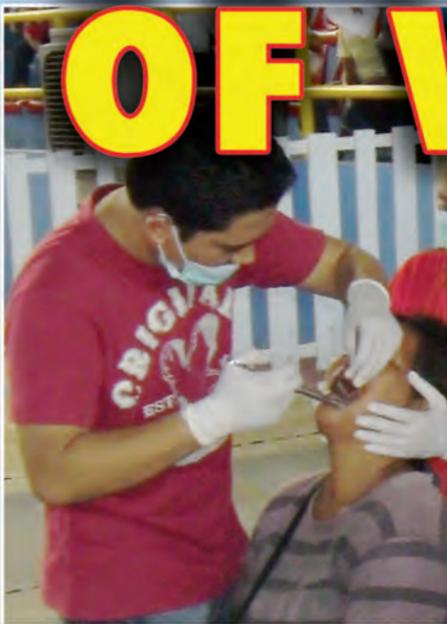


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Supplement

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EDITORIAL

Kudos to Community Health Fairs!

Access to regular health care is essential for identifying illnesses early, ensuring better quality of life and reducing mortality rates. Unfortunately, underserved ethnic groups—Filipinos, Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders mainly—do not enjoy such access. Even with the expansion of health care coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), many immigrants and at-risk individuals in Hawaii remain uninsured or underinsured.

In an effort to reduce disparities in screening rates and access to health information in spite of socioeconomic and literacy barriers, community-based organizations such as the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW), Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii, Aloha Medical Mission and others have worked to develop and sustain culturally-competent health education and outreach interventions. One strategy has been the implementation of community health fairs to bring needed health screenings and health information to low-income and medically underserved communities through informal community settings that offer a broad spectrum of health services.

The first such community health fair was spearheaded by a group of Filipino doctors in the late 1990s. Organizers of the annual Filipino Fiesta wanted to include an event that would remind Filipinos of the importance of keeping themselves healthy and maintaining an active lifestyle. Thus, the first community health fair was held at the 1998 Filipino Fiesta & Parade at Kapiolani Park and has been a familiar component until about two years ago when the BCCW decided to bring its services out to Leeward Oahu. This year, the 2nd Annual BCCW Leeward Community Health Fair is partnering with organizers of the annual Taste of Waipahu to provide free health screenings and tests for attendees.

The intent of health fairs is to provide free health screening services to medically underserved community members. While data on all attendees is not available, a cursory review of patients treated at health fairs indicate that they are for the most part uninsured, low-income and do not receive regular health care services. Patients with limited English proficiency are able to engage with physicians of their same ethnic group in a culturally appropriate venue like a community health fair.

In sum, health fairs have evolved to fill an unmet public health need, including the dissemination of health information and the provision of screening services. Health fairs are a key asset for effective intervention and have the ability to bring primary care services that are also culturally appropriate to the community. And when held at a festive event like the Taste of Waipahu, it's the ideal two-for-one special for attendees to enjoy the festivities and also take advantage of free health screenings and tests. It's a win-win for the community of Waipahu.

This Election Is Not a Contest Between Hero vs Villain, Good vs Evil; Save That for Fairy Tales

The world is not just black and white.

Yet, much of what we see on TV, the internet, and what we read about in the newspapers, follow a dangerously simplistic portrayal of both Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump as caricatures of good and evil.

It's clear why the presidential candidates resort to reducing each other into villains -- it's a do-or-die strategy to win the election; but the media's perpetuation of such a narrow viewpoint

FROM THE PUBLISHER

W

ith Halloween a few days away, one can't help but already look ahead to Thanksgiving and the Holiday Season which will be here before you know it.



And with it comes a host of alcohol-fueled parties and social events that could potentially lead to dangerous times on our roads. To reduce the number of traffic injuries and deaths, police will be setting up impaired driver checkpoints beginning November 1st through the New Year. So remember—if you drink, please do not drive!

Our cover story for this issue is about the Taste of Waipahu, which has fast become the signature event for this former sugarcane town. The event drew thousands last year and is showing no signs of slowing down. Joining the Taste of Waipahu for the first time is a free community health fair sponsored by Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls. Turn to page 4 for more on how you can be a part of this exciting event.

This issue also includes our special 12-page General Election supplement. This election is crucial, considering the nation will be electing a new president and Honolulu a new mayor. We have also highlighted on page S12 those candidates of Filipino ancestry who are running for office. We would have liked to include all Filipino candidates but not everyone responded to our questionnaire as of press time. Our Voters Guide on page S9 is filled with useful information on how and where to cast your ballots. We urge you to get out and vote on November 8th!

On a lighter note, film buffs are looking forward to the upcoming Hawaii International Film Festival. The festival includes several well-made and directed Filipino films that audiences are bound to enjoy. To find out more, please turn to page 11.

In closing, thank you for faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. I hope that you will take some time to read the other articles and columns we have for you in this issue and as always, please feel free to email us at: filipinochronicle@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

is inexcusable, and ultimately, doing more harm than good for the country going forward.

Are we really so divided as a country that, as an example, half of us see our nation's diversity as our greatest strength as the Clinton camp would like us to believe; while the other half see diversity too overwhelming to a point that Trump's immigration platform makes perfect sense, however racist it might be?

In the real world where common sense usually prevails -- diversity can be great as Democrats tout but is not necessarily our greatest strength. Likewise, diversity at times, in parts of our country, also comes with problems as Republicans overstate. So in this one area alone, we can see how singularly brushing something into one column to be exploited, either way, does nothing to improve our situation, our race relations or does nothing to improve policy as immigration reform.

Perhaps, it's unfair to blame the media alone as the sole enterprise that neatly compartmentalizes all things into right or wrong. And perhaps, as a society, we are in fact moving further apart in our view of the world much like our leaders of our political institutions -- as evident in the partisan gridlock in Con-

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OP-ED

Unmasking PH President Rodrigo R. Duterte

By Federico V. Magdalena, PhD

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has been in the spotlight during the past two and a half months. He has earned many “firsts.” But he is also described as a maverick politician.

He is the first president to break history in Philippine politics and, unlike the other presidents, comes from a non-elite background in Mindanao.

He also carries a unique brand of governance, which bewilders ordinary Filipinos. Winning the presidency by a landslide in the May 2016 elections is a spectacular feat!

For the first time, a local leader will occupy Malacanang Palace. All but one of fifteen presidents who stayed there before him came from Luzon or the Visayas region.

But an aspect of his leadership needs to be unmasked. What lies behind this popular president?

President Duterte is undoubtedly controversial with his foul language. Manuel L. Quezon’s wayward speech is no match to Duterte’s unorthodox public speaking. But what makes him even more contentious is his ruthless policy against illegal drugs, accomplished mostly by extrajudicial means, so say his critics.

As part of his campaign promise, he launched Oplan Tokhang (from the Cebuano words toktok or knock, and hangyo, request), patterned after his Davao experience.

Duterte as mayor of Davao City for 20 years was dubbed “The Punisher,” or “Duterte Harry” (in reference to a popular movie “Dirty Harry” starring Clint Eastwood). His reign in Davao was widely perceived as exemplary governance, but also marked by violent deaths of thousands under the hands of so-called “Davao Death Squads” (DDS).

Thus far, no proof has substantiated this allegation in an earlier inquiry led by former Commission on Human Rights

chair Leila De Lima, now elected Senator. A senate committee she heads has continued the investigation, with a self-confessed member of DDS as witness.

Duterte as president of the Republic has promised to do more.

Since his war on drugs began in July 1, 2016, a staggering 3,426 have been killed (M. Bueza, Rappler, Sept 13, 2016). Of these, 1,491 reportedly died in legitimate police operations (as of Sept 13), and 1,935 cases of drug-related killings in the hands of vigilantes (hired killers, armed men supposedly working for government or drug lords). CHR chief Jose Luis Gascon says the rising casualties in President Duterte’s war on drugs was “unprecedented” since 1987.

The above information easily surpasses the extrajudicial killings during almost two decades of Martial Law under Ferdinand Marcos, when 3,257 lives reportedly perished and thousands disappeared (JR Butuyan, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Aug. 15, 2016).

Under Duterte’s watch, the unresolved killings have not escaped the vigilant eyes of UN officials. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNCHR) Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein made stinging commentaries against the Duterte government. The latter said that Duterte’s “contempt for international human rights law reflects a lack of understanding of human rights institution, and the principles which keep societies safe.” He was perhaps referring to reported incitements to violence by Duterte, who once made a boast during his campaign to fatten the fish in Manila Bay by dumping thousands of dead criminals there.

He was also quoted by the media for motivating civilians and the police to kill armed druggies, or those who resist arrest, and would cover for them (“sagot ko kayo,” in Filipino). “Bigyan ko pa kayo ng

medalya” (I would even give you medals), he reportedly said. He also offered bounties for drug pushers and kingpins, dead or alive – even police protectors- according to the media.

All those who criticized Duterte earned his ire, including Senator De Lima for conducting investigations of extrajudicial killings. President Duterte presented to the media a “matrix” where De Lima herself is said to be coddling druglords, such as those from the New Bilibid Prison where 75% of the drugs originate, in cahoots with her alleged driver-lover. “You are finished,” he warned her.

US President Barack Obama himself got insulted by President Duterte’s speech before the latter’s debut to the ASEAN Summit in September this year. Visibly irked by a reporter who asked him what he would do during their scheduled meeting with Obama, hinting that he would receive a “lecture” from him, Duterte uttered expletives captured on video: “Who are you?...Putangina, mumurahin kita sa forum” (literally, Mother-whore, I would swear at you during the forum).

*View: www.cnn.com/videos/us/2016/09/05/philippines-duterte-obama-sob-starr-dnt-lead.cnn/
(The full, longer version is found in: www.youtube.com/watch?v=fO61gV-w4jA)*

Perhaps stung by these undiplomatic tirades, Obama cancelled their meeting. He just shrugged it off, hoping to avoid a potential word-war with this “colorful guy” (referring to Duterte), and fully understood that he repeatedly did it to the Pope, including the anti-gay slur to the US Ambassador in Manila, and UN officials, among other dignitaries.

For his part, Duterte later regretted his cussing and said he did not personally attack Obama. It was media’s fault for “being lost in translation.”

The latest of the controversies is Duterte’s tirades against the US after the ASEAN summit. He told the US Special Troops stationed in

Mindanao to leave. “For as long as we stay with America, we will never have peace in that land,” he says.

A small contingent of US soldiers in Zamboanga City are allowed under the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA), giving them more access to Philippine military facilities for 10 years as they also help the government in its drive against domestic terrorism.

Observers say this act was ostensibly a revenge for the snub he got from Obama. Showing a photo of Bud Dajo “massacre” of 1906, Duterte scored the US for its atrocities during the pacification campaign on the Moro. (He admits that he has Moro blood, from his mother who hailed from Cagayan de Oro.)

Later, he clarified his statement as not anti-American. He did not want to cut ties with the US after Embassy and State Department officials sought for clarification, saying they have not received an official communication on the matter.

In his recent visit to Indonesia for bilateral talks with President Jokowi Widodo, the case of Mary Jane Veloso was brought up. Veloso was a Filipino drug trafficker convicted to die by execution after she

was found to be carrying more than 2 kilos of heroin. Indonesia imposes the death penalty for serious drug offenders.

There, Duterte was reported by the press to have given the “go signal” for the execution of this lady, confirmed by Widodo himself. Press brouhaha makes it appear that Duterte was an apathetic, and heartless head of state who would rather see his compatriots die if involved in drugs.

How long he is able to stay his course, amid his seemingly unpredictable behavior, depends on the unabated vigilante killings, social media reporting, and criticisms from his political opponents whom he accused of plotting for his ouster. They include the Liberal Party and those he labelled as “yellow” (referring to Cory Aquino’s Yellow Revolution after toppling the Marcos dictatorship, followed up by son Benigno Aquino III, who was president before Duterte came to power).

A big question is academic - whether “local” experience is enough for one to rise to national leadership. They note that Duterte, 71, a “brash provincial politician” (A. Taub, reporting for New York

(continued on page 7)



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COVER STORY

BCWW Health Fair to Make Presence Felt at Taste of Waipahu

By Dennis Galolo

The 11th Annual Taste of Waipahu will include a community health fair for the first time in its history. In-between enjoying the many festivities, attendees can avail themselves of a multitude of medical tests and services offered at no charge by volunteer physicians, nurses and other medical volunteers from the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls (BCWW).

Taste of Waipahu is a highly-anticipated yearly event that draws thousands of Waipahu residents and showcases the very best of what the community has to offer. The event is scheduled for Saturday, November 5, 2016 from 4 pm to 10 pm at August Ahrens Elementary.

The event is sponsored by the Waipahu Community Association (WCA), a coalition of individuals, businesses and groups that work to uplift the community via a multitude of events including the development of the Waipahu Festival Marketplace, business educational classes, community resource workshops and more.

State Rep. Henry Aquino, who also serves as WCA ex-

ecutive director, says the 4 pm start is conducive for busy families who may have activities planned earlier in the day and also allows for cooler, comfortable temperatures.

“This is an event that brings the community together to enjoy good food, entertainment and a chance to win some prizes among other things,” says Aquino. “The community of Waipahu, many of whom are Filipino, have supported this event and the WCA and its sponsors look forward to delivering a fun experience for everyone.”

Organizers are looking to build on last year’s event, which drew over 10,000 attendees. Some 40 food and

product vendors will also participate this year. Admission is free and includes plenty of *ono* food, live entertainment, games and rides for the *keiki* and a free drawing for a Las Vegas package for two.

One of last year’s attendees was Waipahu resident Rachel Vilorio, who plans to attend this year’s event.

“Our entire family enjoyed last year’s Taste of Waipahu,” she says. “It was filled with lots of food and entertainment. The venue is ideal for families with children. The school’s field is a large enough area to lay out mats and chairs for families to be together.”

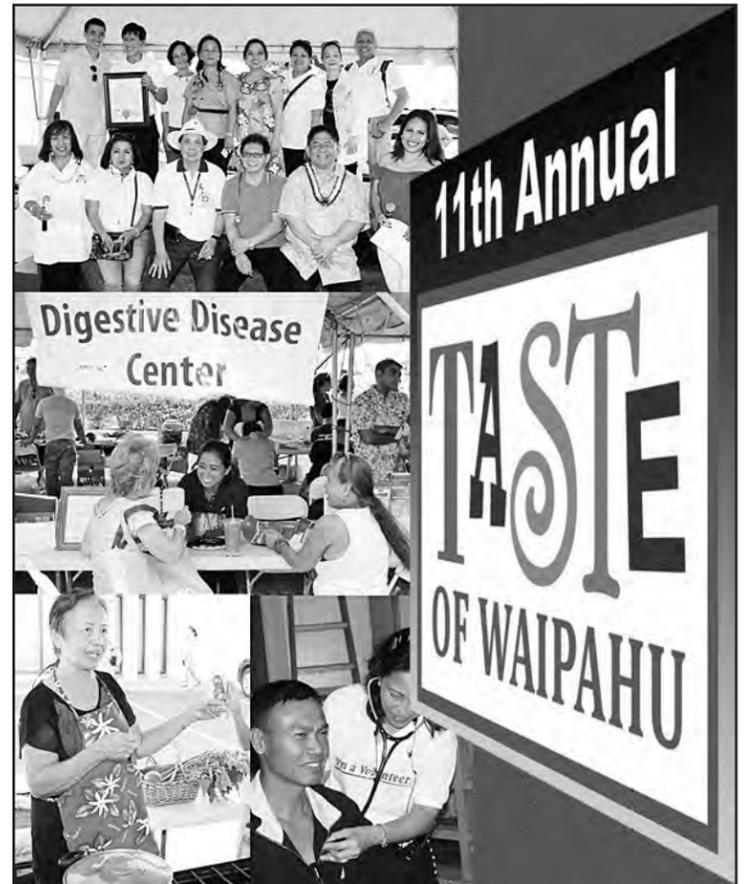
What’s New

Aquino says this year’s event offers a few new twists.

“Every year, we have a Vacations Hawaii Las Vegas trip for two as a grand prize drawing for all attendees who enter,” he says. “For the first time, we are not requiring entrants to be present to win.”

To boost chances of winning, Aquino encourages attendees to bring canned goods and other non-perishable items for additional drawing entries. All goods donated will be distributed to several Waipahu area food pantries that assist needy residents in the community.

“Also for the first time, the United Visayan Community of Hawaii, a long-time Waipahu pillar, will be participating as a food vendor



and to share their mission as an established member of the Filipino community,” Aquino says.

One vendor which is making a second straight appearance is Da Bolalohan & BBQ Grill.

“We were sold out last year,” says event coordinator and prep cook Merrill Rillamas, who estimates serving between 400 to 500 people and selling about 250 plate lunches. “We were very successful and would like to continue serving the people of Waipahu.”

Their most popular dish is *bulalo*—beef knuckles soup with tendons. At last year’s event, Rillamas and several uncles, cousins and his son Chad served up about 100 orders of the delicious dish, prepared Ilocano-style. Other top sellers were smoked beef brisket, grilled pork belly, steak and shrimp, barbecue pork, *pancit* and *lumpia*.

For those wanting more, Da Bolalohan & BBQ Grill makes regular appearances at community block parties and food festivals like Honolulu Night Market and Eat the Street. Their food truck, lo-

cated at Waipahu Festival Marketplace, is open everyday from 6 am to 1 pm. Rillamas says the *bulalo* is especially popular with Filipino yardmen and other laborers.

“They come early in the morning to eat the *bulalo*,” he says. “They say it makes them strong.”

Health Fair

A third new twist is the BCWW’s Leeward Community Health Fair, which is an offshoot of the health fair that coincided with the annual Filipino Fiesta & Parade held at Kapiolani Park.

The health fair went hand-in-hand with the Filipino Fiesta since 1998, when organizers wanted an event that would remind Filipinos of the importance of keeping themselves healthy and maintaining an active lifestyle.

But in 2015, BCWW opted to hold a health fair in Waipahu which is home to a vibrant Filipino community. The inaugural health fair, held September 20, 2015 at the Sonido-Alquero Building at the corner of Farrington

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, BCWW ...)

Highway and Waipahu Depot Road, was the first ever for the residents of Waipahu and Leeward Oahu. The new location and venue drew about 1,200 participants.

For BCCW president Dr. Russell Tacata, it made sense to hold the community health fair in Waipahu since a good number of Filipino physicians and their patients are from Waipahu.

"This year, we were invited by the Taste of Waipahu to join them," says Dr. Tacata, a family practitioner. "It was an opportunity to reach more people, so we accepted their invitation."

BCCW organizers are expecting to see at least 3,000 patients this time around.

The 2nd Annual BCCW Leeward Community Health Fair will offer free screenings and consultations on:

- First aid
- Ask-a-Doctor
- Blood pressure
- Cholesterol
- Curbside consultation
- Diabetes
- Diabetic eye check-up
- Dental
- Healthful diet
- Optometry
- Osteoporosis screening
- Physical therapy
- Spirometry

Free flu shots will also be given to children and adults, courtesy of Don Quijote Pharmacy, along with dental products while supplies last.

In general, community

health fairs provide a good venue for underserved patients to meet doctors on their turf and away from the formal sterility of a physician's office. Patients are often more relaxed, tend to open up and ask questions they may not normally do when at the doctor's office. Thusly, BCWW will set-up a table that will be manned by a physician for attendees to ask health related questions.

"We're doing this for those people who may have a medical question but don't necessarily need to make an appointment with their doctor," says Dr. Tacata.

"Health fairs are important particularly for disadvantaged members of our

community and others who do not have the means or access to health care," says Waipahu-based physician Dr. Charlie Sonido. "As physicians, we look forward to meeting patients outside of a clinic setting, like at the Taste of Waipahu."

Viloria was intrigued when hearing about the community health fair and plans to stop by the booth.

"If time permits, I would like to take advantage of the free medical services," she says. "Who doesn't like free services?"

Other Tidbits

There are different ways for people to come and enjoy Taste of Waipahu and the

community health fair. Those living near August Ehrens Elementary are encouraged to walk but for those who opt to drive, parking will be available at the school as well as available street parking. There is also the convenience of City bus service to and from the event.

Sponsors include Hawaiian Electric, Vacations Hawaii, Kiewit, D.R. Horton, Village Park, Viking Power Generator, Monsanto Hawaii, Isle Production, Castle & Cooke Homes, Waipahu LLC, Wet 'N Wild and Costco Wholesale.

For more details on the event, contact WCA at 677-6939 or send an email to: wca.waipahu@hawaiiantel.net.

EDITORIALS (from page 2, THIS ELECTION...)

gress, even the U.S. Supreme Court. And perhaps, we are too brainwashed from our nursery rhymes to our popular cinematic masterpieces to our ancient religions that we can no longer envision a world of grey, a world without pure heroes and villains. What makes the institution of politics so unique that some of us could expect transcendence from this fanciful norm? -- it is fair to ask.

The reason is if do not break this delusion of a world as simply being black and white, right and wrong, Democrat or Republican (and not foremost American), hero vs villain, we stand the chance of irreparable harm. Reality is not a fairy tale; and our politicians just like ourselves, are not perfect heroes or villains, nor are our actions divinely manifested by God or damned by the devil. To continue down a path with this kind of logic opens us to committing unspeakable atrocities onto one other much like what segments of the populations are doing in the Middle East and other parts of the world.

There must be a better way

The tone of this 2016 presidential election is so caustic and unprecedented that if we are not conscious enough to recognize the rhetoric spewed as just rhetoric -- the aftermath of the election, no matter who wins, just might be too deeply

branded into our psyche to accept the results and carry on as in previous elections.

Yes, already radical groups have spoken about the need for bloodshed and revolution should Clinton be victorious. Similar vitriol of uprising has been talked about by the radical left should Trump win. These are extreme cases and more than likely would not occur. But who knows where fanning the fires of rage with this kind of hero-vs-villain rhetoric can lead to.

Toning it down

It's hard to fathom that either Clinton or Trump will tone down their rhetoric in the remaining weeks leading into General Election. In fairness to Clinton, she has attempted at first to lead a campaign of inspiration before getting down and wrestling in the pool of mud that Trump created.

The media too, is a lost cause, and will not suddenly do a 360-reversal and stop exploiting the rhetoric.

But what we can do as responsible voters and Americans is to stop seeing issues as simply black and white, or right and wrong. See beyond the caricature and rhetoric, then focus on the issues. The reality is that our system of governing is greater than the sole powers and reach of the executive branch. So Americans so invested into the hero-villain myth, could at least have faith

in the separation of powers and our governing system that should their hero fail and their villain prevail, Clinton or Trump, there will be checks and balance in place. Our republic is mature enough, advanced enough, to guarantee that.

In other words, it's more than likely that Trump will not have the carte blanche power to reverse ObamaCare or have the funds to waste on a symbolic border Wall that solves nothing without Congress' approval. Nor could he roundup millions of immigrants in inhumane fashion without the Supreme Court invalidating such an executive order as unconstitutional. What all this really is -- is rhetoric. And quite frankly, as real as the hero-imposter Trump is.

But to ensure that we maintain our system of check and balance, Americans must remember to

vote. Americans must also demand as a first order of business is to have Congress revise the War Powers Act to restrict the president from executing "pre-emptive" actions of war without Congress' support. Ultimately, however passionate we are about this presidential

race, we must begin to prepare ourselves psychologically before the General Election, for an outcome we might hate, and believe that our system of governance endows upon us measures that can counter whomever wins, this so-called hero or villain.

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Demonic Forces Engulfing PH — Duterte Should Resign

by Ted Laguatan Esq.

The world's good and decent people should force President Rodrigo Duterte to resign. It's also for his own good.

I don't hate Duterte. But I hate his terrible sins. For his own sake, I hope that he amends his evil ways and saves his soul as his days are numbered. No one is beyond redemption if he turns to our Lord Jesus Christ.

A terrible dark evil presence now engulfs the Philippines. We have a leader who is not leading our people to a better life. But a leader full of demons who brings death and sufferings to so many — and expresses vicious hostility to world leaders and other nations.

As human beings, our most important priority is to reach our highest spiritual potential and save our immortal souls. For what indeed does it profit a man to gain the whole world but suffer the loss of his soul. This involves obeying God's command to sincerely love Him above everything else — meaning an absolute commitment to the truth and to what is right and good. It also involves following God's command to love our neighbors as ourselves. This is what our existence is all about.

But our egos, fear, greed, anger, sensual appetites, love for money and power — often blind us from listening to God and obeying His command-

ments. And for those who do not really believe in God including many who go to church simply out of superstition or fear of bad things happening to them if they do not — these commandments are meaningless. As such, we have terrible demonic human beings with dark spirits on this planet. They murder, torture, steal and do all kinds of evil acts.

From the first man to the last, the history of the world has to do with the unending conflict between good and evil.

How is it that cruel evil leaders like Stalin, Hitler, Marcos, Mugabe, etc. are able to rise and even thrive for long periods of time and have so many people supporting and serving them?

How is it that the Philippines, which is supposedly a Catholic country, now has so many people supporting mass murder as an instrument of national policy? And why do they support a leader who expresses so much hatred and disrespect against other human beings, against other nations and even against God — with the darkness and hatred in his heart repeatedly spewing out of his foul mouth?

Duterte is no different from other tyrants in proclaiming his love for country. Tyrants justify their evil actions by saying that the people whom they oppress, torture and murder deserve these. Love, for one's country is essentially love for one's fellowmen. Duterte's coercing, brutalizing and murdering so many Filipinos clearly exposes his insincerity.

What's happening in the

Philippines?

Hitler did horrible things, but the German people cheered and idolized him. He cleaned the streets and made the trains run on time while at the same time, he slaughtered his enemies and millions of innocent Jews, Gypsies and homosexuals.

The German people who were mostly Christian Protestants and Catholics closed their eyes to these mass murders refusing to see the terrible evil involved and even insisting that Hitler was doing a good thing because he was supposedly eliminating those who were the cause of all of their country's troubles and that these people needed to be eliminated. Hitler fueled intense nationalism and a sense of pride and so many Germans supported him.

The same thing is now happening in the Philippines. Political manipulation backed by force in the guise of seeking a desired good is now a darkness that engulfs the whole nation.

Many politicized Filipinos, tired of the mass poverty, corruption and crime are mesmerized by Duterte's siren calls for peace and order and constant calls for the summary killings of drug addicts, drug dealers and criminals. But they fail to heed God's commands when it comes to their politics. Forget human rights, forget the sanctity of life, forget due process rights provided by the Constitution to prove one's innocence — forget God's commands to love Him and our neighbors as ourselves. A madness fueled by the thirst for blood now reigns

in the Philippines. Duterte is like Dracula who victimizes Philippine society and has converted many Filipinos to also now lust for blood.

With their politicization, many have forgotten that they are Catholics and Christians. They have stifled and silenced the sacred voice within them that tells them that using mass murder as an instrument of national policy is an abhorrent monstrosity that cries out to heaven for justice. A mass murderer can never be on the side of God whose command is "Thou shalt not kill (murder)."

Like Marcos, Duterte brings out the worst in people. Not surprisingly, the politicians and others who were with Marcos are now with him. They support, endorse and cover up his murdering ways.

People's fear of being victims to the violence of this tyrant and his killers cause them to be on his side much like many Germans during Hitler's time. They close their eyes and praise him and cooperate with his evil instead of condemning and fighting against his darkness, to soothe their internal pain of shutting the truth and the internal anguish of their own moral cowardice. They too are in great danger of losing their immortal souls.

So many innocent lives are now being snuffed out and their families suffer so much. Life is sacred and from God. The right to be alive is the most basic human right. The evil of drugs cannot be fought with a greater evil. Mass murder as a state policy is worse than drugs.

Duterte's constant campaign and promotion of the culture of death among policemen and among our military people—offering financial rewards and promotions for them to murder fellow Filipinos—reveal much of his evil.

Well-meaning men and women of good will can no longer wait and must now fight this terrible violence and the promotion of the culture of death that Duterte is promoting and inflicting on the Filipino people, as more innocent peo-

ple will be killed or hurt by him if they do not. Filipinos need to summon courage from within and speak out and act against the brutality and insanity of the present situation.

I and other journalists receive a continuous barrage of "putang-ina" curses and threats from Duterte trolls. These escalated when I called for the resignation of Duterte in an ABS-Cbn TV interview after his repeated dirty mouth crude insults and tirades against world leaders and other nations and the continuously increasing everyday extrajudicial killings in the Philippines.

Even if the murder victims are supposedly drug dealers, addicts or criminals — they are human beings with the basic human right to prove their innocence — and not simply executed like stray dogs by the police or private Duterte organized killers at their discretion. Many drug addicts and even drug dealers have been rehabilitated and turned out later to be productive decent human beings. Anthony Bourdain and Robert Downey Jr. are among many former addicts who recovered.

Respect for the lives of human beings and their right to prove their innocence are universally recognized values which every decent human being should respect. It is an inherent part of God's command to love one's neighbor as ourselves. Love of God and neighbor also includes forgiving our fellowmen when they err and help when they need it. People can change for the better.

Duterte does not believe in forgiveness and that people can change. So he exterminates them.

Murderous individual police elements and organized private so called vigilante killers now have practically a blanket authority to kill at their discretion — even if government spokesmen may give lip service to the rule of law. On record, more than 3,500 people have already been killed including many innocents who

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WHAT'S UP ATTORNEY?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

How to Obtain Stay of Removal After Final Order of Removal

Is there relief available after an appellate court has denied an alien's application for immigration relief and issued its final mandate for deportation or removal or the immigration court has ordered deportation or removal and no appeal was taken so that the order has become final?

Yes. An Application for a Stay of Deportation or Removal may be filed with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by an alien who has been ordered deported or removed from the United States while the alien is still in the United States in accordance with 8 C.F.R. 241.6, Administrative Stay of Removal.

ICE Form I-246 should be filled up with the reasons for requesting a stay of deportation or removal. The factors for granting parole to aliens in 8 CFR 212.5 and stay of removal under INA Section 241(c) may be given as reasons, such as "urgent humanitarian reasons" or "significant public health benefit" or that the "immediate removal of the alien is not practicable or proper" or that the alien is needed to testify in the prosecution of a person for violation of law.

For example, an alien may claim extreme hardship to the

alien or a close family member if the alien is deported; serious illness of the alien; serious illness of the alien's close family member requiring the alien's presence and assistance because the alien is the sole caregiver; serious illness of the alien's close family member, such as a child, that cannot be effectively cured in the alien's home country or lack of financial means of the alien to have the illness cured in the alien's home country; breaking up of the alien's family without any one to take care of the alien's young children who were born in the United States, with the result that they will become a public charge at taxpayer's expense, and that they will suffer extreme hardship resulting from their separation from their parent or parents. The alien may also claim that such alien has a petition for alien relative filed by an immediate relative that has been approved and that the alien will file an application for adjustment of status. The alien might also claim that such alien has a pending application under the Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA). The alien must make truthful responses to the questions and make a truthful narration of facts in the supporting documents, since all statements are made under penalty of perjury.

The alien should submit evidence to show that he or she is of good moral character and has no arrests or convictions, if such is the case. The alien must at-

tach a detailed narrative about the background of the alien's case, the status of the alien's case, and explain in detail the reasons for requesting a stay.

Additional documents or evidence that are required to be submitted with the ICE Form I-246 are: (1) original of current and valid passport with an expiration date of at least 6 months, (2) copy of the alien's birth certificate, (3) police reports, disposition of all arrests, court disposition, and related criminal records of the alien.

The Application for Stay must be supported by evidence, such as (1) medical documentation from the alien's doctor, (2) evidence that the alien cannot depart from the United States as ordered by the court, (3) evidence that the alien should not be deported/removed from the United States, (4) evidence that the alien plans to comply with the order of removal, including a plane ticket, departure itinerary, and other evidence, and (5) any additional documentation, pictures, evidence or brief in support of the alien's claim. The alien should also submit financial records, affidavits, and country conditions in the alien's home country. These exhibits must be attached to the Application for Stay.

The alien ordered deported or removed must file the Application for Stay in person at the local Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) office. For the nearest ERO office, see <http://www.ice.gov/contact/ero/>

index.htm. An ICE officer will preliminarily review the application and if the officer believes that it is worthy of consideration and not frivolous, ICE will accept the application and collect the fee which at this writing is \$155, which must be paid in cash, cashier's check, or money order. Payments must be made out to "Department of Homeland Security" or "Immigration and Customs Enforcement". Ask the ICE officer for the current fee.

There are no specific guidelines in determining whether to approve or deny an application for stay. A stay of deportation or removal is within the sole discretion of the Secretary of Homeland Security or his designee, the Field Office Director. The regulations provide that the denial of a request for a stay is not appealable.

A separate application must be filed for each alien individual and family member seeking a stay of removal.

The alien should hire an imaginative and experienced lawyer who knows what plausible reasons will be acceptable to ICE. It would be good if the lawyer knows the ICE officials and can talk with them and get their insight and what else might be needed to improve the

chances that the application for stay will be granted.

Upon filing the application, the alien applicant will be fingerprinted, have the alien's photograph taken, and a criminal background check conducted.

BASES FOR REJECTION OF APPLICATION

An application for stay of deportation or removal may be rejected, without being reviewed on the merits, if the fee is incorrect, but the erroneous fee will not be refunded, there are multiple applicants on the same petition, failure to submit the application in person, or lack of or incorrect current physical address.

BASES FOR DENIAL OF APPLICATION

An application for stay of deportation or removal may be denied for any of the following reasons: failure to submit current or valid passport, failure to submit copies of birth certificates or identity documents, lack of medical evidence to support the claim, if the claim is for medical reasons, lack of or insufficient evidence or documentation in support of the alien's claim, failure to provide evidence that the alien will comply with the order of deportation or removal, threat to

(continued on page 13)

OP-ED (from page 3, UNMASKING....)

Times), seems to be part of the problem than a solution. Mahir Ali of The Dawn/Asia News Network calls Duterte a "Vigilante President" and fears that he may turn the country into an international pariah.

In this globalized era, foreign policy matters a lot. Duterte's diplomatic ruckus with US/UN weighs in heavily. Yet the president is seen posturing toward China amid this country's growing assertiveness in the Spratly Is-

lands. Analysts ask: is the Philippines now acquiescing to the left, and about to leave Uncle Sam's embrace?

It's too early to tell what is in store. But President Duterte cannot afford to alienate many of the 16M voters who propped him up into office. He better listen to his trusted aides, who look ridiculous scampering for explanations each time he makes a statement that runs afoul.

According to Dr. Belinda A. Aquino, founding director

of the University of Hawaii's Center for Philippine Studies and contributing editor to this paper, Duterte needs to temper his unconventional style, particularly his "vulgar language," to gain respect from the international community.

FEDERICO V. MAGDALENA, PHD is a faculty specialist and the associate director of the Center for Philippine Studies. He just completed a two-year project on peace-building in Mindanao under the support of the US Institute for Peace.)



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By Emil Guillermo

Can American Politics Go Any Lower?

It was a perfect segue. He's a funny man who's supposed to be funny. Not a politician or a news guy trying to be funny. In fact, MacDonald at SNL was one of the original "fake news" guys. On the debates, MacDonald admitted, "When it gets political, I get bored."

As the crowd tittered at his honesty, he then mocked a politician's Trump-style approach of bringing up sex in a campaign and added what has long been the rational response—to demand the candidates bring it back to the real topics. To which the satirist MacDonald delivered the punchline in his own voice: "Oh, no, not the topics. We don't want that."

Further confirmation that yes, it has come to that. It got a big laugh. And maybe that will be the 2016 campaign's lasting truth. You expect the truth to shine through a comedian's nightclub vulgarity.

You're surprised when a politician's vulgarity reveals his truth. But it seems that's what we're getting lots of this year. And Donald Trump can't seem to help himself. He's thrown presidential decorum out the window preferring to cast himself as an "everyman elitist" up against the political elitists, in some dive bar wet T-shirt, mud-wrestling night extravaganza.

Starting with the primaries, there were the John Mc-

Cain and Megyn Kelly comments; talk of Trump's penis size in a March GOP debate; the disparagement of Muslims, Mexicans, a Mexican American judge, the disabled, Asians and their accents, a Latino Miss Universe. And, of course, let's not forget his negative comments about the Philippines.

But nothing comes close to the Washington Post release of that "Access Hollywood" tape that features Trump on a hot-mic in full candid audio glory. It's not easily forgettable. Trump's comments on the tape defy anatomy and actually seem to advocate sexual assault, when he speaks of grabbing a woman by the private parts as an exercise of white male privilege.

Maybe Trump figured if Putin can grab "Pussy Riot," he could grab some of his own. For Sunday's debate, Trump only had one thing to do—make America forget it all by being contrite and showing sufficient remorse. He simply couldn't do it.

First, he tried to upstage the debate by creating a diversion, a "Bill Clinton Reunion of Shame," featuring all the women who have had some sexual issue with the former president. That might be fine if Bill Clinton were his opponent. Trump's best shot came in the debate itself, saying the "Access Hollywood" tape was "locker room" talk. He said he was sorry, then somehow linked his insincere groping apology to his somewhat sincere desire to beat ISIS. By grabbing ISIS members by their private parts?

Hillary Clinton, perhaps careful not to attack Trump too forcefully, said the tape was "who Donald Trump is" and that "this is not who we are." Trump called it "just words." Then he went on as if the issue was done. But it's not.

Clinton looked presidential just standing there and being respectful. Throughout the debate, Trump lifted his nose, scowled, shook his head and often interrupted in a bullying manner. And when he was quiet, he often appeared to be stalking Clinton. Stylistically, Trump was a loser.

I found two other moments from the debate that grabbed me. Trump was able to hammer Clinton on the e-mail issue. But if you've heard the arguments before, you know it's nowhere near the egregious nature Trump claims. Nor is it as morally repugnant as a "pussy grab."

But Trump knows how to make it incendiary, telling Clinton he'd assign a special prosecutor to her case. "You'd be in jail," he said. It reminded me of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos under martial law making his presidential opponent, the late Sen. Benigno Aquino, a political prisoner.

In other words, it was too close to reality to be a sarcastic joke. It was merely Trump being Trump 2016. His base of support may love it but it gave freedom-loving Americans reason to fear a Trump with presidential power.

The other moment I noted was at the very beginning when I saw an obviously Asian American face in the town hall audience. I thought maybe we'd see our issues addressed. But she wasn't called on.

There was, however, a question by Gorbah Hamed, a Muslim-American of Palestinian descent, who asked Trump: "With Islamophobia on the rise, how will you help people like me deal with the consequences of being labeled as a threat to the country after the election is over?"

Trump had no good answer. He seemed to suggest there were only two possible types of Muslim Americans, radicalized ones and informants. Trump didn't seem to understand there were normal Americans of Muslim faith who are harmed by his xenophobic beliefs.

Most Asian Americans know what it's like to be targeted by wrong-headed racist policies. Trump promises that kind of America. So the debate had plenty of moments, but nothing that erases the memory of the hot mic moment caught t10 years ago on that just released video.

It's funny how the sensitivity levels have changed. Ten years ago, Trump may have been able to dismiss it all as

locker room banter and would have been given a pass. Certainly, 20 years ago, he could have.

Times have changed for women. And Trump is also running for president. He's not just a rich a-hole flaunting his white privilege. The secret tape revealed now threatens to implode his candidacy. These are not thoughts a public person can hold privately. But it's funny how racist private thoughts about Asian Americans played for laughs in public is still A-OK.

At the same time as the Trump tape broke, Asian American groups were rightfully busy expressing their outrage about the disgusting "Watters' World" tape that played on Fox News's "O'Reilly Factor." But then the Trump discovery trumped our outrage.

We just haven't quite reached that level yet, I guess. The Fox News report was supposed to be about Asian Americans' response to the debates. Instead, it just recycled tired stereotypes and passed them off as news. Fox's Jesse Watters so far has gotten away with saying he was just joking.

I prefer my jokes from actual comedians like Norm MacDonald. But that's what it's like when the discourse goes coarse in our vulgarized democracy.

It doesn't seem to hurt. As I write, the new polls show Clinton ahead by 47-43 percent over Trump, just a four-point lead over Trump in a new Washington Post-ABC News poll. And within the margin of error.

All that sexy talk didn't hurt Trump. Thankfully, he still may not have the electoral votes to win.

More worrisome is that the general poll numbers don't show a real repudiation of Trump. Instead, the Washington Post-ABC News poll shows America doesn't seem to mind following Trump into the gutter.

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.

Donald Trump, the entertainer-politician, naturally does politics like an entertainer. He gives people what they want.

So is this what we want in politics? All-sex all the time? It seems that after a week, Donald can't let go. One week after the revelation of the "Access Hollywood" tapes and sex is still an issue. More women are coming forward in a most Bill Cosby-esque way. And when Gloria Allred is in the mix, then you know we are definitely in a familiar cultural pattern.

Through it all, Trump continues to engage. Because he won't let anyone get the last word.

Coincidentally, after the watching the sad spectacle of the second presidential debate when Trump had to face the nation and answer to the allegations, I figured I needed some laughs.

I immediately went to see a performance by the former Saturday Night Live Weekend Update anchor Norm MacDonald, the last comedian to appear on the late great "Late Show with David Letterman."

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FEATURE

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LOVE OF JEAN AKIKO BONILLA

By Sheryll Bonilla

Jean Bonilla was an angel from heaven. She was tender-hearted, loving, patient, gentle and sweet, all traits the Bible says are from the Holy Spirit. She said Jesus knew she loved Him and lived her life steadfastly for Him. Jean was one of the kindest people you would ever meet in your lifetime. Others could always sense she was a person of genuine compassion—someone who they could pour their hearts out to and who would truly empathize with their sorrow.

She always showed her children that she thought about and loved them, clipping coupons and noting the expiration date in red so they could save money or reminding them to prepare for storms. Jean was the best cook ever. She spent whole afternoons cutting and simmering meat and vegetables to get the perfect flavors you can only get when you cook with love.

Jean was literally a life saver. By HPD statistics, the intersection at Farrington Highway and Waiomea Street was the deadliest on Oahu. She took emergency aid classes and kept a first responder kit. Hearing the awful sounds of squealing brakes or smashing metal, she alerted 911 then ran over and down the hill to help the victims until the ambulance arrived. Many survivors never knew the godsend who called the emergency crew and then came to stop the bleeding, get their airways open, provide CPR and comfort them.

Her cheerfulness and friendliness made her popular wherever she went. In the days before Catholic nuns had the luxury of cars, Jean befriended the sisters at St. Anthony's Church in Kalihi, driving them to do their errands and shopping. She was an active member

of its Parent Teacher Association. For years she undertook the time-consuming role no one wanted—bowling league secretary. Each week, she carefully and dutifully recorded, typed and mimeographed the statistics of dozens of members for the leagues she bowled in at Boulevard Bowl, Kam Bowl and Classic Bowl.

Being an informed, voting citizen was important to Jean. She read the newspaper faithfully, almost each story, cover to cover and was extremely up-to-date on current events. She admired the oratory skill of great public speakers. University of Hawaii Journalism Professor Tom Brislin once proudly said in an interview that Jean was a legend among the Hawaii news reporters and she was.

Jean had a scanner during the days when emergency services could be heard over the airwaves. She listened for police, fire and ambulance calls. The interesting ones she phoned in to the TV news and Honolulu Advertiser. They'd dispatch camera crews, photographers and reporters out to the scene. Joe Moore once offered Jean \$500 a month if she would give them the tips exclusively. She turned down his offer because listening to the scanner was her hobby and added excitement to her life. Editor Mark Matsunaga made sure to send gift baskets during Christmas to thank her for all her tips. She knew the city reporters by name and they knew her voice. Their gratitude made her efforts worthwhile and meant so much to her.

Jean loved being a grandma. She held her grandchildren close, playing and laughing with the joy that



Jean Akiko Bonilla (left) and family.

only babies can bring. She showered her grandchildren with presents to show her love—desks for them to color pictures on, comforters to keep them warm, toys, Christmas ornaments, clothes—you name it, she gave it. The grandchildren eventually grew up and Jean got lonely. She'd shop at Ross' stores, strolling down the aisles, seeing items that she thought of buying to show them her love. She always loved cats. Petting their fur and cuddling them gave her peace and comfort. She fed the kittens and sick cats with a dropper, pouring milk into their little mouths and patiently nursing them back to health. It was all part of her tenderness, gentleness and kindness. She was sweet and the cats always returned her affection.

God sent Jean Akiko Ogata to this earth on October 19, 1938, the youngest child of Minnie Picanco Ogata and Edward Sueyoshi Ogata of Lahaina, Maui. Jesus Himself came to take his daughter Jean home to heaven on August 24, 2016 at 8:55 pm. We are thankful for her love and to God for giving her to us.

Eulogy

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Mom was literally a life saver. She took emergency aid classes and stocked a first aid kit and ran out to be the first responder at the deadliest intersection on Oahu according to HPD statistics: Waiomea Street and Farrington Highway in the days before the traffic light was installed. When we heard the awful sound of squealing brakes or smashing metal, she directed us to dial 911 while she ran over the hill to help the victims on the road until the ambulance could arrive. Many survivors never knew the angel who came to try to stop the bleeding or get their airways open, administer CPR, comfort or calm them, and got the emergency crews to them.

Mom loved life. She actively enjoyed what life had to offer—roller skating, bowling, dancing, singing, cooking, and socializing. She made the best of the situation, trusting in Jesus, and gave her time, energy and friendship to those around her.

In the days before Catholic nuns had the luxury of vehicles, Mom offered rides to the sisters at St. Anthony's Church in Kalihi. She took them shopping and running er-

rands while we were at school. They were grateful for her helpfulness. She was an active member of the Parent Teacher Association. Mom was kind and her gentle spirit made her popular with other parents.

In the days of mimeograph, mom devoted herself to the arduous, time-consuming tasks of being bowling league secretary and treasurer. She sat for hours at her white and blue typewriter, carefully typing numerous bowling statistics into multiple columns across the carbon paper sheets. Bowling was fun and she was in leagues at Kam Bowl and Classic Bowl in Kalihi. She won many bowling awards, which lined several shelves against our dining room wall—not just the usual trophies, but also useful trophies attached to alarm clocks and others. My favorite is the sandalwood jewelry box.

Mom had both Val and Sheryll in hula lessons with John Pilani Watkins' troupe. This meant taking us to all the practices in the Dillingham building next to Sizzler's and to all the performances around the island, too. From the window of our house overlooking Kam Field, Mom

happily watched us play in the park. We played chase master with other kids around the circular banyan tree, bicycled and rode our skateboards on the basketball and tennis courts. At night, when it was cool, she put on her culottes—one gray with a red bib, the other purple with a gold butterfly bib—with a white, long-sleeved blouse, and roller skated with us. She was so graceful, gliding with a huge smile on her face.

In the 80s, the disco craze caught mom's fancy. Our neighbor, Mrs. Yadao, was a seamstress. Mom paid her to sew two jumpsuits for going out dancing. One was melon colored, the other gold. With glittery gold stiletto heels and her long hair cascading from the bun at the top of her head, like in the hit TV show "I Dream of Jeannie", Mom took to Waikiki with her friends. She danced the night away, enjoying Blondie—remember "Heart of Glass"?—Air Supply, and other pop bands. She'd sing duets of "Endless Love". She made her own cassette tapes with her favorite disco songs to listen in the car.

After her kids were grown and karaoke came into fashion, they'd

all go to karaoke bars. She loved singing her favorite tunes, soulfully crooning into the microphones. Dancing to Nancy Sinatra's "These Boots Are Made For Walking", Mom won a karaoke contest at Rumours Nightclub. The audience cheered her strutting and singing—sheer fun.

Mom loved being a grandma. She held her grandchild babies close and played, laughing with the joy that only babies can bring. She showed her grandchildren with presents to show her love—desks for them to color pictures on, comforters for them to sleep on, toys galore, clothes—you name it, she gave it. She was very loving and grandchildren were the recipients of her affection.

Even grandchildren get old, though, and Mom got lonely. She'd shop at Ross' stores, strolling down the aisles, seeing items that she thought to buy us to show us her love. She always loved cats. Petting their fur and cuddling them gave her peace and comfort. She fed the kittens and sick cats with a dropper, pouring milk into their little mouths and nursing them back to health. It was all part of her tenderness, her gentleness and kindness. She was sweet and the cats always returned her affection.

The sad part of life is that when children are grown, they are busy with their own lifestyles, and forget to keep company with the woman who was so central to their hearts. The cats kept her company. She tirelessly cleaned up after them, showing how much trouble she was willing to go through for those she loved. They knew it and came when she called and always looked at her with love. When she was sick in the hospital, you could tell they waited for her to come home to them.

The news was important to her. She read the newspaper faithfully, almost each story, cover to cover, and was extremely informed about current events. She admired the oratory skill of great public speakers. University of Hawaii Journalism Professor Tom Brislin once proudly said in an interview that Mom was a legend among the Hawaii news reporters, and she was. Mom had a scanner in the days when emergency services could be heard over the airwaves. She listened for police, fire, and ambulance calls. The interesting ones she phoned in to the TV news and Honolulu Advertiser. They'd dispatch their camera crews, photographers, and re-

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Steven Levinson Appointed to Police Commission

Retired Hawaii Supreme Court Justice Steven Levinson has been appointed to the Honolulu Police Commission. If confirmed by the Honolulu City Council, Levinson will serve through December 31, 2020.

The seven-member board is appointed by the mayor and oversees the Honolulu Police Department. Its duties include the appointment and/or removal of the Chief of Police, reviewing rules and regulations for the police department, investigating misconduct charges, and reviewing the annual budget.

“As a practicing attorney for 17 years, a criminal trial judge for three years and State Supreme Court Justice for 17 years, one of the primary focuses of my career has been the effective administration of law enforcement,” says Levinson. “I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to make a difference by bringing these experiences and unique perspectives to the commission.”

During Justice Levinson’s tenure on

the state Supreme Court, he authored 271 published opinions, of which 231 were published opinions of the court, including *Baehr v. Lewin* (1993), which was the first appellate decision in American history to hold that a state’s marriage laws were presumptively unconstitutional for discriminatorily prohibiting same-sex couples from marrying.

He also authored numerous opinions addressing the lawful limits of governmental intrusion into the private affairs of individuals, the legitimacy of police interrogations and searches and seizures, as well as other related subjects. He was the court’s liaison to the Hawaii State Bar Association and the Hawaii Justice Foundation and served as chair and member of various commissions and task forces pertaining to the Hawaii Penal Code, the Code of Judicial Conduct, drug policy and jury innovations.

If confirmed, Justice Levinson will replace Ron Taketa.

FEATURE (from page 9, CELEBRATING....)

porters out to the scene. Joe Moore once offered Mom \$500 a month if she would give them the tips exclusively. She turned down his offer because listening to the scanner was her hobby, giving excitement to her life. Editor Mark Matsunaga made sure to send gift baskets at Christmas to thank her for all her tips. She knew the city reporters by name and they knew her voice. Their gratitude made her efforts all worthwhile. It was the company and appreciation that meant so much to her.

Mom had so much compassion and patience. She’d drive out at any time of the night if a friend was going through a crisis or needed to talk. She was always ready to listen. Genuinely listening to others is a character trait few have, but Mom was unselfish and caring, and people felt they could pour their hearts out to her and they did. They knew they’d be heard and understood.

Mom was the best cook I can think of. Many of you know her delicious gandule rice, pork adobo, corn chowder, beef stew, curry stew, corned beef cabbage, and laulau. When we were younger, she made fabulous buttery barbecue ribs and from Thanksgiving leftovers made turkey corn scallop. She baked her potatoes in tin foil in the oven. At New Year’s, she faithfully rolled colorful makizushi with red or green grated shrimp and cooked nishime. She loved making Thanksgiving dinner, either pressure cooking the turkey on the stove top or baking the turkey in the oven, with the aroma of the roasting rafting in the house for hours. Her specialty, though, was Hawaiian food. Once a month, we girls, Mom, and a friend or two would sit around the kitchen table, peeling the spine off ti and luau leaves, cutting pork butt, then rolling, rolling, rolling, and tying up the lau lau, then pressure cooking them for hours. In the one entire weekend we’d have enough lau lau in the freezer to last us for a month of delicious meals. Mom taught us to eat our poi baby style with cream and sugar, but she ate hers with homemade chili pepper water. After we all moved out, Mom would cook a big pot

of stew or chowder, and call us to come get some. She never put it in a plastic container. She always ladled it into one of her pots with the glass lids because she said it kept the food fresher longer. Cooking for us was another way she showed her love. The last big meal she cooked for us was curry stew.

Her favorite ice cream flavor was peanut butter chocolate from Baskin Robbins. She asked me to get the hand-scooped gallon, because you can ask for big chunks of peanut butter. She liked the salad bar at Sizzler’s or Ruby Tuesday, usually eating cantaloupe, cottage cheese, olives and tofu. Sizzler’s was her favorite restaurant. In the old days, the Dillingham location had an outside takeout grill, so anyone in the parking lot could smell the burgers cooking on the flames. Her favorite was patty melts and baked potatoes, taken home wrapped in foil. She liked Keo’s and Japanese restaurants. A couple of years ago each of us three girls took her for Mother’s Day at different Japanese restaurants. I took her to Ichiriki. It was the only time I can recall that she was completely quiet during the whole meal, just eating contentedly and savoring the delicious nabemono in amazement.

Traveling was the only thing Mom couldn’t do because the turbulent propeller plane ride from Maui to Oahu after high school gave her a permanent fear of flying. Claustrophobia made boats and planes off limits, so she couldn’t leave Oahu. She wanted to go to Tahiti, which was really surprising because she didn’t like being out in the hot sun. When asked why, she said she saw photos of the beautiful beaches and wanted to see the gorgeous scenery herself.

Mom had a full life, enjoying all that God offered her with appreciation. She always trusted in Jesus, with her simple faith in His goodness and mercy. We are sure the angels carried her into heaven, where she is at peace, free from all the suffering her frail body experienced here on earth. We love you Mom and we miss you already. Thank you for being our Mom.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii Int'l Film Fest Set For November 3-13

Several films produced and directed in the Philippines are among the line-up of movies in the upcoming 36th Annual Hawaii International Film Festival (HIFF) sponsored by Halekulani. Films will be shown at the Regal Dole Cannery Stadium 18 and Regal Kapolei Commons 12.

The films include:

Toto: Nov. 11 at 8:45 pm and Nov. 12 at 11 am at Dole Cannery

Antonio, a hotel worker in Manila, needs to make it to America. His father's utter failure while living in Las Vegas compels Antonio to do anything and everything to support his cancer-ridden mother. However, he fails again and again to get a visa, despite taking many financial, emotional and personal risks. Haunted by his father's past and discour-

aged by his current situation, Antonio comes to realize the power of a dream may just be within reach.

Singing in Graveyards: Nov. 8 at 8 pm and Nov. 11 at 12:30 pm at Dole Cannery

Can an impersonator find his own voice? At age 68, Pepe (Pinoy rock legend Pepe Smith) has dedicated his life to impersonating legendary Filipino rock star Joey Smith. Straddling the line between reality and imagination while sinking deeper into old age, he must undertake a journey of self-discovery to free himself from the shadow of his hero and become his own man. Only then can he be free to write the song of his career.

Out Run: Nov. 10 at 5:45 pm and Nov. 12 at 12:15 pm at Dole Cannery

As leader of the world's only LGBT political party, Bemz Benedito dreams of being the first transgender woman in the Philippine Congress. But in a predominantly Catholic nation, rallying for LGBT representation is not easy. Bemz and her team of queer political warriors must rethink traditional campaign strategies. Culminating on election day, Out Run looks into the challenges LGBT people face as they transition into mainstream society and fight for dignity, legitimacy, and acceptance.

Apocalypse Child: Nov. 5 at 4:30 pm and Nov. 7 at 3 pm at Dole Cannery

Ford, a surfing instructor from the Philippines, has been told his whole life that he's the son of Francis Ford Coppola and that he was conceived dur-

ing the on-location filming of Apocalypse Now. He has wasted his youth waiting as his mother petitions the director to acknowledge Ford as his son. As the surfing season ends, Ford is forced to confront his past actions, inactions and the stories of his life.

HIFF recognizes new and emerging talent, promotes ca-

reer development and original collaborations through innovative education programs, and facilitates dynamic cultural exchange through the cinematic arts. Since its inception, more than 950,000 people from throughout the world have shared HIFF film screenings and insights.

For a complete list of showings and ticket information, go online to: <http://www.hiff.org>.

OPINION (from page 6, DEMONIC....)

would still have been alive today if Duterte had not become president. Off record, much more have been killed. And more will be killed. This abuse of power is a terrible crime not only against the Filipino people but against humanity.

If this state sponsored killing spree continuous and good hearted well-meaning Filipinos just passively and silently accept this situation, it means that nobody will be safe from being murdered anytime by the police or by anybody. Just label the dead victim as a criminal, a drug addict, a drug dealer and this everyday occurrence becomes a part of the norm. This terrible culture of death will destroy the fabric of Philippine society. Friends and families will be turning on each other.

Corrupt policemen will also use their now terrible unbridled power to extort money from innocent victims accusing them of being drug addicts or dealers, which was recently done to an Australian and fortunately CCTV camera videotapes showed that he was innocent.

Secretary General of the United Nations Ban Ki Moon, President Barack Obama, all the

heads of the European Union and other world leaders have been made aware of the daily rampant killings in the Philippines. As part of the human family, they are disturbed by the mass murders and are aware of the kind of terrible terror in Philippine society that this would lead to. In good faith, they are trying to help Filipinos and have tried to influence Duterte to stop these killings.

Duterte's response to leaders in the international community critics is to insult them with vulgar slurs against their mothers or call them fools and for them not to interfere in Philippine affairs. He has not spared even the Pope with his dirty mouth calling him the son of a whore during his Philippine visit.

In a speech, he stated that like Hitler who murdered millions of Jews, he also wants to slaughter millions of Filipinos who are drug addicts. He later apologized to the Jews who were much offended by his statements, but many Jews doubt his sincerity. Duterte's remarks regarding his insensitivity to the Holocaust will have lasting consequences.

The state of Israel and Jews all over the world recognize a

debt of gratitude to the Filipino people for saving over a thousand Jews from Hitler's crematoriums and giving them refuge in the Philippines. Filipinos are viewed by Jews with respect and affection. Filipinos all over the world are liked and respected. The Jews and other nationalities will help in the Filipino people's struggle against the present tyranny and moral depravity of Duterte. His evil ways are not the ways of good decent people.

It is the moral obligation of the Catholic Church and other Christian churches and all sincere genuine Christians, Muslims, Buddhists and all good human beings to protest and fight against the violence and fear that Duterte has inflicted and will continue to inflict on the Filipino people. To remain silent in the face of pure evil is tantamount to supporting and abetting that evil.

Edgar Matobato, a former member of Duterte's Davao Death Squad, just recently gave a chilling but very credible detailed testimony in the Philippine Senate on how they killed over a thousand victims upon orders of Duterte. He even named some of the victims and detailed how and where

(continued on page 12)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Pacquiao Still Prefers Boxing Ring at Wild Card

by Dino Maragay
Friday, October 28, 2016

LOS ANGELES – After sparring six rounds and doing mittwork with trainer Freddie Roach on Thursday (Friday in Manila), Manny Pacquiao bounced around the ring at the Wild Card Boxing Gym here in Hollywood.

He was chatting with his cornermen while shadowboxing, then turned his attention to some Filipino sports scribes who were also on the ring apron to take photos and videos of him.

Pacquiao stomped his right foot on the canvas, wanting to point out something.

“Mas gusto ko ito, mas manipis (I prefer this, it’s thinner),” the Filipino icon said, referring to the floor of the Wild Card’s boxing ring.

Pacquiao, who will face Jessie Vargas next week, had spent the majority of his training camp in Manila, specifically at the Elorde Gym within the SM Mall of Asia Complex, just a stone’s throw away from the Senate building.

Now back in Los Angeles for the final phase of his prepa-



ration, Pacquiao couldn’t help but take notice of the difference between the boxing ring at Elorde Gym and that at the Wild Card.

He definitely preferred the

ring at Roach’s famous sweatshop.

“Dito, para akong lumulutang (Here, I feel like floating),” Pacquiao quipped as he demonstrated his lateral movement.

“Ang kapal nung sa Elorde eh (the ring canvas at Elorde is thick), added Pacquiao, showing his thumb and index finger to describe the thickness of the ring canvas at Elorde, something he said is giving him a harder time to move.

“Two rounds here is like four rounds there,” the boxer added.

There’s no need to worry, Pacquiao continued, as the boxing ring that will be used in his tussle with Vargas at the Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas share the same specifications as the one at Wild Card.

“Ready na tayo,” he said. (www.philstar.com)

Maguindanao Mayor on 'Narco List' Killed in Police Shootout

by John Unson
Friday, October 28, 2016

NORTH COTABATO, Philippines – Lawmen shot dead Friday a mayor in Maguindanao and nine companions for starting a firefight while about to search for drugs in their vehicles in Makilala town in North Cotabato.

The slain mayor, Sam-

sudin Dimaukom of Datu Saudi town in Maguindanao, is among dozens President Rodrigo Duterte had earlier tagged as large-scale traffickers of methamphetamine hydrochloride, most known as “shabu.”

Superintendent Romeo Galgo Jr., spokesman of the Police Regional Office-12 in General Santos City, said anti-

narcotics agents were to peacefully stop the convoy of Dimaukom for inspection but were forced to engage them when they opened fire.

Policemen at the scene rushed Dimaukom and his companions to the Makilala Medical Specialist Hospital where they were pronounced all dead on arrival by attending doctors.

Superintendent Bernard Tayong of the North Cotabato provincial police said the anti-narcotics operation that resulted in the deaths of Dimaukom and his men was carried out based on a tip from confidential informants purporting they were to bring a big volume of shabu to Maguindanao from Davao City.

Dimaukom and his men, on board three vehicles, were bound for Maguindanao province from Davao City when policemen tried to stop them for inspection at a stretch of the Cotabato-Davao Highway in Barangay Old Bulatukan northwest of Makilala early Friday.

“The operation was car- (continued on page 13)

OPINION (from page 11, DEMONIC....)

they were killed. He also testified that Duterte’s son, Davao Vice Mayor Paolo Duterte – is a drug user who also ordered some of the killings including that of Richard King, a wealthy owner of hotels who was Paolo’s rival over a woman.

Even if the Senators and sycophantic journalists allied with Duterte tried their best to discredit and silence Matobato, millions who heard and saw this courageous man – believed him more than they be-

lieved the Senators who were obviously covering up for Duterte. Matobato’s description of the mode of operation of Duterte’s Davao Death Squad is consistent with the report of Fr. Amado Picardal of the Catholic Bishop’s Conference of the Philippines.

All good men and women should push for Duterte’s immediate resignation. But be prepared to be labeled and maybe even falsely charged as traitors and subversives. In the end, our commitment to God’s

truth and genuine concern and love for our fellowmen will bear much fruit.

If 16 million Filipinos voted for Duterte, 25 million did not. Of the 16 million, so many have now realized that they voted for a monster and regret their vote. His present popularity is an illusion – which will quickly vanish like smoke when more people suffer because of his unpredictable depravity. The economy will spiral downward as investors are fast exiting. More poverty and hunger will take place.

Even former President Fidel Ramos who supported Duterte’s candidacy sincerely believing that he would do good – now express deep honest concerns about Duterte’s murderous drug campaign and lack of policies that really improve people’s lives. Ramos found his True Self when he went against Marcos and have become a true patriot since then. Within a very short time, Ramos will inevitably come to the conclusion that his loyalty to Duterte ends where his loyalty to God and country begins.

The many good hearted decent Filipinos who want Duterte removed from office are not without support in this fight between good and evil. The whole civilized world is with us in this noble endeavor. Filipinos will soon realize that their worst enemy and the worst criminal in the Philippines is Duterte himself.

Let us fight evil with prayers to our Lord Jesus Christ and to our Blessed Mother – and with every other

moral justifiable means available to us. Filipinos have fought long and hard for their freedom and dignity. We cannot now allow one man who serves the forces of evil – to take control of our lives and the nation.

Because I am a Catholic, a human being, a Filipino American and a global citizen involved in creating a better world, I have expressed my thoughts and feelings that concern the well-being and future of all Filipinos – including Duterte himself. His soul needs salvation.

For those with the same thoughts – please air these viewpoints far and wide and ask recipients to do the same. Thank you.

TED LAGUATAN is a human rights lawyer based in the San Francisco area. He is one of less than 30 U.S. lawyers officially certified continuously for more than 25 years by the California State Bar as an Expert-Specialist in Immigration Law. Tel 650 634 8668 Email laguatanlaw@gmail.com.

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Disappointing Ruling on DAPA and DACA+

came about because the High Court was missing its ninth member following the death of Justice Antonin Scalia early this year.

On July 18, the Department of Justice filed with the US Supreme Court a petition to rehear the case and argued that although it was exceedingly rare, the Supreme Court had granted a rehearing in the past where the prior decision was issued by an evenly divided court and that it “appeared likely that upon reargument a majority one way or the other might be mustered.”

It is a disappointing decision for the millions of undocumented immigrants who have been waiting for DAPA and DACA+ to provide them a reprieve from deportation and an authorization to work. Many immigration advocates are also saddened by this news.

However, the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) through its President William A Stock remains optimistic. “This case is far from over. Once a more complete record of the merits of Texas’ claims is created, we are confident that when the case is once again back on the Supreme Court docket, the Court will show appropriate deference to the executive branch and not legislate from the bench by enjoining this program permanently,” said Stock.

DAPA would have temporarily deferred deportation for those who have a US citizen or LPR son or daughter as of November 20, 2014 and who have continuously resided in the US since January 1, 2010 but with no lawful immigration status. As long as they had no criminal convictions and have passed a

background check, these undocumented immigrants could benefit from DAPA.

DACA+ eliminated the age requirement of DACA and pushed the arrival date to January 1, 2010. It must be recalled that DACA was first introduced by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) back in 2012. Under this program, those under 31 years old on June 15, 2012, have arrived in the US before becoming 16, have continuously resided from June 15, 2007 to the present, are either in school, have graduated or completed high school or a general education development (GED) certificate, or are honorably discharged veterans of the US Coast Guard or US Armed Forces and have not been convicted of a felony could have deferred action or deferred deportation.

With immigration policy

being among the salient battleground in this year’s presidential elections—with the two parties clutching the opposite ends of the pole, undocumented immigrants cannot rest easy. While Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton promises to continue Pres. Obama’s immigration initiatives, the denial of the rehearing could also affect any further steps she may take. There is also Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump’s incessant vow to put a stop to Pres. Obama’s initiatives because of what he deems as a railroading of the country’s immigration laws.

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

Without any explanation, the US Supreme Court gave Pres. Barack Obama’s immigration initiatives another blow as it denied last Oct. 3 a petition to rehear *United States v. Texas*, also known as the DAPA and DACA+ case.

Back on June 23, the High Court came to an even 4-4 decision on the preliminary injunction placed by the lower Texas court and upheld by the Fifth Circuit Court upon DAPA and DACA+ essentially putting a stop to these programs in the whole country. The evenly split decision

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

ried out properly. They were only to be inspected for drugs but they refused and shot the team that was to search their vehicles,” Galgo said.

Galgo said the PRO-12 will issue a final official statement on the incident after collating reports from the police units involved in the operation.

Dimaukom was in his sec-

ond term as mayor of Datu Saudi in the second district of Maguindanao. The municipality is a known hotbed of Islamic militancy, where forces of the outlawed Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters are operating with impunity.

The municipality was named after Datu Saudi, son of former Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr., the

alleged mastermind in the now infamous Nov. 23, 2009 “Maguindanao massacre,” which shook the nation to its core.

Datu Saudi and more than ten of his security escorts were killed in a roadside bombing in Datu Piang, Maguindanao on Dec. 23, 2003, while mayor of the same town then. (www.philstar.com)

WHAT'S UP ATTORNEY (from page 17, HOW TO....)

oneself or others, or inaccurate or untruthful information.

EFFECT OF APPROVAL OF APPLICATION

In the event an application for stay of deportation or removal is granted, the alien will be issued an order of supervision (OSUP) and be required to comply with the conditions specified, the alien may be granted employment authorization, the alien may be required to post a delivery or order of supervision bond of at least \$1,500, the alien will be required to comply with other conditions set forth by the Field Office Director, and the alien will be required to update his/her address every time it is

changed. The length of the stay is in the discretion of the Field Office Director. Usually it is 6 months, subject to renewal upon request of the alien who must justify the need for extension.

CAUTION

A pending application does not preclude the execution of a final order of deportation or removal. The Field Office Director may at his or her discretion revoke an approved application and execute the order of removal at any date and time. Among the grounds for revocation are: arrest or conviction of any crime, violation of an Order of Supervision, violation of the terms of an Immigration

Bond, safety or security concerns, any reason at the discretion of the Field Office Director.

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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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Disbarment Case Filed Against De Lima

by Patricia Lourdes Viray
Friday, October 28, 2016

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Leila de Lima is facing a disbarment case before the Supreme Court over her alleged "illicit affair" with her former driver Ronnie Dayan.

Anti-crime group Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption Chairman Dante Jimenez, former National Bureau of Investigation deputy directors Reynaldo Esmeralda and Ruel



Sen. Leila de Lima is facing a disbarment case before the Supreme Court over her alleged extramarital affair with her former driver Ronnie Dayan. AP/Bullit Marquez

Lasala and jueteng whistleblower Sandra Cam filed the complaint against the senator.

"Senator De Lima used her power and moral ascendancy to portray the role of Whitney

Houston in the movie The Body Guard. Unfortunately, the closest that she can relate to Whitney Houston is the death of her legal profession through illegal drugs," the complaint read.

The complainants accused De Lima of gross immorality and violating the Lawyers Oath and the Code of Professional Responsibility.

Earlier this week, the House minority called for the prosecution of De Lima over her alleged involvement in the

proliferation of the illegal drug trade at the New Bilibid Prison.

The recommendation comes after the House committee on justice refused to file charges against De Lima in its report following the inquiry into the Bilibid drug trade.

The House minority believes that De Lima should face charges for violating the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees and the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

(www.philstar.com)

Report: Chinese Ships Increased in Scarborough After Tribunal Ruling

by Patricia Lourdes Viray
Friday, October 28, 2016

MANILA, Philippines — Chinese Coast Guard and civilian ships around the Scarborough (Panatag) Shoal have increased following the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration on the Philippines' arbitration case against China, according to a report.

China Coast Guard has continued to block access for Filipino fisherman to the dis-



The disputed Scarborough Shoal. Filipinos call it Panatag Shoal or Bajo De Masinloc. The Chinese calls it Huangyan.

puted shoal following arbitral tribunal's decision which came out last July 12.

The international tribunal ruled that China's closure of the shoal to Filipino fishermen

was illegal. Satellite imagery obtained by the AMTI shows that not a single Filipino vessel was visible at the shoal since early September. (www.philstar.com)

MAINLAND NEWS

Social Security Announces 0.3 Percent Benefit Increase for 2017

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits for more than 65 million Americans will increase 0.3 percent in 2017, according to the Social Security Administration.

The 0.3 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin in January 2017 with benefits payable to more than 60 million Social Security beneficiaries. Increased payments to more than 8 million beneficiaries will begin on December 30, 2016. The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax will increase to \$127,200 from \$118,500. Of the estimated 173 million workers who will pay Social Security taxes in 2017, about 12 million will pay more because of the increase in the taxable maximum.

Information about Medicare changes for 2017 will be available online at www.Medicare.gov. For some beneficiaries, their Social Security increase may be partially or completely offset by increases in Medicare premiums.

Estimated Average Monthly Social Security Benefits Payable in January 2017:

	Before	After
	0.3% COLA	0.3% COLA
All Retired Workers	\$1,355	\$1,360
Aged Couple, Both Receiving Benefits	\$2,254	\$2,260
Widowed Mother and Two Children	\$2,686	\$2,695
Aged Widow(er) Alone	\$1,296	\$1,300
Disabled Worker, Spouse and One or More Children	\$1,990	\$1,996
All Disabled Workers	\$1,167	\$1,171

For more information, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

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MAINLAND NEWS

Bay Area Filipinos Assess 100 Days of Duterte

Over 100 Filipinos and supporters from throughout the Bay Area met on October 8, 2016—marking Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's 100th day in office—and discussed positive and negative political developments under the new administration.

Attendees included Terry Valen, president of the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns (NAFCON), who examined developments in the Philippines with a critical eye, beyond Duterte's sensational rhetoric and media representation. According to Valen, the purpose of the forum was not to endorse or reject Duterte as a politician.

"Instead, we must focus on analyzing the substantive policies enacted and actions taken by his administration, and ensure that these align with the fundamental interests of the Filipino people and their demand for change," Valen says.

Valen and Princess Bustos of Migrant Northern California presented an overview assessment of the administration against the 15 Points of the People's Agenda for Nationalist and Progressive Change



SulongPhoto2-Community members unite on the Peoples Agenda

(People's Agenda), developed by hundreds of cause-oriented groups, institutions and individuals in the Philippines in June 2016, prior to Duterte's inauguration.

Attendees like Adnan Alonto of the Brotherhood for Duterte USA said Duterte has exceeded expectations during his first 100 days in office and noted improved public safety and business climate in the Philippines. Alonto also lauded the resumption of peace talks with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) and the Bangsamoro groups, as well as the Philippines' "resoluteness in pursuing an independent foreign policy for the first time in a long time."

"In peace talks with the NDFP, Duterte has already accomplished

more in his first 100 days compared to Aquino's entire six-year term," he says. "We hope the peace talks and the assertion of Philippine national sovereignty in light of ongoing U.S. military intervention pave the way for meaningful change, pro-people reforms and nationalist development in the Philippines."

Alonto also praised Duterte's administration for the repatriation of hundreds of overseas Filipino workers stranded in Saudi Arabia and the suspension of at least 10 mining corporations notorious for their violations of environmental, land and human rights policies.

Valen says Duterte has exposed the enormity of the Philippines' drug problem and its links to officials at various levels of govern-

ment but he also denounced the killings of suspected drug users and pushers, and Duterte's public statements condoning and even encouraging these killings without respect for life or due process.

"The Philippine government can solve the drug problem only by comprehensively addressing the economic, political and social issues of the people, especially the poor and marginalized," Valen says.

US Focusing on Long-term Ties with Philippines, not Rody Rhetoric

WASHINGTON — The United States is focusing on its long-term relationship with the Philippines, not on President Duterte's anti-American bombasts that are "inexplicably at odds" with the close relationship between the peoples and governments of both countries, State Department spokesman John Kirby said.

A pattern that has been evident in weeks is that even Duterte himself and some of his Cabinet officials have walked back some of his statements "so we're not going to react and respond to every bit of rhetoric," Kirby said.

"We're going to take the long view, and the long view, in our mind, is a sustained, healthy, vibrant bilateral relationship with the people and the government of the Philippines. That's what we've had for 70-some-odd years, and that's what we expect to have for 70-plus more years in the future. And so that's where our focus is on," he said.

In reply to a query, Kirby denied the US would in effect wait out Duterte by working around him until his six-year term expires.

"He's the elected head of state and we've got a treaty alliance with his nation and we're going to meet those requirements, and we're going to work just as hard through his

administration as we have in the past through previous ones," he said.

In his latest broadside Duterte said if his scathing comments are worrying American investors and businessmen as Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel affirmed in Manila, then they can always pack up and leave.

"Despite the rhetoric, we haven't seen any policy traction behind it, in other words, there hasn't been any tangible changes to the policies and programs that both our nations are implementing and executing on a daily basis," Kirby said.

In Zamboanga City, the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) said US troops

remain in the region despite Duterte's announcement of his wish to see the Americans leave Mindanao immediately.

"They (US troops) are in the quarters, if there is withdrawal — that will be announced immediately by higher headquarters. We are just host to them, the decision is up to policymakers in the higher headquarters," Westmincom's chief Lt. Gen. Mayoralgo de la Cruz said.

He revealed the American soldiers were staying at Camp Don Basilio Navarro.

De la Cruz said the withdrawal of a batch of US Marines last Oct. 4 was part of an agreed rotational deployment of American military per-

sonnel in the Philippines. Army soldiers replaced the Marines who pulled out.

"That is why when they left they also brought with them their equipment," De la Cruz said.

The Westmincom official disclosed there are 107 to 110 US military personnel engaged in mostly civic projects with Westmincom.

"Actually, we're tapping them for fund raising for humanitarian, assistance to wounded soldiers and most of the time they are just inside camp," De la Cruz said.

"In the absence of decision from the higher headquarters, it's business as usual," he stressed. (www.philstar.com)

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