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◆ AUGUST 15, 2015 ◆

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EDITORIALS

UP Choral Group—the Pride of the Philippines

Filipinos are well-known the world over for their musical abilities and undeniable talents in the performing arts. Well, Filipinos can also take great pride in yet another talented performing group—the University of the Philippines Concert Chorus, which is also known as *Korus* or UPCC. Since its humble beginnings in 1962 as a simple college choral ensemble, UPCC has grown today into a musical force of national and international stature.

For well over 50 years, this well-traveled, multi-awarded choral group has captivated audiences the world over with its flawless renditions of many popular songs, while also promoting Filipino cultural pride. UPCC's most recent achievement was capturing the coveted Grand Prix Trophy at the 6th International Krakow Choir Festival in Poland. UPCC bested 33 other choirs from 10 countries to win the award and was the only choir from Asia in the rigorous competition. UPCC also received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 25th Aliw Awards held in November 2012 at the Manila Hotel's Fiesta Pavilion and is known for pioneering ChoreoCapella or choreographed *a capella* in the Philippines.

UPCC performs a wide repertoire of songs including Filipino love ballads, foreign pop music, Broadway hits, classical music, Filipino tribal and folk songs. When combining their vocal abilities with signature vibrant choreography, compelling theatrical expressions, eye-catching costumes and a charisma that is uniquely Filipino, the result is a truly memorable audio and visually-entertaining performance.

Some observers say that during UPCC's 21 total international tours and performances, its members have helped to plant cultural seeds of friendships, which have resulted in greater peace and understanding across cultures. As greatness continues to breed greatness, UPCC will under the leadership of current artistic director and conductor Janet Sabas-Aracama continue to soar even higher in the coming years and share its unique, fun and passionate performances to audiences around the world.

'Heat Days' For Public Schools Worth Looking Into

A proposal by the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) for "heat days" in which classes would be canceled for non-air conditioned schools during extremely hot and humid days merits careful consideration. The idea comes at a time when local temperatures have reached record highs several times this year. Such humid conditions, the union says, make it extremely difficult for students to learn, much less pay attention, during class. And when 30-40 students as young as six years old are packed into a classroom, temperatures on days that reach 90 degrees and above could potentially endanger their well-being.

As with most innovative ideas, there are pros and cons to consider. For starters, last minute decisions to cancel school would force parents with elementary-level children to find day-care, which would be difficult. Most would also agree that cuts and interruptions to classroom time is a disservice to the students' overall learning. On the up side, supporters say some mainland school districts already have similar "snow days" in which classes are canceled due to inclement weather. To help make up for "snow days," some mainland schools add an extra hour to the school day.

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Spirits are high with the start of the new 2015-2016 school year. Students are eager to learn and teachers, refreshed from their summer break, are ready to help pupils reach their full potential. If you're a student, we encourage you to get involved in athletics. If sports isn't your cup of tea, consider joining a school club like music, drama or student leadership. Not only will it look good on your resumé, you are also bound to make new friends and learn an important skill or two.

Speaking of clubs, the Filipino community is in for a real treat as the University of the Philippines Concert Chorus (UPCC) will be in town for a special August 15th concert at the Kroc Center in Kapolei. The UPCC was founded during the politically-tumultuous decade of the 1960s when UP students performed on stage to express their sentiments and patriotic pride. Today, UPCC is one of the world's most prestigious choirs that has garnered numerous awards at top international choral competitions. Interested in finding out more about this award winning choral group? Turn to page 4 for our cover story "UP Concert Chorus Brings Forth the Very Best in Entertainment."

Complementing our cover story is a poignant article by contributing writer Seneca Moraleta-Puguan who reminisces about her undergraduate days at UP-Diliman. Seneca credits her experiences at UP for helping to make her the person she is today. She not only met her husband there, but many others who encouraged her to persevere and reach for greatness. I have a feeling that you will enjoy reading her Personal Reflections column on page 8 even if you're not a UP alumnus.

Also in this issue is an exclusive article about extreme sports athlete Gerald Tabios. While most of us would be satisfied with a 30-minute workout on the treadmill, Tabios takes exercise to the extreme. He recently competed in the Badwater Ultramarathon, a 135-mile race across Death Valley in California that took him nearly 43 hours to complete! The Badwater is widely-recognized as one of the world's toughest races. Tabios is indeed a rare *pinoy* athlete who craves the thrill of competition in ultra-long distance races that test the limits of one's endurance and mental strength. Please turn to page 9 to find out more about what makes this extraordinary athlete tick.

That's all for now. Please take some time to read the other informative columns and news stories that we have for you in this issue. And as always, we are ever grateful for your continued support. If you have a story idea, suggestion or concern to share, please email it to our staff at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com.

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

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Instituting a "heat day" would compel state officials to perhaps fast-track efforts to fund air conditioners and other abatement measures for schools like Campbell High School where overcrowding and hot temperatures make learning extremely challenging. But the prohibitive factor, as always, is cost. Some estimates place the cost of installing air conditioning at all public schools at a staggering \$1.7 billion. A proposal that's been bandied about is the need to establish a dedicated funding source for school repairs, air conditioning and other priorities. A good place to start would be the State's 10 percent take of the general excise tax it collects each month from the rail project. As of May 2015, the amount was \$163 million but unfortunately much of it has already spent.

HSTA's 'heat day' proposal is likely to come before the powers-that-be at the State Department of Education, which is open to the idea, pending union and administrative approval. For public school students sweltering in the heat, a well-deserved 'heat day' can't come soon enough.



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CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

HED: Mainland GOP Must Seem Like Mars to Hawaii

An estimated 24 million people tuned in to the FOX News GOP Debate and all the while I kept thinking about the Republicans I knew during my time on the islands.

Mainland style is a lot different. Republicans have a lot less aloha. So I'm wondering how many Republicans are really part of a conservative group of Democrats in Hawaii. Or if they're actually still Republicans, than I'm wondering why they can't infect the mainland party with a little more aloha. It could use a lot more. Or you can say aloha to 2016.

By aloha, at the very least I mean the embrace of diversity, which is a hallmark of the islands.

You'd think after two terms of Obama, the GOP would have learned a very valuable lesson in diversity: If you want to win the White House, you can't do it without women or people of color. Period.

In 2008, Obama won 53 percent of the vote to McCain's 46 percent. That difference could have been erased were it not for the massive demo-

graphic edge Obama had. Asians were 62 percent Obama to McCain's 35. Hispanics were closer, Obama 37, McCain 31. Blacks were the widest margin, 95 for Obama. McCain drew 4 percent.

Among women, Obama easily beat McCain, 56 percent to 43 percent. Add it all up, and that should have determined the path to victory for the next GOP election. It didn't.

In 2012, Obama bested Romney in a closer contest, 51 percent to 47 percent. But the race demographics followed the same trend. Obama got 93 percent of the Black vote to 6 percent for Romney. Asians went Obama, 73 percent to 26 percent. And Hispanics added more cushion, 71 percent to 27 percent.

Women? Same trend. Obama beat Romney 55 percent to 49. So given all those numbers, you would think the third time's the charm, right? But judging from the Fox News/Facebook debate last Thursday, the GOP seems just as lost as ever.

You don't win the Black vote by giving Dr. Ben Carson some face time early in the debate, then not talking to him again for nearly 50 minutes.

You don't win the black vote by giving a token mention

to "Black Lives Matter" by asking one question deep in the debate to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker.

It wasn't a bad answer. But in case you missed it, here it is:

Kelly: Governor Walker, many in the Black Lives Matter movement and beyond believe that overly-aggressive police officers targeting young African Americans is the civil rights issue of our time. Do you agree? And if so, how do you plan to address it? And if not, why not?

Walker: Well, I think the most important thing we can do when it comes to policing—it's something you've had a guest on who's a friend of mine... Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clark, who's talked to me about this many times in the past—it's about training. It's about making sure that law enforcement professionals have the proper training, particularly when it comes to the use of force. And that we protect and stand up and support those men and women who are doing their jobs in law enforcement. And for the very few that don't, that

there are consequences to show that we treat everyone the same here in America.

And now back to the White portion of the debate.

If you were a Hispanic voter, much was said about fences and walls, and tough immigration policies. Not much was said to invite Hispanic voters into the party. I cringed every time "moderator" Chris Wallace said "illegal" as a noun. But no one bothered to correct him on his offensive diction.

Seeing a smiling Marco Rubio doesn't make things better. And of course, Donald Trump was the worst in oversimplifying the border situation, blaming it on corrupt Mexican officials and then failing when given the chance to offer proof for his assertions.

Trump's most talked about exchange was about that other hotly contested demographic—women—in this exchange with Fox's Megyn Kelly:

Kelly: Mr. Trump, one of the things people love about you is you speak your mind and you don't use a politician's filter. However, that is not without its downsides, in particular, when it comes to women. You've called women you don't like as "fat pigs, dogs, slob and disgusting animals."

Your Twitter account...

Trump: Only Rosie O'Donnell.

Kelly: No, it wasn't.

Your Twitter account...

Trump: Thank you.

Kelly: For the record, it was well beyond Rosie O'Donnell.

Trump: Yes, I'm sure it was.

Kelly: Your Twitter account has several disparaging comments about women's looks. You once told a contestant on *Celebrity Apprentice* it would be a pretty picture to see her on her knees. Does that sound to you like the temperament of a man we should elect as presi-

(continued on page 6)

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COVER STORY

UP Concert Chorus Brings Forth the Very Best in Entertainment

By Raymund Li. Liongson, Ph.D.



Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything.

This aphorism, attributed by some sources to the Greek philosopher Plato, is expected to come to life in Hawaii when the University of the Philippines Concert Chorus (UPCC) will astound audiences with the same matchless music and choreography that entertained multitudes across Europe and the U.S. mainland over the past three months. Affectionately known as *Korus*, UPCC's concert is scheduled for Saturday, August 15, 2015 at the Kroc Center of Hawaii situated at 91-3257 Kualaka'i Parkway in Kapolei.

The official choir of the University of the Philippines, UPCC is composed of select students and alumni from the different colleges of the university. Performing a potpourri of music ranging from classic to the contemporary, UPCC has pioneered and choreo-

graphed choral performances in the Philippines since the early 1970s. *Korus* bravura goes beyond the typical "stand-up" choir performance. It pioneered "ChoreoCapella" or choreographed *a capella*, a versatile choral rendition of classical, folk, pop and Broadway musical genres, with signature vibrant choreography inspired by musical theater concert, both accompanied and unaccompanied.

Korus has evolved from being a state university choir to an entity of national pride, to an ensemble of international prominence. Through excellent musicality and effervescent choreography, *Korus* fostered appreciation for Philippine arts and culture, both in the Philippines and abroad. It has received several distinguished awards, among them the Ani ng Dangal Award



(2013) from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Aliw Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award (2012). It was also ranked No. 1 in the world for Folk choral performance at the 2012 Festival Internacional de Cantonigros in Spain. More recently, UPCC took the prestigious award—the Grand Prix—in the recently concluded 6th International Krakow Choir Festival held in Poland.

Melody Calisay, president of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of Hawaii (UPAAH), says the Filipino community is in for quite a treat.

"We are proud and happy to bring back the UPCC to Hawaii and share their gift of music," says Calisay, UPAA president. "This showcase of talent very much fits our theme 'UPBOUND: Bringing forth the best!' It is our desire to present, share and celebrate the best of Filipino talents, brilliance and industry."

Korus will stop in Hawaii for five days on its way back to the Philippines from wildy successful performances in Europe and the U.S. They last performed in Hawaii 12 years ago and left indelible great memories from their *Hinabing*

Himig 2003 concert.

"It has been a while since we last performed in Hawaii," says Professor Janet Sabas-Aracama, UPCC conductor and artistic director. "I have always had fond memories of this beautiful island. Oahu was one of the first stops in the U.S. that I encountered way back in 1978 when I was still a UPCC soloist and singing member."

This year's visit is also personally meaningful for Sabas-Aracama.

"I eagerly look forward to the time we will be in Hawaii," she wrote days before their arrival. "What a better place to spend my 56th birthday!"

Wrapped with delight and enthusiasm in this year's UPCC Hawaii concert tour is Jenny Salorio-Normand, an alumna and member of the touring batch 2000.

"I am who I am today because of the training I received with *Korus* and the experience I earned while traveling the world," she says. "When I went on tour 15 years ago, Hawaii was our first stop in our six-month international tour. I've now come a full circle as I am now helping organize the UPCC's visit to Hawaii

as they wrap up their 22nd international concert tour."

Some continue to revisit the past and relive UPCC's early performances.

"I have fond memories of UPCC," says UP alumna Marivic Dar. "Even before I entered UP, I was familiar with their *a capella* song renditions. As a young adult, I watched the group perform at Luneta's 'Concert at the Park' and was so proud to be Filipino when they were named one of the world's best choirs at a Lincoln Center competition in New York."

According to Dar, there are two distinct things that bind her to UP—friends and music.

"As to the latter, that certainly includes UPCC. I look forward to seeing the latest version of our 1980s idols," Dar says.

Bea Ramos Razon, UPAA past president, described *Korus* as "inspiring and amazing."

"Those who have had the chance to watch *Hinabing Himig* 2003 have long wanted to have UPCC back and have been calling to get tickets," she says.

Non-UP alumni who have

(continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, UP CONCERT)

previously seen *Korus* share the same excitement. Edna Alikpala, past chair of the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii, recently watched the UPCC concert in Vancouver, Washington.

“When the sopranos, altos, bass and tenors meld, they create a perfect harmony that elicits love, happiness and patriotism. They are an excellent choir,” she shared in her email and social media. “They had two encore songs and ended the show with a standing ovation. It was an exhilarating and memorable concert and definitely a must-see event.”

S'aliw Himig

The Hawaii concert is part of UPCC's 22nd International Goodwill Concert Tour. Dubbed “*S'aliw Himig, Isang Paglakbay: Internasyunal Konsert Tur*,” this year's three-month-long tour features participation in choral competitions, festivals and performances in Europe and the U.S. The concert title is a conjunction of two Tagalog words—*saliw* (harmony, medley, or mélange) and *aliw* (delight or good cheer), appropriately combined with *himig* (tune, melody or rhythm of music). *Lakbay*, on the other hand, means journey, hinting the intercontinental concert tours of the choir.

The full *Korus* package consists of three parts: *Kontemporarius*, *Katutubo* and *Koreokapela*. For this 2015 tour, Professor Aracama creatively blended a repertoire of classics, spirituals, popular and Philippine music.

S'aliw Himig Hawaii Concert Tour 2015 is made possible with the support and sponsorship of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle, East West Marketing, Inc. (Melody Calisay), Dr. and Mrs. Fortunato Elizaga, First Hawaiian Bank, Philippine Airlines, West Loch Park Hotel-Vigan City (Anacleto Alcantra), R and M, Inc. (Mylene Reyes) and MB Remittance. The concert organizing committee is composed of Melody Calisay, Jenny Normand, Bea Ramos-Razon, Mylene Reyes and



Raymund Liongson.

Accolades and Critical Acclaim

Korus continues to rake in awards, living up to Welsh critic John Hearne's description of the group as “a choir that has no equal as a virtuoso ensemble.”

Commemorating its 50th anniversary in 2012, *Korus* joined three international competitions and prevailed in all of them. At the Festival Internacional de Musica de Cantongros in Catalonia, Spain, *Korus* won First Prize in the Folk Category and Second Prize in the Mixed Category. *Korus* also won the Gold Diploma and Audience Prize at the 9th Cantemus International Festival in Nyiregyhaza, Hungary, and was chosen as one of the six best choirs at the prestigious IV International Harald Andersen Chamber Choir Competition in Helsinki, Finland—making the UP Concert Chorus the very first Asian choir to ever make it that far.

In this year's European leg, UPCC competed in the 6th International Krakow Choir Festival “Cracovia Cantans” held June 11-14, 2015 in Poland where they grabbed the much coveted Grand Prix. *The Krakow Choir Festival* awards the Grand Prix to the group that receives the highest overall score. For winning this grand award, UPCC received a statuette of Golden Polymymnia (Muse of Choral Art) and a cash prize.

No less than the most respected authorities in choral music composed the jury: Professor Romuald Twardowski (Poland) as head, and Ko Matsushita (Japan), Irina Roganova (Russia), Javier Busto (Spain/Sweden) and Richard Dubra (Latvia). UPCC was the only Asian choir that competed in the festival, which had 34 entrants from 10 countries.

Before bagging the Grand Prix, the UPCC was accorded the first place in Category A (Mixed Choirs Adults), besting nine other choirs from Norway, Hungary, Sweden, Finland, Czech Republic and Estonia. The UPCC sang “*Esto Les Digo*” (Kinley Lange), “*Abendlied*” (Josef Rheinberger), “*Ummah, Sallah*” (John August M. Pamintuan) and “*Elijah Rock*” (Moses G. Hogan).

UPCC also competed in the Folk, Popular and Gospel Music category where it won second place over other choirs from Norway, Poland, Estonia and Sweden. With its signature choreographed choral performance, the UPCC rendered “*Kruhay*,” “*Bagong Umaga*,” “*Hataw Na!*” and “*Let It Be*.”

Korus Through the Years

For over half a century, *Korus* was a “cultural envoy of Filipino artistry in choral music.” Its beginnings date back to the 1960s, an era marked by tumultuous political turmoil in the Philippines. UP students with the passion

to sing took their sentiments and patriotic pride to the stage and captured the hearts and minds of people.

In 1962, UP President Carlos P. Romulo proclaimed that the UP Concert Chorus, then called UP Mixed Choir (UPMC), would be the official choir of the university. The group trained under conductor Dean Ramon Tapales and associate conductors Johnny Ramos, Dean Ramon P. Santos and Flora Rivera. From the very start, UPMC already showed great promise.

In 1969, Dean Reynaldo T. Paguio took over as conductor. The 1970s saw *Korus* grow from a simple university choir to an ensemble of national stature and eventually enjoyed international acclaim.

Korus became a regular performer at the iconic Concert in the Park. It was also during the 1970s when the group embarked on its first three international concert tours.

During the 1980s, *Korus* received a Cecil Award for its recording of Ryan Cayabyab's “*Misa*” and became a regular in the various editions of the *Metro Manila Music Festival*, *Bamboo Organ Festival* and *Puerta Real Evenings*. On the international scene, *Korus* began reaping recognitions in various choral competitions across Europe.

Korus continued to dazzle local and international audiences with landmark performances during the 1990s. The decade, however, ended with a muted note with the sudden death of Dean Paguio in October 1999, ending his 30-year leadership of *Korus*.

Professor Janet Aracama, who was a member, soloist and assistant conductor from 1976-1986, became conductor and artistic director in November 1999. And as *Korus* entered a new century, it continued to forge bonds and lasting friendships. With 21 international tours and innumerable recognitions, *Korus* holds the singular honor of being invited 12 times to the prestigious Aberdeen International Youth Festival in Scotland and four times for command per-

(continued on page 8)

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OPEN FORUM

All Hail, Filipino Women!

By Freddie R. Obligacion, Ph.D.

After President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III delivered his final State of the Nation Address, Sen. Grace L. Poe had this to say in an interview, "All of the important and key (officials in his administration) who come out with tough decisions are women. So I am grateful to the President for seeing the potential and courage of a woman."

Poe's remarks reflect incontrovertible evidence presented by an NBC Universal-sponsored study on the modern Asian woman entitled "The High-Heeled Warriors." This research notes that women in ASEAN nations account for 32 percent of senior management roles, easily surpassing the 21-percent global share. Asian women's prominent status extends to the home where 31 percent of them are chief income earners and heads of household.

Remarkably, the NBC findings also show that Filipino women who are in senior

management roles (39 percent) outshine American women in that aspect (only 17 percent). Reinforcing this asset are the educational accomplishments of Filipino women, 85 percent of whom hold undergraduate or graduate school diplomas. The ASEAN average of 73 percent pales in comparison.

The current data and our leaders' keen appreciation of Filipino women's distinguished contributions to society are resoundingly echoed by my groundbreaking study of 620 Bicolano women which yielded a 95-percent confidence level in the results with a margin of error of 5 points.

In this pioneering work, I hypothesized that Bicolano women, mired in a 70 percent regional poverty rate far exceeding the current national self-rated poverty rate of 51 percent, are burdened by feelings of personal powerlessness or the belief that human beings are helpless victims of fate and uncontrollable external forces such as luck and random events. Powerlessness is synonymous with learned help-

lessness whose symptoms include chronic depression and persistent feelings of incompetence and worthlessness.

Employing a causal modeling approach, I extended this basic hypothesis with the proposition that powerlessness generates crippling perceptions such as low self-esteem, low expectations of success in personal ventures and a weak propensity for self-improvement.

Much to my delight and burgeoning Filipino pride, I found that despite the overwhelming specter of poverty's daily grind, Bicolano women unequivocally displayed strong perceptions of self-efficacy or personal control, and that inherent ability and individual effort determine the consequences of one's actions.

Such high levels of personal control generated among Bicolano women a causal chain of elevated self-esteem or self-worth, a pronounced propensity for self-improvement, albeit relatively low success expectations. My research further unearthed the reality that potential powerlessness, as a likely fallout of

poverty, was effectively countered by Bicolano women's strong achievement ethic as measured by an original and validated scale tapping respondents' valuation of and regard for merit- and effort-based achievements.

Moreover, the debilitating effects of powerlessness were overshadowed by Bicolano women's high educational attainment, evidenced by a higher percentage of baccalaureate and graduate school degrees compared to that of their male counterparts. Similarly, also compensating for the paralysis of powerlessness was the presence of a nurturing and supportive kinship system composed of the nuclear family, an ever-present extended family and an extensive "adopted kin" network of peers, colleagues and intimate lifelong friends.

Even the Bicolano women's low success expectations were mitigated by an unwavering achievement ethic transformed into inspired action, commendable educational credentials and an all-pervasive, protective mantle provided by overarching and highly influential support groups.

We Filipinos generally enshrine our women on a

pedestal with the concomitant awe, deep admiration, respect and caring. With our women working as partners with the menfolk, there is absolutely no reason why we, as a united front, cannot soon achieve a developed-country status, a widely-held contention of 80 percent of our countrymen, per the President's valedictory Sona.

All we need is to get our act together and start pronto to subsume personal interest to the greater good, eschew mediocrity and pettiness in our communities and most importantly, conscientiously elect leaders with inspired and articulated national and global visions. These visions should be combined with an empathetic, compassionate heart open to emergent ideas, fearless and unwavering in molding a proud and united nation where the good of all along with the least of our brethren trumps unbridled personal ambition and egocentric materialism.

FREDDIE R. OBLIGACION is a gender scholar, sociology professor, consultant, freelance writer and an alumnus of the Ohio State University-Columbus (MA, PhD Sociology) and the University of the Philippines-Diliman (MBA Honors, BS Psych., magna cum laude).

CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 3. HED: MAINLAND GOP...)

dent and how will you answer the charge from Hillary Clinton, who was likely to be the Democratic nominee, that you are part of the war on women?

Trump: I think the big problem this country is being

politically correct.

Jobs? The economy? The middle class? No—it's just political correctness? Trump is a comedian. While successful politicians use diplomacy, co-

medians like Trump prefer the shock value. In the end, it's more entertaining. But it won't garner votes unless it comes with more substance. Or maybe he presumes he's dealing with a brain-dead electorate that needs to be shocked.

If there was a group that got some positive feedback, it was the gays and lesbians. They went for Obama by broad 70 percent to 30 percent margins in the last two elections.

So maybe that's why we have Ohio Gov. John Kasich who in his answer on same-sex marriage showed about all the compassion the GOP has to muster at this point:

Kelly: The subject of gay marriage and religious liberty. Governor Kasich, if you had a son or daughter who was gay or lesbian, how would you explain to them your opposition to same-sex marriage?

Kasich: Well, look, I'm an old-fashioned person here, and

I happen to believe in traditional marriage. But I've also said the court has ruled...

Kelly: How would you explain it to a child?

Kasich: Wait, Megyn, the court has ruled, and I said we'll accept it. I just went to a wedding of a friend of mine who happens to be gay. Because somebody doesn't think the way I do, it doesn't mean that I can't care about them or can't love them. So if one of my daughters happened to be that, of course I would love and accept them. Because you know what? That's what we're taught when we have strong faith. So issues like that are planted to divide us. I think the simple fact of the matter is, and this is where I would agree with Jeb, and I've been saying it all along, we need to give everybody a chance. Treat everybody with respect and let them share in this great American dream that we have. So look, I'm going to love my

daughters. I'm going to love them no matter what they do. Because you know what, God gives me unconditional love. I'm going to give it to my family and my friends and the people around me.

Let's hope he has a lot of Blacks, Latinos and Asians around him too. I don't think Kasich is necessarily the guy for the top job, but the GOP should consider adopting his tone than Donald's blaring trumpet. Kasich's moment was by far the most inclusive, compassionate and least alienating part of the debate. That's the path the GOP must take if they ever want to win back the White House.

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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LEGAL GUIDE

Pareidolia, Blue Moon, and Supreme Court Decision Making



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

We asked a friend if he has ever seen the face of a man on the moon. “Sure,” he replied, “especially on a blue moon (a blue moon is the second full moon in a month like last July).”

“That’s pareidolia,” I told him. “Is that good or bad?” he asked. “You could be a Supreme Court justice,” I cheered him up.

“Pareidolia” is “the imagined perception of a pattern or meaning where it does not actually exist, as in considering the moon to have human features.” <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/pareidolia>

“Our brains are primed to find words even when they’re not really there.” “The technical name for the phenomenon is ‘pareidolia’ - hearing sounds or seeing images that seem meaningful but are actually random. It leads people to see shapes in clouds, a man in the moon or the face of Jesus on a grilled cheese sandwich,” according to an Associated Press article “Diners likely imagining toy has a potty mouth [foul lan-

guage]”. Honolulu Advertiser 07/11/2015.

The article was about a “Minions” Happy Meal toy given out by McDonald’s which some customers claimed was giving out sounds that were inappropriate for children, but which McDonald’s defended as only ‘nonsense words’. I went to McDonald’s at Waikiki but they said they ran out of the toy.

Could “pareidolia” be the explanation why some people see words in the statutes or in the Constitution “even when they’re not really there?”

For example, in the opinion legalizing same sex marriage, the majority opinion said: “The Fourteenth Amendment requires a State to license a marriage between two people of the same sex.” But a reading of the Fourteenth Amendment which was intended to confer citizenship on African Americans and to prevent States from depriving them of their rights does not mention marriage or sex at all. It reads: “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State de-

prive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.” *Obergefell v Hodges*, No. 14-556, USSC, 06/26/2015, http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/14-556_3204.pdf).

In the opinion on Obamacare tax credits, the statute provided that tax credits will be given to individuals who buy insurance in an “Exchange established by the State,” but the majority said that it is possible that the phrase refers to “all Exchanges – both State and Federal.”

That is an “impossible possibility,” Justice Scalia pointed out in his dissent. It “is not merely unnatural; it is unheard of. Who would ever have dreamt that “Exchange established by the State” means “Exchange established by the State or the Federal Government”? *King v. Burwell*, No. 14-114, 06/25/2015. http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/14-114_q011.pdf

In another opinion interpreting the Constitution’s Elections Clause, Art. 1, § 4, providing that “The Times, Places and Manner of holding Elections for Senators and Representatives shall be prescribed in each State by the

Legislature thereof,” a 5-4 majority said that the phrase “the Legislature” could mean “the people”. Therefore, the place and manner of holding elections may be prescribed by “the people” through a commission instead of by the legislature. Chief Justice Roberts dissented. He recalled that many people had tried to amend the U.S. Constitution so that the power to choose State Senators would be vested in the “people” instead of the State “legislature”. “What chumps!”, he called these people, “Didn’t they realize that all they had to do was interpret the constitutional term “the Legislature” to mean “the people”? The Court [majority] today performs just such a magic trick with the Elections Clause.” Roberts cited a 1932 opinion where the Court defined “the Legislature” as “the representative body which ma[kes] the laws of the people.”

Therefore, if “the Legislature” means “the people,” as the majority in this case interpreted it, then the definition of “legislature” would read: “The People” as “the representative body which ma[kes] the laws of the people.” *Arizona State Legislature v. Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission*, No. 13-1314, 06/29/2015.

http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/14pdf/13-1314_3ea4.pdf

Justice Scalia lamented in his dissent in *King v. Burwell* the “discouraging truth that the Supreme Court of the United States favors some laws over others, and is prepared to do whatever it takes to uphold and assist its favorites.”

As the Elena Siegman song puts it: “Their eyes are everywhere and see everything. . . My pareidolia. La lalala/Lalala/Lalala/Lala.”

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 specializes in immigration law and criminal defense. Office: 900 Fort Street, Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com. He is from Laoag City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of “Immigration Law Service, 1st ed.,” an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No warranty is made by the writer or publisher as to its completeness or correctness at the time of publication. No attorney-client relationship is established between the writer and readers relying upon and/or acting pursuant to the contents of this article.)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

U.S. Rep. Gabbard Co-Introduces Measure to Hire More Veterans

U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard recently co-introduced H.R. 3286, the HIRE Vets Act of 2015 which promotes private sector recruiting, hiring and retaining of men and women who served honorably in the U.S. military through a voluntary and efficient program.

Through the U.S. Department of Labor, the HIRE Vets Act would allow businesses to display “HIRE Vets Medallions” on products and marketing materials. These

medallions would be awarded as part of a four-tiered system—Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum—associated with specific hiring and retention goals each year.

The program also establishes similar tiered awards for small and mid-sized businesses with less than 500 employees. To ensure proper oversight, the U.S. Secretary of Labor would be required to provide Congress with annual reports on the success of the program with regard to veteran employment

and retention results.

“Through their service, veterans develop unique skills, experience, and leadership that make them especially valuable to employers,” says Gabbard. “There are many obstacles veterans face as they transition from military to civilian life, but finding a job should not be one of them. Our legislation will both incentivize employers to hire veterans, and recognize employers that provide a supportive work environment to retain veteran employees.”



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PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

REMEMBERING MY UP EDUCATION

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

When I was about to graduate from high school, I had one wish. It was to enter the top university in my country—the University of the Philippines (UP). So I joined entrance exam tutorials and studied hard to prepare for the UP College Admission Test (UPCAT). The ambitious person that I was had this notion of “UP or nothing” (but I took other entrance exams just in case). I got a full scholarship to study at a local university but my heart was set on becoming a UP student. The results came and I passed! I shrieked and jumped for joy as if I was the happiest Filipino high school student. My parents hoped that I accept the scholarship so it would be easier for them, but they still supported my desire to go to UP.

And so I travelled six hours to Manila from the mountains of Baguio City with my father to enroll at UP-Diliman because my mother had to leave for the U.S. during that time. I was very excited but I must say that enrolling at UP was challenging. Going from one building to another under the heat of the sun, enrolling for subjects in different departments, waiting in long queues and being oblivious to the new and big environment was overwhelming. But knowing it was a dream come true, I joyfully and patiently endured.

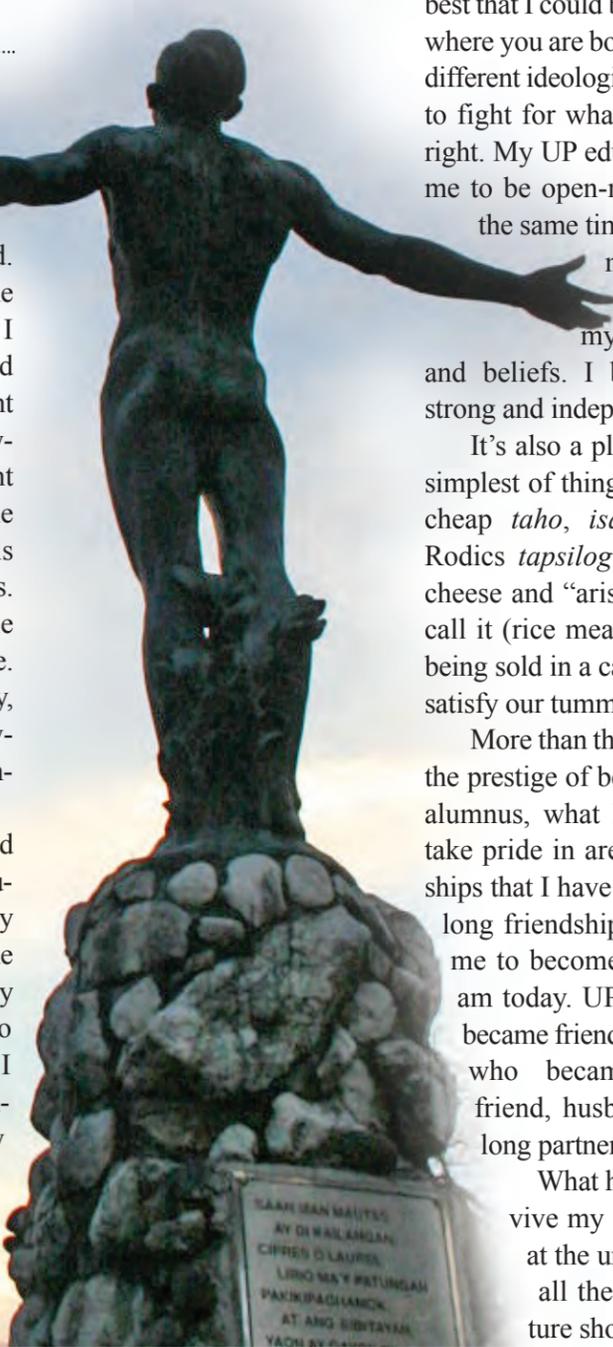
I attended the Freshmen Orientation on the first day of classes. I felt so proud as the university anthem was being sung and as we were welcomed. Finally, I was officially an “Iskolar ng Bayan.”

During the first semester of taking BS Statistics, I was quite shocked. Back in high school, I was one of the best students in class. I was always in the top 10 and was a consistent honor student in our batch. But in UP, everyone was brilliant, intelligent and smart. Many who came from Science High Schools like me were also top students. I was surrounded by people who were way better than me. I realized that at the university, I wasn’t competing with anyone else but myself. I was humbled.

Along the way, I realized that studying numbers, formulas and probability was not my passion. I really had a hard time getting excellent grades in my math and statistics subjects. So during my second year, I shifted to BS Broadcast Communication where I was only required to take simple Math and the rest were subjects on TV and radio production, scriptwriting, and much more fun stuff. But it wasn’t all fun. I had to endure sleepless nights writing all my scripts and preparing for production and editing videos.

After four and a half years of sleepless nights, tears over low grades, enduring terror professors, standing in long queues, I survived and conquered! I graduated *cum laude* with a degree in BS Broadcast Communication in 2006.

Studying at UP helped to mold my character. I learned to be patient as I had to endure long queues, from enlisting subjects and finishing the enrolment process to taking the



jeepney around the campus. It taught me to be resourceful especially when it comes to acing subjects because we were not spoon-fed; it is a place where the fittest and the most diligent survive.

It is a university where I experience failure but was inspired to stand again and not give up. I was surrounded by brilliant minds and the cream of the crop from the country’s public and private high schools who challenged me to be the

performances for Queen Elizabeth II.

“UPCC continues to plant cultural seeds and friendships across the globe,” writes Aracama. “Through their performances, Korus has gone beyond aliw—beyond just entertaining. It has become a tool for education, peace and understanding, calming the un-

best that I could be. It is a place where you are bombarded with different ideologies and pushed to fight for what you think is right. My UP education taught me to be open-minded but at the same time encouraged me to stand firm with my convictions and beliefs. I became bold, strong and independent.

It’s also a place where the simplest of things bring joy—cheap *taho*, *isaw*, footlong, Rodics *tapsilog*, *monay* with cheese and “aristocrat” as we call it (rice meals in a plastic being sold in a cart) which can satisfy our tummy’s cravings.

More than the education or the prestige of becoming a UP alumnus, what I will always take pride in are the relationships that I have built and lifelong friendships that helped me to become the person I am today. UP was where I became friends with the one who became my best friend, husband and lifelong partner.

What helped me survive my four-year stay at the university, with all the stresses, culture shock and homesickness, was the encouragement of the people I was with. Not only did I surround myself with smart people but people who encouraged me and challenged me to be better, not just academically but spiritually—people who spoke greatness and destiny in my life.

Living in South Korea, I encounter many students who experience so much pressure in school. They live in such a competitive and performance-oriented society that many are

pushed to commit suicide because of the intense pressures they are facing. A lot of them are afraid of what the future holds. So I regularly meet with local students at one of the universities to speak encouragement, hope, purpose and destiny into their lives by sharing my life and stories. As a UP student, we were launched to impact our nation and to make a difference in the world.

It gives me so much pride that I was given the opportunity to study at the Philippines’ premiere university. What an honor it is to have walked the same hallways and buildings where prominent figures and leaders in various fields—politics, media, business, health and law—used to also tread.

But at the same time, I am humbled by such a privilege to be able to study, graduate and have a degree, knowing that hundreds or even thousands around me could not afford to enter college. I was blessed to be able to focus on my studies and to wait on my allowance that was hard-earned by my parents, while many around me had to work while studying, even the oddest of jobs, just to have an allowance or tuition fee. I will forever be grateful not just for my UP education, but for education itself.

Being at the university is a season to persevere but at the same time enjoy a venue where one’s character is molded and prepared to be launched for the real world that is tougher, harsher and cutthroat. Graduating is not the end but just the beginning of a better and brighter future that awaits me.

UP has done its job well.

COVER STORY (from page 5 UP CONCERT)

stable hearts of many under unsettling situations between countries.”

Indeed, the University of the Philippine Concert Chorus has lent truth to Victor Hugo’s poetic thought—that “music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent.”

RAYMUND LL. LIONGSON,

PH.D. was president of the UPAA-Hawaii when UPCC performed in Hawaii in 2003. He is part of this year’s UPCC Hawaii concert tour organizing committee. Dr. Liongson obtained his PhD from the University of the Philippines-Diliman as a University and San Miguel Educational Foundation Scholar. He was recognized as a Distinguished UP Alumnus in 2011.

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FEATURE

Pinoy Competes in Ultramarathons

By Dennis Galolo

Gompleting a marathon is a tremendous accomplishment for any athlete. But for Gerald Tabios, who began competing in marathons in 2004, the standard 26.2 mile race doesn't quite cut it anymore.

So he's turned to the extreme sport of ultramarathons—a foot race that typically begins at 50 kilometers and can extend to enormous distances. For the ultimate endurance athlete, an ultramarathon isn't just a race, it's an exhausting, leg-trashing trail to self-enlightenment.

"In 2011, I decided to try my first 50k ultramarathon," he says. "A few years earlier I swore I would never do it, but from then on I was bitten by the bug."

To date, Tabios has competed in 32 marathons, 39 ultramarathons and numerous

shorter races.

Badwater Ultramarathon Tabios represented the Philippines in this year's Badwater Ultramarathon, held July 28-30, 2015. The Badwater Ultramarathon, a 135-mile race across Death Valley in California, has been called by National Geographic as the "toughest footrace on earth."

The heat in Death Valley during July is extreme. Air temperatures during the race can reach up to 130 degrees Fahrenheit and surface temperatures can hit 200 degrees Fahrenheit.

The starting line at Badwater in Death Valley is at 85 meters below sea level, which marks the lowest elevation in North America. The finish line is at Mount Whitney Portal at an elevation of 2,530 meters. In all, the course extends over three mountain ranges.

He finished 65th overall in a time of 42 hours, 52 minutes and 9 seconds. Eighteen of the 97 runners failed to complete



The Team Tabios: Kat Bermudez, Donna Tabios, Gerald Tabios, Luis Miguel. (Not in photo is Robert Rizon)

the race.

"Badwater 135 has been a goal of mine since I started running ultramarathons," he says. "What draws me back is the desire for a faster time. Also, this race allows me to represent my background on an international stage and hopefully helps to inspire others. Filipinos usually do not compete in these type of long distance, grueling events."

Tabios competed against 96 of the world's best endurance athletes from 23

countries. He was the lone pinoy who competed in the event and the first Filipino to complete the Badwater Ultramarathon in back-to-back years.

Tabios met his goal of a faster time, shattering his time in last year's Badwater of 44 hours, 40 minutes and 40 seconds.

Tabios says being mentally-strong is crucial in a difficult race like Badwater. He visualizes how the race will unfold and always expects the

unexpected.

"It's all about being mentally strong," he says. "Your mind can play tricks on you. It tells you to stop but if you keep going and ignore what your mind is telling you, the pain sometimes ceases or reaches a point where it doesn't get any worse. For me, quitting has never entered my mind."

First Marathon

Tabios hails from Malaybalay, Bukidnon in Mindanao, the Philippines. The youngest of six siblings, he attended Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City where he graduated with a degree in civil engineering. He chose civil engineering because the construction industry at the time was booming in his hometown. After college, he and his wife ran a small business but decided to move to New York City in 2001 in search of better economic opportunities.

(continued on page 10)

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Honolulu City Lights Deadline is August 31

The application deadline for non-profit groups wishing to set-up displays during the annual Honolulu City Lights exhibition is August 31, 2015 by 4:30 pm.

Permits will be issued for five display sites on the Frank F. Fasi Civic Center grounds by a lottery with the drawing to take place on September 15, 2015 at 10 am in the Mission Memorial Building Hearings Room. Applicants need not be present at the drawing to be selected.

The annual lottery is conducted in response to requests from private groups interested in assembling displays for public viewing during Honolulu City Lights. Organizations receive permits will be responsible for the set-up, maintenance and removal of its display.

Applicants must be non-profit organizations under HRS Chapter 414D or a charitable organization formed pursuant to HRS Chapter 467B or under Section



501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Proof of this designation must be submitted with the application to be eligible for the lottery.

The permit application, instructions and rules governing the use of the Civic Center grounds are available online at: www.honolulu.gov/rep/site/csd/forms/2015DisplayForm2A-Active_Instruction.pdf or by contacting the Department of Customer Services at 768-3392.

FEATURE (from page 9, PINOY)

Tabios' passion for running began in high school during the 1980s. He credits his older brothers who were avid runners who took him along with them during their runs through their hometown's public parks and streets. They encouraged him to watch local elite runners compete in races sponsored by their town fiestas.

In 1996, he signed up for a 25-kilometer race in Cebu City, which later progressed to longer distance races.

Tabios says his wife supported his decision to enter his first marathon in 2004 but was shocked when he told her of his desire to compete in ultramarathons.

"At the first, she was flabbergasted when I signed up for my first 100 mile race in 2012. Now, she finally understands what draws me to this sport. She has gotten to know some of the other runners and also made friends along the way," he says.

Tabios recalls the elation he felt when completing his first marathon.

"It was a mixed reaction at the moment when I crossed the finish line," he says. "It was a feeling of pure elation as well as pure exhaustion."

His two hardest races to date were the 2004 Badwater Ultramarathon and the 2005 New York City Marathon, where he suffered a knee injury but continued to run in excruciating pain. So far, he has completed every race that he has entered.

Training Challenge

When training for an ultramarathon race, Tabios will avoid red meat and sat-

urated fats as much as possible, choosing instead to eat plenty of vegetables and other food packed with healthy carbohydrates.

For the Badwater race, he created a makeshift sauna in the family's living room using PVC pipes, a mylar heating blanket and a heater to simulate the stifling desert heat of Death Valley. He also ran between 40 to 50 miles per week and increased the mileage as the event neared.

"Time management is the real challenge," he says. "I have to juggle my time between family, job and training."

Tabios has worked for the past eight years as a chauffer for a Park Avenue socialite, while his wife is a part-time housekeeper and also looks after their two children during the week.

"In contrast to my daily work as a driver and sitting in a car all day, I run from my house to work in the mornings during the week, which is a distance of about six miles," says Tabios.

Prior to the Badwater Ultramarathon, Tabios participated in the "3 Days at the Fair" race in Augusta, New Jersey where he ran 171 miles non-stop during a 48-hour period. He hopes to continue running as long as possible.

"New York is a tough and expensive place to live," he says. "However, pinoys are resilient and we can always move ahead no matter what.

"Rearing my kids and planning for future financial security are always my priorities. But ultra running is my avocation. I hope to keep on running as long as I am physically able to."

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Philippine Population Hits 101.6 M This Year

by Ted Torres
Monday, August 11, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - The country's population is projected to reach 101.6 million this year, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

PSA interim assistant national statistician Socorro Abejo made the projection at the official start of Population Census 2015 (PopCen 2015), which runs until Sept. 6.

The PSA, a line agency of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), is considered an expanded National Statistics Co-



ordinating Board (NSCB).

The 101.6 million forecast is roughly 10 percent higher than the 2010 official count. The annual growth rate is 2.1 percent, slightly slower than

the 2.42 percent rate from 1990 to 1995.

A census in 1903 – the first under the US colonial era – showed the country's population at 7.6 million.

The 13th census undertaken in 2010 showed the official population count at 92.3 million.

A total of 93,000 enumerators or interviewers have been sent out to collect data from 42,028 barangays nationwide. The target is one interviewer for every 300 to 400 households.

One supervisor is assigned to every four enumerators, or a total of 23,000 team supervisors, who are in turn managed by 5,000 area supervisors.

The entire process, which

actually started last year, has a budget of P2.5 billion.

By September, the data will be tabulated and processed. Initial data are set for release in December or early January next year. Complete data and official data will be made public sometime in the second semester of 2016.

The PSA also reminded the public that failure or refusal to give accurate information to interviewers is punishable under the law.

"There is a penalty of one-year imprisonment and/or a fine of P100,000," Abejo added.

Meanwhile, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan emphasized that getting accurate statistical information is key to effective allocation of scarce government resources.

"Accurate and reliable statistical data and evidence are crucial in determining how to allocate limited resources," Balisacan said.

"We in government rely on these to ensure that the policy decisions and actions we make truly respond to peo-

ple's needs," he said.

"The census is particularly useful for development planning from the national to local levels, for investment programming and for targeting beneficiaries of social services such as health, education, housing and social protection," he pointed out.

He also said the census is an important input for political exercises, as the formation of congressional districts and cities depends partly on population count.

Even businesses and industries consider census data useful for identifying sites for their businesses, as well as for determining consumer demand for various goods and services, and improving labor supply.

"Throughout my professional career, both in academe and in government, I have seen the power that high-quality data can lend to the formulation of public policies that affect millions of lives," Balisacan, who is also NEDA director-general, said.

Balisacan said academic and research institutions use census data to study population growth and geographic distribution. (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Philippine Consulate Supports Project for Young Filipinos

Gina A. Jamoralin, Philippine Consul General to Honolulu, recently met with Elena Clariza and Norman Macadangdang to discuss the "Fresh off the Boat" or F.O.B. Project, which aims to provide students of Filipino ancestry in Hawaii with a deeper appreciate for their Filipino roots and culture.

Founded in 2013 by Hawaii teachers of Filipino ancestry, the F.O.B. Project is a culturally-based science educational program that celebrates the seafaring traditions of the Filipinos and mobilizes a new generation of Filipinos in Hawaii to care for the environment.

The project also hopes to convert an otherwise derogatory term often targeted towards immigrants (F.O.B.) into a symbol of hope and pride for the Filipino-American community through the building and sailing of a 20-ft *paraw*—a custom-made indigenous Filipino canoe from the Visayas. Clariza, director of the F.O.B. project conveyed that they plan to launch the *paraw* on June 12, 2016 in commemoration of Philippine Independence Day.

Organizers also hope that the F.O.B. Project will be a model for other Oceanic groups like Micronesians,



ConGen Gina A. Jamoralin (center) with Norman Macadangdang and Elena Clariza. Consul General Jamoralin is holding a prototype of a *paraw*, a double outrigger canoe native to the Visayas region in the Philippines

Samoans and Tongans to revive their voyaging roots, cultures and to connect it to their education.

The F.O.B. project's objectives are to promote Filipino pride and raise awareness on climate change and sustainability. It involves culture-based education and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and provides real-world application and skills to youth.

Consul General Jamoralin commended this new initiative and added that the F.O.B. Project is also a means to empower the Filipino community, which comprises the largest ethnic group in Hawaii. She also expressed that the Philippine Consulate General will support the project and will inform the Filipino-American community about this endeavor.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

House Mulls Legalizing Medical Marijuana

by Louis Bacani
Wednesday, August 5, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - The committee on health of the House of Representatives is considering the legalization of cannabis or marijuana for medical purposes.

In the course of a hearing yesterday on Bill 4477, titled "The Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act," committee chairman La Union Rep. Eufraño Eriguel said a technical working group (TWG) would be created to draft the panel's version of the measure.

"The TWG will consider and consolidate all inputs from the authors, resource persons from the medical profession and government agencies and concerned non-government organizations," he said.

Isabela Rep. Rodolfo Albano III, principal author of Bill 4477, welcomed the com-



Movie and television personality Angel Aquino carries Kendra Janae Clemente who suffers from infantile spasms during a photo exhibit on the medical benefits of marijuana at the House of Representatives on Monday. Michael Varcas

mittee's decision.

He said it would give hope to persons "with debilitating disease, severe pain, intense seizures and persistent muscle spasms that the legal solution to their problem is at hand."

"I know most of you are desperate for alternative treatment. I know you have gotten tired of using only pharmaceutical drugs, yet your conditions continue to deteriorate,"

he said.

"I feel for all the parents who have spent huge sums of money and are continuing to spend more. You see light at the end of the long, dark tunnel of your children's suffering and pain," he said.

He added that there have been research findings that children with frequent medical seizures who were given medical marijuana felt a great im-

provement in their condition.

Albano pointed out that his bill seeks to allow the use of medical marijuana under strict regulations to be issued by the Department of Health and the Food and Drug Administration.

"The use of cannabis will be permitted only for medicinal and not recreational purposes," he stressed.

He challenged critics of his bill to "shed your fear of the unknown and open your minds to the potential benefits of medical marijuana."

"Marijuana, even in its raw form, is not harmful, unlike tobacco and liquor. I am the best proof of this. Out of curiosity, I used it in college, but I did not become a bad person. I did not become an addict," he said.

He said his father had a friend who was a police general who smoked marijuana "because he considered it less harmful than smoking cigarettes or drinking."

Rep. Leah Paquiz of the party-list group Ang Nars said she supports the Albano bill.

She emotionally told her colleagues that her son died in August last year "from a debilitating disease."

"We could no longer afford morphine, which is expensive, and we wanted to use medical marijuana, but the law does not allow it. We had hoped that there was an alternative drug," she said.

Romeo Quijano, one of several doctors invited by the Eriguel committee, said 23 states and the District of Columbia in the United States allow medical marijuana.

"There is no single death in the US in 2014 attributed directly to the use of marijuana, unlike smoking and drinking," he said.

He said there is ongoing extensive research in the US, Spain and Israel on the medical uses of cannabis both in its raw and purified form.

(www.philstar.com)

'Revised Bangsamoro Law Protects National Interest'

by Christina Mendez
Thursday, August 13, 2015

MANILA, Philippines - The peace agreement proposing autonomy for the Bangsamoro people was based on generated fears and suspicion when government negotiators excluded other parties and dealt solely with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), according to Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

During his sponsorship speech of the proposed Basic Law on the Bangsamoro Au-

tonomous Region (BAR) yesterday, Marcos said the Senate version of the basic law protects national interest and reserves powers enshrined under the Constitution to the national government.

"The basic law addresses the first and most important prerequisite to peace – the definitive end to armed conflict – by providing an efficient, verifiable program of disarmament and demobilization, overseen by an independent monitoring body, and providing the needed financial and social assistance to former fighters to become

peaceful and productive members of society," he said.

Marcos, who chairs the Senate committee on local government, said the panel moved to "strike down any provision that is clearly in conflict with (the) letter and spirit" of the Philippine Constitution.

Noting the history of secessionist armed struggle in Mindanao, Marcos said the committee deemed it essential that the proposed law would never be a vehicle for the establishment of an independent state.

He said the committee also

believed that the autonomy of the constituent local government units of the BAR, as defined in the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, should not be diminished.

The panel placed importance on the principle of checks and balances in all aspects of governance in the BAR, saying this was the main cause of failure of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

It also stressed the need to prioritize peace and order in the autonomous region, which should remain the primary responsibility of the national government through a structured Philippine National Police.

Under Senate Bill 2894, Marcos noted that decommissioning shall continue to be implemented and supervised by the independent decommissioning body, albeit with enhanced functions and auxiliary support from the government.

MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal and members of the government peace panel were present at the Senate ple-

nary session hall yesterday.

Marcos also questioned yesterday why Malaysia was allowed to be a facilitator in the peace agreement between the Philippine government and the MILF when it is "not a disinterested party whose only goal is to aid the creation of peace."

The senator noted that Malaysia "stubbornly refuses to recognize our rightful claim to Sabah" and that it had, "at least in the recent past, given shelter and aid to separatists and terrorists against the Filipino people."

"Malaysia's involvement only raises suspicions about the loyalties of those in the new Bangsamoro region and raises justifiable fears of the 'Balkanization' of our land, and the irretrievable loss of our rightful territory in Sabah," he said.

But he admitted that this "cannot be undone now."

Still hopeful

Malacañang remains hopeful that the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) would be passed in its original

(continued on page 15)

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LEGAL NOTES

Criminal Record that Bars Citizenship



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Permanent residents applying to become U.S. citizens often ask whether a criminal record would make them ineligible for citizenship.

Good moral character is a requirement for naturalization. A person who has been convicted of murder, at any time, or of any other aggravated felony, if convicted on or after November 29, 1990, cannot establish that he is a person of good moral character. He is therefore automatically barred from naturalizing.

Aggravated felonies under

U.S. immigration law include murder, rape, sexual abuse of a minor, and illicit trafficking in controlled substances or in firearms, among others.

Crimes of violence with an imprisonment of at least one year are considered aggravated felonies. Crimes of violence involve the use or threat of physical force against the person or property of another, or by its nature involve substantial risk that physical force may be used in the course of committing the offense. Kidnapping, stalking, sexual assault and third degree assault, are examples of crimes that have been held by courts to be crimes of violence.

Offenses involving theft and burglary may constitute an aggravated felony if the term of imprisonment is at

least one year.

The term of imprisonment is the prison sentence ordered by the court regardless of whether the sentence was suspended.

In a fraud and deceit offense the length of imprisonment is not what makes it an aggravated felony but rather the elements of the offense and the dollar amount of the victim's loss, which must exceed \$10,000.

A person convicted of an aggravated felony prior to November 29, 1990, is not permanently barred from naturalizing. However, it may still trigger removal proceedings and result in deportation.

Admission that one has committed certain crimes either in the U.S. or abroad, although not formally charged, arrested or convicted for it,

makes the person ineligible for naturalization.

Other crimes or offenses may temporarily bar a person for naturalization. A person who committed certain crimes will have to wait 5 years (or 3 years if married to a citizen) after the offense before applying for citizenship. This is the statutory period for determining good moral character as a requirement for U.S. citizenship.

Crimes that temporarily bar a person from naturalizing include crimes involving moral turpitude, two or more offenses for which the applicant was convicted and the sentence actually imposed was 5 years or more, and any crime for which a person was confined to prison for more than 180 days, among others. Crimes involving moral turpi-

tude are those that are "inherently base, vile or depraved, and contrary to the accepted rules of morality."

Upon application, it is important to disclose all information and report all offenses committed including expunged convictions or those removed from the applicant's records and committed before his 18th birthday.

The USCIS will consider the seriousness of the offense committed before the statutory period and whether the applicant has reformed his character to determine if he meets the good moral character requirement.

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

FDA Issues Warning Over Kim Kardashian's Drug Promotions

WASHINGTON — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian is no stranger to criticism, having spent the better part of the last decade in the public eye. But she's probably never faced negative publicity like this before: The Food and Drug Administration says Kardashian's social media posts violate federal drug-promotion rules.

Kardashian recently began promoting a prescription pill to treat morning sickness through her social media accounts. Such endorsement deals are relatively common for celebrities. In posts to Instagram and Facebook earlier



Kim Kardashian promoting Diclegis in her Instagram account.

this month Kardashian talks about her struggles with nausea due to pregnancy.

"I tried changing things about my lifestyle, like my diet, but nothing helped, so I talked to my doctor," the post states. "He prescribed me #Di-

clegis, and I felt a lot better and most importantly, it's been studied and there was no increased risk to the baby."

Kardashian has over 42 million followers on Instagram and 25 million on Facebook.

The posts link to a company website that includes the FDA-approved labeling information.

Kardashian is five months pregnant with her second child, a boy, with husband Kanye West.

But FDA regulators say the posts violate rules for promoting drugs because they don't mention side effects of

Diclegis, which include sleepiness that can make it dangerous to drive or perform other activities that require mental alertness. The drug label warns that Diclegis should not be combined with alcohol or other medications that cause drowsiness, such as sleeping aids or certain pain relievers.

FDA regulations require

manufacturers to balance benefit claims with information about drugs' risks, even when space is limited.

The posts also fail to mention that Diclegis is not approved for women with a form of prolonged vomiting that causes dehydration, the FDA notes.

The FDA posted its warn-

(continued on page 14)

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Ti Kalayaan Philippines Hawaii International Ti Immuna A Nangirusat Ti Pannakapili Ti Mr. Pinoy Hawaii, USA

Kadagiti adu a tawen ti napalabas iti komunidad ti Filipino, awan pay ti nairusat a pannakapili dagiti agtutubo a lalaki no di la ita a tawen 2015 babaen ti kinasariwawek ti panagpampanunot ti nabayagen a Presidente ti KALAYAAN PHILIPPINES HAWAII INTERNATIONAL a ni Ben Pulido. Adun a rereyna dagiti naglabas ti na-

balangatan a mutya a nagserserbi iti KALAYAAN ket ita a tawen 2015, Julio 18, naidasar ti pito nga agtutubo a nakapilian ti Mr. Pinoy Hawaii USA. Isuda Nards Lee Abarra, Aljon Pua, Ryan Cayanan Aquino, Calvin John R. Bagoisan, Gerald S. Tanganan, Christian Aquino ken Marcvon Vince Damaso.

Masisirib amin dagitoy ken napasnekda a nangipakita ti kabalinda nga agpaay ti komunidad. Ngem kas gagangay malaksid ti kinapintas no di ket

kinataer ta nataerda amin. Naragsak, nataer ken masirib da amin. Nagasasalipda a nangidasar iti laingda a nangiparang iti bukodda a talento. Nagdis kurso, nag-akto, panangkanta ken ania man a kinasirib ti imparangda a nakapilian ti kinalaing a makilaban ti kina -Mr. Pinoy Hawaii USA. Ni Aljon Pua ti kaaduan ti puntos ti kinalaing kadagiti pito a nagsasalip. Isu ti umuna a Mr. Pinoy Hawaii a mangidaulo nga tumulong kadagiti daduma nga organisasion a kas daulo dagiti agtutubo. Maki-tanto ida a kumabkblaaw ken makipagserbi kadagiti pasken ti Filipino.

Kudos to the long time President of KALAYAAN a ni Mr. Ben Pulido. Sapay ta umad-adu met itan ti mangidasar kadagiti agtutubo a mapili a Mr. Pinoy Hawaii USA kadagiti masanguanan.

Congratulations Mr. Pinoy from the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Readers!

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Piman a kakailian kas langit tangtangadenda
Dangdanganenda ti nagbaetan langit ken daga
Ubbaw a pagarup no ammoda la koma
Kaadu a panawen nga ibuis mapaadda laeng ti dollar
Gapu't ragsak mapagasatan a dumteng iti Hawaii
Narnuoyan ti namnama, rayray a di malpaag.

Gayam mangrugika iti siro idakdakkel ti askaw
Alisto ti aglangoy aramaten gaud a karga
Karagpin balonmo nga estilo a makikadua
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Dayta ti magneto a mangitandudo
A mangkuerdas irarang-ay bukodmo a talento
Wagas pannakilangen kumpasan ti aglawlaw
Idian panagindadakkel mangtagibassit kapadpada
Lalo di met mataliaw nabatad a pagkapsutan
Idian a suringen ti agus tapno saan a maiyaw-awan
Bangonen a naragsak a panagbiag iti Hawaii.

Ditoy kan nga agirusat, mangnamnama
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MAINLAND NEWS (from page 13, FDA....)

ing letter online Tuesday, addressed to the CEO of Canadian drugmaker Duchesnay Inc., which markets the drug. The letter notes that the privately held company received a similar warning in 2013 for omitting risk information from a letter to doctors.

FDA regulators are "concerned that Duchesnay is continuing to promote Diclegis in a violative manner," states the letter dated Aug. 7.

The agency calls on the company to remove the social media posts immediately and outline a plan for preventing future violations by Aug. 21

Duchesnay said in a statement it "will take quick action in responding to the FDA's letter and immediately and effectively address

any issues." The company is based in Blainville, Quebec.

The FDA approved Diclegis in 2013 to treat vomiting and nausea in pregnant women who do not respond to more traditional measures. It is the only prescription drug approved in the U.S. for morning sickness.

A different version of the drug was recalled by the agency in 1983 following a series of lawsuits alleging links to birth defects. However, FDA investigations never established any link between the drug and the reported problems.

Kardashian's publicist did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday. The posts cited by the FDA no longer appeared on her accounts Tuesday afternoon. (www.philnews.com)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CONGRESS OF VISAYAN ORGANIZATION (COVO) ANNUAL CONVENTION | August 18, 2015 | DAYTIME SESSION WILL BE HELD AT THE KING KAUMU'ALI'I ELEM. SCHOOL CAFETERIA (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM), EVENING BANQUET AT THE KAUAI BEACH RESORT HOTEL | 6:00 PM | Contact: Firmo Dayao. 206-5301 | Contact: May Mizuno at 741-4503

FILIPINO WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB MARIA CLARA BALL | September 12, 2015 | POMAKAI BALLROOMS, DOLE CANNERY | 6:00 PM | Contact: Bernadette Fajardo @ 342-8090 or Cecilia Villafuerte @ 371-8538

THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY CENTER'S BAYANIHAN GALA FUNDRAISER | September 18, 2015 | SHERATON WAIKIKI HOTEL | 5:30 PM | Interested in volunteering and for details, please contact Exec. Director Donnie Juan at 808-680-0451.

MRS. ILOCOS SURIAN CORONATION AND DINNER PROGRAM | October 24, 2015 | Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel & SPA | Theme: Keeping Ilocano Tradition alive..... Four finalists representing Cabugao, San Juan Lapog, Sto Domingo and Vigan will be competing for the MRS ISAH 2015 crown. Part of the proceed will be used for the ISAH Medical and Homecoming Mission December 2015 to the participating town of Ilocos Sur. Donation for the event is \$75.00 | Contact Loida Yamamoto @679-9540; Danny Villaruz @778-0233

FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION'S KIMONO BALL AND FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD | November 14, 2015 | ALA MOANA HOTEL, HIBISCUS ROOM | Contact: Nancy A. Walch @778-3882

GLOBAL NEWS

US Research: Nuclear North Korea Expanding Uranium Mining



WASHINGTON — North Korea is expanding its capacity to mine and mill uranium ore which could supply its nuclear weapons program or fuel nuclear reactors, according to new US research.

The findings shed some light on how Pyongyang gets the raw material to fuel its nuclear ambitions that are raising international alarm.

The analysis is by Jeffrey Lewis, an arms control expert at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. It is being published yesterday by the website 38 North, which specializes in North Korea.

Lewis writes that recent commercial satellite imagery, the latest from this May, shows that over the past year, North Korea has been

modernizing a key facility next to its main uranium mine at the southern site of Pyongsan, not far from the frontier with rival South Korea.

That suggests North Korea is expecting to process significant amounts of uranium, although what it will do with the product remains unclear. A uranium mill is where uranium ore is turned into yellowcake, a key step before it is fabricated as reactor fuel or for enrichment in centrifuges.

Lewis says one possibility is that North Korea will enrich the uranium to expand its stockpile of nuclear weapons.

The North revealed nearly five years ago it has a uranium enrichment facility at its main nuclear complex at Nyongbyon, and there are signs the facility has since been expanded.

Another possibility, Lewis says, is that the North plans to produce fuel for an experimental light-water reactor under construction at its main nuclear complex at Nyongbyon and possible future reactors based on that model.

North Korea has conducted three nuclear test explosions since 2006 and its weapons stockpile could grow sharply in the coming years, analysts warn.

"The expansion of North Korea's uranium mine and milling operation is one more piece of evidence pointing to Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions, particularly a growing nuclear weapons stockpile that poses a clear threat to the United States, Northeast Asia and the international community," said Joel Wit, a former State Department official and editor of 38 North.

International nuclear monitors were expelled from North Korea in 2009, so there's scant independent information on its activities. But in 1992, North Korea declared to the International Atomic Energy Agency that it had two uranium mines and mills, including Pyongsan.

Lewis says Pyongsan appears to have operated intermittently over the past decade. Satellite images show spoil and residue from

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the mill has been dumped into a nearby pond that is unprotected and surrounded by farms, which would pose a health risk, he says.

Photos also show the mill has undergone significant refurbishment since 2014, with buildings being renovated and a terminus of a conveyor belt demolished and rebuilt.

(www.philnews.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS (from page 12, REVISED....)

form, despite the support of a majority of senators for the substitute bill over the Palace-backed version.

Presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda clarified, however, that they have not yet read the copy of the substitute bill that Marcos filed and 17 senators signed.

Still, Lacierda said that from the outset, the government has "taken all the stakeholders into consideration."

"Even if we had negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the perspective was to make sure that no one would be left behind," he stressed.

What Lacierda could only say at this point is that the measure will be deliberated upon in the plenary. "I'm sure that everyone will act, taking into view their own appreciation of what is best for the country." (www.philnews.com)

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