

HAWAII



FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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◆ APRIL 18, 2015 ◆

7TH ANNUAL FILIPINO FILM FEST OFFERS BEST OF PINOY CINEMA

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EDITORIALS

Filipino Film Festival —A Feast For the Senses

Few would disagree with the claim that movies and the world of cinema are a reflection of society—both present and past. Every country has stories to tell about their past, their culture now and views of what the future will look like through their eyes. For the Philippines, there is no shortage of talented filmmakers who direct and produce entertaining films that shed light on the Filipino culture and way of life.

For local film fans, the seventh rendition of the Filipino Film Festival offers a unique opportunity to experience the very latest in cinema and this year's promises to be one of the best yet. The Festival has featured a wide variety of genres, from romance to drama and documentary—all of which offer a deeper look into the social, political, economic, and spiritual concerns that are central to the Filipino culture. Many of the Festival's films have won awards in other international film festivals for their originally and surprisingly entertaining story lines.

The Festival's organizers screen dozens of films prior to the event. They leave no stone unturned in reading blogs and reviews and taking note of international acclaim all in an effort to whittle down the selection to roughly six or seven films. The result is an entertaining, family friendly environment and overall positive appeal for a sophisticated, well-educated audience. Many of the films have redemptive, uplifting endings with complex, compelling narratives that equal some of the best international films being made today. And added benefit is that the films offer English titles, which should appeal to non-native speakers who typically shy away from foreign films.

If you're the type who avoids crowded cultural events out in the community but still want to experience the Filipino culture and history through the eyes of its award-winning filmmakers, consider paying a visit to this year's Filipino Film Festival. It's not only well worth the price of admission, but you will leave entertained and maybe even learn something about the Philippines and Filipino culture that you never knew before.

Go For The Win Pacquiao, Filipinos Support You

From Hawaii to the U.S. Mainland, to the Philippines and Europe, Filipinos around the globe will be watching the biggest, most-hyped, sporting event this May 2.

Multiple world boxing champion and Philippine Congressman Manny Pacquiao will finally face the undefeated and pound-for-pound champion Floyd Mayweather Jr. in Las Vegas. The two biggest draws of boxing will square off to unify their welterweight world titles and determine pound-for-pound supremacy of this era.

Contentious talks kept this fight from being made for years. It was five years in the making with back-and-forth deal-making that turned sour each time the two legendary fighters came together for negotiations. Then finally, on Feb. 20, all the concerned parties – the fighters, promoters, network stations -- came together under stars aligned, to make the fight everyone has been waiting for a reality.

Pacquiao dedicated this fight to Filipinos everywhere, particularly to those in the Philippines. "This fight is for the honor

FROM THE PUBLISHER

W

hat an issue we have for you! First off, our cover story is about the 7th Annual Filipino Film Festival from April 18-28, 2015 at the Honolulu Museum of



Art's Doris Duke Theatre. If you enjoy Filipino films or going to the movies in general, this event may be just for you. For our young people, bear in mind that admission is free for students under age 17. This applies to all films, except on opening night. If you are part of a school group or know of a class or club that may be interested in seeing one of the movies, send a text to 358-2868 and ask for the person in charge at HMA. For a description of the films and their show times, turn to our cover story beginning on page 4. The films include 2015 blockbuster "That Thing Called Tadhana" which was directed by filmmaker extraordinaire Antoinette Jadaone who granted an exclusive interview with the Chronicle. Read more about the exceptionally-talented Jadaone on page 6.

Serving as the Festival's title sponsor is the Consuelo Foundation. The Chronicle interviewed its President & CEO Jon Matsuoka who discusses in detail on page 8 the Foundation's history, mission and impact. Established by philanthropist Consuelo Zobel Alger, the Foundation financially supports programs and services that serve marginalized families here in Hawaii and in the Philippines.

Speaking of serving, we also have a profile story of Tony Meloto, founder of Gawad Kalinga (GK). Many of you have heard of GK's positive impact and efforts to address poverty in the Philippines. Remarkably, GK has accomplished much without depending on "pork barrel" funds from the government or foreign aid. GK's success is instead based on the premise of creating a win-win" situation. For more about GK, read Meloto's story on page 9 which we hope will inspire you.

Last but not least, our readers who hail from the Ilocos region may be interested in a feature interview on page 11 with Philippine Rep. Victor Ortega who discusses his accomplishments and challenges facing the 1st District of La Union.

That's all for now. Our sincerest thanks to all of you for reading and faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle—the state's leading Filipino newspaper! Until next time... *aloha, mabuhay* and see you at the 7th Annual Filipino Film Festival!

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

of my country," said Pacquiao, who is a well-known philanthropist in the Philippines, singing pop star, basketball franchise owner, and lawmaker – a true renaissance man who has done it all. What's even more impressive is the quantum journey he has made from extreme poverty to the man of his stature today.

"This is the super bowl of boxing," HBO Sports president Ken Hershman said. "They're the two greatest boxers of their generation. It transcends boxing for sure and it probably transcends sports."

Beyond Boxing Fans

Hershman got it right that the fight would transcend boxing. Millions of non-traditional, casual boxing fans wait in excitement. Beyond the intriguing boxing match-up in which the

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

The Help and Yelp: Filipino Owner of Beverly Hills Bakery Accused of Labor Abuse and Human Trafficking of Visa Holders, Sues Her Relatives

Here's a tale of two cases, Filipino-style.

One case involves the help. The other case involves the Yelp.

When the California-based daughter of a wealthy and powerful Filipino official was sued last month by 11 of her Filipino employees, it may have turned heads. Why would current and former employees sue their employer? Where is the loyalty?

Well, that presumes the employer deserved it. I'll reserve judgment. That's what the courts will do.

But superior court documents in Los Angeles show Analiza (Ana) Moitinho de Almeida, the daughter of Juan B. Santos, the former Nestle chair, and the current head of Social Security System in the Philippines, appears to be the

litigious type.

On the week Ana Moitinho de Almeida was slapped with that civil suit worth at least \$1 million naming her, her husband Goncalo, and their corporate entities, L'Amante French Bakery and French Concepts in a complaint for human trafficking, racketeering, discrimination, and labor issues, she had a second case already on their plate.

In addition to the big civil suit, Ana and her husband were in mediation talks over another multi-million dollar suit they filed against a Filipino American couple---who just happen to be one of Ana's relatives.

It goes back to Dec. 2012. That's when the Moitinho de Almeida's filed a libel suit worth upwards of \$8 million dollars in damages against undetermined "John Doe and Does 1-100," who may have used fictitious screen names to

post defamatory statements on Yelp against the Moitinho de Almeidas bakery.

The suit cites posts under various names. One by an "Alan B." said the bakery was "not a French Bakery," and that "any French baker worth his salt will always have in their shops chocolate or coffee eclairs filled with ganache or mousse inside."

Another example was from a poster identified as "Claire," who complained that the owners were "plain cheats and liars" and that "knowing the shady background of the owner and bakers," they found a "hair... a big, black curly hair inside the bread."

Such John Doe suits are often seen as "SLAPP" suits. SLAPP stands for "Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation." And while it seems like a

way for a business to protect its rights, they're actually intended to put a chill in the air and take away First Amendment rights from the public.

Indeed, anti-SLAPP legislation has been the answer to curb the frivolous use of such suits.

In the Moitinho de Almeida case, the plaintiffs named actual defendants later.

But surprisingly along with the John Does, the defendants were Ana's first cousin Minette and Richard Ramos, Los Angeles area residents who up until that time were very close to the Moitinho de Almeidas.

I contacted Ramos who confirmed the suit and the responses filed on Sept. 2013.

Ramos said neither he nor his wife wrote the negative reviews on Yelp.

"We swore to each other on our marriages that we didn't write it," Richard Ramos told me. "I believe my wife."

Without admitting to any of the negative postings, the Ramos' response to the suit claims that any reviews are protected speech and that the Yelp contract signed by the Moitinho de Almeida's was their consent to receive both positive and negative reviews.

Richard Ramos told me he was surprised about the suit and said that it seemed to come when he and his wife became more aware of the situation with the Moitinho de Almeida's employees at home and at their bakeries as early as 2009.

Ramos said he was told by Goncalo Moitinho de Almeida that the workers did domestic and gardening work as well as bakery work. That is one of the

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EDITORIALS (from page 11. GO FOR THE WIN...)

best offensive fighter in Pacquiao meets the best defensive fighter in Mayweather Jr., this fight pits personality opposites in a clash.

On one side, Pacquiao is the known nice guy of the sport, in and outside of the ring. His selfless reputation is admired by millions around the world, not just among Filipinos.

Then there is Mayweather Jr., the sport's bad boy, flashy with a reputation of excess beyond measure, not to mention his run in with the law.

Yes, ultimately, the upcoming battle is about sport and boxing. But to casual boxing fans, it's hard not to ignore the hero vs villain drama unfolding.

Big Payout

Dubbed the fight of the century, the Pacquiao-Mayweather contest is expected to break all revenue records.

Mayweather (47-0, 26 KOs), 38, of Las Vegas, stands to earn more than \$100 million

The 36-year-old Pacquiao (57-5-2, 38 KOs), is guaranteed 40 percent, which is estimated to make him at least \$60 million and more likely around \$80 million.

Media Attention

It's rare that practically all the mainstream newspapers and media outlets cover boxing. From the New York Times and Los Angeles Times to Forbes, news articles and editorials have been written up about this upcoming boxing draw. This is how much of a big deal this Pacquiao-Mayweather Jr. contest will be.

When all is said and done, no matter the outcome, Filipinos around the world can be proud of Pacquiao and the decade of entertainment he has given to us all. For Filipinos in the homeland, Pacquiao's life narrative is perhaps even more meaningful for the symbol of hope and inspiration that they can draw from. His life story is indeed unique. But it represents victory in the face of hardship, a universal theme repeated time and again in movies, song, and yes, boxing.

So on May 2, Filipinos will view that fight as more than just a boxing contest, it will be looked upon as the ending chapter of a hero's saga, that Filipinos hope will have a triumphant conclusion. Give it your all Pacquiao! You have the support of millions of Filipinos around the world.

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COVER STORY

7th Annual Filipino Film Fest Promises to Delight Audiences

By Dennis Galolo

For organizers of the 7th Annual Filipino Film Festival, the event just keeps getting better and better. And with several milestone films up for screening and a special opening night reception and feast prepared by visiting New York chef Yana Gilbuena, this year's version may be the best one yet.



The festival is scheduled to run April 18-28, 2015 at the Honolulu Museum of Art's Doris Duke Theatre. It is sponsored by the Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation—a non-profit charity dedicated to improving the lives and living conditions of disadvantaged children, women and families throughout the Philippines and Hawaii.

Serving as the festival's title sponsor was an easy decision for the Foundation's board of directors.

"Consuelo was a patron of the arts," says Jon Matsuoka, "However, being in Hawaii, she missed the Filipino films that were not shown here. So this would be her way of helping local Filipinos to keep in touch with the arts and cultural aspects of

her homeland in film work." According to Matsuoka, there are many benefits of sponsoring a Filipino film festival in Hawaii.

"It not only keeps Hawaii's Filipinos in touch with their homeland, it also educates the greater community of the growing film industry in the Philippines and how Filipino filmmakers are making statements in their artwork and even going mainstream," Matsuoka says.

Opening Night

The event kicks off on April 18 at 6 pm with a reception and gastronomic feast hosted by Chef Gilbuena who will prepare foods from the regions of Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao. There will also be live music by guitarist Ian

O'Sullivan and vocalist Paiz Lee.

The reception's menu will include seafood *sisig* (octopus with soy-lime Thai chilies topped with quail eggs), *ginataang liempo* (crispy pork belly with spicy coconut sauce), *sinuglaw* (local seafood in cane sugar, Thai chilies and coconut milk topped with grilled pork belly), and grilled pineapple flan for dessert.

Film festival committee member Natalie Aczon heard about Gilbuena, a self-taught chef who in March 2014 launched a 50-week dinner tour through all 50 states which came to be known as the *Salo Project*. Aczon contacted Gilbuena and promptly invited the Brooklyn-based chef who

admitted that she had yet to visit Hawaii.

"It's serendipitous to have Chef Gilbuena for the finale of her mission of '50 States in 50 Weeks' in the 50th state," Aczon says. "Having a mover of the Filipino food movement as a part of the festival is a perfect way to cultivate a better understanding of what Filipino cuisine is all about."

For those unable to attend the opening reception, Chef Gilbuena will teach a cooking class at Cook Space Hawaii at the Ward Warehouse on April 11, host a "pop-up" dinner at Kaimuki Superette on April 22 and serve as the featured chef at "Eat the Street" in Kakaako on April 24 with the theme

"Delights From the Philippines."

A screening of the romantic comedy *Namets!* follows the reception. Tickets for the opening night reception, dinner and film is \$35 for general admission and \$30 for museum members.

For those wanting to attend the opening night film only, the cost is \$15 for the public and \$12 for museum members. For regular screenings, the cost is \$10 for general admission and \$8 for museum members.

The Line-Up

According to film curator Abbie Algar, this year's line-up of films has an abundance of

(continued on page 5)

MOVIES @ THE 7TH ANNUAL FILIPINO FILM FESTIVAL

NAMETS! • YUMMY!

Directed by Jay Abello. Philippines. 2008. 90 mins. Ilonggo/Hiligaynon with English subtitles.

April 18 - 7:30 pm, April 22 & 28 - 1 pm

Christian Vasquez and Angel Jacob play dueling chefs and ex-high school sweethearts who must work to turn a cheesy Italian-themed restaurant into a mecca for traditional Negrense food. Shot entirely on location in the Visayan province of Negros Occidental, this heartwarming romantic comedy is full of mouthwatering local cuisine and scenery.



THIRD IS MY FIRST • 1ST KO SI 3RD

Directed by Real Florido. Philippines. 110 mins. Filipino with English subtitles.

April 19 - 4 pm, April 21 - 1 pm, April 23 & 27 - 7:30 pm

A recent retiree (Nova Villa) reconnects with her first love (Freddie Webb) and learns that life is still full of surprises. This unlikely romantic comedy about first love and old age marks a long-anticipated on-screen reunion for Nova Villa and Freddie Webb, who for many years played the married couple Ines and Jimmy Capistrano on the popular 1980s sitcom *Chicks to Chicks*.



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COVER STORY

(from page 4, 7TH ANNUAL...)

strong female-driven narratives and female-directed pieces.

“I think this says something about the role of women as decision-makers and leaders in Filipino culture,” Algar says. “The perception of the Philippines as a nation of strong women is not misplaced.”

On the subject of strong women, director Milo Sogueco puts footwear at the center of his feature film *Mariquina*. He was able to get former First Lady Imelda Marcos—perhaps the world’s most famous Filipina who is forever linked to shoe obsession—to make a cameo appearance in the film.

The producers and cast of



MANNY

K'NA THE DREAMWEAVER

That Thing Called Tadhana made the film a viral hit on social media using its quotable “hugot” lines. A “hugot”—which translates literally to “to draw” or “to pull out”—is like a meme, except it usually uses quotes from song lyrics, TV or film.

The festival also features the world’s first T’boli-language feature film *K’na the*

Dreamweaver which was set in picturesque South Cotabato province in Mindanao. The film proved challenging for stars Mara Isabelle Lopez and RK Bagatsing—both of whom had to learn the T’boli language for the film. Ida Anita del Mundo—who also plays violin in the Manila Symphony Orchestra—makes her directorial debut with the film.

The festival is presented in partnership with the Hawaii International Film Festival’s 2015 Spring Showcase, which highlights the best films from Asia to Sundance from April 10 to April 19. Audiences can also look forward to introductions and post-screening discussions throughout the festival.

The festival’s co-sponsors and partners include the Fil-

Com Center; Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii; Filipino Association of University Women; AARP Hawaii; Filipino and Philippine Literature Program at the University of Hawaii-Manoa; Oahu Filipino Community Council; Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii; Congress of Visayan Organizations; Fil-Am Courier; and Palolo Valley Brewing Company.

Members of the Filipino Film Festival Committee are Natalie Aczon, Enrico G. Camara, Rose Churma, Pepi Nieva, Bryan Ruiz, Apolonia Stice and Ethel Alikpala Ward.

For more information or to buy tickets go to: www.honoluluuseum.org/events/films or call 532-8701.

MOVIES @ THE 7TH ANNUAL FILIPINO FILM FESTIVAL

K'NA THE DREAMWEAVER

Directed by Ida Anita del Mundo. Philippines. 2014. 85 mins. T'boli with English subtitles

April 23 - 1 pm, April 26 - 7:30 pm



When a young T’boli woman (Mara Isabelle Lopez) becomes a dreamweaver, she has the chance to weave together her village’s warring clans. But, will she give up her true love (RK Bagatsing) to do so? Set against an almost otherworldly backdrop of Lake Sebu in South Cotabato, this stunning folk tale also showcases the T’boli’s traditional costumes

and is the first feature film shot entirely in the T’boli language.

MARIQUINA

Directed by Milo Sogueco. Philippines. 2014. 120 mins. Filipino with English subtitles

April 21 at 7:30 p.m.; April 26 at 4 p.m.



After a famed shoemaker commits suicide, his daughter takes it upon herself to find the right shoes for his burial. The deeper she searches for the perfect shoes, the more she finds herself. *Mariquina* is a restrained, touching and elegant look at family ties and the passage of time. Imelda Marcos—famous for her collection of 3,000 shoes—makes a cameo appearance.

MANNY

Directed by Leon Gast & Ryan Moore. USA/Philippines. 2014. 88 mins.

April 19 & 22 - 7:30 pm, April 24 & 26 - 1 pm



Manny takes you behind the scenes and into the life of Manny Pacquiao—from his early life as teenager who fought to feed his family, to his incredible rise to the peak of his sport as a boxing champion. Filming began in 2010 and features never-before-seen home footage. The film is the perfect

prelude to Pacquiao’s match against Floyd Mayweather, Jr. on May 2.

THAT THING CALLED TADHANA

Directed by Antoinette Jadaone. Philippines. 2014. 110 mins. Filipino with English subtitles.

April 24 - 4 pm, April 28 - 7:30 pm

Two love-burned 20-somethings (Angelica Panganiban and J.M. de Guzman) meet by chance at Rome’s Fiumicino Airport and end up on a road trip that might just change their minds about romance. After an awkward first encounter involving a familiar overweight baggage dilemma, he offers to carry some of her clothes and the two hit it off en route back to Manila. In despair and longing for an escape, they form a friendship that will take them on an unexpected journey to Sagada.



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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

TALENTED SCREENWRITER-DIRECTOR
MAKING A NAME FOR HERSELF

By Chona Montesines-Sonido

Filipinos love a good movie. For talented Filipina screenwriter Antoinette Jadaone, there is no bigger thrill than producing movies for her *kababayans* to enjoy.

In 2014, Jadaone took the world of Filipino cinema by storm with four of her movies hitting the big screen. She continues to capture the fancy of fans and moviegoers across the Philippines with her latest romantic comedy and 2015's biggest box office hit so far—*That Thing Called Tadhana*. The film stars Angelica Panganiban and J.M. de Guzman, two love-burned 20-somethings who meet by chance at an airport in Rome but end up on a road trip that changes their minds about romance.

Despite Jadaone's meteoric rise to success, those close to her say she remains humble, hardworking and funny. Local film fanatics will get several opportunities to meet Jadaone up-close-and-personal, beginning with a meet-and-greet hosted by the Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu on April 27, 2015 at 6 pm. To RSVP, please call Kit Zulueta at 291-9407.

Jadaone will also make an appearance at the 7th Annual Filipino Film Festival where *That Thing Called Tadhana* will be shown April 24 at 4 pm and April 28 at 7:30 pm. On April 28, the Filipino Association of University Women (FAUW) will host a pre-screening reception at 6 pm at the Doris Duke Theatre lobby for the community to meet Jadaone, who will then introduce her film prior to the 7:30 pm screening.

Jadaone graciously agreed to an interview with the Chronicle. Her responses have been edited for space and clarity.

Q: Tell us about your upbringing. Where were you born and raised? How many

siblings do you have? What jobs did your parents hold?

A: I was born and raised in Pasig City. I'm the eldest. I have a sister and a brother. My mom is a housewife and my dad supervises the family business in construction supply.

Q: You attended UP where you majored in film. Who were your role models and others who influenced you?

A: Direk Joyce Bernal is one of my filmmaking idols. Her romantic comedy *Don't Give Up on Us* (Piolo Pascual and Judy Ann Santos) is my favorite Pinoy "romcom" and the film that made me want to be a "romcom" director. I went on to work with her as her script continuity supervisor and to this day, I consider her my eternal thesis adviser.

I also look up to the other Bernal—Ishmael Bernal. I love his films. *Hinugot sa Langit*, *Broken Marriage* and *Relasyon* are my favorites. I love how he was able to do social commentary without losing the humor—that's very *pinoy*. I hope someday I can make a film even just half as good as his *Himala* or *Relasyon*.

I also love Michel Gondry, Jason Reitman, Woody Allen and Alexander Payne. With the exception of Gondry and Reitman (occasionally), they all bank on simple stories. Their visuals are not grandiose but their storytelling is always simply brilliant. I want to be that kind of filmmaker—one who doesn't lose touch of the story.

Q: At what point did you decide that producing and directing films was your calling in life?

A: When I watched *Don't Give Up on Us* inside a full theater in SM North, everyone was laughing and crying and being *kilig* all at the same time and we all left the theater wanting to be in love. I re-

member that moment when the power of cinema just overwhelmed me. *Pwede palang maging ganun ang effect ng pelikula sa maraming tao* all at the same time. I decided I wanted to make movies for the rest of my life.

Q: Describe your first big break. How did it help your career?

A: Many think that my first big break was when I directed my first full-length film *Six Degrees of Separation from Lilia Cuntapay*. But I believe my first real break was when Direk Joyce got me as her script continuity supervisor. I was already earning pretty well as a starting TV commercial director when she texted me that she was looking for a scriptcon for her next movie. I left my job in a heartbeat. To this day, I still believe it is one of the best decisions I have made in my life. It made film my life.

Q: How many films have you wrote and/or directed? Which has been your favorite(s) to date?

A: I have written and directed five full-length films and a handful of short films too. My favorite has got to be *That Thing Called Tadhana*. It is my dream film and the feeling of having your dream film come to life—I will cherish that forever. I wish other filmmakers will get a chance to make their dream films too because *ang sarap lang talaga sa pakiramdam*. Whenever I feel out of tune, *wala sa hulog* in making films, I just have to think of how *Tadhana* changed my life and the passion and dedication that were put there just to complete it and I'll be right on track again.

Q: How did you come up with the plot for "That Thing Called Tadhana?"

A: It was 10 years worth of love stories and heartbreaks of my friends, friends of friends, strangers and even my

own personal love stories.

Q: What makes "Tadhana" so appealing to moviegoers?

A: I guess it's because *lahat tayo n a g - pakatanga sa pag-ibig* at least once in our lives. *Tadhana* is oh so familiar.

Like your love story being told right before your eyes, *kaya siguro maraming makaka-relate*.

Q: You've been referred to as "one your generation's most exciting filmmakers." How do you feel about that?

A: Wow. :)

Q: What are some of the challenges that filmmakers like yourself face?

A: A low budget but I've learned to use it to my advantage because that's when you become more creative. When you know your story by heart, a low budget is not a hindrance.

Q: Is it true that you paid \$5,000 for the rights to use Whitney Houston's song "Where Do Broken Hearts Go?" and that you raised the money via Facebook from friends and fans? How did that go?

A: Yup! We were overwhelmed by the help. Money came from both friends and strangers. Some even emailed us with heartfelt notes and their donations. *Nakakatabang puso*. So this film isn't really just my film. It is our film. *Nagkataon lang na ako ang nagdirek*. :)

Q: So far, how much money has "Tadhana" grossed at box offices?

A: 135 million (Philippines theaters). As of press time, the film has grossed



\$110,000+ for our U.S. theatrical release.

Q: Will there be a sequel?

A: Fingers crossed! *Pero mahirap madaliin! Dapat sa tamang panahon*.

Q: Why should Filipinos come out and see this romantic comedy?

A: Because it is their love story too. :)

Q: Why are events like Honolulu's 7th Annual Filipino Festival important for aspiring young filmmakers?

A: Because I made this film for Filipinos and whether you're in Manila or in the U.S. or in Hawaii, I want Filipinos to be able to watch this. :)

Q: You're in your early 30s and still very young. What keeps you grounded?

A: Friends who are my most honest critics always bring me back to where I started—*batang mahilig lang mag-ten twenty sa busport nung grade school*.

Q: If you were not producing films, what do you think you'd be doing?

A: I'd be writer for an art-related business.

Q: What words of advice would you offer to young Filipinos who want to be on the big screen or behind the camera?

A: Start from the bottom.

IMMIGRATION GUIDE

DUI + Children on Board = Deportation



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

A Hawaii State Senator of Filipino ancestry was driving too slowly (30 mph) on the H-1 freeway a few years ago. Police pulled him over on suspicion of drunken driving. His excuse was that he had poor eyesight. His two minor sons were with him. He was reported to have claimed that he had brought them to a social function and that he had at most two glasses of wine. He agreed to blow into a device to measure his blood alcohol content. He refused additional sobriety tests saying he was wearing ill-fitting contact lenses and had a fractured foot.

He had a shot (pardon the pun) at beating the DUI charge since breathalyzer tests (showing it was above the legal limit of 0.08) are not generally reliable and there was no other evidence of his blood alcohol level. As a lawyer, he knew or

ought to have known that. But what did he do? He pleaded no contest and was convicted, spent two nights in jail, paid a fine of \$800, had his license revoked for 90 days, and ordered to attend alcohol treatment class. He was shown on television clad in prison garb. Nakakahiya. He lost his reelection bid. He ran for Honolulu City Council in a different district – a Filipino bailiwick. He won. We wrote an article “There is Life after DUI.”

If the politician had been an immigrant he would have been deported for child abuse by endangering the welfare of a child. Recently, a Honduran immigrant was charged in New York with a variety of offenses, including endangering the welfare of a child, in violation of New York Penal Law, for knowingly acting in a manner likely to be injurious to the physical, mental or moral welfare of a child less than seventeen years old. He was driving under the influence of alcohol while his two children aged one and nine, were in the car.

Child Abuse, Child Neglect, or Child Abandonment Are Deportable Offenses

The Department of Homeland Security commenced removal proceedings against the Honduran under § 237(a)(2)(E)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act [8 USC § 1227(a)(2)(E)(i)] which provides that any alien who at any time after entry is convicted of a crime of “child abuse, child neglect, or child abandonment is deportable.”

The Immigration Judge ordered him deported, holding that his conviction for child-endangerment satisfied the generic federal definition of a “crime of child abuse.”

The BIA affirmed. The Court of Appeals denied a petition for review. The Court rejected the claim that the BIA’s interpretation of the phrase “crime of child abuse,” as including child-endangerment crimes for which injury to a child is not a required element, is so broad as to be unreasonable and not entitled to Chevron deference. (*Chevron, U.S.A., Inc. v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 467 U.S. 837, 842 (1984). The Court found that the BIA’s broad interpretation of the phrase “crime of

child abuse” was reasonable. The Court observed that many states have crimes called “child abuse” where injury is not a required element.

In determining whether a state conviction qualifies as a removable offense, the court employs a “categorical approach” to determine whether the state offense is comparable to an offense listed in the INA. Under the categorical approach, the court looks not at the facts of the case but whether the state statute defining the crime of conviction categorically fits within the generic definition in the INA.

The New York Penal Law can be violated (1) by taking action that is “likely to be injurious” to a child, whether or not harm ensues; or (2) by allowing a child to work in a dangerous occupation. The Honduran’s conviction was under the first prong “likely to be injurious”. *Florez v. Holder*, No. 14-874, 03/04/2015, CA2.

QUERY: Is not the minor

children’s forcible separation from their father “likely to be injurious” to the children?

RECOMMENDATION.

Better become a citizen if you have a propensity to drink and drive, especially if you have children with you. You might even become a Hawaii legislator.

ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He is originally from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. Atty. Tipon specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. He served as an immigration officer and co-authored “Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.,” an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. His radio program airs Thursdays at 7:30 am on KNDI 1270 AM. He can be reached via mail at: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813, by telephone at (808) 225-2645 or by e-mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. For more on Atty. Tipon, go online to: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice.

CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 3, THE HELP AND YELP....)

key issues in the civil suit filed by the workers last month. E-2 visas obtained by the Moitinho de Almeida’s as “foreign investors” were for the purposes of bringing in “skilled workers.”

Ramos suspects the suit may have been intended to intimidate them into silence about what they knew about the Moitinho de Almeida’s use of the “skilled workers” as domestic help.

“I know the stories,” said Ramos. “I heard it first hand from Goncalo... They just wanted to quiet us and suppress us to not come forward with the truth.”

Ramos hopes the facts in the employees’ suit will somehow impact the suit on the Yelp matter.

By phone and e-mail, I reached out to Goncalo and Ana Moitinho de Almeida about the Yelp suit against Ana’s relatives.

Goncarlo responded: “I got your voicemail. We emphatically deny the accusations and look forward to vigorously defend them in the court of law, not public opinion. Thank you.”

Two weeks ago, both had responded

to my calls on the employee matter: “French Concepts, Inc. DBA L’Amande French Bakery believes that like anyone accused in our judicial system will have our turn to present our story and supporting evidence. At that time we will allow due process to take its course.”

The Moitinho de Almeida’s also have a court date set in May on yet another matter.

Last year, the California labor commissioner’s office reportedly ordered the Moitinho de Almeida’s to pay nearly \$250,000 in overtime wages and penalties to workers.

The Moitinho de Almeida’s have appealed the fine.

That one will require more than just kissing and making up.

But I’m afraid, so will the other disputes of the Moitinho de Almeida.

EMIL GUILLERMO served on the editorial board of the Honolulu Advertiser. An award winning journalist, he was the first Filipino to host a national news program when he hosted NPR’s “All Things Considered.” He lives in Northern California.

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CONSUELO FOUNDATION: HOPE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

By Chona Montesines-Sonido



would like us to renew hope for those who lost it and to give hope to those who never had it.”

—Consuelo Zobel Alger.

The generosity of one woman has brightened the future of disadvantaged children, women and families throughout the Philippines and Hawaii. Her name is Consuelo Zobel Alger, a philanthropist and member of the powerful and influential Zobel de Ayala family.

Consuelo, who had no children of her own, moved to Hawaii in 1970 with her husband James Dyce Alger, a retired three-star U.S. Army general. Before passing away in 1988 at the age of 76, Consuelo, in an act of extraordinary grace, established a foundation that bears her name. The Hawaii-based Consuelo Foundation's mission is to “to do philanthropic work both here and in the Philippines with a specific focus on women, children and families.”

The Foundation's management team is led by President and CEO Jon Matsuoka and a nine-member Board of Directors. Locally, the Foundation supports a variety of programs and projects, including home-

less shelters, social services for youth and cultural events such as the 7th Annual Filipino Film Festival set for April 18-28, 2015.

Matsuoka agreed to answer select questions from the Chronicle about the Foundation and its operations. His responses have been edited for space and clarity.

Q: What are your duties as president and CEO?

A: My duties include the overall management of two offices in Manila and Honolulu, and associated activities including oversight over human resources, finances, programs, selection of partners and the implementation of our strategic plan. Our mission is to address abuse and neglect of women and children through partner programs that are designed to treat and ameliorate these problems. Additionally, we are committed to social change and impact and are vested in organizing a broader sector of



Scientists from the mainland and Hawaii with Consuelo Foundation staff, CEO and President Jon Matsuoka and Emme Tomimbang at the University of the Philippines in Quezon City

supporters and non-profits to pool together resources to move the needle on social issues. These include convening entities for the purpose of change and social policy development, social enterprise and sustainability, and culturally-appropriate program evaluations.

Q: How much was the initial endowment that established the Consuelo Foundation in 1987?

A: About \$100 million

Q: What is the Foundation's current net worth? To date, how much money has the Foundation given to various causes?

A: Current net worth is about \$170 million. Through December 2014 the Foundation has spent about \$83 million on programs in the Philippines and Hawaii.

Q: Who manages its portfolio?

A: The Consuelo Board and Finance and Investment Committee manage the Foundation's portfolio with the assistance of Morgan and Stanley.

Q: How many people does the Foundation employ?

A: About 10 in Hawaii and 30 in the Philippines

Q: One of the Foundation's

current projects in the Philippines is Project H.O.P.E. for victims of Typhoon Haiyan. What has been its impact so far?

A: Given the resources allocated to Project Hope (\$2 million from the Foundation and approximately \$1.5 million from donations), the impact has been significant. We have applied the money to provide emergency relief including employment for disaster relief workers, livelihood programs, constructing day care centers that double as evacuation facilities, and rebuilding schools.

In the second phase of recovery, we are considering the building of a cost-effective community that can be replicated and which can utilize state-of-the-art technology and sustainable practices. We will institute our family and community strengthening programs and livelihood opportunities to promote the social well-being of residents.

Q: One of the first projects in the Philippines that the Foundation partnered with was Child and Family Services Philippines (CFSPI) in 1987. Is this project still going strong?

A: Over the years CFSPI, has developed into a thriving organization in the northern region. Under the leadership

of Danny Urquico, the original shelter program remains and the organization has expanded into a headquarters and income-generating center and a vocational/life skills training center for “at-risk” youth. The success of these programs is measured in terms of effectively addressing the issue of abused children and reducing the pipeline of those children being victimized. CFSPI serves as a model for an effective social service program, organizational sustainability and diversification to address multiple social issues.

Q: What local project or program supported by the Foundation has had a particularly positive impact on the community?

A: Our Hawaii focus is primarily on youth and family issues in the native Hawaiian community. This was the wish of our benefactress Doña Consuelo. The largest project to date has been the building of an entire community in Waianae. We selectively recruited lower income, including homeless families, and employed a self-help system of housing construction to build 75 homes. This community, Ke Aka Ho'ona, has been hugely successful whereby families are thriving, children have excelled educationally and social capital is exceptionally high.

More recently, the Foundation has invested resources into community-based social programs that blend cultural values with family-strengthening technologies. These non-profits are designed to engage hard-to-reach families and youth through the allure of culture and address trauma while teaching life and vocational skills.

Q: Currently, how many projects or programs in the

(continued on page 9)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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PROFILE

Gawad Kalinga Founder Visits Hawaii For CPS Anniversary

By Carlota Ader



he purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Such are words of wisdom to live by, especially for Tony Meloto, founder and pioneering leader of Gawad Kalinga (to give care), a Philippine-based alleviation and nation-building movement with a mission to end poverty for 5 million Filipino families by the Year 2024.

Meloto is in town for the celebration of the UH Center for Philippine Studies' (CPS) 40th anniversary. The foremost academic institution in the U.S. for the comprehensive study of Philippine culture and society and Filipinos in America, CPS will be holding a series of academic and cultural events that began April 8, including a two-day international conference. Meloto was the guest speaker at a fiesta celebration on April 11 at the FilCom Center in Waipahu.

He was invited to Hawaii by the Consuelo Foundation, a major supporter of CPS and a partner with Gawad Kalinga in several joint ventures and projects in the Philippines aimed at improving the lives of poor families.

Jon Matsuoka, president and CEO of the Consuelo Foundation, describes Meloto

as one of the Philippines "premiere thought and action leaders."

"He has had a profound impact in helping the poorest of the poor and repurposing life for thousands of disenfranchised families," Matsuoka says. "Most importantly, he has restored hope to the hopeless and is working vigorously to close the huge disparity between the wealthy and those who are struggling to survive."

Each One Reach One

Born in Bacolod, Philippines, Meloto studied at Ateño de Manila and was on the fast-track to a successful business career. However, he had a life-changing encounter with God in 1985 and joined a Catholic organization called Couples for Christ. He immersed himself in CFC's outreach program in Bagong Silang, a huge relocation site for squatters in Metro Manila. It was there that God opened Meloto's eyes to the suffering of the masses who sorely lacked the basic physical and spiritual necessities of life.

Meloto formulated a plan to uplift the spirits of the poor people, remove their "slum mentality" and instill new



Tony Meloto with Emme Tomimbang (left) and HFC columnist Carlota Ader at the April 11th fiesta at the FilCom Center

hope. Thus, Gawad Kalinga (GK), was born. Meloto shared his vision with friends who embraced his ideas. In 2003, GK began building one new home at a time for the poorest of families with the help of sponsors.

The new homes formed a GK village where families taught Christian values along with skills to earn new livelihoods. Children were also provided with education, while GK volunteers provided counseling and guidance to residents.

One unmistakable characteristic of a GK village are its brightly painted homes in hues of yellows, blues, greens and other colors.

"These are colors of hope," Meloto says. "We wanted to provide a contrast to the colors of poverty which are dull gray, black and dirty brown. We wanted poor Filipinos to stop looking negatively at themselves, so we built brightly-colored communities with landscapes and gar-

dens that would liberate them from a poverty mindset."

Paying It Forward

Those who benefited from GK's assistance were asked to help build new homes for other needy families, alongside rank-and-file GK volunteers. A remarkable thing happened along the way—crime rates went down in the communities and slowly but surely, the poor people began to climb out of their impoverished lifestyles and mentality.

As GK's success grew, so did the amount of financial support and supporters from all over the world. GK volunteers adopted entire villages and volunteered their personal re-

sources. In time, GK became a model program on how to help the world's poor.

"Gawad Kalinga is the gift of the Philippines to the world," Meloto says. "It due to the work of everyday heroes and about the greatness of the Filipino spirit from Filipinos all over the world."

Meloto estimates that Gawad Kalinga volunteers have constructed over 2,500 communities in the Philippines to date and inspired thousands more to be built. So far, GK has built homes for 1 million families and provided education to millions more.

For all of GK's success, Meloto refuses to rest on his laurels. While in Hawaii, he plans to cultivate partnerships with the University of Hawaii. He will also travel to some eight cities on the U.S. mainland, starting in California, and invite Filipino-Americans as well as Americans to see for themselves Gawad Kalinga's success in the Philippines.

"Our goal is to create a better Philippines for the next generation," Meloto says. "We were once the 'Sick Man of Asia' but now we have the most robust economy in Southeast Asia and the whole world is beginning to realize it."

Q & A (from page 8, CONSUELO FOUNDATION...)

Philippines have the Foundation's financial backing?

A: We have over 100 partner organizations in the Philippines, of which approximately 30 receive our monetary support on an annual basis. There are approximately a dozen or so partner programs that we support in Hawaii.

Q: Generally speaking, how does a project in the Philip-

pines or Hawaii get selected for funding by the Consuelo Foundation? What criteria must be met?

A: As an operating foundation, we work to establish rapport and trust with our community partners and develop a firm relationship. From there we are able to assess their needs and ways to enhance their organizational capacity. Our goal is to invest in strong organizational lead-

ership that has a clear vision, a clear theory of change, proven social technologies, a system of evaluation and development, and one that is apt to change and evolve.

In the Philippines, we support human service organizations that address the needs of street kids, children in conflict with the law, sexually-abused girls, trafficked women and physically abused

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Philippine Consulate Holds Araw ng Kagitingan Ceremony

and their families.

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu observed the 73rd *Araw ng Kagitingan* (Day of Valor) during a solemn ceremony held April 9, 2015 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

In attendance were representatives from the U.S. military, led by U.S. Navy Rear Adm. John Aquilino, who represented U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Harry B. Harris, Jr. Elected officials included Gov. David Ige, U.S. Rep. Mark Takai, State Senate president Donna Mercado Kim and State House of Representatives Vice Speaker John Mizuno.

The Filipino-American Veterans of World War II were represented by Art Caleda, Ben Acohido, Bernard Jacang

Keynote speaker Ericson G. Singson, mayor of the City of Candon, Ilocos Sur, says that *Araw ng Kagitingan* is a tradition that is both a celebration and solemn commemoration of the events of World War II—events that he says must be remembered and taught to younger generations.

“By this traditional celebration of the Philippine Day of Valor, we continue to show our values as a family and as a community that we will never forget the evils of war and that we shall continue to work for international brotherhood and cooperation,” he says.

Singson also mentioned a formal Sister City Agreement between the City of Candon and Honolulu, which will be signed on May 7, 2015.

Remarks by Consul General Jamoralin

Seventy three years ago in Bataan, Filipinos and Americans fought side-by-side against the Japanese Imperial Army. At dawn on April 9, 1942, the commander of the Luzon force in Bataan, Major General Edward P. King Jr., surrendered more than 76,000 starving Filipino and American soldiers to Japanese forces. These prisoners of war were forced to endure the infamous 87-mile long “Bataan Death March” to Camp O’Donnell in Capas, Tarlac. En route, thousands died from dehydration, heat exhaustion, untreated wounds and executions while walking on dust-covered roads and crammed into rail cars for transport into captivity. Those who fell behind were usually left to die on the road.

Approximately 5,000 to 10,000 Filipinos and about 600-650 Americans died before they could reach Camp O’Donnell, Tarlac and endured imprisonment afterwards.

Today, we commemorate the great courage of these soldiers who fought valiantly and then endured or died en route or after the Death March. My very own grandfather, Private First Class Adriano Alagon, assigned to the U.S. Army, 14th Engineering Regiment, survived the Bataan Death March, but was executed while in captivity months later in December 1944.

For those who died, survived and those who are here at this moment, we want to salute you while saying thank you for fighting for us. We will not forget your sacrifice and heroism.

In the Philippines, one of the biggest events to commemorate the Bataan Death March is the Capas Freedom March which will take place on April 11 along a 6-mile route. It aims to bring the celebration of bravery and brotherhood to the present generation of Filipinos and to teach the new generation the lessons of survival which come from compassion, sacrifice, mutual

aid and altruism. A portion of the proceeds from the march will go to the construction of the Capas Concentration Camp replica and funding of educational scholarships to children of soldiers killed in action.

In the U.S. Congress, the Senate and the House of Representatives are working to enact bills for Filipino veterans such as the “Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act of 2015” sponsored by Senator Mazie Hirono and co-sponsored by Senator Brian Schatz. In the House of Representatives, a bill of the same title was introduced by Representative Mark Takai and supported by Representative Tulsi Gabbard. There are other bills drafted for Filipino veterans such as the “Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act” and the “Filipino Veterans Promise Act” introduced by Representative Grace Meng of New York.

At the Hawaii Legislature, HB 1119 introduced by Representative Romy Cachola seeks to provide funds for burial and repatriation of Filipino veterans’ remains to the Philippines, if the surviving families wish to do so on behalf of our veterans and the Philippine government, we thank the legislators for these bills.

Philippine President Benigno Aquino II, in his speech during the April 9 commemorative event held at Mt. Samat, Bataan delivered before 1,500 Filipino veterans and members of the diplomatic corps, reiterated his call to peace during these challenging times. The bitter lessons and horrors of World War II should keep us striving for peace and non-violence, including peaceful and rules-based settlement of international disputes.

Let us then become workers for peace; let us all march towards the road to peace and prosperity, in order to secure a great future for the next generation.

Mabuhay tayong lahat.

FEATURE INTERVIEW

Philippine Rep. Victor Ortega Visits Hawaii



By Carlota Ader

The Honorable Victor Francisco Campos Ortega was recently in town to lead the pilgrimage of the Our Lady of Namacpacan, the patron saint of Luna, La Union in preparation of the 140th Anniversary of the saint's arrival in Luna.

The care of the Our Lady of Namacpacan—a miraculous saint recognized by the Vatican—is a main project of Ortega family members who travel with her shrine each year to various locations around the world.

Rep. Ortega represents the 1st District of La Union, Ilocos region in the Philippines' House of Representatives. He comes from the Ortega clan—a well-known political dynasty in the Philippines. His grandfa-

ther Joaquin was former governor of the province, while his father Francisco served in Congress from 1934-1965 and as a councilor and mayor of San Fernando, La Union.

During his brief visit, Rep. Ortega granted an exclusive interview with the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. His answers were edited for space and clarity.

Q: Welcome to Hawaii. Have you been here before? What are your thoughts about Hawaii and the Filipino community?

A: This is my eighth visit to Hawaii and each time I've visited, I've felt the warmth of the hospitality of the Filipino community, especially the Ilocanos. Not only those from La Union but from other provinces in Ilocandia. The La Union Circle, which was led by the late Jesus Floirendo, welcomed me even when I was not yet elected congressman. I

would like to congratulate incumbent President Conrad Valdriz for continuing to be active in the organization. I also commend Carlota Ader for her 16 years of service with the La Union Circle and for receiving the 2013 Abel Award, which is the second highest award given by the Philippine government to a non-government official.

Q: What have you done or are currently doing to address some of the bigger challenges La Union is facing?

A: The "sin taxes" recently passed by Congress has affected tobacco farmers and the answer is to give them assistance through other livelihood training and funding. The other challenge is to make our province more accessible to tourists. We now have the new highway called TIPLEX which we hope will reach Rosario, La Union. This has made travel much easier and we hope that tourism would be given a



boost. Travel to La Union would be cut to three hours.

I have lobbied the Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways for a feasibility study for the TIPLEX to reach the City of San Fernando, being the Capital of Region 1, where all the government officials have their offices. We have a port of entry for goods and a recently-upgraded airport to meet international standards so that we can be reached from Manila in 45 minutes and hopefully accommodate international flights from Hawaii.

Q: What have been your biggest accomplishments to date as a congressman?

A: Twenty years ago, I en-

visioned traffic to escalate with San Fernando becoming a city. I planned and was able to finish the diversion road from Sevilla to San Juan. We were also able to improve farm-to-market roads and hope to connect mountain towns without having residents to come down to the main highway.

I also supported education by establishing vocational high schools in San Gabriel, Sudipen, Santol, Luna and the City of San Fernando. Through the Priority Development Funds, we sponsored 56 government officials to finish their master's degrees in Public Management from the Ateneo School of Government. Two Mayors, two vice mayors, several councilors and department heads benefited from this program.

Along the field of health, we garnered a Galing Pook Award for the best Provincial Hospitals in Balaoan and Bacnotan and also established sev-

(continued on page 12)

TO CONG. VICTOR ORTEGA ALOHA & MABUHAY!



RUDY NEBREJA
President of Lunarian Association of Hawaii
Luna, La Union



DIONISIA CONTAOI
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President of La Union Circle of HI and Associates. Owner of People's Cafe Restaurant



Queen of Region I President of La Union Hawaii **ELMA TIERRA** with husband **RAMON TIERRA**



Former Mrs. HI Filipina and owner of Pinoy Radio **AMY ORTEGA ANDERSON** reunited with brother **MAYOR PABLO ORTEGA** of San Fernando City, La Union



DR. LINDY AQUINO (right), Founder of La Union Circle of Hawaii with past president **CARLOTA H. ADER**.



First Queen Grandma HI International **LOLITA MARQUEZ DOMINGO** & husband **FLORENTINO DOMINGO**

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Noy Declares 2015 'Visit Phi Year'

by Aurea Calica
Thursday, April 9, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - President Aquino has ordered a more aggressive tourism campaign as the country hosts the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit this year and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Tourism Forum in 2016, declaring 2015 as "Visit the Philippines Year (VPY)."

"There is a need to consolidate the activities and products of the public and private sectors into one calendar of events to showcase the outstanding work of Filipinos in music and arts, lifestyle and entertain-

ment, sports and adventure, business and history and culture as well as unveil the many historic treasures, natural wonders and unforgettable adventures of the country," Aquino said in Proclamation No. 991 he signed on March 30.

All other departments, bureaus, offices and instrumentalities of the national government as well as local government units are likewise enjoined to give full support and cooperation to the Department of Tourism (DOT) in the exercise of its duties under the proclamation.

The President said the Philippines' hosting of APEC this year and the ASEAN Tourism Forum in 2016 would



both serve as venues to promote the country as host of meetings, conventions and exhibitions in the Asia-Pacific.

Aquino said tourism was also a good platform for closer collaboration between the public and private sectors as well as the international community in hosting events that would attract foreign visitors and showcase local talent and skills.

He added that a progressive tourism sector could pro-

vide the much-needed resources to improve infrastructure and product development, generate employment and stimulate investments.

To promote public and private sector participation, Aquino ordered all agencies and instrumentalities of the government to submit to the DOT, through the Tourism Promotions Board, their lists of international and local events and activities for inclusion in the VPY calendar of events.

He also tasked them to use the VPY logo in all their information materials to support the dissemination of information about the tourism campaign.

All Philippine embassies and consular offices, as well as the Department of Trade and Industry and DOT foreign of-

fices, shall also ensure the publicity and information related to the VPY 2015, Aquino said.

"The postmaster general shall cause the design, printing and issuance of a special stamp for VPY 2015," the President further said.

Aquino also encouraged the private sector, especially those companies involved in the business of hotel and lodging, travel and tours, transportation, retail and souvenirs as well as restaurants to support the VPY 2015 by developing relevant tour programs and packages for both foreign and local tourists.

"All public and private schools and universities are also encouraged to initiate projects and events related to the theme VPY 2015," the President said. (www.philstar.com)

Q & A (from page 9, CONSUELO FOUNDATION...)

and neglected children living in poverty. In Hawaii, we are focused on 'aina (land) and culturally-based youth programs that serve to engage and redirect at-risk native Hawaiian youth, women transitioning out of prison and a variety of community-based programs that serve our target populations.

Once we fund a program,

we are committed to its survival after our funding ceases. Therefore, we invest in the ability of that organization to sustain itself through alternative means including enterprising "for-profit" activity. This is an economic model that has worked well for us in the Philippines where government support is minimal and one that we are

considering for Hawaii.

Q: The Foundation celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2013. What do you envision for the next 25 years?

A: We see ourselves totally invested in making a larger social impact on the populations that we serve. To do this, we have to better understand underlying causes of family distress and disorder and how these lead to the disenfranchisement of children. Solutions are embedded in economic opportunities, physical environments and community attitudes and values. Problems are often transmitted across generations and we are bent on disrupting these cycles to offer better options to young people.

In the past, problems were often addressed through



(from left): Barangay captain Ancieto Biong, Consuelo Foundation Philippines Managing Director Mia Castro, Mayor Mark Biong and Consuelo Foundation President & CEO Jon Matsuoka at a groundbreaking ceremony to benefit poor people in the Philippines.

the lenses of charity. Problems were viewed in simplistic terms and simple solutions were sought. We are realizing that these problems not only remain—they have morphed into chronic and compounded conditions. Our approach to addressing complex problems is to apply complex interventions. Therefore, we are devising multi-level and multi-professional solutions

and working in concert with a variety of partners.

The cultural nature and composition of the Philippines and Hawaii are perfect for developing and testing new program designs. Both places are breeding grounds for creativity and innovation. Within these contexts, we hope to support and create new and effective templates for change.

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PHILIPPINE (from page 11, PHILIPPINE...)

eral hospitals in San Gabriel, Santol, Bangar and Luna.

Q: Is the Aquino administration doing a good job rooting out corruption in government? Why or why not?

A: Only time will tell.

Q: If you were not in politics, what do you think you would be doing?

A: I would be practicing law because I finished law at the Ateneo College of Law and my

doctorate degree in Law at the Universidad de Madrid. However, we have a law banning congressmen who are lawyers from practicing their profession.

Q: How long do you plan to be in office? What are your future plans?

A: By the time I finish my term of office in Congress, I would have served in government for 37 years—20 years as congressman, 6 years as governor, 6 years as vice governor, 2

years as a member of the Constitutional Convention, 3 years in foreign service, and Acting Board Member of the Province of La Union for only 3 months.

Q: Any message to your kababayans and the Filipino Community in Hawaii?

A: Preserve your culture and heritage as Filipinos and at the same time adapt to the American way of life. Remember how we value family as the basic unit of society.

LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Trafficking Victims to Benefit from DOL's New Policy

On April 2, 2015, the Wage and Hour Division (WHD) of the Department of Labor (DOL) started exercising its authority to issue certifications for T visa applications. It can now also certify three additional qualifying criminal activities under the U visa program, namely, extortion, forced labor, and fraud in foreign labor contracting.

U nonimmigrant visas are available to victims of "qualifying criminal activities" who suffered substantial mental or physical abuse such as abduction, blackmail, domestic violence, extortion, involuntary servitude, witness tampering, obstruction of justice, perjury and false imprisonment, among others. T nonimmigrant visas, on the other hand, are available

to certain victims of human trafficking. Quite a number of Filipino domestics, teachers, and temporary workers have been issued T and U visas.

Under both the T and U visa programs, the victim must have been helpful, are being helpful or are likely to be helpful in the investigation and prosecution of the crime. Application for U visa requires a law enforcement certification on Form I-918B. Although the T visa does not require law enforcement certification, it is given a significant weight as evidence that the applicant assisted the law enforcement agency.

Among those who may sign the Form I-918B are certifying officials of federal, state, local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judges and other investigative agencies such as family protective services, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Wage and Hour

Division of the Department of Labor.

The DOL's Wage and Hour Division began issuing U visa certifications in 2011 for five qualifying criminal activities, namely, trafficking, involuntary servitude, peonage, obstruction of justice, and witness tampering. The three qualifying criminal activities were added to the list because the DOL found that these activities are also likely to be exposed during the WHD's workplace investigations.

The Wage and Hour Division enforces workplace laws such as the federal minimum wage and overtime laws. Many wage and hour investigations, according to the DOL, are conducted in industries where vulnerable workers are employed. This allows the WHD to reach these workers and detect exploitation.

The primary factors that the WHD considers in issuing a certification are the follow-

ing: that the qualifying criminal activity arises in the context of an employment relationship or work environment and there is a related, credible allegation of a violation of a law the WHD enforces, that the petitioner alleges a qualifying criminal activity and that he or she has been, is being, or is likely to be helpful to law enforcement officials in any investigation or prosecution of the qualifying criminal activity.

The fact that another law enforcement agency is already engaged in the investigation of the qualifying criminal activity or would be in a better position to certify based on the facts presented is also considered. Another factor is whether completion of the U visa certification would assist the DOL's investigation of a violation of a law that it enforces.

The certified Form I-918 Supplement B must be attached to the Form I-918 petition and filed with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration

Services (USCIS). The law enforcement certification does not guarantee that the applicant will be issued a U visa. The applicant must still demonstrate that he/she meets all the eligibility requirements for a U visa.

If the WHD decides not to certify the Form I-918B, they will inform the applicant in writing and will also provide information as to other law enforcement agencies that may be able to issue the certification.

Through these efforts the DOL seeks to provide additional support to workers who are victims of these crimes and are willing cooperate with law enforcement. The DOL sees this as significant way of providing qualifying victims the services they need to rebuild their lives.

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

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Noy Starts Process in Choosing Next PNP Chief

by Christina Mendez
Thursday, April 16, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - President Aquino has spoken with senior officials of the Philippine National Police (PNP) as part of the process of choosing their next chief, Interior Secretary Manuel Roxas II said yesterday.

"It is the prerogative of the President to appoint. I suppose he is going through the process and he has spoken with senior officials," Roxas told reporters on the sidelines of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines' general assembly at the Manila Hotel.

"And he is now looking at what is best," Roxas added.

Roxas said the President had not mentioned any new person he interviewed for the position.

Earlier, Roxas said Aquino spoke with PNP officer-in-charge Deputy Director Gen-

eral Leonardo Espina and directorial staff chief Deputy Director General Marcelo Garbo Jr. but according to sources, the President had reservations about the two.

This was because Espina would retire in July while Garbo would also be stepping down on March 2, 2016.

Garbo, who is said to have the backing of Roxas, earned the trust of Aquino for his handling of the controversial suspension of then Cebu governor Gwen Garcia when he was police regional director of Central Visayas.

It has been common knowledge in the PNP that Aquino was actually eyeing Central Luzon regional director Chief Supt. Raul Petrasanta of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1984 to be national police chief.

Petrasanta is known to be close to the Aquino sisters. However, he was among those

ordered suspended by the Office of the Ombudsman over missing firearms along with resigned PNP chief Director General Alan Purisima.

Under Republic Act 6975 or the law establishing the PNP under the Department of the Interior and Local Government, any police official with star rank, meaning with the rank of chief superintendent and up, is qualified for appointment as PNP chief.

Although the PNP observes seniority, it was disregarded during the Arroyo administration.

Then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo skipped PMA Class 1975 when she appointed Jesus Verzosa of PMA Class 1976 to replace Avelino Razon Jr. of PMA Class 1974.

When he assumed office, Aquino kept Verzosa, who was later succeeded by Director General Raul Bacalzo of

Class 1977. Aquino would later take a big appointment leap by appointing Nicanor Bartolome of PMA Class '80.

Aquino, however, cut short Bartolome's term and appointed Purisima, who had to resign over the Mamasapano incident.

On the other hand, Espina and Garbo have been sharing the power of the four top positions in the PNP following the suspension of Purisima by the Office of the Ombudsman last December. (www.philstar.com)

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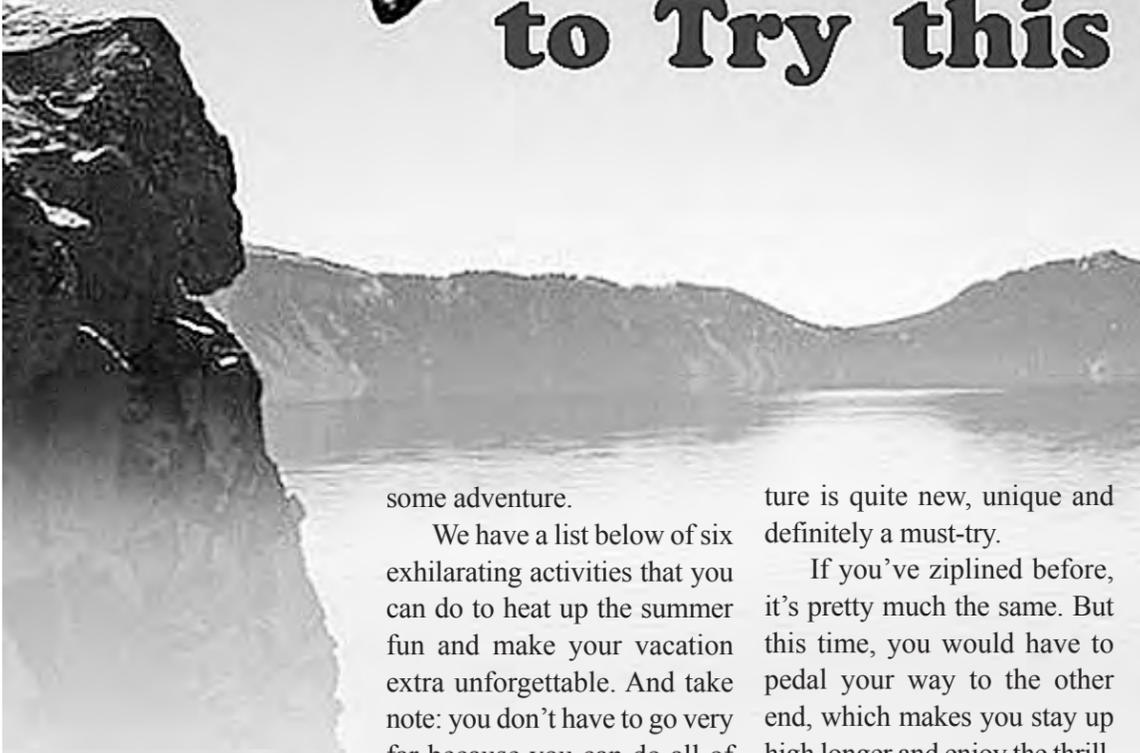
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Dare Yourself:

6 Thrilling Adventures to Try this Summer



from www.philstar.com

M A N I L A , Philippines— Do you want to take your summer to the next level? If you want to do more this year than just hitting the beach and getting a tan, you should try out

some adventure.

We have a list below of six exhilarating activities that you can do to heat up the summer fun and make your vacation extra unforgettable. And take note: you don't have to go very far because you can do all of them here in the Philippines.

So, if you're in a real hunt for some thrill or just a total adrenaline junkie, this list is for you.

1. Go biking in the sky.

Sometimes called bike zipline, sky cycling, flying bike or what have you, this adven-

ture is quite new, unique and definitely a must-try.

If you've ziplined before, it's pretty much the same. But this time, you would have to pedal your way to the other end, which makes you stay up high longer and enjoy the thrill.

Davao, Bohol and Bukidnon are just some places to be for this adventure.

2. Brave the steep sand dunes.

Did you know that we have sand dunes here in the Philippines? The province of Ilocos Norte has hectares of land cov-



ered in sand, and it's the best place yet to enjoy a thrilling off-road ride.

Hop in a 4x4 and get ready for a really, really bumpy, roller-coaster-like ride. This will surely pump your adrenaline up.

3. Take the plunge.

If you still like the beach but want to be adventurous, you should try cliff diving. Cliff diving is becoming more and more popular in the country with more and more beach resorts setting up cliff diving spots as an additional resort activity.

So muster as much guts as you can and climb up a high point and just jump! Punta Fuego, Boracay, and Bohol are some of the popular spots.

4. Take the plunge ... from the sky.

If cliff diving isn't adventurous enough for you, you can try jumping from the sky and just scream your lungs out. Besides, what could be more extreme than skydiving?

So if you're in for a really adrenaline-pumping activity, head to Cebu or Pampanga which are said to be the top skydiving spots in the Philippines.

5. Fly an open-cockpit aircraft.

Ever dreamed of flying a plane?

The Angeles City Flying Club in Pampanga invites tourists to ride an ultra-light, open-cockpit aircraft and co-pilot it. This is your chance to finally experience getting your hands on those intriguing controls in the cockpit and flying a plane like a pro.

If the thought of being up in the sky in an open vessel sounds quite scary to you, just remember that that fear factor is what makes it thrilling.

6. Test yourself and see if you can do wakeboarding.

More Pinoys are becoming familiar with wakeboarding, that really adventurous water sport that people talk about in social media. Have you tried it yet? Do you want to find out whether you can pull off those crazy and amazing stunts? Learn how to wakeboard this summer!

Decawake is a great place to learn wakeboarding. They have instructors and equipment in the house to help you get started. The ramps and obstacles are also very exciting to try. Decawake is owned and managed by Deca Homes of 8990 Housing, Inc. and offers the wakeboarding thrill in its parks in Clark, Pampanga and Davao.

So there you have it—at least six things you can do this summer to get all the excitement and fun running through your veins. Ready to go?

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

7TH ANNUAL FILIPINO FILM FESTIVAL | April 18-28, 2015 | DORIS DUKE THEATER, HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ART | For details, please call 532-8701 or go to www.honoluluuseum.org/event.films

ISAH 2ND PRESIDENT ELPIDIO QUIRINO LEADERSHIP AND HUMANITARIAN AWARD AND GALA NIGHT | May 2, 2015 | HAWAII PRINCE HOTEL | Contact Danny Villaruz 778-0233 or Jun Abinsay 469-7351

UNITED PANGASINAN OF HAWAII 47TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER & DANCE | May 16, 2015 | Pacific Beach Hotel Grand Ballroom | Tickets & Information: Cely Villareal - (808) 778-2481 or (808) 689-4911

PULSO (PULSE, RHYTHM OF THE HEART): A CELEBRATION OF PHILIPPINE DANCE AND CULTURE | May 21 & 22, 2015 | KENNEDY THEATER, UHM | 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM | DANCE PERFORMANCES FEATURING THE HOUSE OF DANCE, PHILIPPINES | Contact Vina Lanzona (cpsdirector@hawaii.edu) or Clem Montero (cps@hawaii.edu)

PHILIPPINE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF HI, 36TH PNA GALA NIGHT | July 25, 2015 | HILTON HAWAIIAN VILLAGE | 5:00 PM | Contact: Marise Aczon Armstrong, 542-5133 or Tina Salvador, 426-6183

MRS. ISAH 2015 CORONATION AND GALA NIGHT | October 24, 2015 | ALA MOANA HOTEL | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Contact Danny Villaruz 778-0233

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

Aldaw Ti Panagungar Ti Apo (Easter Sunday)



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Aldaw ti EASTER SUNDAY tinanikudiapanagkikinnablaawakasitipaskuaapannakaiyanakni Apo Jesus. Awan ti di kumablaaw kadagiti gagayyem itinaragsak a pascua a pananakaiyanakna. Kasta met no madanon ti EASTER a panagungarna kalpasan ti panangsubbotna kadagiti basbasol ti tao. Agragratsaktayo ngem adu ti di makaammo no ania ti EASTER.

Nairugi ti a panagragratsak iti aldaw a pannaksubbot ti basbasol ti tao. Dayta

ti pakaragsakantayo. Maipatulod met dagiti Easter Card kadagiti napateg a gagayyem-tayo. Agragsaktayo kadagiti inted ti APO a gasat kada maysa kadatayo. Marikna ti ragsak ken talinaay ti biag kalpasan dagitoy. Isu metten ti panagisagana kadagiti naragsak a selebrasion iti biag-tayo. Happy Easter everyone!

SELEBRASION TI 55th ANNIBERSARIO TI PANAGLANTIP TI PUSO DA RENATO KEN MARIA ETRATA

Awan ti makapada ti kinaragsak ti panagelebrar da Renato ken Maria Etrata ti anibersario ti panagkasarda 55th Wedding Anniversary a nagatendaran ti nasurok nga innem a gasut a sangaili.

Agdama a Presidenta ti

United Filipino Community Council ni Mrs. Etrata, opisyal kadagiti adu nga organisasion dagiti Filipino. Naanus, naragsak ken manangngaasi ken managtulong kadagiti amin a makasapul ti tulong kangrunaanna kadagiti organisasion ti Filipino.

SELEBRAN NI MAGIE PASION DOMINGO TI PANAGRETIRONA A "BROADCASTER" TI RADIO

Selebraran ni MAGGIE ti panagretirona iti lima pulo ket pito (57) a tawenna iti radio. Naunday ti lima pulo ket pito a tawen a panagan-anunsio iti kada parbangon. Dayta ti kinandur ni Magie. Siririing ti kada parbangon tapno riingenatayo kadagiti kankanta ken padpadamagna iti radio. Awan

ti Pinay nga nakaandor no di isu. Nagpaay kadagiti Radio KHON, KAIM, KCCN ken iti KNDI dagiti di maliwayan ti amin a pagdengdenggan ti kada parbangon.

No asino pay nga Ilokana ti makasurot ti kinaanus ni Magie ditay mapadtuan no adda pay kas kenkuana. Amotayo gapu ta naamammotayo ni Magie idi 1971 isu a nangrugiantayo met a nakipagan-anunsio iti radio idi sangsangpet tayo iti Hawaii. Iti KAIM RADIO ti damo a nagkitaanmi. Naanus ken naragsak

nga agipatpatukar kadagiti kankanta Filipino agingga ita. CONGRATULATIONS Maggie for your long time services on the radio. Maaramid ti retirement party iti Empress Restaurant inton April 26, 2015, 5:30 pm to 11:00 pm. Intayo met kumablaaw kenkuana. May you have a restful retirement Maggie!

GLOBAL NEWS

Ex-Labor Chief Cites Age Discrimination as Reason for Pinoy Migration

AMIGRANT workers' rights advocate urged the government to review the country's existing migration policies because of reports that more Filipinos are seeking employment overseas due to age discrimination in the workplace.

Susan Ople, head of the Ople Policy Center, said many companies refuse to hire "older" job applicants. "The reason they keep on leaving is because of age discrimination," she said. "No matter how skilled they are, regardless of their work ethic, many (overseas Filipino work-

ers or OFWs) find themselves unable to land a job simply because they are above 30 years old," the former Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary said.

Ople called on the Senate to include age discrimination in its impending review of the country's migration policies. "The broad review must include the implications of age discrimination in the workplace on returning OFWs," she said.

It has been 40 years since Congress has passed a Philippine overseas labor program.

"The world has vastly changed since then, and our workers overseas face multiple

risks due to political, economic, and security issues as well as climate and technology changes," the migrant workers'

rights advocate said.

A closer look at the government's policies for OFWs is also necessary, according to Ople,

since the Saudi government is about to implement more guidelines for its recruitment policy. (www.asianjournal.com)

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BOOK REVIEW

PACMAN

My Story of Hope, Resilience, and Never-Say-Never Determination

This autobiography is Manny Pacquiao's inspiring rags-to-riches story told in his own words--his personal retelling of a life lived with hope and resilience. Manny Pacquiao was born and raised in an impoverished village in the Philippines. He provided for his family of five in his pre-boxing days by selling practically anything and everything on the streets of General Santos City in Bukidnon. He peddled roasted nuts, fish, ice water, doughnuts and bread to help his family survive.

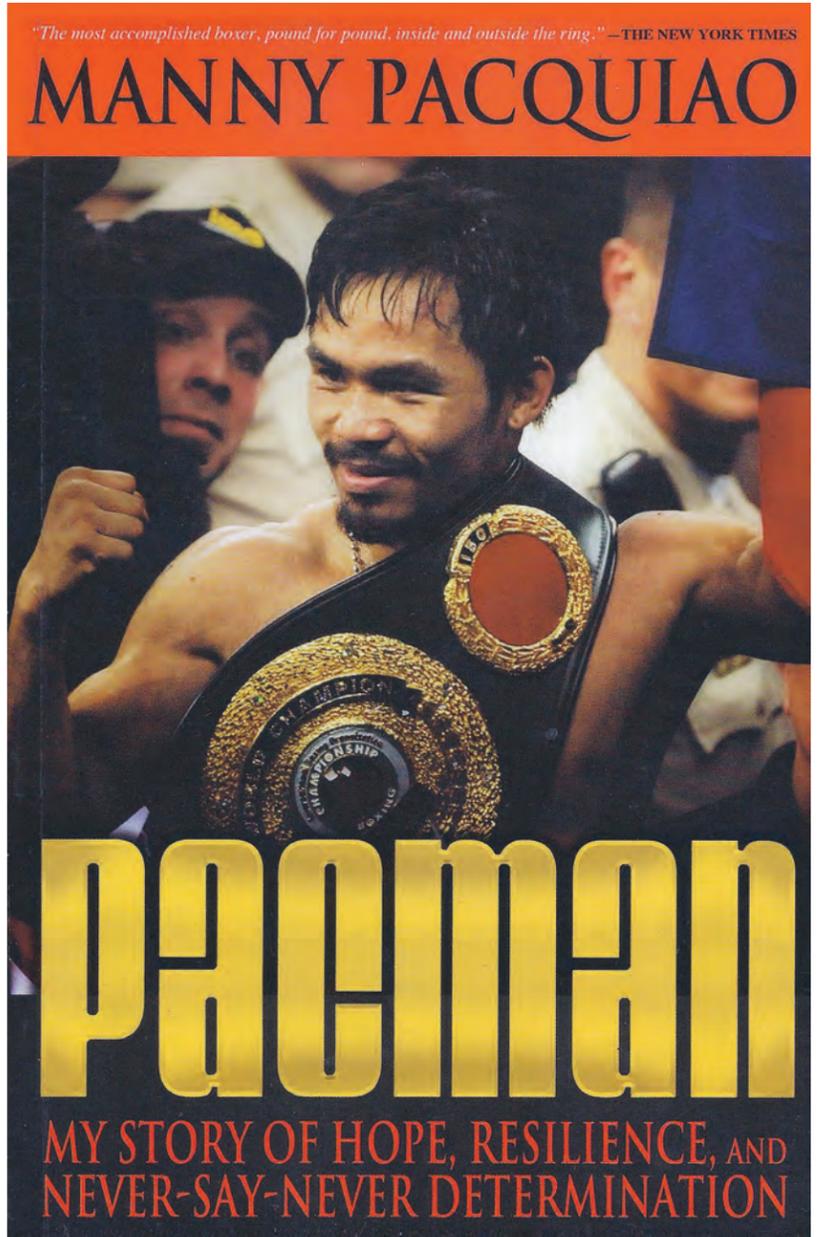
Named Emmanuel Dapidran Pacquiao at birth, the young Manny dreamed

of joining the Catholic priesthood to serve God. But that was just a dream since he never had the opportunity to receive a formal education.

Today he is known around the world as a sports legend. According to the New York Times, Manny is--pound by pound--the best fighter in the world today. He started with nothing and rose to the top through sheer willpower, determination, devotion to his family and faith in God.

Manny and his wife Jinkee are the parents of four children: Emmanuel, Michael, Princess and Queenie.

The book is available at Kalamansi Books & Things (www.bookbook.com) or call 808 358 2868 for more information.



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