



NEWS EDITION

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

CELEBRATING PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY

By HFC Staff

Hawaii's Filipino community will be observing Philippine Independence Day with a festive celebration at the Hilton Hawaiian Village's Coral Ballrooms on June 9, 2012 from 6:30 pm to 11:30 pm.



ConGen Torres and the PCCCH Team

2012 Kalayaan "Pananagutan ng Bayan para sa Tuwid na Daan" (Freedom: A Nation's Responsibility Towards the Right Path) celebrates the 114th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine independence. The event is being organized by the Philippine Celebration Coordinating Committee of Hawaii (PCCCH) in partnership with the Philippine Consulate General of Honolulu.

The gala event will begin with the playing of the Philippine and U.S. anthems, followed by an invocation by Bennette Misalucha and opening remarks by chair Maria A. F. Etrata.

Gov. Neil Abercrombie is scheduled to deliver the keynote address, along with

remarks from Consul General Julius D. Torres. Both Abercrombie and Torres will lead the traditional Freedom Toast. Kalayaan also will have a musical review by the Honolulu Boy Choir and a dance performance, followed by more dancing.

Guests for the gala event are expected to top over 600 and include senior Hawaii government officials, legislators and community leaders.

FREEDOM—A LONG TIME COMING FOR FILIPINOS

In the Philippines, Independence Day (Araw ng Kalayaan) is an annual national holiday observed on June 12, commemorating the Philippine Declaration of Independence from Spain on June 12, 1898. It is the National Day of the Philippines.

The declaration of Philippine

independence from the colonial rule of Spain concluded the Philippine Revolution. Philippine independence, however, was not recognized either by the U.S. or by Spain. The Spanish government later ceded the Philippine archipelago to the U.S. in the 1898 Treaty of Paris and the U.S. granted independence to the Republic of the Philippines on July 4, 1946 in the Treaty of Manila.

July 4 was observed in the Philippines as Independence Day until 1962. On May 12, 1962, President Diosdado Macapagal issued Presidential Proclamation No. 28, which declared Tuesday, June 12, 1962 a special public holiday throughout the Philippines, "in commemoration of our people's declaration of their inherent and inalienable right to freedom and independence."

(continued on page 4)

YOUNG FILIPINO ENVIRONMENTALISTS ATTEND LEADERSHIP SUMMIT IN U.S.

by Gabrielle Paul Pascual



Students from the Philippines carry the Philippine flag during the opening ceremony of the 2012 Study of the U.S. Institute on Global Environmental Issues at the East-West Center. (L-R): Rex Albert Villahermosa, Angeli Guadalupe, Diana Dimayuga, Sheryan Guialel and Gabrielle Paul Pascual

Five students from the Philippines joined 14 other undergraduate students from Malaysia, Thailand and Burma at the East-West Center in Honolulu to participate in

an innovative environmental leadership program designed to foster a greater understanding of sustainability in the U.S. and to aid

(continued on page 5)

SENATE VERDICT ON CJ IMPEACH CASE OUT NEXT WEEK

from www.philstar.com

MANILA, Philippines - The Senate, sitting as an impeachment court, may already come out with a verdict on the impeachment case of Chief Justice Renato Corona next week.

This, after Corona failed to appear before the impeachment court on Wednesday afternoon. Corona was rushed to the hospital on Tuesday night and confined at the intensive care unit of the Medical City early Wednesday for possible heart attack.



CJ Renato C. Corona

Enrile ruled that the defense team can present Corona and its evidence for the defense of the chief magistrate until 2 p.m. Friday.

"If you do not submit (continued on page 4)

LEGAL NOTES
Abused Spouses
and Children
Have a Path to
Green Card

13

GLOBAL NEWS
Filipino
Peacekeepers in
Golan Heights
Receive UN Medal

15

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE
94-356 WAIPAHU DEPOT RD., 2ND FLR.
WAIPAHU, HI 96797

EDITORIALS

Banking Reform Has Just Become Even More Imperative

It seems like old habits are hard to break, especially when money is concerned.

Undeterred by the financial blowout of 2008 that left the nation in its deepest recession, Wall Street is back to playing high risk gambling.

JP Morgan Chase & Co's recently suffered trading losses in excess of \$2 billion from failed hedging strategy. News of the loss knocked financial stocks of major banks across the globe.

While the loss at this initial stage mostly affects shareholders of private banks, American taxpayers and the general public have every right to be concerned, making this fiasco their business because it was this type of risky investment behavior by bankers that led to the government having to step in to bail them out of potential bankruptcy just a few years ago.

The irony of this major loss by JP Morgan Chase & Co is that its CEO Jaime Dimon has been the chief antagonist of banking reform that minimizes risky investment. His position was deemed somewhat credible because JP Morgan Chase & Co was one of only a few banks that navigated the fallout from 2008 without reporting a loss. Dimon's public criticism of the recent Volcker rule signed into law by President Barack Obama to ban proprietary trading by big banks, in light of this embarrassing loss, proves a point that high risk business practices eventually will hit a sobering low.

Even more importantly, Americans should be calling into question why risky, big hedge funds investments are still occurring at a bank whose deposits are government-backed and which has access to ultra-low capital from the Federal Reserve. If the largest of banks like JP Morgan Chase & Co want to continue gambling in high risk behavior, taxpayers and the government should not extend the benefit of providing a safety net. Rest assured if the big banks were not federally insured, risky investment would not be pursued so aggressively. So in essence, by federally insuring these big banks without stricter regulations, the government contributes to big banks all-in type bets on high risk derivatives.

The public should remember that TARP, the Troubled Asset Relief Program, spent \$700 billion in taxpayers money to bail out banks after the financial crisis. Banks backed by the Federal government at this point should be staying away from large speculative bets and taking in deposits and making loans to Americans and businesses in need of the money.



The hefty sums of money needed to back these speculative investments tie up money that could be better used in loans to spur the economy for a greater majority of Americans to enjoy, not just fat cat shareholders who encourage high risk investment and ask for government support when these investments go bad.

Dimon himself accurately called the \$2 billion loss for what it is -- "self-inflicted, flawed, complex, poorly reviewed, poorly executed and poorly monitored." Such honesty as his, in a unforgiving environment as finance and banking, must count for something because Dimon will retain his CEO position while JP Morgan Chief Investment Officer Ina Dew steps down after the loss, but with a \$15 million severance package. But the fact is shareholders are not being gracious and forgiving. JP Morgan Chase & Co will still finish out the second quarter with a \$4

billion profit and the casino game of making big bets with derivatives - complex agreements whose value is based on movements of an index or interest rate - will continue. Despite the ups and downs in profit and loss, the game ultimately is gravely flawed because it creates nothing and does nothing to invest in a stronger financial future of the country. Warren Buffet perhaps described gambling in derivatives most aptly: they are "weapons of mass financial destruction."

Following the economic fallout of 2008, there is no excuse for big banks to venture down that road of wild west risk investment. This \$2 billion loss of JP Morgan Chase & Co reaffirms the belief that banks need to be better regulated and that Wall Street reform must be fully implemented to prevent a repeat of the 2008 financial crisis. The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Protection Act that implements financial regulatory reform ought to be solidified and expanded to discourage certain speculative investments in the derivatives market.

Those who still argue that lawmakers should repeal Wall Street reform and that Wall Street be allowed to write its own rules after all that has happened to our country, these people will never get it even after the country experiences a cataclysmic financial earthquake, just as long as their shareholders' dividends keep coming in backed up by American taxpayers.

Let's stop pretending that Wall Street is a casino. Even if it were, casinos have their regulators and rules to follow. Wall Street ought to be doing the same. ■



NEWS EDITION

www.thefilipinochronicle.com | www.efilipinochronicle.com

Charlie Y. SONIDO, M.D.
Publisher and Executive Editor

Chona A. MONTESINES-SONIDO
Publisher and Managing Editor

Dennis GALOLO
Edwin QUINABO
Associate Editors

Randall SHIROMA
Design Consultant

Columnists
Carlota Ader
Carlo Cadiz, M.D.
Sen. Will Espero
Grace F. Fong, Ed.D.
Ruth Elynia Mabanglo, Ph.D.
J. P. Orias
Pacita Saludes
Reuben S. Seguritan, Esq.
Charlie Sonido, M.D.
Emmanuel S. Tapon, Esq.
Felino S. Tubera
Amado Yoro
Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

Contributing Writers

Belinda Aquino, Ph.D., Clement Bautista, Teresita Bernales, Ed.D., Serafin Colmenares, Jr., Ph.D., Linda Dela Cruz, Fiedes Doctor, Danny de Gracia II, M.A., Caroline Weygan-Hildebrand, Amelia Jacang, M.D., Caroline Julian, Maita Milallos, Paul Melvin Palalay, M.D., Glenn Wakai

Creative Designer

Junggoi Peralta

Philippine Correspondent

Greg Garcia

Photography

Tim Llana

Administrative Assistant

Shalimar Pagulayan

Advertising/Marketing Director

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Account Executives

Carlota Ader
J. P. Orias

Big Island Distributor

Grace Larson
Ditas Udani

Maui Distributor

Cecile Piro

Molokai Distributor

Maria Watanabe

The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle is published weekly by the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. It is mailed directly to subscribers and distributed at various outlets around Oahu and the neighbor islands. Editorial and advertising deadlines are three weeks prior to publication date. Subscriptions are available at \$75 per year for Oahu and the neighbor islands, continental U.S. \$85, foreign country \$95. Copyright 2007-2012. The Hawaii Filipino Chronicle Inc. is located at 94-356 Waipahu Depot, Waipahu, HI 96797. Telephone: (808) 678-8930. Facsimile: (808) 678-1829. E-mail: filipinochronicle@gmail.com. Opinions expressed by the columnists and contributors do not necessarily reflect those of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle management. Reproduction of the contents in whole or in part is prohibited without written permission from the management. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

In the Dock

SKETCHES by Ana Marie PAMINTUAN

An expert on banking laws pointed out to me yesterday that the “absolute secrecy” requirement in Republic Act 6426 or the Foreign Currency Deposit Act is addressed to banks, not depositors.

A public official with foreign currency deposits need not issue his own written permission to declare such accounts in his statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN).

The law requiring the filing of SALNs does not make a distinction between Philippine and foreign currency deposits; all assets must be declared, the expert pointed out.

At the end of nearly three hours of testimony yesterday, Chief Justice Renato Corona invoked RA 6426 in refusing to bare his dollar (and even peso) accounts, several of which he now admits exist.

During his monologue yesterday – three times longer than a typical state of the nation address – Corona scored major points against his accusers.

But the points started vanishing as he refused to waive the secrecy of his bank deposits, belying his repeated pronouncement that he has nothing to hide.

You can understand the

disdain in that dare for 189 lawmakers to issue waivers on the secrecy of their dollar and peso bank deposits before Corona issues his own waiver. If there is strong resistance to the passage of amendments to the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, to include more predicate crimes such as bribery and terrorism, it is because there are lawmakers with assets that need to continue being protected by bank secrecy laws.

But the Chief Justice surely realizes that he is the one being tried for his fitness to remain in his post. This is not a case of (as Justice Secretary Leila de Lima observed) you can’t convict me because we’re all guilty.

After yesterday’s performance, complete with his trademark tears, I don’t think Corona earned new fans among the senator-judges. He walked out on a court that has so far performed its challenging duty with credibility. The court’s presiding justice, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, is enjoying high popularity because of his handling of this historic case. The Senate did not deserve that rudeness.

Stalking out of that court, which had just given him three hours to harangue all

his perceived enemies non-stop without allowing them to answer back (some of them weren’t even there), simply reinforced some of the worst perceptions about the Chief Justice.

Corona was well enough to walk out of the session hall unassisted, and he clearly ignored Enrile’s order for him to return to the witness stand.

Locked in by the Senate, Corona then took a favorite tack of officials of the Arroyo administration when they wanted to avoid congressional grilling: he took a sick leave from the proceedings.

It was a telling display of Corona’s attitude toward the law and the institutions he avowedly cares so much about. He can be cited for contempt of the impeachment court.

In the dock for the first time yesterday, Corona actually managed to skewer the Basa side of his family, and again the Land Registration Authority (LRA) for the wrong information about his 45 real estate properties.

He also attacked Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales for her Senate testimony (on the invitation of the defense). But he lost points when he admitted having “only” four dollar accounts and three peso accounts, all of which he admitted omitting from his SALN. RA 6426, he explained, guaranteed the ab-

solute secrecy of dollar deposits, while the peso accounts in his name belonged to his family.

Listening to his monologue, it was sometimes confusing to determine his income status.

On one hand, he said he wasn’t born poor; his parents could afford to send him to Ateneo de Manila and to Harvard, so why was anyone questioning his assets?

On the other, he indicated a humble background, saying that living a frugal life allowed him and his wife to accumulate assets over several decades, which they invested. No part of that wealth, he insisted, was stolen from public funds. He tossed in the detail that they don’t have maids, to illustrate his point about simple living.

Corona repeated previous explanations to debunk the prosecution’s accusation that he had 45 real estate properties, and explained why he failed to declare the current market value of the five that he actually owned. The prosecution had been previously skewered over the information provided by the LRA.

But after his walkout, Corona’s brownie points were dissipated. And when he was brought back to the session hall on a wheelchair, it was too reminiscent of his patron, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Since Enrile, unani-

mously backed by his colleagues, has threatened to consider the impeachment case submitted for resolution if Corona does not allow himself to be cross-examined, the Chief Justice may be back on the witness stand today, recovered from his supposed hypoglycemic episode. As of last night, he was reported to be headed for a hospital.

If Corona returns to the witness stand, perhaps someone should advise him to stop the tears. There was a recent story about men being turned off by women’s tears during an argument, no matter how valid the woman’s complaints. There is a similar effect on a disbelieving audience; tears are as contrived as claims of having a direct line to God.

Corona can also use an adviser on attitude, although at this point it is too late, and it’s doubtful that he would listen anyway.

His concluding statement (and Enrile’s response) was a defining moment in the impeachment trial.

“Now the Chief Justice of the Republic of the Philippines wishes to be excused,” Corona said before stalking out of the session hall, without bothering about the Senate’s response.

It was a display of impunity – something that ought to be avoided by anyone in the dock. (www.philstar.com) ■

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

State Announces “Central Issuance” of Identification Cards

FOR SECURITY REASONS, THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL will switch the issuance of State ID cards from an “over-the-counter” system to a “central issuance” system beginning July 9, 2012.

Central issuance will not affect the application process for obtaining a State ID card. Applicants will continue to apply at the State ID Office located in Downtown Honolulu or at the governor’s liaison Offices in Hilo, Kona, Maui and Kauai.

If applicants provide the necessary documents and fee,

they will receive a temporary “paper” ID which includes their photograph. The actual ID card will then be produced and issued at a secured central issuance facility and mailed to applicants. The ID will be mailed in a form that will not suggest or reveal its contents.

The primary purpose of this change is to prevent people from fraudulently obtaining identification cards, either by using the identity of another person or using a fictitious identity.



Central issuance also protects against fraudulent activities

by allowing for additional security checks before the final ID card is issued. It also ensures that Hawaii complies with rules provided by the U.S.

Department of Homeland Security. These rules require protecting the equipment and supplies used to produce ID cards, when those cards may be used to enter courthouses, federal buildings and other federally-controlled facilities, and to board federally-regulated commercial aircraft and commercial air carriers.

**LIGHTNING FAST
EMERGENCY CASH!**

**NEED CASH TODAY?
PAYDAY TOO FAR?**

**GET A PAYDAY LOAN.
PAY BACK ON YOUR PAY DAY.**

USE CASH FOR:
 ■ CAR REPAIRS
 ■ UTILITIES
 ■ UNEXPECTED CASH SHORTAGE

Call us at
671-9490

BELA ENTERPRISE
 9 4-356 WAIPAHU DEPOT RD.,
 GREEN BLDG BEHIND WAIPAHU FESTIVAL MARKET
www.belaent.com

(cont. from page 1; CELEBRATING...)

On August 4, 1964, Republic Act No. 4166 renamed the July 4 holiday as "Philippine Republic Day" and proclaimed the 12th day of June as the "Philippine Independence Day" and enjoined all citizens of the Philippines to observe June 12 with rites befitting Independence Day. June 12 had previously been observed as Flag Day, which was moved to May 28.

July 4 is celebrated in the Philippines as Filipino-American Friendship Day to acknowledge the enduring relations between the Philippines and the U.S. Various factors have strengthened ties between the two nations, including a shared history and a common commitment to democratic values. The U.S. is also the Philippines' major trading partner and home to over

three million Filipino migrants as well as Filipino-Americans.

A BIG SUCCESS

The 2011 Kalayaan celebration was well-attended and a smashing success, according to the many attendees.

"We had a fun event last year," says participant Jo Farina. "Guests were surprisingly impressed with the gathering of beautiful peoples."

Another attendee, Anolia Orfrecio Facun, said last year's Kalayaan celebration was one of her most happiest moments as a Filipino.

"(It was) my first time to attend such a grand Philippines Independence Day celebration and to witness so much talents," she says. "I truly enjoyed myself. Being new here, it made me feel at home. It must be the aloha spirit reigning in this is-



2010 Kalayaan celebration with former Consul General Ariel Abadilla (with lei)

land. Mahalo nui loa!"

ABOUT PCCCH

PCCCH is an outreach arm of the Philippine Consulate. Its main purpose is to assist the Consulate in planning and executing activities for the celebration of Philippine Independence

and related events and to foster closer ties between the peoples of the Philippines and Hawaii.

PCCCH was an initiative of Consul General Rolando Gregorio and was organized in 2000 with Jun Colmenares serving as chairperson.

Elected chairs for a term of

one fiscal year were as follows:

- 2000 Jun Colmenares
- 2001 Dwayne Bueno
- 2002 Raymund Liongson
- 2003 Arnold Villafuerte
- 2004 Leo Gozar
- 2005 Ethel Ward
- 2006 Eddie Agas
- 2007 Larry Ramirez
- 2008 Jean Jeremiah
- 2009 Maggie Domingo
- 2010 Bennette Misalucha
(served for one and a half years due to an amendment changing the term to calendar year – hence, July 1 2010 to 31 December 2011)
- 2012 Maria A. F. Etrata

Over the past decade, PCCCH has led numerous cultural and national events such as Independence Day, Araw ng Kagitingan and Rizal Day. ■

(cont. from page 1; SENATE...)

your evidence we will consider the matter submitted on the record," Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, sitting as presiding judge of the impeachment court, told defense lead counsel Serafin Cuevas.

Despite Corona's non-appearance at the Senate, Enrile said the impeachment court will still consider the testimony statement of the chief justice and will keep it in the records, contrary to his previous threat to strike out the testimony if Corona fails to return to the witness stand.

"We will consider the case submitted on the basis of evidence presented," he said.

Enrile also directed the



prosecution and defense panels to prepare for the oral arguments on Monday. He said both panels will be given one hour each for their arguments.

According to the rules, the prosecution will open the arguments followed by the rebuttal of the defense panel. The closing remarks will be done by the prosecution.

Senate Pro Tempore Jing-

goy Estrada said that the Senate may render judgement on the impeachment case after the oral arguments on Monday or the following day.

Enrile said each senator will be given two minutes each to announce and explain their votes.

NO SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Senator-Judge Alan Peter Cayetano asked Cuevas during the hearing if the defense panel would submit documents that will support the claims made by Corona during yesterday's hearing.

Cayetano suggested that it would be better if the defense would submit documentary evidence on Corona's claims so the senator-judges could have wider reference for their verdict.

Cuevas, however, said that they are not planning to submit documentary evidence.

"The testimony here made [by Corona] yesterday will lie entirely on his credibility," the lead counsel for the defense said.

Corona denied that he maintained 84 dollar and 31 peso accounts. He also reiterated that he only have five properties, contrary to the prosecution's claim that he had

45 properties.

He claimed that he had been maintaining dollar deposits since the late 1960s. He said he only had four dollar accounts.

The chief magistrate also said that he only has three peso accounts contrary to the claim of Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales. He said that he did not declare the peso accounts because its deposits are co-mingled funds from the members of his family.

Corona ended his testimony by signing a waiver to authorize banking institutions and the government to scrutinize and make public the details of his peso and foreign currency accounts.

However, he said that he would only allow the scrutiny of his bank accounts if the 188 congressmen who signed his impeachment and Sen. Franklin Drilon will sign similar waivers.

The chief magistrate then asked to be excused and walked out of the Senate session hall. He, however, was prevented by the Senate security from leaving the legislative compound as he has not been properly discharged as a witness by the impeachment court.

He later turned up in a wheelchair and his lawyers claimed that he had to abruptly leave the session hall because he did not want to throw up and collapse in the Senate floor.

He allegedly suffered from hypoglycemia. He would later be rushed to the Medical City and confined at the hospital's intensive care unit for strict monitoring due to a possible heart attack.

UNDER SEDATION

Cuevas told the impeachment court that defense lawyers were unable to talk to Corona, whom he said was under sedation, and ask the chief magistrate personally if he was willing to return to the Senate today.

He said Corona's wife, Cristina, and children assured the defense lawyers that the chief magistrate is willing to be cross-examined as soon as he recovers.

Cuevas said Corona may be able to return to the Senate by Monday, but said that the chief magistrate may not be "physically and mentally" fit to take the witness stand again.

Enrile issued the deadline to the defense and made declarations about the schedule of the oral arguments after Cuevas told him that they could not assure the date when Corona will be well enough to return for the direct and cross examinations.

The presiding judge said that the ruling is final and "cannot be reconsidered by anyone." ■

Joseph M. Zobian, M.D.



Board-certified ophthalmologist
U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, Philippines
San Marcelino, Zambales
1988 to 1990
Tagalog and Ilokano spoken

SPECIALIZING IN:
•CATARACT AND LASER SURGERY
•COMPLETE EYE CARE
•EYEGASSES AND CONTACT LENSES
•CATARACT • GLAUCOMA • PTERYGIUM SURGERY

WAIPAHU MEDICAL CENTER
94-307 Farrington Highway, Suite B7a
Waipahu, HI 96797
808-678-0622

KAHALA OFFICE BUILDING
4211 Wai'alae Avenue, Suite 106
Kahala, HI 96816
808-732-0550

(cont. from page 1; YOUNG ...)

in the development of more resilient communities in Southeast Asia.

The Filipino students joining the five-week Study of the United States Institute (SUSI) for Student Leaders on Global Environmental Issues are Gabrielle Paul Pascual (Saint Louis University), Sheryan Guialel (Mindanao State University), Diana Dimayuga (De La Salle University-Lipa), Angeli Guadalupe (University of Philippines-Manila) and Albert Villahermosa (University of the Philippines-Diliman).

The program is hosted by the East-West Center and funded by the Study of the U.S. Branch in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Participants arrived on May 6 to begin team projects in one of

four key areas: water, waste, energy and oceans, and land management. They were joined by peer mentors from the University of Hawaii and the East-West Center, and partnered with the State of Hawaii's Green Business Program and other local organizations.

Participants also experienced Hawaii's environment directly through field studies at Lyon Arboretum, Hanauma Bay, hiking to the top of Diamond Head and sailing off Waikiki Beach.

On May 25, they traveled to Boulder, Colorado to experience the semi-arid Rocky Mountain climate and the University of Colorado, designated one of the "greenest" campuses in America. Their final week will be in Washington D.C. with opportunities to present their team projects to the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Senate Committee for Environment and Public Works.

Several students spoke candidly on what they hoped to gain from the program.

"I want to learn about the culture of the Hawaiians and how it differs from the culture of the Americans on the mainland. I would also like to know if there is a significant difference affecting their behaviors towards the environment," says Guialel, from Mindanao State University.

"I would like to study strategies and techniques in the U.S. that may help solve the growing environmental problems in Baguio City, such as deforestation and unsustainable urbanization," Pascual says.

"I am looking for solutions to the eutrophication problem

of Taal Lake," says Dimayuga. "I wish to learn cost-effective ways for turning invasive macroalgae into biofertilizers."

The program's participants bring a broad range of backgrounds, including the study of basic medicine and the effects of climate change on human health; marine biology, water-purification and renewable energy research; and information technology.

The goals of the program include transformative learning experience through introductions to a broad spectrum of American life, opportunities for U.S. practitioners to learn about environmental challenges in the Asia Pacific region, and building networks and collaborative projects that link participants with U.S. environmental professionals to develop practical solutions to

shared challenges.

The Institute is hosted by the East-West Center in collaboration with more than 50 organizations, including the UH-Manoa Environmental Center and University of Colorado Environmental Center.

The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the U.S., Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options.

More information on the program and biographies of participants can be found online at: www.eastwestcenter.org/susi. ■

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

City to Host Memorial Day Ceremony at Punchbowl

HONOLULU MAYOR PETER CARLISLE and U.S. Army Gen. David Bramlett (ret.) are among the dignitaries and special guests at the Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony on May 28, 2012 at 8:30 am at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. The ceremony honors veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their nation.

The service will also include the Royal Hawaiian Band, Sounds of Aloha Choir, a tradi-

tional 21-gun salute and a low-altitude "Missing Man" formation flyover by military jets. Preceding the flyover will be a rifle volley at approximately 9:15 am, which will last about five minutes.

Law enforcement Explorer Captain Risa Moniz, Boy Scout Andrew Musgrave and Senior Girl Scout Kayla Seto will place wreaths at the cemetery's Dedicator Stone. Junior ROTC cadets from Campbell, Kaiser, McKinley and Waianae high

schools will post the 50 state flags and the Joint Military Color Guard will post the national colors. Numerous veterans organizations will also present wreaths and their colors.

Due to limited parking at Punchbowl, the City will provide special bus service for attendees by incorporating the Punchbowl stop on Route 15, Makiki/Pacific Heights, for that day.

Free parking will also be available at the Fasi Civic Center garage for motorists board-

ing buses at the Alapai Transit Center. Pick-up at the transit center will run from 7 am to 8 am. Destination signs on the departing buses will read "15 Punchbowl."

Returning buses will run at two intervals only: 9:30 am and 9:40 am. Destination signs on these buses will read "15 Alapai Transit Center." All normal fares apply and all bus stops along the route will be serviced.

The Memorial Day ceremony is presented through the coordination and support of more than 50 government

agencies, businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals. The event is planned and conducted by the City's Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR).

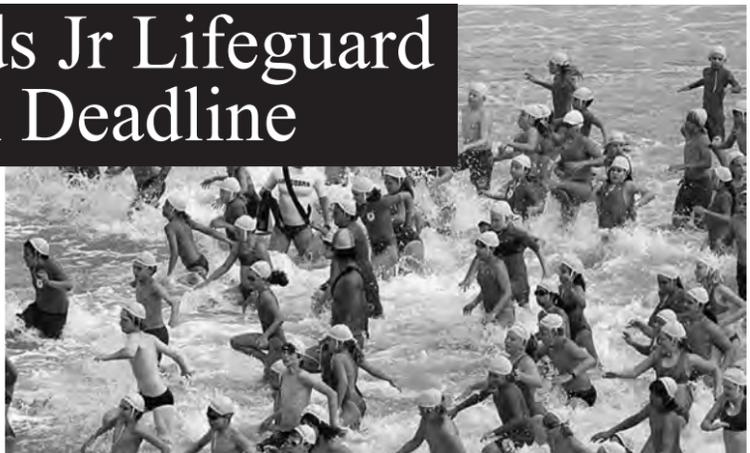
Most of the lei adorning the grave sites are donated by Hawaii's public school children through the support and coordination of the State Department of Education.

For more information on the Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony, please contact DPR at 768-3002. For bus information, go online to: www.thebus.org or call 848-5555. ■

City Extends Jr Lifeguard Application Deadline

CITY OFFICIALS HAVE EXTENDED THE ONLINE REGISTRATION deadline for the Junior Lifeguard Summer Program until Tuesday, May 29, 2012.

The extension was announced by the City's Department of Emergency Services Ocean Safety Division and the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association. Enrollment is still available at four program locations. Currently, there are six openings at Ala Moana Beach Park, 23 at Kalama Beach Park (Kailua), 58 at Ehukai Beach Park (North Shore) and 91 at Makaha Beach Park (West Oahu). Registration must be completed online at www.myjuniorguards.com. No



mail-in registrations will be accepted.

The Junior Lifeguard Program familiarizes teenagers with ocean awareness and safety. The program is a five-day course, Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 2 pm, that is taught by ocean safety lifeguard professionals. It includes beach skills, ocean training, surf rescue techniques, physical conditioning, swimming, CPR, first aid

and other related activities. There is a suggested \$45 donation for program participation.

The program is open to males and females ages 13 to 17. Applicants must have strong swimming skills and a desire to learn about ocean safety. For further information, please contact Ocean Safety Division Junior Lifeguard Coordinator Norm Skorge at 723-7864 or via email at: nskorge@honolulu.gov. ■

Auto Rates Just Got Lower

Stop by State Farm® agent's office, or call me today to find out how much you can save. Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7.

Dennis M. Sumimoto LTCP, Agent
 94-229 Waipahu Depot St.
 Waipahu, HI 96797
 Bus: 808-677-0098
 Fax: 808-677-7923
www.dennisumimoto.com

"Nakakapagsalita Po Kami ng Tagalog"

StateFarm

Retired Firefighters Endorse Cayetano

RETIRED HONOLULU FIREFIGHTERS GATHERED AT THE CAYETANO FOR MAYOR headquarters last May 15, 2012 to formally endorse Benjamin J. Cayetano for Mayor.

"Honolulu is in a sad shape," says Donald Chang, former Fire Chief and HFD Retirees Association President. "It's broken and needs fixing. Our water system, sewers, roads and traffic are just some of the problems. With Ben

Cayetano's qualifications and determination, he will make Honolulu become the great city that it should be. For eight years as governor, his accomplishments made Hawaii a better place to live for everyone."

Chang says Cayetano, who took care of his elderly father for many years, understands the challenges retirees who live on fixed incomes face every day just to make ends meet.

Also in attendance at the endorsement announcement

were Assistant Fire Chief Hardy Akau, Battalion Fire Chief Mike Zablan and fire captains Tony Pascua, Randy Sanborn and Dennis Lewis.

A few days later on May 18, 2012, Cayetano officially signed papers announcing his candidacy for Honolulu mayor. He told friends and supporters that this marks the first time in Hawaii's history that a former governor is running for mayor.

"This is not a career move," he says. "I am running for this of-



Members of the Honolulu Fire Department Retirees Association endorse former Gov. Ben Cayetano in the race for Honolulu mayor

fice because Honolulu's infrastructure is in disrepair, and the

economic health of our city is at stake." ■

City Announces Project to Update Parking Meters

CITY OFFICIALS ARE SET TO LAUNCH a pilot project that replaces coin-only parking meters with new solar-powered meters that allow payment by credit and debit card and the addition of meter time via mobile phone.

The new meters will provide

more convenient payment options and still retain coin-payment capabilities of traditional meters.

"Drivers should find the new meters easy to use," says Mayor Peter Carlisle. "We believe parking citation volume may decrease because it will be easier for drivers to purchase the

amount of parking time needed, rather than be limited by the number of coins available."

The pilot project will begin on June 4, 2012 with the installation of 110 new meters in the civic center area, including 72 public parking spaces in the civic center garage, 10 public spaces in the Honolulu Police Department garage and 28 stalls along South King and Punchbowl streets around Honolulu Hale.

The City will evaluate the project and public feedback before deciding whether to install meters in other locations. If the pilot project is successful, a sec-

ond phase is planned for Downtown and Chinatown metered parking areas.

The new solar-powered meters are equipped with back-up batteries and self-monitors to identify operational problems. They use wireless technology to promptly notify technicians of any problems that occur. The meters are expected to help the City better manage parking by providing information on meter usage and allowing more flexible equipment control. The new meters also have sensors that reset to zero once a vehicle drives away.

Wireless communication capability is also incorporated into the real-time online credit card

authorization process, which meets the highest Visa and MasterCard standards for credit card information security. No credit card information is ever stored on the meters or on any City information system.

Meter rates, maximum parking durations and enforcement practices will not be changed during the pilot project. Additional information and a customer feedback system will be available online at: www.ips-groupinc.com/honolulu. The City will also solicit feedback on its Facebook page (www.facebook.com/honolulu.gov) and Twitter accounts (@HNL_Info; @hnltdts). ■

CATCH US ON THE WEB!

"WE'RE NOW READ BY MILLIONS OF FILIPINOS AROUND THE GLOBE."

Go to efilipinochronicle.com or thefilipinochronicle.com and see how the face of business is changing!

We are also on KWHE-TV 14

BALIKBAYAN BOXES LBC HARI NG PADALA

GRACE LARSON
BIG ISLAND AGENT of LBC

211 MAKANI CIRCLE
HILO, HI 96720
808- 640-1540
808-960-6006
Fax: 1-866-663-1453
raven_reuboni@yahoo.com

www.lbcexpress.com

PARALEGAL SERVICES
IMMIGRATION SERVICES
INTERPRETING SERVICES
(Tagalog, Visayan & Ilonggo)

GRACE MANIPOL-LARSON
Paralegal / Interpreter

www.allparalegalservices.com

DOH Issues Water Safety Reminder

WITH SUMMER AND MEMORIAL DAY AROUND THE CORNER, the State Department of Health is raising awareness about healthy and safe water activities, including ways to prevent water-related injuries and illnesses.

DOH officials are offering tips and through the Hawaii Beach Safety website at: hawaiibeachsafety.org.

"The Hawaii Beach Safety website can help both visitors and residents decide which beach to go to, depending on the conditions that day," says DOH director Loretta Fuddy. "The Injury Prevention and Control Section at the DOH funded the beach assessments for the website and works with the Hawaiian Lifeguard Association and all County Ocean Safety programs in raising awareness of the need for beach safety."

Hawaii has the second highest resident drowning rate in the nation—a rate that is twice the average for the rest of the coun-



try. Each year, approximately 52 people in Hawaii drown in the ocean, including 25 residents and 27 visitors. Ocean drowning is by far the leading cause of death among visitors, accounting for 40 percent of the total.

Residents and visitors are reminded to:

- Swim at lifeguarded beaches
- Follow the lifeguard warnings and heed posted signs
- Pay attention to changing conditions
- Swim with a buddy and know your limits
- When in doubt, don't go out

Before going to the beach, those with internet access are advised to check current ocean conditions of all guarded and

unguarded beaches at www.hawaiibeachsafety.org. The website features safety information about rip currents, dangerous shore breaks and other hazards, prevention tips, surf reports, box jelly fish and other special alerts, and warnings. Information on the website is updated several times each day.

Partners involved in the development of the website include the City's Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division, the Hawaii Lifeguard Association, County Ocean Safety programs, University of Hawaii-Manoa School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology, Hawaii Tourism Authority and Hawaii State Department of Health. ■



by Atty. Emmanuel Samonte TIPON

Is it true, as a magazine cover displayed by comedian Jay Leno depicted, that Obama is “The First Gay President”? Probably not. But then who knows?

When I turned on the television before going to my radio program May 10, I saw President Obama on ABC news declare: “At a certain point, I’ve just concluded, that for me personally, it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married.”

Do you notice the equivocation and uncertainty? “I think”. When a witness declared “I think the defendant killed his wife,” the cross-examining lawyer jumped on him: “We don’t care what you

Coming Out of the Closet: Obama, Gay Marriage, and Immigration

think, did he or did he not kill his wife?” “But sir,” riposted the witness, “I am not a lawyer, I cannot talk without first thinking.”

Obama claimed that his position on gay marriage “evolved”. Sounds more like “revolved”. According to Elliott Abrams on the Weekly Standard as quoted by USA Today, 04/11/12: “Obama has changed his position whenever his political fortunes required him to do so. Running for the Illinois state senate . . . in 1996, he was for gay marriage. . . In 2004, he was running for the U.S. senate and needed to appeal to voters statewide. So he evolved and favored civil unions but opposed homosexual ‘marriage.’ In 2008, running for president, he said, ‘I believe marriage is between a man and a woman. I am not in favor of gay marriage.’ Now in 2012, facing a tough reelection campaign where he needs energized supporters of gay ‘marriage’ . . . he is for it. To paraphrase John Kerry, he was for it before he was against it

before he was for it again.”

GAY MARRIAGE AND IMMIGRATION

What happens when gay American citizens married to gay aliens file relative visa petitions to enable their alien same-sex partners to immigrate to the U.S.? The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has routinely denied the petitions. What would happen if a gay U.S. citizen petitions his/her alien fiancé/fiancée? The USCIS would likely deny the petition. Reason: The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) recognizes marriage only between a man and a woman. Federal law governs immigration, and it does not matter whether state law recognizes the marriage.

How does the President’s position favoring gay marriage affect the enforcement of DOMA? If you were the lawyer representing a gay American, would you tell USCIS: “Your big boss thinks same-sex couples should be

able to get married. You must approve this visa petition for my gay citizen client to bring my client’s gay partner to America. Otherwise I will tell your big boss that you don’t agree with him. Let’s see what happens.”

The USCIS officer might tell you. “I will not adjudicate your petition until after the November elections. By that time we will have another President who is against gay marriage.” Or the officer could tell you: “Obama simply said ‘same-sex couples should be able to get married.’ Obama did not say they should be able to immigrate.” Touché.

Five gay/lesbian American citizens married to aliens of the same sex whose visa petitions for the aliens were denied sued the Attorney General and officers of the Department of Homeland Security to compel them to reopen and readjudicate the petitions without regard to sex or sexual orientation. See *Blesch v. Holder*, Case No.

1:2012cv01578. The mandamus action was filed on April 2 in U.S. District Court in New York (E.D.) before Obama declared he supports same-sex marriage. It seeks to have DOMA (1 USC Section 7) declared unconstitutional as violative of equal protection of the laws.

That’s what I have been telling potential clients whenever they call claiming they are gay and want to petition their gay fiancé/fiancée – “Are you able and willing to sue the b.....s.” (That means “big shots,” not “bastards”). ■

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. Office: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filam-law@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServiceUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270, AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.iluko.com.)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Cops Nab 2 Pinays in Fraud Cases in Phl, US

by Lovella DESIDERIO
Thursday, May 17, 2011

MANILA, PHILIPPINES - TWO FILIPINAS CONVICTED BY A LOCAL COURT and allegedly facing indictments for fraud, including an \$80 million-case in the United States, have been arrested by the police following a complaint from their victim here in the Philippines.

Operatives of the Quezon City Police District’s Intelligence Division arrested Marilyn Ong, 56, and Edna Alfuerio, during separate operations on May 18 that started in Cavite and ended in Barangay Teacher’s Village.

QCPD director Chief Supt. Mario Dela Vega said they conducted the operation following a report made by Thomas Lim, who sought police assistance to enforce an arrest warrant against the two for seven counts of violation of Batas Pambansa 22 or the Bouncing Checks Law.

The cases involved an amount of some P5.51 million, Dela Vega said.

Sr. Supt. Joel Pagdilao, QCPD deputy director for operations, said the two women were convicted by the Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 1 in Manila in January 2011 for the charges.

“...they (Ong and Alfuerio) had re-

mained fugitives despite their conviction,” Pagdilao said in an interview.

Dela Vega said Lim sought their assistance last week and provided information on the two women.

A team of policemen from the QCPD’s Criminal Investigation Branch led by Chief Insp. Rodel Marcelo, Insp. Elmer Monsalve and SPO4 Allan Dela Cruz worked on the case and eventually found information on Ong’s whereabouts that led them to Cavite.

According to Pagdilao, what the police tailed on May 18 was the Hyundai Starex van used by Ong, the information about which had been given by the complainant to the police.

Informants told policemen about the sightings of the vehicle in Cavite but policemen eventually traced Ong, tailed and arrested her along Alabang Zapote Road in Muntinlupa City.

Following Ong’s arrest, policemen conducted follow-up operations to arrest Alfuerio in Barangay Teacher’s Village in Quezon City.

22 similar cases in the Philippines and indictment in the US

Citing NBI records, Pagdilao said the suspects are facing 22 other cases.

(www.philstar.com) ■

Personal Injury Asbestos Mesothelioma

We can help you get justice.



Loreto M. Vilorio, Paralegal



- Auto Accidents
- Industrial Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Help you get to medical appts.
- Home and hospital visits
- Help with insurance forms
- Help you with legal forms
- Help with car and towing

If you’ve been seriously injured in an auto or industrial accident, please call Loreto M. Vilorio at our Waipahu office. He has over two decades of experience working with attorneys to help injury victims understand their rights and insurance procedures. We speak fluent Tagalog and Ilocano at our Waipahu office and treat every client like family. There is no charge for an initial consultation and no fee if there’s no recovery.

GARY GALIHER
GALIHER DEROBERTIS ONO
ATTORNEYS AT LAW / LAW CORPORATIONS

Call 24 hours Office: 676-5665 Cell: 227-2333

Embracing the Sun in Samal

MANILA, Philippines - For many years now, the Island Garden City of Samal, more popularly known as Samal Island, has always been the weekend refuge of urbanites from nearby Davao City, as it's just about a five-minute motorboat ride away.

Beyond its famous sand, sun and sea adventures, Samal also has its share of tales from its first inhabitants, the Isamal tribe, who arrived on the island as part of the first and second waves of migration from the Malay region of Southeast Asia.

Known as peace-loving people, the Isamals, who settled in coastal communities, lived in harmony. A dynasty of their tribal chieftains or datus ruled the island for years, extending until the early part of the American occupation. The last ruling tribal chieftain of the island was Datu Taganiyug, who lived in Malibasa (now known as Peñaplata,

its capital) where he exercised his sovereignty. He died on Jan. 28, 1948.

Under the Department of Mindanao and Sulu during the American regime, the Samal archipelago was established into a district municipality composed of the islands of Samal, Talicud, Cruz, Ligid, the Malipano islets and Arboles (now Sanipahan).

After being an island municipality of Davao del Norte for many years, Samal finally became a city through Republic Act 8471 on Jan. 30, 1998. This paved the way for the dissolution and merger of the three former municipalities of Samal, Babak, and Kaputian into one local government unit, now officially named as the Island Garden City of Samal.

Today, Samal is far from its



primeval past. With its white sand beaches and other tourism lures, it is now considered a resort city that boasts of numerous beaches, coral reefs and dive sites that have attracted tourists around the world. Being one of the fastest growing tourist destinations in the country has made tourism one of Samal's main sources of revenue.

Visitors to Samal simply cannot get enough of its tropical paradise charm, enjoying its popular island destinations such as the islets of Small and Big Ligid, Malipano and Talicud, as well as its unspoiled coves and beaches.

The island has also become

the home of renowned resorts such as Paradise Island, BlueJaz

Resort, Camp Holiday, Isla Reta, Leticia by the Sea, Bali-Bali, Maxima Aqua Fun, Chemas by the Sea, Precious Garden, Buenavista, and Pearl Farm Beach Resort.

Aside from the usual island hopping using a motorized banca, the island now has water taxis, banca cruises and sunset cruises — more fun ways to set adrift around the islands.

The island's inland attractions have also become as celebrated as its aquatic destinations.



These include Putting Bato, the island's highest peak at 162 meters above sea level; its various waterways such as Hagimit Falls and natural springs; mangrove forests; and the Monfort Eco-Park, a Guinness Book of Records holder for being the habitat of 1.8 million Geoffroy's Rousette fruit bats. Its rugged terrain has also become a favorite venue for sporting events such as motocross, mountain biking, trail running, and trekking. (www.philstar.com) ■

PADALIIN ANG PAGPAPADALA NG PERA SA PILIPINAS
DIRETSO NG MAGPADALA SA KANILANG PESO BANK ACCOUNTS*

ANG PAGPILI AY NASA IYONG MGA KAMAY

Matatanggap Sa Pilipinas Sa:

- Allied Bank
- Asia Trust
- Asia United Bank
- Banco De Oro
- Bank of Commerce
- Bank of the Philippine Islands
- China Bank

- Citibank
- Development Bank of the Phils
- East-West Bank
- HSBC
- Land Bank
- Maybank
- Metrobank

- Philippine National Bank
- Planters Bank
- Rizal Commercial Banking Corp
- Security Bank
- Union Bank
- United Coconut Planters Bank



1-800-926-9400 MONEYGRAM.COM/DIRECTTOACCOUNT

*Napasailalim sa oras ng operasyon ng bangko. Lisensyado bilang isang Money Transmitter ng Departamento ng Pagbabangko ng Estado ng New York. Ang MoneyGram®, Globe, at Choice Is In Your Hands™ ay marka ng MoneyGram. Ang lahat ng iba pang marka ay pagmamay-ari ng mga ikatlong partido. © 2011 MoneyGram. Lahat ng karapatan ay reserbado. 0112-11



*Salubungin ang araw na may
kasamang sarap ng fresh blueberries.*



Bumangon sa umaga at langhapin ang sarap ng warm oatmeal, loaded with fresh, seasonal blueberries. Made when you order it, ang bagong McDonald's® Blueberry Banana Nut Oatmeal ay may fresh blueberries, plus premium walnuts, hints of real banana, and two servings of whole grain oats — lahat ito 290 calories lang. Tikman na ang aming pampagising na breakfast habang pwede pa — nandito lang ito for a limited time.



 **blueberry**
banana nut
oatmeal





**OCEANIC CABLE,
CHANNEL 11**
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

For a Christian TV Station.

Broadcasting experience preferred but not required.

EEO Employer.

Send resume to: dkanyuck@lesea.com**BROADCAST ENGINEER**

For a Christian TV Station.

Minimum 3 yrs experience in TV broadcasting.

EEO Employer.

Send resume to: mkemmerling@lesea.com**LOCAL AND NATIONAL
INSPIRATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

- SUPERIOR LIVING
- Pacific Revival Center
- NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
- Wayne Cordeiro
- VOICE OF ZION
- Lyons Welch
- TAP IN, NOT OUT
- Jay Amina
- WORD OF LIFE
- Art Sepulveda

SPORTSHawaii TV Bowling
HPU Basketball & Volleyball**CHILDREN'S TELEVISION**Go For It • Real Life 101 • NASA •
Ultimate Choice • Zone**BOOK'EM DANO****HAWAII 50****MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
7 PM
THE BEST OF HAWAII
TV CLASSICS**

For advertising, call

Tel: 538-1414(office) • 772-3374(cell)
or email: dwhitelaw@lesea.com**China Allows Entry of Phl
Bananas - Palace**by **Aurea CALICA**
Wednesday, May 23, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **CHINA'S QUARANTINE OFFICIALS HAVE ALLOWED LOCAL BANANAS** to enter their market after imposing stricter measures on products coming from the Philippines, Malacañang said yesterday.

"We have a bit of good news. We have progressed in resolving the phytosanitary issue. We received word (yesterday) that 30 to 40 containers have been allowed to pass in China. So that's a little bit of good news for us," deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte said.

Valte said it was agreed that the Department of Agriculture would double check all banana exports before they leave the country and its counterparts in China would join them once the exports arrived there.

"It will be subjected to a joint inspection to resolve quickly any phytosanitary issues," Valte said.

To assist the local banana producers affected by the trade row with China, Valte said President Aquino ordered a study so that measures could be extended to them.

Although the import restrictions imposed by China have started to ease, the government is still looking for other markets for Philippine bananas, she added.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala organized a team from the Bureau of Plant Industry to go to China to check on the stranded banana shipments in response to China's claim that Philippine bananas shipped to them have pests.

Likewise, Chinese quarantine officials

have been invited to inspect plantations and ports in the country.

The Philippines is one of the world's top banana exporters, with much of the fruit being grown in Mindanao.

Its major markets include Japan, South Korea, China and New Zealand.

In 2010, the total export earnings for fresh Cavendish banana amounted to \$720 million.

China is the country's second biggest export market for bananas next to Japan.

Records show that as of February 2012, Philippine banana exports to China accounted for 19 percent of the total export in the first two months of this year.

The Palace earlier said the issue on bananas and other fruits banned from entering China had nothing to do with the row between the Philippines and China over Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal.

The government has imposed a fishing ban within the shoal area and appealed to fishermen not to violate it to allow depleted marine resources to recover.

President Aquino earlier ordered the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to provide assistance to the fishermen who would be affected by the fishing ban to ensure that they would not lose livelihood.

The BFAR has installed 10 fish aggregating devices known as payao. These payaos are situated within 15 kilometers off the coastline, compared to the shoal which is 125 nautical miles or 250 kilometers from the coastline, and can accommodate 30 to 40 fishers. (www.philstar.com) ■

**J-Lo, Jessica to Sing in
Manila?**by **Dexter Rodrigo MATILLA**
Tuesday, May 22, 2011

MANILA, Philippines - **IF EVERYTHING GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN, MANILA MAY NOT ONLY "DANCE AGAIN"** with Jennifer Lopez, but sing with "American Idol" finalist Jessica Sanchez as well.

This was revealed by N91 Live productions chief executive officer Jun Lorenz Mamangon during a recent media gathering at Chef Laudico's Bistro Filipino in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig in anticipation of next month's Michelle Branch and Jojo concert, which it is presenting together with Torch Productions.

Mamangon said Lopez's concert on Nov. 24 this year is "practically a go" and that it's only a matter of deciding whether it will be held at SM Mall of Asia's The Arena or at the concert grounds.

Mamangon said he'll recommend staging the concert of Lopez, who was re-

cently named by Forbes magazine as the world's most powerful celebrity, in an open field where they could sell more tickets but at a lower price compared to holding it at The Arena.

And if that wasn't exciting enough, Mamangon added that he'll work on getting Sanchez to be the opening act.

But the "American Idol" connection between the two – aside from Sanchez's Filipino roots – is not the only reason Mamangon is optimistic about the possibility of bringing in the 16-year-old singer.

"Back in early 2000, we opened our own production company and studio in San Diego," Mamangon said. "That's when Jessica Sanchez came to us to be taught. My wife Irene was the vocal coach."

Mamangon said he is betting on Sanchez to win over Phillip Phillips and if he gets to leave for the US in time for this season's "Idol" finale live show, he hopes to seal the deal that will result in a grand homecoming for Sanchez. (www.philstar.com) ■

Nearly 100 Chinese Vessels Spotted in Panatag

from www.philstar.com/
 Wednesday, May 23, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - **ALMOST 100 CHINESE VESSELS HAVE BEEN SPOTTED** in the Panatag Shoal in Zambales province, which the Philippines finds "regrettable" because this happened despite China's previous assurance that it is working to de-escalate the situation in the disputed territory.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) reported that at 7 p.m. on Monday (May 21), five Chinese government vessels CMS-71, CMS-84, FLEC-301, FLEC-303 and FLEC-310 were spotted inside the shoal's lagoon along with 10 Chinese fishing boats.

Six more Chinese fishing boats were spotted outside the lagoon of the shoal, which is also called in the Philippines as Bajo de Masinloc.

The DFA added that also on May 21, 56 more utility boats

were seen in the shoal, 27 of which were inside the lagoon and 29 were outside.

On Tuesday (May 22), the DFA said that 16 Chinese fishing vessels and 76 utility boats were spotted in the shoal.

"It is regrettable that these actions occurred at a time when China has been articulating for a de-escalation of tensions and while the two sides have been discussing how to defuse the situation in the area," the DFA said in a statement released to the local media.

It said that the Philippine government "protests these actions of China as clear violations of Philippine sovereignty and jurisdiction over the Shoal and sovereign rights over the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that covers the waters around Bajo de Masinloc."

The DFA added that China's actions also violate the ASEAN-China Declaration of Conduct on the South China Sea.



"The recent actions of China are also in violation of the United Nations Charter, specifically Article 2.4, which provides the following: 'All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations,'" it added.

The DFA fears that the continuous entry of Chinese vessels in the Philippine-claimed shoal will continue to escalate the tension. It said that it has sent a Note Verbale to the Chi-

nese government through its embassy in Manila on Monday.

"The increase in the number of China's vessels in the area imperils the marine biodiversity in the shoal and threatens the marine ecosystem in the whole West Philippine Sea. The Philippines has documented the many instances where Chinese fishermen have unlawfully dredged the area and illegally harvested giant clams and corals," the DFA said.

Last month Philippine Navy personnel attempted to apprehend crewmembers of Chinese fishing vessels caught illegally

fishing in the shoal. Navy personnel found where several endangered and protected marine species in the Chinese fishing vessels.

As the Navy personnel were approaching to apprehend the Chinese crewmen, two Chinese government vessels came into the picture and prevented the apprehension.

The Philippines has deployed vessels from the Philippine Coast Guard and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to monitor the movement of Chinese vessels in the area.

The DFA has demanded the immediate pulling out of the Chinese vessels from the shoal and "for China to refrain from taking further actions that exacerbate the situation in the West Philippine Sea."

Amid the tension, the Philippine government said discussions to calm down the situation at the shoal are continuing. ■

MAINLAND NEWS

US Sales of New Homes Rose 3.3 Percent in April

WASHINGTON (AP) — **AMERICANS BOUGHT MORE NEW HOMES LAST MONTH**, the latest evidence that the US housing market could be starting to recover.

New-home sales increased 3.3 percent in April from March to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 343,000, the Commerce Department said yesterday. Sales rose sharply in every region of the country but the South.

The gain pushed the annual sales pace to its second-highest level in two years. Economists were encouraged by the increase but cautioned that new homes are still selling at half the rate consistent with healthy markets.

The increase follows other reports this week that suggest steady improvement in housing.

Sales of previously occupied homes rose to near a two-year high in April. And Toll Brothers, a key US builder of luxury homes, reported that it returned to profitability in the second quarter.

A pickup in hiring, cheaper mortgages and lower home prices in most markets have made home buying more attractive.

"Housing could be a pleasant surprise this year," said Ellen Zentner, a senior economist at Nomura Securities. She said home construction would likely contribute to overall economic growth this year for the first time since 2005.

Sales of new homes rose 28 percent in April from March in the Midwest and the West, and 7.7 percent in the Northeast. Only in the South did

sales fall, by 10.6 percent.

The median price rose to \$235,700, a slight increase from March.

Toll Brothers said yesterday that home deliveries and signed contracts on new homes rose in the quarter that ended April 30. Its shares rose more than 2 percent.

The homebuilder earned \$16.9 million, or 10 cents per share, in the latest quarter. A year earlier it lost \$20.8 million, or 12 cents per share.

On Tuesday, the National Association of Realtors said sales of previously owned homes increased 3.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual

rate of 4.62 million. That nearly matched January's sales pace of 4.63 million, which had been the best in two years.

Though new homes represent less than 20 percent of the housing market, they have an outsized impact on the economy. Each home built creates an average of three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in tax revenue, according to statistics compiled by the National Association of Home Builders.

Builders have grown more confident since last fall, in part because more people are expressing interest in buying a home. In May, builder optimism rose to the highest level in five

years, according to a monthly index compiled by the builders' group.

Homebuilders reported improving sales and higher traffic from prospective buyers, the survey showed. A gauge measuring confidence in sales over the next six months also increased.

Recent job gains have likely made it easier for more Americans to purchase a home. Employers have added 1 million jobs in the past five months. And unemployment has dropped a full percentage point since August, from 9.1 percent to 8.1 percent in April.

(www.philstar.com) ■

Build A Rock® Solid Future

LIFE • AUTO • ANNUITIES

Tel. 808-935-1948
 Ditas Guillermo Udani
 Premier Agent
 The Prudential Insurance Company
 of America
 CA State Lic#OD90884
www.freditas.udani@prudential.com



"I'll help you build your financial future on a strong foundation."

 **Prudential Financial**
 Growing and Protecting Your Wealth

Insurance and annuities issued by The Prudential Insurance Company of America, Newark NJ and its affiliates.
 "Availability varies by carrier by carrier and state."

0153198-00002-00 Exp. 12/2/10

visit our websites @

www.thefilipinochronicle.com
 and

www.efilipinochronicle.com

and enjoy the e-copy of
 the hawaii-filipino chronicle!

What's New in Kidney Transplants?

AN APPLE A DAY by Tyrone M. REYES, M.D.

Kidney failure is a life-threatening condition faced each year by a growing number of Filipinos. When kidney failure reaches end-stage kidney disease, the only treatment options are dialysis or a kidney transplant.

Demand for a kidney transplant is considerably higher than for any other organ. Many people continue to be on the waiting list to have a kidney transplant. Fortunately, advances in kidney transplant procedures have expanded options for suitable donor kidneys in recent years. As a result, specialized transplant centers are now capable of performing successful kidney transplants that only a decade ago would have been thought impossible.

FALTERING FILTERS

Normally, every time your heart beats, about a fifth of your blood is diverted from the body's largest artery (aorta) into your kidneys. There, wastes are removed and precise concentrations of water, salts, and other substances in your blood are regulated before that blood is returned to the heart for recirculation. Of the 50 gallons of blood pumped through your kidneys each day, about half a gallon of waste products and excess water are passed out of your body as urine.

Healthy kidneys manage all

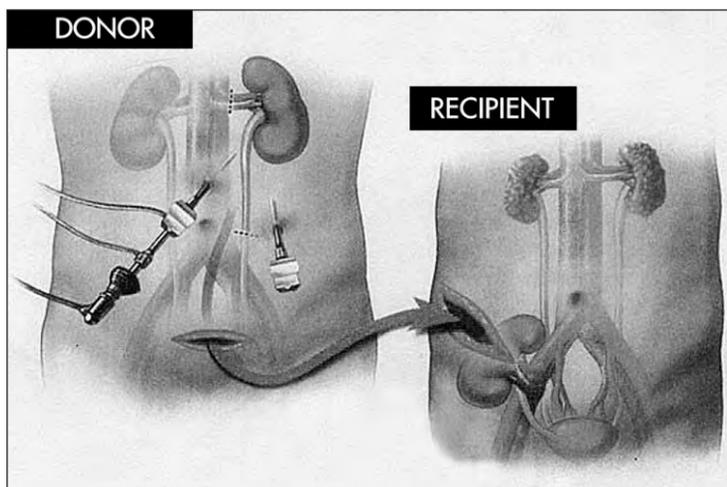
of this with ease. However, if an underlying disorder, such as diabetes or high blood pressure (hypertension), is destroying your kidney's filtering units (nephrons), your kidneys begin to fail and become less efficient at doing their job.

For some, kidney failure can be managed with dietary changes, medication, and treatment of the underlying disorder. But if the kidneys still can't perform their vital role of removing enough waste and fluid from the body, the next treatment option for end-stage kidney disease is typically dialysis or a kidney transplant.

TRANSPLANT OPTIONS

In the past, age could be a roadblock when it came to donating a kidney or receiving a kidney transplant. Today, there are no absolute age restrictions for receiving a kidney transplant. However, to receive a kidney if you're over age 65, your health must be relatively good, aside from the kidney disease for which the transplant is being sought.

A single donated kidney can accomplish most of what a previously healthy pair of failed kidneys used to do. A living-donor kidney transplant can be the best option if a matching donor can be identified — generally, a donor who is a blood relative can provide a closer match. How-



ever, very good results can also be obtained with kidneys from living donors who are unrelated — such as spouses, in-laws or friends. Short of a living donor, the next option may be to get on a waiting list for a kidney from a deceased donor. However, the wait can be several years or longer.

Fortunately, advances in kidney transplant procedures are making transplants possible for people who previously wouldn't have been considered good transplant recipients due to the likelihood of organ rejection. A vital piece in these advances has been discovering ways to overcome antibody barriers that would otherwise lead to rejection of a transplanted donor kidney.

Normally, antibodies help your immune system identify and fight off foreign bodies, such as bacteria and viruses. In the case of a transplanted kidney, the kidney recipient's antibodies can be directed against other proteins such as those that determine blood type or special proteins — particularly human leukocyte antigens (HLA) — that may be part of the transplanted kidney tissue. Two techniques that have improved transplant results by removing antibodies are:

- ABO incompatible living-donor kidney transplant. ABO incompatibility refers to the immune reaction that occurs when different blood types — types A, B or O — are mixed together. Ideally, the kidney donor's blood type is compatible with the transplant recipient's. If there's not a match, this living-donor transplant technique involves preconditioning the transplant recipient's blood by cleansing it of antibodies. Preconditioning may include removing antibodies that

cause rejection by filtering the blood (plasmapheresis), or by taking drugs that impair or decrease antibody activity. The transplant recipient's antibodies are carefully monitored the first two weeks after transplant. If antibody levels get too high, additional plasmapheresis may be done.

- Positive crossmatch kidney transplant. When it's determined that an intended transplant recipient carries antibodies that would attack the donated kidney, it's called a positive crossmatch, and it makes organ rejection likely. However, performing blood preconditioning techniques, similar to those used with ABO incompatible transplants, makes it possible for some positive crossmatch transplant to be successful.

By receiving either an ABO incompatible or positive crossmatch living-donor transplant with proper blood preconditioning techniques, recipients can have a lower risk of rejection than would have previously been expected and thereby avoid being on the kidney transplant waiting list for several years. Success rates of ABO incompatible transplants are nearly equal to those done with blood-type-compatible recipients, and positive crossmatch kidney transplants have similar success rates to transplants of deceased-donor kidneys.

LIVING-DONOR KIDNEY DONATION

Living kidney donors typically range in age from 18 to 70, are in good health, and — based on a pre-evaluation process — have normal kidney function and anatomy. Certain health condi-

A recent study shows that people who give kidneys to others not only have a normal life span but also have fewer kidney problems than does the general population — perhaps because they were healthier to start with.

tions can rule out a live kidney donation, including diabetes, some cancers, intravenous drug use, and certain infectious diseases, such as hepatitis and AIDS.

For someone who meets the donor criteria, donating one kidney will continue to do its job normally and will compensate for the loss of the other kidney. In fact, a recent study shows that people who give kidneys to others not only have a normal life span but also have fewer kidney problems than does the general population — perhaps because they were healthier to start with.

After surgical removal of the kidney (nephrectomy), there's no routine need for drugs or intense restriction on diet for the donor.

The nephrectomy may be done in one of two ways:

- Laparoscopic donor nephrectomy (see illustration on Page D-1). With the help of a scope, the surgeon locates, secures, and removes the kidney through a small incision in the abdomen. This procedure allows for a faster recovery, and has become the preferred approach at many leading medical centers abroad. Typically, two days are spent in the hospital and normal activities can be resumed within about three weeks.
- Traditional donor nephrectomy. This involves making a larger incision on one side of the back through which the kidney can be removed. After this operation, kidney donors remain in the hospital for four to six days and can usually resume normal activities in five to six weeks.

Most living-donor kidneys begin functioning immediately after transplantation with fewer complications than those from deceased donors. Living-donor kidneys also tend to last longer than do deceased-donor kidneys. Generally, half of the living-donor kidneys are still functioning 25 years after transplant, whereas half of deceased-donor kidneys fail in the first 10 years after transplant.

(continued on page 13)

IMPORTS GIFT SHOP & MINI-MART
82 Ala Malama Street
Kaunakakai Hawaii 96748
PHONE NO: 553-5734

• Baskets, Lauhala Mats	• Quilts & Notions
• Books, Notecards	• Refreshments
• Fine & Fashion Jewelry	• Seashells
• Groceries	• Shoes & Accessories
• Handbags, Hats	• Sport & Dress Clothing
• Hawaiiana	• Surfing Line
• Jewelry Repair, Resetting & Resizing	• Surfwear & Surfboards
• Molokai Arts, Crafts, Supplies	• Sundries
• Philippine Products Dried & Frozen	• T-shirts, Sweatshirts



ONE STOP SHOPPING!

OPEN 7 DAYS
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM


 by Reuben S.
SEGURITAN

Abused Spouses and Children Have a Path to Green Card

sive spouse or parent would refuse to attend the interview which then led to the denial of the application or petition.

The spouse and children were left without status and, in most cases, there was no other way to get it. Some of them chose to just endure the physical, verbal or sexual abuse rather than leave the home or get help and, in the process, risk deportation.

Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and subsequent legislation to allow abused spouses and children to seek safety and independence. The last congressional extension expired September 30, 2011 but the Senate recently passed a bill to reauthorize the program. Money disbursed before last year's expiration has been used for the current fiscal year.

VAWA enables the alien spouse and children subjected

to abuse or extreme cruelty by a USC and LPR spouse or parent to file a petition on their own behalf, or to "self-petition".

In a self-petition, the spouse or child becomes both the petitioner and the beneficiary. The spouse may be a current or former spouse. Unmarried children under 21 may self-petition if they were abused by a USC or LPR parent, but they may also be included in the parent's petition as a derivative beneficiary.

Abuse includes physical abuse (violence or threats of violence) and sexual abuse (sexual assault or rape). Intimidation, verbal abuse, isolation, coercion, extreme jealousy and threats of deportation are forms of extreme cruelty.

The self-petitioner must prove that there was a valid marriage. The marriage must have been entered into in good faith, meaning that the spouses in-

tended to live a life together and not just for immigration purposes.

Good moral character of the alien is also required to be established. Certain types of conduct that would otherwise bar a finding of good moral character are waivable if sufficiently connected to the abuse or extreme cruelty.

For instance, the abused spouse may obtain a waiver for her having engaged in prostitution in the past 10 years if that was part of the abuse or exploitation that she suffered in the hands of her abusive husband.

The alien must have lived with the abusive spouse in the U.S. or abroad, but the alien must be currently residing in the United States at the time of the self-petition. If the alien is filing from abroad, the abuse must have occurred in the United States or the USC or LPR spouse must be a U.S. government employee or a member of the armed forces.

The VAWA self-petition may be filed despite remarriage of the alien spouse or death of the abuser. Even a bigamous marriage is no longer a bar to VAWA relief; in such case, the alien spouse is an "intending spouse" if the USC or LPR spouse did not terminate a prior marriage and the alien spouse was unaware of this at the time of marriage.

If the petition is approved and the abuser is a USC, the beneficiary spouse or child becomes immediately eligible for permanent residence. On the other hand if the abuser is an LPR, the beneficiary is placed in a preference list and granted deferred action which makes him/her eligible for work authorization until the priority date is reached. ■

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

Pacquiao Defends Stance on Same-Sex Marriage, Apologizes to LGBTQ Community

 by Joseph PIMENTEL
 Saturday, May 19, 2012

LOS ANGELES – **IT'S BEEN A TRYING WEEK FOR THE FILIPINO** pound-for-pound champion Manny Pacquiao.

Not only is he trying to prepare for a June 9 championship welterweight clash against undefeated Timothy Bradley, but now he has a lot of serious public relations work to do, with gay and lesbian advocates.

Pacquiao, a very religious and devout Catholic, defended his view on same-sex marriage, but also added that he has noth-

ing against gay people.

"To the gay community, I apologize," Pacquiao told Mario Lopez on Extra, an interview that was supposed to be filmed at the Grove.

"I'm against same-sex marriage, but I'm not condemning you. My favorite verse is 'Love one another as you love yourself. Love your neighbor.' So I love everybody!"

MISQUOTED

Pacquiao insists that he was misquoted, when he told Examiner.com writer, Granville Am-



Cong. Manny Pacquiao

pong, that he didn't believe in or support gay marriage last week.

Based on the article that Among wrote, the writer took it one step further in the next paragraph -- referencing Leviticus

20:13: "If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads."

Because of the misquote, many readers and mainstream press writers attributed the controversial biblical quote against homosexuality to Pacquiao -- taking the biblical verse as a direct quote from the pound-for-pound champ.

Gay and lesbian advocates wrote out against Pacquiao and started an online petition to oust the Filipino boxing champion and congressman from Nike,

one of his primary sponsors.

The Grove, a popular outside shopping center in Los Angeles, banned the Filipino from making a scheduled appearance and interview with entertainment news site Extra, which regularly films there.

"Based on news reports of statements made by Mr. Pacquiao we have made it be known that he is not welcome at The Grove and will not be interviewed here now or in the future. The Grove is a gathering place for all Angelenos and not a place for intolerance," Officials from the Grove said.

(continued on page 14)

HEALTHLINE

(cont. from page 12; WHAT'S...)

AFTER YOUR SURGERY

After a kidney transplant, you can expect an additional three to four weeks of very close monitoring from your doctors. Even with the best possible match between you and the donor, your immune system will try to reject the new kidney.

Organ rejection may occur at any time after a transplant, but most occur within the first few weeks or months. Immunosuppressive drugs are used imme-

diately after the transplant and for the rest of your life to prevent rejection. Other drugs may also be prescribed to help your body fight off infections. In addition, you'll need to follow a post-transplant diet that's low in fat, sugar, and salt.

A kidney transplant offers no guarantees. Frequent blood tests during the first year after transplant are necessary to monitor how your body is accepting the new kidney. *(www.philstar.com)* ■

**Call Rey-Cel Travel
For The Lowest Fare
To Manila. (808) 871-6251**





**Listen To KPMW
The WILD 105.5 FM
(808) 871-6251
Request call (808) 871-6933**

Energetic young individual who can speak Ilocano and Tagalog (bilingual) to be a disk jockey of a radio station. Computer literate, radio experience, or will train. Fax resume to 808-871-5670.


BAHAGHARI

 by Ruth Elynia S.
MABANGLO

Noong unang panahon, wala pang langit at lupa. Mayroon lamang isang malawak na guwang o espasyo. Kaya naman kapag naiisip ng mga Manuvu o taga-Bukidnon ang Diyos, inilalarawan nila sa isip ang isang Diyos na nakaupo sa isang duyang nakabitin sa kalawakan. Magbabaya ang tawag nila sa kanilang Diyos.

Noon nag-isip si Magbabayang likhain ang mundo.

Samantalang iniisip niya ang gagawin, walong bakaw (heron) ang lumipad-lipad sa ulunan niya. Nahanginan siya sa pagaspas ng bagwis ng mga ibon. At dahil naginhawahan siya sa lamig na dulot ng hangin, hindi siya nakaramdam ng pagod. Una niyang nilikha ang wa-

Kuwentong Bukidnon: Ang Paglikha ng Santinakpan

long elemento: (1) tumbaga o bronse, (2) bulawan o ginto, (3) salapi o mga baryang pera, (4) bato, (5) gabun o ulap, (6) ulan, (7), puthaw o bakal, at (8) tubig.

Pagkaraan, sinimulan niyang gawin ang mundo. Pinaghalo niya ang ginto at tumbaga at ikinabit ito sa bakal. Ito ang nagsilbing sahig. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit hindi nahuhulog ang mundo. Pagkatapos, nilikha ni Magbabaya ang dagat. Gumawa rin siya ng bangkang yari sa bakal ang mga gilid para maging matatag sa hampas ng alon. Pagkatapos, nilikha niya ang mga isda. Pagkatapos nilikha niya ang langit. Lumikha siya ng isang bilog na bagay na parang bola. Sa gitna nito, naglagay siya ng posteng bronse at saka ikinabit sa isang windmill para umikot at umikit ang langit.

Ito ang dahilan kung bakit umiinog ang langit. Pagkaraa'y ginawa ni Magbabaya ang araw para bigyang-liwanag ang mundo. Kapag uminog ang langit, nagiging madilim dahil

natatakpan ang araw. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit may mga gabi. Pagkaraa'y nilikha ni Magbabaya ang buwan para bigyang liwanag ang madilim na gabi ngunit hindi ito kasinliwanag ng araw. Pagkaraan, nilikha niya ang mga bituin.

Matapos likhain ang mundo, nag-isip si Magbabaya kung ano pa ang gagawin.

Naisipan niyang lumikha ng tao na mamamahala ng mundo at mga hayop. Kumuha siya ng ilang dakot na lupa at hinulma ito, pero nabuwag. Nag-isip siya muli kung paano niya mabubuo ang lupa para maging katulad niya. Ngunit isang diyablo ang dumating nang lumayo si Magbabaya. Pinalitan niya ang nabuwag na lupa ng isang nabubulok na piraso ng kahoy. Nabuo ang tao, pero walang buhay. Walang daliri sa kamay o paa ang nabuong pigura. Sa panlulumo, umalis sandali si Magbabaya. Nang wala pa siya, isang ispiritung tinatawag na Miyaw-biyaw, isang mabuting nilalang na



Paglimian

KAPAG PINAGMULAN ANG USAPAN,
 MABABANGGIT, DI MAIWASAN--
 LANGIT, LUPA, TUBIG, ULAN,
 HININGA, BUHAY,
 MABUTING KALOOBAN.

HINDI MAHALAGA KUNG KRISTIYANO,
 ISLAM O MANUVU ANG PINAGMULAN.
 ANG MAHALAGA'Y MAKITA'T
 MARAMDAMAN
 ANG LABANAN NG SAMA AT KABUTIHAN.

KAYA NAMAN MAGLIMI,
 MGA KABABAYAN,
 SA DIYABLO BA O KAY MAGBABAYA,
 ITUTUON ANG TANAW?
 BAKA NAMA ANG MABUTI'Y
 KAY MIYAW-BIYAW!

taga-langit ang pumanaog. Kumuha siya ng hangin mula sa mga ulap, tinatawag na sininwalu--pinaghalong hangin, ginto at pilak--at ibinigay na hininga sa tao. Samakatwid, nagkaroon ng buhay ang tao.

Bakit namamatay ang tao? Sapagkat, pinalitan ng diyablo ng nabubulok na kahoy ang lupa. Bakit tinatangka ng diyablong

makaakit ng tao? Sapagkat may kaugnayan siya sa pagkakalikha ng tao. Bakit pinupuntahan ng mabait na taga-langit, si Miyaw-biyaw, ang bawat kasisilang na sanggol? Sapagkat siya ang may-ari at nagbigay ng buhay sa tao noon pa mang unang panahon. ■

(Pinagkunan: *Bukidnon Myths and Rituals* ni Carmen Ching Unabia)

MAINLAND NEWS

(cont. from page 13; PACQUIAO ...)

The Grove has since lifted its ban on Pacquiao.

Pacquiao immediately issued a statement vehemently denying ever referencing or saying the biblical quote to Ampong.

"Manny Pacquiao has never stated that anyone in the gay community deserved death," wrote a Pacquiao official on his website. "His [Pacquiao's] statements were taken out of context, and were not his opinion. Pacquiao is simply against the marriage of anyone that is not man and woman, as he believes is stated in the Bible."

The statement further adds Pacquiao saying:

"I didn't say that, that's a lie. I didn't know that quote from Leviticus because I haven't read the Book of Leviticus yet," Pacquiao said.

Team Pacquiao officials said the Filipino boxer "does not know and has never believed that people deserve death because of their sexual orientation."

Asian Journal emails to Pacquiao's camp and Top Rank were not returned as of press time.

CLARIFYING THE CONFUSION
 In a follow-up article on Ex-

aminer.com on May 15, Ampong apologized to the Pacquiao camp.

"Pacquiao never said nor recited, nor invoked and nor did he ever refer to such context," wrote Ampong, referring to the Leviticus biblical passage.

"I sincerely apologize for the confusion my column has caused. I certainly do not represent Pacquiao, nor his team."

Ampong blamed the national media for misconstruing his story on Pacquiao.

"I hereby demand both [Tom] Weir and [Dennis] Romero to apologize to Pacquiao. They, being writers for USA Today and LA Weekly respectively, should have a better reading comprehension than I do, rhetorically," said Ampong.

On May 18, Ampong wrote another article in Examiner.com entitled "Special message to the gays and lesbians community," to further clarify his objectives for writing the controversial piece and to reiterate his apologies: "Hoping this would be much clearer than my first statement of apology which I made public last May 15, primary to the original title of my article, 'Pacquiao rejects Obama's twist on the Scripture

(continued on page 15)

philstar.com
 The Filipino Global Community

shines even brighter
 for the Filipino Global
 Community



Join us as we journey into a new home!



Log on to www.philstar.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PMAH ANNUAL CME "PARTNERING TO IMPROVE PATIENT CARE" AND PMAH QUARTERLY MEETING

• May 26-27, 2012 • Aulani Disney Resort, Ko Olina, Kapolei
• 1:00-5:00PM • Contact: JP Orias @ 387-8297

PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION / SATURDAY

• June 9, 2012, • Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel, Coral Ballrooms 1, 2, & 3 • 6:30-11:30PM • Contact Jo @ 282 3847 or Edna @ 282 3669

4TH USA REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE, ORDER OF THE KNIGHTS OF RIZAL

• September 1-3, 2012 • Hibiscus Room, Ala Moana Hotel • Delegates are expected to come from the mainland US, Canada, Europe, Philippines, and Hawaii

2ND DR. JOSE P. RIZAL AWARD / SUNDAY

• September 2, 2012, • Hibiscus Room, Ala Moana Hotel • For more information, call Raymund Liongson at 381-4315 or Jun Colmenares, 510-734-4491.

GLOBAL NEWS

Philippines Calls for Better Protection Against Pirate Attacks

ENRIQUE A. MANALO, THE PHILIPPINES' AMBASSADOR TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO), continues to advocate for better protection of seafarers against pirate attacks off the coast of Somalia.

At a recent meeting of the 90th Session of IMO's Maritime Safety Committee, Manalo called on ship owners and the governments whose flag their ships fly under to assume the responsibility of ensuring a safe working environment for seafarers, especially when their vessels traverse waters off Somalia where pirate attacks have increased in recent years.

"The Philippine government ensures that Filipino seafarers are competent and fully qualified. The duty of the crew is to safely operate the ships which carry 80 percent of global trade," Manalo says. "It is in turn the responsibility of shipping companies and flag states to protect them from the scourge of piracy as they carry out this duty."

The Philippines continues to advocate for the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) codified by the commercial shipping sector as the primary defense against pirate attacks. BMPs include the use of razor wires around the vessel to deter pirates from climbing on board,

joining convoys travelling under the protection of naval escorts and the use of citadels or safe rooms where crew members seek shelter and await rescue by naval forces deployed to protect civilian vessels.

Noting the successful protection of merchant vessels by privately contracted armed guards on board these vessels, the Philippines has participated in international efforts to regulate their deployment in order to weed out incompetent and ill-trained security personnel.

"While the adoption of BMPs is our preference, the use of armed guards complements its implementation, thereby providing better protection to crew members," Manalo says. (DFA) ■

Filipino Peacekeepers in Golan Heights Receive UN Medal

AFTER THREE MONTHS OF DEPLOYMENT IN THE GOLAN HEIGHTS under the aegis of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), the 5th Philippine Contingent received UN Medals in recognition of their valuable service in the name of peace and security in the region on May 17, 2012.

The awarding of medals to contingents is a token of appreciation given by the United Nations to contingents for their contributions to the maintenance of peace and security in the Golan Heights.

The Philippine contingent forms part of the peacekeeping force com-

posed of troops from Austria, Canada, Croatia, India and Japan who have been tasked by the UN Security Council to maintain the ceasefire and supervise the disengagement of Israeli and Syrian forces in the so-called Areas of Separation and Limitation between the two parties.

Lt. Col. Ramon Estella, commanding officer of the Philippine battalion, led his troops during the parade and pinning of medals. Philippine Ambassador to Israel Generoso D.G. Calonge and Maj. Gen. Natalio C. Ecarma III, Head of Mission and Force Commander of UNDOF, attended the ceremony as special guests.

The deployment of Philippine

troops in Golan Heights, especially amidst the 2011 Arab spring, was a challenge and a test to their courage and endurance. The troops maintained the highest possible standards of professionalism and integrity while carrying out their responsibilities in their areas of operation.

The Philippines is not new in UN peacekeeping operations. Despite limited resources, the Philippines steadfastly maintains its commitment to the UN as one of its founding members.

The country has provided peacekeeping troops since the 1950s, particularly in Korea, Congo, Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, Cote d' Ivoire, Darfur, Georgia, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Kashmir, Kosovo, Nepal, Sudan and Timor Leste. (DFA) ■

MAINLAND NEWS

(cont. from page 14; PACQUIAO ...)

and tells him: God's words first,' which was changed to 'Interview: Pacquiao rejects Obama's twist on the Scripture,' by the editorial department of Examiner.com, even without consulting me first. Such piece was meant as opinion article, not merely one of pure interview in a journalistic sense, under my byline 'National Conservative Examiner,' granted by the same publication. Conversely, I still take full responsibility for it. I also

believe words are not to warrant my candidness, not even enough to elicit forgiveness from those whom I have deeply hurt."

"I hereby apologize again for the offense I have caused, most especially to the gays and lesbians community, inclusive of my friends, my first degree cousin, Joel Hayag Unabia, my mother's first cousins and other relatives," Ampong further wrote.

UNEXPECTED CONTROVERSY

Given Pacquiao's penchant for attracting distraction before a big fight, this was one they did not see coming.

When the story came out last week, many people demanded an apology and an explanation from Pacquiao. It is well-known that after his near loss against Juan Manuel Marquez last November, Pacquiao has admitted to being a changed man.

He tells the story of being visited by God in a dream. He said he wanted to be a better Christian and husband,

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

INJURED WORKER



Call 277-9919

Aimee Henson, Masters Rehabilitation Counseling, Fluent in Ilocano & Tagalog

BREAKFAST CLUB*

Berger & Associates | BBergerHonolulu@aol.com

FREE \$5 Breakfast Coupon to Workers Compensation Eligible

PISO TEXT FROM PH TO USA \$0.05/MSG FROM USA TO PH

NO ROAMING SIM CARD NEEDED

Text: REG your Firstname Lastname Nickname
Send To: 2129458403

Call (323) 319-4234

Visit www.loadtxt.com for details
Free Registration. Free Trial.

We make it easier for your loved ones.



MILILANI
MEMORIAL PARK & MORTUARY

677-5631 • www.mililanimemorial.com

LEEWARD OAHU REHAB SERVICES

- Work and No-Fault Related Injuries
- Reconditioning
- Orthopedic Evaluation and Rehabilitation
- Neck Pain
- Back Pain



(808)671-5928

VILMA D. FUENTES
Registered Physical Therapist

FOR LEASE OFFICE SPACES

LOCATED IN THE HEART OF WAIPAHU

AVAILABLE IN

132, 230, 262, 524, 515, 530, 1,060 SQ.FTS.

NEAR BUS STOP

EASY ACCESS TO THE FREEWAY

For more information, please call
RENTAL MASTERS
@ 678-8930 or 753-9434

Book Your Graduation Party Now!

CALL NOW!
692-9880

Prices starting at \$11.95 per person

ALL YOU CAN EAT!
Crab Legs & Mayonnaise Shrimp Dinner Buffet

HO HO Chinese Cuisine
590 FARRINGTON HWY KAPOLEI MARKETPLACE

so he gave up several of his vices -- like gambling and cockfighting. He recommitted to God's path, reads the bible daily and hosts bible studies.

Despite Pacquiao's apologies, many Filipinos commenting on several news sites have asked Examiner to fire Ampong. Many of them say the PR damage to Pacquiao's image has been done.

(www.asianjournal.com) ■

The juicy taste you love,
with a chill you'll delight in.



Gawa sa 100% fruit juice na may natural flavors.

HINDI MO MATITIHIS ANG SARAP NG NEW, REFRESHING McCAFÉ® CHERRY BERRY CHILLER, A DELICIOUS NEW WAY TO ENJOY JUICE—AT KAKAIBANG PAMPALAMIG GAWA SA BLENDED ICE. HUWAG NANG I-RESIST. PUNTA NA SA McDONALD'S® AT TIKMAN ITO BAGO MAWALA.



i'm lovin' it®

At participating McDonald's for a limited time. ©2012 McDonald's.

McCafé

new



GET A
FREE
12 OZ
McCAFÉ® CHERRY BERRY CHILLER

(NO PURCHASE NECESSARY)



i'm lovin' it®

Expires 6/15/12. Valid only at participating U.S. McDonald's. Prices may vary. Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon, or combo meal. Cash value 1/20 of 1 cent. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Tax may apply. Coupon may not be transferred, auctioned, sold, copied, or duplicated in any way or transmitted via electronic media. Valid when product served. May not be valid for custom orders. © 2012 McDonald's.

McCafé



GET
\$1.00 OFF
Any Medium or Large
McCAFÉ® FROZEN STRAWBERRY LEMONADE,
FRAPPÉ OR REAL FRUIT SMOOTHIE



i'm lovin' it®

Expires 6/15/12. Valid only at participating U.S. McDonald's. Prices may vary. Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon, or combo meal. Cash value 1/20 of 1 cent. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Tax may apply. Coupon may not be transferred, auctioned, sold, copied, or duplicated in any way or transmitted via electronic media. Valid when product served. May not be valid for custom orders. © 2012 McDonald's.