immigration status a qualification for a professional license. But because other courts have decided the issue of alienage and state licensing differently, this decision has created a circuit split which the Supreme Court will most likely have to resolve soon.

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

MAINLAND NEWS

Essay Contest on West Philippine Sea

The US Pinoys for Good Governance (USP4GG)-Marianas Chapter, has launched an essay contest for high school and college students themed "The West Philippine Sea and its Impact on the Future of the Philippines."

The contest is open to all students of Filipino descent in the Philippines or overseas, from 10 to 25 years old who are enrolled in high school and college. Essays will be accepted from December 1, 2012 to February 1, 2013.

Essays should focus on the following:

- Sovereignty or ownership issues of territories in the West Philippine Sea contiguous to the Philippines.
- How control of Philippine territories and the valuable marine and energy resources found therein can affect the future of generations of Filipinos.
- How young people can help defend Philippine sovereignty over our territories and protect the marine and energy resources in the West Philippine Sea



The essay must be original and must not be previously published in print or online or in any visual and/or auditory recording. It must be in English and not be more than 1,500 typed words.

Prize ranges from 50,000 to 10,000 pesos (\$1,200 to \$240). Entry forms are available at www.uspgg.org. Signature of the school principal, college or university president or dean, address, email address and telephone number are required to authenticate the student entries.

A panel of judges, selected by the USP4GG Ad Hoc Committee for Essay Contest on West Philippine Sea, will make the final decision. The panel will be composed of prominent lawyers, journalists, editor, retired educators and university administrators.

Winning entries will be announced during the Global Summit of Filipinos in Dias-

pora on February 25-27, 2013, at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), Manila, Philippines.

Entries may be submitted via email to: usp4ggessay@yahoo.com or sent by regular mail to ATTN: Secretariat, USP4GG Essay Contest on West Philippine Sea, 25 C Luna Gardens, Rockwell Center, Makati City, Philippines 1221.

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MAINLAND NEWS

Dagupeño Wins 5th Term as Mayor in U.S.

DAGUPAN CITY, Philippines – The mayor of a city in California longs for his native Dagupan.

Mayor Jose “Joe” Esteves of Milpitas, California told The STAR in an email that he has many memories of life in Dagupan and the good times he had with friends and schoolmates.

“I am always homesick – I like to see my kabaleyan (city-mates),” he said. “I like to smell the air and feel the place where I lived for 30-plus years.”

He misses the beach, the fishponds, the market full of fresh seafood, vegetables and fruits, restaurants, bibingka (rice cake) on the streets at night, fruit trees, the city and rural atmosphere, the leisurely life “and just walking along the city sidewalk,” he added.

Up to now he still imbibes Filipino values of “pursuing excellence in any endeavor and volunteerism – helping in any manner, pride of being a Dagupeño – Sigue (Forward) Dagupan! and being a significant contributor anywhere you are,” he said.

The 66-year-old Esteves said his top three major programs that endeared him to the people of Milpitas are:

- Building the New Library on budget and on schedule;
- Economic development, business retention and development for more jobs and financial strength by cutting city costs; and
- Increasing sources of revenues thus keeping full city services to residents and businesses.

The five-time mayor of Milpitas won re-election last Nov. 6 with 72.86 percent of votes (12,504) over his opponent.

Esteves said he aims to completely resolve the city’s budget deficit and reach out to more complementary businesses to come to Milpitas and increase programs for the youth, seniors, and businesses when his new term starts on Dec. 4.

The keys to his success are strong character and ethical



Mayor Joe Esteves

practices in government operations, open government, transparency in all transactions, and accessibility by any Milpitas resident, he added.

Esteves cited the importance of dedication to performing city services obligations/responsibilities and being sincere to people, support from family and many friends.

“I have never missed a single Council meeting since I was elected in 1998,” he said.

Esteves said his perennial victory was due to excellence in performance – having been selected as Best Elected Official every year that he was mayor – proven record and character, and leadership.

“I make tough decisions including negotiations with powerful employee unions,” he said.

Esteves also cited consistent clean campaign materials: “No mudslinging.”

Every term that he had served translated to significant

benefits and services to the people of Milpitas, he added.

Esteves said he has no immediate political plan but to “continue excellence in public service, doing the maximum and extraordinary accomplishments as mayor.”

“This is the best way to prepare for any higher or different responsibility,” he said.

Esteves said every time he wins, he always feels excited.

“Yes... every election is always different – different competition, issues, platform, challenges, events, volunteers, others. I always start with a new goal and plan,” he said.

Esteves said he wants to be remembered as a true public servant working for the benefit of the people.

“I would like people to have confidence, trust and respect in me and value all the accomplishments I completed and services I rendered,” he said.

Esteves said politics was not part of his original plan in

life, but to be successful in his career.

“My desire was to volunteer and lead in my community and church, to be a major contributor with projects and programs,” he said.

Esteves finished two Science degrees, Civil Engineering and Industrial Engineering, at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

He also finished his Masters in Business in UP in 1975.

Esteves won as Milpitas mayor in 2002, 2004, 2006, 2010, 2012.

One term is two years and three successive terms is the limit so he took a break for one term in 2009 to 2010 and came back to run in 2010.

Esteves was also elected city councilman (1998-2002).

Fifteen percent of the total Milpitas voting population of 25,000 or 3,750 are Filipino-American voters.

Esteves is the first Filipino to serve as mayor in the United States, according to Wikipedia. (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

‘Noy wants Leonen for SC’

by Delon Porcalla
Monday, Nov. 12, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Chief government peace negotiator Marvic Leonen is the “personal choice” of President Aquino to fill the lone vacancy in the Supreme Court (SC) left by the promotion of Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno last August, according to Malacañang insiders.

The sources said Leonen has the definitive edge, owing to the fact that it was Aquino himself who persuaded the former law dean of the University of the Philippines to apply for the vacancy in the SC.

Leonen was nominated to the 15-member high tribunal by former UP president Emerlinda Roman and human rights lawyer Pablito Sanidad.

Leonen, the government chief negotiator with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front

(MILF), accepted the nomination.

If appointed, Leonen will be spending more than two decades in the judiciary since he is in his late 40s.

Sereno, now 52 years old, will be chief magistrate for 18 years, or until 2030, spanning the terms of four presidents.

In an interview in Laos where the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting was held, Aquino credited Leonen for securing the peace deal with the MILF, saying the chief negotiator assembled the “nuts and bolts” of the government’s framework agreement.

“At the same time, opportunities in this profession to become an associate justice need to be fair,” the President said.

“Medyo grabe na rin ang na-achieve ni Marvic (He has achieved quite a bit),” Aquino said, clarifying that he still has to consult Leonen about the matter.

Leonen topped the shortlist

(continued on page 15)

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GLOBAL NEWS

Vigan City Receives UNESCO Award

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Center presented a Best Practice in World Heritage Management Award to Vigan City, Ilocos Sur, the Philippines during the closing ceremonies of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention held November 8, 2012 in Kyoto, Japan.

The convention was aimed at strengthening international cooperation to preserve World Heritage sites with local communities, despite increasing pressures on cultural heritage from rapid urbanization, mass tourism, climate change and conflicts.

Vigan City bested 28 entries from 23 countries and was chosen



for its good management practice with relatively limited resources, local community participation integrated in the various systems of heritage conservation and city management, and the multifaceted approach for the protection of the heritage site.

The judges did not only focus on conservation of the city but also on the total development of Vigan City which encompasses tourism,

water, environmental protection and other aspects.

Vigan was listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site on December 2, 1999 because it represents a unique fusion of Asian building design and construction with European colonial architecture and planning. The city is an exceptionally intact and well-preserved example of a European trading town in East Asia. (www.philstar.com)

Pinoy Death Convict in Saudi Gets 4 More Months Reprieve

MANILA, Philippines - An overseas Filipino worker (OFW) on death row in Saudi Arabia was given four more months to produce more than P40 million worth of blood money.

OFW Joselito Zapanta was scheduled for execution today, November 14, but it was initially extended to December 14 to give him and his family one more month to produce P55 million worth of blood money.

Zapanta was convicted of killing his Sudanese landlord by a

court in Saudi Arabia.

Vice President Jejomar Binay said that he received the news about the four-month extension before dawn today.

He said that aside from the extension of four more months, the family of the Sudanese victim also agreed to lower the blood money to P44 million.

Binay said that latest developments on Zapanta's case are results of the continuing negotiation being conducted by Philippine officials



Joselito Zapanta

with the family of the Sudanese victim and Saudi Arabian government officials.

The family of Zapanta has so far raised P4.39 million.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) had said that Zapanta's mother and sister were allowed to visit the OFW.

They left Manila on Tuesday. They were accompanied by representatives from the DFA.

Binay is asking Filipinos to continue praying for Zapanta. (www.philstar.com)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS (from page 14, 'NOY...)

of seven nominees for the vacancy in the SC, along with former energy secretary Raphael Lotilla, Court of Appeals (CA) Presiding Justice Andres Reyes Jr., and CA Associate Justice Rosmari Carandang.

The others were CA Justices Noel Tijam and Jose Reyes Jr., and De La Salle University Law dean Jose Manuel Diokno.

Aquino has until Nov. 22 to fill the vacancy created by the elevation

of Sereno to the post of chief justice last August. Under the law, the President has 90 days to fill the vacancy in the judiciary.

Leonen was admonished by SC justices in March 2011 when he led faculty members of the UP Law in calling for the resignation of incumbent Justice Mariano del Castillo over charges of plagiarism.

Leonen vowed to be independent from the executive if appointed to the

high court, stressing he does not have any political attachment to the President since he did not campaign for him in the 2010 polls.

He was only recruited to head the peace panel because of his known advocacies.

A source at Malacañang said Leonen's remark is true – that he had no role in the campaign and that he is not a member of the Liberal Party – but that Aquino apparently liked him. (www.philstar.com)

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