

HAWAII



FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

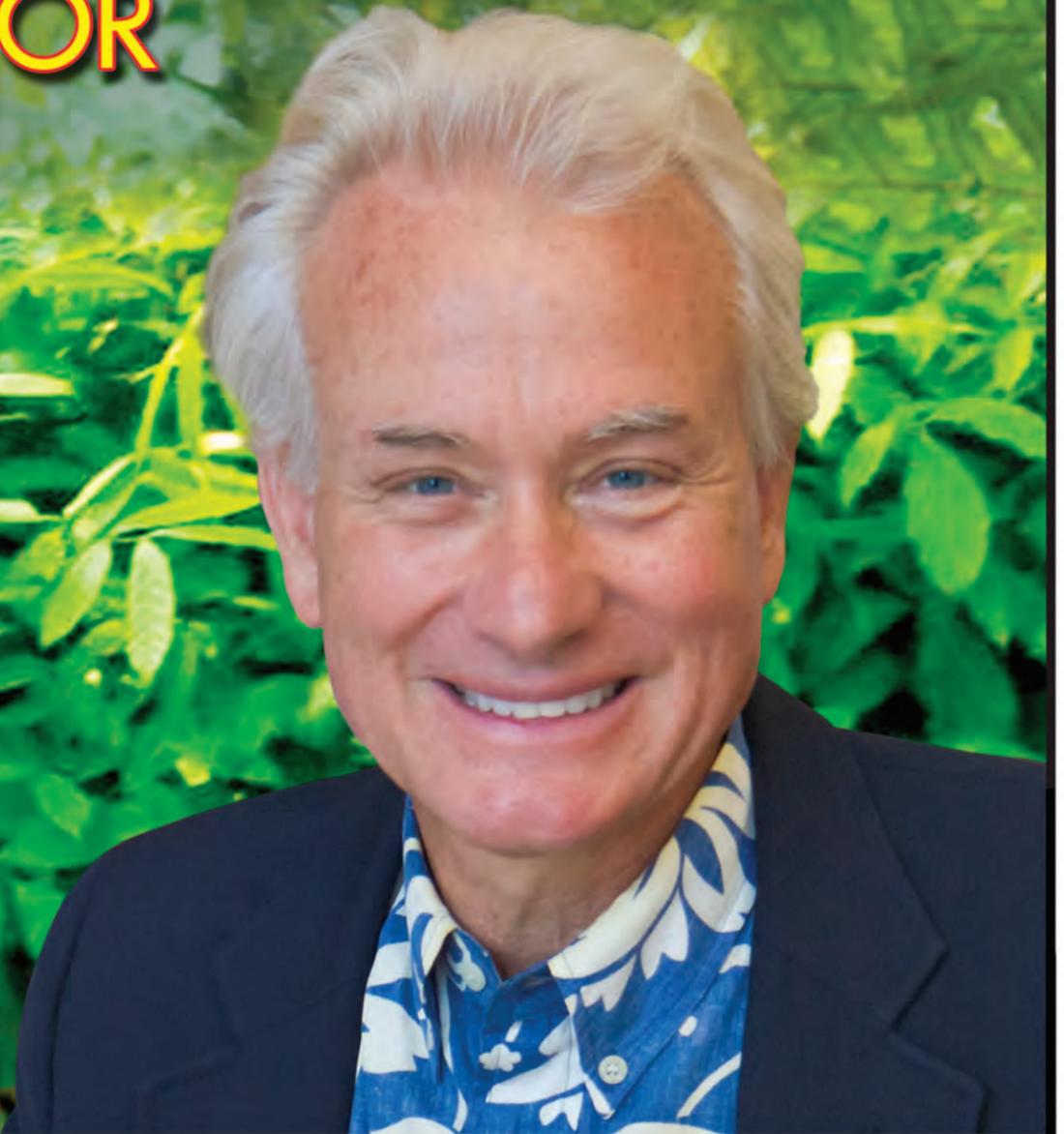
◆ APRIL 21, 2012 ◆

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EDITORIAL

Election Year in Limbo?

Talk about a potential deal breaker. Earlier this month, State Rep. K. Mark Takai and several other voters filed a federal lawsuit challenging the latest redistricting plan by the State Reapportionment Commission. The plaintiffs contend that the latest plan is unconstitutional since it removes some 100,000 military personnel and their dependents from political districts.

The redistricting plan has undergone several revisions since it was initially unveiled last September. In January, the State Supreme Court ordered the Commission to redraw the political boundary maps and remove non-residents to comply with a lawsuit filed by the Big Island Democratic party. The Big Island stood to gain an additional senate seat should these non-residents be excluded. But the Big Island's gain would come at the expense of Oahu and several lawmakers who would have to face off against each other if the districts were re-drawn.

Meanwhile, the clock keeps ticking. There is not much time left to quickly re-do the maps and figure out who's running where. Candidates have pulled nomination papers for the Primary Election on August 11, while others have kicked-off their campaigns with rallies. Obtaining voter lists with vital contact information has been impossible. Without these voter lists and with district boundaries still in doubt, candidates and their volunteers are unsure which neighborhoods to walk in, where to sign wave and whom to target for phone banking and mass mailers.

But if there is a silver lining, the delay will apparently benefit incumbents who already have the name recognition and support base. The same can't be said for political newcomers since their efforts to get their message out could be stymied with the uncertainty over political district maps.

On the downside, there is the very real risk of voters feeling disenfranchised and fed up with politics if the process drags on. It will not bode well for Hawaii if voters stay away from the polls, especially in an election year where so much is at stake. We can only hope that cooler heads will prevail and that the lawsuit be settled quickly. It is downright essential that final approval for the political districts be given as soon as possible and the election process allowed to continue.

Supporting the Filipino Film Festival

There are certain events during the year that Filipinos have come out in droves to support. One of them is the annual Filipino Fiesta usually held in early May and the other is the Pasko! Christmas celebration held in December at the FilCom Center. Both events celebrate the rich Filipino culture and instill ethnic pride among all Filipinos.

Let's add one more event to support—the annual Filipino Film Festival. The fourth version of this unique festival kicks off on April 21st. Filipinos are known to be wonderful story-tellers and film is a great medium to tell stories. It's not surprising then that films are a huge part of the Philippines' cultural and national heritage—and not just for entertainment. Audio-visual recordings like films, movies and documentaries depict Filipinos' way of life and also narrate parts of Philippine history and stories that serve as anecdotes of past, present and future society. That's why supporting events like the Filipino Film Festival is just as important as promoting indigenous dances, rituals, art and other aspects of Philippine culture.

Unfortunately, the Philippines' film industry has been in a steep decline in recent years due mainly to piracy and competition from foreign movies. From 1960 to 1999, the Philippines produced an average of about 140 movies each year. However,

FROM THE PUBLISHER

W

elcome to the latest issue of the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle! I looked at the calendar and realized that there are only about 4-5 weeks left in the school year...which means only one thing—graduation season and summer are right around the corner! If you are a student, we encourage you to make these final few weeks count and give it your very best.

This issue continues the Chronicle's three-part series of in-depth interviews with the three leading Honolulu mayoral candidates. We hope you will enjoy reading part two—an exclusive interview with Kirk Caldwell. While many remember him as managing director under former mayor Mufi Hannemann, Caldwell was also acting mayor for a brief period when Hannemann resigned to run for the governor's seat. As such, he has intimate knowledge of the inner workings of City government and what it will take to move Honolulu forward and into the future. If you want to know more about Caldwell, his background and vision for the City, please read more beginning on page 4.

In other news, long-time principal of Hawaii Baptist Academy, Dr. Rebecca Ovitt, recently announced her retirement effective at the end of June (please see article on page 5). A woman of faith, Dr. Ovitt has poured her heart and soul into the school's elementary campus during her 40 years there. Today, HBA is widely-recognized as one of Hawaii's top Christ-centered schools with excellent academics and facilities. Congratulations to Dr. Ovitt and best wishes on her retirement!

Congratulations are also in order to a team of sophomores from Waipahu High School who won the recent State History Day competition at Windward Community College. The three-member team's entry, entitled "Education Reform in the Philippines: Thomasites to the Rescue!" earned first place in the exhibit category. Their entry was not only well-received but good enough to represent Hawaii at the upcoming Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland this coming June. We will have more on these outstanding Waipahu students in our next issue, so please stay tuned!

Lastly, the 4th Annual Filipino Film Festival kicks off April 21-29, 2012 at the Doris Duke Theatre with a bevy of award-winning films from the Philippines. If you cannot speak or understand Tagalog, don't worry because all of the films will be subtitled in English. Please turn to page 8 for a line-up of films and ticket information.

In closing, I'd like to once again thank our readers for their faithful support. We encourage you to provide feedback, story ideas, tips or concerns via email at: filiplinochronicle@gmail.com. We'd certainly love to hear from you!

Until next time... *aloha* and *mabuhay!*

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido



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from 2000 to 2009, the number fell to about 73 annually.

Despite the drop, a number of independent Filipino films have managed to achieve success, thanks to the efforts of talented Filipino directors and filmmakers like Brillante Mendoza, Pepe Diokno and Jim Libiran. Mendoza, in particular, rose in popularity with movies like "Serbis" and "Kinatay" which depict the grit of the Filipino underground culture and violence. Other Filipino films have won awards and received critical acclaim at prestigious foreign film festivals—proving that distinctly Filipino films, when well-made, have universal appeal and are suitable for commercial international distribution.

The bottom line is that Filipinos as a whole stand to gain whenever such films succeed because Filipino culture is thrust into the spotlight for all to see and appreciate. So what are you waiting for? Go out and support the Fourth Annual Filipino Film Festival!

OPINION

China to Deprive Phl of Food, Fuel

GOTCHA By Jarius Bondoc

Sen. Joker Arroyo wonders why ASEAN allies have sat still about China's encroachment in the Philippines' Scarborough Shoal. "We have a problem: we're being bullied by China," he assesses the standoff. "Not even a resolution of concern or of sympathy ... we are left to fend for ourselves. What happened to us? We're like orphans, without allies. That's our dilemma."

The answer lies in part in the treasonous 2004 Joint Marine Seismic Understanding (JMSU) of Manila with Beijing. Before that was inked, ASEAN looked up to the Philippines and Vietnam to lead in containing China's expansionism in the South China Sea. The ten members signed in 2002 the Manila-sponsored Code of Conduct in the South China Sea. It called for a united stance against any Chinese aggression.

Eighteen months later, however, Manila broke ranks with ASEAN. Against the Constitution, then-President Gloria Arroyo (no kin of the senator) let China explore oil in "disputed waters" of the West Philippine (South China) Sea. More dubious, "disputed waters" referred not to the Spratly Isles at the edge of the Philippines' 200-mile exclusive economic zone, counterclaimed by China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. Five-sixths

of the Manila-Beijing JMSU area covered erstwhile undisputed zones closer to Luzon and Palawan. These were Scarborough (120 miles), Recto Bank including Rajah Soliman Reef and Quirino Atoll (80 miles), Sabina Shoal (70 miles), and Mischief Reef (130 miles, grabbed by China in 1995). The JMSU lapsed in 2008 with Manila getting no copy of the seabed survey, despite its \$5-million (P250-million) contribution, because it did not sign up for another three years. Worse, by conceding the zones as disputed, Arroyo emboldened China in 2009 unilaterally to declare ownership of Scarborough, Recto, Soliman, Quirino, and Sabina, under its unfounded nine-dash line map.

In exchange for giving up Philippine waters and marine resources, the Arroyo admin got from China \$4 billion in loans. At least 20-percent kickbacks were taken from such proceeds as railways, ports, and mines. Had it not been exposed, the NBN-ZTE deal would have netted P10 billion in "tong-pats" from the P17-billion loan. ASEAN felt betrayed; thus, its present wariness about Philippine "initiatives".

* * *

In arrogating Scarborough and other territories, China is depriving the Philippines of food, oil and gas, and other sea riches.

Under the UN law of the sea, a state may explore and use marine resources in an EEZ up to 200 miles from its coast or

territorial waters. If China succeeds in grabbing Scarborough, Recto and Sabina, it would extend its EEZ far beyond its coast. It would push the Philippine western EEZ to the shores of Luzon and Palawan.

Coastal folk would lose their municipal fishing waters up to 16 miles (30 kilometers) from the outermost shore. Aquaculturists may no longer harvest seaweeds and other industrial raw materials, or dive for pearls offshore. Even tourists in beach resorts would be forbidden from jet-skiing or surfboard-sailing out to sea. They'd all be confined to coves.

Tuna that spawn in Tubataha Reef in the internal Sulu Sea would no longer grow to reach the Celebes Sea south of Mindanao. Chinese fishers would net the tuna swimming out to northwest Palawan and down to Borneo. China would steal the oil wells in Recto Bank and natural gas fields in Malam-paya Sound. It would restrict maritime routes and pollute the waters on the western Philippine seaboard.

That is the implication if the Philippines does not assert — through all means, especially diplomacy — its sovereignty and national security.

* * *

No wonder SM Supermalls president Annie Garcia in a recent TV interview kept saying "uprooting," and not "axing" or "felling" of trees. Contrary to cries of critics, the SM-Baguio would not be cutting down 182 of 2,000 pine and alnus trees behind the shopping mall after all. Instead it would be "earth-balling" them for transfer to another park where, with luck and care, they would continue to grow. And SM has the proper government permit to do so, under certain stringent conditions.

This came to light Monday, when the Baguio court allowed SM to replant one pine and 40 alnus (moist-soil) saplings already earth-balled last week.

The natural resources department earlier had allowed the transfer of the 182 trees by balling; that is, carefully digging out and fertilizing the roots and soil. This is because, for structural safety, SM must reinforce the multi-story mall

against surrounding soil erosion. Concrete riprap would be erected on the sloping vacant lot, Garcia says. And since the trees would be transferred, SM will use the cleared area as expanded shopping area and parking lot with roof garden, to ease the traffic and pollution around it. Underneath would be dug a seven-million-liter rainwater catchment, to prevent flooding in lower roads. The water would be used for firefighting and park watering. And SM would plant 50,000 more trees aside from the 182 earth-balled ones. All in all, the greening would cost P1.2 billion.

Amid Monday's clarification, however, the Catholic bishopric of Baguio added to the muddle about the misreported tree axing. Allegedly it called for a boycott of, and celebration of Masses at the SM mall. But doesn't it own the Porta Vaga mall beside the Baguio Cathedral, a stone's throw from SM? (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

HPD to Seek Public's Comments for National Reaccreditation

A national accreditation team will accept public comments on the Honolulu Police Department's policies and procedures, administration, operations and services during a special public comment session scheduled for April 25, 2012.

The comments will be part of an on-site assessment conducted by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Commission was created in 1979 to improve the delivery of public safety services by maintaining a body of standards, establishing an accreditation process and

recognizing professional excellence.

The public is invited to phone in comments or attend the session in person. Telephone comments will be taken at 479-5675 from 3 pm to 5 pm. The public comment session will begin at 6 pm at the HPD's Career Conference Center, located at 715 South King Street, Room 500. Limited street parking is available.

Those who wish to submit written comments about the HPD may write to the CALEA at 13575 Heathcote Boulevard, Suite 32, Gainesville, Virginia, 22030-2215, or visit their website at www.calea.org.

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COVER STORY

An Interview with Mayoral Candidate Kirk Caldwell

By HFC Staff

Mayoral candidate Kirk Caldwell has been one of Hawaii's most visible public figures, having first been elected to the State House of Representatives in 2002. He won re-election in 2004 and 2006 and served as House majority leader from 2007-2008.

While in the House, he fought for tax relief for Hawaii's families, health care for all children in Hawaii and millions of dollars in repair and maintenance funds for public schools. Rather than seek a third term, Caldwell decided to run for the Honolulu City Council. However, he was disqualified for failing to formally withdraw from the House race before filing for the City Council.

The setback turned into a positive when shortly after the November 2008 election, Mayor Mufi Hannemann named Caldwell as managing director. It came as little surprise to most observers that Caldwell, Hannemann's political ally and staunch rail supporter, was picked for the number two position at City Hall.

As managing director from January 2009 to July 2010, Caldwell oversaw the daily affairs of the City and served the

needs of Oahu's nearly one million residents. He was also the mayor's point man on two pressing issues facing the City—the rail transit project and homelessness. In 2010, Caldwell ran for mayor when Hannemann resigned in mid-term in a bid for the governor's seat. However, he finished a close second to former City prosecutor Peter Carlisle.

With the November 2012 looming on the horizon, Caldwell has his sights set once again on the mayor's seat—a position he is confident of winning this time around. He graciously took time to answer several questions from the Chronicle. His responses have been edited for space and clarity.

Q: You came in second in the mayoral race two years ago. What motivated you to run again in 2012?

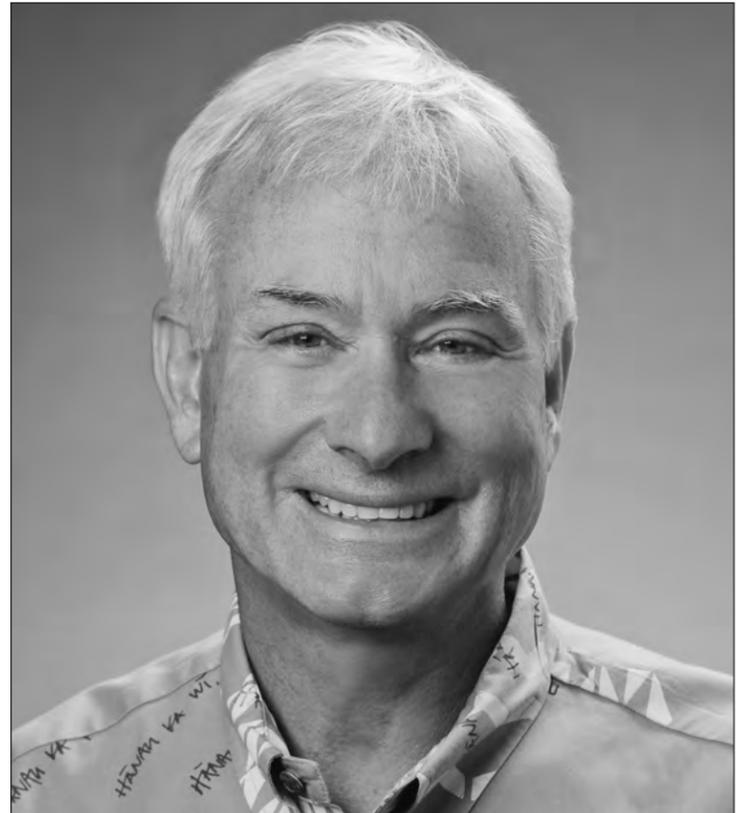
A: I came so close to winning last time after conducting a 60-day sprint of a campaign against a 14-year prosecutor. I know what it takes to win and we are going to win.

Q: You and the incumbent appear to have similar backgrounds. Both of you are white, are attorneys by training, are long-time public servants and are pro-rail. How are you different from him?

A: That's the end of the similarities. I was born in Waipahu and raised on the Big Island. I know what it means to work on the plantation, because I did. I am an attorney who worked in private practice for almost 29 years, unlike the mayor who was a government attorney. I served as a member of the State House, was appointed managing director and served as mayor after Mayor Hannemann resigned to run for governor. I served in elected office for all of six years. But what makes me really different is who I am as a person.

It's more than just being born and raised in Hawaii. Just what does it mean to have lived in a plantation town? It means that everyday I saw hard-working Filipino men and women earn a living, raise their families, enjoy each other's company, help each other when times were tough and, more than anything else, it meant I had the opportunity to live in a community which celebrated the diversity of people. This was a great place to be a child and a great place to raise a family.

My mom and dad, along with the members of my plantation ohana, taught me the values of honesty, hard work, earning your way, tolerance and loyalty.



Mayoral Candidate Kirk Caldwell

These are some of the values I'll bring to the mayor's office.

My administration will be one that puts YOU first. We will work everyday to create jobs for you, to make sure we have a transit system that you can be proud of, to assure your safety, to rebuild your aging sewer and water infrastructure. Why? Because it's about putting people first.

Q: If elected mayor, what is your vision for the City & County of Honolulu?

A: My vision can be stated in a few very important words—"If Honolulu works, Hawaii works. And for Honolulu to work we have to put people first."

Q: How did your responsibilities as former City managing director prepare you for the possibility of one day serving as mayor?

A: Every day that I was managing director and every day I was mayor taught me one very important thing—our City demands our attention. What does that mean? It means you have to pay attention to the details. Every successful mayor—from Blaisdell, Fasi, Harris and Hannemann—spent countless hours understanding the details, rolling up their sleeves, digging

in, getting serious, bringing people together, listening to ideas and solving problems. Because at the end of the day, it's about making sure your trash gets picked up, your roads don't have potholes, your neighborhood is safe, your sewer lines don't break and your transit system works. The truth is you can't leave the details to others. You can't simply turn over governing to your cabinet. Our City and our people expect a mayor to be hands-on 24 hours a day, 7 days week.

Q: As former City managing director, some have unfairly labeled you as "Mufi's Man." What have you done to step out from under his shadow?

A: I was never in Mayor Hannemann's shadow.

Q: For most political observers, rail will be the defining issue for the mayoral race. Do you agree? If no, why?

A: Rail is important and there are those who want it to be the "defining issue" of the campaign. I believe this campaign is about so much more. Very briefly, it's about the buses that take people to and from their jobs, the HandiVan and bus passes. It's about protecting people and their property, filling

(continued on page 5)



Michael A. McMann, M.D.

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COVER STORY

(from page 4, AN INTERVIEW...)

potholes and repaving the roads. It's about making people's lives better.

At one time, there were no express buses from Waianae to town. We now take it for granted. What's more important is your quality of life. Think about the possibilities—a new transportation option is made available that saves the average rider say, 5 hours a week. I wonder what people will do with that extra time? While I can only answer for myself, which is to spend the time with my family, I suspect many of you would do the same.

Q: Public support for the rail project is on the decline. What assurances can you give taxpayers that rail will not bankrupt the City?

A: Assurances are already in place. First, the Federal Transit Authority won't allow the project to proceed until they are satisfied the City can deliver the necessary financing. Second, the total cost of construction is shared. Approximately 33 percent is federal funds. The balance is from the half percent general excise tax (GET) of which one-third is paid for by tourists visiting Oahu, meaning that the local share of the project, what the residents of Oahu are paying, is approximately 45

percent of the overall cost of the project. The City has already collected approximately \$810 million. Third, given the amount of federal funds and the projected tax revenues, the project is 100 percent funded.

Q: In addition to the \$5.27 billion rail project, the City will spend billions more to upgrade its sewer system and wastewater treatment plants. Will taxpayers be able to afford these projects?

A: Taxpayers are already funding the sewer improvements. The sewer fee is designed to fund 100 percent of the project's projected cost over a period of 23 to 26 years.

Q: Should the Waimanalo Gulch Landfill be shut down? If not, what is your alternative plan?

A: It's not about shutting down Waimanalo Gulch, it's about bringing the third "mass-burn" boiler on-line at the H-Power Plant. Once this is done, we will have excess capacity at Waimanalo Gulch.

Q: Are there any core City services that need to be scaled back or increased?

A: Services to the elderly should be increased. We should re-instate reductions to the HPD and HFD operating budgets and we should do a better job main-



Kirk Caldwell and supporters during his headquarters' grand opening

taining our public facilities. It's not so much about scaling back as it is about better management. For instance, there are better, cheaper and faster ways to repave our streets. We can create efficiencies by cutting down on red tape and streamlining all government processes.

Q: What is your plan to solve Oahu's homeless problem?

A: Homelessness is a problem that I know a lot about. Keeping a park or public area safe, clean and free from encampments is a constant issue, but only part of the problem. Homelessness is everybody's problem. It is not just a State issue or a County issue. Gov. Neil Abercrombie is off to a great start by prioritizing homelessness and working with State and County agencies along with private providers to resolve the multiple and complex issues.

more permanent housing.

Q: What are other major issues facing the City?

A: Public safety, jobs, protecting our environment, rebuilding our legacy communities, services for the elderly, upgrading our sewer system and proper road maintenance ... to name a few.

Q: What will it take for you to win this election?

A: Enough votes.

Q: Why should the Filipino community vote for you as mayor?

A: In addition to what I said earlier about growing up in a plantation town and putting people first, I will go out of my way to make sure that the voice of the Filipino community is present at all levels of a Caldwell administration.

Q: How many Filipino functions/parties have you attended in the past month? How many barongs do you own?

A: I've gone to numerous Filipino functions, garage parties and coffee hours in the past month, including some in my hometown of Waipahu. I have fun at all of them and am looking for more functions to attend if any of your readers have suggestions on how I can attend more of them. I own four barongs; two beige ones, a black one and a bright yellow one. I am in the market for a blue one if anyone knows where I can get one.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Principal Ovitt to Retire from HBA

Dr. Rebecca Ovitt has announced her retirement from Hawaii Baptist Academy, ending her 40 years as principal at the private school's elementary campus in Nuuanu. Her last day is June 29, 2012.



Dr. Rebecca Ovitt

For Dr. Ovitt, the time was right to move on to the next chapter in her life. It was a difficult decision for her to make.

"Being a principal is the best job in the world," she says. "I love working with my teachers and other co-workers, helping parents and most of all, serving, praying for and loving my students."

Born and raised in the Philippines, Dr. Ovitt earned her Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Philippine Normal University in Manila. She later earned a Master's degree in education administration from

the University of Hawaii-Manoa; a Master's in administration and policy analysis from Stanford University; and a Doctor of Ministry from Hawaii Theological Seminary.

When she first joined HBA in 1971, the elementary campus was located on Nehoa Street not far from Roosevelt High School. There were vacancies in every grade, the facilities were substandard and not all subjects were offered. But Dr. Ovitt rolled up her

sleeves and worked alongside her faculty and staff to carry out HBA's mission of academic excellence in a Christian context.

"Today, HBA is considered one of the largest and most outstanding college preparatory Christian schools on the island," she says. "I always gave my best and worked closely with my teachers to make sure that we were current in our curriculum, executed the best teaching practices helped our students to learn and reach their highest potential."

One of the highlights of Dr. Ovitt's career occurred in 2005 when the elementary campus received accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). HBA received the highest possible rating of "6." Dr. Ovitt says the accom-

(continued on page 7)

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



By Senator Will Espero

More than \$1 billion has been cut from the State budget over the last three years. This year's \$11 billion supplemental budget for the State, HB 2012, is a change in course. The Senate version reinforces the safety net, restores core services decimated in the prior three budgets and invests

State Senate Passes Draft Budget

strategically to stimulate the economy and sustain a more prosperous future for Hawaii. Responsible and responsive to Gov. Neil Abercrombie's budget requests, the Senate's version funds most of his initiatives to support the state government's ability to carry out its duties to the public.

Education is a top priority. The Senate's budget invests \$44 million in key areas, giving schools more funds through increases in the weighted student formula. More dollars for early learning programs aim at raising the potential for children to succeed

in school. Returning funds to the community school for adults will help them improve their economic opportunities. Augmenting allocations for student meals and bus services are also included.

The charter school law was rewritten to reflect findings of a significant evaluation of system and reform it. The Senate added \$1 million to the charter school budget to equalize the per-pupil funding discrepancies between public and charter schools and implement the transition plan mandated by the new law.

There's good news for li-

braries too. After a four-year hold on ordering, the library system was given \$500,000 to purchase new circulating materials, including books, e-books and other items.

The Senate version of the budget also aims at strengthening the social and healthcare safety net. Infusing \$18.2 million to temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), the funding will address child welfare, domestic violence shelters, Medicaid and shortfalls in human services programs. Updating the IT system of the State Department of Human Services (\$3.6 million) will enable it to

better serve the public.

More than \$27 million will go to modernizing the state's information technology infrastructure. The IT projects aspire to transform delivery of state services by increasing information systems efficiency. The governor's broadband initiative likewise will improve services and expand access for Hawaii residents.

To view a YouTube video of the description of key aspects of the budget by the Senate Ways and Means Committee Chair Senator David Ige, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPooZH7wq-U>.

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Piolo Pascual Uses Star Power for Council Candidate

Filipino film and television actor and model Piolo Pascual made a special guest appearance at the campaign kick-off rally for State Rep. Joey Manahan, who is running for the Honolulu City Council.

The appearance of Pascual of Star Magic fame was eagerly anticipated by the 700 guests and area residents who packed Radford High School's cafeteria for Manahan's rally, held last April 8, 2012. The event also included food, fun and entertainment by local musical artists.



Joey Manahan and Piolo Pascual

Pascual spoke in front of the overflow audience and said Manahan has done "an amazing job serving the community and the State."

"We last asked for your help a few years ago. I am here

again to support this new calling, his run for the Honolulu City Council in District Seven," Pascual says.

Attendees included Speaker of the House Calvin Say, former State Sen. Norman Sakamoto and State Reps. Karl Rhoads and Aaron Johanson. Also among the audience were former State Rep. Dennis Arakaki and a host of community leaders including Maggie Domingo, Joe Lazo and Amy Agbayani. Several labor unions are also in support of Manahan.

Pascual was on-hand the following day for the inauguration of Manahan's headquarters located at Dillingham Café in Kalihi. They were joined by friends and supporters, including Dillingham Café owner Florante Sebastian.

After the inauguration, Manahan and Pascual joined sponsors and volunteers in a private reception held at the Outrigger Reef Diamond Head Terrace to show their appreciation for all their hard work and dedication.

"Our schedules were crazy, but after all was said and done, it turned out to be a huge success. I am glad things worked out and everyone had a blast," says Manahan, who is also the State House Vice Speaker. "Most of all, I am grateful for the show of support, especially to the 176 volunteers and sponsors who helped put the event together in such a short period of time."



State Sues Seven Major Credit Card Companies

The Attorney General of the State of Hawaii has filed lawsuits in First Circuit Court against seven major credit card companies, alleging that these companies improperly charged Hawaii customers for products not requested, or for products that did not provide the benefits claimed.

The suits were brought by Attorney General David M. Louie, with the State being represented by local attorney Rick Fried in association with two mainland firms—Golomb & Honik of Philadelphia and Baron & Budd of Dallas.

An example of an alleged improper charge is when a credit card company bills a consumer for something called "payment protection" or something similar, which supposedly pays the cardholder's required minimum monthly payments in certain circumstances. The consumer is not told of the numerous restrictions and often the consumer doesn't qualify for the product in the first place.

Solicitations for these products are often telemarketing

calls using predatory tactics to sign up customers for services they either don't want or don't qualify for. The suits point out that unlike other telemarketers, these credit card companies already have their customers' credit card information and therefore are able to charge their customers for products without their knowledge or consent.

The seven credit card companies that have been named as defendants are Bank of America, Barclays, Capital One, Chase, Citi, Discover, HSBC and their subsidiaries.

The State has requested injunctive relief to stop the alleged illegal practices, full restitution for all affected consumers and penalties, which could subject the credit card companies to up to \$10,000 per violation. If awarded, restitution funds would go directly to consumers and penalties would go to the State's general fund.

Please call Rick Fried at (808) 524-1433 if you have been a victim of such conduct. When calling, please mention that your call relates to possible payment protection fraud.



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IMMIGRATION GUIDE

ICE Blitzkrieg Captures 3,168 Criminal Aliens – Is There Hope for Them?



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

There were a number of Filipinos among the 3,168 aliens with criminal convictions that were captured by Immigration and Customs (ICE) agents in a pre-dawn blitzkrieg raid in all 50 states last week. The 6-day operation, the largest raid in the agency's history, was called "Operation Cross Check" because the targeted aliens were discovered through cross checking with criminal data bases.

While some might have committed serious offenses, the Filipinos that we met or heard of committed minor offenses like drug possession or drug paraphernalia possession. One was not even sentenced to a jail term but only probation because

it was his first offense and the conviction could be expunged.

Can you imagine the pain and suffering of those captured especially those whose offenses were minor and which happened in the year nineteen forgotten? They were totally unprepared. Their families are distraught. I also spoke with one of the raiders who captured a Filipino. It is expected that there will be another wave – like the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

A pro-immigrant publisher commenting on the raid said: "President Obama has overseen the deportation of about 1 million people in the last three years, a record-setting pace. Some would argue these policies call into question the veracity of the pro-immigration sentiments the President expressed during his most recent State of the Union Address." www.ilw.com.

Bond and master hearing

Those captured are now in Federal Detention Centers throughout the country. Their families have not been able to meet with them because it takes time to arrange visits. The detainee has to submit a list of potential visitors with their social security numbers who must be cleared before they are allowed to visit. The detainees also need money so they can make telephone calls and buy necessities. Deposit accounts have to be set up.

The first step in the immigration process is for ICE to give the alien a Notice to Appear (NTA) which contains the charges against him/her. The Immigration Court will schedule a hearing to determine whether the alien may be released on bond. The court will likewise schedule a Master Calendar hearing where the alien is asked to admit or deny

the allegations in the NTA.

Consult with attorney

Before the alien retains an attorney to represent such alien and pay upfront fees averaging about \$10,000, only to learn later that the alien is ineligible for any relief, the best course for an alien is to consult first with an experienced and competent attorney on a hourly fee basis (about \$250) to evaluate the alien's chances of winning. Such an attorney should have at the first interview three checklists to determine (1) whether the alien is eligible for release on bond, (2) whether the alien meets all the requirements for relief under the immigration laws, and (3) whether the alien's positive equities outweigh the negative factors. If the attorney does not have such checklists, cuidado. The attorney can make the evaluation by reading the Notice to Appear and the DHS evidence packet, and by interviewing the alien.

Many aliens have a penchant for hiring lawyers who do not speak their language. Such lawyers should bring an interpreter with them. However, it is not easy to get an interpreter with a clearance to enter a federal detention facility. A comprehensive and intelligent interview cannot be conducted if there is lack of

communication.

Aliens should be wary of attorneys who give an overly optimistic evaluation just to get the alien to retain the attorney. Seeking a second opinion is advisable. Fighting without a chance of winning but simply to delay deportation is foolish if the alien is detained. It is different if the alien is free and can earn money and be with family.

Aliens who were captured through Operation Cross Check should realize that ICE did not target them and spend time and effort to arrest them if it did not have a plausible case. Nevertheless, a skillful, competent, experienced, honest, and hardworking attorney might be able to save a number of these aliens.

RECOMMENDATION:

Aliens with a criminal conviction who have not been placed in deportation proceedings might wish to consult with a competent and experienced immigration attorney.

(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: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.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.)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS (cont.) (from page 5, PRINCIPAL...)

plishment was a team effort.

"Everyone at the elementary school worked very hard to make this happen. We are proud of this big accomplishment and we've continued to be accredited ever since," she says.

During her retirement, she will continue to teach at the Bible Institute of Hawaii as an adjunct faculty member. She will also lead a support group for divorced, widowed or separated individuals which she has done for the past 27 years. Her Godly counsel has helped hundreds of grieving single parents overcome their emotional pain and start new beginnings for them-

selves and their families.

Dr. Ovitt also plans to visit her infant grandson in England and leave herself open to God's leading, particularly in opportunities where her experiences and abilities may be needed. She is also open to helping HBA in some capacity in the future.

According to HBA president Richard Bento, Dr. Ovitt has helped to shape the vision and mission of HBA over the years.

"Thanks to her leadership and servant's heart, she has formed a strong and supportive family of teachers, staff, parents and students at the elementary campus," says Bento. "We ap-

preciate Dr. Ovitt's dedication to the school, to the children and to Christ."

One of the students' lives she touched was Dennis Galolo, the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle's associate editor, who was her former student at the old Nehoa Street campus. He recalls her being a "strict but fair principal."

"I was the only Filipino student in my class," Galolo recalls. "I remember being sent to her office on several occasions but instead of getting a lecture, she encouraged me each time to study hard. Looking back, I am grateful for her words, which I took to heart."

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Annual Filipino Film Festival Set for April 21-29

by JP Orias

Now in its fourth year, the Annual Filipino Film Festival will be held at the Doris Duke Theater from April 21-29, 2012. This year's movies, which are all award-winners in various categories in different notable festivals, include:

- **"Dance Of My Life,"** a docu-drama on the life of Bessei Badilla, a Filipina beauty queen turned high-fashion model in Europe, turned carnival queen of Brazil
- **"Dance of the Two Left Feet,"** a unique love triangle set to Filipino poetry,



- **"Teoriya,"** a poignant self rediscovery as an individual searches for his father's grave
- **"Pintakasi,"** an Imee Marcos production set on the "human" cockfight
- **"The Gift of Barong: A Journey From Within,"** an exploration of cultural

- **"Boundary,"** an innovative and breathtaking thriller using the urban roadways of Manila for its backdrop.

All movies are subtitled in English. Sponsored by the Philippine Medical Association of Hawaii (PMAH) and chaired

by Dr. May Ablan, the Film Festival is a major fundraiser for various non-profit organizations for scholarships in medical education, medical missions to the Philippines and community health fairs in Hawaii.

The latest PMAH promotion is **"Pinoy Bento"** which is about eating right to reverse certain ailments and promote a healthier lifestyle. A corroboration between the PMAH and I Love Country Café, Pinoy Bento defines good healthy food based on Filipino flavors and correct portioning and distribution of starches, meats and vegetables.

Pinoy Bento will be launched and served on premier night, April 21, 2012, with ceremonies starting at 5:30 pm, followed by the screening of "Dance of My Life" at 7:30 pm. Separate tickets for the premier night are available for \$25, including Pinoy Bento.

The screening schedule is as follows:

- **"Dance of My Life"**—Saturday, April 21 and Thursday, April 26, 2012 at 1 pm
- **"Dance of the Two Left Feet"**—Sunday, April 22 at 1 pm, 4 pm and 7:30 pm
- **"Teoriya"**—Tuesday, April 24 at 1 pm, 4 pm and 7:30 pm
- **"Pintakasi"**—Wednesday, April 25 at 1 pm and 7:30 pm; and Friday, April 27 at 9 pm
- **"The Gift of Barong: A Journey From Within"**—Thursday, April 26 at 7:30 pm; Friday, April 27 at 1:00 pm; and Sunday, April 29 at 7:30 pm
- **"Boundary"**: Saturday, April 28 at 1 pm, 4 pm and 7:30 pm

In addition to overall sponsor PMAH Foundation, individual sponsors include Chee Markham & Feldman Attorneys at Law, Dr. David Wei, Dr. Josephine Waite & Dr. Vernon Ansdell, Hawaii Pathology Lab, Dr. Thomas Namiki, Dr. Elizabeth Abinsay, Dr. Charlie and Chona M. Sonido, Drs. Fernando & Celia Ona, Drs. Reuben & Celina Guerrero, Dr. William Loui, Dr. Melvin Paul Palalay, Dr. Peter Bryant Greenwood, Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, Dr. Danilo Ablan, Dr. Emma Avilla, Dr. Aurora Mariani, Dr. Salvador Cecilio, Dr. Jose de Leon, Lester K.M. Leu, Christian Lee, Pharmacy One, Pacific Watch & Jewelry Exchange, Dr. Antonio & Elisa Tan, Dr. Glorifin Belmonte, Dr. Samuel Dacanay, Dr. Carol Davide, Dr. Amy Jacang, Dr. Edward Alquero, Dr. Ray Romero and Dr. Ramon Sy.

Festival passes are \$50 each. Tickets for individual movies are \$10 each. For tickets, please call 671-1588 or 521-9847. The Doris Duke Theater is located at the Honolulu Museum of Arts, 900 South Beretania Street.



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The Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART) will present a series of five informational community updates on the Honolulu Rail Transit project. The public is welcome to attend and learn up-to-date details from project experts, experience informational displays, and ask questions of HART representatives.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Fishpond Spawns Golden Bangus

by Eva Visperas
 Friday, April 13, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - A golden bangus (milkfish) has been spawned for the first time from the Pangasinan bangus.

This is a rare occurrence, according to Westly Rosario, executive director of the National Integrated Fisheries Technology and Development Center and chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources center chief in Pangasinan.

Fishfarmer Ariel Fernandez raised the 16-month-old golden bangus in a fishpond in Barangay Linoc, Binmaley, Pangasinan.

It is 50 centimeters long and weighs 1.2 kilos.

More than 50 percent above its body is golden, while its belly is silver.

Fernandez also puzzled how the golden bangus was spawned as the fishpond has other regularly colored silver bangus.

Fernandez would leave the golden bangus in the pond every harvest time until it grew big.

It is perceived as "pampaswerte" (lucky charm) because of its unique appearance.

Fernandez said the fish remained in the fishpond even when the area was flooded.

However, he decided to turn over his lucky charm to Rosario for study at the BFAR center in Barangay Bonuan Binloc, where it is now raised in isolation in a small tank, he added.

Rosario said the golden bangus is given especially formulated feeds.

It will take four to five years for the fish to reach sexual maturity and can be used for experiment, he added.

Rosario said researchers in the center could not yet determine if the bangus is male or female.

They will crossbreed it with a silver bangus to see if the spawn will have a gold and silver combination, he added.

Rosario said he wants the golden bangus to be their mascot "because it is unique and for good luck."

He wants to energize the bangus industry in the years to come, he added.

Rosario said seven years ago, he saw a golden bangus in Taiwan, when he had a project with the World Fish Center.

However, the Taiwanese refused to reveal his "secrets" for having that kind of bangus, he added. (www.philstar.com)

Industrial Sector Key to Phil Growth - Study

by Katherine Manalo
 Wednesday, April 18, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippines needs to develop a stronger industrial base to create more jobs for its growing labor force, a report issued Wednesday by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said.

The report, titled "Taking the Road to Inclusive Growth," said the country also needs to enhance its business climate to foster growth levels that lift the Filipinos out of poverty.

"The Philippines has a robust service sector which is a pillar of the economy, but the country needs to develop an equally robust industrial sector to create more productive job opportunities for the country's people," Norio Usui, ADB's Senior Country Economist for the Philippines said.

Usui said the service sector alone is not sufficient to address the development challenges of the country.

He said that while the business process outsourcing industry significantly contributed to economic growth in 2009, it only employed 1 percent of the total labor force and was biased toward relatively skilled workers.

Usui added that the Philippines has failed to translate its solid economic growth

in the 2000s into inclusive growth that can benefit the entire population.

He said industrialization would create productive employment opportunities for under utilized labor with moderate skills, adding that the country will have to target the public sector support to upgrade and diversify industries. The government also has to help entrepreneurs to take advantage of market opportunities, he added.

"You successfully diversified the economy but you still don't have competitive products," Usui said, adding that the government must work on addressing long-standing challenges such as weak governance and under-provision of basic infrastructure.

Commenting on the report, economist Emmanuel de Dios of the University of the Philippines said obstacles to achieving inclusive growth in the country include issues in property rights particularly in agrarian reform, constitutional limits on ownership and low-paying sectors in the job market.

Corruption and political instability translate to low investment rates and low growth rates, de Dios added.

"The government is generally poor in identifying how technologies and markets will change," he said, adding that the country should focus not just on diversifying its products, but also in strengthening the capability of firms to innovate. (www.philstar.com)



PHILIPPINE NEWS

Phi Ship Harassed; Protest Filed

by Pia Lee-Brago
Tuesday, April 17, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippines lodged yesterday another diplomatic protest over the harassment of a Philippine-registered research ship by Chinese vessels and aircraft in Scarborough Shoal as talks between the two sides again ended in a stalemate, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Raul Hernandez said acting DFA Secretary Erlinda Basilio handed yesterday afternoon a diplomatic note to Chinese Ambassador Ma Keqing.

The DFA lodged the protest on the harassment by Chinese ships and aircraft of the M/Y Saranggani, a Philippine-registered boat conducting archaeological research in the area.

Hernandez said the actions are in violation of the sovereign right and jurisdiction of the Philippines to conduct marine

research in its exclusive economic zone.

“Any attempted action by Chinese ships or aircraft against the M/Y Saranggani will be considered by the Philippines as a gross violation of its national laws and of international law,” he said.

“Such actions are in violation of the sovereign right and jurisdiction of the Philippines to conduct marine research in the Philippines’ Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).”

The Philippines demanded that the Chinese ships and aircraft cease the harassments and fly-bys over the Saranggani so the boat and its crew can complete their work.

The DFA said the Saranggani is in Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal), part of the municipality of Masinloc, Zambales, which is 124 nautical miles west of Zambales and within the 200 nautical miles EEZ and continental shelf of the



DFA Sec. Erlinda Basilio
Philippines.

Basilio led the DFA in the talks with the Chinese side.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario is in the United States to campaign for Philippine nominee, retired Supreme Court justice Florentino Feliciano, to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at elections to be held in New York on April 27.

“Discussions still ended in a stalemate,” Hernandez said.

He added the DFA will continue to exert efforts to reach a diplomatic solution.

The Philippines remains committed to a resolution of the standoff in the Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal but Manila is unyielding in defending its sovereignty and sovereign rights.

Del Rosario said on Sunday before leaving for the US that he believes action should be taken on China’s latest surprises to the Philippines when Beijing sent back one of its vessels and an

aircraft to the area.

But Del Rosario did not disclose specific action that should be taken by the Philippines for China’s display of might despite an agreement to “no surprises” until both sides meet again to continue the negotiation.

“Whatever it may be, we would wish to diffuse current challenge but would need to defend our sovereignty and sovereign rights,” Del Rosario told The STAR.

On Saturday, China boosted its presence in Scarborough Shoal with its redeployment of a ship to the area to bring back to two the number of its vessels there.

A white Chinese aircraft with blue stripe was also sighted conducting flybys near the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ship in the area.

A white Chinese ship harassed a Philippine-registered vessel with nine French nationals conducting archaeological surveys.

Diplomatic talks on Friday between Del Rosario and Ma ended in a stalemate as both sides insisted that the other nation’s ship leave the area first.

During the meeting, Del Rosario said the Philippines would be willing to allow the Chinese boats to return to China following the confiscation of their harvest of endangered ma-

rine species.

Del Rosario said there was no clear agreement as Ma had asserted that Chinese fishing vessels would be subject to inspection by their own authorities.

It was “regrettable” that the Chinese fishing vessels brought the illegal catch of endangered marine species, he added.

The Philippines’ claim to sovereignty in the Scarborough Shoal is supported by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the international law is clear in terms of EEZ and the continental shelf.

China only stands on a historical claim, which the Philippines considers as not supported by UNCLOS.

The Philippines and China traded diplomatic protests on Wednesday over a standoff in Panatag Shoal.

The Philippines had protested the intrusion of eight Chinese fishing vessels and two Chinese maritime surveillance ships in Panatag.

The standoff began when Chinese vessels prevented the crew of Philippine Navy warship BRP Gregorio del Pilar from arresting Chinese fishermen in the area.

The Philippines vowed to defend its sovereignty if challenged by China. (www.philstar.com)

Visayas Folks Get Over US\$3.6 Health Aid

from www.philstar.com
Wednesday, April 18, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - Five provinces in the Visayas received over US\$3.6 million fund, which will be used for low-income families’ better access to affordable maternal health services.

The four-year project, under the World Bank’s Global Partnership on Output-Based Aid (GPOBA), aims to provide health aid to over 700,000 constituents of the provinces of Leyte, Southern Leyte, Samar, Northern Samar and Eastern Samar.

The GPOBA-funded scheme aims to help the poor break the barriers to their access to quality social services including improved quality health care.

“This output-based aid scheme supports the new government’s reform agenda to achieve universal access to

health care,” said Motoo Konishi, World Bank Country Director for the Philippines.

The project will also expand insurance coverage of the

poor to meet the national Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) requirements to enlist more Filipinos in the program.

Globally, more than 350,000 women die each year due to pregnancy or childbirth-related complications.

For the Philippines, this initiative is an important step towards the goal of reducing maternal mortality rates to 52 deaths per 100,000 live births.

This program is in direct response to the Government of the Philippines’ commitment to pilot interventions that improve the health outcomes, particularly the maternal and reproductive health status of poor populations.





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Is Singapore the New Mecca for Pinoy Yuppies?

from www.philstar.com

MANILA, Philippines - More and more Filipinos go overseas to seek new challenges in their careers. This continuing trend, especially in the case of young Filipinos, is rapidly turning Singapore into the new overseas employment hub for yuppies.

According to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the demand for Filipino workers in Singapore grew from 29 percent in 2010 to 69 percent in 2011. To date, with 16,951 jobs yet to be filled in Singapore, it seems likely that more Filipinos might be headed to stake their claim in

the Lion City's job market.

With its growing economy and tourist charms, Singapore certainly does hold allure for young Filipino professionals. For TripAdvisor Singapore sales administrator Ella de Chavez, advancing her career and a change of scenery were her primary reasons for moving to the developed country.

"Life in the Philippines was great but I needed a new challenge for myself. I felt there was a need to get out of my comfort zone and explore the world," says de Chavez.

Like other overseas workers in Singapore, Ella learned to adjust to working in a multi-cultural environment.

Despite all the glamour of the first-world country, Filipino yuppies like Ella still miss home. Fortunately, they do not have to suffer homesickness for too long. With flights made more affordable by the Philippines' largest airline, Cebu Pacific, they can easily travel to the Philippines on weekends and holidays for visits. Similarly, their friends and family in the Philippines can visit them in Singapore.

These trips are made more convenient by the extensive route network operated by low-fare pioneer Cebu Pacific. It offers five times daily flights from Singapore to Manila, and daily flights to Cebu and Clark, for as low as P1,699.



"Cebu Pacific's rates are awesome and super reasonable. They provide me the flexibility of flying in and out of Singapore even at such short notice. They're always my first choice when it comes to travelling to Manila," says De Chavez.

With Singapore offering a different work environment,

and becoming more accessible to Filipinos thanks to Cebu Pacific's trademark lowest fares, expect more Pinoys to go global by exploring the challenges to be had in the Lion City.

For more details on Singapore flights, please visit Cebu Pacific's website at www.cebu-pacificair.com.

BUSINESS LIFE

Good Health is Real Wealth: The Health Secrets of Top Businessmen

BULL MARKET, BULL SHEET
By Wilson Lee Flores

The greatest wealth is health. —Virgil
He who takes medicine and neglects to diet wastes the skill of his doctors. — Chinese proverb

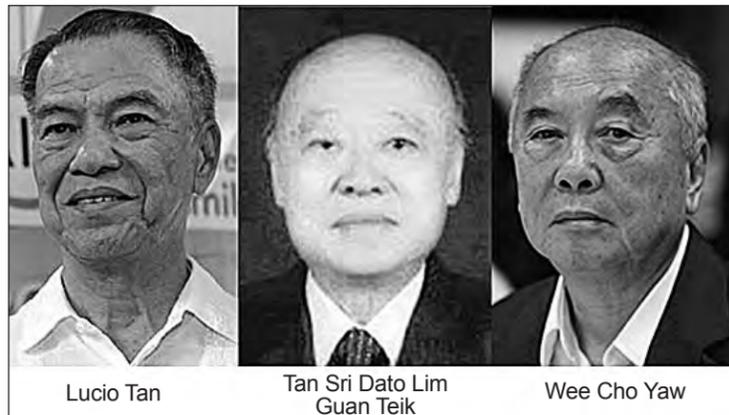
Mens sana in corpore sano
(Your prayer must be for a sound mind in a sound body).
—Juvenal

BEIJING — At a recent international conference of top Asian taipans here in the capital of the world's second largest economy, I met such names as Philippine Airlines chairman Lucio C. Tan, Thailand's Charoen Pokphand Group

chairman Dhanin Chearavanont, Indonesia's Barito Pacific Group chairman Prajogo Pangestu and many others.

The topics of discussion were mainly about philanthropy, culture and business. However, I was also able to casually chat with numerous successful businessmen about their secrets to good health.

Self-made business leader Lucio Tan shared that he values health as very important, and reveals his own formula. He looks relaxed a couple of days after approving San Miguel Corp.'s investment of US\$500 million in Philippine Airlines. He said: "To be healthy, I advise you to eat less in quantity but to eat



Lucio Tan

Tan Sri Dato Lim Guan Teik

Wee Cho Yaw

many times throughout the day. Eat healthy, too. Exercise regularly, have good rest and sleep, and work hard."

Unknown to most people, the workaholic Tan likes to swim and walks a lot. I forgot to ask him what he exactly meant by "eat healthy" and whether he's a vegetarian due to his Buddhist faith. One of the world's wealthiest vegans is American Jewish casino tycoon Steve Wynn; others include Ford Motors Co. executive chairman Bill Ford, Twitter co-founder and creative director Biz Stone, and realty and media tycoon Mort Zuckerman.

Cebu retail tycoon and philanthropist Joseph Sy Gaisano told me in Beijing: "I believe one unappreciated secret to good health is regular work. It's not even hard work, just regular work, love your work and do it

continuously. Some of the world's top financial industry leaders are in their 80s and 90s, but still doing their work that I believe sustains their good health. People look forward to retiring if they do not like their work, but if one loves work, then every day is enjoyable and challenging."

Malaysian Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Inc. honorary president and Muda Holdings Berhad founder Tan Sri Dato Lim Guan Teik told me that his secrets to both good health and success as a self-made business leader are the same: "Be hardworking, be sincere and always keep your promises."

Singapore Cantonese Entrepreneurs Association president Ho Kwok Choi said: "My secret to good health is eating several types of Chinese herbal

medicines like winter worm summer grass herb (scientific name ophiocordyceps sinensis or dong chong xia chao in Mandarin), ginseng and others every morning and evening. I wasn't a believer in ancient Chinese medicine before, but I asked Western medicine experts and they told me Western medicine is mainly for cures while Chinese medicines are very good for prevention or boosting our good health."

Ho continued: "People may think I spend a lot for these Chinese medicinal herbs, but what is the use of amassing wealth if one doesn't have good health? In fact, once at a Chinese Lunar New Year celebration, I saw Singapore's wealthiest taipan Wee Cho Yaw of United Overseas Bank or UOB, and I told him I'm not greeting you 'Gong xi fa chai' (a Mandarin greeting meaning 'Wishing you a more prosperous new year'), but 'I wish you a new year of priceless good health!'"

India Calcutta Chinese Chamber of Commerce president Liu Kuo Chao, who is 85 years old, said to me: "I believe the secret to good health is 'sin-thay' in Mandarin Chinese. This phrase means more than just a positive attitude. It also refers to being of good cheer, being optimistic, being calm in

(continued on page 13)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Tough Talk on Immigration May Hurt Republicans

they are when it comes to immigration by taking a general hard-line stance.

Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney opposes the Dream Act and any measure that acts as a “magnet” of amnesty, such as in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants.

Romney also supports a national identification card system which, in combination with a national E-verify system, would lay the groundwork for “self-deportation”, i.e. when people decide to go back to their home countries because they don’t have the legal documentation to allow them to work in the United States.

At the debate in Arizona recently, Romney expressed that the draconian law that the state has been known for – which would have allowed the police to check the immigration status of anyone suspected of being an illegal immigrant – is a model

law worthy of being copied by other states. He added that he would lift the current administration’s legal challenges to the law on his first day in office. The law’s author, Kris Kobach, is his adviser on immigration.

Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum similarly has a stern approach to immigration. He wants to step up employer enforcement and supports the deportation of undocumented workers. Like Romney, he wants the U.S.-Mexico border finished. At the Arizona debate, he declared support for the measures taken by the state in combating illegal immigration.

Santorum has alluded to the experience of his parents as Italian immigrants in explaining his position on legal immigration and has described an amnesty program as false compassion.

Romney and Santorum, who both support a mass depor-

tation policy, have criticized Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich for his moderate approach to illegal immigration.

Gingrich has advocated for a humane stance toward undocumented immigrants who have been in the United States for a very long time. He proposes a middle ground between amnesty and deportation in the form of a legalization procedure that would give legal status to the undocumented but not lead to U.S. citizenship.

He has also said that he supports “half” of the Dream Act, i.e. children of illegal immigrants can become U.S. citizens after serving in the military.

Texas Representative Ron Paul, who wants to distinguish himself as the civil libertarian among the candidates, opposes amnesty and instead supports legal immigration reform and a system that grants beneficial status to the undocumented as opposed to deportation.

While he does not believe in

a fence, Paul wants U.S. troops abroad recalled so that they can be stationed at the US-Mexico border. He has also called for an end to birthright citizenship and making English the official language of the U.S.

The GOP candidates know that it is already crunch time and they have drawn their lines on immigration issues.

Some Republican strategists, however, have expressed concern that the candidates’ tough talk may alienate the fast-growing Hispanic population and harm the party in the long run. Although their firm stance on immigration may please their conservative base, the candidates might be overlooking the immigrant electorate, particularly the Hispanic population whose vote may prove crucial this coming November.

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President Obama’s report card will hardly show high marks when it comes to immigration. Even though he supported comprehensive immigration reform and the Dream Act, he has so far been unsuccessful in convincing Congress to do the same. Under his watch, deportations reached a record high of 400,000 per year, although there are signs that these numbers are going down after a policy change encouraging prosecutorial discretion in immigration enforcement last year.

While President Obama asks for five more years to fix the broken immigration system, the Republican candidates have been busy showing how serious

MAINLAND NEWS

First Filipino Opera to Premiere in Chicago

Jose Rizal’s famous novel “Noli Me Tangere” (Touch Me Not) will come alive in da Corneto Opera’s world premiere presentation at the Harris Theatre for Dance and Music in Chicago on May 26, 2012.

“Noli” as the novel is popularly called, is one of two books written by the Philippines’ national hero Jose Rizal—a renaissance man, writer, poet and physician, whose monument can be seen along Chicago’s Lake Shore Drive. The opera was composed by Philippine national artist Felipe de Leon and this presentation celebrates Master de Leon’s centennial.

It recounts the struggles of Juan Crisostomo Ibarra y Magsalin who returns to the Philippines after seven years of academic studies in Europe. He plans to wed this betrothed and fulfill his father’s dream of opening a school to pave the way for his country’s progress through

education. In all things, he is thwarted by the notorious and influential Padre Damaso, creating a dramatic storyline of unrequited love, betrayal and revenge that great operas are made of. The opera premiered in the Philippines in 1957 and was re-staged in 1987 with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra to commemorate the centennial of the publication of the Noli by the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The Chicago premiere is the first outside the Philippines. There are six Filipinos in the cast. Da Corneto Opera has been in existence since 1997 and has received critical acclaim from the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun Times. Its members have performed with the Chicago Lyric Opera, the Metropolitan Theatre in New York and in other international stages.



BUSINESS LIFE (cont.) (from page 12, GOOD HEALTH...)

temperament. You know what my secret to longevity and youthfulness is? People who grow in age shouldn’t think of ourselves as ‘old.’ Look at me, at my age I still ride the motorcycle as a hobby,” he laughs. “Why should only younger people do that?”

Oscar Lopez, the 82-year-old patriarch of the Lopez conglomerate in mass media, energy, real estate and other industries, walks up the stairs to his office while his younger executives and employees ride the elevators.

Lopez not only climbs the

stairs and exercises regularly, he also climbs mountains. His son Piki Lopez recently told me the elder Lopez is planning to climb to the base camp of the world’s highest mountain, Everest, which is located in China and Nepal.

Brothers John Gokongwei Jr. and James Go of JG Summit Holdings, Inc. told me they walk on the treadmill regularly. Gokongwei also likes to swim.

Metrobank and Toyota Philippines taipan George S.K. Ty swims regularly.

The late Leonardo Ty, boss of the defunct Associated Bank and former president of the Fed-

eration of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Inc. told me that his health secret was eating the extraordinary bird’s nest Chinese soup (called “yan wo” in Mandarin) every morning for breakfast.

Alaska Milk Corporation president Fred Uytensu and Ayala Group’s Fernando Zobel de Ayala are young billionaires who are exceptionally healthy because they are triathletes. This elite sporting competition involves the continuous and sequential endurance events involving swimming for 1.5

(continued on page 14)

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PHILIPPINE LANGUAGE



DAYASADAS
By Pacita Saludes

Napintas Ti Mangwanawan Ti Masakbayan Iwalin Dagiti Nagkarga Ti Rimer Idi Kalman

Kalman ti panagbiag, marikna ti nalaglag-an a panangimutek-tek ti nasudsudi a kaipapanan ti biag aglalo no nagsagsagaba ken naiduken ti kabibiagna iti napalabas.

Ti NAMARSUA a mismo ti mangiladawan kadagiti alubogen a no dadduma di maawatan nga ibasar ti kaipapananna. Itu-

lok ti aglabas nga al-aldaw ken tawen tapno kalpasanna maalubog ket maibasar ti kaibatuganna iti bukod a panagbiag. Baro a panagbiag no ibasar ti adu a panagtutuok ken panagibtur kabayatan dagiti tawen, ket kalpasan ti panagun- gar lumukay ti panaganges ket nawayan ti rikna a mangwanawan ti nadardarisay a masakbayan, natalalingenngen a panagbiag, natalalna a kasasaad a gubuyay met laeng ti bukod panangiwayat, biag a natalalna nga awan ti

mangsipsipar.

Iseman laeng dagiti ited ti Namarsua a pannubok a ti kano “AGAN-ANUS TARABAYEN TI DIOS” ket ti “MAIRURUMEN NI APO DIOS TI MANARAKEN”. Patien dagitoy a pagsasao wenno saan dayta ti pudno. Adda pay pagsasao nga “AGTALEKKA TA KABAELAM KET DIKA AGBATAY TI ABAGA TI SABALI”. Saan nga ipalanguad tay saan a gapuannan. Aramid ti pagkikitaan. IPAKITAM, koma ti Mangiwanwanwan! Agbatay iti pudno. Dayta ti makuna nga anak ti Dios!

LAGIP TI NAPALABAS

Paraiso kaniak ti nakakitaak ti umuna a lawag Nakasisipak umona sursuro isudat nagpangalak Nakasirmataak nagduduma a kolor ti biag Isuda ti nangted maris ti agdama a nakabuklak

Taeng a nakasagrapak awan kaaspingna a ragsak Disso a nakatennebak ti adu pannubok ti biag Isuda ti nagbalin a sarukodko iti nalawa a tay-ak Isudat kired ken taklanko ingat ballasiw tanap

O! Disso a nabinggasan kadagiti nagduduma a gameng Nagtauddat naririmat, adda balitok

a nakalupkupan laeng Kas kadagiti dila a natiweng, balikas a barengbareng A pagay-ayat nga ibato dagiti parsua nga awanan takneng

Kailiwko ti nakayanakak gaput kalbit ti napalabas Adda dungngo, adda umsi, adda makalais a paggaak Adda mangipateg ken mangtagibassit gaput kinababak Kas man di mauray tinga agallin ti nabantot a pilid ti biag

Sublianka pay iti maminsan tapno taldiapak pay ta dayag

Adtoyak a mangipaneknek a napategka latta kaniak Managumsi ita saklotmo, kayatko iti agsupapak Kinamanagayat ti Mannakabalin nga Apo ti managbatak

Ti sandi dagiti panawen iti sidongmo segseggaak Kayatko a manipud iti laud itinto daya ti tumpuarak Kayatko nga iburay awan kaaspingna a lawag Iti kaungan a paset ti tunggal puso binalayan ni sabrak.

BUSINESS LIFE (cont.) (from page 13, GOOD HEALTH...)

kilometers, cycling for 40 kilometers and then running for 10 kilometers (these distances are the Olympic or international standard). Lance Gokongwei runs, too, and has joined marathons.

Businesswoman Camille Villar, daughter of Vista Land founder and billionaire Senator Manny Villar, shared why her father is healthy: “He exercises a lot. Now he runs, but he used

to do tennis and swimming. It’s funny, even when he was still playing tennis, my Tito Jojo said he wasn’t an excellent tennis player, but he really makes habol (runs after) every ball. In short, Dad is very competitive. He likes to always stay active.”

Camille added, “They were originally five siblings in



Camille Villar

my dad’s family, but three passed away young because they were poor in Tondo. The youngest died when he was only four years old because he was sick and the family was so poor, they couldn’t afford medical treatment. That’s why Dad is such a hypochondriac.”

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GLOBAL NEWS

NKorea's Rocket Display Shows Lack of Progress

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Analysts sifting through information on North Korea's failed rocket launch say Pyongyang appears to have learned little about spaceflight since its last flubbed attempt three years ago, and that the country is a long way from being able to threaten the United States with a long-range missile.

The experts also said an apparently new missile North Korea showed off at a military parade Sunday did not seem to present any major leaps forward. Some were more interested in the truck it was carried on.

North Korea had touted the Unha-3 rocket that broke apart Friday as its most ambitious effort yet to join the exclusive club of space-faring nations. It said the rocket carried an Earth observation satellite, though many nations say the launch was a cover for testing long-range missile technology.

Failure is a fact of life in rocket programs. The U.S., Soviet Union and China all had their share of setbacks, and Pyongyang's rival, economically and technologically advanced South Korea, has yet to succeed in launching its own rockets, though it has tried twice.

"An obvious conclusion is they have a major reliability problem," said Nick Hansen of the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. "This is the second Unha first stage that malfunctioned early in flight, after the July 4, 2006, launch — and this is Unha-3. The Unha technology for at least the first stage appears frozen to the early 2000s."

Hansen said the biggest difference between the rocket launched in 2009 and the one that failed last week was "the paint that said 3 on the rocket body."

The launch, intended to be an inspiration for its people and a warning to its enemies, was a huge embarrass-

ment for North Korea's new leadership.

Pyongyang made the unusual admission that the rocket failed — it still claims launches in 1998 and 2009 put satellites in orbit though independent space experts disagree. North Korea says its scientists are looking into the cause, but has yet to provide further details or reveal photos or video of the launch.

Analysts are largely working off flight details announced by the U.S. military and by photos of the rocket and the launch facility taken by journalists beforehand. Efforts by South Korea's navy to recover debris from the launch have not panned out.

The three-stage rocket was seen from the start by the United States, the U.N. and others as a cover for testing advanced ballistic missile technologies, since the two are similar and North Korea is suspected to be working on missiles of increasingly greater range and efficiency.

That is of particular concern to Washington because North Korea is believed to have at least a crude nuclear weapons program, and if it can develop a reliable intercontinental ballistic missile and a nuclear bomb small enough to use as a payload, it could be a threat to U.S. security.

Sunday's failure suggests that threat is a long way off.

"The fact this failed so early calls into question how good its technology is," said David Wright, a missile expert with the Union of Concerned Scientists. "Rockets are very complicated and any one of dozens of things can go wrong and cause failure, so it isn't good enough just to get pieces to work. You need the whole system to work. North Korea clearly isn't there yet."

Still, North Korea hasn't stood completely still.

Hansen noted that the preparations to get the rocket assembled and fueled on the new launch facility — which South Korean officials say cost \$450 million to build — went smoothly and

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were completed quickly, which may demonstrate increased expertise, at least on the ground.

North Korea has announced it will continue to build rockets over the next five years, and Hansen said the gantry at the new site backs up that claim because it was built for a bigger rocket than the Unha-3.

For months before the launch, military analysts had speculated that this newer, bigger rocket might be put on display at the military parade Sunday, which was the culmination of two weeks of celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the birthday of North Korean founder Kim Il Sung.

North Korea's new leader, Kim Jong Un, spoke publicly for the first time just before the parade, and stressed that he will continue to make the military his "first, second and third" priority.

Although the parade concluded with what appeared to be a new missile, experts say that wasn't very impressive either.

"It appears to be much too small to be an ICBM," said Wright, of the UCS. "And it looks like an odd configuration, so it's not clear what it says about North Korea's design capability. We may know more soon."

Of more interest, perhaps, was the vehicle that carried the missile.

With 16 wheels, it was the biggest yet displayed by the North. That's important because such vehicles can transport missiles for launch in different sites, giving them an element of mobility that makes them harder to find and destroy. The bigger the vehicle, the larger the missile it can transport.

Ted Parsons, of IHS Jane's Defence Weekly, said the one used Sunday strongly resembles vehicles designed by the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp. A country that provided such technology would be violating U.N. sanctions, though it may be hard to prove how or from whom North Korea got them. (www.philstar.com)



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