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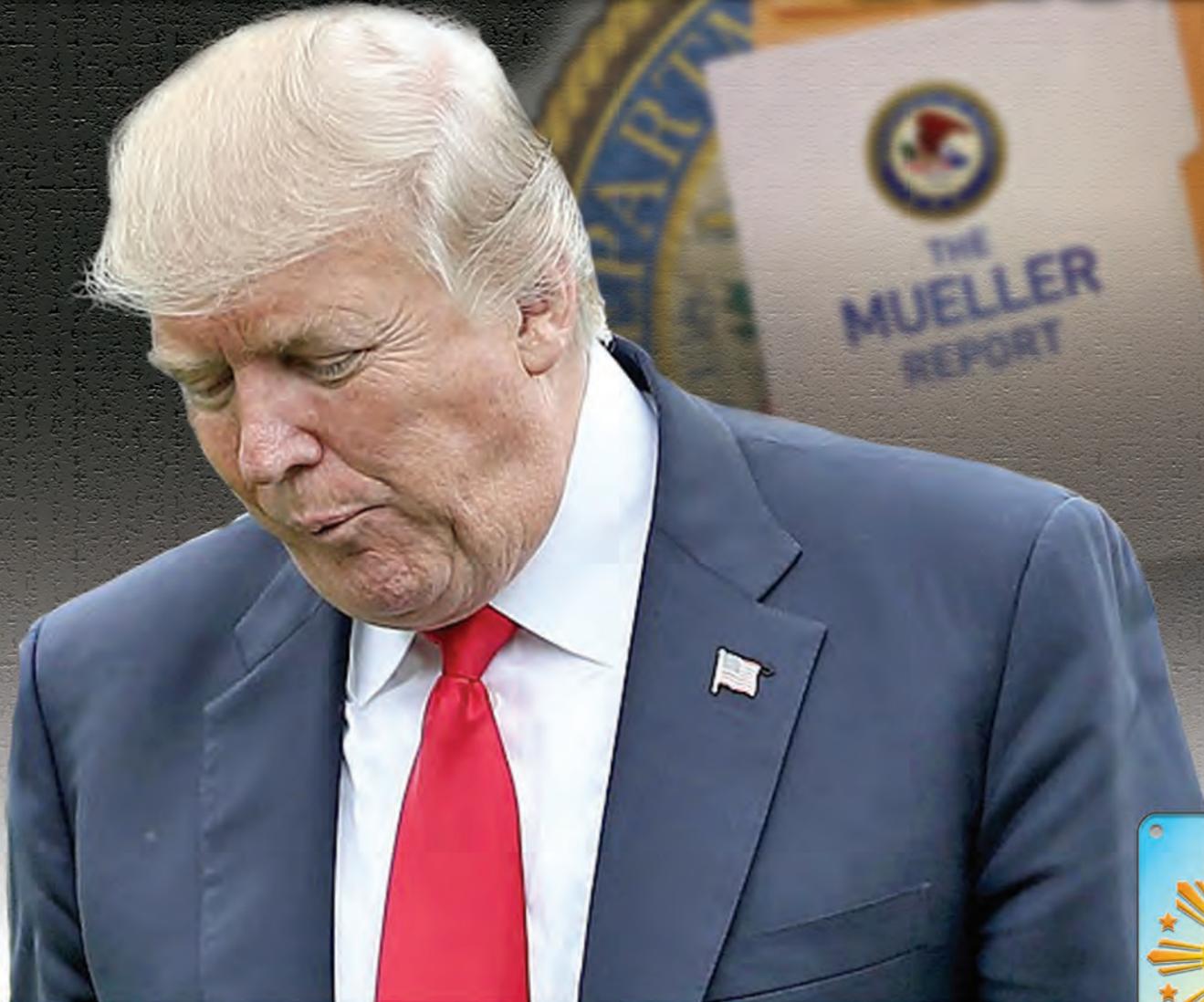
FILIPINO CHRONICLE

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♦ JULY 6, 2019 ♦

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EDITORIALS

Opening an Impeachment Inquiry is a Constitutional Responsibility

Let's face it, Donald Trump will not be removed from office before November 2020. Even if the House makes a big U-turn and finally decided to begin impeachment proceedings and successfully sends an impeachment case to the Senate for trial, Mitch McConnell will fail to convict. And Trump would still be sitting in the White House tweeting lies of exonerated and innocence.

But in no way does this political reality mean that the president is not deserving of impeachment; and certainly it doesn't mean that the House shouldn't try.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi truly knows politics beyond policy-making. Her pragmatic side says Democrats cannot lose an impeachment trial if brought up so close to 2020. It looks bad. So she is not pursuing it.

Her alternative: slow roasting the big "I" with careful calibration. She says House committees must do their due diligence and investigate the facts before an impeachment case is opened. But really, her reluctance is a message on its own, saying – "if Americans truly want impeachment, you all must show me much more than what you're giving."

In other words, it's not enough that a majority – 67 percent – of Democrats want impeachment, as the latest polls show. Independents must be jumping on the "I" bandwagon; and at least a strong minority among Republicans must be calling for it.

Independents might come around eventually; but GOP turncoats, not a chance.

Big question to weigh

The big question on impeachment is this – will it help to oust Trump on election day?

Pelosi doesn't think so. But truth to power -- the bigger fail would be to do nothing. The evidence outlined in the Mueller report is too compelling to pass; and Democrats sitting on their hands shows weakness and negligence in performing their Constitutional duty. Political Science 101: most Americans want strong leaders; most Americans have great value for our Constitution.

Democratic senators are wiser than their House counterparts on this "I" issue as many senators have already called for impeachment proceedings to begin as a matter of principle.

It matters that attempts to preserve our Constitution, separation of powers, checks and balances be pursued when demanded. The Constitution was written precisely for moments like this; it was written primarily to protect the country from tyranny – which is what has historically made the U.S. a special place in the world. You could even say the Constitution was written for the coming of a Trump-like leader.

Doing nothing is saying to the world that Trump is above the law; and, we as lawmakers accept that. Doing nothing is hollow respect for the Constitution, something lawmakers swore to protect.

It's clear that politics is being weighed heavily on whether or not to seek impeachment. And getting reelected is a concern for politicians on both sides, Republicans and Democrats.

But if an impeachment trial is commenced and millions of Americans will be able to see the evidence brought forth in the Mueller report, and the facts televised and news-cycled 24-7, it will show in hindsight that at least opening up an impeachment inquiry was necessary and the right thing to do.

Trump's wrongdoings will be a stain going into November 2020 as evidence become better known. As it stands now, no one is reading the Mueller report.

Even if Trump remains in office, Mitch McConnell and com-

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

On light of President Donald Trump stonewalling House subpoenas and the obstruction evidence already provided in the Mueller report, many Americans are now having serious discussions about whether or not it's time for impeachment proceedings to begin to remove the President. The latest opinion polls taken this month show there is sharp rise of support for impeachment proceedings among Democratic voters, even though their party representatives remain lukewarm to the idea at this current stage. Independents are still not convinced impeachment is warranted; and of course, an overwhelming majority of Republicans are against it.

For our cover story this issue, associate editor Edwin Quinabo provides a comprehensive look on the subject: first a rundown on where each member of Hawaii's D.C. delegation stand on impeachment proceedings; then why House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is reluctant to pursue it (potential political trap), and lastly what some locals think about the idea. The article also goes over a legal opinion by a group of 636 former Justice Department prosecutors on the Mueller report's findings. It's a very compelling legal analysis, and perhaps, the most widely accepted interpretation of the report. Their conclusion is that the President did in fact commit obstruction of justice. Why this summary by former prosecutors have received so much attention is because it is signed by prosecutors who served on both Republican and Democratic administrations, a truly bipartisan opinion.

Also in this issue, HFC columnist Atty. Reuben Seguritan writes about a case which his firm was successful in helping a client obtain a green card despite that client misrepresenting who he was when entering the U.S. 30 years ago. Coming to the U.S. under misrepresentation is usually a ground for inadmissibility and could prevent an alien from obtaining lawful permanent residence. However, what most people don't know is that an alien can file for a waiver and could be forgiven of fraud in certain cases. Find out how?

HFC columnist Elpidio Estioko contributes an interesting article "Artificial Intelligence Should Not Take the Place of Teachers in the Classroom." In it, he discusses ways that AI can help in quality instruction and that AI shouldn't necessarily be viewed as a threat to teachers' jobs.

HFC columnist Seneca Moraleda-Puguan submits "Reaching the Next Generation," an inspiring article on Filipinos embrace of faith, including 30-year old Vico Sotto, Pasig City Mayor. His promise of leadership with integrity is winning the hearts of the people of Pasig.

Be sure to read the latest in local, mainland, and Philippine news affecting our community, including a proposal to change the way the federal poverty threshold is calculated. How this matters? It could result in millions of Americans becoming ineligible for, or entitled to less, government-funded benefits such as food stamps or health care assistance. Hawaii's Atty. General Clare E. Connors joins a multistate coalition of 21 attorneys general in opposing this new calculation proposed by the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Lastly, we know many community non-profits, civic and Filipino organizations will soon start planning your annual fundraising and holiday events now that we've entered the second half of the year. We'd like to help promote your event. Feel free to submit a press release of your event – the earlier, the better. Remember, we are here for you.

Thank you for supporting your community newspaper. I hope you are all having a fun and safe summer! Until next time, warmest *Aloha* and *Mabuhay!*

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EDITORIALS

SCOTUS Got It Right By Not Adding Citizenship Question to Census

The U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) just decided late last week that the Trump administration cannot add a question about citizenship in the next 2020 Census. It was a surprising outcome and most news pundits predicted a decision to go conservatives' way. But Chief Justice John Roberts sided with the court's four liberals in a 5-4 decision which have immigrant rights organizations celebrating the ruling.

Why would this one question have impacted huge swaths of the country?

Opponents to the question say it would have disadvantaged states and communities with large immigrant and minority populations, and large urban centers. It would have also tilted the political balance to favor Republicans over Democrats in Congress.

Everyone already knows that the Census (taken every 10 years) is a survey which data is used to gage the demographics of the nation's population.

But it's far more important than people realize. Perhaps second only to elections, the

Census is the most influential factor that determines how money and political power are distributed across the country.

Data from the Census determines how many congressional seats and electoral seats are given to each state; it determines how the hundreds of billions of federal dollars are allocated (an estimate of \$880 billion a year) for schools, for highways, for roads, for public health, for just about any federal service out there including Medicare, Medicaid, and so on.

Experts are in agreement that adding this one citizenship question most likely would have resulted in millions of people being undercounted in the U.S. Census because undocumented immigrants and immigrants waiting for their citizenship would be dissuaded from participating in the Census out of fear of deportation.

So if this question had been added, it would not only have affected immigrants, but all the communities and states immigrants mostly reside in with these communities not getting their fair share of federal dollars and political representation in the next 10 years. Whether if you're an immigrant or not, citizen or not, you

could have been affected in some way if the city you live in happen to be multi-cultural with a large immigrant population.

Adding this one question to the Census would have made it less accurate; and not serve its purpose. A Democrat state like California, as an example, would have lost seats in Congress and multi-millions in federal dollars because of undercounting.

Democrats would have come out as losers and Republicans winners with this new Census – which is precisely why the Trump administration pursued adding the question.

Historically a citizenship question was asked off and on and only to parts of the country. The last time it was asked was in 1950, and again, for only parts of the country. Statistical analysis, or what experts call statistical modeling, has since been used to project information like citizenship based on a short form given only to select population where the citizenship question was on it in 1950.

If SCOTUS had ruled in fa-

vor of the president, the 2020 Census would have been the first time a citizenship status question be asked of every person living in the country.

Normal Procedure Skipped

The partisan motivation behind adding this question was clear from the beginning because it usually takes 5 years for the process of adding changes to the Census. Changes need to be properly vetted, data examined, advice taken from career officials, and Congress must be informed about the reason for such a change.

But in this citizenship question change, normal procedure had been skipped. It was rushed. This alone left Americans suspicious of the motivation and looked at the change as political, in step with other anti-immigrant policies Trump has introduced.

Critics say even if SCOTUS had found this question constitutional, the process of introducing it unvetted and

avoiding normal procedure should have been enough to disqualify this addition to the 2020 Census.

The rush to add the citizenship question even had Congress involved. The House Oversight Committee subpoenaed Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Attorney General William Barr to investigate into how and why the question was added. They ignored the subpoena and House Oversight voted to hold both in contempt of Congress.

House Oversight asked the president for documents to be submitted concerning how the process of this question came about. Trump claimed executive privilege and refused House Oversight's request.

Information on a hard drive from Republican operative Thomas Hofeller surfaced regarding the Census data on citizenship. Hofeller wrote, conservative states with large immigrant populations could

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pany would be the perceived corrupt establishment that made this happen. Doubt it? Just look at Attorney General William Barr's now tanked credibility after misrepresenting the findings of the Mueller report.

Mueller report

The Mueller report found 10 points of obstruction.

It established that Russia attacked the 2016 elections to help Trump. It showed that Trump the candidate welcomed that help. And lastly, when Trump was investigated, he tried to obstruct the investigations.

A group of 636 former Justice Department prosecutors (Democrats and Republicans) say there were "multiple felony charges for obstruction" and that the President would have been indicted if he were anyone else but the president.

It's important to refer to this Justice Department prosecutors' interpretation because they are legal experts, federal prosecutors, and have nothing to gain because they no longer are working in the DOJ.

For future's sake

Currently House committees are pursuing fact-finding but are being stonewalled and blocked. Their issued subpoenas -- ignored by the White House. This is unprecedented to the extent that Trump has taken it, complete disregard of orders from a co-equal branch of government.

There are still a few inches on the rope left as the courts will decide on a few matters the House is requesting, namely an unredacted version of the Mueller report.

But time is running out. Political risk or not, it's a moral obligation that impeachment inquiries begin.

With impeachment, at least the evidence would have been presented to Americans. At least a democratic process as laid out by our Constitution would have been fulfilled – which sends a message to future presidents that breaking the law will have consequence; and that there are courageous politicians who will meet their sworn obligation to uphold the Constitution.



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Calls for Trump Impeachment Grows Among Democrats

By Edwin Quinabo

To impeach President Donald Trump or not? New polls this month show a surge in support of impeachment among Democrats; while the meter remains flat for Republicans and the same for Independents.

In a June NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll, Americans in favor of impeachment rose 10 percent from last month to 27 percent. The spike is largely due to more Democratic voters – 48 percent -- now believing that there is enough evidence to hold impeachment hearings. Forty-eight percent (unchanged from last month) believe Congress should not hold impeachment hearings. Just 6 percent of Republicans support impeachment.

In another poll conducted by POLITICO/Morning Consult also in the month of June, the number of self-identified Democratic respondents in support of impeachment is even higher. More than two-thirds (67 percent) of Democrats believe lawmakers should begin impeachment proceedings, an increase from 59 percent of Democrats in the last POLITICO/Morning Consult survey in April.

Tyler Sinclair, vice president at Morning Consult, said “support has remained steady among Independents and very low with Republicans.”

Overall the polls indicate that impeachment at this time is still an unpopular idea for a majority of Americans and politically unsafe for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to pursue, even if a majority of voters within her own party are calling for impeachment proceedings to open.

Where the numbers really matter on the Hill, only 70 House members (69 Democrats and 1 Republican) currently favor the start of an impeachment inquiry. But analysts believe that low number is largely due to Pelosi’s reluctance and would change if the House Speaker’s opinion changes. That’s how influential Pelosi is.

The Speaker has stated that impeachment is a losing battle because even if it passes the House, it’s bound to fail in the Senate. And this could be perceived as a political defeat of Democrats too close to the 2020 election.

Not closed to the idea completely, she also has said “public sentiment is everything,” not in that policy must necessarily follow public opinion, but be strategically shaped so that policy is more receptive to a strategic goal – which suggests she could be open to

impeachment, but only following a judicious, slow roasting process in which House committees complete their due diligence.

Pelosi makes the point that impeachment does not necessarily mean that the president would be removed from office. “Do you know most people think that impeachment means you’re out of office? Did you ever get that feeling that you’re just in the bubble here. They think that if you get impeached, you’re gone. And that is completely not true,” said Pelosi.

Removal from office is decided by the Senate, which now has a Republican majority.

The only two U.S. presidents to be impeached – Bill Clinton and Andrew Jackson – were not removed from office.

Until formal impeachment proceedings are initiated, Americans for now must settle on the fact-finding process in the House Judiciary and Oversight committees and a White House stonewalling every step of the way.

Hawaii Congressman Ed Case told the Filipino Chronicle what must occur before he would support opening up impeachment hearings. “Con-

gress must have all of the facts, and here we don’t because the Mueller report provided is heavily censored and key witnesses have refused to testify. I fully support efforts to require production of the full report and of key witness testimony and other information.

“I believe that we should not consider formal impeachment proceedings until this process plays out and we obtain all the facts. If those facts show impeachable offenses, or if the administration continues to obstruct Congress’ constitutional oversight function or refuses to comply with court orders, I am prepared to fulfill my duty under the Constitution.”

Hawaii Congresswomen Tulsi Gabbard is also not in support of impeachment at this time. Following the release of the Mueller report, she said “I don’t think that we should defeat Donald Trump through impeachment. I think it’s really important for us, in this country, to come together and have the American people vote to take Donald Trump out of office in 2020.”

Later speaking at a town hall in Hilo, Hawaii, Gabbard said she is studying more about the impeachment process. She



also brought up a concern that some Democrats have should Trump be impeached.

“I understand the calls for impeachment but what I am being cautious about and what I give you food for thought about is that if President Trump is impeached, the problems don’t go away, because then you have a Vice President Pence who becomes President Pence.”

She believes Pence would be even more effective than Trump in pushing a conservative agenda on issues like war and peace, the environment, education, and healthcare.

“I disagree with so many of the positions that he (Pence) has,” said Gabbard.

Hawaii Senator Brian Schatz is also not ready for formal impeachment proceedings to begin. While most of the focus is on the findings of the Mueller report, the senator mentioned that there could be other impeachable offenses such as Trump’s business dealings with foreign countries may violate the emoluments clause which prohibits the president from accepting personal benefits from any foreign governments or official.

Every time a foreign official stays at a Trump hotel, or a foreign government approves a new Trump organization project, or when the Chinese government gave preliminary approval to 38 trademarks of Trump, or any situation when

Trump property and his family business profits from foreign governments – these are all examples of violations of the Emoluments Clause.

Hawaii Senator Mazie Hirono is the only member of Hawaii’s-D.C. delegation to support the start of an impeachment inquiry at this time. “We need to focus our entire country on what happened. This is why we should open an impeachment inquiry so we can get on with telling the public what really happened because the public is not going to read a 400-page report as so many have said.

“I think we would do a service to our country if we talk about it and shine a light and educate the public on what’s in that report as far as his efforts to obstruct justice, which I think is pretty clear,” said Hirono.

Staring impeachment proceeding isn’t necessarily a political trap

While House leadership is cautious over the political fallout impeachment could have, news pundits say it’s probably not as bad as doing nothing. It’s a questionable and risky political calculus to do nothing when a majority in your own party believes impeachment hearings should be pursued.

Democratic strategists worry that inaction could turn away Democratic voters in the

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COVER STORY

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next election because many Democrats voted in the mid-term expecting that Trump be held accountable.

Democrats who favor impeachment proceedings say the president's base will never change. The race for 2020 is about swaying Independents. When an impeachment trial opens and will be on-air practically 24-7 and looped in news cycles, more Americans, more Independents, would be able to see and hear the findings of the Mueller report.

They believe this could change everything because the findings in the Mueller report are damaging but Americans are just not bothering to read it.

As a matter of principle and Constitutional duty

Other Democrats (mainly in the Senate) are calling on impeachment proceedings to begin as a matter of principle.

Senator Elizabeth Warren said: "This is not about politics. This is about the Constitution of the United States of America. We took an oath not to try to protect Donald Trump. We took an oath to protect and serve the Constitution of the United States of America. And the way we do that is we begin impeachment proceedings, now, against this president."

Warren said, "The only reason Mueller did bring an indictment is because Mueller was following the Justice Department of the Trump administration saying that a sitting president cannot be criminally indicted. But he (Mueller) served up on a silver platter all of those facts to the United States Congress because in our checks and balance system, it's up to Congress to ensure that the president is not above the law."

Mueller report findings

A group of 636 former Justice Department prosecutors who served under both Democratic and Republican administrations issued a letter titled "Statement by Former Federal Prosecutors." In it, prosecutors rebuked Attorney General William Barr's interpretation of the Mueller report that it cleared the president of any wrongdoing. Instead prosecu-

tors assert that Trump would be indicted for obstruction of justice if he were not the sitting president.

The bipartisan letter stated: "Each of us believes that the conduct of President Trump described in Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report would, in the case of any other person not covered by the Office of Legal Counsel policy against indicting a sitting President, result in multiple felony charges for obstruction of justice."

Three points the prosecutors say satisfied elements for an obstruction charge:

- The President's efforts to fire Mueller and to falsify evidence about that effort;
- The President's efforts to limit the scope of Mueller's investigation to exclude his conduct; and
- The President's efforts to prevent witnesses from cooperating with investigators probing him and his campaign.

A few specific examples of obstruction: The trail of evidence starts with Trump's attempt to get Comey to drop an investigation into National Security Advisor, Michael Flynn.

When he refused, Trump fired James Comey, the FBI director responsible for overseeing the investigation into Trump's relationship with Russia during the 2016 election.

Trump made two more attempts at stopping the investigation by trying (unsuccessfully) to fire Robert Mueller.

"In our system, every accused person is presumed innocent and it is always the government's burden to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt," the letter states. "But, to look at these facts and say that a prosecutor could not probably sustain a conviction for obstruction of justice — the standard set out in Principles of Federal Prosecution — runs counter to logic and our experience."

Senator Warren, a former Harvard law professor, framed the case for obstruction in one of the clearest and simplest ways anyone has. She said the Mueller report showed:

1. A hostile foreign government attacked our 2016 elections to help Donald Trump get elected.

2. Donald Trump as a candidate welcomed that help

3. When our federal government tried to investigate parts 1 and 2. Donald Trump did everything he could to derail, push aside, and otherwise obstruct that investigation.

She said the concept of a sitting president being beyond prosecution is not seated in any law or legislation. It's a rule, a guideline set by the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel.

Republicans stand by Trump

Since Atty. General Barr said the special counsel's office would not be pursuing obstruction after the Mueller report's release, Republicans believe the President has been cleared of any wrongdoing.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said "it's time to move on."

He called the ongoing investigations in the House partisan paralysis and "breathless conspiracy theorizing."

"With an exhaustive investigation complete, would the country finally unify to confront the real challenges before us," said McConnell.

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy said, "How can you impeach somebody over not having broken any rules for impeachment? I believe it's wrong to do... they have no basis for impeachment but they want to do it for a political reason."

Only one Republican, Rep. Justin Amash, said the President has engaged in impeachable conduct and supports impeachment proceedings.

Local reaction

Lorraine Vega, a Democrat from Kunia said, "Trump is the worst president in my lifetime. He's done so many bad things. He's not a moral leader. I disagree with what he does all the time, but it's not about that. Other presidents I also disagreed with what they stood for, but Trump should be impeached because he broke the law. That is plain for all to see."

Reynaldo Domingo, an Independent from Ewa said, "Trump is doing a good job. Of course he shouldn't be im-

"In our system, every accused person is presumed innocent and it is always the government's burden to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. But, to look at these facts (in the Mueller report) and say that a prosecutor could not probably sustain a conviction for obstruction of justice (of Trump) — the standard set out in Principles of Federal Prosecution — runs counter to logic and our experience."

— STATEMENT BY
FORMER FEDERAL PROSECUTORS
(signed by 636 former Justice Department prosecutors that served under Republican and Democratic administrations)

peached. All of this stuff is a witch hunt, like Trump says. People don't like him. That's why they want him out. But that's not how it works. Wait for the next election and vote him out if you want. That's the way to do it."

Marilyn Cabuslay, a Democrat from Kapolei said, "Congress must act and do what their constitutional duty requires of them. They shouldn't be playing politics and worry about how impeachment will affect the 2020 presidential race. If you do that and do nothing, Democrats going to lose anyway because the people don't like weak politicians.

"We want strong leaders who can fight and do the right thing. Come on Nancy, do your job. If the situation was the opposite way, guarantee the Republicans would already have started impeachment. Democrats always are too nice. They lose that way."

New standard set should Congress fail to act

Some Democrats believe should Congress fail to step up to follow on the facts given to them in the Mueller report, it would change the relationship between the president and Congress for years even after Trump. Inaction would embolden future presidents to assert more executive power over Congress and undermine balance of power set under the Constitution.

The framers of the Constitution created three branches as a design of equal power-sharing. One branch would

always have a check on the other two, a distribution set up to avoid tyranny. If any one of those three parts fails to do its job, then we have a problem.

Robert Reich, Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley, gave examples of Trump already violating separation of powers.

"By issuing a blanket refusal to respond to any congressional subpoena, Trump is saying Congress has no constitutional authority to oversee the executive branch. He's telling America that Congress is a subordinate branch of government rather than a co-equal branch. Forget separation of powers."

Reich adds, "By spending money on his 'wall' that Congress explicitly refused to authorize, Trump is saying that Congress no longer has any constitutional authority over spending. Goodbye, checks and balances."

Most recently, the President's stonewalling Congress' investigation — this could be setting precedence for future presidents to not cooperate with Congress on potentially any investigation deemed to be a threat and on any issue.

For any president, shaking up the establishment in often unconventional ways is fair. But there are limits. Political historians will not be kind on this very moment if it resulted that the United States Constitution had been weakened because Congress failed to put a check on a president who broke the law.



By Melissa Martin, Ph.D.

Parents, Please Talk About Suicide Prevention

open conversation is imperative. And it's not a one-time conversation. How many parents reading this column have engaged in direct conversations with their kids about suicidal thoughts/plans? It's called prevention.

Parents are communicating more about alcohol and drugs. Parents are communicating more about birth control, sexually transmitted diseases, and sexual assault. Why not about suicide prevention?

It's time to communicate about suicide prevention and intervention with your kids. In addition to knowing the warning signs of depression and suicide, parents need to find local information about suicide prevention. Parents can guide their kids on what to do if their friends talk about death by suicide. Education, information and conversation are vital. Any comment by a child or adolescent about wanting to kill self should be taken seriously. If you learn that your child is thinking about suicide, get help immediately.

Will Trautwein, a teen, is the inspiration behind the Will To Live Foundation. He died by suicide. "John Trautwein and his family have taken the most difficult tragedy a family can know, and turned it into

a message to help us all. Our kids are at risk and we need to make sure they always have a will to live, and the Will To Live Foundation's Life Teammates message is helping to make this happen." www.will-to-live.org.

According to the American Psychological Association several factors increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behaviors, including: mental health disorders such as depression, anxiety and other mood disorders, alcohol and substance use, impulsive behaviors, history of trauma or abuse, family history of suicide, and previous suicide attempt(s). www.apa.org.

The major warning signs

for suicide include: threatening to hurt or kill oneself, seeking a means to kill oneself, hopelessness, increasing alcohol or drug use, and dramatic mood changes. To learn about warning signs that may not be so obvious, visit American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. www.afsp.org.

What can parents do? "While death is an uncomfortable subject for many people, it is important to be able to talk about it openly and honestly... Talking about suicide can help youth see the other options they have. There should be no fear in talking to young people about suicide." Look for The Jason Foundations Parent Resource Program on their website. www.jasonfoundation.com.

According to the Kids Health website, the risk of suicide increases dramatically when kids and teens have access to firearms at home, and nearly 60 percent of all suicides in the United States are committed with a gun. That's why any gun in your home should be unloaded, locked, and kept out of the reach of children and teens. www.kidshhealth.org.

Call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (8255). The Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Parents, keep talking about suicide prevention.

MELISSA MARTIN, Ph.D., is an author, columnist, educator, and therapist. She lives in Ohio. www.melissamartinchildreauthor.com.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death between children ages 10 to 18 in the United States, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

A recent finding in a 2019 Pediatrics journal article found that surveyed parents were clueless about the suicidal thoughts of their kids. In interviews with more than 5,000 Philadelphia-area kids ages 11 to 17 and their parents, researchers found that among the teens who reported suicidal thoughts, 50 percent of their moms and dads said they were unaware. www.pediatrics.aappublications.org.

And the number of children and teens being hospitalized for suicide attempts or suicidal thoughts doubled between 2007 and 2015, according to data analysis and a 2019 study published in JAMA Pediatrics.

Let's dispel a major myth. Discussing suicide prevention and education with your kids will not plant the idea into their minds. On the contrary,

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii Joins Other States to Oppose Calculation of Federal Poverty Threshold

Attorney General Clare E. Connors said Hawaii has joined a multistate coalition of 21 attorneys general, led by Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul and New York Attorney General Letitia James, in submitting a comment letter to the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB), opposing a proposal to change the way the federal poverty threshold is calculated. According to the attorneys general, an adjustment could result in millions of Americans becoming ineligible for, or entitled to less, government-funded benefits.

A wide range of federal

and state programs, including those that provide food stamps and health care assistance, rely on federal poverty thresholds to set eligibility standards. In their comments, the attorneys general argue that OMB's proposal to alter the way the poverty thresholds are updated over time could result in denying millions of people the assistance they deserve.

"OMB has not sufficiently justified these proposed changes," said Attorney General Connors. "If enacted, the proposed changes would negatively impact members of our community who rely

the most upon a wide range of federal and state programs."

For the purposes of calculating the federal poverty threshold, OMB defines inflation as a rise in the general level of prices and represents a decline in the purchasing power of money. In the comments, the attorneys general highlight research that shows low-income populations experience inflation at rates higher than other populations, and argue that lowering the measure of inflation will lower the poverty threshold and reduce the number of people who are deemed to be living in poverty and who are therefore eligible for federal benefits.

(EDITORIALS: SCOTUS ...from page 3)

vote to exclude non-citizens from the count they use to draw state legislation districts, consolidating Republican statehouse control.

Opinions such as Hofelior's had been circulating and have been well-known among Republican strategists over the advantage that could be gained by Republicans by changing the Census.

But Trump's administra-

tion claimed the question is needed to enforce the Voting Rights Act, to get more information about who is in the U.S.

Proposing to add the citizenship question is really about political power and an extension of Trump's anti-immigrant agenda. The current process is far more accurate than what it would have been with the proposed change.

SCOTUS – which in-

cludes two justices appointed by Trump – made the right decision. It's the first loss for the Trump administration at the Supreme Court (his administration was successful in the travel ban and his policy barring transgenders from the U.S. military). Immigrants and the communities they live in for now are spared from what this one citizenship question would have done.

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CANDID PERSPECTIVES

The First Asian American President?



By Emil Guillermo

The Democratic Debates have come and gone and there's a real chance of having an Asian American president.

Sorry Tulsi Gabbard. It's not going to be you. Not in 2020.

Andrew Yang? No, it's not going to be him.

Are you ready for Sen. Kamala Harris?

As Harris reinvents herself for a national audience, I can't help but think of when I wrote a column for "Asian Week," based in the San Francisco, and at one point the largest English-language Asian American publication in the nation. I wrote about how young Asian Americans were being beaten up by white hooligans in the traditionally white Sunset district.

The District Attorney chose not to prosecute.

The DA was Kamala Harris. Half-African American on her father's side. Half-Asian Indian on her mother's side.

It was a story made for Asian America and diversity. The city's chief law enforcement officer was one of us.

I talked with her office a few times about the incident. But the office was adamant. There would be no prosecution of the white bullies.

I talked to Harris in person about it, and later I bumped into her at an event. Our eyes met. Briefly, she turned white. She recognized me from my column photo, and then walked away cordially.

She was just a young DA then, not even Attorney General of the entire state. But now she's running for president.

I thought of that story when Harris jumped on Joe Biden at that second Demo-

cratic Debate last week.

"I do not believe you are a racist," Harris said, and then she launched into the recent story of Biden's past support of segregationist U.S. senators. You may recall Biden said the senators were at least "civil."

Harris was civil here, too. But she slammed Biden: "It was actually very hurtful to hear you talk about the reputations of two U.S. senators who built their reputations and careers on the segregation of race in this country. And it was not only that but you also worked with them to oppose busing," she said.

Then Harris told the story about a little girl waiting for a bus that would take her to an integrated public school in Berkeley, California.

"That little girl was me."

It was the mic drop moment at the two-hour debate.

Harris has lived the African American experience. She identifies as black, but it's only part of her story.

I asked my Gen Z daughter, who watched the debates from Washington, D.C., what she thought of Harris.

"She boohoos about being black and oppressed, but she put all the black people in jail that she could," my daughter said. Harsh, I thought. But she was referring to when Harris touted her "progressive" record as a prosecutor, which got the

attention of people like University of San Francisco associate law professor Lara Bazelon.

"Time after time, when progressives urged her to embrace criminal justice reforms as district attorney and then the state's attorney general, Ms. Harris opposed them or stayed silent," said Bazelon, the former director of Loyola Law School's Project for the Innocent in reports about Harris' story. "Most troubling, Ms. Harris fought tooth and nail to uphold wrongful convictions that had been secured through official misconduct that included evidence tampering, false testimony and the suppression of crucial information by prosecutors."

That story broke earlier this year. Now we're into the summer, when the reinvention is in high gear.

When I told my daughter Harris was half-Indian, I got a strange reaction.

"She's half Asian?" she said in disbelief. "Very good at code switching."

My daughter, half-Filipino, half-Caucasian, knows a little about that herself. She's like Harris. Diversity's blend, the best of America. A multiracial American.

I wonder when on the national stage Harris will acknowledge that fully.

At the Miami debate, she trumpeted her black sto-

ry. She even took a stab at speaking Spanish.

A ball of diversity, and there's even some Asian in there.

She just doesn't say it much when everyone is watching.

With 21 million Asian Americans in this country now, it is still an ongoing Asian American dream—that one day, there will be an Asian American president. Norm Mineta was close, as a former member of Congress and a cabinet secretary twice. There's Elaine Chao now. And even Gary Locke. All stuck in the cabinet.

This go round, it really won't be Tulsi Gabbard. Not judging from how robotic she seemed in the first debate last week. Yes, she served. OK. She's not ready for prime time on the mainland.

Nor is the be outsider tech-dude Andrew Yang, the so-called "Casual Rich Asian," the no-tie guy with the "\$1,000 dollars for your thoughts/Universal Income idea."

These ten person debates are visceral affairs. There's just enough time to swipe left or right. Yang is not the one.

But Harris does have a chance, as she deftly creates a story to endear herself to the country.

Her story is black. But it's also Asian. And everyone

needs to know, because people start leaving it out of the bio. And then it's a surprise, and people like my daughter say, "She's half-Asian?"

I just want to know: when will she see and recognize us—her fellow Asian Americans—on the national stage?

The sooner the better, because otherwise, it looks like she's taking Asian American support for granted with a manufactured story, buffed for maximum campaign advantage. How authentic!

But maybe this is the way of modern diversity. Things are so diverse, your race really doesn't matter.

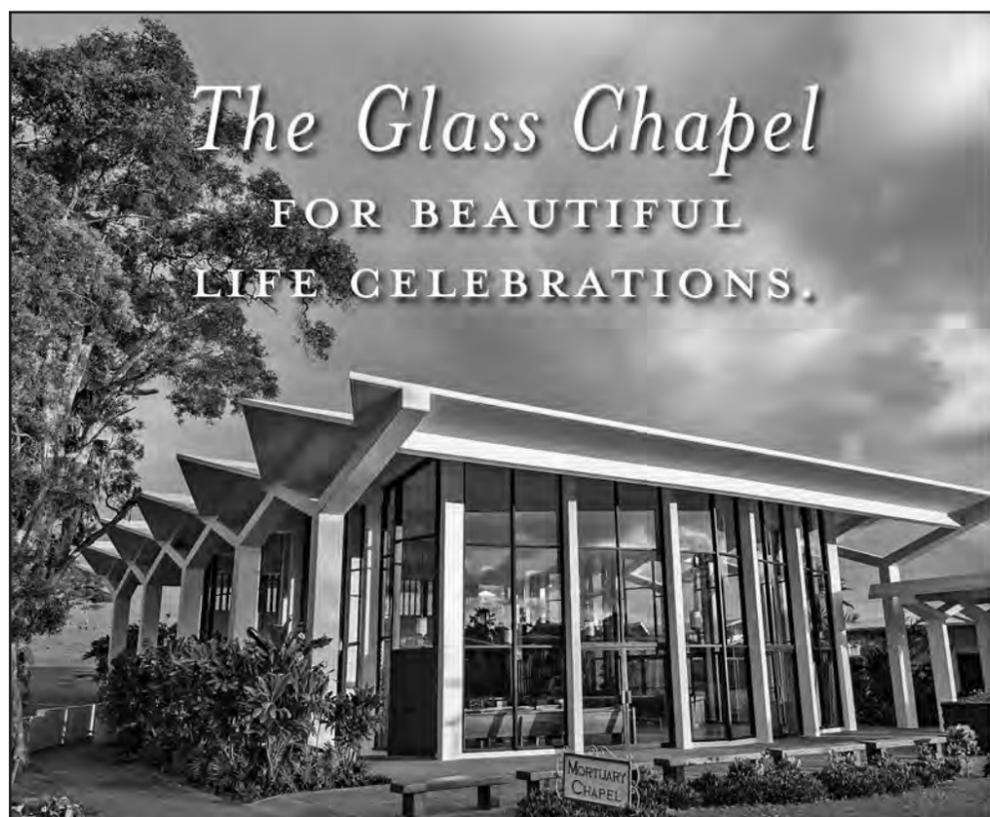
Unless, as Harris did on debate night, you want it to.

The rest of them

After these first two debates, I'd say Castro, Booker, and Warren topped the first one. Harris, Sanders, Buttigieg the second. Biden? I think he was exposed. He's ready to be the statesman, not president. I liked Marianne Williamson too. She's the real anti-Trump, the true outsider. And what a fight. Williamson's love vs. Trump's hate and divisiveness. My Reikiness felt Williamson's energy. But not for president. The wonks would rebel. They already think she's an alien. Like space alien.

So the sooner we get to

(continue on page 13)




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AS I SEE IT



By Elpidio R. Estioko

Artificial Intelligence Should Not Take the Place of Teachers in the Classroom

Instead of Artificial Intelligence (AI) controlling the teachers, it should be the other way around! Teachers need to embrace AI innovations to make them better teachers and help them automate basic teaching tasks. In short, let's use AI as a means not the end of education!

It has been observed that AI or the use of machines continue to automate operations across industries and trades. It should not be the case in education although teaching in the machine age is a vital component in education. Instead... let's use it as a tool because "It will make bad teachers good and good teachers better," and... it's not taking over the role of educators.

So, while technology or AI is a must for schools to be competitive in today's education age, it should not be replacing the teachers in the classroom!

This is according to a research, which I agree with

strongly, from the Clayton Christian Institute for Disruptive Innovation. Author and Lead Researcher Thomas Arnett in his report teaching in the *Machine Age: How Innovation can make bad teachers good and good teachers better*, he argued "that the teaching profession is not immune to the effects of scientific and technological progress. But instead of viewing technological progress as a threat, teachers should embrace AI innovations to help automate basic teaching tasks."

Unknowingly, school administrators have been experiencing three "challenging circumstances" in their respective educational institutions, when in fact they can employ AI to solve these problems and enhance their instructional models, according to Arnett.

Arnett pointed out that school administrators can solve the first circumstance of lack of expert teachers by utilizing high quality curricula and online-learning resources to help their teacher's boost educational outcomes. With the use of machines, Arnett said "Expert teachers carry out sophisticated teaching tasks, including developing instructional approaches, di-

agnosing difficulties, providing feedback on oral and written communication, fostering an achievement-oriented classroom culture, and talking with parents about their students' individual education plans."

As to circumstance number two, where teachers are confronted with an array of student needs, research shows they can use online tools to generate "better assessment data, provide learning resource recommendations, and give teachers more time and energy to work one-on-one and in small groups with students." Well, this is falling under the category of differentiated instruction which is more doable when teachers automate assessments, instructional planning, and basic instruction.

For number three circumstance, teachers looking to teach more than academics can utilize non-cognitive factors (goal-setting, teamwork, emotional awareness, self-discipline, grit, etc.) which are strong indicators of determining student success in college and beyond. To help students develop deeper learning and non-cognitive skills, Arnett recommends using "innovations that commoditize teacher expertise citing software that provides adaptive tutoring in math and languages as examples."

All these circumstances have to consider difficult students where the appropriate machine that is suited to

their needs must be identified and utilized. There's always a struggle even if the students are very responsible and disciplined. But, if we can use appropriate machines or tech gadgets and software in addressing these lapses, the degree of difficulty is minimized.

Linda Shalaway, in her article learning to teach... *Not just for Beginners: The Essential Guide for All Teachers*, she said that the goal is to help students feel good about themselves and their behavior in the classroom. This way, instruction is smoothly applied, retention solved, and students become successful in their education.

We have to be discreet and don't take things personal. We have to remember and make sure that students understand that it's their misbehavior we dislike, not them. Remember to give the misbehaving student a chance to respond positively by explaining not only what he or she is doing wrong, but also what he or she can do to correct it. Showing students that we care about them and their problems will help earn their respect and establish rapport.

We can't avoid personalities to clash even with the presence of machines in the classroom engaging the students. Sometimes, despite our good and best intentions, we find ourselves disliking a student. The student maybe rude, disrespectful, disruptive, obnoxious, or otherwise

annoying. It's just human nature, some personalities clash! "But instead of feeling guilty about our feelings, we can take positive steps to improve them," says school psychologist and teacher Shelley Krapes. I know this is easier said than done, but we need to understand it, be flexible about it, and practice it.

I do agree with Frank DiMaria, author of *Allowing Technology to Amplify Quality Teaching*, when he said that technology is useless... if it does not amplify classroom instructions because they are not properly utilized by qualified teachers.

Let us remember that to succeed in the 21st technology education, teachers must be prepared to use technology and must be trained to provide more adult guidance to students in modern technology gadgets. So, it's not merely having a lap top for student use or a computer for internet use or a television in the classroom or a white board for illustrations, but knowing how to use them properly for effective classroom instructions.

So, it all boils down to an excellent and versatile teacher using the machines appropriately in the classroom to suit best the needs of students!

ELPIDIO R. ESTIOKO was a veteran journalist in the Philippines and an award-winning journalist here in the US. For feedbacks, comments... please email the author at estiokoelpidio@gmail.com.

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PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

Reaching the Next Generation

By Seneca Moraleda-Puguan

Ot's commencement season in the Philippines. Pictures of graduating students wearing their 'sablay' and 'toga' are flooding my Facebook's newsfeed. A fresh batch of young hopefuls is sent off to the real world. What kind of world awaits them? What lies beyond the confines of their universities? What kind of leaders will they become? There are so many questions that only time can tell the answer.

Let me share an excerpt from the Valedictory Speech of Herbert Paat, lone summa cum laude of the University of the Philippines Los Baños Graduating Class of 2019.

"Many people long for purpose and significance. But they do not find it in this world. Our security and confidence are based on the wrong things. We find our essence in our relationships, fame, recognition, intelligence, or wealth. These are latched on to our virtual selves as curated by and through our social media accounts.

But the truth be said: our worth is not found in this world. It can only be found in God. Along the way, we have lost the values of integrity, honesty, honor, and excellence. We have perverted the definition of love. But let me tell you what love is.

Love is Jesus Christ dying for us despite the poverty of our souls. Love is the salvation He gave us for free by His grace. Love is selflessness and humility in service. Love is denying ourselves for the service of others and of God. Love is laying down one's life for others. The love of Jesus Christ is the solution to the poverty of our souls. In order to save the nation, we must save its people. And Christ can do that if we allow Him to enter our hearts.

My challenge for all of us graduates is clear. Let us overcome our poverties by applying the lessons we learned from UP and by knowing God, trusting Him, and walking in obedience to Him. Only then can we be honorable and excellent. Only then can we serve this nation!"

As I read his speech and ponder upon the current situation of our nation, my heart was struck. I was filled with hope for the next generation. But at the same time, a sense of urgency rushed through my veins as I look at my two little children. I have a very big role to play in their lives. I have been called not just to feed their bodies but also to nourish their souls by instilling in them the fear of the Lord that will guide them to become a man and a woman of integrity, humility and faith. I am raising the next generation of leaders who will one day



Pasig City Mayor Vico Sotto (center) with his parents Vic Sotto and Connie Reyes.

make an impact in their spheres of influence.

Just recently, 30-year old Vico Sotto ended the two-decade rule of a powerful political dynasty, the Eusebios. His promise of a leadership with integrity has won the hearts of the people of Pasig. He was considered a David who fought against a Goliath in the political arena. On his first day of office, he fulfilled a promise to suspend the three-year-old odd-even traffic scheme, which caused confusion among motorists. And it is just the beginning of a new Pasig under his leadership. Vico is a product of a prayerful and a God-fearing mother. When he was in the university, he was surrounded by men and women of faith who disciplined him to be the man that he is right now. He is a powerful example of a next-generation leader who at a young age has been reached by the gospel.

We need to raise more Vicos in this generation and in the

next. We need to give birth to more future leaders who will say no to corruption and unrighteousness, people who will fight against greed and selfishness, world-changers who will govern with integrity of heart and excellence in all their ways.

In a world where truth is relative and where the line between good and evil is thin and grey, we have a vital role to play. In a time where the youth is being lured into drug addiction and premarital sex, and many of them are drowning in anxiety and depression and attacked by insecurity and identity crisis, we are called to fight for them, and we have to fight hard. We should not give up on them and give them up to the whims of this world.

We have weapons in our hands. Prayer is the most powerful of them. We have the message of hope and light that will guide them to lead godly lives.

The best gift we can give them is our availability and listening ears. They must always be assured that we are here for them and that they are loved and not forsaken. As we raise them to be men and women of character and faith, integrity and honesty, love and compassion, the future will be bright and our nation will have hope.

I graduated thirteen years ago. Where I was released into was a tough playing field. But because of the many spiritual mothers and fathers who guided me when I was in the university, and the many prayers sown into my life, I was able to fight the battles I faced along the way. And now, as a mother of two, I have taken on the challenge to train the next generation who will change their world for the better. As I lay my hands on them in prayer every night and as I speak hope into their lives, I am sowing seeds in the nations and the next generation. My children are my greatest legacy. Raising them to be individuals who love, obey and fear the Lord will be my ultimate success. Through them, I can change the world.

As Psalm 78:4-6 says, *"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, His power, and the wonders He has done...so that the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born."*

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Report Shows Hawaii Third-Most Dangerous State for Elderly Pedestrians

Dangerous by Design 2019 ranked Hawai'i 30th in the nation based on the number of overall pedestrian fatalities. However, Hawai'i is the third-most dangerous state for pedestrians 50 and older.

"Our kupuna should not have to cross their fingers that they will be safe every time they cross the street," said Jackie Bolland, AARP Hawai'i's Outreach Director. "Hawaii has spent more than a decade ranked in the top three states for older pedestrian/ auto crashes per capita and it is time for the counties and the state to look at the root cause of these

crashes that are disproportionately affecting our kupuna and design specific counter measures to address them."

In the decade between 2008 and 2017, drivers struck and killed 226 pedestrians in Hawai'i. A disproportionate number of the deaths were kupuna. About 59.3 percent of the pedestrian deaths, or 134 people, were 50 and older. A 50+ pedestrian in Hawai'i is 2.6 times more likely to die on the state's streets and highways than someone under 50.

Hawai'i has the dubious distinction of having the highest per-capita deaths of people

65 and older, with 3.56 pedestrian fatalities per 100,000 residents 65 or older. The average is down from the last Dangerous by Design report in 2016 when Hawai'i's per capita death rate was 4.96 pedestrian deaths per 100,000 residents 65 and older. Ten years ago, in the 2009 report, Hawai'i led the nation in 65+ pedestrian deaths with an average of nearly seven deaths per capita.

The Dangerous By Design report looked at the difference between per capita deaths of older and younger pedestrians to rank how dangerous a state is for older residents.

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FEATURE

CHEF JOEL NAVASCA ELEVATES FILIPINO CUISINE IN HAWAII

By Mark Lester Sanchez

Chef Joel Navasca was not one to brag about his accomplishments, not even after winning the island's highly lauded Best of Hawaii last year, and getting an average 4.3 stars on Yelp. Instead, he beamed sincerely at me and recalled with eagerness his good old days in the incipient years of his career within the food industry. Sitting across me in the make-shift sit-in eatery at Tiano's food truck location in Waipahu, he confided how it all started when he worked as a dishwasher at Maria's Mexican Food in the 80s. "That was my first exposure in the business," he said, noting how he was exposed to the restaurant's ins and outs.

However, it wasn't until he started working as a line cook at the Fisherman's Wharf, in Kalihi, that he

was spurred into considering food and cooking seriously. "That's where I learned how to cook from the scratch," he recalled, disclosing to me how he had learned from the restaurant's cooks the "basic reasonings behind the certain ways foods are prepared"—an epiphany that would change his life forever. He's been perfecting the food experience ever since.

When asked about the inspirations behind his restaurant, Tiano, Chef Joel said that he came from a family of cooks. In fact, his father was known in the Philippines for his caldereta, and his mother for sweet delicacies, like puto de maya and suman. However, the idea of serving only Filipino dishes wasn't enough—he thought that in order for the business to be marketable, it had to cater to many varying tastes. "Cooking is subjective," he added. "It is what you know and what you have experienced." And so from



Chef Joel Navasca

his gastronomic experiences when he was still in the Philippines, and his various food exposures when he migrated to the Hawaii, Chef Joel created a unique scheme of food experience that involved local, American, and Filipino flavors, and would culminate in the establishment of the restaurant in 2016.

But there is still a more far-reaching vision and mission behind his second venture into the food business (the first time was in 2014, which had failed because of diverging interests between him and his partner). He said it was to expose more authen-

tic Filipino flavors to a bigger audience in the island, to "bring [the flavors] in slowly, consistently, gradually," and to offer resources and mentorship to aspiring Filipinos who want to delve into the culture's food experience. "If I had the same resources I have now 20 years ago," he speculated, "it wouldn't have taken me this long."

With the growing popularity of his restaurant on the island, and his pursuit to capture wider varieties of patrons, Chef Joel decided to make it accessible to everyone and everywhere by acquiring a food truck. The first food truck was acquired unintentionally from a car purchase, and has since become a part of a bigger plan—to bring Filipino flavors to those who seek them. The restaurant has then obtained more trucks for this sole purpose. "If you want Tiano," he said cheerfully, "then we'll bring them to you."

When asked about what he would tell his dotting customers and new patrons, he

said he wants them to know two things: 1) the Filipino cuisine is as diverse as the ethnic tribes they came from, offering not only one but many flavors that represent each of the ethnic cultures, and so we should treat each of them unique and individual; and 2) for Filipinos to patronize their own flavors, to "give consideration to our own," he suggested. If these two statements are openly met by the market mass, the Filipino cuisine will surely elevate itself from the limbo that it found itself in. "We need collaboration to push us forward," he said.

Tiano's Restaurant not only caters Filipino flavors to its patrons in its three locations on the island but it also does community and fundraising events. For more information, contact Chef Joel Navasca on the restaurant's website, mytianos.com.

Editor's Note: If you know an inspiring Filipino individual (or organization) in Hawaii and want him/her to be featured, contact the HFC at filipinochronicle@gmail.com.

NEWS FEATURE

Clearer Regulation on Pesticide Use on Campuses, Community Demands

By Mark Lester Sanchez

It wasn't too many years ago when Dwayne Johnson, who also goes with the name Lee, lived a good life: nice house with his family and a decent paying job at a local school in

his town. But four years ago he found out he had acquired cancer, and on its terminal stage, after being drenched in Roundup, the herbicide he used to spray weeds as a school groundskeeper. With the shock from the news, and the shortage of answers from the former producer of the her-

bicide, Monsanto, everything started to plummet. At least that's what he claimed at the community gathering at Leilehua High School on the 24th of June, with two of DOE's personnel—Chairperson Catherine Payne and Superintendent Christina Kishimoto—and many concerned and outraged

citizens from around the islands, in a State-wide conversation on effectively regulating or banning restricted pesticides on school properties.

With bittersweet enthusiasm, Johnson recounted his job as an Integrated Pest Manager at the school he was working, detailing how the herbicide, in a fateful accident, spilled through his Personal Protective Equipment gear, and drenched his body with the chemical glyphosate. Initially, he didn't think of his situation grave, he confided. However, just a few months after, he started to see growth of lesions around his body, and after a visit with a dermatologist, he found out that he had acquired non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a type of cancer that begins in white blood cells. At once, he sought reasons from Monsanto, whom he got little to none explanation. However, through browsing the internet, he discovered the

company's nefarious dealings with the herbicide, and its attempt to quiet the controversy. He then sued the multi-billion dollar company, and miraculously won, the world dubbing him the first man to have won against one of the most powerful and controversial corporations in the world.

The participants, however, were not exactly enthused, especially by the DOE's performance in the implementation of better and clearer regulations of pesticide and herbicide usage in Hawaii, which was the focus of the meeting—there was a collective vexation and displeasure inside the room. A concerned citizen expressed her frustration with the lack of a clearer policy on regulation and on how to hold accountable its transgressors. "[These chemicals] should not be around children," she said, noting

(continue on page 14)



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LEGAL NOTES

Entering the U.S. Under a Different Name



By Atty. Reuben S. Seguritan

Of an alien enters the United States by using someone else's name, this is considered as fraud or willful misrepresentation of a material fact and is a ground of inadmissibility. This act will prevent the alien from obtaining lawful permanent residence or a green card.

However, the alien may apply for a waiver to forgive this fraud of using a different name. To be eligible for this waiver, the alien must have a qualifying relative. The law considers only US citizens

and lawful permanent resident spouses or parents to be qualifying relatives. Children are not qualifying relatives for purposes of this waiver.

The alien must demonstrate extreme hardship to the qualifying relative in case of a finding of inadmissibility. Several factors are relevant in determining extreme hardship. These are: the qualifying relative's family ties in the United States; political and economic conditions in the country of origin of the alien; the financial impact of departure from the US by the qualifying relatives; and health conditions of the qualifying relatives and; the unavailability of suitable medical care for the qualifying relatives in the country of the alien.

Not only must these eli-

gibility requirements be met, but the alien must also show that his case warrants a grant of waiver in the exercise of discretion by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). The negative factors must be balanced with the equities or the social and humane considerations in one's case.

Obtaining a waiver is not easy. The waiver application must be detailed and complete and sufficiently show that the qualifying relative would suffer extreme hardship if the alien is not allowed to remain in the United States.

In a case that our firm handled, we were able to help a client obtain his green card despite the misrepresentation he committed as he entered the US with an assumed name

more than thirty years ago.

Our client left the Philippines in the 1980s to escape poverty and political strife, entered the US using a passport and B-2 visa with a different name, and remained past his authorized period of stay.

Two years later, he met a fellow recent immigrant who was working as a nurse at a New York hospital and would later get her green card and then her US citizenship. They fell in love, had children, and lived together as husband and wife ever since.

For more than three decades, our client kept secret his immigration status from other people until he neared retirement age. Unless he becomes a lawful permanent resident, all his hard work and perseverance since he arrived in the US would be for naught. He had to come to terms with his past and decide whether to finally apply for a green card.

Faced with the possibility of being denied a green card if found ineligible for a waiver and eventually deported, he sought our firm's assistance.

We showed the immigration authorities that his US citizen wife would suffer extreme hardship whether she remains in the United States by herself or is forced to relocate to the Philippines to be with our client.

We submitted proof of her

health conditions, including diabetes and hypertension, for which she was receiving top-notch medical care in the US, and compared that with the high cost of medicines and treatment in the Philippines. We pointed out that the wife has many family ties in the US, including her US citizen children, while she no longer has family in the Philippines.

We also argued that relocation would cause financial hardship because she would lose her job at the hospital in the US but most likely not get hired in the Philippines because of her age and the unfavorable labor market conditions for nurses there.

Our waiver packet included supporting affidavits and documentation to evidence the wife's extreme hardship as well as our client's good moral character.

Fortunately, we were able to convince the USCIS that the US citizen wife would face extreme hardship if the waiver is denied and that our client was deserving of a favorable exercise of discretion. The waiver application was approved and our client was given a green card.

REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695 5281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com

MAINLAND NEWS

U.S. Court Reconsiders Claim that Census Question Discriminates Against Minorities

GREENBELT, MD-- In a new potential block to the addition of a citizenship question on the 2020 Census, U.S. District Court Judge George J. Hazel granted a request from Advancing Justice | AAJC (Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC) and MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) to reconsider whether members of the Trump administration conspired with others to intentionally discriminate against Latinos, Asian Americans, and non-citizens when it added a citizenship question to the 2020 Census.

John C. Yang, President and Executive Director of Advancing Justice | AAJC, said, "This is a step in the right direction. We are now in a position to show

conclusively that the addition of the citizenship question was motivated by racial animus against immigrant communities."

The motion before Judge Hazel to reconsider his ruling was filed June 3 and follows revelations that a Republican redistricting strategist worked with administration officials to include a citizenship question in the decennial census to unlawfully advantage "Republicans and Non-Hispanic Whites."

Advancing Justice | AAJC and MALDEF sued the Trump administration in May 2018 on behalf of Latino and Asian American individuals, Native Americans, social service non-profits, state legislative associations, civil rights groups, voting rights organizations, and

community partnerships.

On April 5, Judge Hazel ruled that the addition of the citizenship question violates the Administrative Procedure Act and the Enumeration Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The court fell short of granting a claim that the administration's intent was to discriminate against non-citizens and that members of the administration conspired to deprive racial minorities of their constitutional right to equal representation.

Advancing Justice | AAJC and MALDEF filed an appeal on April 14 in the U.S. Court of Appeals 4th Circuit challenging Judge Hazel's ruling on the question. That appeal is moving forward. Judge Hazel ruled that the new evidence raises "substantial issues" for the Fifth Amendment claim.

(CANDID PERSPECTIVES: THE FIRST ASIAN...from page 11)

the six I mentioned, we'll get to candidates that can appeal to both the wonks and the casual voters who will decide this election. And to more thoughtful debates.

The six are pretty solid. Diverse across age, race, gender. Booker's a vegan too. Rest assured, There's

even some Asianness amongst the six, somewhere.

Obama always mentioned Hawaii, but rarely mentioned his whiteness. Was it understood?

Not so obvious with Harris that the Asian is there. But if last week catapulted her as a person who can

take on Biden and subsequently Trump, we have a game-changer.

The First Asian American president? Could happen.

EMIL GUILLERMO is a veteran journalist and commentator. He was a member of the Honolulu Advertiser editorial board. Listen to him on Apple Podcasts. Twitter @emilamok.





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Hawai'i Department of Health Launches Senior Fall Prevention Awareness Campaign

The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) launched its annual senior fall prevention awareness campaign on June 17 and it will continue through July 27. The campaign features a broadcast public service announcement, educational video about fall prevention,

distribution of materials with medication reviews and balance testing information, "A Matter of Balance" coaches trainings, Tai Chi for Health Institute classes, and community presentations about preventing falls among older adults. "As Hawai'i's population continues to age, it is important for everyone to be prepared and equipped to prevent falls, especially among older adults," said Danette Wong Tomiyasu, deputy director of health resources. "Simple falls may seem relatively harmless, but they can significantly impact the overall health and well-being of elderly adults

and could lead to severe injury and sometimes death."

Statistics from DOH's Emergency Medical Services & Injury Prevention Branch (EMSIPSB) show that about 130 seniors in Hawai'i die each year from fall-related injuries, and another 9,400 are treated in hospitals for non-fatal injuries, including nearly 1,900 who are hospitalized. DOH offers the following advice to seniors, family members and caregivers to prevent

- falls and fall-related injuries:
- Have your doctor or pharmacist review your medications annually;
 - Get an eye exam at least once a year;
 - If you live alone, get a life-saving Personal Electronic Safety Device;
 - Make your home safer by removing fall hazards and improving lighting; and
 - Exercise regularly to increase balance and flexibility.

NEWS FEATURE: CLEARER REGULATION...from page 12

that suggestions from the community will not be taken into heed unless the policy is very clear.

Theresa K., an alumnus of the school and a parent, however, said that "policy is nothing when there is law," referring to Hawaii law 149A, or Hawaii Pesticides Law, that states regulations of pesticides usage in the islands, which was only passed earlier this year. "My kids no longer go to any of the [alumni] farm events," she said, "because they are rampant with chemicals. And they lie about it straight to your face."

Franny Corpus, a resident of Maui and Molokai, said that spraying of the chemical glyphosate on school grounds

is almost "criminal," stating that if there is a law or a policy already on place, then why are schools still using lethal pesticides?

In DOE's defense, Kishimoto cited that there is, in fact, a policy in effect regarding pesticide and herbicide usage in the State's campuses. However, it is accountability and surveillance that complicate the situation (and the lack of "teeth" of these regulations, as commented and echoed by many of the participants). When asked about what the DOE's immediate action would be, she said they are currently looking at two actions: 1) to scrutinize more the organization's purchase system, and all

acquisitions that use the State funds; and 2) to clarify what is in each campus's "drawers," and what is to be expected of the policy. However, should concerned parents or community members see campuses still utilizing restricted pesticides, like Roundup, she strongly suggested to refrain from confronting the administering personnel and to directly communicate with the appropriate bodies, i.e. the principal or the complex area superintendent. "This is about following through and making sure every level of the organization, everyone understands, not only what the policy is but also why the policy is in place, and how important it is," she said.

State Leaders Meet with Private Sector Leaders to Discuss Energy Innovation

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii and Hawaii Energy hosted a roundtable discussion with Mayors Kirk Caldwell, Derek Kawakami and Michael Victorino, and Hawaii County Deputy Director of Research and Development Ron Whitmore on Hawaii's leading role in energy innovation to confront climate change through efficiency and renewable resources.

"As an island state, Hawaii must face the realities of climate change and take bold steps to mitigate its impact," Sherry Menor-McNamara, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii President & CEO said. "The Chamber and our business community

(continue on page 15)

(Sagot sa Krosword Blg. 6 | June 15, 2019)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TINIKLING ADULT DANCE CREW PROGRAM | July 13, 2019; 11:00 AM - 12:00 NN | Kaimuki Studo, 3030 Waiialae Ave. Honolulu, HI | The event is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Gabe at 808-232-1466 or visit www.tekniqlingz.org

TINIKLING FOR KIDS! A CHILDREN'S FILIPINO FOLK DANCE PROGRAM | July 20, 2019; 10:00 - 11:00 AM | Lanakila Multi-Purpose Senior Center, 1640 Lanakila Avenue, Honolulu, HI 96817 | The event is free and open to the public. For more information please contact Gabe at 808-232-1466 or visit www.tekniqlingz.org

OHANA MEDICAL MISSION | August 1 - 13, 2019 | Medical mission to 6 major areas of Cebu and Davao | For more information, contact JP Orias at 888-674-7624, Fax:888-391-7624 or email: info@ohanamedicalmissions.org

FILIPINO NURSES ORGANIZATION OF HAWAII (FNOH) EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AWARDS | August 10, 2019; 6:00 PM | Hilton Hawaiian Village Resorts Coral Ballroom | For more details call: Lolita Echaz Ching at 387-7635, Luanne Long at 754-0594

PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN HAWAII (PWAH) PRESENTS FILIPINIANA BALL 2019 | August 30, 2019; 6:00 PM | Hibiscus Ballroom, Ala Moana Hotel | Call details call: Letty Saban: 255-9429, Lina Mercado: 382-7751, Carlota Ader: 797 4381, Mimi Gozar: 312-0778

UNIVERSITY OF THE EAST FUN DANCE | November 16, 2019; 6:00 - 11:00 PM | Pagoda Hotel Ground Floor | Dinner ticket: \$40.00. Contact: Baybee 753-5616; Joe Lim 479-6259; Pris Galanto 295-0774; Carina Ocampo. 382-3374; Pepito "PG" Guevarra 386-6379; Ronnie Agustin 306-9427; Ella Somera Isidro

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MAINLAND NEWS

Schatz to College Board: You're Underestimating True Costs of College

Washington, D.C.-- U.S. Senator Brian Schatz and 14 senators asked the College Board to change its approach to its annual reports to better reflect the costs of attaining higher education. The College Board is a non-profit organization that promotes higher educa-

tion preparation and administers standardized tests, including the SAT.

"The College Board's annual publications, Trends in Student Aid and Trends in College Pricing, are well known to the higher education community and serve as meaningful resources for policymakers and the public. Unfortunately, these reports underestimate the current

state of college prices. The College Board can help address college affordability by updating these reports to better reflect the true costs of attaining higher education," the senators wrote.

The letter also stated the national student loan debt has topped \$1.5 trillion, making it the second highest consumer debt category. (Mortgage debt is the first).

(HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS: STATE LEADERS...from page 14)

will continue to play a vital role in addressing climate change and facilitating our state's transition to 100% renewable energy. Convening our state's top leaders to discuss how we can work together is a critical step in this transition, and

we thank Hawaii Energy for making this event possible."

Hawaii Energy Executive Director Brian Kealoha facilitated a discussion on how counties can work together to promote environmental sustainability, the use of re-

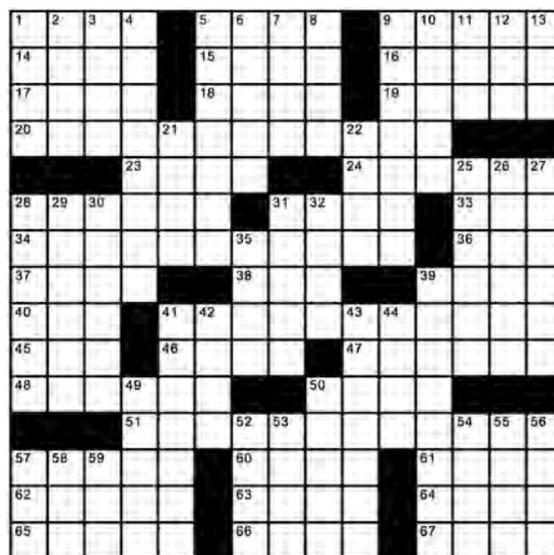
newable energy and the mitigation of sea level rise and other effects of climate change. The Mayors and Deputy Director Whitmore presented on the innovative programs that their counties are undertaking to support these efforts.

CROSSWORD No. 7 by Carlito Lalicon

ACROSS

- 1. Baby's first word, maybe
- 5. Able to see right through
- 9. Wild Asian dog
- 14. Lumberjack
- 15. Average
- 16. Vagabond
- 17. Burglar
- 18. Despicable
- 19. Battery terminal
- 20. Former Senator from Mindanao
- 23. Blend
- 24. Dead
- 28. Cake
- 31. French father
- 33. Caviar
- 34. Benevolent
- 36. Operate

- 37. River deposit
- 38. Basic unit of money in Moldova
- 39. Reddish-brown gem
- 40. French seasoning
- 41. Condition of not existing
- 45. Too cold to handle
- 46. Dare
- 47. Over there
- 48. Iran
- 50. Porn
- 51. Capital of Haiti
- 57. Homosexual man
- 60. Came down
- 61. PDEA agent
- 62. Fine porcelain
- 63. Old newspaper section
- 64. Blunted blade



- 65. Renaissance fiddle
- 67. Bawdy

DOWN

- 1. Central American Indian
- 2. Figure skater's jump
- 3. Large
- 4. Contention
- 5. Useful
- 6. Water nymph
- 7. Cultivate
- 8. Sundae topper
- 9. Confounded
- 10. Accept
- 11. Not perfectly round
- 12. Certain digital watch face
- 13. Bard's "before"
- 21. Sure!
- 22. Nostril
- 25. Gofer's job
- 26. Informant
- 27. Sore
- 28. Chit-chat

- 29. Each
- 30. Bank clerk
- 31. College head
- 32. Decorative case
- 35. Hebrew leader
- 39. Guard
- 41. Inane
- 42. Approach
- 43. Evidence
- 44. Journey
- 49. Future fungus
- 50. Hotel offering
- 52. Mountain pool
- 53. African flower
- 54. Back of the neck
- 55. Work party
- 56. Squeezed
- 57. Alpine sight
- 58. French soul
- 59. Blah-blah-blah

(Solution will be on the next issue of the Chronicle)

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