

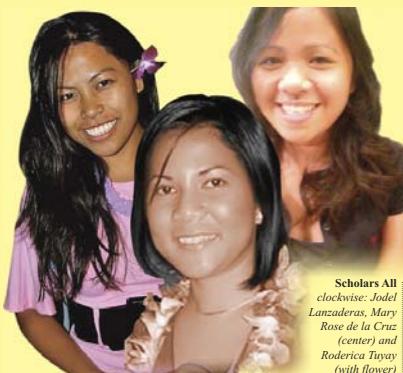
HAWAII-PHILIPPINE NEWS EDITION



FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

UH FILIPINO PROGRAM STUDENTS RECEIVE FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS



Scholars All:
clockwise: Jodel
Lanzaderas, Mary
Rose de la Cruz
(center) and
Roderica Tuyay
(with flower)

By HFC Staff

University of Hawaii-Manoa Filipino and Philippine Literature Program students Mary Rose de la Cruz, Jodel Lanzaderas and Roderica Tuyay have received the Fulbright-Hayes Scholarship Awards from the U.S. Department of Education Study Abroad Project.

The scholarships, equivalent to \$4,126 each, allows the students to participate in the 2008 Fulbright Program that will take place at De La Salle University in Dasmariñas, Cavite, Philippines from June 13-August 9, 2008. The scholarships include free roundtrip airfare, tuition, books and other academic materials, board and lodging, in-country travels and stipend.

De la Cruz is a sophomore pre-nursing student who also wants to major in Filipino.

"It was impressed with the goals of the Advanced Fulbright Program in inculcating the most precious culture heritage of the

Philippines through its national language," she said. "Learning Filipino at a wider perspective in my mind will be the best way to appreciate and be proud of my language."

Lanzaderas believes in the saying that "one never loses anything for trying—one can only gain." She is a sophomore majoring in accounting and minoring in Filipino. She said the UH Filipino Program has helped her "rediscover my culture and in my search to learn even more."

Tuyay is majoring in finance and international business and minoring in Filipino. For

(continued on page 4)

Sharon Cuneta to Attend "Caregiver" Premiere in Hawaii

By Carlota ADER

To celebrate Star Cinema's 15th anniversary and Philippine movie megastar Sharon Cuneta's 30th anniversary in showbiz, ABS-CBN International's Starry Starry Store is bringing another groundbreaking film project to North America in "Caregiver."

Directed by award-winning filmmaker Chito Rofio and marking Cuneta's return to the silver screen since "Crying Ladies" in 2003, "Caregiver" will premiere June 1st at the Hawaii Theatre. Cuneta and Rofio will be present at the premiere.

In "Caregiver," Cuneta plays Sarah, a grade school English teacher who gives up teaching and joins her husband, Teddy, a hospital worker, in the United Kingdom for a more financially-rewarding job as a caregiver.

Being away from family and adjusting to the difficulties of being a caregiver in London—cold weather, the dirty work, the difficult patients—results in tension between the two, which take a toll on their marriage. Will their decision to work in London ultimately

wreck the very family for whom they have vowed to create a better life?

Cuneta said that she gained a newfound respect for OFW's employed as caregivers in other countries. She has revealed in interviews that she can't stand being away from her family for long periods of time.

"The three weeks I was away from my family shooting in London, I felt like I was going to go crazy," she said. "I kept calling home. I was crying because I missed my family so much."

Cuneta added that those who see "Caregiver" will have a deeper respect and appreciation for all caregivers.

Joining Cuneta in "Caregiver" are John Estrada, Rica Peralejo, Makisig Morales, John Manalo, Jhong Hilario, Mickey Ferolito, Lotlot Leon, Monique Wilson, Martin Zobel, Anita Linda, Ella V., Ima Castro and Boots Anson Ross. British actors Saul Reichlin, Matthew Rutherford and Claire Jeater were also tapped for the film.

Screening times for the premiere are 4 pm and 8 pm. For more information, please call 1-(800) 227-9676.

Pinoy Sculptor Strikes Olympic Gold



A stainless-steel work by Filipino sculptor Arturo Datuin that reinterprets the traditional Olympic logo into a flight of the athletic spirit was the grand prize for sculpture in the international Sport and Art Contest, which is connected to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Datuin will receive \$30,000 as part of the award.

"Dancing Rings" recasts the conventionally horizontal Olympic logo into a vertical leap of faith, much like a gymnast or a classical dancer in action, to signify both human grace and human solidarity.

"We've struck gold even before the

Beijing games have opened," said Ramon Orina, Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) art coordinator who screened the Philippine entries for the contest.

Datin, 52, is known for his modernist idiom which he acquired as a Fine Arts student at the University of Santo Tomas where his mentors included national artists J. Elizalde Navarro, Cenon Rivera, Angelito Antonio, Leon Pacaurayan and Mario Parial. He also apprenticed under renowned artist Arturo Luz at the Design Center of the Philippines from 1977-1981.

Datin's modernist style is also evident in his media graphics. As former media director of ABS-CBN, he designed the logos, studio sets and ad campaigns for the network giant. (www.philippine.com) ■

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EDITORIAL**A Crime Against Humanity**

The secretary-general of the United Nations visited, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations gathered to discuss the delivery of humanitarian aid to an estimated 2.4 million survivors of Cyclone Nargis, which struck Myanmar four weeks ago. What did they get for their efforts? Minor concessions from the Myanmar junta, which has limited the entry of foreign aid workers to a trickle. The foreigners are still mostly confined to the former capital Yangon, away from the scene of the worst devastation in the Irrawaddy River delta.

Nearly a month after the cyclone, the junta is fully focused on political matters, holding a referendum on its constitution that it claims was overwhelmingly ratified, and making sure dissidents continue to be kept on a tight leash. In response to appeals from the international community for the release of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the opposition which called the referendum a sham, the junta announced another extension of her detention for an unspecified period.

Suu Kyi's supporters pointed out that the announcement violated Myanmar laws, which stipulate that no one can be detained for more than five years without being put on trial or released. The opposition leader, who would have been her country's leader if the junta had respected the results of free elections, has been under continuous house arrest in Yangon since May 2003. She has been detained for a total of about 12 years in the past 18 years.

In the previous year the junta decided to give up the rotating chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations rather than give in to ASEAN demands for democratic reforms, including the release of Suu Kyi.

The junta's fear of opening up Myanmar to the world borders on the pathological. In some countries, failure to come to the aid of disaster victims is a criminal offense. In Myanmar the junta would rather see its



people die from disease and starvation than accept international humanitarian aid. Anywhere in the world where reason prevails, this is a crime against humanity. (www.philstar.com) ■

Changing of the Guard

See what happens when a law is passed but never enforced. A warning was issued last week that the country risked being blacklisted again as a money laundering haven unless a law is passed that makes terrorist financing a criminal offense. Officials pointed out that this is already provided for in the Human Security Act, the country's first counterterrorism law that was passed last year. But because no one wants to implement this law, anti-money laundering authorities may not be impressed.

For a long time the Philippines was lumped together with notorious laundering havens such as the Cayman Islands and Liechtenstein by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force. The FATF was formed amid a growing global terrorist threat, and naturally zeroed in on the international flow of money to terrorist organizations. But the campaign also affects other bank deposits, including funds laundered by organized crime rings and corrupt public officials.

The Philippines was one of the last countries to get over its fears of money flight if bank secrecy laws were eased and a certain amount of bank transaction would automatically trigger a laundering alert. After contentious debates, Congress settled on a reporting threshold of P500,000.

Some quarters have branded the country's inclusion in the FATF blacklist as unfair and discriminatory. But counterterrorism forces have reason to be wary of the Philippines. The country has been an area of operation of jihadists loosely linked to al-Qaeda. Osama bin Laden's brother-in-law opened an Islamic charity in Mindanao that reportedly funneled money to the Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist network. One of Bin Laden's top aides, now detained in connection with the Sept. 11 attacks, used to hang out in Manila, and the perpetrators of the first bombing of the World Trade Center plotted attacks in a Malate apartment.

Being on the FATF blacklist means Philippine financial transactions are subjected to closer scrutiny by other countries that have received the task force's stamp of approval. This slows down financial transactions and adds to the cost of doing business in this country. Among those affected are the millions of Filipinos working overseas and their massive remittances. The country must decisively address the concerns of the money laundering police. (www.philstar.com) ■



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EDITORIAL

Universal Rights

As several quarters have noted, there were fewer cases of unexplained killings targeting militant activists and journalists last year. But unexplained disappearances continued, with the most notable case being the kidnapping of Jonas Burgos, son of the late publisher and freedom fighter Jose Burgos.

Amnesty International, which launched its annual report yesterday on the state of human rights around the world, noted that there was still a long way to go in upholding the 60-year-old Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Though the declaration was approved by the United Nations following the atrocities during World War II, certain cultures have criticized the rights specified in the declaration and have issued their own versions for the guidance of their citizens.

The Philippines is committed to abiding by the universal declaration, but its human rights record has depended on its national leadership. Two decades after a popular revolt ended the Marcos dictatorship and restored democracy, the country was considered the second most dangerous place in the world after Iraq for journalists because of the number of killings targeting

the press. Today the Philippines continues to rank low in the global press freedom index because of the impunity that marks the killings and disappearances and the state's failure to solve the cases.

Still, there are some promising developments. After three years, the Armed Forces of the Philippines finally turned over to the National Bureau of Investigation an Army soldier tagged as the principal suspect in the murder of the leader of the labor organization in Hacienda Luisita.

For its part, the Philippine National Police relieved nine officers led by a superintendent who participated in what they described as a shootout with three suspected bank robbers in Tanauan, Batangas. The Commission on Human Rights, after a preliminary probe, said the encounter was "an out and out rubout" – a conclusion questioned yesterday by the Department of Justice, though it agreed with the relief of the nine officers. The PNP had initially announced that the three, plus a fourth man who was shot dead elsewhere, were suspected in the robbery at the RCBC branch in Cabuyao, Laguna where nine employees and a security guard were killed. But so far nothing has turned up to link the three dead suspects to the robbery.

The only positive development there is that the PNP quickly grounded the cops. That's progress, but the country still has some way to go in upholding human rights. (www.philstar.com) ■

LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION

How's Your Gas Mileage?



by Senator Will
ESPERO

A couple of years ago, TIME magazine noted that high gas prices would succeed where all other efforts failed in persuading Americans to conserve gas when driving. TIME was right. In the last several weeks, the morning commute to town has shortened dramatically, even without school breaks, as residents adopted other ways to save at the pump. Carpool, Vanpool, TheBoat, TheBus, bicycle, motorcycles and motor scooters – and moving closer to your job – these are all ways that people have switched to in the effort to survive the climbing prices of gas.

Of course, if the rail was already here, we'd also have that option.

High gas prices are only great if you're an oil executive. In the last few years oil companies have repeatedly broken their own profit records. Last year, Exxon boasted an annual profit of just under \$42 billion, the highest profit of all U.S. companies. The next four oil companies followed nearby, with all five enjoying a combined \$127 billion in profits in 2007. At Congress's recent hearings regarding the rising price of gasoline, lawmakers noted that the oil companies' first quarter profits pointed to even greater record-breaking profits this year.

As market commentators note, demand drives up price, and up until now, that demand for

oil came from the U.S. With China now driving up demand, financial experts predict that prices will go even higher. Higher than \$4 a gallon? Hawaii residents would be hard hit.

Believe it or not, in 2002 we all complained when gas crept up to \$1.7 a gallon. Back then, economists worried that oil would hit \$55 a barrel. This week, oil shot past \$130 a barrel. If a family drives two cars to town each day to take children to private school or go to work, this hike in prices would cost over \$600 a month more than in 2002.

With our high cost of living, Hawaii families could benefit greatly if cars had much higher fuel efficiency. Cutting costs spent at the gas pump means more money available for mortgage or rent payments, personal loan or credit car payments, school tuition, medical or dental needs, and other family expenses.

The Honolulu Star-Bulletin not too long ago chronicled personal stories of Hawaii families who told about how paying more at the pump means they have less to pay for everything else. That's true. I wonder how many of the current homes in foreclosure are due to families paying so much for gas that they cannot meet their mortgage payments. Surely when those families applied for their home loans five or six years ago, they were able to make payments based on commuting costs that were much less than they are now.

Do you feel it would help Hawaiians if cars got more miles to the gallon so that we spend less at the pump?

California's commitment to energy efficiency and clean air puts it right near the bottom of

states in per capita electricity use, with the added benefit of avoiding the expense of building 20 power plants over the last decade. California's high efficiency standards for appliances have helped buffer spikes in electricity prices.

In the arena of autos, the commitment to clean air and energy efficiency also spells out savings at the pump. California regulates and encourages low greenhouse gas emissions by giving tax credits for alternative fuel and hybrid vehicles, and allowing single drivers of hybrid cars to ride in the express lane. Because one of the ways to reduce emissions is to increase the fuel efficiency of cars, California's lower emissions standards have the indirect effect of raising the number of miles per gallon that cars can achieve.

California's most recent measure to tighten up greenhouse gas standards will have the effect of raising automobile fuel efficiency to 36 miles per gallon by 2016 and 44 miles per gallon by 2020. Since the new standards were more stringent than federal standards, California sought a waiver from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), something it had requested and received 40 times before.

This time, however, the EPA denied the application, which was seen as a victory for American automakers.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger sued the EPA this past January, asserting the state's right to set higher standards. Fifteen states that also adopted higher standards all joined the lawsuit: Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York,

Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington. Colorado, Florida and Utah did not join the suit but plan to adopt the higher standards. Altogether, these states cover about half the population of the U.S.

If California gets the waiver, cars sold in these states will have much greater fuel efficiency than at present. With almost half of the country in line to reap the economic benefits of cars that get 36 to 44 miles per gallon (a huge increase over the current 8 to 18 miles per gallon), Hawaii would benefit by tagging on to the market power of its sister states so our residents also get cheaper-to-keep cars.



Should Hawaii join the other 18 states so that we pay less for gas than we pay now? Let me know. Send me your comments at senespero@capitol.hawaii.gov. ■

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COVER STORY

MAY 31, 2008

(cont. from page 1; UH Filipino Programs....)

her, immersion is the best way to learn any language. She feels that the UH Filipino Program is a "great opportunity to improve my fluency in Filipino, learn about the culture and experience the various changes that the Philippines underwent since I left 10 years ago."

The three students received the grants along with 20 students from other universities on the mainland, including University of California-Berkeley, UCLA, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Washington, Cornell Univer-

sity, City College of San Francisco, Northern Illinois University and San Francisco State University and University of San Francisco.

All of the scholars will study advanced level Filipino in an immersion environment. Part of the experience includes staying and interacting with families and communities, structured classroom learning of the language using authentic materials meant for native speakers of Filipino and speaking with speakers of different backgrounds, personalities

and lifestyles.

The Advanced Filipino Abroad Program (AFAP) has been run by the UH College of Languages, Linguistics and Literatures through the Filipino and Philippine Literature Program for the last 18 years.

Professor emeritus Dr. Teresita V. Ramos established the program in 1991. She single-handedly wrote the grant proposal, developed the curriculum and managed the program up to the Summer of 2001. Dr. Ramos has used various prominent Philippine

university campuses including the University of the Philippines-Los Baños, Philippine Normal University and De La Salle University-Manila. Now, the venue is at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas.

According to Dr. Ruth Ellyn S. Mabanglo, current AFAP director, this year's program includes one week of immersion in Polangui, Albay (Bicol region). She hopes that students can study the economic, ecological, political, cultural, religious and social life of the community there. As part of

their immersion project, the students will do both oral and written presentations on the subject two weeks after they have gone there.

Students who have finished two years of Filipino language studies are eligible to apply for the AFAP scholarship. The best time to apply is November to December of each year.

For inquiries, log in to the Advanced Filipino Abroad Program at www.hawaii.edu/filipino or email Dr. Teresita Ramos at teresita@hawaii.edu. ■

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS**War Veterans Hope Long Wait for US Benefits Soon Over**

HONOLULU — FILIPINO soldiers who fought beside Americans during World War II hope their long wait for veteran benefits will soon be over.

"We deserve to get benefits for our sacrifices," said 84-year-old Leon Tabanag. "We are now in our twilight years, and we want to get our benefits before we move on."

About 50 Filipino veterans met with US Sen. Daniel Akaka on Tuesday in hopes that Congress will finally give them the same treatment as American fighters for their wartime contributions.

A vote on the proposal is pending in the US House after the US Senate passed it in April. The House is expected to take action on it this year.



US Sen. Daniel Akaka

1946, Congress took away the pension benefit.

The cheering veterans gathered at a federal government building in Honolulu to thank Akaka, himself a World War II veteran, for helping to get the measure approved in the Senate.

"They're getting what they deserve," said Akaka, a Democrat, who sponsored the bill. "To me, that's so powerful to restore their status as US veterans."

Military pension benefits in the US provide about \$900 per month to veterans in 2008, with more money given depending on the number of dependents and medical support needed. World War II veterans living in the Philippines would only receive about \$300 per month.

The pension provision is part of a broader bill called the Veterans Benefits Enhancement Act of 2007. The bill does not provide any back pay for the last 62 years Filipinos have gone without veterans.

Salome Calderon, a widow whose husband fought for the US during the war, said Filipinos should be treated with respect and dignity, just like other veterans.

"In the United States, they're only receiving Social Security income. Please help us because we are old already, and we want something done," she said.

She urged Filipinos to write letters to their congressional representatives asking them to pass the bill. If approved, it would need President George W. Bush's signature to go into effect in May 2009.

Opponents of the measure have said money could be better spent on housing, education and burial assistance for American veterans.

But Akaka said both Democratic and Republican leaders in the House have signaled their support for the proposal, which passed the Senate 96-1. (www.philstar.com) ■

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Hawaii Resident Receives 2008 Outstanding Mapuan Award

COL. JUNY LA PUTT of Honolulu recently received The Outstanding Mapuan (TOM) Award for 2008, which is given to alumni of the Mapua Institute of Technology for excellence in their professions and contributions to society.

La Putt was among 17 professional engineers and architects who were honored at a special ceremony held May 17, 2008 at Le Pavilion in Manila. La Putt, who was recognized for his achievements in the field of Acadme, was asked to address the audience on behalf of the 17 awardees.

He earned a civil engineering degree from the Mapua Institute of Technology in 1961 and later obtained a Master's in Geodetic Science from Ohio State University.

After graduating from Mapua, La Putt joined the Corps of Engineers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 1961 and taught at



Col. Juny La Putt

the Philippine Military Academy for 17 years. He later taught at his alma mater and at the University of Baguio, before moving to Hawaii with his family in 1987.

La Putt took a teaching job at Honolulu Community College and then worked for the City and County of Honolulu, where he

was appointed to the position of Building Official for the Building Department. La Putt worked for the City until retiring in July 2005.

La Putt helped to establish the Filipino-American League of Engineers and Architects (FALEA) in 1993 and served as its first president. In 2001, he received the Outstanding Civil Engineer Award from FALEA.

He subsequently joined the Hawaii Council of Engineering Societies—the umbrella organization for the 13 engineering associations and societies in Hawaii that together comprise over 3,000 members. He was elected chair in 1999—the first Filipino to hold the position in the organization's 46-year history.

One of La Putt's most recent accomplishments is organizing the Hawaii Association of Mapua Alumni, which currently has 33 members. ■

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu Touts New Passports

by Chona MONTESINOS-SONIDO

BEGINNING JUNE 2, 2008, the Philippine Consulate General in Honolulu will accept and process applications from Philippine citizens for new, machine-readable passports.

The new passports, which are already in use by many countries worldwide, will expedite the processing time for travelers at international airports. The machine-readable passports will also result in neater record-keeping and immediate retrieval and checking for immigration officers.

According to Honolulu Consul Paul Cortes, the new passports will be maroon-colored. He emphasized that applicants will be required to appear in person at the consulate for fingerprinting, signature capture and data

verification. The consulate will not accept applications sent by mail.

The Philippines is one of the 188 contracting nations with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes safe and orderly development of civil aviation throughout the world. The ICAO agreement requires the Philippines and other member countries to issue machine-readable passports to their citizens no later than April 2010. The security features of the new passports are par with the ICAO's requirements.

Officials say to expect a six-week wait, since the passports will be processed in Manila.

PUBLICIZING THE NEW PASSPORTS

Cortes says that the Philippine Consulate in Honolulu will work to get the word out to Philippine citizens who reside throughout Hawaii.

"We will be doing a consular outreach to the other islands to explain about the new MPRs," he said. "However, the date and time is not definite yet."

Applicants must bring a completed application form, their old Philippine passport, proof that U.S. citizenship has not been obtained, \$50 for a processing fee and a photo that complies with standards set by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

According to guidelines from the DFA's Office of Consular Affairs, all passport photos

must have a royal or dark blue colored background and be 4.5 by 3.5 centimeters in size. The applicant's image must occupy 70 to 80 percent of the photograph.

The photograph should also be a straight frontal shot. A medium smile will be allowed but applicants must wear a collared shirt and/or decent attire, with both ears visible. Prescription eyeglasses are allowed,

provided it does not show glare. Head scarves and veils are allowed for religious and health reasons.

Those currently holding a valid Philippine passport (green color) will be allowed to use it for travel until its date of expiration.

Please contact the Consulate at 595-6316 ext. 234 or via email at honolulupc@hawaii.rr.com for questions regarding the new passport. ■

OFCC Awards Scholarship to 10 Students

TEN DESERVING STUDENTS from public and private schools on Oahu were awarded college scholarships from the Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC).

The recipients we selected from over 50 applicants by members of OFCC's scholarship committee.

The 10 recipients are Cody Bentosino, of St. Louis High School; Aaron Bright of Manalua HS; Christiane Liongan of Maryknoll HS; Jennifer Lucas and Ejjean Madio of Waipahu HS; Salvador Pagaduan of Farrington HS; Sara Phillips of Sacred Hearts Academy; Joan Quiba of Kapolei HS; Alyssa Santos of Castle HS and Alyssa Sim-bahan of Iolani HS.

They were selected based on their grade point average, SAT scores, awards, honors and community involvement and an essay. They will be honored during the OFCC convention on June 21, 2008 at the Ala Moana Hotel, Hibiscus Room.

OFCC scholarship committee members include chairwoman Myrna Daguit, Carlota Ader, Marianne Crisilip and Magdalene Magaoay.

The OFCC is the umbrella group for the 80-plus Filipino community groups on Oahu. OFCC spearheads numerous community service projects meant to empower Filipinos, encourage greater participation in civic events, and foster entrepreneurial skills. ■



Seven out of the 10 scholarship recipients of the Oahu Filipino Community Council pose for a group photo.

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Kapolei Library to Host "The Rough Road to Getting Published"

ARE YOU A WRITER HOPING to one day publish your own novel or manuscript? If so, a free seminar on how to get published will be held at Kapolei Library at 10:30 am on June 21, 2008.

The seminar, entitled "The Rough Road to Getting Published," will feature local author Lynde Lakes, who has written 16 novels and is a member of the Romance Writers of America, Aloha Chapter.

Using her book "Billboard Cop," Lakes will share examples of detours that could leave the novice writer stranded in the wilderness. Her tips will help beginning writers plan their route wisely before embarking on their journey to publication. She will also point out pitfalls and offer advice on how to avoid them.

The one-hour seminar is free and suitable for teens and adults. Participants will be encouraged ask questions so that Lakes can provide them with an up-to-date road map for an enjoyable journey to publication.

For more information, please call Kapolei Library at 693-7050. ■

FEATURE

Celebrated Violinist Performs at Philippine Independence Anniversary

by Carolyn JULIAN

Former South African President and Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela, Pope John Paul II, Pakistan President Perez Musharraf.

Philippine President Gloria Arroyo-Magapagal.

These are just a few notable and distinguished leaders from around the world whom Philippine violin virtuoso Jay Cayuga has performed in front of.

The international musician will be performing here in Hawaii at the 110th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Inde-

pendence on June 11.

Guests at the event, which is called, "An Evening with the Philippines," include dignitaries and prominent leaders of the Filipino community.

They will be enchanted by Cayuga's musicality as he plays some Filipino favorites as well as recognizable songs from Broadway and the pop genre.

With this trip to Hawaii, Cayuga adds to a long list of exciting and remarkable places he's traveled.

"I have traveled to perform from the Grand Cayman Islands, St. George Island in the Caribbean to a cave in Palawan,

Philippines," said Cayuga who also plays the piano.

"Tokyo, Japan to Washington D.C., Hague, Netherlands to Paris, France," he added.

And like a true musician, Cayuga said: "Last November, I performed in Paris in a 600 year old museum, the acoustic was so great, it was really truly memorable."

The 44-year-old master of the violin is recognizable for his showmanship and versatility in genre—classical, contemporary, rock, jazz and pop. But success didn't happen overnight for this Butuan City, Mindanao native.

He's been stroking the bow over his violin strings for 38 years and he's been playing professionally since he was 15.

"All of us in the family were taught or rather "forced" to play the piano at an early age, since my Mom was a piano teacher. But at 6 years old, when I saw internationally famous Maestro Ronnie Rogoff on our black and white T.V., I knew the violin was my instrument," recalled Cayuga, who has one brother and two sisters.

Because music was a big part of their upbringing, each of



Philippine violin virtuoso Jay Cayuga

Cayuga's siblings plays an instrument. His sister is a pianist, the other sister is a singer and cellist and his brother also plays the violin.

Since Cayuga was a natural at playing the violin and he was already performing professionally by the time he went to college, studying music at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila was inherent.

"I was given a Full Rector's Scholarship," Cayuga explained.

He also studied music under some of Philippines' finest, Maestro Luis Valencia and Maestro Basilio Manalo to hone his talent. He was also a student of German trainers.

And even with all the years of experience in performing and training under some of the best teachers, Cayuga still practices eight hours a day before a major performance to perfect his skills.

But that doesn't take away his joy of being with his family. He is the father of three adult children, Kevin Andrew, 23; David Basil, 20; and Trisha Ashley, 18. He's also been a husband to his wife Chikky for 24 years.

It is from them he gets his inspiration.

"From my family, from Lord and from the song I am about to play. I try to feel the message of the song from the heart."

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

RP Economic Growth Slows to 5.2% in Q1

by Ted TORRES

FACED WITH A US-LED global slowdown and soaring food and energy prices, the country's economic growth slowed to 5.2 percent in the first three months of the year, casting a pall over the outlook for 2008.

The government was looking at an annual growth of between 5.2 percent and 6.2 percent for the quarter.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said the weaker economic growth would dampen inflation, which the BSP is closely monitoring ahead of its June 5 rate-setting meeting. "The slowdown can provide some relief to inflation as it reduces pressure from the demand side," Tetangco said.

"We will act pre-emptively and decisively should our inflation target for 2009 be at risk," he said, adding that the BSP would also assess if domestic liquidity was appropriate to support current economic activity.

The services sector expanded 6.9 percent from a year earlier while industrial output grew 3.9 percent.

Farm output, which accounts for a fifth of GDP, rose three percent.

The government has slashed its economic growth target and ditched its goal of achieving a balanced budget this year due to the impact of a US-led global slowdown and soaring inflation.



The government now expects GDP to grow between 5.7 percent to 6.5 percent in 2008 compared to the previous target of 6.3 percent to seven percent.

"We're seeing slower growth for 2008 and a slower growth for 2009," Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos told a news conference.

Santos said the world will "probably" suffer a repeat of the 1970s crisis of high oil prices, high inflation and depressed economic growth.

"It's really a tough environment as a result of the global economic slowdown and this will really hit the poor," he said. "As a general rule people are tightening their belts."

He said the hardest-hit are the 23.5 million Filipinos, or 26.1 percent of the population, who earn P67 or less a day. (www.philstar.com) ■

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Pinay Tops Everest Marathon

by Rainier Allan RONDA

ALL SIX FILIPINO participants in the highest marathon in the world held last Thursday in Nepal triumphantly reached the finish line, with Carina Dayondon coming in first among foreign female climbers.

Calling from the finish line at Namche Bazar in the Khumbu region of Nepal Thursday night, former Transportation and Communications Undersecretary Arturo Valdez shared that Carina Dayondon, one of the three Filipinas who scaled Mount Everest last year, was the first among foreign female participants to reach the finish line, behind seven Nepali women who joined the race.

The prime slot in the men's division went to a Japanese national.

"We all reached the finish line. And Carina is the first among the foreign females in the finish line behind several female locals," Valdez told THE STAR.

"We're so happy we all finished the race. We were determined we all would see each other at the finish line," said Valdez, who was the third oldest participant from a batch of more than 140 racers.

"There's no injuries among us," Valdez reported.

Dayondon's fellow Everest veterans Noelle Wenceslao and Erwin "Pastor" Emata, and other members of the First Philippine Mount Everest Expedition

(FPMEE) team, namely Dr. Ted Esquerda and Fred Jamill, composed the six-man team that successfully participated in the 2008 Hillary-Tenzing Mount

Everest Marathon, tagged as the highest marathon in the world.

Valdez clarified that the marathon was not a race to the top of Mount Everest but was a 42-kilometer race from the Mount Everest base camp at the Nepal or south side at an altitude of 17,149 feet, to the town of Namche Bazar, which is at an altitude of 11,300.

The marathon route runs over rough and treacherous trails and while the course is basically downhill, it has two steep uphill sections, Valdez said.

The 6th Hillary-Tenzing marathon 2008 was organized to commemorate the 55th anniversary of the climb to the summit of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and his Nepali sherpa, Tenzing Norgay Sherpa.

Dayondon was both jubilant and relieved at herfeat.

She shared that she has been regarded as a strong contender, with her good physical condition and track record last year.

"I have been told that I'm being regarded as a threat by the locals to beat their women in the



Team Everest: Pastour Emata with female members of Everest Team: Noelle Wenceslao, Janet Belarmino and marathon winner, Carina Dayondon.

race. They told me I'm being closely watched," Dayondon said.

But despite her eventual eighth place finish, behind seven Nepali women, Dayondon said she is still very happy since she proved that she can finish the marathon.

"Nothing is impossible. The Filipina can do it," Dayondon said.

Dayondon said her successful participation in the marathon was a fitting commemoration of the anniversary of her climb to the top of Mount Everest in May last year, along with Wenceslao and Janet Belarmino.

Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) spokesman Lieutenant Commander Armand Ballilo, who learned about Dayondon's achievement from Valdez, said:

"As far as I know, she completed the marathon in six hours and 45 minutes, beating the fastest record of seven hours and 30 minutes."

(www.philstar.com) ■

GMA Blows Top Over Shabu Smuggling in Subic

by Evelyn MACAIRAN

President Arroyo will personally monitor the investigation of some P5-billion worth of high-grade metamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu at the Subic Bay Freeport last Wednesday, officials said yesterday.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Mrs. Arroyo was furious over the fact that Subic, a showcase for economic zones to attract investors, was used as a drug transhipment area.

Some 714 kilos of shabu were seized by operatives of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group (PASG) as they were unloaded from Taiwanese fishing vessel F/B Shun Fa Xing docked at the Subic Riviera Pier.

The entry of the drugs was allegedly facilitated by a locator in the ecozone.

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Administrator Armand Areza said the drugs were allegedly smuggled by Anthony Ang, a Chinese national who owns SBMA-registered company Hualong International.

The President will personally

witness the destruction of the drugs and closely monitor pursuit operations against the suspects, PASG Chief Undersecretary Antonio Villar said in a telephone interview.

Villar remained in Subic yesterday to personally check the inventory and sealing of the drugs.

Ermita said Mrs. Arroyo was worried that similar incidents are going on in other freeports in the country and that the incident would give Subic a bad name.

"The President said it was not good for big establishments like Subic to be used for smuggling drugs," he said.

Villar said Mrs. Arroyo wanted to visit Subic last Wednesday but was busy meeting with foreign visitors. She pushed through with her visit to Tawi-Tawi yesterday.

"She told me that she would be present when the drugs will be destroyed," he said.

He stressed that it was the first time that this happened in Subic as syndicates were "testing the viability" of bringing in drugs through freeports.

He said the SBMA and the

PASG are conducting an inventory of fall warehouses in Subic and looking into the possible backers of Ang.

Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Napoleon Morales called for tighter inspection and monitoring of fishing vessels docking in Subic, even as he planned to meet with Areza on how they could establish boarding facilities so they would be informed once a fishing boat arrives.

"The fact that a fishing boat was used to transport the illegal substance is one reason why fishing vessels should be considered as high risk and be placed on alert," he said.

"Based on risk management analysis, there is a lesser incidence of anomalies in big shipping lines than in smaller fishing vessels," he said.

A report by Subic port collector Marietta Zamorano showed that the boat arrived last May 25 at about 8 a.m., but did not have a notice of arrival.

The Customs Immigration Quarantine (CIQ) boarding team failed to inspect the boat which left last May 27 at an undetermined time without securing exit clearance from the BOC and SBMA.

(www.philstar.com) ■

Pinay Files Rape Case with US Military in Japan

THE FILIPINA WHO claimed to have been raped by an American serviceman in Okinawa, Japan has filed a case with the US military there, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday. "We just learned this morning that the documents for the case are now filed with US military authorities in Okinawa and we are just waiting for the decision of the military authorities whether they will entertain it or not," DFA Office of Migrant Workers Affairs executive director Crescente Relacion said in a press briefing.

The DFA has instructed the embassy in Tokyo to ask for a re-investigation of the case in the Prosecutor's Office following the dismissal of the rape case last May 15.

The DFA also directed the embassy to ask the Filipina's Japanese lawyer to look into the possibility of filing a case with US military authorities in Okinawa. (www.philstar.com) ■

DOTC Gives New Timeline for NAIA-3 Opening

by Rainier Allan RONDA

TRANSPORTATION and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza confirmed the government's plan to open the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal III within the year.

According to Mendoza, NAIA Terminal III is among several airports that they plan to open until 2010.

"By 2010, the Philippines will have airports of international standards to ease traffic and reduce business cost," Mendoza said during the opening of the two-day Expo on International Transportation and Logistics held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Based on their plan, Mendoza said the NAIA Terminal III, a renovated Diosdado Macapagal International Airport, and the Busanga airport in Palawan will be opened this year.

In 2009, Mendoza said they are looking at opening the Silay-Bacolod airport, the Lagundinan airport and Panglao airport in Bohol.

Efforts are also being pursued for the opening of the Zamboanga airport, he said.

Mendoza had earlier shunned setting a time frame for government to finally activate NAIA Terminal III.

Government shelved plans to open the terminal for full commercial operations in 2007 when two foreign engineering firms, Ove Arup and TCGI, recommended the postponement of the terminal's opening, warning of danger to the safety of the people who will use the facility.

The Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), for its part, said that structural works had already been conducted on the airport facilities in the past months.

Mendoza said that government has to open more airports with the increasing tourist arrivals in the country. (www.philstar.com) ■



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*Mrs. Filipina Queen of the Pacific court
L-R: 2nd Runner-Up Wilma Saramos, Queen Florida Isla and 1st Runner-Up Lydia Kamiya during the coronation at Hilton Hawaiian Village recently*



Outgoing Miss Oahu Filipina, Jericca Gasmen together with the finalist of Miss Oahu Filipina 2008 and community leaders ▶

Mrs. Centennial of Phil. Cultural Foundation of Hawaii together with community leaders at a social occasion in Waikiki ▶



▲ Performing in the recent Punahoa's Musical Production of West Side Story are (L-R) Elise Minkin, Justin Chun, Charles Sonido and Olivia Manayan



▲ Mainland residents Kevin Porcuncula (California) and Caesar Palana (New York) visiting Hawaii recently



▲ Dancing the night away are Dr. Alfred Ines, wife Esther and children



▲ The PMAH recently held its quarterly meeting & CME at Turtle Bay Hotel during the Memorial Day weekend. Shown here are some members and spouses during the family night



▲ Mar Lopez and Marilyn Villar in country Western outfit during a cultural event in Honolulu



▲ Councilmember Romy Cachola with grand daughter Ayla during the PMAH family night



▲ Drs. Carolina Davide, Josephine Waite, Benilda Lutz-Llena with Rose McNorton (center) and Rosalin Baloy (extreme right)



▲ L-R: Gloria and Orlando Ganir and Florante Sebastian at a Filipino show at Aloha Stadium



▲ Drs. Danilo Ablan and Mary May Ablan having a good time dancing to the music during the PMAH Memorial weekend affair



▲ Dr. Gavino Vinzons and wife Chat during the PMAH dinner reception held recently



▲ L-R: Mel Ramos, Jo Farina, Ilalo Parayno, Carlota Ader and John Marple at a social gathering at Hilton recently

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Congress OKs Tax Exempt Bill

by Aurea CALICA

A bill exempting minimum wage earners from income tax and increasing personal exemptions for individual taxpayers is now ready for signing by President Arroyo after Congress passed it last night.

Sen. Francis Escudero, chairman of the Senate committee on ways and means, said the House of Representatives adopted the Senate version of the tax exemption bill and did away with the bicameral conference committee meetings meant to harmonize the versions of the Senate and House.

This makes the Senate version passed by the Upper House on Tuesday an "enrolled bill," the final version of a proposed measure adopted by both houses.

"House Speaker Prospero

Nograles will just sign it once it is ready and then send it here for signing by Senate President (Manuel) Villar. After that, it will be transmitted to the Palace for the President's signature. There is no need to formally ratify the bill in this case," Escudero said.

He commended his counterparts in the Lower House for swiftly acting on the bill, which had been long anticipated by minimum wage earners across the country.

Minimum wage earners both from the private and government sectors are expected to have an additional P34 take-home pay with the income tax exemption.

Escudero said the approved Senate version under Senate Bill No. 2293 differed slightly with the House-approved measure, which provided for the so-called sim-

pled net income-tax system or SNITS, while the Senate version favored a 40-percent optional standard deduction, or OSD, for self-employed as well as professionals and corporate tax filers.

OSD provides for deductions not exceeding 40 percent for both individuals and corporations, but drops the need to itemize expenses. This is meant to offset the losses to be incurred once minimum wage earners are exempted from income tax. Both SNITS and OSD were endorsed by the Department of Finance to offset the losses to be incurred in exempting minimum wage earners from paying income tax.

The Senate version also contained a separate provision exempting the employees' holiday, hazard and overtime pay, as well as nightshift differential pay from income-tax coverage, which items were included in the computations made under House Bill No. 3971.

Once enacted into law, married couples can enjoy P100,000 in combined income tax deductions (P50,000 each if both are working) plus an additional P25,000 deduction per dependent up to a maximum of four children, or total deductions of up to P200,000 for each family.

Escudero estimated that the government would gain at least

P780 million from the proposed income tax system, explaining that the amount already deducted revenue losses due to the exemption of minimum wage earners and the adjustment of personal exemption to P50,000 per individual taxpayer and the P25,000 additional exemption per dependent up to a maximum of four children.

Revenue loss from the tax relief for minimum wage earners, pegged at P16.1 billion, and the loss due to increase in exemption estimated at P11.09 billion, can be offset by the revenues to be generated from the OSD valued at P15.03 billion.

Villar said the bill was one of the two measures Congress leaders and Malacañang agreed to prioritize during the last Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) meeting.

CHEAPER MEDS BILL TO BE SIGNED

Meanwhile, President Arroyo will sign into law in the next two weeks the Cheaper Medicine Bill after Malacañang received yesterday an enrolled copy of the measure ratified by Congress last April 29.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the bill officially named the "Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicine Act of 2008," is expected to be signed by the President "between the first

and second week of June."

"The President is looking for a good schedule to jibe it with an event to make it more meaningful," Ermita said.

Among the salient points of the bill are:

- Ensuring the availability of affordable medicine by requiring drug outlets to carry a variety of brands for each drug, including those sourced from "parallel importation" to give the consumer more choices;
- Prohibiting the grant of new patents based only on newly discovered uses of a known drug substance;
- Allowing local generics firms to test, produce and register their generic versions of patented drugs, so these can be sold upon patent expiry or the "early working principle";
- Allowing the government use of patented drugs when the public interest is at stake;
- Giving the President the power to set price ceilings on various drugs, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Health. These drugs include those for chronic illnesses, for prevention of diseases, and those in the Philippine National Drug Formulary Essential Drug List; and
- Strengthening the Bureau of Food and Drugs by allowing it to retain its revenues for upgrading of its facilities and personnel.

(www.philstar.com) ■

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Property Developers Warn of Economic Backlash of Ban on Land Conversions

by Mary Ann LL. REYES

THE CHAMBER OF REAL ESTATE and Builders Association (CREBA) has warned of an imminent economic disaster within the next two years following a ban on land conversions imposed by the Department of Agrarian Reform and virtually upheld by President Arroyo through Administrative Order 226.

Asking for an immediate lifting of the ban, CREBA president Reghisi Romero II pointed out that the land conversion ban may seem to be a harmless piece of government policy, but it can be the last straw that will break the camel's back.

He said the ban would neither solve the food shortage nor the energy crunch as being suggested by the government, but could turn the country's housing backlog into another crisis.

"With food, housing and energy crises, you definitely have a perfect recipe for an economic disaster within the next two years," Romero stressed, as he recounted the 1997 East Asian currency squeeze and the ongoing US subprime mortgage debacle that all emanated from a mishandling of the real estate

sector. "You cannot just tinker carelessly with the real estate industry without facing grave economic consequences."

The land conversion ban, he said, could eventually lead to a halt in all construction activities, crippling the entire supply chain—from land developers and housing contractors to all the industry suppliers and service providers, including manufacturing, tourism and retail sectors.

Stock market prices of all listed property firms will plunge and pull down all other related businesses while unemployment will rise enormously since construction accounts for a big chunk of the country's labor force, Romero said.

He added that within two years, the country's housing backlog of 1.5 million will rise to 2.1 million based on government's own conservative estimate. "Poverty will thus widen and deepen, leaving our poor people with only two choices—go abroad to become OFWs or go to the boondocks to become NPAs—depending on their qualifications," he said.

This grim scenario, however, is not confined to the private sector. Romero emphasized that government itself will be badly

affected, with many state agencies failing to meet their respective goals that are tied up or linked to land development.

"Obviously, the land conversion ban is being used by DAR as a smokescreen for its dismal failures. Yet, DAR's self-assumed power to convert lands is just one of its many questionable, if not anomalous, practices," Romero said.

To avert an impending economic disaster, he proposed for a review, revision and implementation of the National Urban Development and Housing Framework prepared by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), so as to guide the formulation of location-specific land use plans that will consider the reclassification criteria of the Local Government Code.

On agriculture, CREBA suggested that lands have to be identified and mapped according to crop suitability and susceptibility to typhoon, floods and other natural calamities. Meanwhile, EP and CLOA (land reform awardees) holders should be encouraged to band together in cooperatives, contribute their small parcels thereto, which shall be managed professionally so that with the resulting economies of scale, the utilization of improved technologies and machineries may be optimized. (www.philstar.com) ■

■ PHILIPPINE NEWS

MPD to Give Away Whistles to Help Students Fight Crime

by Nestor ETOLE

The Manila police will provide students with whistles they can use to attract attention and be spared from being victims of criminals.

Manila Police District (MPD) director Chief Superintendent Roberto Rosales said this strategy will not only meant to secure the student populace against street crimes but also "make them alert to suspicious persons in their surroundings."

"They can blow their whistles to call the attention of the police if they sense that they will be victimized or when they witness a crime in progress," Rosales said.

He has also talked with representatives of the Management of School Security and Officials Association to formulate the proper use of the whistles among the students.

The launch of the "whistle scheme" will be by the MPD headquarters this morning will be by



National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Geary Barrios, who will personally hand over the whistles to school administrators.

Rosales also directed the Manila police to always carry their whistles and batons as part of their daily uniform.

"With the opening of classes the police shall give anti-crime tips to students and encourage them to always bring their whistles," Rosales, who will leave for the United States today to attend a crisis management seminar, told The STAR. (www.philstar.com) ■

GMA-Bush Meet Set Next Month

by Paolo ROMERO

FOOD SECURITY, counter-terrorism and veterans' affairs are among the issues President Arroyo and US President George W. Bush and key US government officials will discuss in Washington next month, Malacañang announced last night.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Mrs. Arroyo will be on an official visit to Washington DC and New York City from June 23 to 29 to meet with key US government officials and members of Congress, Filipino World War II veterans, leaders and members of the Filipino-American community, business people, investors and environmental groups.

"In Washington, President Bush will welcome President Arroyo to the White House for discussions on issues of great interest to the Philippines and the United States, particularly on ways to further strengthen our long standing and historic bilateral relations," Bunye said.

He said "President Arroyo hopes to exchange views with President Bush on a broad range of issues, including food security, protection of the environment, the Philippine Defense Reform program, counterterrorism, non-proliferation, ASEAN's community building, human rights, Myanmar, global trade."

She will also thank Bush for the support given to Filipino World War II veterans through the US Veterans Office in Manila and the Veterans Memorial Center in Quezon City.

"One of the objectives of the President in visiting Washington is to personally thank the US Senate for its historic vote of 96-1 in favor of the Veterans Benefits Bill," Bunye said.

"She will also express her hope for a meaningful resolution to remaining issues relating to our veterans," he said, referring to the pending veterans' bill in the US House of Representatives.

Bunye said if the US House would be able to pass its version by that time, she would also be meeting with members of the chamber.

The President will also meet with the Philippines-US Friendship Caucus, a group composed of members of the House of Representatives particularly interested in strengthening relations between the Philippines and the United States.



US President George W. Bush with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

She will also meet with some US Cabinet officials.

While in Washington, she will hold consultations with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

Last March, the MCC granted the Philippines Compact Eligible status, "opening the door to large grants for sustainable growth," he said.

He said the Philippines was selected after passing objective indicators in the areas of governing justly, investing in citizens, and encouraging economic freedom.

The President will also advance her environmental agenda while in Washington, including a special meeting of stakeholders in the Coral Triangle Initiative (CTI), he said.

"This meeting will bring the private and business sectors into this important initiative on the environment," Bunye said, adding the CTI is focused on three primary areas: protecting coral reefs from man-made and natural disturbances, developing sustainable fisheries, and ensuring food security for the region's inhabitants.

The ASEAN-US Business Council and the United States Chamber of Commerce will jointly host a dinner in honor of Mrs. Arroyo in Washington, he said.

In New York, she will meet with a number of business and investment groups.

Mrs. Arroyo will also host a reception for the Permanent Representatives of the United Nations to push the candidature of Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago to the International Court of Justice, he said. (www.philstar.com) ■



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Filipino Art Exhibit in Chicago Accepting Entries

FILIPINO ARTISTS are encouraged to submit their artwork for the upcoming 2008 Beyond the Barrelman exhibit, which is scheduled to run from September 5-28, 2008 at Chicago's Mercury Cafe Gallery.

The exhibit will feature contemporary Filipino art pieces created by up-and-coming Filipino and Filipino-American visual artists. The goal if the

exhibit is to create a venue that would shine a bright spotlight on the creative talents of Filipinos, both in the U.S., Canada and abroad.

Co-sponsoring the exhibit are three Filipino-American not-for-profit organizations: CIRCA/Pintig, the Filipino American Network (FAN) and Tahanan Cultural Group.

The first "Beyond the Bar-

relman" exhibit was held in 2005 and featured 72 artwork from 35 Filipino artists. It was held at Chicago's Acme Gallery and was well attended with overflowing crowds for both the opening and closing receptions.

Unless otherwise instructed by the artist, exhibit organizers will encourage and promote the sale of artwork. At the first exhibition, which was viewed by about 1,500 people during its one-month run, nearly one-fifth of the artwork on display was sold.

Organizers anticipate that approximately 3,000 people will view the exhibit in the new, higher-traffic location.

So how did organizers arrive at the catchy name for the exhibit? Most Filipinos recognize the ubiquitous "barrelman" figure.

Organizers say that one of the recurring themes was the challenge to overcome certain stereotypes, even within the Filipino American community, about what constitutes contemporary Filipino art. Contrary to many people's beliefs, our creativity and craftsmanship went beyond oversized wooden spoons, seashell vases and holiday parols—"beyond the Barrelman."

The catchy name not only stuck, but also caught the spirit of organizers' secondary goal of increasing public awareness of just how far Filipinos have come in the arts.

Submission guidelines, entry forms and additional event details are available at www.BeyondTheBarrelman.com. The deadline for applications is August 5, 2008. ■

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East Coast Pinoys Enjoy Music Fest

THE 2008 ANNUAL Pinoy Musik Festival and Expo de Mayo showcased the best in Filipino music last May 17-18 at the Meadowlands Expo Center in Secaucus, New Jersey.

Only in its second year, the two-day festival united the Filipino-American community on the East Coast, particularly New York, New Jersey, Washington DC, and Virginia.

The goal of the festival was to showcase Original Filipino Music and provide an avenue for Filipino musicians to penetrate the mainstream market. The event provided a bigger stage for them to display their talents and their music. Organizers hoped that exposing Filipino musicians to a larger audience, the scope of Filipino music could be widened.

Sam Milby, MYMP, and Krix Lawrence headlined the event along with Star Records' Divo Bayer. International Christian singer Steve Kuban graced the

crowd after the Sunday Mass with worship songs.

Comedians Rey Kilay and Poco entertained the crowd with their songs, quick wit and humor.

The comedic singing duo, Renato "Porky" Gomez and Romeo "Choppy" Vargas, better known as "Pork Chop Duo," also brought laughs by combining their own raucous versions of classic hit songs interspersed with jokes inspired by real life observations. For the past 25 years, the Pork Chop Duo has toured extensively, bringing their act abroad to Filipino communities in the U.S., Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

The two-day music festival also featured a food court, songwriting and videotape competitions, search for the top Filipino bands in the region, and an Expo de Mayo in which a pavilion was set up for Spanish businesses and Latino performing artists. The Expo de Mayo was included to honor the Philippines' Spanish heritage. (www.philiforune.com) ■

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by Reuben S.
SEGURITAN

Family-based petitions have long been popular routes to U.S. immigration. The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) enumerates certain family relationships that can serve as basis to apply for lawful permanent resident status in the U.S.

The two main categories of qualifying relationships are 1) immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and 2) other close relatives of U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents.

Under the first category, U.S. citizens can petition for their immediate relatives to join them in the U.S. For purposes of immigration, their qualified immediate relatives are their spouses, minor unmarried children under 21, and parents (as long as the petitioning U.S. citizen child is at least 21).

Spouses of deceased U.S. citizens who were married for at

LEGAL NOTES

Family Relationships As Basis for U.S. Immigration

least two years at the time of the citizen spouses' deaths may also qualify as immediate relatives. These immediate relatives of U.S. citizens are not subject to quota limitations.

On the other hand, other close family relationships are subject to quota limitations of available immigrant visas per country. These relatives fall under any of the four family-sponsored preferences.

Unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens, 21 years of age or over, fall under the Family First Preference category. Children of U.S. citizens who were petitioned before they were 21 but aged-out while waiting for entry to the U.S. may benefit from the Child Status Protection Act and preserve their immediate relative status provided they meet the requirements of the law.

Spouses and unmarried children (under 21) of lawful permanent residents or green-card holders fall under Family Second Preference 2A.

Unmarried sons and daughters (21 years or older) of green-card holders would fall under Family Second Preference 2B. Once they get married, they no

longer qualify under this category.

Married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens are classified under the Third Preference category.

Brothers and sisters of adult U.S. citizens will qualify under the Fourth Preference category. This category has the longest wait. In the case of Filipinos, the waiting time to get a visa number is about 22 years.

Immigration laws have defined and clarified these familial relationships to be the basis of immigration benefits.

To be a "spouse," there must be a valid and subsisting marriage between the petitioner and the beneficiary. U.S. immigration laws will not accept as valid homosexual, polygamous or incestuous marriages. Voidable marriages may, however, be recognized, unless there is a court order declaring its nullity.

Common law marriages (without marriage ceremony) may also be accepted if these are satisfactorily proven as recognized in the country where it occurred. Those who contracted marriage by proxy needs to consummate the marriage before this can be recognized for immigration.

The only other performers who received standing ovations that evening were internationally-renowned tenor Andrea Bocelli and Josh Groban.

Bocelli was one of first guest singers to congratulate Charice backstage. He told Charice, "You have a beautiful voice—it was moved."

Groban said, "I was backstage, getting ready to go on, and not really paying attention to the act on-

born."

stage, when all of a sudden I heard the voice of a beautiful siren. My jaw dropped. I had to stop everything and just watch her. It was marvelous."

An excerpt from a Las Vegas newspaper stated that "If Groban is one of Foster's most renowned discoveries, this night truly belonged to doe-eyed 16-year-old Filipino belter Charice, whose voice is like a jetliner taking off from her sternum." (Good News Pilipinas) ■



to advance to the medal round.

"It was an impressive performance," said delegation leader Hong Sung Chon of Lizardo's bronze medal.

Philippine welterweight Paul Romero and lightweight Karla Alava also performed creditably in the tournament, which was sponsored by the World Taekwondo Federation.

About 800 athletes from over 80 countries competed in the event. Romero crushed Greece's

Petros Chondrokoukis, 9-2, but was ousted by Germany's Orcun Oeztuk, 3-0, in the next round.

Alava lopped opening round opponent Carmen Correa from Mexico, 5-2, but lost to France's Charlotte Laurent in her next match. (Good News Pilipinas) ■

gration purpose.

Sham marriages where the parties do not really intend to live together as husband and wife but solely contracted for immigration purposes have posed problematic consequences for the parties and will be denied.

The term "child" refers to: child born in wedlock (during valid marriage); or a stepchild who has not yet reached 18 years of age at the time of the marriage of the petitioning spouse and his/her parent; or a child legitimized (previously illegitimate but made legitimate upon subsequent marriage of his/her parents) before turning 18 and remains in legal custody of the legitimating parents.

The term also covers a child born out of wedlock if his/her natural mother seeks a benefit, sta-

tus or privilege based on their parent-child relationship or the natural father proves a "bona fide" parent-child relationship.

An adopted child is also considered a child for immigration purposes if he/she was under the age of 16 and under the legal custody and resided with either or both of the adopting parents for at least two years.

In order to petition a parent under the immediate relative category, the U.S. citizen petitioner must be at least 21 years old.

To qualify as a brother or sister as a basis for an immigration petition, there must be at least one common parent. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: 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

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■ GLOBAL NEWS

Teen Filipina Singer Wows Audience at Las Vegas Concert

SONGWRITER DAVID FOSTER had nothing but praise for teen singing sensation Charice Pempengco after her performance at his benefit concert on May 23 at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas.

Performing before an audience of almost 10,000, Charice sang a medley of Whitney Houston songs "I Will Always Love You" and "I Have Nothing." She received a standing ovation.

After her performance, Foster told the audience, "Tonight, a star is

Filipina Wins Bronze in World Junior Taekwondo

JYRA MARIE LIZARDO won a bronze medal in the seventh World Junior Taekwondo Championships held in Izmir, Turkey.

Lizardo hurdled her first three opponents, but fell to Korean Kim Ji Min, 1-5, in the semifinals to salvage the bantamweight bronze medal.

Lizardo outfought Tahiti's Chevata Sangu, 3-1, in her first match, then ripped apart Spain's Laura Cejas Porcel, 8-0, and France's Sondes Ben Tahar, 9-5,

to advance to the medal round.

"It was an impressive performance," said delegation leader Hong Sung Chon of Lizardo's bronze medal.

Philippine welterweight Paul Romero and lightweight Karla Alava also performed creditably in the tournament, which was sponsored by the World Taekwondo Federation.

About 800 athletes from over 80 countries competed in the event. Romero crushed Greece's

Petros Chondrokoukis, 9-2, but was ousted by Germany's Orcun Oeztuk, 3-0, in the next round.

Alava lopped opening round opponent Carmen Correa from Mexico, 5-2, but lost to France's Charlotte Laurent in her next match. (Good News Pilipinas) ■



PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE

Senador Jinggoy Estrada ken Bokal Zuriel Zaragoza iti Ilocos Sur, sinangaili ti Ilocos Surian Assn of Hawaii idi Mayo 22, 2008

ILOKO

by Amado I. YORO

Sumurok-kumurang a sanga-gasut ni nakapagtulipon ili Empress Restaurant idi rabi'i iti Huebes tapno maipaway ti maya a pangrabil kas pangsaugan kili pammadaway kadagiti da a kamenig ti goberno, nasonial ken lokal a nagappo iti Filipinas.

Uray kasano iti kinabassit ti aldaw a panagsagania ti Ilocos Surian nga idauluan ni Danny Villaruz ken kadaukana, ken babaen

iti natunos a panagtignay ken panangtiguron ti Event Special Committee nga ipangulunan ni Engr. Carlito Soria (Sta. Maria), ken Louie Funtanilla (Narvacan) a co-chair ken kadaukana a pakairamanan dagiti sumaganaid.

Danny Villaruz, Emmie Villaruz, Lynne Gutierrez, Al Sabangan, Rose Sabangan, Philip Alcain, Maria Estrata, Amado Yoro.

Ni dati a Rep. Jun Abinsay ti nangtiguron iti programa ket nalukutan iti pannakayam-ammo li Ilocos Surian kas maya kadagit

kaaktibuan a gunglo ita. Nabang-idi Pebrero 27, 1977.

Indauluan ni Maria Estrata ti karagat, idinto we Address ti impasungan ni Danny Villaruz, presidente ti Ilocos Surian Assn of Hawaii.

Itoy a pasken, mairaman a timmabuno da:

Congresswoman Reynila Nicolas, 4th district, Bulacan Mayor Lilia Pineda, Lubao, Pampanga

Julo Estrada, son of Sen Jinggo

John Garcia, Maui, Franklin Borromeo, OFCC president & Mrs. Angie Borromeo, MM Eddie Agas, Sr., Mel Felipe, Rose Menzoza, Veronica Esteban, Lina Mercado, Lina Longboy, Carlota Ader, Alda Mae Takabayashi, Alma Farinas, Joey Alcanta.

Napataker met iti panakabigbig dagiti pannakabagi dagiti unit organization members iti ISAH.

- ANNAK TI SINAIT ITI HAWAII KEN SINAIT ALUMNI ASSN OF HAWAII-AMADO YORO
- CABAGUO SONS & DAUGHTERS OF HAWAII - AL SABANGAN
- SAN JUAN LAPOG - ALICE CASTANEDA
- MAGSINGAL ASSN OF HAWAII - GLORIA BUTAC
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- SANTANANS OF HAWAII - DANNY VILLARUZ
- NARVACAN ASSN OF HAWAII - LOUIE FUNTANILLA
- SAN ESTEBANIANS OF HAWAII - PHILIP ALCAIN



Phil. Senator Jinggoy Estrada with community leaders

• Santagenians of Hawaii - Emry Estrata

• Candonians of Hawaii - Bernadette Fajardo

NI ENGR. CARLITO SORIA TI NANGYAM-AMMO KEN NI BOKAL ZURIEL ZARAGOZA. ANAK NI DIPUTADO ERIC SINGSON TI NARVACAN.

Iti panagsarita ni Zaragoza, binibigyang iti timpuyog ken umos ti Ilocos Surian maipapanit il Filipino tradition: "the value of filokano hospitality. Ket sapaya ko ma saan ngang agressat ti panagtulogtu ti panagtakder ti Ilocos Sur kadigitima ken tibker dagiti grupuyo. Sapay koma ta saanyo met ngsisardeng ti tulungoy iday probinsti atayo, iti ania man a tuleng iti ekonomia ken iti pannakasaludo ti salun-".

Itay napalabas a Disembre 2007, nababligi manen ti Medical &

Homecoming Mission kas tuloy ti 2005.

Ni dati a Rep. Abinsay ti nangyam-ammo ken ni Senador Jinggoy Estrada. Anak ni nagpresidente Joseph Estrada ken senador Loi Estrada ni Senator Jinggoy.

Adu ti nappadang dagiti agama iti historiya iti politika. Kas ama ker anak, nagmoyer da iti San Juan, Rizal, nagsenadorda, ket manamanna iti masakbayan, kina-bise gasay kinapresidente iti pagililan, ti gasat ken panawen iti makalabaga, kinuna ti ubing nga Estrada.

Adda special presentation a naited kada Estrada and Zaragoza kas Certificate of Recognition.

Ni Louie Funtanilla ti nangteng ti panayaman ken pangsera a balikas. ■

GLOBAL NEWS

Philippines Participates in ASEAN Food & Cultural Festival in the Netherlands

Romeo A. Arguelles, Philippine ambassador to the Netherlands, reports that the Philippine Embassy was a successful participant in the ASEAN Food and Cultural Fair held May 17, 2008 in the Hague, Netherlands.

The ASEAN Food & Cultural Fair was a one-day charity event organized by the ASEAN Ladies Circle of the Hague, in cooperation with the embassies of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. A portion of proceeds was donated to a Vietnamese charity which helps handicapped children.

The event featured numerous attractions, which included color-

fully-decorated stalls selling native food and handicraft from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. A

highlight of the event was a fashion show that featured adults and children wearing traditional and modern costumes from Southeast Asia.

The event drew over 1,000 visitors who mingled and tried the variety of Southeast Asian food. The Dutch, as well as other foreign visitors, were particularly attracted to the appetizing array of Filipino food which included



Left picture: Ambassador Arguelles poses with children of Embassy staff wearing Philippine costumes; Right picture: Native delicacies such as kakanin prepared "turo-turo" style at the ASEAN Food and Cultural fair

chicken adobo, fish escabeche, beef Caldereta and pinakbet, as well as native kakanin (rice cakes) such as kutsinta, sapin-sapin, puto and cassava. ■



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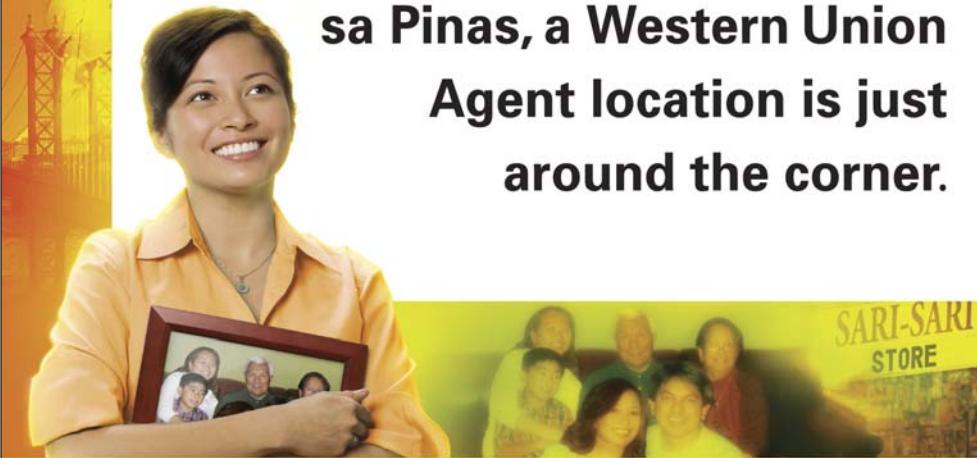
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