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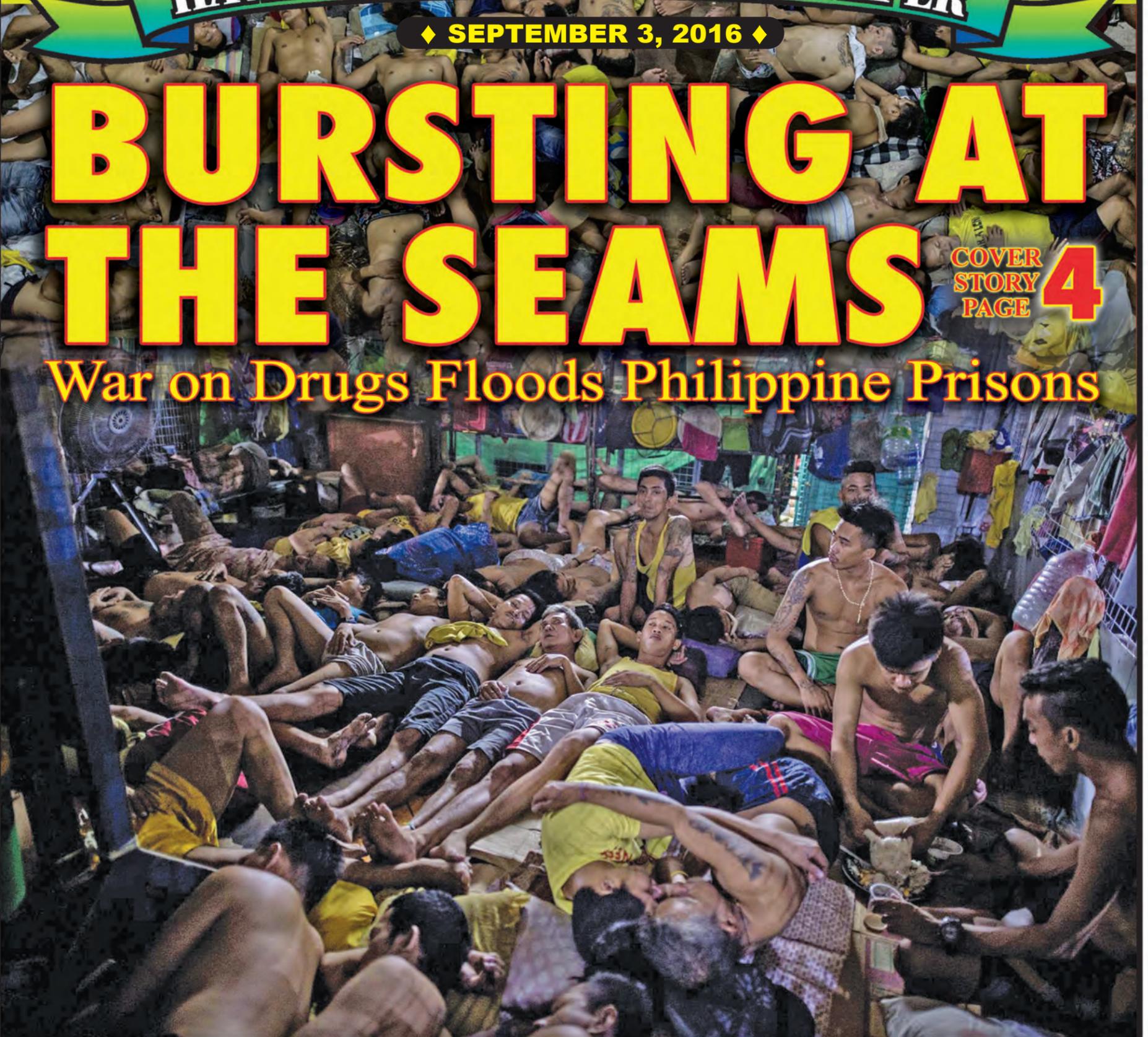
HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ SEPTEMBER 3, 2016 ◆

BURSTING AT THE SEAMS

COVER STORY PAGE 4

War on Drugs Floods Philippine Prisons



OPEN FORUM

No ALOHA FROM ASTON

3



HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

FILCOM CENTER TO HONOR EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY LEADERS

8



LEGAL NOTES

EXPANDED PROVISIONAL WAIVER TO BENEFIT THOUSANDS

13



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EDITORIAL

'Duterte Harry' Takes Aim at Drugs, Crime

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte continues to follow through on his campaign pledge to eliminate rampant crime within three to six months of his presidency. He has stood firm against critics who vilified him for his "shoot first, ask questions later" directive against drug addicts and dealers. Duterte has gone as far as to target a group of the nation's most notorious drug lords housed at Bilibid Prison. The crime bosses placed an obscene bounty on Duterte's head—1 billion pesos (\$21 million) at last count. They lived like kings at a posh maximum security compound, brazenly running their operations with unimpeded access to laptops and cell phones. Token raids were conducted by previous administrations but not to the scale of directing a 300-strong police commando force to raid the facility for illegal drugs.

If Philippine National Police Director General Ronald dela Rosa is correct in his assertions that Bilibid Prison is the source of 75 percent of all drug transactions in the Philippines, cleaning house at the nation's main penitentiary and other jails will go a long way towards curtailing drug abuse which has reached crisis levels.

But for all of his efforts, Duterte's anti-drug campaign is doomed to fail unless his administration provides more funding for additional rehabilitation centers which have been flooded by thousands of addicts fearing for their lives. Without support and counseling, many of these same addicts will return to their old habits or be replaced by a new generation of users. For long term success in the war against drugs, Duterte needs to start viewing drugs as a social issue rather than address it as a law and order problem.

The majority of Filipinos respect Duterte for placing his life on the line for the sake of ridding the Philippines of drugs and crime. He has done more in two months to "shake up" the system than his predecessors ever did. Going after hardened criminals is one thing but a good leader also needs to show more compassion for those addicts who truly wish to turn their lives around. We therefore urge the president to fund social initiatives to help these people beat their addiction for good. If so, Duterte would truly be deserving of the love and admiration of the Filipino people.

Corporate Media's Self Branding Limits News Content Reporting

OIt is even more apparent today what critics of the mainstream media have been saying for years – that this once revered institution tasked with keeping society informed on the issues, has turned into a corporate ratings-driven industry. The broadcast TV media in particular constantly bombard viewers with superficial, headline-teaser depth news (the industry's cash product) that appeal to viewers most basic emotions of fear, joy, sadness, and anger. The critical-thinking part of discussing policies is secondary to more lurid graphics and shock-value commentary.

Why else are most people clueless about radical jihadists, the origins of their deadly campaign? Has the media ever adequately discussed Middle East policy? It's much simpler for the mainstream media to cast radicals as inhuman, crazed killers deserving of more bomb-shelling.

TV news has become a series of packaged entertainment programs stitched together and branded as a product catered to specific consumers. Fox news corners the conservative market. MSNBC never fails to serve up the finest tasting liberal Kool-aid. CNN attempts to orchestrate balanced reporting. But all three major news programs' goal is to capture consumers' attention and

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Oappy Labor Day! If you live or work near Ala Moana Center or Waikiki, keep in mind that there will be lane closures and traffic restrictions for the upcoming International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress set for September 1-10, 2016. Organizers don't expect as big an impact as the APEC conference in 2011 but motorists are advised to adjust their schedules and travel times accordingly.

This issue's cover story focuses on the deplorable conditions in the Philippines' jails and prisons. While President Duterte's crackdown on crime has led to even more severe overcrowding and extrajudicial killings, a new report issued by Malacañang shows that the country's crime rate during the first seven months of 2016 has dropped by 9.8 percent compared to the same period last year. It's too early to tell if Duterte's tough stance is stemming the tide in the war against drugs but the early signs are at least encouraging. Turn to page 4 and read our cover story "War on Drugs Floods Philippine Prisons." Also, read our Personal Reflections column on page 9 for more on this issue.

Community leader Dr. Amy Agbayani in her Open Forum article discusses strained relations between management and employees at the Aston-Aqua Hotels headquarters. She is asking the public to keep a close eye on the hotel which has repeatedly violated workers' rights. Read more about it on page 3.

In other news, several honorees will be recognized at the 14th annual Bayanihan Gala Fundraiser scheduled for October 14, 2016 at the Sheraton Waikiki. The event is sponsored by the Filipino Community Center and will honor six community leaders for their extraordinary acts of service to the Filipino community. To find out who these outstanding individuals are, please turn to page 8.

Lastly, don't forget the 6th Annual Get Ready Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Fair on September 10, 2016 at Ewa Makai Middle School. Attendees will learn how to prepare an emergency plan, build an emergency kit and keep informed of what measures to take before, during and after an emergency. And best of all, it's free! See page 12 for more on this very worthwhile event.

In closing, thank you for faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. Please feel free to email us at: fipinochronicle@gmail.com with story ideas, suggestions or concerns you may have. We would love to hear from you!

Until our next issue...*aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

loyalty, no different than any other advertiser promoting products. The difference is news should not be a public relations product, but should be an integral part of contributing to a more enlightened society.

The danger

While this corporate media trend (which is beginning to look more like packaged advertisement) might sound harmless, the danger is the huge vacuum the corporate media leaves empty. It loses out on opportunities to present truly meaningful angles on the most important issues of our time. Think about the unlimited possibilities of good that the corporate media could be doing.

For the same amount of resources dedicated to report on what Donald Trump says, which happens to be a huge bulk of all news reported for the past year, it would be much more meaningful to discuss the unfair trade deals Trump talks about reforming, similar to the old 60-minutes news show format that dedicates adequate time and reporting on one issue at a time.

Instead of almost exclusive reporting on the presidential election for almost two years now, other important issues deserve



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(continued on page 3)

CANDID PERSPECTIVES



By Emil Guillermo

Bill Clinton and a Veteran Reporter Make My AAJA

running for First Grandpa. More on him later in this column. But no one else showed up who was actually running for the high office. Not unless you count Gary Johnson the Libertarian, who actually drew loud cheers when he admitted to getting high. He said he last used marijuana three months ago.

Johnson was also asked what "AAPI" stood for. I'm sure his campaign wasn't happy that he was totally clueless. Was he suffering from cannabis deprivation? To hear him stumble on that question was disappointing. It's a new level of AAPI invisibility when the semi-anonymous Libertarian candidate for president doesn't even know us by our acronym.

Oh well, at least the totally anonymous Green Party candidate Dr. Jill Stein was able to

say what "AAPI" meant. But so what? She's not the Bernie alternative.

The real newsmaker would have been Republican standard disruptor Donald Trump but he was a no-show. After his disparaging comments last week about wanting to vet Filipino immigrants more carefully for terrorism, The Donald showed just how little he cared for Filipino Americans, specifically, and Asian Americans, in general.

His concern for us? Not even measurable. Just think, he could have shown up to help the Republican who wants to replace Nevada's Harry Reid in the Senate. Trump just doesn't care about anyone but himself. And to add insult to injury, Trump sent a surrogate, Utah's Attorney General Sean Reyes, a Filipino American, to do his bidding.

Reyes told jokes about cooking rice and eating spam in a pandering ploy to ingratiate

himself. The crowd was polite. But Reyes didn't touch the Trump headlines of the day. Trump's Russian coziness? The non-release of his tax returns?

The "sarcastic" comments that Obama was the founder of ISIS? That veiled threat of assassination against Hillary

(continued on page 14)

The best thing about the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) convention in Las Vegas in mid-August wasn't necessarily the presidential election forum, co-presented with APIAVote.

It was seeing some old friends from Honolulu who made the trip to the mainland. I saw my good Hawaii journo buddies Craig Gima and Wes Nakama, still fighting the good fight, doing what we do best. Telling stories journalistically for the public good.

Oh, yeah, there was also this guy President Bill Clinton who showed up at AAJA. He's

EDITORIALS (from page 2, CORPORATE....)

more attention: immigration reform (not just building a wall that solves nothing), reforms to Obamacare or the possibility for a single-payer system. Most people know little about Nafta, how much immigrants contribute to our national economy, or that a better health care system could be available. What about one of the most pressing problems and arguably most critical of our time, the destruction of our environment, that receives scant coverage by the media proportionate to its importance and impact to our very survival.

The second, other more menacing danger of today's corporate-driven media, is shaping society via propaganda – not the obvious WWII type utilized by Nazi Germany – but a more sophisticated, and arguably a more threatening version, propaganda 2.0, that leaves entire segments of society thinking and feeling one way without them knowing why.

Edward Bernays, "known as the father of public relations" perhaps said it best: "If we understand the mechanism and motives of the group mind, is it not possible to control and regiment the masses according to our will without their knowing about it? The recent practice of propaganda has proved that it is possible, at least up to a certain point and within certain limits."

Bernay's tactics of using crowd psychology was intended for advertising use. Given the business nature of the news industry today, it shouldn't come as a shock that engineering consent -- in the form of redundant news formatting, and calculated exposure of one-sided editorials and so-called expert guest commentators -- is clearly

in the work and clearly a form of brainwashing. If you any doubts that this is going on, how else do you explain Fox News' ability to keep its legions of conservative followers for decades? This is definitely not possible without careful crafting of news presentation. The same could be said of MSNB's news format that is tailored to liberals.

Propaganda is not only what we've learned about in school as something that happens abroad with dictators and state-controlled media. It is happening now in our own capitalist version of media.

It's difficult to change the current format of the mainstream media via consumer selection because the entire industry's format operates similarly. Supporting alternative news outlets is one method but their resources and audience reach are limited. At the very least, we can be more aware of what we are watching is selective content presentation of the news, and, as such, only one part of any story. Awareness is a start.

The next step is perhaps the harder part, do our own research and investigating on issues important to us. Print media tends to do a better job in news reporting and the internet is an invaluable resource.

The last and most important step is spreading the different truth you've discovered. When opportunity arises, share what you've learned and offer insight beyond what most people just rehash from what they've seen in the news and take as fact. It is true that what is reported might be factual, but really it is just one part of the whole story.

OPEN FORUM

No Aloha from Aston

by Amy Aghayani (Former Chair, Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission)

I had an appalling experience visiting the Aston-Aqua Headquarters, Hawai'i's largest operator of hotel rooms. I went to bring my concerns as a member of the community and was promptly thrown out with no opportunity to speak with Matt Bailey, Aston-Aqua president. For over a year, Aston-Aqua management has been involved in an aggressive anti-union campaign against workers at its flagship Aston Waikiki Beach Hotel and Hotel Renew properties. (It reminds me of what we saw at Pacific Beach Hotel.) After a federal hearing, a judge found that Aston had repeatedly violated workers' rights under the law. Additionally, in June, a worker, Tino Fabro, began a class action lawsuit against the company for wage theft. Mr. Fabro is a hard working capable immigrant Filipino. I could not stand aside and allow Hawaii's largest operator in our largest industry to take advantage of

the most vulnerable members of our community.

I went to the headquarters with a small group of students, Aston housekeepers, and Mr. Fabro to try to make things right. Instead of meeting with us, Mr. Bailey was openly hostile. At first, I was shocked at how we were treated, then it dawned on me that I got just a small taste of what these workers face everyday. As part of our community, we expect and deserve to have jobs in Hawai'i's hotels with good wages and benefits and a place where tourists, employees and management treat each other with respect. Why does Aston decide they do not have to be decent employers? Aston workers are critical to Aston's revenues.

I ask community leaders to continue to keep a close eye on this company and to advocate for workers like Tino Fabro. This is our community, and we must demand fair treatment and respect for members of our community.

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COVER STORY

War on Drugs Floods Philippine Prisons

By Dennis Galolo

At the end of the first month of President Rodrigo Duterte's term, statistics showed that 300-plus drug suspects had been killed and over 3,700 more arrested. More than 129,000 addicts and dealers also surrendered as part of the Philippine National Police's (PNP) Oplan Tokhang—a Visayan word meaning “to approach and talk.”

While Duterte's war on illegal drugs has been so far successful, the arrests of thousands has resulted in an unintended consequence—a large influx of detainees in the Philippines' jails and prisons which were already bursting at the seams. Take for example Quezon City Jail, which has become the poster child for severely overcrowded conditions. Built some 60 years ago to house about 800 inmates, its population has surged to 3,800 or nearly five times its capacity.

Every inch of the jail's 30,000 square feet is crammed with detainees who jockey for space, water and food. Inmates take turns sleeping shoulder-to-shoulder on the cracked cement of the facility's open-air basketball court, on staircases and wherever else is available.

Conditions at other Philippine prisons are bad but not as deplorable as Quezon City

Jail. The Cebu Provincial Detention and Rehabilitation Center, for example, has been touted as a model detention center and served as the backdrop for the dancing prisoners youtube video that netted nearly 57 million hits.

But even this model jail recently stopped accepting new inmates as it too has far exceeded its maximum capacity. Originally built to house 1,600 inmates, it is now overflowing with 3,008 detainees. Its leadership is also en flux with the resignation of warden Romeo Manansala after a surprise raid uncovered illegal drugs and other contraband. In the meantime, Cebu's provincial government created a special task force to oversee the management of the facility.

At the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa, the problem is not overcrowding but rather corruption, where drug lords allegedly ran their operations

unimpeded via calls and texts, despite an explicit ban on cell phones. Bilibid is the main penitentiary that houses the nation's prison population.

In July, heavily-armed members of the Special Action Force (SAF) led by Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald dela Rosa conducted a surprise raid and seized nearly half a million pesos in cash, cigarettes, signal boosters and other illegal items. Dela Rosa is convinced that Bilibid is the source of 75 percent of drug transactions all over the Philippines.

The 300-member strong SAF battalion acted on orders from President Duterte in his efforts to intensify the war against illegal drugs. According to media reports, the raid specifically targeted Building 14 where 33 high-profile inmates, including drug lords named by Duterte, were confined. One such drug lord was Herbert Colangco, who has been accused of directing the drug trade from inside his cell.

SAF members underwent special training prior to the raid and will remain at Bilibid for two months before being relieved by a contingent of Philippine marines.

At a recent press conference, Duterte divulged a host of problems at Bilibid, particularly special privileges granted to prisoners, the presence of guns inside the facility, alcoholic drinks, women freely coming inside and out, cooking of shabu and partying, among others. The incidents, Duterte claims, occurred during Philippine Sen. Leila De Lima's term as Justice Department Secretary



from 2010 to 2015. The president went as far as asserting De Lima's presence at one of the parties of an unnamed high-profile inmate. The senator, a staunch critic of Duterte's war against drugs and extrajudicial killings, denies the accusations.

Duterte has warned Bilibid officials to come clean or face the consequences.

“When we start to ask questions, you better tell us the truth or else I will charge you all—superintendents, wardens, supervisors—(with) a case of conspiracy to commit serious wrong or at the very least serious neglecting duty,” Duterte said at a press conference.

State of Philippine Prisons

According to Human Rights Watch, a non-governmental organization that monitors human rights in more than 90 countries around the globe, the Philippines' judicial system is broken, with corrupt and incompetent investigators and prosecutors, a judicial and court system clogged with too many cases and too few judges to try them. Thousands of suspects are also detained for prolonged periods without ever seeing a judge.

Officials from the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, which runs 415 de-

tention facilities in 17 regions throughout the Philippines, estimate that the nation's jailhouses are at 380 percent overcapacity. In Metro Manila alone, overall prison cell capacity originally meant for 4,749 detainees now holds upwards of 21,900 for a congestion rate of 361 percent.

Not only are the nation's detention centers severely overcrowded, many fail to meet the minimum United Nations standards for food, nutrition and sanitary conditions. There is also an alarming lack of adequate medical care.

Other organizations like the International Committee of the Red Cross has expressed concerns about health conditions in Philippine jails, particularly the spread of pulmonary illnesses such as tuberculosis, skin infections, diarrhea and sepsis.

Former inmate Raymund Narag served seven years at Quezon City jail for his role in a fraternity brawl that ended in the death of a rival frat member. Narag was crammed into a cell with 30 others instead of the intended five.

Acquitted and released in 2002 after being found to be wrongly accused, Narag went on to complete his studies and is now an assistant professor at

(continued on page 5)



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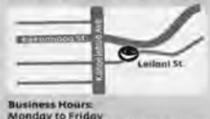
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COVER STORY

(from page 4, WAR...)

Southern Illinois University. He describes the horrific conditions at Quezon City Jail in his book "Freedom and Death Inside the Jail."

In a media interview, Narag said food rations were small and often contained rusty nails and cockroaches, which forced the men to go hungry or steal other inmates' food.

"The dirty conditions, lack of food, sweltering heat and no ventilation within the cells causes numerous inmates to become ill or develop rashes and boils," he said. "Inmates are prone to contagious diseases because of the poor living conditions in their cells. They sleep in overcrowded, poorly ventilated cells. The supply of potable water is very limited. Food rations have inadequate nutritional content. Sick and healthy inmates are grouped in the same cells."

Hawaii Prisons

Overcrowding and deteriorated conditions have long been a problem for Hawaii's correctional facilities. Watch dog groups were quick to point out that such conditions denied inmates their basic constitutional rights. In 1984, Hawaii's prison system was sued and the state entered into a federal consent decree that imposed population caps on jails.

At medium security Halawa Prison, Hawaii's largest prison, each of Halawa's 1,124 beds are filled to capacity. The prison houses the most difficult inmates that other facilities in Hawaii won't accept, including those with medical conditions, the mentally ill and those serving life terms who don't behave. Built in 1987, Halawa is in need of upgrades. The State has appropriated millions of dollars to upgrade the prison's infrastructure, including plumbing and cell locks.

Conditions are just as bad at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC) which is also severely overcrowded. OCCC houses inmates awaiting trial or serving sentences of a year or less. Last December, officials cited a total of 1,164 inmates—about 200 over its capacity of 980. In some modules, three



inmates sleep in small cells with two bunk beds, a sink and a toilet. A third inmate sleeps on the floor.

To comply with the mandatory inmate population cap, the State Legislature in 1993 passed a law authorizing the State Department of Public Safety to release some offenders who were considered the least danger to society—convicted and pretrial inmates who are locked up for nonviolent misdemeanors. That law has long since expired but the 2016 State Legislature passed a bill to reinstitute the practice.

State Public Safety Director Nolan Espinda supported the bill in testimony before the State House Judiciary Committee.

"Misdemeanor crimes are the lowest level of criminal activity for which individuals are incarcerated," he said. "If we must relieve jail overcrowding by releasing inmates, such releases should come from this identified pool."

However, the measure was opposed by HPD and the City Prosecutor's Office. Police Maj. Dagan Tsuchida says the bill would place more criminal offenders back on the streets to commit more crimes.

"It would present a potential risk to public safety and property and would tax police resources and staffing to address these crimes," Tsuchida said in public testimony.

Solutions?

The State in 1995 began sending Hawaii inmates to mainland prisons to alleviate overcrowding and to cut costs. A 2016 report by The Marshall Project shows that it costs about \$70 a day to house an inmate on the mainland,

compared to \$140 per day in Hawaii. Currently, some 1,361 inmates are housed nearly 3,000 miles away at the Saguaro Correctional Center in Arizona.

OCCC undertakes similar measures, sending dozens of inmates each week to the nearby Federal Detention Center to ease overcrowding. The State is planning a new facility to replace the obsolete and inefficient OCCC site. However, a replacement facility could cost up to \$250 million and is perhaps a decade away.

To the Philippine government's credit, officials have taken incremental steps to address problems. Quezon City launched a pilot program in 2013 to digitize court filings and proceedings, while the European Union funded a justice sector reform program that trains PNP's officers and investigators on case management procedures. The Public Attorney's Office has also added more lawyers to represent detainees.

However, much more is needed. Dr. Patricio Abinales, chair of the Center For Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, admits that the Philippine government's budget is not enough to fix its broken prison system. Abinales recommends larger budget appropriations, decongesting some of the more heavily overpopulated prisons by moving some inmates to least congested jails and building more prisons.

"These are punitive and bordering on inhumane measures but only a comprehensive reform and overhaul of the Philippines' penal system will allow for long-term positive effects," he says.

Other suggestions include funding for more residential

substance abuse treatment and vocational training programs to help offenders become self-sufficient and reduce the chances of recidivism.

Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, says the

Philippine government needs to think beyond a "bricks and mortar" approach to the problem of alleviating its severely overcrowded prisons.

"The situation's getting worse day by day because more and more people are being arrested in this broad drugs crackdown," Robertson said during a media interview. "Saying they'll build something that won't be open for a year or two doesn't really help solve the problem today. And the way things are filling up in the current correctional facilities, by the time these new places are open they're going to be full of people as well."

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

DBEDT Releases 2015 State Data Book Online

The State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) released the 2015 State of Hawaii Data Book—the most comprehensive statistical book about Hawaii in a single compilation.

The resource is available on the DBEDT website at dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/databook/ and may be downloaded in whole or in part as either PDF or Excel files. With more than 800 data tables, it covers a broad

range of statistical information in areas such as population, education, labor, energy, business enterprises, government, tourism and transportation.

“The state’s Data Book provides comprehensive information from all sources, both public and private,” says DBEDT Director Luis P. Salaveria. “It’s the most popular product on the DBEDT website and has been consistently produced for 47 years.”

“We try to add more data

series to the Data Book to accommodate a wide range of data needs,” said Chief State Economist, Dr. Eugene Tian. “Among the new data series in this Data Book are Hawaii homes purchased by origin of buyers.”

Some of the interesting data in this newest edition show that:

- Tuition per semester for a full-time resident undergraduate student at University of Hawaii-Manoa in 2015 was

\$5,172, or 5 percent higher compared to the previous year.

- The occupation with greatest employment in Hawaii was “retail salesperson” with 24,770 employment and an \$11.46 average hourly salary. The next highest was “waiters and waitresses” with 15,299 employment, followed by cashiers (14,790 employment) and general office clerks (13,660 employment).

- According to the Regional Price Parities from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis the “all Items” price level in Hawaii was 16.8 percent higher than the overall national price level in 2014. The “goods” component was 8.9 percent higher while “services: rents” component was 58.4 percent higher than the national average in the year.

- The three banks in Hawaii

with assets of more than \$1 billion in 2015 employed more than 5,000 full-time equivalent employees.

- In Hawaii, 85.6 percent of the population had access to a computer with an internet subscription in 2014. Comparing by age group, persons under 18 years of age had the highest percentage at 90.2 percent, whereas persons 18 to 64 had 87.4 percent and persons 65 years and older had 72.3 percent.

- The average electricity price for residential customers was 30 cents per kWh in 2015, 7 cents less per kWh or a 19 percent decrease from the previous year.

- A majority of the more than 19,000 home purchases in 2015 were by locals (78 percent) with an average sales price of \$546,146; followed by mainland buyers (19 percent) at \$751,210; and lastly foreigners (3 percent) at \$783,774.

HART CEO Resigns, Replaced by Formby

Dan Grabauskas, executive director and chief executive officer of the Honolulu Authority For Rapid Transportation (HART), resigned from his position effective August 18, 2016.

Grabauskas, who has been with HART for over four years, agreed to a separation agreement in which he will be paid \$282,250.

HART’s Board of Directors promptly appointed board member Mike Formby as acting executive director and CEO. Formby will eventually resign his post as director of the City’s Department of Transportation Services.

Board Chair Colleen Hanabusa says Formby has the knowledge and leadership skills necessary for the temporary position. HART has formed a permitted interaction group to search for a permanent CEO and executive director. She will consult Mayor Kirk Caldwell and ask

for his support for Formby.

“I look forward to working closely with Deputy Executive Director Brennon Morioka and the hard-working HART staff as we move quickly to strengthen our working relationship with the Mayor, the Honolulu City Council, the State of Hawaii and the Federal Transit Administration,” Formby says. “As a HART board member, I am familiar with the many challenges facing this project and I am committed to working with the HART team to move this project forward in a manner that is transparent, responsive and in the best interest of the transit riders and taxpayers.”

Prior to joining Mayor Kirk Caldwell’s cabinet in 2013, Formby served as the interim State Director of Transportation in 2010, where he oversaw the management of the Airports, Harbors and Highways Divisions. He was the deputy director of the State of

Hawaii Harbors Division from 2007 to 2010. Formby is an attorney with over 20 years of litigation experience and has taught at the William S. Richardson School of Law and Hawaii Pacific University. He also previously served on the State Land Use Commission.

City officials say there is not enough money to complete the \$6.8 billion rail project’s 20 mile route and 21 stations. Rail opponent and former Gov. Ben Cayetano supports proposals to end the route at the Middle Street terminal and then run a bus rapid transit station to Downtown, Ala Moana Center and the University of Hawaii-Manoa. Cayetano also says Charles Djou is the best leader for the City in guiding the rail project forward.

“(Djou) will seek ways to curb the skyrocketing costs of the rail project and will consider alternatives such as the middle street compromise,” Cayetano says.

Consulate Issues Passport Advisory

The Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu has issued an advisory to the public regarding the pick-up of Philippine passports.

Passports may be claimed in person at the Consulate by presenting an official receipt. If a receipt is unavailable, claimants may also present permanent resident cards, State IDs, driver’s licenses or other valid government-issued identification cards.

sued identification cards.

Claimants unable to claim their passports in person have the option of sending a representative on their behalf. To do so, a signed letter authorizing pick-up along with the official receipt and a valid photo ID must be submitted. If the passport is to be mailed to the claimant, the representative must provide a self-addressed stamped or pre-paid mailing envelope.

KNDI Holds 3rd Annual Anniversary Celebration

Geronimo Broadcasting Inc., celebrated its third Anniversary for KNDI Radio 1270 with a festive banquet at the Empress Restaurant in Chinatown on August 19, 2016.

“KNDI Radio has been a part of our community for 60 years and is well-known and well-loved by the Filipino community,” says station manager Lorene Godfrey. “Many of the popular radio hosts have been on the air with us for 20 and 30 years. The warmth and commitment to good, wholesome programming has been

the foundation of our broadcasting style.”

Former KNDI owner Leona Jona upon her retirement sold the radio station in August 2013 to Geronimo Broadcasting, Inc. which has continued her commitment to serve Hawaii’s multi-ethnic community.

KNDI specializes in Filipino programming and brings its listeners the very best in both ethnic and religious programs. Many organizations have used KNDI’s unique mix of cultural voices to share their messages with Hawaii’s various ethnic groups.

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WHAT'S UP, ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Cancellation of Removal for Certain Nonpermanent Residents

It is not only lawful permanent residents (green card holders), as discussed in a previous article, but also certain nonpermanent residents (without a green card) who are placed in removal (aka deportation) proceedings are eligible for relief known as cancellation of removal if they meet the requirements prescribed by the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), and case law. An LPR who obtained such status by fraud or mistake and was barred from applying for cancellation for lawful permanent residents under INA § 240A(a) may apply for cancellation of removal as a nonpermanent resident under INA § 240A(b), provided it is timely. See *Obioha v. Gonzales*, 431 F.3d 400 (4th Cir. 2005)

Statutory Eligibility

INA § 240A(b)(1) [8 USC § 1229b(b)(1)] provides:

“The Attorney General may cancel removal of, and adjust to the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, an alien who is inadmissible or deportable from the United States if the alien-

(A) has been physically present in the United States for a continuous period of not less than 10 years immediately preceding the date of such application [The period of continuous physical residence is deemed to end when the alien is served a notice to appear or when the alien has committed an offense referred to in INA section 212(a)(2) that renders the alien inadmissible under INA section 212(a)(2) or removable under section 237(A)(2) or 237(a)(4). An alien is considered to have

failed to maintain continuous physical presence if the alien has departed from the U.S. for any period in excess of 90 days or for any periods in the aggregate exceeding 180 days];

(B) has been a person of good moral character during such period;

(C) has not been convicted of an offense under INA section 212(a)(2) [certain criminal offenses], 237(a)(2) [certain criminal offenses], or 237(a)(3) [failure to register and falsification of documents], subject to paragraph (5); and

(D) establishes that removal would result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to the alien's spouse, parent, or child, who is a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence. See *Matter of Recinas*, 23 I&N Dec. 467 (BIA 2002).

INA § 240A(b)(2) [8 USC § 1229b(b)(2)] provides a special rule for a battered spouse or child.

Aliens Ineligible for Cancellation of Removal

Cancellation of removal is not available to the following aliens:

- (1) An alien who entered the United States as a crewman subsequent to June 30, 1964.
- (2) An alien who was admitted to the United States as a nonimmigrant exchange alien as defined in section 101(a)(15)(J), or has acquired the status of such a nonimmigrant exchange alien after admission, in order to receive graduate medical education or training, regardless of whether or not the alien is subject to or has fulfilled the two-year foreign residence requirement of section 212(e).
- (3) An alien who- (A) was admitted to the United States as a nonimmigrant exchange alien as defined in

section 101(a)(15)(J) or has acquired the status of such a nonimmigrant exchange alien after admission other than to receive graduate medical education or training, (B) is subject to the two-year foreign residence requirement of section 212(e), and (C) has not fulfilled that requirement or received a waiver thereof.

- (4) An alien who is inadmissible under section 212(a)(3) [security and related grounds] or deportable under of section 237(a)(4) [security and related grounds].
- (5) An alien who is described in section 241(b)(3)(B)(i) [persecuted others].
- (6) An alien whose removal has previously been canceled under this section [240A] or whose deportation was suspended under section 244(a) or who has been granted relief under section 212(c), as such sections were in effect before the date of the enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

Factors Considered in Exercising Discretion

As in cancellation of removal for lawful permanent residents, the nonpermanent resident must also establish that he/she warrants a favorable exercise of discretion by the Attorney General, represented by the Immigration Judge. That discretion is not absolute. In *Matter of Mendez*, 21 I&N Dec. 296, 300-301 (BIA 1996), the Board of Immigration Appeals said that the IJ must balance the positive equities and adverse factors with the social and humane considerations presented on the alien's behalf to determine whether the grant of relief in the exercise of discretion appears to be in the best interests of this country.

In *Matter of Mendez*, 21

I&N Dec. 296, 300-301 (BIA 1996), the Board set out the factors used in weighing the positive factors or equities and negative factors of an alien seeking cancellation of removal.

Positive Factors or Equities: (1) Family ties within the United States; (2) residency of long duration in this country; (3) evidence of hardship to the alien and family if the alien is excluded and deported; (4) service in the Armed Forces; (5) history of stable employment ; (6) existence of property or business ties; (7) existence of value and service to the community; (8) evidence of genuine rehabilitation if a criminal record exists; and (9) other evidence attesting to the alien's good character.

Negative Factors: (1) Nature and underlying circumstances of exclusion ground at issue; (2) additional significant violations of this country's immigration laws; (3) existence of criminal record, and if so its nature, recency, and seriousness, and (4) the presence of other evidence indicative of the alien's bad character or undesirability as a permanent resident of this country.

Form EOIR-42B is used in applying for cancellation of removal for certain nonpermanent residents. The Form contains advice and instructions. There is a filing fee of \$100 and a biometrics fee of \$85.

PRACTICE TIP: The alien should consider retaining the services of an experienced, competent, and hardworking (not hardly working) attorney who must establish the eligibility requirements with evidence, particularly the requirement of “exceptional and extremely unusual hardship,” and who must successfully answer the ultimate question to be resolved: is it in the “best interests of this country” to grant cancellation of removal?

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.



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FilCom Center to Honor Extraordinary Community Leaders

The Filipino Community Center, Inc. has announced its honorees for the 14th annual Bayanihan Gala fundraiser, which is scheduled for October 14, 2016, at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel beginning at 5:30 pm.

With October designated as Filipino American Heritage month across the U.S., six community leaders will be honored for their extraordinary acts of service to the local Filipino community, the State of Hawaii and in the Philippines. The honorees include:

Dr. Amefil "Amy" Agbayani—In 2016, Agbayani will retire from the University of Hawaii. For over 40 years, she has been a faculty member and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Diversity and the director of Student Equity, Excellence and Diversity (SEED). Co-founder of Operation Manong, which helped Filipino immigrant students, Agbayani broadened her efforts to include other immi-



Honorees (from left): Amy Agbayani, Maggie Domingo, Domingo Los Banos, Timothy Johns, Jeffrey Watanabe and Lynn Watanabe.

grants and underrepresented groups, including African-Americans, Pacific Islanders, women, LGBT, students with disabilities, pre-school children and others needing a voice.

Maggie Domingo—Considered one of the matriarchs of the local Filipino community, Domingo has spent her entire career recognizing outstanding students, promoting education, raising scholarship funds and perpetuating the Filipino culture. For more than two decades, she led the Philippine Cultural Foundation of Hawaii (PCFH) and was the first female president of United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH). She was also known for hosting one of the most popular radio pro-

grams on KNDI.

Timothy E. Johns, Esq.—While serving as vice president of Amfac, Johns championed donating to The Filipino Community Center, Inc. two acres of land located next to the old Oahu Sugar Mill in Waipahu. These donated lands were used to build the FilCom Center. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Consuelo Foundation, which supports and operates programs that prevent and treat abuse, neglect and the exploitation of children, women and families in Hawaii and the Philippines. Johns is currently an executive vice president and chief consumer officer at HMSA.

Domingo Los Banos—

Los Banos was a teenager when he traveled overseas as a soldier in World War II along with another 300 Hawaii recruits assigned to the U.S. Army's 1st Filipino Infantry Regiment, which General MacArthur deployed in his retaking of the Philippines. After the war, Los Banos earned his degree in education and returned to his home on Kauai to become a teacher and coach. He later became the first Filipino principal and district superintendent. Los Banos helped spearhead the production of the documentary, "An Untold Triumph: America's Filipino Soldiers."

Jeffrey N. Watanabe, J.D.—Watanabe has served on the board of directors of the Consuelo Foundation for 25

years and as its chair for more than 20 years. Under his leadership, the Consuelo Foundation in 2013 committed more than \$3 million for Project H.O.P.E. to help rebuild communities in the Philippines in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, the strongest storm ever to make landfall. Watanabe is the retired founding partner of the Watanabe Ing LLP law firm and currently serves as chairman of the board at Hawaiian Electric Industries (HEI).

Lynn Watanabe—Watanabe has served on the board of the Aloha Medical Mission which organizes missions of mercy to the Philippines and other developing countries. Thirty years ago,

(continued on page 10)

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

We must treat fairly and respect all workers in our community who are the backbone of our economy.

We salute our hardworking, dedicated and industrious laborers for their commitment and service to Hawaii's labor force and their efforts to grow the State's economy.



Greetings from the Management & Staff of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

A MOTHER'S THOUGHTS ON THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS

by Seneca Puguan Moraleda

My 10-month old daughter, Callie, is sleeping soundly in our humble South Korean abode. In this nation, we are able to freely roam the streets without fear. I can go home late at night without my husband worrying of my whereabouts. We can leave our things and be assured that we will find them right where we left them. For this, I am grateful.

But such is not the case back home in the Philippines. I remember when I was younger, my parents would always tell me and my siblings to be home as early as we could because it was not safe outside. I grew up watching on Philippine television news of women raped and killed, children murdered, houses trespassed and families stolen from. Many, if not all suspects, were involved in drugs.

Things are now changing. News on drug pushers and addicts getting killed and captured have taken over Philippine news media. But

not everyone is happy about it. They have been considered “extrajudicial killings” by human rights advocates.

There is indeed a war going on in the Philippines. President Rodrigo Duterte is waging war against drugs that destroy lives, families, society and the country. And just like any war, the war on drugs has casualties. It is bloody. It is heartbreaking to see images of blood and lifeless bodies on the TV news. But on the other hand, it is encouraging to see hundreds or even thousands of people involved in drugs surrendering and wanting to change. This has never happened before. This is the first time in my lifetime I have witnessed multitudes of drug users and pushers yielding themselves to authorities.

I am against extrajudicial killing. For me, every person is valuable. I do not condone lives being taken away indiscriminately and unjustly. But I understand that every action has a consequence. Drugs, whether using or dealing it, results in terrible consequences. My heart bleeds for every parent who lost a son,



for every wife who lost a husband and for every child who lost a parent because of this war.

Since President Duterte waged war on drugs, I have never felt more confident with the authorities and the government than at this time. I have never been more proud of my leaders and the justice system in my country than now. I am hopeful for the Philippines.

Finally, something is being done about the problem of drugs in the country. Finally, someone is taking a stand. Finally, someone is waging war on drugs. Finally, someone has resolved to end the proliferation of drugs in the country.

We've never had a presi-

dent with such zeal and anger against drugs and corruption that he is willing to sacrifice his reputation, even his life. He represents the families of victims shattered by the drug menace and the many Filipinos who are hoping and desiring for a safe environment to live in.

Seeing what's happening now in the country, the number of drug users and pushers surrendering, the amount of drugs being confiscated every day, it is only now that I am realizing how deeply rooted the problem of drugs is in the Philippines. It has become full blown. Coming from the president's mouth, “it is not anymore epidemic, it is pandemic.”

I am one with the human rights advocates for the just treatment of drug suspects but I am also all out in my support for President Duterte and the Philippine National Police in their fight against drugs.

It is my hope that the police would truly perform their duties without bypassing the law and standard operating procedures in apprehending drug suspects. I am urging the media to do a better job and give more intelligent reports on the drug war, not just giving its ill effects like statistics on the death toll and showing

dead bodies but also highlighting the good that the war brings.

I pray that the president and his men would not waver in their determination to fight and curtail drugs in the country. I ask my fellow Filipinos to stand with the government and rally behind our leaders as they lift up the society from the pit that it has buried itself into.

The battle is far from over. But just like every war, it will draw to an end. It may take years or even decades or several administrations before the problem on drugs will be solved. I don't know if it will be solved at all or if we will ever win this war. But as a mother, I am grateful that we have a leader who cares about the next generation, one who is resolute in having a clean government and who prioritizes a safe and drug-free Philippines.

I have faith that the Philippines will be a safer place to live for Callie and her generation. The time will come when the children in the Philippines will be able to sleep soundly, parents won't have to worry about their children's safety, women can roam the streets safely and every Filipino family can live without fear. I am filled with hope.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Big Island County to Host Energy Storage Conference

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority is partnering with Hawaii County officials to host a conference on energy storage trends and opportunities in Kailua-Kona from September 12-13, 2016.

The conference, which is

supported in part by the County of Hawaii, will include presentations, panel discussions and visits to site demonstrations. It will also offer the latest information presented by leaders in energy storage technology, particularly on the economics of en-

ergy storage. Participants will be able to discuss opportunities as well as regulatory and policy issues.

“As the state works to reach its 100 percent renewable energy goal by 2045, energy storage will be necessary to address increasing amounts

of variable resources brought into the grid,” says State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism Director Luis P. Salaveria. “This conference will bring together experts from U.S. National Laboratories, academia, government

and industry to present energy storage technologies and applications and consider opportunities and challenges.”

Attendance is open to the public. To register, go online to: nelhaenergystorage2016.hawaii-conference.com/.

BOOK REVIEW

'Querida, An Anthology'

“Querida” spans 125 years of literary portrayals of “the mistress,” number 2” and its other variants from Jose Rizal's Dona Consolacion in “Noli Me Tangere” to Ishmael Bernal's

Marilou in “Relasyon.”

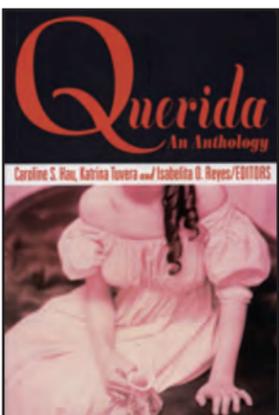
According to the book's introduction, a querida “is more than a one-night stand, but less than a wife...and maybe treated as a partner, playmate or prostitute.”

This collection offers a feast of

short stories, poetry and drama from the Philippines' most accomplished and distinguished authors and emerging writers. The anthology also provides insight into the querida's “illicit, illegal lives.” It offers a buffet of literary gems that readers can enjoy as well as insights into the roles of

Filipino women as wives, mistresses and domestic partners.

The editors are Caroline S. Hau, Katrina Tuvera and Isabelita O. Reyes. The book is 347 pages and produced by Anvil Publishing. Cost is \$27. For inquiries, send an email to: kalamansibooks@gmail.com.





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PHILIPPINE NEWS

CHR: Magnitude of Extrajudicial Killings in Duterte Drug War Unseen Since 1987

MANILA, Philippines — Commission on Human Rights (CHR) Chair Jose Luis Martin Gascon said the rights body has not experienced having extrajudicial killing cases of this magnitude since it was established in 1987.



Comm. Chito Gascon

He said this on Wednesday during a budget briefing at the House of Representatives.

Gascon added that the CHR Special Task Force was only able to look into less than 20 percent of more than a thousand cases of extrajudicial killings.

He cited Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Ronald Dela Rosa's report that 1,160 deaths recorded in the past 55 days are still "under investigation," while more than

700 persons have been killed in legitimate police operations.

"We are not able to respond to every single case at this point," Gascon said.

The CHR task force is reviewing or investigating a total of 103 cases of extrajudicial killings linked to the government's war on narcotics.

Gascon also urged the PNP's Internal Affairs to investigate "every incident of death resulting from ostensibly legal police operations."

"These should all be treated as crime. Therefore, the full force of the law should be directed at investigating these cases and ultimately uncovering the perpetrators and bringing them to justice," he said. (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (from page 8, FILCOM....)

she helped to start the Child & Family Service Guild which was instrumental in founding the award-winning Child & Family Service Philippines, headquartered in Baguio. The vision of Child & Family Service Philippines is helping children and women achieve their full potential and for them to be nurtured by caring families in safe and enabling communities. Watanabe currently chairs the board of directors for Child & Family Service Philippines.

"The FilCom Center is thrilled to honor these pillars in our community who for many years performed extraordinary acts of service," says Executive Director Donnie Juan. "Our honorees embody the *bayanihan* spirit of working together toward a common purpose. They represent everything that is good in our society and give our entire community hope."

The FilCom Center will also be recognizing the contributions of the United Filipino Council of Hawaii (UFCH), the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC), and the Congress of Visayan Organizations (COVO). FilCom ex-officio board members, Maria Etrata, Alex Vergara and May Mizuno will be accepting the awards on behalf of the respective organizations.

"We look forward to also recognizing the service of some of the most established Filipino organizations in our community that truly exemplify the *bayanihan* spirit of communal unity," says Edmund Aczon, Chairman of the FilCom Center's Board of Directors. "In addition to leading their respective or-

ganizations, Maria Etrata, Alex Vergara and May Mizuno have served as valuable members of our FilCom board."

Kristian Lei will be the event's featured musical artist. She has traveled the world playing renowned parts in various musical productions, including *Miss Saigon*, *the King and I*, *Once on this Island*, and *The Festival of the Lion King*. Lei is the founder of the nonprofit Honolulu Broadway Babies.

The emcees will be Nicole Velasco, executive director of the Office of Economic Development, and Yasmin Dar Fasi, who works with the Office of Gov. David Ige as a digital media specialist and co-owner of Dolkii.

Current sponsors include Alexander & Baldwin, American Savings Bank, Bank of Hawaii, Blue Water Resources, Case Management Professionals, Central Pacific Bank, Consuelo Foundation, First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaiian Airlines, Hawaii Construction Alliance, Hawaiian Electric Company, Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, HEI, HMSA, Honolulu Star-Advertiser, Island Insurance Companies, Kaiser Permanente, L&L Hawaiian Barbecue, Matson and the Mills Group.

Please contact event chair A.J. Hala-gao at ajhalagao@hei.com or call 543-5889 for sponsorship opportunities. Questions regarding individual ticket sales may be directed to Arceli Rebolledo at the FilCom Center at 680-0451. To download sponsorship and/or ticket order forms or for additional information, go online to: <http://filcom.org/center/bayanihan-gala-2016/>.

URGENT SAFETY ISSUE

Airbags in Honda and Acura Vehicles

**Avoid Injury: Schedule your
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The Takata Airbag Inflators in certain Honda and Acura vehicles (listed below) can rupture and cause serious injury or death. For model years 2001, 2002 and 2003, the repair is especially urgent because there is an even greater risk that your airbag inflator could rupture. Please take immediate action to replace your airbag inflator at no cost to you. To see if your vehicle needs immediate attention, please check its recall status by taking one of the following steps:

GO to recalls.honda.com for Honda drivers,
or recalls.acura.com for Acura drivers.

CALL 1-888-234-2138 for both Honda and Acura vehicles.

VISIT an authorized Honda or Acura dealer to have it serviced.

Honda is committed to addressing your needs and concerns.

**Alternative transportation is available to you
while getting your car repaired.**

Almost everyone knows someone who owns a Honda. If you or someone you know is driving one of these Honda or Acura vehicles, please encourage them to contact us.

We care about your safety, so please take action immediately.

Affected Models:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2001-2011 Honda Accord | 2006-2014 Honda Ridgeline |
| 2010-2011 Honda Crosstour | 2003 Acura 3.2CL |
| 2001-2011 Honda Civic | 2013-2016 Acura ILX |
| 2002-2011 Honda CR-V | 2003-2006 Acura MDX |
| 2003-2011 Honda Element | 2007-2016 Acura RDX |
| 2010-2014 Honda FCX Clarity | 2005-2012 Acura RL |
| 2007-2014 Honda Fit | 2002-2003 Acura 3.2TL |
| 2010-2014 Honda Insight | 2009-2014 Acura TL |
| 2002-2004 Honda Odyssey | 2009-2011 Acura TSX |
| 2003-2011 Honda Pilot | 2010-2013 Acura ZDX |



BACK TO SCHOOL

Five Back-to-School Tips

by Matthew Mettias

Many students around the island are returning back to their school campuses, if they have not already,

to start yet another school year. Starting a new school year after a long summer vacation can be stressful for many students. For these reasons, I compiled a list of five simple rules that students should live by in order to make the new 2016 school year enjoyable and successful.

Rule #1: Prepare Everything Ahead of Time

You would be surprised to see how many students wait until the day before, if not the hour before, to begin the new school year. I am a prime example of this.

Last school year, I arrived back on Oahu at 8:30 pm after saying my farewells to my brother as he began college in



Boston. I scurried through my house (stressfully) looking for my school supplies. At last, I gathered most of the materials I needed for the next big day, the first day of school. I fell asleep around 11 pm, allowing for five hours of sleep. Waking up at 4 am, I got ready for school and headed out the door. Needless to say, my first big day was not an enjoyable one. I was exhausted and fell over on the floor to take a catnap as soon I returned through that same door again in the afternoon.

Take it from me. You deserve a better first day at school. This leads me to my next point...

Rule #2: Stay Healthy

“Early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise” states one of the most intelligent men 1700s, Benjamin Franklin.

Sleeping is not the only factor to a healthy lifestyle. Eating healthier, whole and hearty foods along with daily exercise is the key to an enjoyable school year. Implement the “triple threat” into your life: sleep early, eat healthier and exercise on a daily basis and, as a student, you will become unstoppable.

Rule #3: MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION

I’ve heard that people get a sense of who we are within the first minute of meeting us. In

other words, people make assumptions about us in only 60 seconds. After those 60 seconds, it is difficult to alter that person’s preconception of you.

With that being said, remind yourself at the beginning of this school year to present yourself in the best way possible. “How do you make a good impression?” you may ask. Being polite and respectful, genuinely listening to what others have to say without interruption and simply being the best version of yourself are the three “golden rules.”

If you do so, teachers and students alike will grow closer to you, trust you more and give you leeway. All of this translates to an easier and more enjoyable year.

Rule #4: Stay Organized

Being a student is difficult. We juggle around schoolwork, participate in extracurricular activities, allot time for family and friends and complete tasks. This is just a sample of a typi-

cal student’s life because the list is literally endless. We do this while still trying to keep our sanity. For this reason, staying organized is one of the most important habits that students can practice that will serve them well in the long run.

Personally, I use free online resources to keep me organized. I recommend Google Calendar and Wunderlist. Google Calendar is a great online tool to transfer schoolwork into organized boxes. Wunderlist is a sophisticated online checklist, great for listing tasks and other responsibilities. The upside is that Google Calendar and Wunderlist are available for free on many smartphones including iPhone and Android models.

Rule #5: Enjoy Yourself

Remember, not every teenager in the world has access to schooling and a decent American education. For this reason, remind yourself that you are in a good position and do not worry too much about the future. The new school year is a new start, a new journey and a clean slate. Make it count!

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Emergency Preparedness Fair Set For September 10

The Ewa Emergency Preparedness Committee (Ewa EPC) will hold the 6th Annual Get Ready Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Fair on September 10, 2016 from 9 am to 1 pm at Ewa Makai Middle School.

Themed “Get Trained,” organizers want to provide attendees with education and information on how to be a part of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Sponsors such as Target, D.R. Hor-

ton, Hawaiian Electric Company, The Queen’s Medical Center, Pali Momi Medical Center, Gentry Homes, Kapilina Beach Homes, Hunt Company, Haseko Homes and Safeway have donated thousands of dollars of emergency preparedness items to be given away to attendees.

Participating organizations include the City Department of Emergency Management (DEM), National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

(NOAA), Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO), American Red Cross, Honolulu Fire and Police, Hawaii Army National Guard, the scientific community and many other private and public organizations. The event will host informational booths, seminars and hands-on training.

The Ewa EPC is an all-volunteer committee that serves as a community resource on emergency preparedness. Having met all the requirements of training, educational outreach,

exercises and community events, Ewa Beach has been designated by NOAA as a Storm Ready and Tsunami Ready Community.

For more information on the event, contact Ray Cordeiro at 682-0111 or email Jackie Davison at getreadyewabeach@gmail.com.

DBEDT Director to Discuss Economic Indicators in Hawaii

State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) Director Luis P. Salaveria will share economic indicators as guest speaker for the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce’s business meeting and workshop scheduled for August 31, 2016 at Tante’s Island Cuisine beginning at 5:30 pm.

Entitled “What’s Trending: Strategies for Business,” the event will delve into DBEDT’s data on Hawaii’s economy for 2017. Salaveria will provide data-based analysis on what to expect for the Maui community in the wake of increased unemployment due to the closure of Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co., the state’s last sugar plantation.

The session is open to the public. Registration is \$20 for chamber members and \$25 for non-members. The event is an ideal opportunity to “talk story” and network with business executives. Heavy pupu is included. To register, go online to: www.maui-filipino-chamber.com/workshops or call 856-2605.

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Expanded Provisional Waiver to Benefit Thousands

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced last July 29 the expansion of the existing provisional waiver program to include all individuals who are statutorily eligible for the waiver of the unlawful presence ground of inadmissibility. The new rule, which will take effect on August 29 will benefit thousands who are not eligible to file for adjustment of status.

Before the first provisional waiver program took effect on

March 4, 2013, applicants who had incurred unlawful presence in the US for more than 180 days, and were not eligible to adjust their status, had to go back to their home country to process their visa application there. They included fiances who entered on a K-1 visa but did not marry their petitioner and also crewmen and EWIs (those who entered without inspection) who were not grandfathered under Section 245(i).

Their departure from the US triggered the three or ten year bar. They were allowed to apply for a waiver of their unlawful presence but this took months, if not over a year. They had to appear first at the visa interview, wait for the denial of their visa appli-

cation and then file for the unlawful presence waiver from outside the US and wait for its approval there. This discouraged many because of the risks, costs and hardship involved so instead of applying for a green card, they opted to remain undocumented.

To alleviate the hardship brought about by the lengthy family separation, the provisional waiver was introduced. It allowed them to apply for the waiver before their departure to process their immigrant visa application abroad. However, the 2013 rules only applied to immediate relatives (spouses and children of US citizens and parents of adult US citizens) who can show that their separation would cause "extreme hardship" to

their US citizen spouse or parent.

The new rule would cover visa applicants who can show extreme hardship to a US citizen or lawful permanent resident spouse or parent whether their visa petition is family-based or employment-based.

The provisional waiver covers unlawful presence and no other ground of inadmissibility. The application would be made on a new form, Form I-601A Application for Provisional Unlawful Presence Waiver.

Individuals who are not eligible for the provisional waiver would still be able to apply under the old waiver procedure, i.e. depart from the US and apply for the I-601 waiver abroad.

Note that the waiver is provisional in that it would not

take effect until after the applicant departs the US, appears at his visa interview and is found by the consular officer as otherwise admissible to the US. But the time that the individual would have to spend abroad would be significantly less compared to that under the old procedure.

We have recently represented a fiancée and also a crewmember and we successfully obtained their provisional waiver in only a few months. They went to Manila for their visa interview and came back with their green card after only a few weeks of stay there.

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

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Showcasing Filipiniana

Philippine Women's Civic Club (PWCC) of officers and members hosted the very First Filipiniana Ball and Installation of Officers, who were sworn in by Consul General Gina Jamoralin.

The event held at the Ala Moana Hotel Hibiscus Ballroom received great reviews from the 200 guests in attendance, as well as the 25 contestants who participated in the six contests. The winners include: Tony Saramosing, Mr. Barong Pilipino 2016; Janeth Doruelo, Ms. Cordilleras with her elaborate feathered headdress matching her Igorot outfit; Rexie Acedo, Ms. Mindanao who wore a gold sequined Muslim attire with a gold hat adorned with a matching perched bird; Acela Garcia, Ms. Visayas with her detailed white kimona ensemble; Cora Credo, Ms. Luzon (Maria Clara) wearing her elegant white costume; and Luz Bagaioisan, Ms. Manila with her beautiful designer purple *terno*.

The grand prize winner and the first Ms. Filipiniana 2016 was Aurora Sera with her exquisite orange beaded formal

Maria Clara gown. Congratulations to all of the winners.

Distinguished judges Gladys Primero Agsalud, Edgar Ugale Dullig and Proserfina Strona had the unenviable task of making the final selections from the field of contestants. Allan Alvarez, a realtor, businessman and popular radio producer from KPHI, added to the exciting announcement of the program sequences. William Cudal, Hermie Pagaduan and Benjamin Cabrerros served as the tabulators for the panel of judges.

PWCC officers for 2016-2017 are: President Letty Saban, Vice President Jenny Quezon, Secretary Edna Alikpala, Treasurer Cleo Bala Casino, Auditor Erlinda Cantorna, and Assistant Auditor Josie Takamoto. Members of the Board of Directors are Amalia Gozar, Edith Gudoy, Dr. Lindy Aquino and Lina Mercado.

Consul General Jamoralin presented a certificate on behalf of the State Senate and House of Representatives to Saban. Gold sponsors Philippine Airlines, Everlasting



Philippine Women's Civic Club (PWCC) Vice President Jenny Quezon (far left) and PWCC President Letty Tesoro Saban (far right) with Filipiniana Ball winners (l to r) Janeth Doruelo, Rexie Acedo, Tony Saramosing, Aurora Sera, Acela Garcia, Luz Bagaioisan and Cora Baclig-Credo.

Travel, Vladimir Saban and Lito Alcantra of Group Builders were presented plaques of appreciation. Dr. Virgie Chattergy and Stephen and Angeli Callo donated money for the scholarship fund, which will be presented next year. Sashes, trophies and flowers were given by respective donors.

The sound system was provided by EJ2 (Jonathan and Eddie Agas, Jr). Photographer Gabe De Liso of Contemporary Photo, Lina B Flowers and the PWCC committee chairs headed finance, registration, aloha and contests.

PWCC, which was officially registered as a non-profit organization last February, thanks the many volunteers and sponsors for their support.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

AFP Suspends Preparations for Marcos Burial at Libingan

by JAIME IAUDE

Thursday, August 25, 2016

MANILA, Philippines — The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has suspended burial preparations for the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos at the Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Col. Edgard Arevalo, AFP Public Affairs Office (PAO) chief, yesterday said suspension of preparations was in line with the status quo ante order issued by the Supreme Court with a 20-day effectivity on the hotly debated burial issue.

“There is a status quo ante order which means that everything will have to be suspended and everything will have to be

reverted to how it was before,” Arevalo said.

He added the suspension covers everything from the directive issued by the Department of National Defense (DND) to the AFP to implement the planning for the interment of the former president.

The DND, acting on the verbal orders issued by President Duterte, had directed the AFP to commence preparations for Marcos’ burial at the heroes’ cemetery.

In return, the AFP issued an order to the Philippine Army to make the necessary preparations for burial of the deposed president.

“At the very moment that the status quo ante order was is-

sued by the Supreme Court, the AFP readily complied with it as a manifestation of its respect to the majesty of the court,” Arevalo said.

Various groups opposed to the burial of the late strongman at the Libingan filed a petition before the high court seeking to bar his interment at the Libingan on grounds that he was not qualified being a dictator and author of martial law.

Earlier, former senator Ferdinand Marcos Jr., bared that his father, whose remains now lie in state at the Marcos Mausoleum and Museum in Batac, Ilocos Norte would be finally buried at the heroes’ cemetery on Sept. 18.

The young Marcos said that

President Duterte has already given his approval for his father’s burial at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

President Duterte himself declared that the late strongman was qualified to be buried at the LNMB because he was a soldier and a former president.

He added that he himself would attend the burial in an event the Supreme Court (SC) rules in favor of the Marcos family and allows them to bury the late strongman at Libingan.

Sen. Paolo Benigno Aquino IV asked yesterday the Supreme Court to decide quickly on petitions to stop the burial of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos at the heroes’ cemetery.

The senator said the status quo ante order was a good sign for him and others opposing a hero’s burial for Marcos.

“We’re hoping that the SC can decide already regarding the matter. And many of us who are against the burial are waiting for the Supreme Court to have a definitive decision on the matter,” Aquino said.

Sen. Leila de Lima hailed the SC order, calling it a significant victory for those against the burial.

“This means that the issue is not a purely executive decision, but involves the people, especially those who suffered and sacrificed their lives during the dictatorship,” De Lima said.

(www.philstar.com)

CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 3, BILL CLINTON...)

Clinton? Maybe a hint of the new “extreme vetting” plan Trump wants to implement? Nothing.

Reyes did read off Trump’s positions from a fact sheet better than The Donald could have, showing what a semi-respectable Republican might sound like mimicking Trump. Not very appealing.

Of course, Reyes did com-

ment on the Filipino statements. But it was a simple clarification. Not really an apology. “[Trump] welcomes law abiding Filipinos,” Reyes said.

Of course he does. We all do. No one is for illegal immigration. The problem is Trump’s divisive, inflammatory rhetoric that makes all Filipinos into suspected terrorists. And that’s about it. Reyes

ended with another attempt to charm the crowd—most of which had emptied out by then. He did a rap song! He didn’t stay for questions.

Lonnie Wong’s Moment

Given all that, for me, the real highlight of the AAJA convention was the honoring of Lonnie Wong for lifetime achievement. Lonnie Wong? Who is he?

He stayed put and covered your basic local news in Sacramento, California for 30 years. He’s not famous. But he does yeoman’s work and shows up every day at KTXL in Sacramento, an independent station that struggled along until FOX became a real fourth network. Thirty years in one place. In my news career, I’ve never been in one place more than eight years.

Lonnie is a throwback. He’s a guy who hasn’t let his ego get in the way in the fake showbiz world of TV news. Throughout all the changes in media, he’s hung on and reported the stories where he lived. You never hear Lonnie complain about not getting a shot at anchoring or getting the big story.

But he’s still there in Sacramento and viewers notice. He’s part of the community he has covered for a long time. As an older veteran, he represents wisdom.

That, unfortunately, isn’t what local media outlets are looking for these days. Too often, older reporters are shipped off, early-retired or just fired. They’re replaced with younger, cheaper, less knowledgeable talent who look at a mid-market like Sacramento as the stop before the big time glamour markets of TV news. They’re journos out of touch with their communities. Out of touch with their ethnicity. Out

only for themselves.

There’s a lot of that in the world of journalism these days, which makes the Lonnie Wong story a refreshing anomaly, worthy of an AAJA lifetime achievement award. Such an award for life experience connotes wisdom, something too often in short supply in media and politics.

But it also reminded me of my Hawaii pals I saw at the convention, Craig and Wes. They’ve stayed true to the mission, despite all the changes in the media. While others have left, you have to tip your hat to the journos who hang on to a tree that’s always shaking.

Clinton’s Lifetime Achievement

Enter President Bill Clinton at the presidential town hall in Las Vegas. Hillary sent Bill and it was a good choice. He was the star of the entire event and got the loudest cheers. For many Asian Americans, Bill Clinton represents an historical sea change in politics when he won in 1992, ending a solid block of Republican leadership since Reagan in 1981.

Seeing Clinton on the stage reminded me of the time I covered the 1992 Democratic National Convention in New York. Back then, I recall how he talked about “unity and community” and bringing the country together. The same

(continued on page 15)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FILIPINO WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB MARIA CLARA BALL | September 17, 2016, Saturday | 6:00 p.m | HIBISCUS BALLROOM, ALA MOANA HOTEL | Contact: Bernadette Fajardo @ 342-8090 or Cecilia Villafuerte @ 780-4985

KNIGHTS OF RIZAL-HAWAII CHAPTER'S 6TH ANNUAL DR. JOSE P. RIZAL AWARDS GALA | September 24, 2016, Saturday | 6:00 p.m | FILCOM CENTER | Tickets at \$60 per person. Contact persons: Mario Palma 808-397-862, Danny Villaruz 808-778-0233 or Florante Pumaras 808-386-6912

FILCOM CENTER'S BAYANIHAN GALA DINNER 2016 | October 14, 2016 | 6:00 PM | SHERATON WAIKIKI HOTEL | Contact 808-80-0451 for more information

LA UNION CIRCLE OF HAWAII, MISS AND MRS. LA UNION HAWAII USA 2016 CORONATION & DINNER | October 22, 2016, Saturday | 5:30 p.m | HIBISCUS BALLROOM, ALA MOANA HOTEL | For more info, contact

Baybee Hufana Ablan @ 753-5616, Laurie An Tadina @ 358-0474 or Lolita Domingo @ 295-1387

MAUI FIL-AM HERITAGE FESTIVAL BY THE MAUI FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | October 15, 2016, Saturday | 10:00 a.m - 3:00 p.m | MAUI MALL, KAHULUI, MAUI | Contact Kit Zulueta @ 808-291-9407

FILIPINO BUSINESS WOMEN ASSOCIATION'S 33RD ANNUAL KIMONA BALL & BUSINESS WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTATION | November 19, 2016, Saturday | 6:00 p.m | HAWAII PRINCE HOTEL | Contact: Nancy Walch @ 778-3832 or Elsa Talavera @ 358-8964

PASKO SA FILCOM | December 4, 2016 | FILCOM CENTER | Contact 808-680-0451 for details.

OHANA MEDICAL MISSION IN THE PHILIPPINES | December 14-Dec. 23, 2016 | Contact: JP Orias @ 387-8297 for further information

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Ex-DOJ Exec Tags Leila

by Edu Punay
Thursday, August 25, 2016

MANILA, Philippines – The secretary of justice had ultimate responsibility over the New Bilibid Prison (NBP).

Former justice undersecretary Francisco Baraan III washed his hands yesterday of involvement in drug trafficking by NBP convicts in the previous administration, saying Sen. Leila de Lima, as justice secretary, had overall supervision over the national prisons.

This developed as President Duterte continued his attacks on

De Lima yesterday, saying “she was on the take” from drug lords at the NBP where she was part of a “matrix” that included Baraan, a provincial governor who served time in the prison, a police superintendent and her former driver Ronnie Dayan.

Baraan was appointed to the Department of Justice in September 2010 and resigned in November last year. He stressed all his actions in the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), which has supervision over the NBP, had the approval of De Lima.

“Folders of BuCor

contracts/documents on my desk endorsed and reviewed by technical services, with the latter’s corresponding recommendation, are reviewed by me, then I countersign the action document for the secretary’s final signature,” he said.

Baraan clarified his role in the NBP and BuCor as the supervising undersecretary in the previous administration.

“The BuCor is just one of several DOJ agencies under my limited administrative supervision... I never did oversee, either on the ground or from a distance, the prison operations in the seven penal colonies, more so the NBP,” he explained.

Baraan issued the statement amid reports that he would face investigation for collecting drug money along with De Lima and Dayan. Baraan vowed to clear his name.

“All I ask is fairness and due process, a chance to vindicate myself in a formal proceeding. If a complaint will be filed, then I will have the opportunity to present my side,” Baraan stressed.

President Duterte on Tuesday bared the “matrix” of drug operations inside the NBP, which he said was based on information and evidence gathered by authorities.

Duterte also said Baraan and Dayan could turn state witnesses against De Lima. (www.philstar.com)

CANDID PERSPECTIVES (from page 14, BILL CLINTON....)

topics came up again this time, accompanied by a wise observation by Clinton of the state of American politics.

“A democracy only really works when people talk to each other,” Clinton said. “When I think of my dream America in the 21st Century, it includes an inclusive society where we value our diversity. As a nation, we made so much progress in the last several years. We’re clearly less racist, sexist, homophobic than we used to be. Not withstanding some unfortunate incidents in this campaign, most Americans are not bigoted against other people because of their religion.

“But we do have one remaining problem and you see how we self-select everything from the television talk shows we watch to the neighborhoods we live in. We don’t seem to want to be around anybody who disagrees with us anymore. And that makes it hard to

have a democracy.”

It was a call for understanding, common ground and the need to work out our differences. It is, after all, how governance works. Through a sense of compromise for the good. More “us,” less “them.”

Clinton said if you read the Constitution, it might well have been subtitled, “Let’s make a deal,” referring to all the different branches of government that are in play.

“We were set up as a country that could never become a dictatorship,” he said. “[One that] could not change and adapt to changing times and meet future needs unless we were comfortable listening to each other and speaking to each other. And discussing with others and, yes, arguing with each other.”

These days, people don’t just like to argue. Politics has become a blood sport, where hate is a driver that divides and

conquers. But look who has survived so far. Bill and Hillary. On stump speech mode, he outlined Hillary’s familiar initiatives on small business loans, comprehensive immigration reform and no-cost college plans. It was more of the “stronger together” rhetoric we’ve heard to date. But he ended his speech with the high stakes of this campaign and what a new Clinton era could bring.

“I never dreamed when this election started that by this point I’d do anything more than argue about who’s got the best trade plan, who’s got the best investment plan,” Clinton said. “This is about what kind of country we’re going to be. About whether you and everybody else who lives here, can feel at home here in America. If you can, I believe the chances are far better than 50-50 that the next 30 years will be a period of enormous prosperity, broadly shared, rising mo-

bility, declining inequality.”

Clinton couldn’t get out of the room without a question on emails—not his, but Hillary’s. Trust is the No.1 thing people mention when they talk of their dislike for Hillary. Bill Clinton said there was a double standard for her versus other career diplomats, compounded by the fact that the State Department and security agencies had very different classification systems.

“These things were never resolved,” Bill Clinton said. “It’s too complicated to explain to people, but basically, do you really believe there are 300 career diplomats—because that’s how many people [were on] these emails—all of them are careless with national security? Do you believe that? Forget about Hillary. Forget about her, is that conceivable? If it were that important, shouldn’t we have all heard about that earlier?”

Bill Clinton said the email situation was simply not a

cause for distrust.

“If it were a cause for distrust, it is inconceivable that all these prominent national security people active in all these other administrations, including Republicans, would endorse her,” he said as the crowd applauded.

Not sure if that satisfied Hillary haters. And later an AAJA officer who also writes the Washington Post Fact Checker column gave Bill three Pinocchios for misleading statements of the labeling of classified email. Not as bad as four and to the crowd it didn’t seem to matter. Bill Clinton left the stage to cheers, the star of the show.

EMIL GUILLERMO is an award-winning journalist and commentator who writes from Northern California. He recently won the 2015 Dr. Suzanne Ahn Award for Civil Rights and Social Justice from the Asian American Journalists Association California.

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